

I wonder where you left your dear letter ones. May the Lord keep them safely in your absence. I remember  
Mrs B. how  
brave you were  
when we were  
poor & very together  
and how little  
you were and

Saturday June 4 1888.

Balden

My very dear Friends,

Your

letter dated upon my birth day arrived in due time and I was very glad to receive it especially as it brought news that you would soon be on this side of the <sup>great</sup> waters. Although I may not hope to see your faces yet it is very pleasant to think of you nearer. If it were possible I would go all the way to England to have a good visit with you.

I have tried to get a letter written to you before but could not and this is the very last post that can reach you so though it is late I will try and finish

finish this letter. I don't write much in the evening usually because my eyes trouble me. I must acknowledge that I am growing old although I often feel younger than ever, in that is more childlike.

The Conference will commence next Sat. and we will remember you I am sure as you request. We are full of work now as our Examinations are to take place in three weeks, and though we have no class to graduate we have much to do. I am very glad you can be present at that Conference for I know it must be a rich treat to be there and meet so many whose great hearts of love take in the whole world.

I send you a little account about the experience of a poor woman, which interested me very much, thinking perhaps it might be useful to Mrs Belden in her miss. work in L. or elsewhere. I attended about Easter the meeting of the Evan. Society (Bul.) in Pazardjik and enjoyed the meetings very much, but I could not go to Phil. to our Chr. Meeting and so did not have the pleasure of meeting our dear, good father Riggs who was there. The meetings of the Bul. Society were very harmonious, the Americanized Bulgarians, who make the trouble always being mostly absent. If the friends of missionary work in Bul. could know

what the influence of a Am. edu-  
cation has upon the young men  
who go they would deprecate it  
very much.

On Sunday there  
were nearly as good as present  
and the meeting in the  
evening when the helpers reported  
from the different parts of  
the field the two hours and  
a half were too short for all  
the delegates to report.

Progress is evident, not so much  
in the number of followers added  
to the churches as in the deeper  
conviction in the hearts of the  
thoughtful, that nothing but the  
truth of God can save Bulgaria.

I must stop for I fear I  
have already wearied your  
patience

affectionately

E. J. Matthews

the simplest may understand (She  
 had been once to Protestant service  
 They return from church to think,  
 pray and sing. They talk of  
 Jesus love to any they meet &  
 seem to rejoice in keeping  
 the Sabbath holy. "They obey God's  
 commands and I will go with  
 them". When she had thus decided  
 to obey God, she wondered at the  
 strange peace and joy that  
 came into her soul and the  
 wonderful rest in the thought  
 of Christ her Saviour. Since then  
 her path has been that of the  
 just shining brighter and bright-  
 er unto the perfect day. Every  
 day when it is possible she takes  
 her distaff and goes where her neigh-  
 bors gather to spin and watches  
 for an opportunity to speak to  
 them of Jesus. — I was

reminded of the Psalmist's  
words. "I have hid thy word in  
my heart - that I may not  
sin against Thee," when she  
repeated verse after verse and  
said simply, "I could not repeat  
all the verses from God's word  
which I have learned during  
these years if I should take a  
whole day for it." I was so hungry  
that it was not enough to read  
what I heard in the Church but  
I learned the words.

I gladly  
sat at the feet of that woman  
so taught of the Holy Spirit,  
and my heart took courage and  
blessed God for all His wonder-  
ful works to the children of  
men."

While in Bagardjike I met some very earnest simple minded women who seemed to be really taught of the Spirit and the accounts they gave of their experiences interested me exceedingly. We had a women's meeting on Sunday and I think there must have been a hundred women there. The subject of the meeting was "Christ in our Homes". The prayers of the women were exceedingly touching and earnest. Pastor Bardjeff's aged mother was there and led in prayer. She is over eighty. The hour was altogether too short for all who wished to take part. One dear sister who has recently united with the church told me of the way the Lord had led her to Himself. For ten long years, she said she sought

Christ the Saviour. She determined she would find salvation in the old Church for she believed the Protestants deceived and she would not turn to them. She learned how to find the place where the priest read in the church and when she returned home she would find some one, who knew how to read the chapters to her. She would remember so well what she had heard that she could tell whether the word read there corresponded with her Testament. In Pazar. the Bul. service is used in part in the church, though I think there are few other places where it takes the place of the Slavonic. Although she was very diligent in all the services enjoined by the priest yet she she found no peace because she resolved to find salvation in

her own way. At last wearied out with her own efforts she said to herself "Let God send me light in whatever way He sees best, still she clung to the Church and its forms. On going to the church, after this resolve, the light began to shine into her dark heart as the priest read the Ten Commandments, and she thought "It must be that God wishes us to keep these commands or they would not be in the Bible." Who is there who obeys them? Who keeps the Sabbath and loves God with all his heart? I will go forth and seek for those who fear God and keep His commands and I will join myself to them whoever they are." With these thoughts in her mind she passed through the market on her

way home from church. Then she found the priest who had just read "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" in the wine shop with others who ministered at the altar of God, drinking, carousing, buying and selling, and her heart revolted from the sight and she turned away. Her conscience told her that that was not obedience and she knew that the masses of the people followed their leaders example. "Surely the people know not the voice of God." Do my neighbors the Protestants keep the Sabbath holy? She needed not to watch them for their light had shone so long upon her darkness for her to be ignorant of how they kept the Sabbath. I know they go where God's Word is explained in such a way that





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