~~8 Jan 1896~~

Hale Giddings Parker.
125 South Clark St
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

Yours of Dec. 13th is just received. Being directed to the general delivery in Buffalo, seventy-five miles from where I reside, it took a long time to get around. Had it been sent in Care of The Basis, I would have got it at once.

There is no work upon the period you mention which is at all reliable as a general view of political conditions at the south. Partial statements of facts, mingled with biassed inferences and conclusions abound. They are segments cut out of the field of truth intended to support a particular theory.

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~~Sec~~.

The only reliable means of information is the original documents, constitutions, legislation, reports, of each state.

Certain prominent facts which are usually quite overlooked by northern writers should be kept prominently in mind, especially as regards the educational features of this epoch — 1865 — to 1875.

1 — There ~~was~~ were no ~~free~~ public schools, system ~~of education~~

~~school buildings~~
in any of the states of the South previous to the adoption of the constitutions of 1868, except a curious framework of one in North Carolina and an entirely dormant one in Kentucky.

2— The first appropriations for public schools in any of the States of the South were made at the legislative sessions of 1868—9 and were not available until a year afterwards, 1870, nothing had come into the state treasury

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ries until the close of 1869.
So there were no public schools
south of the Potomac and also
until the year 1870. Before
that, there were only private
schools supported by sub-
scription, by tuition-fees, by
the Freedmen's Bureau, by church
and Benevolent societies.

3— Even when the appropriations
of 1869 became available,
there were no schoolhouses
there had to be erected or
hired. Further delay was oc-
casioned by this fact and
a very large part of the
appropriations for several
years after was consumed

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in providing school build-
ings where there were none
before. Many of the colored
schools are yet taught in col-
ored churches. It was, there-
fore, not until 1871 that any-
thing like a general public
system in any southern
State.

Keeping these facts in
mind, you are ready
to use the reports of the
State Superintendents
of education of the
various States.

Read them in
connection with the

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Reports of the Church Freed-
men's Societies from 1865 -
to 1875 and the reports
of the Freedmen's Bureau
1865 to 1872 — and you
have all the facts in re-
gard to education in
those states during that
time. The American Mission-
ary Society, the Methodist
Episcopal Freedmen's Society
and the Presbyterian and
Baptist Societies are the
Main ones. You can easily
by get them by consulting
the offices of those societies.

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any leading minister of their denomination can give you their addresses.

The reports of the Peabody fund since that period will also be useful.

If possible you will find the state documents referred to in the libraries of Chicago; if not you should find them in the State Library at Springfield.

The work you have

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undertaken is a great one. Well done, it will be valuable: half done it will be worth nothing.

Wishing you success, I am,

Yours very truly,

William W. Sawyer

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