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W.L. GARRISON—In a private letter to the *Standard*, —Mr. McKim says—

"Iconoclasm has had its day. \* \* \* We have passed through the *pulling down* stage of our movement; the *building up*—the construction part—remains to be accomplished. \* \* \* There is one of our old appliances in which my interest has rather increased than abated. I mean *The Standard*. That is, at present, *the instrumentality* of our movement—literally our *sine qua non*."

While "slavery still exists," every means and all vigilance are needed. The work of the Abolitionists is to educate the public mind and heart up to the light and love of the Divine Law of Liberty; and, hopeful as are the signs of the times, I can see no power in the stern lessons of war to work a miracle of instant regeneration, albeit they may and do rouse the indifferent, and stir the hard of heart.

The end of slavery may be near, but the great question of to-day is; shall it drag us down to death and blood in its decay; or shall its death be so ordered that the nation may rise to new safety and power, to a higher life and a nobler future above its grave?

Surely, the Abolitionists, with tongue and pen, can help to the right answer. Never were their words so earnestly and widely heard as now. I have just closed a three months' lecturing tour in Michigan, with excellent hearing, and manifest increase of hearty sympathy. *Why seal our lips when, more than ever, the people hear and ponder our words?*

"Iconoclasm" was ever more apparent than real:

"'Twas but the rain of the bad,  
The wasting of the wrong and ill;  
Whate'er of good the old time had,  
Is with us still."

And, granting that, in the fiery zeal of young reformers, in years gone by, the destructive work was too much pressed to the neglect of the constructive that should ever go with it, experience should have given, ere this, a finer temper to our zeal, a wider breath to our vision.

But, it is said, "We have passed the *pulling down* stage of our movement; the *building up* remains." "I thank thee for that word," so applicable now. The problem before this nation is, the building up to a shattered and dismembered State. Shall it be based on LIBERTY, as

on a rock, or founded on the shifting quicksands of compromise, to be sunk in ruin at the first storm of a new rebellion? Here is "the constructive" work of the Abolitionists, and the lecturing agent, with his larger circle of earnest hearers, has a part in it of growing importance.

The Standard and the travelling lecturers help each other. Is not their work the same? Personal presence and communion with distant friends is an important means of keeping up a living interest. Has the *Standard's* list of readers largely increased in the last year, that it should be the "*sine qua non*"? I hope so really, and I *know* that hearing gained by the speakers in the field has. The same argument that adds to the importance of the pen does to that of the living voice. So far as possible, then, it is of highest moment that all means should be used, all instrumentalities at work. Events are preaching, but they need wise interpreters as ever. When the harvest is at hand, all are busy lest the ripened grain waste, and the year's labor be lost. Now is the golden hour for work. Yours, truly, G.B. STEBBINS.