

mother of God and able to help us." His companion replied, "It is true that Mary was the mother of Jesus, but she has no power whatever to save." Very much shocked by this sacrilegious statement, the young Bolivian simply asked, "Why?" "Because not she, but Jesus Christ her Son, died on the Cross for our sins." This reply staggered him, but, like a true Catholic, he tried to defend the cause. Many hours of serious interviews followed from time to time, in which he found himself quite at the mercy of his Protestant friend. Things began to appear differently now and he even rejoiced secretly that this friend of his had invited him to share his room. He wanted companionship, and even though he did not admit it openly, he desired to know more about the great truths which had been so long withheld from him. His friend had a Bible which he could read; and there were tracts lying about the room which all helped to impress his young mind in favor of the Gospel. There was also a Gospel song book and for the first time he learned to sing some of the beautiful and impressive songs about the Lord Jesus and His great sacrifice on the cross for our sins. One song especially had a great influence over him:

"Sing them over again to me,  
Wonderful words of life!"

#### At the Gospel Meeting

It is quite common in Bolivia to have a fairly large group of listeners at the door of the Mission Hall. By no means do they wish to be noticed; and if one asks them to enter they misinterpret it as a command to leave altogether. From this safe vantage point of the door, Macedonio listened for the first time in his life to the preaching of the Gospel, the theme being, Jesus Christ our Saviour. He was not alone; there were a number of others who also heard the same message and received the same invitation to

accept Jesus as the only Saviour of their souls. He beheld his friend present at the meeting and consented to accompany him to the next service and take a seat just inside the door.

#### Pilgrim's Progress Shows the Way

Senor Montano soon found that the friends one makes among Christians are better than those from the world. His new companions rallied around him and made him feel at home. One of them loaned him a copy of Pilgrim's Progress, the reading of which made a deep impression upon his life; in fact it ultimately led to his conversion. He saw there how Christian approached the Cross and how at the Cross his burden of guilt and sin rolled from off his shoulders, leaving him a free man forever. He saw also how his own heavy burden of sin could be lifted from his soul through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning work on the Cross. He came as he was to Jesus for pardon and found freedom and happiness. The way of the Cross led home for him.

### DEFEAT AND VICTORY

#### PART III.

##### Loss of Christian Joy

Macedonio was now twenty-four years of age. Times became slack in Chili and he and his friend had to part for a while. He was not yet able to stand alone against the downward drag of the old life and consequently found himself drifting away from the blessed joy of the Gospel. When again the opportunity presented itself to return to Chile to work he was delighted to find that his former companion had also returned. In this companion he found encouragement in time of trouble. Together they attended the services of a Methodist Church in which he had at first heard the truth proclaimed. This good fortune, however, lasted a short period only and again they