

New England Educational Journal Criticises Narrowness Of Eastern Magazine

(From The Boston (Mass.) Journal of
Education.)

We are using an article this week upon
"The Mill People of South Carolina," which
we sent to a magazine, from which it was
returned with the following letter:

Dear Dr. Winship: I hate to return any-
thing you write, but I am sure that this ar-
ticle would get us into trouble—not with our
southern subscribers, but with our many
subscribers who know well the evil situa-
tion in the mills down south and would not
like an article that would seem to exten-
uate it, though, of course, that is the very
opposite of your purpose. When a thing is
on the whole very bad, it is not good policy
to pick out a good thing in it and praise it.

Very cordially yours,

To our thinking, there is every reason
why such an article should be used in a
northern magazine for the good, primarily
of northern readers, and secondarily for the
good of southern readers.

It is infinitely better to make the good
contagious than to magnify the bad by sec-
tional abuse.

The Leo Frank incident shows how dis-
gusted the south is over the northern habit
of lecturing the south.

It has become a northern passion to abuse
the south.

In this case an editor deliberately says
that it is not wise to praise by a truthful
statement a decidedly good thing in the
south because the north knows how general-
ly bad the south is in this matter.

The south is full of good things. There
are as good things in the south as in the
north, though of course (?) there are not
as many good things there as in the north.

The south expects the north to be at odds
with it on the negro question, and they have
come to be entirely indifferent to our crit-
icisms, but when the north set about heck-
ling the south on everything the north
doesn't like, their resentment has come to
be very bitter; as is demonstrated in the
Leo Frank episode.

From our point of view, every magazine
in the north should give unstinted praise to
every manufacturer in the south who gives
his thought and energy to the improvement
of conditions in the mills.

The worst that any one can say of the
child labor problem in the south is that it
is a little behind Pennsylvania, and a little
farther behind Massachusetts. The crime
against the child has been universal. Its
solution is coming gradually.

It would be just as sensible to say that
good conditions in Massachusetts mills
should not be spoken of because there are
mills elsewhere that are bad, as to say that
good things in Rock Hill, S. C., should not
be spoken of because conditions are bad in
other states or cities. Let us of the north
look for good things in the south, and let us
dare to be honest and tell of the good things
we see. Let us stop being afraid of our
northern subscribers.