

THE INDIANS OF BRAZIL.

For the Children's Record.

You do not need to be told (unless very young) that Brazil is the largest country in South America, and that through this country flows the Amazon, the largest river in the world. Its extreme length is 4000 miles, and for the last 450 miles of its course it is never less than four miles broad. I think I hear some of you say I would like to see it, and no doubt you would enjoy the grand sight. Whilst few of the readers of *THE CHILDREN'S RECORD* may ever gaze upon the waters of the Amazon yet you can in imagination visit the sad sights and scenes along the bank of this remarkable river. A large number of Indians are found dwelling there, a most degraded people, whose souls are precious in God's sight, and for whom little or nothing has been done by man.

When South America was discovered, it is said that there were about one hundred different tribes of Indians living in Brazil. Through war, plunder, and slavery, a great many of them have become extinct. It is supposed, however, that there are about 275,000 now living in this region for whose spiritual interests very little has been done. It is only a short time since any Protestant missionary was sent among them and nothing is yet known as to results.

Let me tell you a few things about these Indians. You ask what kind of a life they live? They know nothing of Jesus and the plan of salvation. For a long time they were kept in slavery and were cruelly treated. Some of them are fierce cannibals. They will kill their enemies and eat them. Our own missionaries in the New Hebrides sometimes tell us of the heathen on these islands killing and cooking human bodies and eating them.* On the island of Fate some 12 years ago a feast was held at which eight persons were eaten. On the spot now stands a christian church where many gather together to worship God. You may yet hear of a church being built in the Amazon valley on the spot where some of these poor degraded Indians feast on human flesh.

Pray that a brighter day may dawn upon the Indians of Brazil, that they may soon hear and receive the pure gospel of Christ that they may be saved.

D.

HOW GOD WORKS.

For The Children's Record.

A few weeks since you were studying in Sabbath School the cure of Naaman the Syrian. The little captive maid was brought into her new home by God. His hand was in the whole affair. Those who seized her never thought what a blessing would follow. We do not know anything about her father and mother but we know something of her. By her efforts Naaman was cured.

God often uses means that seem small, to do a great work.

Let me tell you a story. It is of a scoffer who is now a minister of the Gospel.

Twenty-four years ago in the city of Aberdeen a minister was preaching. So many people had gathered that the church would not hold them, and he stood on the doorstep of the church and preached. A company of young men standing near scoffed at the meeting and began to sing a song. One of these young men who had come to mock was struck by the text, turned away and went home. God's Spirit followed him and the words rang in his ears, "He that believeth not shall be damned." He retired to rest but not to sleep. Finally he got up, dressed himself and went at midnight to the house of a minister, but found all in bed. Some one arose came to the door and asked him to return in the morning. He would not be put off. He must see the minister. His story was told, the way of life explained to him. Before leaving the house he found peace through believing in Christ.

That man, a scoffer at the meeting in Aberdeen, is now a missionary in the Dominion of Canada, preaching Christ to others. The words, He that believeth not shall be damned, applied by the Spirit of God, led to his conversion.

The minister was sent to Aberdeen to preach Christ. The scoffer was also led there to be converted.

As you think, dear children, of God's providence remember he has all means and instruments under His control. He employed the little Syrian maid in his service, and he will also employ you. Ask Him to use you in the way He thinks best. Ask Him to use you in His service. —Pastor.

* Brazil recognizes slavery by law as a national institution. It is the only civilized nation on the globe recognizing slavery. There are 1, 200,000.