

fore us in wonderful, boundless opportunity. We hope for much. God is our strength—and we have you, too. I feel that it was well worth crossing many seas to come back to what seems more than ever to be my own country and my own people. It has been hot, very hot, lately, but when you read these lines our beautiful cool season will be with us. Think of us, then, as working together in the towns and villages, so thankful for renewed and increasing health, and so very, very thankful for the privilege of participating again in the Great Service.

Yours as ever,

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Avanigadda, Kistna District.

### BOLIVIA.

#### The Country, The Church, Our Work.

Bolivia has an area of some six hundred thousand square miles or more, through which runs the great Andean range of mountains, with its magnificent snow-crowned peaks. We have, therefore, many varieties of climate—tropical, semi-tropical and temperate. Only the most easily accessible parts are inhabited by civilized people. Lack of railways, or even good roads, has prevented the opening up to the world of many parts rich in minerals, timbers and agricultural products. The principal industry is mining. Gold, silver, tin and copper are some of the minerals found. Vast fortunes have been made and taken out of the country, and still there remains an abundance of wealth. Farming is done in all the fertile valleys near to the large centres. The owners of farms live in the cities and go occasionally to inspect the work of the Indians, who belong to the owners of the land on which they are born. The tropics are rich in rubber, which has until recently been a source of great wealth to many of the residents of La Paz. The growing of cocoa plants

from which cocaine is made is also an industry of Bolivia.

Until the overthrow of the Conservative (Church party) Government in 1899, Bolivia might be said to be sleeping. She realized only partially her vast and wonderful resources. It has always been the policy of the Roman Catholic Church to keep her people in ignorance, as in that way she can best use them for her own interests. Since 1899 the Liberal party has been in power, and the people have made splendid progress. With liberty to think and act independently, they have shown themselves to be bright and intelligent. Their desire is to make their country one of the most advanced and up-to-date republics on the South American Continent.

Little by little the power of the church has been broken, and to-day she has practically nothing to say in the affairs of the country. She has indeed been weighed in the balance and found wanting by the intelligent Bolivians. The women, to a large extent, are still faithful, but they also are slowly becoming alive to her true character. In order to win these better-class people, we need much better equipment, for the Bolivian has inherited all the pride of his Spanish ancestors, and will not take up with anything savoring of poverty. They say: "What sort of religion can anyone have in a little store!" referring to our mission halls. When we are able to build beautiful churches and make our religion more attractive to them, then I believe we will be able to win many of them to Christ. The old, old story, in its simplicity, we know is what must finally win them; but in order to gain their respect and sympathy we must do more to make our religion attractive. Being of the Latin races, and accustomed to all the pomp and ceremony of the Roman religion, their nature demands something more attractive than we have yet had to offer.