

**EDUCATION  
ABROAD,  
AND OTHER PAPERS**

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Education Abroad, and Other Papers by Birdsey Grant Northrop

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**BIRDSEY GRANT NORTHROP**

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# EDUCATION ABROAD,

AND OTHER PAPERS.

BY

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SECRETARY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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TO  
THE HON. JOHN AMORY LOWELL,  
OF THE LOWELL INSTITUTE,  
BOSTON.  
THIS BOOK  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.



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## PREFACE.

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The educational systems of Europe have many distinctive excellences which we need to copy. My objections to educating American youth abroad do not arise from any disparagement of foreign systems, as will be evident in another volume on "THE SCHOOLS OF EUROPE AND WHAT WE OUGHT TO LEARN FROM THEM," comprising most of the twelve lectures lately given before the Lowell Institute. Two lectures only of that course appear in this book. To check the mischievous mania for European education, just now in fashion, I have procured and combined the opinions of the most competent judges in this country, and also of an eminent American scholar long resident in Berlin, who has carefully examined German schools and systems of instruction, and gives the testimony of an eye-witness. The last letter of Dr. Thompson, received too late for insertion with the others, will be found in the appendix. All the correspondents addressed endorsed my views except one who "had not examined the subject." The unanimous opinions of these eminent educators should influence public sentiment. The coöperation of the press is respectfully solicited in correcting the prevalent error in question.

The other papers embody views confirmed by long service in the official inspection of schools, and are designed to meet urgent public exigences. In the Southern States, compulsory education would yet be premature. In the older States, public sentiment is rapidly advancing in favor of the legal prevention of illiteracy. After the trial of a compulsory law for more than a century, Connecticut has just reëacted this principle. This question is now more prominently before the American people than ever before.