THE MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH SESSION

OF THE

Bulgaria

Mission Conference

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HELD AT

Tirnovo, Bulgaria, May 1st to May 6th, 1901.

ORGANIZED SEPT. 8, 1892.

Press "Pobeda"
Rustchuck, Bulgaria.
1901.
CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

President:
Bishop JOHN H. VINCENT.

Secretary:
STEPHEN THOMOFF, RUSTCHUCK.

Assistant Secretary:
PAVEL TADOROFF, TIRNOVO.

Statistical Secretary:
PETER VASSILEFF, LOM.

Treasurer:
MISSION TREASURER.
CONFERENCE SOCIETIES.

Epworth League:

President: Stephen Thomoff.
Secretary: Peter Vassileff.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:

President: E. P. Todoroff.
Vice-President: B. B. Todoroff.
Corresponding Secretary: D. M. Delcheff.
Treasurer: Kate B. Blackburn.

Trustees to Act on Property Matters: The Presiding Elders, Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Getchoff, Peter Vassileff.

Committee on Publications: Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, Ivan Todoroff.
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FIRST DAY.

Tirnovo, Wednesday, May 1, 1901.

Opening: — The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Bulgaria Mission Conference was opened on Wednesday, May 1, 1901 in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Tirnovo at 9 o'clock a. m. Bishop John H. Vincent, D. D. presiding. The Lord's Supper was administered by Trico Constantine, Presiding Elder of the Rustchuck District, assisted by M. D. Delcheff, Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District, Bishop Vincent briefly addressed the Conference on the significance of the Lord's Supper and introduced A. B. Leonard, D.D., Corresponding Secretary of Missionary Society, who also briefly addressed the Conference.

Roll Call. — Stephen Thomoff, Secretary of the last Conference called the roll and the following brethren answered to their names:


Absent: J. I. Economoff (Supern.), Gabriel Elieff (Superan.),

Secretary. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Thomoff was reelected Conference Secretary.

Statistical Secretary. — On motion of Pavel Todoroff, Peter Vesileff was reelected Statistical Secretary.

Conference Treasurer. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Trico Constantine was elected Conference Treasurer.

Conference Bar. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff it was
ordered that the first three seats on both sides of the Church constitute the bar of the Conference.

Hours of Session. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff it was ordered that Conference open at 8.30 and adjourn at 12 m., the first half hour to be devoted to devotional exercises.

Committee on Standing Committees. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff the Presiding Elders were authorized to nominate the Standing Committees. While they retired the chair asked questions in regard to the publication and distribution of tracts.

Standing Committees. — The Committee on Standing Committees read their report which was adopted:

2. Education. — Kate B. Blackburn, Stephen Thomoff, Bancho Todoroff.
3. State of the Work. — M. D. Delcheff, Z. G. Dimitroff, Peter Vasileff, Ivan Todoroff, Trico Constantine,

On motion of Pavel Todoroff the Presiding Elders were authorized to appoint Standing Committees at the close of the session for the ensuing year.

W. F. M. Society. — The Chair introduced to the Conference Miss Dora Davis, appointed last fall by the W. F. M. So. Assistant Principal of the Lovetch Girl's School.


XIII Question. — Was the Character of each Preacher Examined? taken up. The character of the following bre-
thren was passed: M. D. Delcheff, Bancho Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff, Pavel Todoroff, Trico Constantine, Peter Vasileff, Stephen Thomoff.

**Presiding Elder’s Reports.** — M. D. Delcheff, Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District, and Trico Constantine, Presiding Elder of the Rustchuck District, read their reports. (See Reports).

**W. F. M. Society.** — Kate B. Blackburn, Principal of the Lovetch Girl’s School, read her report.

**XXIII Question.** — *Who are the Superannuated Preachers?* taken up. Gabriel Elieff. On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that the case of Gabriel Elieff and cases similar to his be considered in an Executive Session to be held at 11 o’clock a.m. the next day, Thursday.

**XXX Question.** — *Where shall the Next Conference be Held?* taken up. Shumen was selected.

**Adjournment.** — The chair briefly addressed the Conference on the subject of tract distribution.

Conference adjourned by expiration of time. The doxology was sung and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.
SECOND DAY.

Thursday, May 2, 1901.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Stephen Getchoff. Dr. Leonard addressed the Conference on „Being Filled with the Spirit“

Journal. — The minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

Official Interpreter. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Trico Constantine was elected Official Interpreter.

Book Concern Dividend. — The chair stated that the cheque of the Book Concern amounted this year to 53 dollars. On motion of Stephen Thomoff the cheque was ordered and referred to the Conference Treasurer.

Reports. — The reports of the committees on W. F. M. Society, the state of the Work, Sabbath Observance and Temperance were read and adopted (see Reports).

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Pursuant to the action taken the preceding day the Conference went into an Executive Session.

The chair stated that the first case to be considered was that of J. I. Economoff, Supernumerary. He read to the Conference the letter J. I. Economoff had sent him. On motion of Trico Constantine, J. I. Economoff’s relation as Supernumerary was continued, and in view of inacceptability through secularity he was requested to locate.

Adjournment. — Conference adjourned by expiration of time and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.
THIRD DAY.

Friday, May 3, 1901.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Bancho Todoroff. Dr. Leonard addressed the Conference on "What Preachers are to be and do."

Journal. — The minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

Report. — The report of the Committee on Epworth League and Sunday Schools was read, amended and adopted.

Statistical Report. — The Statistical Secretary read his report, which was adopted. (See Statistical Tables).

Report. — The report of the Committee on Education was read. On motion of Stephen Thomoff the report was referred back to the Committee that an important item omitted be included.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Journal. — The minutes of the preceding executive session were read and approved.

Report. — The report of the Committee on Christian Literature was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Gabriel Elieff. — The Committee appointed last year to investigate the complaint against Gabriel Elieff read its report. On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that the report be considered at another executive session to be held the next day, Saturday at 4 o'clock p. m.

Adjournment. — On motion of Trico Constantine Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.
FOURTH DAY.

Saturday, May 4, 1901.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by the chair. Dr. Leonard addressed the Conference on "The Missionary Society and its Business Methods."

Report. — The report of the Committee on Education was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Committee on Publications. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Thomoff and Pavel Todoroff were reelected on the Committee on Publications, and on motion of Pavel Todoroff, Ivan Todoroff was elected in the same Committee in the place of Trico Constantine who will be absent from the Mission.

Treasurer's Report. — The Treasurer read his report which was adopted. (See Reports).

Publisher's Report. — The Publisher read his report which was adopted and on motion of Ivan Todoroff it was ordered that it be printed in the Minutes. (See Reports).

W. F. M. Society. — On motion of Pavel Todoroff it was ordered that the report of the Principal of the Lovetch Girl's School, read before the Conference, be printed in the Minutes. (See Reports).

Trustees to act on Property Matters. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff the chair was requested to appoint Trustees to act on property matters in the interval of Conference.

Visitors to Lovetch Girl's School. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff the chair was requested to appoint a Committee of two who are to attend the Commencement exercises of the Lovetch Girl's School and report at the next session of Conference.

Committee on Resolutions. — On motion of Trico Constantine, Pavel Todoroff, Ivan Todoroff and Peter Vasileff were appointed a Committee on resolutions, and on motion
of Ivan Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff was appointed a Committee to draw up resolutions of thanks to the pastor and people of the Tarnovo church.

Chair's Address. — The Chair addressed the Conference on preaching and pastoral work, also on the printing and distribution of tracts, the Fall Conferences, giving the topic of these Conferences viz: The Training of Children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Pursuant to the action of the preceding Executive Session the case of Gabriel Elieff was continued.

Gabriel Elieff. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff the case of Gabriel Elieff was referred to the Presiding Elder of the District where he lives for trial.

Book Concern Dividend. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff the cheque of the Book Concern Dividend amounting to $53 dollars was appropriated for the support of Gabriel Elieff, Superannuated.

Adjournment. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff it was ordered that when we adjourn it be to meet at 5 o'clock p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Resolutions. — The following resolutions were adopted by a rising vote.

I. We the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Bishop John H. Vincent for his great efforts in promoting the success of God's work in Bulgaria and for the able manner in which he presided over our Conference. We wish him success in his visitation to the European Conferences to which we request that he convey our fraternal greetings and a happy return to his home. We hope to see him again at the next annual Conference in Shumen.

II. We the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. A. B.
Leonard, the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, for his visit to our Conference. His addresses have been very profitable and encouraging to us. We trust his visit to Bulgaria will prove a great blessing for God’s work. We wish him a pleasant visit to the various Conferences in Europe and a safe return to his home in America. We ask that he will kindly convey our sincere greetings to all the brethren in America who look for the success of God’s work in Bulgaria.

We would also express our great satisfaction for the presence among us of the Rev. A. W. Leonard, wishing him a pleasant journey, a safe return and great success in his new work in Italy.

III. We the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference having in view the seventeen year’s activity and usefulness of Bro. T. Constantine, as a worker among us, and especially his work within the last four years as Presiding Elder and Treasurer of the Mission, do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to him and to Mrs T. Constantine for the able manner in which she has kept the books of the Mission and thus ably assisted her husband in his work. We wish them a happy return in America among their relatives and friends.

We will joyfully expect his return to Bulgaria, a month before the next Annual Conference that he may take his place among us in God’s field, which needs his powers.

(Signed) Ivan Todoroff
Stephen Getchoff
Peter Tikcheff
Peter Vasileff
Ivan Dimitroff
Z. G. Dimitroff
A. P. Meshkoff
Bancho Todoroff
Stephen Thomoff
MISSION CONFERENCE

Boy's School. — On motion of Trico Constantine, the Conference unanimously and by a rising vote decided to respectfully request the Missionary authorities that they take measures to open the Boy's School in the Mission.

Twentieth Century Fund. — On Motion of Pavel Todoroff the Conference unanimously and by a rising vote decided to observe the Sunday to be appointed in next February and take a collection for the Twentieth Century Fund.

Apportionments. — On motion of Trico Constantine the Presiding Elders were authorized to make the apportionments for the ensuing Conference year.

Committee on Printing Minutes — On motion of Ivan Todoroff the Publishing Agent and the Editor of Mission books were appointed to print the Minutes in English.

Adjournment. — On motion of Pavel Todoroff it was ordered that, on the reading of the Minutes and the Appointments, Conference stand adjourned by expiration of time at 9 o'clock a.m. on Monday.

Journal. — The minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

Bishop Vincent read the Appointments. (See Appointments), Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.

SUNDAY, May 5, 1901.

The religious services in connection with Conference were very well attended, the church being crowded every evening.

On Sunday, May 5, the Conference love feast held from 9 to 10 a.m. was highly edifying. Many testimonies were given to the saving and sanctifying power of Christ and His Spirit. Bishop Vincent then preached to a crowded house from John 21:22: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me." The sermon trans-
lated sentence by sentence was listened to with breathless attention and we trust with spiritual profit by all present.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock Bishop Vincent gave an address on the "Model Home," which was highly appreciated.

The foregoing, a correct record of the Bulgaria Mission Conference, was made the official record.

JOHN H. VINCENT,
President.

STEPHEN THOMOFF,
Secretary.
DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

1. Who have been Received by Transfer and from what Conferences?
   None.

2. Who have been Readmitted?
   None.

3. Who have been Received on Credentials, and from what Churches?
   None.

4. Who have been Received on Trial?
   (a) In Studies of First Year.
       None.
   (b) In Studies of Second Year.
       None.

5. Who have been Continued on Trial?
   (a) In Studies of First Year.
       None.
   (b) In Studies of Second Year.
       None.
   (c) In Studies of Third Year.
       None.

6. Who have been Discontinued?
   None.

7. Who have been Admitted into Full Membership?
   (a) Elected and Ordained Deacons this Year.
       None.
   (b) Elected and Ordained previously.
       None.

8. What Members are in Studies of Third Year?
   (a) Admitted into Full Membership this Year.
       None.
   (d) Admitted into Full Membership previously.
       None.

9. What Members are in Studies of Fourth Year?
   None.
10. What Members have Completed the Conference Course of Study?
   (a) Elected and Ordained Elders this Year.
       None.
   (b) Elected and Ordained Elders previously.
       None.
11. What others have been Elected and Ordained Deacons?
    (a) As Local Preachers.
        None.
    (b) Under Missionary Rule.
        None.
12. What others have been Elected and Ordained Elders?
    (a) As Local Deacons.
        None.
    (b) Under Missionary Rule.
        None.
13. Was the Character of each Preacher Examined?
    This was strictly done in open Conference.
14. Who have been Transferred and to what Conferences?
    None.
15. Who have Died?
    None.
16. Who have been Located at their own request?
    None.
17. Who have been Located?
    None.
18. Who have Withdrawn?
    None.
19. Who have been permitted to Withdraw under Charges or Complaints?
    None.
20. Who have been Expelled?
    None.
21. What other Personal Notation should be made?
    None.
22. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?
    J. I. Economoff.
23. Who are Superannuated Preachers?
   Gabriel Elieff.

24. Who are Tiers of Appeals?
   Cases Tried in New York.

25. What is the Statistical Report for this Year?
   (See Tabulated Statement).

26. What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Conference as reported by the Conference Treasurer?
   186.20 dollars.

27. What are the Claims on the Conference Fund?
   165 Dollars.

28. What has been received on these Claims, and how has it been Applied?
   53 Dollars from Dividend Book Concern allowed to Gabriel Elieff.

29. Where are the Preachers Stationed?
   See Appointments.

30. Where shall the next Conference be held?
   Shumen.
APPOINTMENTS—1901—1902.

LOVETCH DISTRICT.

Pavel Todoroff P. E. (Tirnovo) 1st year.

Lovetch ................. To be supplied.
Orchania ................. Peter Tikcheff . E . . 1.
Pleven .................... Bancho Todoroff . E . . 5.
Sevlievo and Gabrovo A. P. Meshkoff . E . . 3.
Tirnovo ................... Pavel Todoroff . E . . 3.

Kate B. Blackburn, Principal Girl's School.
(W. F. M. Society), Lovetch. Dora Davis
Assistant Principal.

RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT.

M. D. Delcheff, P. E. (Rustchuck) 1st year.

Lom ...................... Peter Vasileff . E . . 7.
Rustchuck ................ Stephen Thomoff . E . . 3.
Hotantza ....................... M. D. Delcheff . E . . 1.
Shumen ..................... Stephen Getchoff . E . . 3.
Varna Circuit ............. Ivan Todoroff . E . . 6.

Director of Publication, M. D. Delcheff.
Editor of Christian World, Stephen Thomoff.
Editor of Books and Tracts, Pavel Todoroff.
Trico Constantine on furlough in America.
To preach the annual sermon, M. D. Delcheff.
To read a paper on the Education of Children, Bancho Todoroff.
A paper on Education of Women by Miss Dora Davis.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE.

Your Committee would recommend the adoption of the two items of last year's report, viz:

1. That old and worn out Bibles and parts of Bibles be sold at greatly reduced prices, and those entirely injured be given away.

2. That every pastor be supplied with various tracts old and new for sale and free distribution.

3. That inasmuch as Hagop Hovnanian, who for the last six months has labored as colporteur in Dobrich and its surroundings preaching in Turkish on Sundays, has proved successful and useful in this work, your Committee would recommend, that he be employed in the same work for the ensuing year, should the means of the Mission allow of it.

4. In view of the fact that infidelity and Socialism are spreading among the people and very little has been written against these baneful views, your Committee would most earnestly urge the recommendation of last year's Committee, viz, that tracts against infidelity and Socialism be translated and printed.

5. Your Committee is glad to state that the form, paper and print of the Christian World are improved and would recommend that the paper be continued, hoping that special attention will be given to the style, and that our preachers will make greater efforts in collecting subscribers for the paper.
EDUCATION.

In view of the great importance of preparing effective and educated preachers of the Gospel for the work of our Mission your Committee would emphasize the first item of last year's report on Education, viz:

1. That our pastors recommend all pious and able young men, who feel called of God to preach the Gospel, to enter the Literary and Theological School at Samokov.

2. Thanking the authorities of the above mentioned institution for kindly giving work to needy students from our Mission, your Committee expresses the hope that the same treatment may in future be extended to needy students from our Mission.

3. That the Missionary authorities in America be requested to make a grant of three hundred dollars for the support in the Samokov School of such needy students from our Mission.

4. Your Committee would most heartily commend the excellent work the Lovetch Girl's School is doing for the Christian education of young women in Bulgaria. Under the able management of the Principal Kate B. Blackburn and her assistant Dora Davis the school is winning the confidence of Bulgarian families anxious to give a good education to their daughters.

EPWORTH LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

Your Committee having taken into consideration the interests of these two institutions of our Church and what has already been done for their improvement, would emphasize the first item of last year's report, viz:

1. That in every charge where there is a sufficient num-
ber of young people, they be organized into Epworth League Chapters.

2. That all churches in our Mission supply their Sunday Schools with the Leaf Clusters and prize cards as indispensible helps for the study of S. S. lessons.

3. That Sunday Schools lacking the necessary means to buy the Leaf Clusters and prize cards, request the Treasurer of the Mission to ask the Sunday School Union to send them gratis to them.

4. That the recommendation of last year's report in regard to our Sunday School libraries, viz, that the Director of Publication be requested to give free of charge to each Sunday School a copy of all the Missions publications, be put into effect.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND TEMPERANCE.

Believing that the Sabbath is an institution ordained of God and taught in Holy Writ your Committee would recommend:—

1. That we as ministers of the Word and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ would personally keep the Sabbath as a sacred day and also teach and exhort our people to the same.

2. We believe that sufficient emphasis has not been put on this subject from our pulpits and sufficient discipline has not been exercised towards those who have abused the Lord's day.

3. That we pledge ourselves to diligently support and maintain the sanctity of the Sabbath.

TEMPERANCE.

It is sad to contemplate how many and how hideous are the ravages of intemperance among all Christian nations
as well as in our own nation. In order to stay its destructive power and influence your Committee would recommend:

1. That we as pastors would personally abstain from all intoxicating liquors except when prescribed to be used medicinally.
2. That both by voice and pen we use all our influence to diminish and destroy the blighting effects of intemperance upon society.
3. That temperance literature in the handiest shape be printed and broadly scattered.

STATE OF THE WORK.

Your Committee would recommend:

1. Inasmuch as the work in Lom gives every encouragement to expect continuous success, and inasmuch as there is a crying need for a commodious place of worship in that town, your Committee is of the opinion that as soon as the means of the Mission should allow of making grants for places of worship Lom be entitled to the first grant.

2. In view of the fact that the brethren of the village of Hibelee have bought a place of 2200 metres for the purpose of building a house of worship and have already found a part of the building material, and inasmuch as these brethren have asked the Bulgaria Mission Conference to grant them 2000 frs. for the aforementioned purpose, which the Conference has no means to do, your Committee would recommend that the Missionary authorities be requested to make the aforementioned grant of 2000 frs. for the village of Hibelee.
3. Your Committee would urge the recommendation of last year's Committee on the State of the Work in regard to the need in the village of Gorni Dubnik of a house of worship.

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

In view of the need of more extensive work among women your Committee would recommend:

1. That the Bible work among women be more vigorously prosecuted, special attention being given to the training of Bible women for city and village work.

2. That every pastor urge the importance of the women being organized for more systematic and effective work among their sisters, and that the pastors report the result of their efforts to the Secretary of the Conference W. F. M. So. as early as possible.
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<tr>
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<th>Self-Support</th>
<th>Missionary Society</th>
<th>Church Extension Society</th>
<th>Bishop's Fund</th>
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Pavel Todoroff.

M. D. Delcheff.
REPORTS OF THE PRESIDING
ELDERS.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE
LOVETCH DISTRICT.

Dear Brethren:—

Having come together again in order to look over the work of another Conference year, we are conscious that the hand of the Lord has been our help and our might, and that in His name we have accomplished what has been in our power. I am fully convinced that every one of the brethren has been obedient to the voice saying: "Cast thy net here." I do not propose in my capacity of Presiding Elder to give you any statistics in order to assure you of the success of the Lord's work in the Lovetch District; this every pastor has done when he has been required to; but I will give a few brief remarks of what I have seen in my quarterly visitations to the various charges. Although I wished to be present with the pastors on Sundays, yet my duties as pastor of a church did not allow of it.

As you are aware, there are in the Lovetch District only two places provided with churches, and two others with halls for holding services. In the villages of Pleven and in Sevlievo the meetings are held in private houses.

Lovetch. — Our meetings during the year have been well attended and of great interest. We have had some persons really interested in the church meetings and in reading and searching the word of God. Their occupation, however, was such, that they were compelled to be very cautious. They even expressed a desire to unite with the
church; but we thought it best to put that off. Can we, however, say that the work has not progressed? As a people we say we have liberty, but in reality we have no freedom.

The October Meetings proved very profitable to our church. Members as well as adherents of the church took a lively interest in the XX Century Fund. The Epworth League Chapter and the Woman's Missionary Society, in which the whole school has taken a lively interest, have done a praise-worthy work, worthy of imitation even by the pastors and experienced Christians in our Mission.

Orchania. — Bro. Vassil Petroff has worked this year also in this "unfortunate" place. When last year our hearts were rejoiced over the good signs of success in God's work the enemy was not slow to put a stumbling block of offense. One of the backslidden members has greatly injured the work and even lays claim to a part of the Mission property. Notwithstanding these and other obstacles the brother has labored earnestly and reports well attended and good meetings. In the surrounding towns and villages he has found many secret but faithful disciples of Christ, who have gladly heard him when he spoke to them. In appointing a man for that place the town of Vratsa should be taken in view, that it might be visited at least once a month; and places like Ablanitsa, Lukovit and others should also be visited. The village work is more hopeful.

Pleven Circuit. — After the withdrawal of Bro. Palamidoff, Bro. Bancho Todoroff has labored in the town of Pleven and circuit. He can not say he has not had enough to do during the year. Through the week he goes over the circuit and preaches Sunday morning in Pleven and in the afternoon in the village of Dubnik. One Sunday I had the privilege of administering the Lord's Supper to the earnest brethren in that village. Their inward joy was expressed in their countenances and I was reminded of the
gatherings of the primitive Christian Church. I have said it before and will say again, that God's work among our people is not yet infected with religious indifferentism. In Pleven the meetings are well attended, and we have reason to expect better work in future, as the pastor Bro. Bancho Todoroff has been happy to secure a companion in life, who by her playing and singing, has indeed proved a worthy helpmeet.

Sevlievo-Gabrovo. — Bro. Meshkoff has labored in this place under rather peculiar circumstances. He was compelled to change his place of holding meetings, but reports that the meetings have been well attended and there are some young men greatly concerned about the salvation of their souls.

During the year he has also visited several times the town of Gabrovo, and though he has had good work there, he has not been able to make any definite arrangement for holding preaching services. He was lately invited to preach in the town hall. The conditions were not, however, favorable. We hope that Gabrovo offers a good field of labor for Christian activity, and who will be the first to lay the foundation?

Tirnovo. — The work here has been encouraging throughout the year, and the labors of the pastor have not been unsuccessful. Not only by sermons on Sundays has he been able to profit the people but by lectures through the week on practical subjects. The church has been filled with attentive hearers and many of them have been regular attendants. The most remarkable thing is the great Infant Class in the Sunday School under the care and instruction of Sister Todoroff. We wish them greater success during the coming Conference year. This place is one of the most promising in the Lovetch District. May the banner of Christ waive extensively over this town of such historic interest for our people both politically and religiously.
In concluding my short remarks, I desire to express my thankfulness to the pastors of this district for their indefatigable activity in God's vineyard, in spite of the great obstacles and many discouragements and for their fraternal sympathy towards me personally.

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. DELCHEFF.
RUSTCHUK DISTRICT.

Dear Brethren,—

Again the rolling year has brought us together to give an account of our fidelity to the trust committed to us by the great Shepherd and the Church which is the choice of our hearts. To give a just and accurate estimate of the charges and workers embraced in my district is not an easy task for me. The desire to praise one and all of my brethren, and the work they have been doing in their respective charges as preachers and pastors is in me; but the sense of fidelity to truth and veracity also is not far from me. Thinking that I can truthfully keep in view these two elements in making this year's report, I think I am warranted in saying that, on the whole this brief Conference year has been one of the most encouraging of the six years during which I have acted as one of the two presiding elders in the Mission. Certainly, it has been the most spiritual year of all the years I have spent in this Mission. This may mean much or little, as men may feel disposed to take it. Not only that every charge can report new additions to its rolls of probationers and most of them full members during the year, but also we have felt that more spiritual atmosphere has permeated most of the congregations to which our preachers have ministered in holy things. Moreover, the pastors have manifested a mellowness of spirit and zeal for saving souls as I have not realized in my previous experience of my connection with this Mission. I have spent more time with the bre-
thren on their charges and have assisted them in holding special services, i.e. those of them who wished for my help, and I felt that "my heart was strangely warmed" at many of these services while preaching the glorious gospel of Christ. I have only one thought that I wish to impress upon you, my brethren, at this specially serious Conference session, and that is, to implore you to preach and exhort with the intensity of heart and soul expecting to see immediate results from your labors. This means, to get out of ruts, and to stir up the gift that is in you in such a way, that those who hear you preach may feel that you are in dead earnest in what you are doing. If leaving "at a poor dying rate" is expressive of a miserable christian experience in the lives of professing christians, preaching "at a poor dying rate" is more than doubly so. Hence, let me entreat you to get free from the habit of doing your work of preaching a life giving gospel in a lethargic way. Needless to say, a gospel that is a power unto salvation to every one that believeth deserves a better treatment from those called to be its heralds.

Lom-Palanka while still standing at the head of the charges of the District so far as the number of those taken into full membership is concerned, yet it is my unpleasant duty to say that, no new probationers have been taken this year. There are several persons, on the other hand, who are so near the kingdom of God that one can almost say, they are at the threshold of the Church. The reason for this is not far to be sought. Early at the beginning of the Conference year scarlet fever of a malignant character appeared in the place, and many children, some of them of an advanced age, were carried away by death. Three of Bro. P. Vassileff's children were taken with the malady, and one of them, the bright and beautiful Nevenka, was numbered among the redeemed lambs around the throne
of Christ. She was about four years old. Soon after this affliction, while sister Vassileff was still taking care of the two living children, Bro. Vassileff was bitten by a mad dog in the back yard of his residence. This necessitated his going to Sofia to undergo medical treatment for about three weeks. On his return the people felt reluctant to come to meeting to a house where the dread malady had made such havoc. But in the course of time things resumed their usual aspect, and at present there is every indication of continued prosperity in the town and in some of the neighboring villages, one of which I visited for a second time at my last visit to Lom. This town presents a crying need for a suitable preaching place. During the Conference year ten persons have been received into full membership.

Rustclnik, notwithstanding the statement from the Pastor to the Bishop that there has been no special warming and awakening in the charge, has had some prosperity. Several have been taken on probation. The services, especially the evening services, have been well attended. I regret to say the spirit of proselitism on the part of the Baptists is a hindrance to the work of Evangelizing the people. But of course, we are not to expect any consideration from them. In the main their practice has been to save those whom we have labored to awaken through the preaching of the Word among a people who have been baptized in infancy. There is room for the exercising of all energy the two Churches may possess, provided both of these labored to save the unsaved; but when we hear them say that there is "only one Christian in the Methodist Church in Bulgaria", simply because they consider that "one member" a hopeful candidate for immersion, and all other modes of baptisms are delusions, we find it rather hard to keep cool under the circumstances.
It is my honest opinion that the arrangement by which the village of Hotantsa was joined to Rustchuk during the past two years has not worked well. By this arrangement Bro. Peter Tickcheff has been designated as assistant preacher to the Rustchuk Pastor, with the intention that the former should take charge of the village work, but practically Rustchuk has had two pastors while the village work has been sadly overlooked, not to say neglected. We should not have two preachers to care for about ten Methodist families in the City while we have interests almost quite as important among the villages which must be hus­banded. This arrangement is also detrimental to the successful carrying on of the work in the City. It is prejudicial to the truest interests, both to the preachers themselves and the people to whom they minister. I hope the Bishop may see his way to readjust this matter at this Conference.

Shumen has given us some reasons for rejoicing, not only because some have been added to the roll of church membership, a thing for which we are devoutly thankful, but also because the membership has been warmed and awakened, and hence it has become better prepared for more aggressive work. During the latter part of the winter it was my privilege to conduct special meetings with good results, as I trust. At any rate, I am one of those who were much warmed and blessed by these services. Shumen in common with all her sister cities suffers from the baneful influence of politics and secularism which blind their seekers that they can not see the pearl of the great price. May God send deliverance from these senseless idols!

Silistra, the nearest city to the Rumanian frontier, has made some progress during the year. There are indications for better things in this charge as is shown by the increased attendance upon our services. The brethren here are very poor; some of them being deprived almost of the
necessaries of life, but they love, the Saviour and bear good witness to his saving grace. Some years ago in a meeting I said that the besetting sin in Bulgaria for those who would follow the teachings of the gospel is bread, and since that time my experience has been such as to confirm me in the truth of that statement rather than to convert me to an opposite view. If the enemies of the gospel light could do it they would willingly starve our people to death than to have them desert their Orthodoxy and live.

Sistov Circuit, though not fulfilling my sanguine expectations expressed in my last year's report, is moving in the right directions. The services are well attended especially by the students of the Commercial School. Of course of these students we can not expect any permanent strength for our church in the city, as they are brought together from various parts of the Principality, and do not intend to live in the place, but it is to be hoped, that wherever they may go they will carry the impression they have received from the preaching of the Word. Hibellee shows signs of spiritual quickening. The brethren have done considerable work in collecting stone for the purpose of building a humble chapel and parsonage. They have paid about seven hundred francs for a lot and the Mission Church Extension Society donated them a hundred francs for stone. They shall need about two thousand francs help at least. They worship in a rented hall for the present, but they are liable to be turned out of it at any time. I have written to the Office in New York in answer to a telegram to Bishop Vincent from Dr. Carroll bearing on this subject of needed help, but what success we may have in securing some assistance from that quarter I can not tell.

Varna Circuit presents both the encouraging and the discouraging sides before us. Varna, (the centre of the Circuit), remains almost stationary in her spiritual deve-
velopment when the towns of Dobritch and Baltchik give evidence of prosperity. Many Bibles and New Testaments have been sold in the latter places. In Varna at present there are two other preachers besides our own. A German society has started a new mission among the Turkish population. This society has hardly begun its operations. The other man labors among the Armenians, principally those who fled from Turkey some years ago, and is supported by a Swiss Society, or committee. We are on pleasant terms with these brethren who do not rebaptize our members nor are we represented by them by the third finger of the hand and they themselves by the long finger.

The pastor, Bro. Ivan Todoroff, has visited Dobritch and Baltchik several times and I but once. My heart rejoiced at what I saw in these two places.

It gives me pleasure to be able to testify that all the brethren have labored faithfully to advance Christ's kingdom in this part of the world. All have prayed and toiled for a prosperous year and all have seen some fruit from their labors. Some thing has been done for Christ and humanity while much that is desirable to have been realized now remains to be accomplished in the future. Yet our prospects are as bright as God's promises sure and unfailing. We can afford to trust God in cultivating a hard field like this. Our prayer is, "Lord, increase our faith."

My brethren, in bidding you farewell for the present, I desire to assure you of my continued interest in you and the work you are doing. A work to which I have given seventeen of the best years of my life I can neither ignore nor forget. They have been years of my best strength and vigor.

The last four years especially have been very trying for me owing to the fact that the duties of the treasury of the Mission have been added to my other labors. I frankly
confess that I could not have taken this additional responsibility had it not been for the efficient help of my wife. Of this I wrote to the Office in New York at the time I was notified of my appointment, and Bishop Walden wrote to the Office of the same some two years ago. At the Office in Rustchuk Mrs Constantine has done as much work as I, even more if any thing. This has been done by her without any financial remuneration being given to her or to me. We have endeavored to do what we could to advance the interests of the Mission, and in this she has been a true helpmeet to me in the work. We have felt that God and His cause deserve our best. To Him be all the glory! Whatever my defects, and her defects, may be, our hearts have been warm toward God’s cause and your true prosperity.

Brethren, I thank you for your kindness and hospitality at all times toward me. In wishing you Godspee in your future work, whether my parting from you be of a temporary nature, or of a permanent character, I desire to repeat to you the blessed words of the great Apostle delivered to the Elders of Ephesus: “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

Respectfully submitted,

T. CONSTANTINE.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE W. F. M. SOCIETY.

September 12, 1900 N. S., almost immediately after the close of the last Conference session, the present school year of our Girls' School in Lovetch opened. Scarcely 8 months have passed since then and therefore we cannot report a full year's work. The large graduating class of last June left more than the usual number of vacant places, but our ranks are again well filled. We have 29 boarding pupils, 4 more than last year. 20 of these are pay pupils, 9 only being dependent on the Missionary Society and one of these pays in part. One pupil left us early in the school year and one special day pupil was enrolled in January 1901. The present enrollment is 51. They are classified as follows:

Number of pupils in the II. Class . . 7
  » » » » » III » . . 10
  » » » » » IV » . . 13
  » » » » » V » . . 9
  » » » » » VI » . . 8
  » » » » special pupils . . . . 4

Total . . . 51

We have no pupils in the first Class this year. 17 different cities and villages are represented, namely: Silistra, Rustchuk, Sistov, Hibilee, Rahovo, Vershetz, Berkovetsa, Teteven, Kneja, Pleven, Troyan, Golema-Jelezna, Sevlievo, Gabrovo, Tarnovo, Dobritch and Lovech.

Ministers, lawyers, merchants, government officials, farmers and humble daylaborers, have alike committed their daughters to our care.
Receipts from pupils this year will be as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Tuition of day pupils</td>
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<td>For Piano lessons</td>
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This is 1000 francs more than last year. The general health of the school has been excellent notwithstanding the fact that Scarlet Fever raged in the city for several months and other schools were closed on account of it. The mid-year certificates showed better grades in scholarship than those for the corresponding period last year. Rather severe discipline has been necessary in a few cases, but on the whole, everything has moved on smoothly and with a good degree of success. Two religious meetings are held weekly, led by teachers and all the boarding pupils are free to attend either one or the other of these services. Although attendance is entirely voluntary it has averaged about 20. Quite a number of “Orthodox” girls have shown much interest, and taken an active part in these meetings. As heretofore, our teachers and pupils have rendered useful service in the Epworth League and Woman’s Missionary Society. They are also taking a live interest in the Twentieth Century Thank Offering Fund, as is evident from the fact that they are contributing systematically to this Fund and up to date have collected in voluntary offering more than 100 francs. This sum will be paid through the treasury of the W. F. M. So.

In November last, our corps of teachers was reinforced by the arrival of a new missionary, Miss Dora Davis of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Hereafter the Natural Sciences will be her specialty. We hope for much as a result of her work in the future and greatly rejoice that our faculty has
been thus strengthened. Mrs. Kurshovska, who was last year secured as Miss Diem's substitute, continues her work in French and Instrumental Music. 7 teachers, including the principal, are employed. We have no Bible woman this conference year.

The Primary school in Hotansta is still in charge of Miss Evanka Todorova who reports 18 pupils and fair progress. Our Woman's Missionary Auxiliary in Lovech is having a prosperous year. It has paid 100 francs into the conference treasury since last October, 36 francs are now in the Auxiliary treasury, besides the 100 francs collected for the Twentieth Century Fund.

Our efforts and contributions, whether for the physical, mental, moral or spiritual uplifting of those around us or afar off, may seem but a drop in the ocean, a ripple on the wave, but they are watched by a loving Father, who measures success, not as men do. In His service every laborer receives full compensation. It has been said "Sacrifice is gold in heaven," but who that has tasted the joy of sacrifice for the souls of men, would exchange it for all the gold of earth? And more, who even thinks of it as sacrifice? The seed is sown, and it shall not return unto Him void. The promises of God stand sure. Firm in this faith, we look gratefully over the past, hopefully, toward the future.

Respectfully submitted,

KATE B. BLACKBURN.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

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<tr>
<td>General Conference Expenses,</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twentieth Century Fund,</td>
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<td>Cash in Hand May 2nd, 1901,</td>
<td>$399.07</td>
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Tirnova, Bulgaria.
May 2nd, 1901.

T Constantine.
ANNUAL REPORT OF PUBLISHER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copies</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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During this short Conference Year there has been published with the help of the Meth Tract So. Grant the following:

The Book «Black Beauty,»

Tracts:

- «Shepherd and Sheep,»
- «I Shall Be Rich,»
- «The Old Wood Chopper,»
- «Keep Good Company,»

Conference Minutes of 1900,

„Christian World,“ Monthly Paper,

The Book Sales Since last Conference are:

- Scriptures,
- Our Books,
- Other Books,
- Christian World,

Total Sales,

1705.60 frs. gold = 1875.15 frs. silver.

Tirnova, May 2nd, 1901.

T. Constantine.

Although 400 copies of the Ch. World are printed each month 266 are put in the above report as the No. Vol. of Ch. World in as much as 8 months equals 2 1/3 of a Year.

The total paying Subscriptions for 1091 are 296.
Of these 130 are taken in the Other Mission.
GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BULGARIA MISSION CONFERENCE 1900 - 1901.

<table>
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<th>CHARGES</th>
<th>CURRENT EXPENSES</th>
<th>PASTORS</th>
<th>EPISCOPAL FUND</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1700</td>
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<tr>
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<td>—</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rustchuck District</td>
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<td>—</td>
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*Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollar is computed at 5 francs.
### General Statistics of the Bulgaria Mission Conference 1900—1901

#### Charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOVETCH DISTRICT</th>
<th>PASTORS</th>
<th>Officers and Teachers</th>
<th>Teachers for Missions</th>
<th>Teachers for Education</th>
<th>Children's Fund</th>
<th>W. F. M. Society</th>
<th>Episcopal Fund</th>
<th>General Conference</th>
<th>Other Collections</th>
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<td>.40</td>
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<td>134</td>
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<td>2.60</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>15.80</td>
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</table>

### Rustchuk District

| HOTANTS A | Peter Tihcheff. | 3                        | 20                    | 1                     | 1 25            | 1.60            | 1.60            | 1.20              | 2.00             |
| Lompalanka  | Peter Vassileff. | 15                       | 35                    | 1                     | 5 50            | 4.40            | 1.60            | 6.00              | 8.40             |
| Rushchuk    | St. Thomoff.    | 1                        | 15                    | 1                     | 1 17           | 1.60            | 1.60            | 2.00              | 2.00             |
| Shumen      | St. Getcheff.   | 3                        | 15                    | 1                     | 1 25            | 1.60            | 1.60            | 2.00              | 2.00             |
| Silistria   | Ivan Dimitroff  | 3                        | 14                    | 1                     | 1 12           | 1.00            | 1.00            | 2.00              | 2.00             |
| Sistov      | Z. G. Dimitroff | 2                        | 34                    | 1                     | 1 5            | 2.00            | .40             | 2.40              | 2.40             |
| Varna       | Ivan Todoroff   | 1                        | 25                    | 1                     | 3 31           | 5.00            | 1.00            | 6.00              | 8.00             |
| Total       |                    | 31                       | 168                   | 2                     | 8 22 194       | 15.60           | 3.40            | 19.00             | 29.20            |
| Grand Total |                    | 45                       | 234                   | 3                     | 13 36 328      | 20.00           | 6.00            | 32.00             | 45.00            |

*Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollar is computed at 5 francs.*