

was, that a young man from a distant part of the country became desirous to know the Lord, and before returning home he purchased a Bible, so that he might learn more of these truths and read them to his friends at home.

The spirit of revolt from the fetters of Romanism, which is fast spreading in the Argentine Republic, and in many other countries of South America, is an indication, not to be disregarded, that the present is a specially opportune time for determined missionary enterprise. If the champions of the cross fail to enter the field promptly, the opportunity will pass, and this spirit of emancipation and enquiry will only make the people an easier prey to other systems of darkness. In our colleges and universities and among our public men, Atheism, the natural outcome of Romanism, has already begun to appear.

The evangelization of these peoples will be largely effected through native converts, and all missionary work will in a comparatively short time become self-supporting, but help from the home country is needed to start new works and maintain them till somewhat established.

The urgency and importance of the present need of these fields cannot be overestimated. These fields deserve more attention, sympathy, gifts, prayer and service from the Christian Church than they have yet received.

In our Boco Mission work ninety-four of the native congregation, and eighty-five of other nationalities have come to the knowledge of the Saviour. We have about five hundred children in our Sunday and day schools, and between five and six hundred persons who attend our services, also extensive colportage work and other activities. We much need help to obtain premises for a native girls' school, into which we could at once admit over two hundred girls. The buildings which we hold at present must be enlarged, as they are insufficient for the present needs of the work. There are many thousands around us on every hand yet untouched. O for a great tide of prayer, and enthusiasm, and gifts, and service for this and the other countries of South America.

Let nothing be taken from other branches of the Lords' work and given to this, but let us all learn to love and give and serve and pray *more largely*, and we shall in so doing become more like our Lord and Master.

Brazil.*

BRAZIL stands out upon the eastern shore of South America as the great way-mark of the southern Atlantic. It commands equal access to Europe and the United States of North America. Africa and the West Indies are its neighbors. The entire Republic is greater in extent than the United States; is equal to six-sevenths of all Europe, or one-fifteenth of the land surface of the earth. The precious metals are found in abundance, and nature has been still more lavish in the gift of vegetable wealth. Besides the great variety of indigenous vegetation, nearly all productions of the Indies can be brought to perfection near the Equator, while the grains and hardier vegetables of Europe and Canada can be naturalized in the far south, or on the uplands of the interior. Oranges, limes, coconuts, pine-apples,* mangoes, bananas, pomegranates, mammoons, aracas, mangabas, and many other species of fruits, each with a peculiar and delicious flavor, abound. The climate is pleasant and salubrious. There prevails a degree

of healthfulness unknown in the parallel latitudes of Africa, or even in the Guianas and States of Central America, and it is free from the earthquakes which continually shake the Western Coast of South America.

For three centuries Brazil was under the iron sway of Portugal, a State where the Reformation movement of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was very little felt. Portugal and her institutions are altogether behind the spirit of the age, hence we need not be surprised to find in Brazil the Catholicism of the Middle Ages rather than the Catholicism of Germany, England, or North America. The narrow views and illiberal feelings of Portugal have deeply marked the Brazilian nation, yet she deserves the highest credit for having broken the bonds which so long were imposed upon her, and for having advanced to a high and honorable position among the nations. She has evinced a desire for improvement, and has struggled nobly to realize her desire; but she is crippled by the lack of an intelligent population, corresponding in number to her vast territories, and she is deteriorating by an immorality evolved under a degenerate Church.

Brazil was discovered A.D. 1500 by a Portugese. In 1822 it revolted, and threw off the yoke of Portugal, becoming an Empire, gradually working out a higher national life. The motto of this revolution was "Independence or Death." After sixty-seven years the Empire was overthrown by a bloodless revolution, and a Republic established in 1889. Slavery was then abolished and liberty of religion established.

In this newly-born Republic there is a population of sixteen million, with 116 missionaries and workers and thirty-three mission stations. Twelve thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven have been converted, leaving 15,987,233 in spiritual darkness. Here was a fair test of Romanism *per se*, for over 350 years she had this land to herself. The Bible was excluded. The result was a gross immorality, side by side with a ruling ecclesiasticism, but a soulless externality in religion. To-day, amid a general decay of religious conviction, spiritism, positivism, free thought, sin and degrading superstition abound. For generations the Brazilian has not been allowed to have an opinion or a conscience of his own, until he has become utterly indifferent to spiritual things, and has given free rein to his lowest passions. However, mission workers have met with wonderful successes, and the eager manner with which some have bought the Scriptures and have welcomed Bible readers, surely proclaims to us that here are "fields white unto harvest." "Liberty of faith has come, 'we can preach what we please, go where we like, publish what we please. We have freedom of press; freedom of religion; freedom of conscience. There is a loosening of old ties, a wonderful stir among the people. Crowds gather wherever the Gospel is proclaimed.'"

Surely the Methodist Church of Canada will, in the near future, reach out into the neglected continent to proclaim the setting free of the captives.

NOTE—The book "South America, the Neglected Continent" is published by the Fleming H. Revell Co., and may be ordered from the Book Room. No missionary book has had a greater sale during the past year in Toronto. It gives an account of the tour of Rev. G. C. Grubb, M.A., and party, in 1893, with an historical sketch and summary of missionary enterprise in South America. Price, 50 cents in paper and 75 cents in cloth.

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*This article is based on "The Neglected Continent," by E. C. Millard and Lucy E. Guinoo.