THE MINUTES
OF THE
TWELVTH SESSION
OF THE
Bulgaria
Mission Conference
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HELD AT
Lovetch, Bulgaria, April 22 to April 28, 1903.
ORGANIZED SEPT. 8, 1892.

Press „Pobeda“
Rustchuck, Bulgaria
1903.
CONFERENCE OFFICERS,

President:
Bishop JOHN H. VINCENT.

Secretary:
STEPHEN THOMOFF, VARNA.

Statistical Secretary:
PETER VASILEFF, LOM.

Treasurer:
MISSION TREASURER.
CONFERENCE SOCIETIES.

Epworth League:

President: Stephen Thomoff.
Secretary: Pavel Todoroff.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:

President: E. P. Todorova.
Vice President: D. M. Delcheva.
Secretary: A. S. Thomova.
Treasurer: K. B. Blackburn.


Committee on Publications: Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff.

Board of Examiners: Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff, Peter Vasileff, Ivan Todoroff, Trico Constantine, Bancho Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff.
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<td>Constantine Trico</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>Delcheff, M. D.</td>
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<td>Georgieff Tseno</td>
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Admitted to Full Connection:
- Minnesota: 1881
- Bulgaria: 1893
- Detroit: 1889
- Newark: 1879
- Germany: 1876
- N. India: 1887

Began Work in Bulgaria Mission:
- Bulgaria: 1895

Transferred to Bulgaria Mission:
- Bulgaria: 1892

Address:
- Sistov
- Rustchuck
- Tutrakan
- Hibelee
- Sevlievo
- Shumen
- Indje-Keuy
- Varna
- Pleven
- Sistov
- Tirnovo
- Lom
- Lovetch
- Sevlievo
- Vratsa
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THE JOURNAL.

FIRST DAY.

Lovetch, Wednesday, April 22, 1903.

Opening. — The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Bulgaria Mission Conference was opened on Wednesday, April 22, 1903 in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lovetch at 9 o'clock a. m. Bishop John H. Vincent presiding.

Bishop Vincent administered the Lord's Supper, assisted by the Presiding Elders and Trico Constantine.

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

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

Statistical Secretary. — On motion of Ivan Dimitroff, Peter Vasileff was reelected Statistical Secretary.

Conference Treasurer. — On motion of Stephen Getcheff, Pavel Todoroff was reelected Conference Treasurer by a rising vote.

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

Conference Interpreter. — On motion of Pevel Todoroff, Trico Constantine was elected official interpreter.

Standing Committees — On motion of Ivan Dimitroff the Presiding Elders and Trico Constantine were constituted a committee on Standing Committees.

Visitor — The chair introduced to the Conference the Rev. A. J. Bucher, Professor of the Frankfurt Theological School, who briefly addressed the Conference.

Book Concern Dividend. — The Chair announced he had received a cheque of 64 dollars, being the Book Concern Dividend for the Bulgaria Mission. On motion of Ivan Todoroff the cheque was referred to the Mission Treasurer.

Episcopal Fund. — The Chair announced that the amount apportioned to this Conference for the Episcopal Fund is 5 dollars.

XIII Question. — Was the Character of Each Preacher Examined? taken up. The character of Pavel Todoroff and M. D. Delcheff, Presiding Elders of the Lovetch and Rustchuck Districts was passed, and they read their reports. (See reports.) The character of A. P. Meshkoff, Peter Tikcheff, Bancho Todoroff, Z. G. Dimitroff, Peter Vasiliev, Ivan Dimitroff, Stephen Getcheff, was also passed.

Adjournment. — On motion Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.
MISSION CONFERENCE

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opening. — The devotional exercises were conducted by A. P. Meshkoff.

Journal. — The Minutes of the preceding session were read and adopted.

Committee on Committees. — The Committee on Committees read the following report which was adopted:
2. Education. — K. B. Blackburn, Stephen Thomoff, Stephen Getcheff.

XXIII Question. Who are the Superannuated Preachers? Gabriel Ilieff. On motion of Trico Constantine, Gabriel Ilieff was continued in the same relation. On the reading of J. I. Economoff's name a written certificate from the Rev. M. N. Popoff, Pastor of the Sophia Church, was read, highly recommending J. I. Economoff, who is residing in Sophia, as a Christian and as a minister. On motion of Stephen Thomoff, the case of J. I. Economoff was postponed to another session.

Report. — The Treasurer read his report which was adopted. (See reports)

Adjournment — Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Trico Constantine.
SECOND DAY.

Lovetch, Thursday, April 23, 1903.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Peter Tikcheff.

Address. — The chair addressed the Conference on the subject of cultivating the memory by training young and old to commit to memory parts of Scripture and hymns.

W. F. M. Society. — Kate B. Blackburn, principal of the Lovetch Girl's school, read her report which on motion of Trico Constantine was adopted and ordered to be published in the Minutes.

XXIII Question continued. — The Character of Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Thomoff, Trico Constantine, was passed. Trico Constantine read his report as Evangelist. The report was highly encouraging and inspiring.

Visitors. — The Chair introduced to the Conference Rev. J. W. Baird, Fraternal delegate of the A. B. C. F. M and the Rev. Kricor Kivorkian, who spoke on his work in Rustchuck. He stated his need, in regard to renting a preaching place in the Armenian quarter of Rustchuck and on motion this matter was referred to the committee on the State of the Work.

Prayer Union. — The chair called the attention of the Conference to Dr. Paton's plan for prayer union. On motion of Pavel Todoroff the matter with the documents presented by the chair on the subject was referred to a Committee consisting of J. W. Baird, Trico Constantine and Stephen Thomoff.

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

November Conversations. — The chair stated that the subject for next November Conversations was Prayer.
Bulgarian Evangelical Society. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff the Secretary was authorized to send a telegram of fraternal greetings to the Bulgarian Evangelical Society now in session in Samokov.

Adjournment — Conference adjourned by expiration of time and the benediction was pronounced by J. W. Baird.

THIRD DAY.

Lovetch, Friday, April 24, 1903.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Tseno Georgieff.

Journal. — The Minutes of the preceding session were read, corrected and adopted.

Prof. Bucher. — Prof. Bucher of the Frankfurt Theological Seminary gave a very encouraging account of the work in Germany and Switzerland.

Evangelist's Report. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff it was ordered that the report of the Evangelist be adopted and printed in the Minutes.

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

Reports — The Committees on the W. F. M. S. and on Christian Literature read their reports which were amended and adopted. (See reports).

Adjournment. — Conference adjourned, and the benediction was pronounced by Trico Constantine.
FOURTH DAY.

Lovetch, Saturday, April 25, 1903.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Stephen Getcheff. The Chair addressed the Conference on Bible Study Sunday, the November Conversations and Church unity.

Journal. — The Minutes of the preceding session were read and adopted.

Bulgarian Evangelical Society. — The Secretary read a telegram from the Secretary of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society in session in Samokov thanking Conference for the expression of good wishes and praying for God’s blessing on the labours of Conference.

IV Question. — Who have been Received on Trial? Tseno Georgieff and Tsvetan Tsvetanoff. The recommendation from the respective Quarterly Conference of these brethren were read. The board of Examiners reported on their examinations. M. D. Delcheff, the Presiding Elder of Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, represented his case before the Conference and on motion of Ivan Todoroff Tsvetan Tsvetanoff was unanimously received on Trial. Tseno Georgieff’s case was represented by both of the Presiding Elders, he having worked under both of them, and on motion of Trico Constantine he was unanimously received on Trial.

Motion. — On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that Conference hold a private session at 11 o’clock a.m.

Report. — The Committee on Prayer Union read their report which was adopted. (See reports.)
PRIVATE SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment Conference went into a private session.

XXIII Question.—Who are the Superannuated Preachers? Continued. The motion of Stephen Thomoff that J. I. Economoff be made effective, was rejected by a majority of one vote.

Adjournment. — Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.

FIFTH DAY.

Monday, April, 27, 1903.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Peter Vasileff.

J. W. Baird. — The Chair asked the Rev. J. W. Baird fraternal delegate from the A. B. C. F. M. Mission, south of the Balkans to speak on the work of the mission he represents. The report given was highly interesting.

Committee on Resolutions. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Ivan Todoroff, Bancho Todoroff and Z. G. Dimitroff were appointed committee on resolutions.

Book Concern Dividend. — On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that the Book Concern Dividend for this Mission Conference, amounting to 64 dollars, be used for the support of Gabriel Elieff, one of the Superannuated preachers.

Resolution. — Trico Constantine read the following resolution which was adopted:

WHEREAS, the interests of this Mission demand the appointment of a Superintendent and other reinforcements — new missionaries from America, therefore
RESOLVED, that we respectfully but earnestly request the missionary authorities of the M. E. Church in America to provide for the Superintendent of this Mission,

Resolved, that we in like manner request the Bishop having supervision over this Mission to appoint a suitable person to the Superintendent of this Mission;

Resolved, that in our opinion in addition to the Superintendent two American missionaries are needed for this Mission.

Methodist Congress. — The chair stated it was proposed to hold in Zürich a Methodist Congress next September; said Congress to be constituted by from two to three delegates from each Conference in Europe. The object of the Congress was a thorough discussion of the needs of Methodism in Europe. The chair suggested that Conference elect two delegates, who would worthily represent it at the said Congress. On motion of Ivan Todoroff it was ordered that Conference raise the sum of 100 frs. gold towards the traveling expenses of the delegates, each preacher contributing in proportion to his salary. Stephen Thomoff and Trico Constantine were elected delegates to the Congress.

Yordaky Tsvetkoff. Trico Constantine spoke on behalf of Yordaky Tsvetkoff, a former successful colporteur and supply in the Mission, and who is now in straitened circumstances. On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Ivan Todoroff was requested to solicit subscriptions from the brethren of the Conference and other friends on behalf of Yordaky Tsvetkoff.

Report. — The Committee on Education read their report which was adopted (See reports).

Resolution. — Trico Constantine read the following resolution which was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the resolution of 1898 in reference to J. I. Economoff be so modified as to remove all appearance of or purpose on the part of this Conference to reflect on his moral character.

Report. — The Committee on the State of the Work read
their report which was amended and adopted (See reports).

**Communication from Sophia Pastor.** — Trico Constantine read a communication from the pastor of Sophia requesting him, when in his travels he comes near Sophia, to visit that town and hold meetings in the Sophia Church. The matter was left to the discretion of Trico Constantine.

**Conference Evangelist.** — On motion of Stephen Getcheff the chair was requested, should he see fit, to appoint Trico Constantine Conference Evangelist.

**Additional Members of Board of Examiners.** — The chair appointed Trico Constantine, Bancho Todoroff and A. P. Meshkoff members of the Board of Examiners, thus completing with the five appointed last year the required number.

**Reports.** — The Committees on Sabbath Observance and Temperance and on Epworth League and Sunday Schools read their reports which were adopted. (See reports).

**Trustees to Act on Property Matters.** — On motion of Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff, Ivan Todoroff and Stephen Getcheff were appointed Trustees to Act on Property Matters for the ensuing year.

**Fraternal Delegate.** — Trico Constantine was elected fraternal delegate to the next Annual Meeting of the A.B. C. F. M. Mission, south of the Balkans.

**Motion.** — On motion of Stephen Thomoff it was ordered that when we adjourn it be to meet at 3:30 p. m.

**Adjournment.** — Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by J. W. Baird.
AFTERNOMN SESSION.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Peter Tikcheff.

XXX Question. — Where shall the Next Conference be held? Rustchuck was selected.

Course of Study. — The Board of Examiners read the Course of Study for Bulgarian Preachers prepared by them and handed a copy of the same to the Chair that it might be presented to the Board of Bishops for their approval.

XXVI Question. — What is the Aggregate of the Benevolent Collections Ordered by the General Conference as Reported by the Conference Treasurer? 157 dollars.

Official Minutes. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff the printed Minutes were made the official Minutes of the Conference.

Disciplinary Questions. — The Disciplinary Questions were asked and answered (See Disciplinary Questions).

The Chair addressed the Conference on Bible Study Sunday, the November Confersations and the bicentenary of John Wesley.

Committee on Publications. — The Chair appointed Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff and M. D. Delcheff, committee on Publications.

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

We, the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference do hereby express our warmest thanks to our beloved Bishop John H. Vincent for the encouraging words and wise counsels he has given us during his four years administration as president of our Conference, and also for the letters he has written to us.

As he will return to America this year, we wish him success in all the European Conferences he will visit and a safe voyage to his own country where he will use his influence for God’s cause in Bulgaria.
We most earnestly request Bishop John H. Vincent to convey our fraternal greetings to all the brethren in Europe and America. We shall probably never see each other again, but our prayer is that we may see each other above among the assembly of the redeemed.

We, the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Professor A. J. Bucher of the Frankfurt Theological Seminary, for his presence among us and for the fraternal greetings conveyed through him from some brethren in Germany. We are grateful also for his encouraging words especially for his sermon and address.

We wish him safe return to his home, and we would request that he convey our fraternal greetings to the brethren of his Conference in Germany and to all the brethren he may meet.

We, the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference express our heartfelt thanks to the Rev. J. W. Baird, fraternal delegate from the Mission of the A. B. C. F. M, south of the Balkans and Director of the Literary and Theological School in Samokov, for his presence among us, for his encouraging report of the work south of the Balkans and for the active part he has taken in our session. We would request him to convey our fraternal greetings to all the brethren and fellow workers, south of the Balkans.

On motion of Trico Constantine the secretary was requested to send a copy of this resolution to J. W. Baird.

Resolved that as a Conference we do hereby unanimously express our heartfelt thanks to Miss K. B. Blackburn, the principal of the Girls' School and to Miss Dora Davis, her assistant and to all the friends for their kind hospitality tendered to the Conference.

We are also very grateful for the good singing of the school choir, which stirred our hearts.

Stephen Thomoff read the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS our beloved Bishop J. H. Vincent has, during his four years' administration of the European Conferences, manifested the deepest interest in the welfare and success of the work in the Bulgaria Mission Conference, having become thoroughly conversant with the needs thereof, and whereas his term of episcopal supervision expires this year, therefore.

RESOLVED, That as a Conference we respectfully request the General Conference which meets in May, 1904 to appoint Bishop John H. Vincent for another quadrennium to the European Conferences.
Journal. — The Minutes of the preceding session were read and adopted.

Adjournment. — On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that on the reading of the Appointments Conference adjourn sine die.

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

The foregoing, a correct record of the Bulgaria Mission Conference Minutes, 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.
   Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, Tseno Georgieff,
   (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?

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.
   (b) 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?
    None.
23. Who are Seperannuated Preachers?
   Gabriel Ilieff, J. I. Economoff.

24. Who are Triers 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?
   157 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?
   64 Dollars from Dividend Book Concern allowed to Gabriel Ilieff.

29. Where are the Preachers Stationed?
   See Appointments.

30. Where shall the next Conference be held?
   Rustchuck.
APPOINTMENTS — 1903—1904.

LOVETCH DISTRICT.

Pavel Todoroff P. E. P. O. Tirnovo.
Orchania .................. To be supplied ..................
Sevlievo .................. Tsvetan Tsvetanoff .................. P .................. 1.

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

RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT.

M. D. Delcheff, P. E. P. O. Rustchuck.

Hotantsa .................. To be supplied ..................
Rustchuck .................. M. D. Delcheff .................. E .................. 2.
Tutracan .................. Ivan Dimitroff .................. E .................. 1

VIDIN DISTRICT.

Trico Constantine P. E. P. O. Sistov.

Rahovo .................. To be supplied ..................
Sistov .................. Ivan Todoroff .................. E .................. 2.
Voyvodovo .................. To be supplied ..................

Conference Missionary Secretary, Trico Constantine,
Director of Publication, M. D. Delcheff.
Editor Tract and Books, Pavel Todoroff.
Visitors to Lovetch School, Pavel Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff, Tsvetan Tsvetanoff.

Committee on Wesley Memorial in June, Trico Constantine.
To preach Missionary Sermon, A. P. Meshkoff.
Committee on Publications, Stephen Thomoff, M. D. Delcheff,
Pavel Todoroff.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE,

In view of the fact that good literature is a power scattering darkness, developing the mind and ennobling the heart, your Committee would recommend:

1. That «The Christian World» be continued and our preachers be asked to write oftener for this paper.
2. That a tract be published against profanity, which is a great and widely spread vice among all classes of society.
3. That the grant made by the Sunday School Union be used for publishing and circulating illustrated tracts among Sunday School children.
4. That Temperance tracts be published.

EDUCATION.

In view of the crying need felt in the Mission for the last ten years for a Boys' Literary and Theological School, in which young men, called of God to preach the Gospel, might be fitted for their work, and inasmuch as the unanimous conviction of this Conference is that such a school is absolutely indispensable for the successful prosecution of the work in our Mission, your Committee would recommend that this Conference most earnestly request the General Missionary Committee to make, at its next session, the necessary appropriation for the opening of a Boys' Literary and Theological School in one of the central points in the Mission.
Your Committee is glad to state that the excellent work done by the Lovetch Girls' School under the able management of the principal Kate B. Blackburn and her assistant Dora Davis is greatly appreciated by Bulgarian families anxious to give a Christian education to their daughters.

EPWORTH LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee, appreciating the great importance of organizing Epworth League chapters and Sunday Schools, would recommend:

1. That pastors organize an Epworth League chapter in every charge having a sufficient number of young people.
2. That a Sunday School be organized in every place in the Mission where preaching services are held.
3. That the Publishing Agent be requested to donate to every Sunday School in the Mission a copy of every newly published book.

PRAYER UNION.

Your Committee to which was referred the subject of the Prayer Union of the Evangelical Churches report:

1. That we consider this Prayer Union an object quite worthy of our sympathies and of our hearty cooperation having as its aim the drawing together of all the Evangelical Churches, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them, the revival in them of true Church life and doctrine and the bringing of the impenitent to a decision to accept Christ as their Savior — blessings which every true Christian must desire and labor for.

2. We recommend that our pastors and churches cooperate with those having this Prayer Union under their care, and that they have such services as will best promote the interests of this work and at such a time as will be found most profitable.
MISSION CONFERENCE

SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee, deploring the manner in which the Christian Sabbath is violated by the people throughout Bulgaria and also the wide spread of intemperance, would recommend:

1. That every pastor explain to the people in general that God greatly blesses all who keep and sanctify the Christian Sabbath, and that the violation of this day brings a great curse.

2. That our pastors be furnished with tracts on the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath for distributing among the people.

3. That the pastors having a sufficient number of young men under their care organize them into bands and train them to work among the young people by setting forth the evils of intemperance.

4. That the pastors be well furnished with tracts on temperance for wide distribution among the people.

5. That pastors knowing English should translate articles on temperance for publication in «The Christian World».

STATE OF THE WORK.

Your Committee would recommend:

1. That an additional able colporteur be employed in the Mission, one colporteur not being able to do justice to the whole field.

2. That Bro. Hagop Hovnanian who has labored as colporteur in Dobritch and Baltchik (Varna Circuit) be supported for three months — the end of July next — and then be discontinued.

3. That the 66 dollars, given by an Epworth League chapter in Pennsylvania for special work, be used for the
support of a worthy candidate for the ministry from our Conference, and that we express our thanks to the aforesaid Epworth League Chapter for their gift.

4. In regard to the case of the Rev. Kricor Kivorkian who needs a certain amount for renting a preaching place in the Armenian quarter of Rustchuck and for traveling expenses in visiting certain towns in Bulgaria and Rumania where Armenian refugees live, your Committee would state that we deeply sympathize with our Armenian brother in the good work we know he is doing among his countrymen in Bulgaria and Rumania, but regret our inability to help him in this matter, our Conference having no fund for such a purpose.

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

Your Committee, realizing the importance of extending God's work more widely among women, would recommend:

1. That three able Bible women be employed as soon as possible, to labor among the women in our Mission, especially in those places where they are needed most.

2. That every pastor encourage the women in his charge to organize into a W. M. Society in order to be able to work more systematically and successfully among their sisters and that they report their work to the Secretary of the Conference W. F. M. Society.
# APPORTIONMENTS.

for 1903 - 1904.

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REPORTS OF THE PRESIDING ELDERS.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE LOVETCH DISTRICT.

Dear Brethren:—

Orchania. — I deem it proper to begin this report with the most unpromising place in the district — Orchania — and would like to say as little as possible about it. One's heart grieves in thinking that the candlestick of a church is put out, and that the church itself is neither hot nor cold, and consequently worthy to be spewed out. Orchania has reached this sad condition in consequence of the wicked life of the backslidden members, who may never have been truly converted. I fear they failed to understand the object for which the Gospel was preached to them and pretended to be followers of Christ for the expected loaves and fishes; and when these were not forthcoming, they hardened against the Gospel their hearts which became the abode of seven evil spirits. People, however, knew them as Protestants and took them as models of Protestant Christianity. Such a conduct is a reproach against the name of Christ and a stone of stumbling to many. It seems as if Orchania must pass some years in the wilderness until the generation which forsook the Lord and became a stumbling block to many, should die, that a new generation might arise, which
should seek the Lord with all their heart. It may be that the beginning of the end has come. The pastor Peter Tikcheff writes that one of these backsliders, who led a very scandalous life and gave occasion for the name of God to be blasphemed, died very suddenly of late, by taking poison, it is believed. May this sad end be a good lesson to other backsliders, and may they understand that the way of the wicked will perish.

When I visited Orchania last fall, only seven persons came to the preaching service. From what the pastor then said, I understood that his audience often consisted of one or two and some times there were none. Whether this is due to inefficient preaching or to the indifference of the people to spiritual things cannot be positively affirmed; but it is possible that both may to some extent be true.

I am inclined to repeat what I said last year, namely, that if the Mission owned no property in Orchania, the wisest and best thing, under the circumstances, would be to abandon this unpromising place, and to occupy another place where the people would be glad to hear the word of God.

**Vratsa.** Due north, at a distance of about 55 kilometres from Orchania is the town of Vratsa, situated at the foot of the rocky spurs of the Balkans. Up to January 16 of this year I had not visited Vratsa, and until then we did not have one adherent in that place. We have now commenced work there, and as the beginning of this work is of great interest, let me say a few words in regard to it.

Last summer Bishop Vincent organized a Bulgarian society under the name of «The True Life» and wrote four tracts on the true physical, social, intellectual and spiritual life. These tracts were printed in 12,000 copies and were widely scattered by our preachers. Hundred of letters were received from all parts of Bulgaria, in which the writers
expressed their thanks for the tracts and their desire to lead this true life. The most interesting letter came from Vratsa, a town in which there was not a single Evangelical Christian. The letter was signed by eight persons. After reading the tracts which they enjoyed very much, they organized a circle, and wrote to me asking for further directions. They wished to know which is the church mentioned in one of the tracts as being evangelical in its doctrines and life. In reply I suggested that they gather together every Sunday to read the New Testament and pray to Christ who will teach them what to do. I also explained to them that our Church is the one mentioned.

In answer to my letter they wrote saying they came together to read the word of God; they desired to serve Christ and to live according to His Gospel; but that they were in the dark and needed some one to instruct them. In writing the second time to them I again insisted on their reading the New Testament, sending them a number of tracts and a copy of the Discipline. By this time they were already known as Protestants and their fellow townsmen began to persecute them. One of them, a shoemaker by trade, could not sell a single pair of shoes for three months, for as soon as any one went towards his store, some one would say to him: «Don't buy of that man; he has changed his religion and become a Turk».

A little before New Year's I received an urgent invitation to visit them without delay, as the Bishop threatened to call them and speak to them. I was not able to go at once, for we were about to commence the Week of Prayer; but that week over I left for Vratsa. The town is 17 kilometres distant from the railroad station; but I found there two of the brethren, who had come to meet me. The Saturday, Sunday and Monday I spent with the brethren in Vratsa were like a continual Sabbath. I talked, read the Bible to them and prayed with them. As they had never
been in an Evangelical Church, nor seen an Evangelical pastor they plied me with questions in regard to our church doctrines, government, usages etc. I answered their questions and gave them the information they so much needed. Sunday afternoon they asked to be received on probation. Seeing their faith and sincerity, and especially considering the fact that they had already suffered persecution for Christ's sake, I thought it would not be right for me to refuse, and so I took seven on probation — a husband and wife, a married middle aged man and four young men.

That these brethren might not be left altogether to themselves I asked Mr. Stefanovitch of Sophia to visit them after my departure. Soon after this something occurred which might have injurud the work so well begun in Vratsa, and in order to avoid the recurrence of such things, we thought it well to send the preacher of Hotantsa, Bro. Tseno Georgieff, there. He has been there about two months and has put his whole heart in the work. He has held meetings or talks almost every evening with different persons among whom were some priests.

I visited Vratsa the second time on March 16, and for the first time administered the Lord's Supper to our new brethren. I have reasons to believe that a good work has been begun in this town and I hope the presiding Bishop will appoint a man to that place to continue the work so auspiciously begun.

Pleven and Circuit. — The loss Bro. Bancho Todoroff suffered in the death of his wife has also proved a loss for the church work in Pleven. The choir of the Pleven church has been broken up and those who were attracted in the church by the singing no longer attend. For some time the attendance fell off, but during last fall and winter there was an increase in the attendance. The majority of the
audience consists of young men, mostly students. When I visited Pleven last, on March 22-nd., I had the pleasure to take on probation two persons well instructed by the pastor — a husband and wife. Besides attending to his work in Pleven the pastor has visited every Sunday afternoon one of the villages in the circuit where we have church members. The work in Cartorange and Dolni Dubnik is very encouraging. In the latter village two persons have been converted. But our work in that place labors under a great disadvantage in the fact mentioned in former years, namely the lack of a convenient place of worship. Our adherents meet in private houses altogether inconvenient for holding religious services. A great and good work can be done both in the town and circuit; but we can hardly expect one man to do justice to the work. The town of Pleven alone needs one man, and the circuit another, who not only on Sundays but on week days, especially on feast days, should visit the villagers, distributing tracts and engaging them in conversation,

Tirnovo. — The work here has gone on well. Our meetings are not so well attended as they were two years ago, but the audience is more regular. God has added somewhat to the number of the saved. There were four received in full membership this year and three on probation. The last addition is a soldier of the military band with all his house. This brother has had many difficulties from his superiors and companions. But he fears nothing. Earnest, faithful to his Christian convictions, well versed in the word of God, he is ready with just the answer required by the occasion. Among his musical comrades, who are considered the hardest drinkers in the army, he is a true soldier of Christ, who firmly stands for temperance, righteousness and truth, and he is a light commending the name of Jesus. His wife
is also very earnest. She has often spent hours in reading religious tracts to her neighbors.

The Infant Class of our Sunday School which formerly numbered from 40 to 80 children, is now reduced about 50%. The reason of this is that the teachers forbade the children to attend, preferring to let them go about the streets rather than attend our Sunday School, where they can be instructed in the way of true piety. But we are not discouraged, for as long as we have this blessed Gospel to preach, there will always be children and grown up people to hear it.

One of the difficulties in the Tirkova church is, that the young converts not finding any means of subsistence, are compelled to move elsewhere. We have already some, who have emigrated in America, others in Southern Bulgaria, where they have united with churches of the Mission of the A. B. C. F. M. But we are not sorry for this, inasmuch as our loss is gain for others. In Tirkovo there are many, who like to hear the word of God and sincerely sympathize with the evangelistic movement. Some have been very regular attendants in our church; but for reasons known only to them and to God they have not decided to confess His name publicly and to follow Him.

Sevlievo. — We have two families in this place; but for the last two years they were left without a preacher. They have not, however, neglected to meet together. They have met in the house of one of the brethren almost every Sunday to read the word of God and pray together. Whenever a preacher or a colporteur passed through the town, they have always invited him to preach. I have had occasion to visit them two or three times this year and have had every time from 10 to 20 hearers.

Last fall one of the members from Tirkovo married a young lady from Sevlievo, and at the marriage ceremony
many had the opportunity to hear the word. Since then a greater number have manifested an interest in the Gospel. I have a petition to the presiding Bishop signed by our members and two outsiders requesting that a preacher be sent to them. In view of the interest the people of Sevlievo are now manifesting, it would be well to appoint a preacher there, should the budget allow of it.

Lovetch. — The work here has gone on very smoothly. The time of the pastor has been well occupied. Besides the Sunday services, he has led the Class Meeting on Tuesday and the Bible Class on Wednesday and the Prayer Meeting on Thursday. The number of attendants has considerably increased. The increase in the attendance of the Sunday School is also a cause of joy. Children and young people who formerly spent their time on Sunday in trifling and morally hurtful occupations, now spend an hour every Sunday in studying the word of God.

Something over a year some of the teachers and young girls, members of the Church, visited the neighboring village of Goznitsa with a view to organize a Sunday School. They found a few children playing near a tree by the village and began to talk to them teaching them to commit to memory the golden text, some hymns and the Lord's prayer. This has been done every Sunday throughout the year without minding rain, cold or mud which abounds in the village.

When the weather was too bad for holding the Sunday School in the open air they have met in a house always open for them. Moved by certain people in the town, the villagers tried several times to disband the Sunday School; our friends, however, were not frightened, but persevered in their work, knowing they were doing nothing amiss in preaching the word of God to those who came of their own accord to hear it. There is no doubt that the seed
sown will spring up in its time and give the expected fruit.

The Epworth League Chapter of which you will hear more at length, is doing very good work, and is a true help to the church.

As a member of the Visiting Committee appointed by the Presiding Bishop to attend the examinations of the Girls' School, I wish to say, that we came here in time for the examinations. We were highly gratified by all we saw and heard in the classes. The program of the Commencement exercises was very well drawn up and successfully carried out. The church was crowded on the occasion and many were obliged to stay out for want of room. This shows that the people of Lovetch appreciate the Girls' School and are greatly interested in it. The principal, the assistant and all the teachers deserve our thanks as a Conference for their untiring efforts to promote the mental development and the moral and spiritual education of the young ladies entrusted to their care. Dr. Constantine, the Mission Evangelist held revival meetings for about two weeks in Lovetch, and as a result of his work, seven pupils of the School were received on probation, and some of the outside people are manifesting greater interest in the Gospel.

We are not satisfied with what has been accomplished in this district, though it is more than what was accomplished last year. We need a revival which should add hundreds to our church. As ministers of Christ all our time and all our powers should be consecrated to this work.

The needs of this district are for the present the following: 1) An able colporteur, who should canvass all the towns and principal villages, and in disseminating the word of God, take the place, in a measure, of the preacher. 2) We need at least two Bible women, who should spend at least three months of the year in every town where we have a church, in order to work among the
women. 3) Two preachers, one for Pleven, or rather for the circuit, and another for Sevlievo; but the greatest need is the abundant outpouring of God's Spirit, without whom we can do nothing.

I express my thanks to the brethren for their kind hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

PAVEL TODOROFF,
REPORT OF THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT.

Dear Brethren: —

In God's providence we have once more met together to hear of the work of the Mission this year. I am fully persuaded you would like to hear more at length of the blessed work of our Savior in the Rustchuck District. I am glad to state that God's work on this district has been very encouraging for me as well as for you during this Conference year. The preachers in the Rustchuck District have been faithful in their work; as far as I know no one has devoted himself to any other work but the one confided to him by God and the Conference, that is, the work of preaching. As far, also, as I can say, all deserve to be returned to the same place for the next Conference year.

Bro. Constantine immediately after his return from America, began his evangelistic work in the Mission. He has visited some places where he has held successful meetings. As far as I see such work is needed in the Mission next year, and not only in the Mission but throughout our country.

Lom. — The church in Lom has to contend not only against sin and superstition, which here as elsewhere, has taken deep root, but also against the influence of the Baptists, who have done more to injure than build up God's kingdom in that place. This year the influence
of the socialists was also felt, who at one time had shaken the convictions of the whole society. The pastor, however, writes that the minds of the brethren are now settled, they having rejected the socialistic views. And indeed though at one time the aforementioned tendency was harmful to the work, God has worked in a wonderful manner in this place and in the circuit. There is a marked desire among the people to search the word of God. This circuit consists of the town of Lom, Viddin and the villages of Voyvodovo, Golentsi and Kovatchitsa. These towns and villages represent a great population among which only one man works. The people belong mostly to the so called Shop tribe. They are rather religious and manifest an interest in the saving work of Christ.

Viddin. — is the extreme town not only of the Lom circuit, but of the Mission. This old fortified town gives promise for a good spiritual work in the near future. Here we have one brother, who some years ago moved to this place from Lom to work at his trade. Not only has he attended to his trade, but has also laid the foundation for successful religious work. His exemplary conduct has won him many friends. Townspeople and peasants, priests and laymen consult him for counsel and instruction. This brother has opened his house for religious meetings which he himself leads. Sometimes influential men attend these meetings and hear the word of God. It would be well to send a good preacher to work in this place.

Voyvodovo, a village, is full of true religious life. The population consists chiefly of Slav immigrants from Bohemia. They came here some years ago to Bulgaria as farmers. They are industrious, social and enterprising in secular as well as religious matters. In the short time they have settled this village, they have succeeded in put-
ting their affairs in good order. They have put up comfortable houses, a chapel, and now intend to put up a school house. They take hold of spiritual truths. It is true that the man of God must be reasonable in every thing. The pastor, Bro. Vasileff, writes of the last Sunday he was there, that he had four rousing meetings. In the class meeting, confessions with tears of wicked lives. Eight more have been received in full membership and seven on probation. He says also that there is a great difference in the life of the people this year as compared with last year. A great number has been added to the church. The church in Lom has now 89 on probation, most of whom are from the village of Voyvodovo. Bro. Constantine, who visited the place twice, speaks very highly of the religious life of the people there. May the villages around be led to follow the example of these religious villagers and may their influence be felt even in more distant places.

Golentsi — is a village near Lom. Some villagers of this place dissatisfied with the forms and usages of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, decided to do something to reform the Church. They soon found, however, that it was not an easy task to undertake the reformation of a system rotten at the core. Those among them who remained firm began studying the Baptists and the government of our church and finally came to the conclusion that it would be well for them to unite with the Methodist Church. We have hopes that others will follow their example.

Kovatchitsa — is another village not far from Lom. Here I may say there are true Nathanaels ready to believe and follow all that is good and true. Indeed all the circuit of Lom presents in this respect a great interest
for us. There is one more thing I would mention, also of
great importance for Lom, and that is, that a chapel and
parsonage are greatly needed in this place. The cry of
the brethren in this place is: «Please, help us, brethren.»

Rustchuck. — The work in this place has not been un-
successful this year. The membership has increased by 8
additions. The church lost three very good girls who were
ready to be admitted, the one in full membership, the other
on probation and the third had just given her heart to
God. Death, however, anticipated them and enabled them
to have their names written in the registers of heaven,
instead of in those on earth.

The society in Rustchuck enjoys Christian fellowship
and full concord. The E. L. chapter manifests great ac-
tivity both among grown up and young people. The same
can be said of the W. M. Society. Let us have more faith
in these agencies, which well used, make for success in
every Society. The local preacher has been the right hand
man of the pastor. He has helped greatly towards the
confirming of the Rustchuck society. His sermons have
been a power drawing many outsiders to hear the word
of God. May God bless him in his new career and crown
his efforts for the Lord with success.

Ststov. — You are all aware of the great and deadly
blow given to this society some years ago. We know that
sin is not unpardonable; however we must own that we
bear the consequences of what was then done in the Mis-
ion. If there is at present nothing of a steady character,
let us not find fault with the preacher, but let us rather
cheer and support him in his hard field. Some of our good
people there have moved to other places. The pastor has
had a good work there this year, especially among the
young. The good sale of scriptures in this place shows that there are many here who refuse to bow the knee before Baal. I think it would be well that the neighboring villages together with the town of Nicopolis be visited regularly and that suitable places for holding meetings be secured. Let us go ourselves to seek work and not wait for the work to seek us.

**Silistra and Tutracan.** — All our people but one in Silistra have moved to the village of Bulgarsky Kossouy, in the Tutracan district, and the only brother remaining in Silistra also intends to move soon, so that our work will have to be transferred to that village. The preacher will be able to do more work if he lives in the place where his people live. In the village of Bulgarsky Kossouy we have four good families among whom good work can be done. There have been during the year encouraging signs in this secluded part of the Mission though it is near the Rumanian frontier which exercises a corrupting influence.

Bro. Dimitroff has visited a large village in the interior of the wild part of the district called Deli Orman. God's work is everywhere taking root. Oh, that we had more faith in this glorious work of saving souls!

**Hotautsa.** — This village had no preacher until last July, that is until Bro. Tseno Georgieff, a graduate of the Samokov Literary and Theological School, immediately after Commencement was put to work in that place. At first he met with some difficulties, which might easily have discouraged him; but he persevered, overcame these difficulties and his labors were crowned with success. Last winter with the help of Bro. Constantine special meetings were held in the village, and as a result of these meetings 21 persons expressed a desire to lead a new life in Christ.
Of these 11 have been received on probation. Soon after this Bro. Georgieff was called by the Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District to go to Vratsa, where the need for a preacher was urgent. His leaving Hotantsa was not in the interests of the work in the place; but we have another brother, who in the absence of the regular preacher takes charge of the meetings. This good brother sacrifices his work for God's cause. Connected with Hotantsa are other villages, and the work will soon spread in them also. Let us pray God may raise more laborers to occupy many more places in the Mission.

Hibilee — is another village where the seed of grace has sprung up and is growing. The wide awake and active villagers put up a church and personage last summer with the help of the Conference Church Extension fund. The brethren deserve credit for buying the site for the building and for carrying at their expense the material for building from a considerable distance. Worthy of praise is also the fact of their enclosing the church yard and planting trees etc. This work was supervised by Bro. Zacharee Dimitroff, though it was dedicated last fall; the dedication was attended by Bro. Consantine, Pavel Todoroff, the Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District, the pastor and myself. The church was crowded on the occasion. A rumor was spread that the Bishop of Tarnova threatened to have the church demolished and the villagers anathematized for attending Protestant services; but the villagers are not so ignorant as not to understand what is right for them to do. Near this village are two other villages which are somewhat leavened with the truth. The work in the villages will become in time the best work in the Mission. In this village the Bible woman, Ivanca
Duinska has also labored. She has a wide field in this and the two neighboring villages. Her influence is good, not only among Protestants, but also among the Eastern Orthodox Bulgarians. She visits from house to house and reads the word of God to all. The Mission needs two or three more Bible women to work all through the field. We also need another colporteur, who with the one now engaged in this work, might visit all towns and many villages every where scattering the good seed.

Shumen has held out well this year. Though the pastor has labored earnestly and been well sustained by the members, the work here does not present anything special. One thing, however, can be said in favor of this historical town, and that is, that what we have is of good quality. It is rare to meet with such zealous laymen as those we have here — noble men as were the Bereans of old. They also contribute liberally towards the benevolences. In Shumen and the district the field has not been worked as in other places. In the district there are towns, hamlets and villages; that have never heard evangelical preaching, and we ought to take the word of life to them. The towns of Eski Djumayah, Osman Bazar and Novi Bazar are good centers where laborers might be sent. On the whole this part of Bulgaria is the most important in the whole Mission, but the light of Evangelical Christianity has not yet been diffused in it as it ought to be. It is desirable that the Presiding Bishop make provision for traveling expenses for visiting the villages.

Varna and district. — This is the most eastern part of the Mission. Varna is a famous commercial center in this part of Bulgaria. It has a considerable population, which is mixed, consisting largely of the so-called Gagaouzi.
Among the Bulgarians are a good many educated and intelligent people. During the summer season many people come from all parts of Bulgaria for the sea-baths. We have a good opportunity to put up a Gospel tent during the season and hold evening services. Such a plan, if carried out, would be successful. If we cannot draw the people to us, we can go to them. The pastor, Bro. Thomoff, not only approves of such a plan, but is anxious to see it carried out soon. It would be well if some friend of Bulgaria whom God has blessed with means, should be moved to help in this good work. Bro. Thomoff has had well attended meetings all through the year. Besides preaching he has held lectures in the church and in various halls of the town. Dobritch and Baltchik need to be visited oftener. In the former place those who attend the services are almost all Armenians, and the aged Bro. Hagop has labored there. In Baltchik we have a very good and earnest Christian family.

Brethren! I can say from what I have seen in my travels, that this year has been the best year for us. We hear very many crying «Come over and help us»; others saying: «Give us the word of God in our language»; still others: «Tell us more of Christ's life». What more do we need? Are not these cries sufficient to convince us that the harvest is great, but the laborers few? Nothing remains for us but to put our hands to the plough and look forward. The work is God's; it is however true, that this work claims all our powers as no other vocation does. I foresee next year a more glorious time for the Mission and for our nation. Brethren, let us be endued with the power of God's Spirit and work indefatigably in the great field, winning immortal souls for Christ. In conclusion let me say that my sympathies and good wishes have been
for your success in God's work. God bless you personally and also the work He has entrusted to your care. I thank you for your kind hospitality to me during my visitation this year. I cherish sacred hopes for you and your work in the future. God be with you all.

Respectfully submitted.

Lovetch, April 22, 1903.

M. D. DELCHEFF.
THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

EVANGELIST.

The remarks of one of the London religious papers express the true view as to how to conduct revival meetings with success. These remarks are of importance to the preachers, the evangelists and the church officials. The following are the words referred to above:

«The noteworthy mission held last week at Brighton by Gipsy Smith is another indication, among many, of the apparent unwisdom of limiting to a single week the visit of a missioner. In a spiritually alive town,» (I would say in regard to our own church work), «it takes the first week to induce the Christians who throng to the meeting to make room for "outsiders"; in a dead one, it takes as long to awaken a living interest, and to do foundation work. We are sure it is a common experience of evangelists that the results would be both deeper and broader if missions lasted for a month instead of a week. The number of applications naturally makes this a difficult matter,» (this difficulty does not exist in our own case), «but it is a serious question whether fewer missions with more far reaching results would not in the end yield more lasting fruit.»

A previous preparation on the part of the church members, especially of the official members of the church, is quite essential to successful evangelistic meetings. Experience has demonstrated this beyond contradiction. An earnest preparation for a spiritual harvest gathering is na-
turally accompanied by an earnest expectation for spiritual results. There should also be very much dependence upon the power of the Spirit of God. The great hindrance to the spiritual awakening among our people, of all the races living within the boundary of our field of labour, is the almost utter want of consciousness of sin and its awful effects upon their lives in time and in eternity: the want of «a desire to be saved from the wrath to come upon the sons of disobedience.» O for the promised «Spirit of truth who will convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment»!

I thank God for the reality of the Spirit's power in my own experience during the past six months.

I have visited the new village Voyvodovo twice during that time, first in company with Bro. Peter Vasileff, when we spent two days there. On the Sabbath at the Class meeting in answer to my invitation six young men resolved to live for God. On the second occasion I was alone and stayed there four days, preaching every day. This time four men, all heads of families, stood up and promised to lead Christian lives. Both of these occasions were attended by much blessing to the brethren and to myself. Brother Peter, the pastor of the Lom Circuit, who has charge of this village is the recipient of the love and esteem of these people.

During my visit to Lovetch the Master's presence was with us in a marked manner. Some eight persons expressed a desire to serve the blessed God. One of them has since triumphed over death, telling her parents and younger sister that they should not be sorrowful as she was going to her Saviour. Two of them who had felt that their religious life did not correspond with their profession renewed their covenant with God. There were no distur-
bances by the «outsiders» who attended the meetings, which those who had been the witnesses of a different conduct on previous occasions of a similar character considered as a very good sign. Much of this happy result was due to the kind and helpful cooperation and sympathy of the directress and assistant directress of our High School and of the pastor of our church. Nor must I omit to mention the fact, that all the teachers of the School rendered their sympathetic help to the meetings.

I have visited once each of the following charges at the invitation of the preachers in charge of the same: Tırnovo, Pleven (and two of the villages attached to the circuit), Silistra, and Shumen. Viddin and Lom have been visited twice each. The former of these we ought to occupy with vigor, and the latter needs a suitable place for worship imperatively. This has been the call of the presiding elders, pastors, and people, for the last six or seven years, but up to date with no success, as we all know. During my last visit to the place, of a recent date, there congregated some fifty seven persons in the small room and the hall way of the pastor's residence, and this is the only accommodation we have in the place. Hibelee I have visited twice and held services in the new building which is not quite finished in all its details. The building is to serve the double purpose of a chapel and parsonage.

The little village of Hotantsa I have visited three times. On my first visit special services were held for about ten days which were attended by much blessing. A young girl about thirteen years old led the way toward the higher life, and very soon the weakness of our human nature became manifest when some of us began to feel nervous by what we saw, namely, that many of the young ones wanted to do what young Esther had done. We almost tried
to discourage them! May God forgive us for it. Some twenty two of various ages expressed a desire to lead Christian lives. But the highest tide of this religious atmosphere was reached when an octogenarian stood up for the first time in his life to tell us that he, too, wished to give what was left of his earthly life to God. This attempt to speak having ended in failure he started to pray, but scarcely with any better success. However, he persevered in his effort to give some testimony of his new resolve, and kneeling down, he commenced to repeat the Lord's Prayer interchanging it between the Slavic and the Bulgarian dialects. We were all glad to see that old man on his knees pleading for God's forgiveness through the merits of Christ's atoning blood, desiring to become a candidate for heaven, by becoming as a little child — the only sure way of entering it — while all of us, Methodists and Baptists, were ringing the exclamations of glory! hallelujah!

During the time of which I am giving this meagre account my practice has been to go when and where I was invited by the preachers of the Conference thinking that those of the brethren who did not invite me did not need my help. But I never had time to idle away, having had invitations from some one of the preachers all the time.

Since my return to Bulgaria I have spent only four Sabbaths in Rustchuk, and all of these but one were fully occupied by filling the pulpit of our church and teaching in the Sunday School.

Conscions of how little I have been able to accomplish I ask your prayers for more and better work in the future for the glory of our Master and the salvation of immortal souls.

Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Lovetch, Apr. 22, 1903. Respectfully presented,

T. CONSTANTINE.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE W.F.M.S. IN BULGARIA.

We count it a privilege to have the present conference session meet in Lovetch, the home of our Girls' School. Here you may better study its merits and its needs, the work it has done and its prospects for the future. Although the school is not now in session, most of our pupils are glad that you may form their acquaintance.

The commencement exercises in June 1902 were highly satisfactory. A class of nine left us at that time. In November 1902 one of the number was called from earth leaving hopeful evidence that she was ready for the change. The current school year opened September 3rd. N.S. 1902. Sixty-four pupils were enrolled, but two day-pupils dropped out almost in the beginning and one was dismissed later for ill-behavior. Two boarding pupils have gone home because their health did not permit them to continue school work. One of the two, a bright little girl, in the Second class, has since gone to the home above.

This leaves 59 pupils, classified as follows; —

Pupils in I class 8.
  > > II > 9.
  > > III > 6.
  > > IV > 7.
  > > V > 11.
  > > VI > 17.
Special 1.

Total 59.

Scholarship and deportment compare favorably with
preceding years. The general health of the school has been excellent. This year's Senior class numbering 17 is the largest in the history of the school and represents eight different towns and cities.

Receipts from pupils stand as follows;

Tuition and Board of boarding pupils 5000 levs gold.

- day-pupils 385
- piano pupils 415

Total 5800

Religiously, there has been great reason for gratitude. Six of our pupils have united with the church on probation and others have taken a decided stand for Christ. Little class prayer meetings are frequently held in addition to the weekly devotional meetings conducted for the special benefit of the boarding pupils who care to attend. The latter meetings have been well attended and much interest manifested, especially during the past few months. The faculty of the school remains the same as last year. Teachers and pupils have worked faithfully in Epworth League, Sunday School and Missionary Societies. Words can but feebly express our appreciation of the valuable gifts made to our school by and through the efforts of our honored and beloved Bishop Vincent. To him we are indebted for a Theograph that has been most helpful to us all during the year. A beautiful set of Cosmos pictures, also his gift, will assist in educating all, who enter our institution for many years to come.

And last, but not least, comes a fine Magic Lantern, that will be of inestimable value in our work. For one and all these gifts we express our deepest thanks. Lovetch Auxiliary of the W. F. M. S. has had a very prosperous year. Not one monthly meeting has been omitted. The attendance at these meetings has been unusually large and the
programs interesting and profitable. more than 220 levs have been collected by the auxiliary during the conference year.

The primary school in Hotantsa, with an enrolment of 19 pupils, has been in charge of Miss Marika Tikcheva and we hear only good reports of her work. Miss Evanka Todorova has done service as Bible woman during the entire conference year, working in Rustchuck and Silistra in the summer and until late in the autumn, when by special request of friends in Hibilee she went to that village where she has remained to the present.

Encouraging reports come from all these places showing her fidelity in the Master's service. The villages offer special opportunities to the faithful Bible woman.

With grateful yet humble hearts we present thus briefly a summary of the year's work. It has its lights and shadows; our ideals are still far above and beyond us; but we press on joyful and confident, realizing that «The Eternal God is our refuge, underneath are the everlasting arms». He, who has been our help hitherto, is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Lovetch, Bulgaria. April, 1903,

Respectfully submitted,

KATE B. BLACKBURN.
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Lovetch, Apr. 22, 1903.

PAVEL TODOROFF.
### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLISHER

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Lovetch, April 22, 1903.

Trico Constantine.
## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BULGARIA MISSION CONFERENCE 1902–1903.

### LOVETCH DISTRICT

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<th>Location</th>
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<th>No. of Parsonages</th>
<th>Probable Value</th>
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### GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BULGARIA MISSION CONFERENCE 1902—1903.

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