

Beirut, May 31, 1897

My dear Mr. Hoskins,

I have long waited for a quiet chat with you, and an answer to your kind letter of Feb 22<sup>d</sup>. I feel quite safe in your charitable judgment of all that I ever have done or shall do in reference to you. I love you and trust you with a confidence born of long experience of the sterling character which has done so much for our Institution, and for Syria. I am exceedingly glad that the difficulties in regard to the Lableh house are over, and that you and others will have such a tasteful and comfortable home.

A much greater trial than

that has befallen your mission  
the great cut. And yet I am  
convinced that this affliction,  
for the present seems so grievous,  
will work out a far more exceed-  
ing benefit. I have long been con-  
vinced that lavish expenditure  
in missions is their greatest in-  
drance. A gospel of dependence  
is not Christ's gospel. It is an  
the function of missionary evan-  
gelists to raise up a constituency  
paid from abroad, to propagate  
the gospel. A single convert,  
made by one missionary, ought  
at once to be a propagator.  
his new found salvation, a  
two ought to warn each other,  
and ten by tithing could sup-  
port an eleventh in the ex-  
ensive work of evangelism. The

present system to its legitimate development. The expenditure of so much of its resources about the centres, where each missionary prompts all the machinery of Christianity and civilization, stands squarely in the pathway of the expansive evangelization of the world.

Instead then, of wasting vain tears over a lost cause, I would have the Mission boards and Missions use their intellects and experience in a thorough revision of the whole scheme, and a radical reformation of the methods. Spiritual influence, not money, must evangelize the world.

A convert who is converted to a salary is not a convert. A church that is supported from abroad is not a church. A system of popular education which rests on foreign patronage undoes its own work. We must find some way

1st to secure a recognition of these principles by at least the more important agencies, so that efforts in the right direction shall be simultaneous and consistent.

2d to devise a mode of applying the gospel which will make it a force, not a possession, which will lead converts to count all things loss for Christ, not soldier's gain.

The loss of interest, by the church, in its foreign work, is due to want of fruits. They have a right to expect results. It is vain for us to take refuge in the truism saying that the results are not our business; that they belong to God. They do, but God does not produce results independent of second causes. The promised blessing will come when we take the prescribed means of obtaining it. We are not doing that. We are institutionalizing not evangelizing. I do not undervalue the evangelizing done in institutions, even in our subsidized or supported.



and his family, ever affectionately yours George S. Post.

churches. But the evangelistic commission, in my opinion, left the machinery, which we transplant bodily from abroad, to be constructed by the converts as they find need and means.

To sum up, I believe that, with the means at the command of the Church, handled in the Apostolic way, we could, during the coming century, preach the Gospel "to every creature." With our way we could not do it in twenty centuries, or twenty times twenty.

With much love to Hattie and the children, and kindest remembrance to Cora dit