

Mrs W. H. Belden

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Samokov Aug 30th / 911

My dear Mrs Belden,

My thoughts have been much with you and your sister, Mrs Humphrey these past days. I received a paper containing a notice of the death of Cassie's only son, Charles I think his name was, and my heart aches for her. Her life must always ^{be} shadowed by that deep sorrow and disappointed hopes. The dear Lord let her enjoy him for many bright days. I would write to her but I do not know her address. I have never had a word from her since I visited in '05. Is her daughter with her now? Your photo and Selden's is before me now. I am very glad

She remember or Se-cer-ri-bes. The people you used to know in Samokov are growing old as well as myself. Baba Baba is feeble but growing more beautiful in spirit with every greeting from friends of the latter

to have them. They are excellent photos. Selden still looks like his sainted father. It almost seems that you will speak. I wait but hear no voice. Please tell Mrs Lydia Davis if she is still near you that I am very grateful for those heart poems you sent me. She writes as in the very presence of the blessed Master I like to read them over and over. I have been reading them to a dear girl one of our pupils who will become a pastors wife before long and she love them very much and wishes a copy. The sweet girl has suffered much and finds the poems comforting as though they were written for her. I love to think of you in that pleasant home in Oberlin surrounded by so many congenial friends.

I am dropping one care and another and beginning to realize that I am growing old. My life has been so full of care and work that I find it very hard not to be able to do as once. I feel useless for I know these younger, stronger persons who could more than fill my place but as yet I do not hear the Master's voice to leave this dear place and so I do what I can here. Were you here you would hardly believe you were in Bulgaria, so many and rapid have been the changes. A half dozen autos passed Sunday going up to Cham Korea and that quiet place has taken on much style. There are two fine dwellings for the Royalty and many fine villas. I preferred the fine forests in their original beauty.

There is not the general progress and success that Prince Alexander inaugurated but a class of people are able to accumulate wealth and find service in Gov. employ. The high officers in the army and in civil service become rich but the villages do not improve. There but few officials who do put their own interests before those of the people. Our churches are not growing in numbers and influence as we expected and for which we have prayed. Dear Mrs Belden will you not take time to write me and tell me about your dear girls and boys I want to know if you have any of them with you. I think I & Mary that is in her own home. Is she still in (was it - Youngstown?) Miss Abbott wrote that she met you in Oberlin. I hope she can stop there again when she returns in