



AMONG
THE INDIANS
OF
BRITISH GUIANA.

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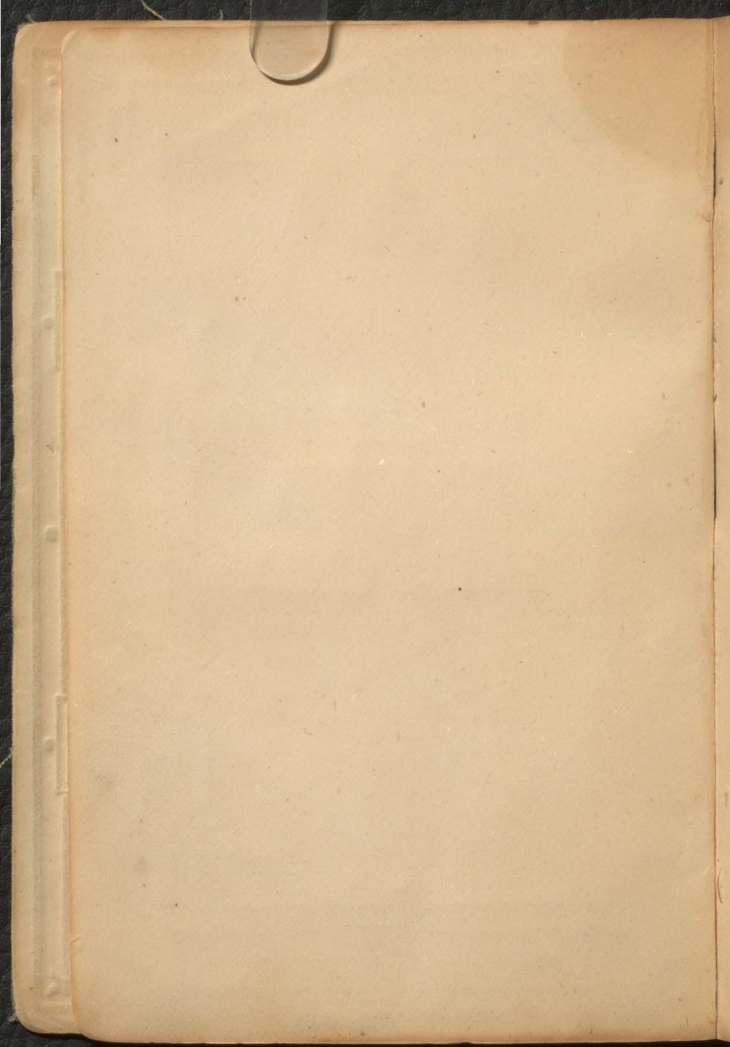
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AMONG
THE INDIANS
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BRITISH GUYANA.

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George Kooling
Sunday School Prize

Jan 10th 1937
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GOSPEL REMINISCENCES IN THE
WEST INDIES.

A
BRIEF AND SIMPLE RECORD
OF
THE LORD'S GRACIOUS WORK
AMONG THE INDIANS OF BRITISH GUIANA,

BY HIS SERVANT JOHN MEYER, DURING FOUR
YEARS AND A HALF.

BY LEONARD STRONG.

Author of "Old Narquois, the Negro Driver."
"The Condemned Negro; or, Man's Victim, God's Chosen," &c.

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P R E F A C E.

THE grand principle carried out in the salvation of man, and in the gospel of God unto him, is, "He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord."

It is as ruined in the Fall, sold unto sin, and condemned by the righteousness of God as to his natural standing, that man is taken up by Him in grace! It is as weakness in himself when so taken up, that he becomes a fellow-labourer with God through the Spirit, glorying in his own infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon him, so that no flesh may glory in His presence.

The memoir of an evangelist's labours would be of little worth, did it not blazon on its surface, ay, in its substance, "Glory to God in the highest!" "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

I desire, then, in the following pages, by the help of God, to set forth a brief statement of His own work, by His weak but faithful instrument, John Meyer, during a period of less than five years, among the Indians in British Guiana.

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER
IN
BRITISH GUIANA.

CHAPTER I.

IN the year 1840, John Meyer arrived, with his no less devoted fellow-labourer and wife, our still surviving sister in the Lord, in Demerara, from Switzerland ; and it was the sultry clime of British Guiana, acting upon his already ardent temperament, which caused a periodical excitement of mind and feeling that often weakened his testimony, hindered his usefulness, and preyed upon his spirits ; yet (so marvellous are the ways of God), rendered him a fitter instrument for manifesting His own power, and

displaying the fruits of this dear suffering brother's ministry more palpably to be "God's husbandry," "God's building."

Our departed brother was a man of much intellectual power, with great ability in acquiring languages: he was also deeply read in the word of God, upon which he relied as his alone directory of faith and action, as well as the inventory of his riches, hopes, and armour for the present strife! But what most distinguished him, and reigned triumphantly over his infirmities to the last, was his confident enjoyment of that abounding love which had saved him, a lost sinner,—his implicit faith in the word and promises of our adorable Saviour,—his intense desire for carrying out the testimonies of His love to others,—and his delight in being a successful messenger of peace to poor sinners.

During his residence of nearly three years on the banks of Demerara river, and the east coast of the colony, he suffered much from repeated attacks of fever, but was energetically occupied in the instruction of black children, and preaching the gospel to hundreds.

His peculiar power was in proclaiming the love of God to sinners in the gift of His dear Son, with the free and full remission of all sin to every one who believed in the name of Him

whose once shed blood maketh atonement ; and wherever he did thus preach, the hand of the Lord was with him, so that he has left proofs of his ministry wherever he has been thus used. The writer of these pages well remembers being exceedingly refreshed in spirit, when called by him to afternoon conversations with those whom God had just brought out from darkness to light through his ministry, by the evidently deep impressions made upon their hearts through conviction of their own wickedness, and the riches of that grace, which, by the efficacy of Jesus' atoning blood, pardoned and delivered from all.

As this is written expressly for the glory of God, not for the exaltation of man, the writer would not keep back the fact, that the Christian brother of whose ardent zeal, simplicity of faith, and sufferings, this memoir speaks, laboured under the pressure of eccentric sensitiveness and nervous irritability, which shortened, through unnecessary sufferings of mind and body, his brief but useful career.

Early in the year 1843, John Meyer left a settlement of blacks on the east coast of Demerara,—where he had resided five months, and had been already blessed to the salvation of a few souls who received the grace of God,—to reside at T—M—, on the Essequibo coast, for the purpose

of teaching a school and preaching the gospel in the neighbourhood.

Some time previously, his mind had been much exercised about the benighted state of the scattered Indian tribes who inhabit the vast forests and savannahs of Guiana. These neglected people had been brought under his notice several times. Once, when residing on the east coast, on recovering from a severe attack of fever, he visited, for change of air, in company with a young brother in the Lord (now labouring among the blacks with much blessing) the inland portion of the Mahaica river, or creek, as it is generally called, at the head of which there are many Indians located. At another time he visited with a devoted Christian brother,—Mr. C—A—, of whom more hereafter,—the highest parts of Demerara river, where, also, are many Indians. Again, he resided a few weeks with a dear Christian minister at a mission to Indians of the English establishment, up the Essequibo river. Hearing, therefore, that Arrawack Indians had settlements on the edge of a lake not far from T—M—, he took the first leisure day to seek out these, his ignorant fellow-sinners, with the desire of laying before them their perishing, guilty state, in common with us all by nature, accompanied by the testimony that

“ God has so loved the world, as to give His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should never perish ! ”

Being successful in finding several small Indian companies, of whom some knew a little English, particularly the chief and his sister, he prevailed upon the chief, after much conversation, to send his son, who bore the English name Robert, and upon his sister to allow an orphan boy under her charge, named Henry, to attend his school, himself engaging to give them food and raiment. From this time he felt such deep commiseration for these poor Indians, so ignorant of their true condition, I may say, of either their danger or privileges, as lost sinners—the danger of that wrath revealed against all unrighteousness of men—the privileges of that redemption revealed in Jesus Christ for the lost and guilty, even the forgiveness of sins through His blood,—that, constrained by the love of Christ who had caused him to triumph over his sins, and rejoice in his heavenly inheritance, he purposed in the strength of the Lord to do his utmost to make them acquainted with the grace of God that bringeth salvation.

Many of these Indians appearing next Sunday, Meyer proposed, after preaching the gospel in the meeting-room, to give them all special

instruction in the English language, by which he also hoped to acquire the Arrawack tongue. Their numbers increased from Sunday to Sunday, until the attendance amounted to fifty ; and the two boys improved so rapidly, that, before the year ended, Robert could read and write well, Henry not being far behind. In the mean time they generally had about ten Indian children staying with them every week ; of which Meyer assiduously availed himself in acquiring their language, and soon progressed beyond his expectation. Taking from the children 25 words at a time, and retiring to some lonely place, he committed them all to memory. In his visits to the Indians at their habitations near the Lake, he was also unwearied, instructing them, and taking down their words ; and soon had he good hope that some were feeling their sin before God, and had their hearts drawn towards Him^e through faith in Him whom He had sent to be the propitiation for our sins, through faith in His blood.

Thus far all went on happily, when a circumstance was suffered to happen which operated, we trust only for a season, in respect to some of their number, in drawing off their hearts from truth to error,—from the wheat to the chaff, by what Paul declares is not another

gospel. The clergyman of the neighbourhood, who, most unhappily for himself and others, believed that salvation consists in rites and ceremonies, not in the grace of God received by faith in the precious blood of Christ, hearing of John Meyer's visits to the Indians, and their constant attendance on him, went himself to their abodes, bringing with him the highest authority the Indian's natural capacity was able to realize, both ecclesiastical and secular; declaring their great error and folly in attending the instructions of a poor unauthorized man. He bade them mark who ever attended his ministry—none, scarcely, but a few black persons! He asked them, "By whose authority does he preach? What has he yet done for you? Has he made you Christians? Are you baptized yet after all his teaching?" and added, "Now if you come to me, if you learn to repeat what I teach, you shall be baptized and made Christians; I shall then baptize your children also, and join you to your wives according to law, and you will all be good Christians." Such kinds of persuasion were used, and at length successfully. The word of grace, by our brother Meyer, had not reached their hearts, perhaps through his deficiency of language. These appeals to their senses were more easily appre-

hended : and some, on repeating unintelligently in broken English, the Lord's prayer and the Belief, being admitted to baptism, gradually the whole of them left, and, with their children, became Christians according to the idea of him to whose teaching they had submitted. "But," remarks his surviving fellow-labourer, "he never thought of these poor Indians before my dear husband sought them out ; neither did he yearn over their immortal souls, as my husband did, more than for the common necessaries of life ! Oh, those dear boys, Robert and Henry, I can yet see ; the last Sunday one alone came, of whom we had great hopes. God grant I may meet him in heaven, I should know him at the first sight."

This was a severe blow to the sensitive mind of John Meyer. He was much cast down and perplexed at this unexpected end to his first labours in the gospel towards the Indians, solely from his concern for the souls of those who were thus abruptly taken away from hearing the truth ; for their everlasting welfare had been as much on his heart as his own ; and while it increased his already great abhorrence of that leaven of the Scribes and Pharisees which had corrupted and leavened the current Christianity, it determined him on immediately

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seeking another place among the Indians, where he might preach the grace of God in its Bible purity without interruption.

His labours, however, among these Indians thus decoyed from him, had not been in vain. He had acquired some knowledge of, and ability for speaking, the Arrawack language, and believing himself now called to spend the rest of his life among the Indians, he resolved, trusting in the help and blessing of God, to go forth on such a mission, depending on Him alone, and to seek the Indians far in their native forests. Thus purposed in his mind, he set off, with some changes of raiment, his Bible, and vocabulary of Arrawack words, which he had diligently acquired, and carefully arranged in a kind of tin knapsack, constructed under his own orders, strapped over his shoulders, and a few dollars in his pocket, leaving his wife with his two little children under the kind care of a dear brother and sister in the Lord, who resided at T—M—, where she still kept the weekly school.

Our brother Meyer now shaped his course for Demerara, at the head of which river he purposed to penetrate the forests in search of Indians, to whom he believed the Lord would enable him to impart the knowledge of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and many of whom, though now

afar off, he hoped soon to see "made nigh by the blood of Christ," and become "fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God." It was not without much prayer and great confidence in God that he undertook this journey, believing that He in whom he trusted would show him a wide field for publishing the gospel of peace to sinners, into which He would cause him to enter, and find also an habitation for his wife and children.

He was brought on his way by the brethren in George Town, at Peter's Hall, and the Craig, at which several places he called on his way up the river, but it was the faithful brother and servant of Christ, C—A—, he sought as the one to whom he desired more fully to unfold the purpose of his heart, and whose sympathies and prayers he desired to enlist in the service before him.

Our brother C—A—, made acquainted with his purpose, entered into it with all his spirit, and desiring in every way to be his fellow-helper, especially by prayer, accompanied him, with several devoted and faithful negro brethren, three days' journey into the wilderness, where they remained with him many days, then leaving him alone with the Indians, returned to the river, and so to their homes. But I will give the account of this interesting journey in our brother C—A—'s own words.

November 28, 1843.

“Our firm conviction was that we were led on by the gracious hand of Him who, having rolled off the sin of the world, commanded His servants to preach to every creature ‘repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,’ offering in His name remission of sins to all who will believe the gospel. At every stage of our way we sought in prayer together to know the mind of the Lord, praying that His will might be followed, and ours completely set aside : and, blessed be His holy name, we had no reason to doubt throughout our fatiguing journey of our being in the path where He could both go before, and be our rereward.

“On the evening of the 3rd of November we arrived at Berlin, from the Glasgow, and had a comforting time together with a few believers. Here we gathered strength and girded up our loins for what lay before us. On the 4th we reached Lucky Spot, and met believers again for prayer and comfort in the love of God. On the 5th, the first day, we broke bread with the Christians worshipping there, and proceeding on the 6th reached Urawly Cobra, an Indian settlement on the river side, upwards of 100 miles from George Town. The following days we travelled

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER

upwards, passing over the falls, and, having called at several small Indian settlements, reached at last one called Arawa, where we remained, and were hospitably entertained. I should have said that our brother John Meyer preached in the Arrawack language at each place, and was understood.

“On the 8th of November we descended the river to Urawly Cobra again, and spoke much to the Indians there of Christ. We stayed here the 9th to give all time for preparation to make our journey to the savannah. On the 10th, having made ourselves as light as possible, by laying aside all unnecessary furniture, either for our dress or hammock convenience, and feeling we were indeed under the protecting hand of Him in whose service we had set out, our guide, an Arrawack Indian, followed by his wife, led us into the forest. We started at 8 a.m. and walked till 4 p.m., with one short interval of rest. We had then arrived on the edge of a small open savannah, and, having a good supply of water at hand, thoroughly wearied, we hung up our hammocks to the trees and rested for the night. On the 11th we set forward at 7 a.m., and at 1 p.m., with blistered feet and well tired bodies, we reached a house in the midst of the burning sands, and rested for the day. On the morning

of the 12th we set off once more, hoping soon to reach the Indian settlement to which we travelled. This we effected after four hours' painful walking without shoes (for by this time shoes had become intolerable), leaving our brother Meyer about five miles distant, having such a violent head-ache, that he could proceed no further. This was the only ailment he had the whole time I was with him, and it was but of short duration, for, in the goodness of the Lord, we had the pleasure of welcoming him among us early on the following morning, with the black brother who had remained to serve him.

"Here then, being all together, we had many opportunities of preaching to these poor brethren, myself in English to those who understood it, Meyer in their native tongue, to whom they paid very great attention. One of them went so far as to tell me, 'They will believe it sir, them all shall believe you.' Our heavenly Father supplied us at this place with fresh meat every day through the Indians, as they were always successful in hunting during my stay.

"The readiness these, in general, apathetic beings evinced to hear the gospel on this occasion was remarkable. Fearing to annoy by calling them together too often, we limited our invitations to every second day, but they came

themselves, and entreated us to preach the gospel every day while we remained.

“Having been now together here for eight days, at the earnest request of Meyer, and both of us concluding it to be of the Lord, I left him with the Indians on the 20th of November, and, with the three black brethren and sister, set out to return by the way we had come.

“Dear Meyer had, when I left him, two dollars, a hammock, a change of clothes, a pair of shoes, pen, ink, and paper, with his Arrawack vocabulary much enlarged, with notes for the construction of a grammar in that language, through which he hoped the Lord would enable him to teach these gentiles the riches of Christ. The shoes were of no immediate use, as neither of us could wear them after the second day’s journey, from the soreness of our feet. With such provision, through the help of the Lord in whom he trusted, he hoped to find his way to the river Berbice, or, if not, to some of the small rivers or creeks that lie between, which would bring him to the neighbourhood of the Indians he had formerly seen at the head of Mahaica Creek. Having, however, already crossed a small creek which the Indians said flowed into the Berbice, we thought it probable this place might at some future time be reached from thence by water.

“We both thought that if our mission were generally known among the Indians, and their confidence obtained, though we had not yet seen many more than twenty, the Lord might draw together hundreds to hear the gospel of His grace, and oh, what a rich sheaf might be gathered by our Lord from among them at the time of harvest! Surely it must be for good that the Lord allows the spirits of his servants to be so fervent when praying for them. Our dear brother told me that he felt more liberty than he ever enjoyed in his spirit, and better health in body. He said, he would gladly spend his life in serving the Lord among these dear people (if it were His will,) and believed he could endure the climate and fatigue in the service. And who can say that the mission, however insignificant it may appear in contrast with others, is not the opening of a door by the Lord Himself to a people among whom the feet of those who bear the glad tidings never yet trod, the light of the love of Jehovah Jesus never shone? If the Lord open an effectual door, who can shut it?”

“After leaving our brother Meyer with the Indians as before stated on the 20th, we, through the mercy of God, arrived safe at Urawly Cobra on the banks of the Demerara, from whence we had started on the evening of the 22nd.”

While C—A— and his little party of blacks proceeded down the river to the Glasgow estate, and, gathering the church together, gave thanks to God and rehearsed these things in their ears, brother Meyer was kindly conducted from one settlement to another, at each of which he spake to the Indians in their own tongue, of the ruin wrought by sin, and redemption through Jesus Christ. At length he reached a village on the banks of the Berbice river, called Kumaka, where many had been collected for a great feast: the feast was over the day before he arrived, and the Indians were taking a day's rest before breaking up their assembly. Meyer, arresting the attention of one principal man, declared "he had come with a message from God, that God loved them, that they were sinners against God exceedingly, but that God had given His Son to die for their sins—that He had now risen again, and opened the kingdom of heaven for all who, confessing their sins, believed on Him and His atoning blood for pardon." The Indian went round and told them that the white man was come with a message from God, and he repeated what Meyer had said. Upon this they all came to him, offering their hands, then brought up their children and made them offer their little hands to him, then they sat around, and he spoke to

them of Jesus and the resurrection. When he paused in his discourse the Indians at first would speak, till one of them said, "We must not speak, we must all hear," then they were all attention till he had concluded. Here he remained some days, speaking the word to all, and, having expended his money, they freely gave him all he needed for food, and asked him to come and live among them, which he desired to do, feeling very strongly that now God had given him a place of service among those over whom his heart had so long yearned.

Accepting the offer of a lad who was proceeding in his batteau a short way down the river, he was conveyed to a wood-cutting settlement a few miles below Kumaka, where a white man, with many blacks and a few Indians, resided; here they were very kind to him. The white man allowed him to preach the gospel on his premises to the neighbours, and afterwards gave him breakfast. Our brother being now desirous of proceeding homewards by way of New Amsterdam, the town at the entrance of the Berbice river, from whence he might obtain a passage to Demerara in some coasting vessel, sought assistance in descending the river, and, having no money, looked up to the Lord. The white man showed him that if he took a batteau from thence

the river was so circuitous, that, after paddling many miles he would reach a small settlement only three miles from where he then was; he advised him therefore to walk these three miles through the forest, and there seek assistance to proceed further down. To this Meyer agreed, and the white man, conducting him to a path which led into the wood, directed him carefully to follow it, and then left him to walk on alone. This the Indians had never done, knowing how very difficult it is for a stranger to keep the forest track. Meyer, with his hammock and pack on his shoulders, walked on, but soon must have left the path and wandered from the right course, indeed, he acknowledged that more than once he came upon his own steps again. It is exceedingly difficult, if once you deviate but a few yards from the faint track in these unfrequented forests, to recover it again, while the lofty trees so obscure the light of the sun that it is impossible to correct your course by that. He walked with little intermission the whole of that day; when the sun set he hung up his hammock to the trees, and fell in that to sleep. At morning light he sought direction from the Lord, and pursued his journey, literally not knowing whither he went, without food or water. In the afternoon he came upon two pine-apples which

he ate, as also many berries. As the shades of night closed in around him again, he swung his hammock to the trees, and commending himself to the Lord who bought him, slept till morning. At break of day he cried unto the Lord for help, and besought Him not to let him die in the forest thus, if his death should discourage or stumble others, and cause them to think his humble mission to the Indians had not been of Him or for His name. He then set forth again, looking to the Lord for guidance, and in the afternoon, to his great joy, lighted upon the banks of a small creek or river, where also he discovered recent traces of people and the remains of a fire. Here, then, being very faint, leaves and berries his only food, he determined to remain, as, if he died here, his body was sure of being one day found, and, taking out his writing materials, he wrote down a journal of all that had happened since his brother C--A— left him, giving a full account of himself, with directions to whom all his papers and effects were to be conveyed. Then he hung up his hammock, and thus ended the third day, when, exceedingly happy in the Lord, though hungry and faint in body, Jesus gave His beloved sleep. The whole of the next day he lived principally on leaves, being afraid to search for berries in the wood

lest he should lose his way, and his body lie concealed in the forest ; for he thought it his duty to arrange if possible that his body and papers might be found, for the satisfaction of his wife and brethren. On the morning of the fifth day he was too weak to leave his hammock or to gather leaves ; persuaded that his hour was now come to leave his body, he commended his spirit to Him who had loved him and given Himself for him, who had given unto him eternal life, and would raise his body at the last day ; he felt that he had life in Him who was risen from the dead, that he could not die, but should rest in Him whom he loved and served, yea, that he should find life in thus losing it. While thus reposing his soul by faith in Jesus' bosom, he was startled by the report of a gun near him ; he listened awhile, when he heard a sound of voices on the water ; raising himself in his hammock, he perceived on the creek a canoe full of Indians approaching ; he then, gathering all his remaining strength, shouted and waved his hand ; they came to the shore and approached him in his hammock ; he made the signs of hunger, and they brought from their canoe ready cooked fish for him to eat, from the creek also water to refresh his thirst. After awhile, reviving a little, he told them his story, and how he was lost in

the forest when seeking his way by the side of the river Berbice. They told him he had wandered far to the Abarry Creek, by the banks of which he then lay (this is the boundary between Demerara and Berbice counties); they then took him with all his things to their canoe, and conveyed him safely down the stream to their own village, where every attention was paid to him by their women to restore his strength, and where he remained all the next day. The following morning the Indians took him through an old canal into the Berbice river, and bringing him to a missionary station about 10 miles from the town of New Amsterdam, left him with the missionary there. Mr. D——, of the London Missionary Society, and his wife, received him in the name of a disciple with much Christian love. There he soon recruited his strength and enjoyed Christian fellowship, exchanging his thoughts freely with Mr. D—— on Christian missions, on Committee management, on appointed salaries, and on the introduction of the arts and sciences as handmaids of the gospel, brother Meyer expressing his desire to be used of God in bringing the Indians to Christ, just as they were, and then the new life they would possess in Him would regulate their future manners and ways.

This kind Christian brother gave Meyer five dollars, and procured a passage for him to New Amsterdam, from whence he arrived safely in George Town on the night of December 17th, making the 27th day since our brother C. A. left him far in the interior with the Indians, alone. On the morning of December 18th he sailed for T—M— on the Essequibo coast, from whence he had set out six weeks before, and we may well imagine how our Christian friends resident there, with his own wife and children, joyfully received him.

Thus had the Lord indeed led him out and brought him back, giving him every earnest and encouragement that He would use him and sustain him as His servant in the gospel to the Indians, if he went forth in faith.

I particularly remark the dealings of the Lord with John Meyer after he had, in his destitution at the white man's place, sought unto Him for help. Had he reached his destination, which he might in an hour and a half at most, he might have been a beggar both for food and passage the whole way to Amsterdam. His character and mission unknown and unappreciated, he might have met with insult and neglect; whereas, having sought unto the Lord, He led him certainly to all appearance out of the way many

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miles, to the borders of Demerara, and from the haunts of civilized men; He allowed him to suffer hunger indeed, but it was "to prove him and make him know, that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," and that word did sustain and satisfy him. Just at the moment of need the Lord brought to his assistance those very persons whom Meyer had gone out to serve with the bread of God, and God made them serve him in his dying state with the bread that perisheth, and so cast him upon the love and kindness of the poor Indians themselves, while they, by a kind of instinct given them by God, conducted him at once to a brother Christian and fellow-labourer in the gospel, who, in his turn, had an opportunity of serving his Lord, by ministering to the need of his fellow-servant, and furnishing Meyer with the means of returning safely to his family, and all this bringing forth fruit to the glory of God by Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER II.

HE was, indeed, warmly greeted by the black brethren and sisters who met for worship near T— M—, and on requesting their prayers and sympathy in the service for which he now desired to be especially devoted, they not only responded with their prayers, but readily came forward with their contributions to assist him in reaching the place of his future labours.

It being, however, much laid on the hearts of brethren that C—A— should make one more journey with Meyer up the Berbice river previous to his taking with him his wife and children, they proceeded to New Amsterdam in a passage steamer, taking with them four black brethren and a small batteau with provisions.

The Lord prospered them all the way ; they were enabled to repay our kind brother, Mr. D—, with many thanks for his hospitality and liberal assistance to Meyer in his distress. They preached the gospel in many places, and arrived at Kumaka in safety, where the Indians received them gladly. A few miles below Kumaka, at a place called Lana, a German resides, a Mr. S—, a timber cutter, in which calling he often employed Indians as well as black people. This person, immediately on ascertaining the purpose

of their visit to those parts, most kindly offered an unoccupied house for the residence of Meyer and his family, without rent, but this our brother Meyer would in no wise accept, as he desired especially to live with and as the Indians. They therefore sought for, and obtained, a lodging in the Indian village, for which they agreed to pay one dollar per month. The Indians, however, soon proffered their aid in building one expressly for him, which was afterwards accomplished, under his own directions, in the Indian fashion. It was little better than a shed partially enclosed, without flooring; the bedstead contrived by four short posts driven into the earth, connected by laths, on which their bedding was placed. In such things as these, relative to the necessary care due to himself and family, did our brother especially evince his eccentricity. We may never have understood his peculiar thoughts on this subject, but he was so tenacious of interference, so fearful of appearing to depend on others, that the assistance Christians proffered in the way of necessaries, whether for food or shelter, often distressed his mind. He did not seem to perceive the Lord caring for him through others, but thought the unasked services of Christians to be intrusions between the Lord and himself. I would touch most gently on subjects connected

with his peculiarities, and only do so at all for two reasons ; first, to explain why the sufferings and privations of his family were so great, and secondly, to show how the Lord gave grace to his Christian wife so meekly and zealously to give herself to the work as a true helpmate, unflinchingly, uncomplainingly, yea, rejoicingly ! —But chiefly may this narrative set forth the grace of God working so mightily in the devoted zeal of this His own child, who gave himself up so untiringly to the service of the Indians, and certainly did sacrifice his own, his partner's, and his children's health, in prosecuting this one desire of his heart, the leading of these children of the wilderness to the Lamb of God.

Meyer, having decided in his mind that Kumaka was the place to which the Lord would have him bring his wife and children, made arrangements with Mr. S—— that his sloop, which was constantly trading to and fro, should convey himself and family, with the effects and provisions the Lord might provide for them, to Kumaka, upon their arrival in New Amsterdam; and the brethren forthwith returned thither in their batteau, from whence, taking their passage in a trader for Demerara, they all arrived safely, full of hope as to the Lord's blessing on the projected mission.

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We should not pass over the grace vouchsafed by our Lord to the dear black brethren who, in this, as in the last excursion of Meyer and C— A—, were their able and helpful companions. Before, in assisting to carry their burdens through the savannah : on this occasion, paddling them nearly 300 miles, going and returning, on the River Berbice. Remembering that these men were supporting themselves and families by the labour of their hands, and thus readily gave up their valuable time for the joy of fellowship in the gospel service.

In the strength of the Lord, and borne forward, I may say, by the prayers and contributions of brethren, John Meyer, his dear partner, and two little girls, set out for New Amsterdam, in Berbice, where Mr. S—— received them, and in whose house they were detained nearly two weeks, before he left in his sloop for the upper part of the river. I need hardly say that this true evangelist lost no opportunity, while thus detained in New Amsterdam, of preaching Jesus Christ, by which it also pleased God to bring another soul to Himself, who is walking with her Lord to this day. I just remark here that although Mr. S—— allowed Meyer and his family to lodge, and himself to preach, in his house until the sloop sailed for Lana, yet

he never attended the gospel preaching then. They had a passage of eight days to Lana, from whence they were forwarded in a punt, or river barge, to Kumaka, where the Indians readily received them, and, conveying their luggage to the hill-top, placed it all safely in the Indian house which they had hired.

John Meyer then commenced his labours among these people in the strength of the Lord alone. Friendless and unknown in the river, without the sanction or countenance of any, he had pitched his tent in the midst of this little settlement of Indians, looking up to Him who had said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," to prosper his work.

The habits of the Indians inhabiting Guiana, are purely patriarchal; each nation being divided into families, of whom the patriarch, or grandfather is the acknowledged chief. The Carribean nation (a remnant of those who formerly inhabited the West Indian, or Carribean Islands), are located immediately on the coast, the Arrawack claiming the district behind them; the Accaways within these; while further inland, the Macusies, Warrows, &c., occupy the country. The patriarch of each family among the Arrawacks is generally called,

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through their intercourse with the colonists, the Captain. Of all the Indian nations, the Arrawack is the most docile, and many of them are employed by the colonists in hewing and squaring timber, and are known by English names.

All who resided at or near the place, came to them morning and evening for instruction in the gospel. In the evenings he commenced teaching them letters, and to read their own language, which he had reduced to writing, having in a great measure discovered its grammatical construction, and been very assiduous in acquiring from them the distinct pronounciation of their words. Some of them speaking a little English, were a great assistance. The captain and his brothers having, when boys, been a short time under the instruction of a Missionary at New Amsterdam, knew a little of the English language, and had also become acquainted a little with the letter of the gospel; but, alas! they were only puffed up with pride, and less willing to be taught than the others; feeling themselves as they thought, already enlightened above their fellows: and still blinded by Satan, ignorant of their own and the world's sin, there was to them no light, no sweetness in the gospel grace.

Our brother John Meyer soon desired the extension of his labours, and buying a small

batteau, visited the various settlements upon the river-side. For some distance below Kumaka, as well as for miles further up the river, at short distances from each other, the traveller will light upon small hamlets of two or three houses, a few yards only from the river's brink, inhabited by the members of one family. These places he used frequently to visit, and speak to the people in their own tongue, the gospel of the grace of God. For some time he used regularly every other Sunday, to visit a place six or seven miles below Kumaka, where many black and coloured families lived. There he would preach the gospel, and teach the children; but when some few of them believed and turned to the Lord, and the call to godly living rebuked and exposed the evil conduct of the majority, Satan stirred up much bitter enmity against the word, and, of course, against him who preached it.

It was but a few months after he had taken up his abode at Kumaka, that a chief woman of the Indians there, the widow of the former Captain, was pricked to the heart for her sin, and, finding peace through the blood of Jesus, confessed she had now in Him all that her soul desired; she was baptized and received into fellowship. The conversion of this dear Indian was the commencement of God's work among

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them, and was, also, God's great provision for the succouring of Mrs. Meyer and her children in the sore hardships that soon pressed upon them. Her name was Catherine; her present (*i. e.* her second) husband, named Thomas, soon followed her to the feet of Jesus, then her nephew and niece, then a sorcerer, or, in the Indian language, a *Pehiman*, being blind, was delivered from the power of Satan by the word of God, and, confessing to Jesus as his Lord, who had washed away his sins, was baptized with the others. Not long after, nine others of the tribe who lived at Kumaka, believed and were baptized. Satan, now trembling under the power of Christ in His word, stirred up the spirit of envy and jealousy in the hearts of the Captain and his brother, seeing that with their superior knowledge, as they thought, they were not considered Christians, or allowed in fellowship; and from henceforth they became avowed enemies.

In the mean time our brother Meyer contrived to reach, partly in his batteau, partly on foot, the last Arrawack settlement called "Manaka," and while he was there, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, and warning of judgment to come, a young Indian (a *Pehiman* or sorcerer), who sat in the midst of the company, cried out, "*Kid-*

wan, kidwan," which in their language signifies "It is true, it is true!" being equivalent to "I believe, I believe!" This also proved the power of God to his salvation, and he was soon after baptized. Our brother, continuing his visits to this place, in a few months after nine more were received, seven women and two men, one of the women being of the Accaway nation. These visits of Meyer to Manaka were attended with much toil and risk, being undertaken by him alone, in a very small batteau, the navigation being dangerous, owing to the rapid tides, the numerous stumps of trees, and sometimes, large floating logs, his tiny and frail vessel would have to encounter; especially as the intense heat rendered it necessary he should journey by night. At those times he would paddle seven hours without a rest; and often, just as sinking into sleep, the paddle would have slipped from his grasp, he would be awakened by the night bird's scream, an alligator's plunge, or a tree falling into the stream, and, thanking God for his preservation, cheerfully press on his way. When the tide turned, unable to proceed against the current, he would fasten his canoe to a tree, and wait the returning water; and, stretched in the bottom of his little barque, seek refreshment from his weariness in sleep.

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He remained generally two, sometimes three, weeks, on his visits to Manaka, inhabiting an Indian hut, without chimney or flooring, and living on whatever fare the Indians gave him. Indeed, they had always been ready to share with him whatever they had; but until they had been converted to God, and then found pleasure for the Lord's sake, in communicating of their carnal things to him who taught them spiritual things, he never received without giving something in return. Their provision was precarious, sometimes cassava bread alone, though generally with fish, and at times, when successful in hunting, with meat. Wild game abounded in some parts, consisting of Birds,—two species of pheasant, the anaquois, and small maroody, two species of turkey, the parvis, and large maroody; Beasts,—two kinds of deer, the peccary, or wild hog, the tapir, and water horse, each a species of the hippopotamus,—the lobba, and the acouti; they also feed on monkeys, and consider the large baboon a dainty.

Twelve months of Indian life had nearly passed away, when our sister Meyer was safely delivered of a little boy; but the exposure of her sleeping-room to the night air, having neither shutters nor glass for the windows, nor door to close up the entrance, the earth itself

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER

for her chamber floor, caused her so to suffer that her life was despaired of. She became delirious, and, at length, insensible from weakness, and was considered irrecoverable. The old Indian sister, Catherine, who, with all the care she could, watched over her, had left the house in distress, never expecting her to wake again, when it pleased the Lord to revive her; she was alone, and before her memory could recal her present situation, her eyes rested upon a large serpent, suspended from the beam immediately over her head; she screamed faintly, and Catherine rushed to the chamber, and, perceiving the reptile, called the Indians to their assistance, who succeeded in making it retreat to the forest, the fear of injuring Mrs. Meyer in her low state deterring them from despatching it with their guns. The Lord having so far restored her, the Indians administered those remedies and restoratives which experience had shown to be often efficacious; on this occasion a decoction from the root of the cotton tree proved most beneficial, so that the mother and infant were spared.

I have hitherto foreborne to mention many severe trials to which Meyer, his wife, and children were exposed; especially on their first year's residence at Kumaka. Though seldom troubled with musquitoes, they were subjected

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to a sore plague of very small flies, from which, at some seasons of the year, nothing but a thick smoke can deliver you; myriads of them occupying your eyes, nose, mouth, and ears, so that it would be impossible to eat, did they not fill the house with smoke by burning damp grass,—the remedy itself being evil enough. These diminutive flies prevail at certain seasons in the sandy places, and to such a grievous extent, that it is nearly impossible to walk at all over the sandy plains, though they are generally covered with long grass. I speak from experience, having been driven back nearly blinded by them in an attempt to explore the open country behind the village of Kumaka. The Chigoe fleas are also very numerous there, and all of them, especially the children, suffered much from these little insects burrowing and laying their eggs in the flesh of their feet and toes. Indeed, when our brother C—A—visited them, which he did before the little boy was born, walking across the country from Demerara river, he found them in a deplorable condition with their eyes, which had become so inflamed from the irritation of the little flies, that for some time the children were entirely blind. Thus were their faith and constancy soon tried, and they had not only to believe, but suffer for His sake.

Our dear brother, C—A—'s visit was most opportune, and exceedingly refreshing to them all at this time, though at a great cost of toil and danger to himself in tracking the wilderness from one river to the other without guide or path to follow ; but having some of the Lord's bounty through His children to carry for them, and feeling strongly impelled in spirit to undertake the journey, he, committing himself to the Lord's care, set off with three black brethren, and by the help of a pocket compass, keeping a due east course, from a part of Demerara river he deemed parallel with Kumaka, after four days' severe walking, and resting under trees at noon, —came out on the Berbice within a mile of that village, which they soon reached. They were mutually refreshed with each other's company, and brother C—A— rejoiced much through all their troubles and discomforts, when he sat down before the Lord among the Indians and blacks on the first day of the week, to commemorate the Saviour's love, and "show forth His death until He come." Truly he felt that the sufferings of the wilderness are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us. Although unable to speak in the Arrawack tongue, the Lord filled his heart and opened his mouth toward the little assembly of believers,

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and as he rejoiced in his fellowship with those who were partaking of the same loaf, he compared their now happy state with what they were a few months back, and what those then were who still rejected the great salvation, and neglected to wash their robes in the Saviour's blood. All this being interpreted to the Indian brethren, comforted and established their hearts, while Satan, ever watchful for evil, and finding our natural hearts so ready for his fiery darts, stirred up such jealousies and envies in some, who till then had regularly attended the word, that they went back offended, as though they were despised and the others chosen.

After our brother, C— A—, returned from them, which he did, through mercy, in safety, many enemies rose up against John Meyer and his labours. Having discovered that an Indian woman, constantly attending his preaching, had recently promised her daughter to a coloured man, who had already one Indian wife and two children, he besought her not to sacrifice her child so ; and that if she valued her own soul, or her daughter's, she would pause, and consider if anything but misery could result from such an union. This so stirred the enmity of the man in question, that he more than once threatened the life of Meyer. Moreover, such evil reports were

spread of him as a deceiver of the Indians, and making them his servants, that the magistrate of the river, giving heed to them, warned Meyer to quit the house he lived in, as none but Indians were the legal occupants of the soil, without a license from the Government. Upon this the sister Catherine took them, with their children, into a house of her own, the best she had; and, from that time, they abandoned the other. The Indian brethren, alarmed by the magistrate's interference, were seriously meditating a retreat with Meyer into the parts distant from the river; but while they waited on the Lord in prayer for direction, Meyer visited the magistrate, explaining his position, and simple labours with the gospel, among the Indians. The magistrate's heart was now turned; and, perceiving he had been wronged, henceforth became his protector and friend. Thus did the good Lord defend and protect His servant.

After this Satan stirred up very bitter enemies among the unconverted Indians. An Indian brother, named Frederick, having, in his heathen condition, committed his children to the sole care of the Captain and his brother, mentioned above, brother Meyer showed him his responsibility to God concerning these, his children; that God had given them to his care, and now that the

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Lord had brought him to himself, and given him life in Christ, he must seek to lead his children to Jesus also. Frederick felt the truth of all that Meyer said, and became extremely anxious to recover his children from these men. Alas! one of them, a little girl, was given up to the Captain as his betrothed wife, according to Indian custom. This child, with a younger brother, the enraged Indian indignantly refused to restore, and from that time their hatred and active enmity against Meyer never ceased.

Poor Frederick succeeded in recovering his eldest son, John Bart, who left them, and came to his father; but the little girl and boy the Captain and his brother determined, at all costs, to detain; when, lo! before them all the Lord made bare His arm. First, the little girl, then the little boy, sickened, and died. Both faded out of the grasp of these wicked and determined men, and He who hath said, "All souls are mine," asserted His own right, and took both these little ones from the evil to come.

The sudden death of these children, at this time, had a manifest effect on the minds of the believers, as also on many others around; and there is no doubt but that God brought several to own His grace. Especially let us remark His hand in saving the eldest of Frederick's children,

who escaped to his father, and survived ; for he is breaking bread with the saints, and walking with God by faith at this day. Thus did the Lord manifest His sympathy with His servant Meyer, and His word spoken by him, and reprove before them all this great sin of the flesh "without natural affection."

I have mentioned that John Meyer had been in the habit, when at Kumaka, of visiting a place some seven miles further down the river, every other Sunday, keeping also a school there after gospel preaching. In these visits he always carried with him his wife and children. It was a hazardous journey with them all in an open bateau ; and now that an infant was added to their company he procured a larger and a covered boat for their better conveyance. In order to accomplish this, he parted with what is generally considered an almost necessary instrument,—a watch, a gold watch, belonging to his wife. I believe that his peculiar views and feelings concerning the possession of anything composed of this precious metal, rendered him always uneasy at her having in her keeping so un-Indian, though so useful, an article. However, it was well indeed that for it he procured the comfort and safety of a better boat. Several persons, chiefly blacks, were turned to the Lord at this place, and not-

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withstanding the increasing opposition of some, the grace of our Lord Jesus abounded towards many in the neighbourhood, especially among Indians.

Wherever John Meyer lighted in his journeys on companies of Indians, whether Arrawacks or Accaways, some believed. He chiefly divided his time between Kumaka and Manaka, at which places he diligently taught the Indians to read their own tongue, composed hymns to Jesus in Arrawack, and commenced translating portions of Scripture into that language. At Kumaka he used a small printing-press a brother had furnished him with in Demerara, by which he printed hymns, portions of Scripture, and vocabularies of Arrawack words and sentences, with the conjugations of verbs, as he learnt them from the mouths of the natives. Sometimes he visited the town of New Amsterdam, to procure necessities. When there he seemed burning with the desire of saving souls. He preached in the market-place in the day, in a house in the evening, and distributed large numbers of gospel tracts. He was very simple concerning the world, his mind being chiefly occupied with the love of God, the blessings of salvation, the hope of glory, and it was his earnest desire to carry out literally in his walk and conversation all the words and

commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. His often failure, through mental infirmities, caused him continual distress and humiliation; and with many groans, and tears, and prayers, did he "press on to the mark of his high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Shortly after he had procured the covered boat, the calumnies of enemies were such that he resolved his wife and family should always accompany him on his visits to Manaka; and hence came much trouble and suffering to the wife and children. Manaka lay two days' journey higher up the river, and between three and four miles from the water side. The creek, by which this Indian settlement was connected with the river, being impervious, through the luxuriant growth of trees and rank grass, they could only reach it on foot, carrying their baggage with them; while the path, leading through a swamp, was often up to their middle in water; so that sometimes after being two nights out in the boat, they had to conclude their journey—mother, and infant boy, with two little girls, by wading a considerable way through mud and water to their humble abode. This consisted of a conical shaped hut, with a small arched entrance. A partition across the centre, with an open door-way, formed an inner sleeping apartment, in the wall of which was a

small aperture for a window. On the floor of the first apartment the fire was lighted, and the simple meal cooked. Here they generally remained for three weeks at a time, living on fish and cassava bread; and from hence did our brother Meyer make many important excursions, carrying forth the Bread of Heaven in the preached gospel to distant settlements of Indians.

I shall here relate two instances of the Lord's care over this family on these journeys. It was a dark and gloomy night when the boat, thus freighted, stopped at high water, and was, as they thought, safely moored to the trees on the river's brink. Meyer and the Indians had landed to hang their hammocks beneath a shelter hastily contrived with palm leaves, while the mother, with her babe, and two little girls, remained in the boat to sleep. Having put her children to rest, the mother, wearied with her journey, commending herself to the Lord's protection, laid her down, but could not sleep. Finding the Indians' fishing gear at hand, the fish being abundant near the boat, she tried the fishing for an hour without success, and again sought sleep in vain; she then sat up, and looking at the boat, perceived it falling over on its side, and that the stump of a tree, which the water had covered when the tide was high, was, now that the water had much

fallen, protruded beneath the cover of the boat, and was on the point of upsetting her, with the children, into the river. She cried for help, and the Indians were but just in time to save their lives. Notwithstanding this, again were the mother and the children's lives jeopardized; while Meyer and the Indian crew, wearied with their lengthened exertions, having tied the boat to the shore, hung up their hammocks to the trees and slept, leaving the mother and children in the boat. They were all in sound sleep, when, the river's bank being steep, and the tide falling, the boat fell over to the deep side, and had not one of the children, falling from the seat into the boat, by its cries awakened the mother, who called the Indians to the rescue, they had all been drowned. But, as the mother says, the angel of the Lord encampeth round about His people, and these repeated deliverances increased her confidence in Him, rather than awakened her fears at danger.

I will here, for the encouragement of all in the Lord's service, and with gratitude for His preserving mercies to this His servant, introduce a few circumstances of danger and deliverance, as related by Mrs. Meyer, and which occurred during her residence of four years and a half among these Indians, and thus let her speak for herself.

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DELIVERANCES FROM POISONOUS SNAKES.

“ Arriving late one evening at Manaka, carrying my luggage to the sleeping-room, while passing round my little bedstead, which was fixed in the earth, I touched with my foot on something that made a noise. Being too busy to notice it, I returned again for more things, when, passing the same spot, I pushed my foot upon the same thing, which gave out a sound terrible to my ears, knowing it to be the deadly warning of the rattle-snake. I could hardly speak, and looked to the Lord my help. My husband, who was in the outer apartment, called to the Indians to drive it away. I motioned silence, and with confidence in my Lord Jesus, taking a light, walked forward, and placed it on the ground, when it shone full on a large rattle-snake, coiled round the foot of the bedstead, and which the Lord, though I had twice pushed it with my foot, restrained from striking me with its deadly venom. An Indian then brought his gun, and shot it at the place.

“ Another time, on arriving there, we found a hole in the earth underneath our bed, where the snakes dwelt, and went up and down, and which we were afraid to disturb. After two or three days they left the house ; but can you imagine

my feelings, and temptations to fear, when obliged to step out of my bed at night in the dark to attend the dear children sleeping in their hammocks in the next apartment? Yet the consciousness of God's keeping us, in whose blessed service we were engaged, and who had kept us in so many dangers, strengthened my heart, so that I could go boldly forward trusting in Him, as well as not loving our lives unto death, if it were His will.

"At this same place (Manaka), there was a small creek, where I used to bathe the children, and wash our clothes. I was there one evening washing, with the children around me. As I hung a cloth on a small tree, a large and deadly snake* erected his head close to my hand. I called to the children to go behind me, and retreated slowly, with my face to the irritated reptile. As I receded from him he moved slowly away.

"When at Kumaka, in our first house, with the baby in my arms, hearing a noise in the thatch over my head, I quickly stepped out of the door, when a large snake dropped at my feet, and fled without hurting me. In the same house a poisonous snake, of the same kind, met me at

* The Abarrie. This kind is very formidable, noted for its fierceness, and, when disturbed, immediately assails you.

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the entrance of my bed-room, and, turning round, left me unharmed, after touching my foot. Another time I was taking pork out of a barrel, when a snake, of the same venomous species, climbing up, put his head with my hand into the barrel, and retreated without harm. Again, at Kumaka, in the act of opening a shutter of leaves in my bed-room, I put my hand upon a poisonous snake, not seeing it; he went out upon the ground, and following him, I struck him with a shovel, fastening him to the earth."

DELIVERANCES FROM TIGERS.

"One evening, at Manaka, I went with Clara an Indian girl, and the children, to wash in a creek about ten minutes' walk from the huts. While in the act of washing my children, I felt an unaccountable horror come over my spirit, as though I was in danger, and could not escape. So strong was the feeling, that, without being able to assign any reason, I hurried away with the children as they were; and scarcely had we reached the house, when we heard the tiger's cry and howl at the very spot.

"After this, at the same place (Manaka), we were all aroused in the night by the cries of men, women, and children. We heard shouting, as of

some wild animal being chased, and the report of a gun, with the voices of men, made us rejoice to think the Indians had killed a tapir, or some forest game. In the morning we were called to see a large tiger, which John, one of the brethren from Kumaka, had shot, after it had killed a dog and a fowl, and was in the act of taking from a hammock a child, with whom a woman was sleeping. The shaking of the hammock awoke her, and seeing the tiger, she cried out in terror, which aroused all the men ; he was shot by John before he could escape. Our three children were sleeping in their hammocks in the outer room, with no door to secure the entrance, and the beast, prowling for his prey, might as easily have come in there ; but no, surrounded with dangers, and all kinds of hurtful insects, we were never harmed, except through the sufferings and trials that came from the position we had purposely taken, of dwelling as the Indians, to gain their full confidence, and win their souls for Jesus by the word.

“Many more signal deliverances I could relate to show the perfect power of God, and that He can keep alive anywhere. Oh ! what a blessed God we have, who hears and answers prayer, whom we know as our Father in our Saviour Jesus, and have the Holy Spirit from the Father

and the Son dwelling in us. Is not this, though poor in this world, to be rich for ever?"

Thus much from our sister in the Lord, Mrs. Meyer, who being now delivered from the peculiar trials of this mission of grace to the Indians, is still sustained and comforted by her gracious Shepherd in the wilderness, waiting our Lord's return, and doing His will.

CHAPTER III.

I HAVE before mentioned a visit of love paid them by C— A—, journeying across the wild country which lay between the rivers Demerara and Berbice. Since then our brother Meyer had been to see us in Demerara, coming over by water; and several brethren had also been over to him in the same way, carrying provisions and contributions with them. I would now speak of another overland journey that our dear brother C— A— undertook, and successfully accomplished afterwards, when John Meyer and his family were in great need, a circumstance totally unknown to us. Their provision spent, no

money to procure food from the town, or from their neighbours on the river, the Indians absent on a hunting excursion, with literally nothing but a little cocoa left, they were rejoiced, just as the sun was setting, to perceive brother C—— A——, with three black brethren, making their way to their habitation after a journey of three days. C—— A—— was the bearer of despatches and greetings from us all, with the bounty of the Lord, £5 sterling, in dollars, from our well-known Christian friend and brother, Geo. Müller, of Bristol. But the bearer of this bounty, with his company, was weary and hungry, having nothing left of his provision by the way but a little sugar, to which Meyer added the last of his cocoa; and of this they were in the act of partaking, with thankfulness, as all they could procure, when the Lord, who knew of their need, and the coming of their hungry friends, had, two hours before, given the Christian Indians, for a prey, a fine tapir, half of which they now most opportunely arrived with, and which, in a short time, afforded them, with some cassava bread the Indians also procured with the money brought, a delicious supper, and afterwards, by salting and drying, with food for several days: the flesh of the tapir being as tender and good as the best beef. Thus had the Lord arranged that the

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bounty He had given His servant Geo. Müller, in England, for John Meyer, in British Guiana, should arrive, through C—— A——'s willing service, just at the right time; while He, whose are all the beasts of the forest, enabled Meyer, and his Indian brethren, to furnish the bearers of this His grace with wholesome and nutritious food during their stay. I need hardly add, how great was the joy of the Indians in thus being able to give such a supply to their friends in this time of need.

One interesting fact I must here relate. An Indian woman at Kumaka, who, soon after the conversion of Catherine, having professed belief in Jesus, and been baptized, had for some time withdrawn herself, from feelings of jealousy, and otherwise acted as though she was not one of the true sheep. At length, she fell sick nigh unto death. As she had shown much enmity towards him, our brother Meyer visited her in love, speaking to her of the precious Saviour, His sufferings for poor sinners, and cleansing blood. She seemed glad to hear of that blessed name she had so neglected to honour, and her heart to soften. He went to her a second time, but she was insensible, and soon after died. In one of her houses Meyer perceived two Indians, whose countenances were familiar to his memory; a

man and his wife, the latter nearly blind. As they seemed to recognize him, and desire to hear him, he called them to his home, and then discovered they were of those Indians with whom brother C—— A—— had left him on their first journey. They said they never could forget the words he spoke to them all during the eight days he was among them. They had felt it all true; *i. e.*, their great wickedness, as also the love of God in giving up His Son to die for sinners. That they believed with all their hearts on Jesus Christ; and had been long hoping to see him again. That, at last, hearing he was preaching Jesus to the Arrawacks, in Berbice river, he and his wife had travelled together seeking him, but that coming to the Indian woman who had just died, she had warned them never to go near him, for he was a false teacher, and would lead them wrong. That they were astonished and delighted when he came in so unexpectedly, and told the dying woman the very same sweet words he had spoken to them at their own place. Upon this, Meyer, with two Indian brethren, paid them all a visit at the same place, when this man, his wife, and some others, were baptized; and we find from his notes, that he penetrated in one of his excursions as far back as Arawa, above the falls in Demerara river, which place he had at

the first visited with brother C—— A——, and there baptized two who believed in the Lord Jesus. The Lord only knows the full extent or fruit of his labours, since he used to tarry but a few days at each place in his visits, just long enough to state clearly to them the great truth of our fall and ruin in Adam, with the full and free redemption there is in Christ Jesus, through His blood: to declare the certainty of coming and eternal judgment, with the present gift of eternal life to all who believe on the Son of God: to beseech them at once, and as they were, to be reconciled to God, now waiting to be gracious; who was not now imputing sin to man, but beseeching all to be reconciled through faith in Him, who, though “He knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Indeed, the simple faith of John Meyer, in prosecuting his mission journeys, rendered him so improvident as to human resources, that, had not our gracious God felt his reliance on Him, and responded to his confidence, he had perished many times. He used to go forth in journeys of three weeks together, moving from village to village, living on what the Indians gave him. It happened once, that in several of the places at which he called, the Indians were from home;

so that he again went three days, living on fruits of the forest, chiefly pine-apples; and many times did his wife, and those at Kumaka, almost despair of seeing him home again.

These often journeys over the burning plains, with fastings and weariness, made rapid inroads on his constitution, and considerably increased his mental malady, so that, on his return to his family, fits of melancholy irritability broke in upon the joy of those days, which should have been days of repose among the little company of Christian brethren at Kumaka, who, joined by other Christians from various parts of the river, every first day of the week broke bread together, passing round the cup of thanksgiving, thus having fellowship in the once-offered body, and once-shed blood, of the adorable Saviour. At these times, when he was absent especially, they always poured out their prayers for this servant of the Lord, who had been the messenger of such good tidings to them in preaching peace by Jesus Christ.

In the latter time of John Meyer's brief but laborious mission to these Indians, a circumstance occurred which drew into great prominence the grace that was given him, and proved his intense love for his Lord's sheep, while, at the same

time, it seriously impaired his constitution, and hastened the close of his labours. An interesting memoir, already published, of a mission to the Indians in the Essequibo and Pomeroon rivers, gives a detailed account of an evil white man, who practised upon Indian credulity in the river Massarooni, inducing numbers from all parts, but chiefly Accaways, to attend his prophecies concerning one who should come from heaven to fertilize, miraculously, and convert into a paradise, a large portion of the Indian country, inviting all who desired permanent happiness to resort immediately thither. This foolish story spread far among the Indians, and received credence where the true gospel was unheeded. It reached the Accaway country at the head of Demerara river, and the Accaway families, giving heed to it, were all occupied in reaping their cassava, and making bread for their long journey, which they were about to prosecute in pursuit of terrestrial happiness. It happened at this time that Meyer, with his family and eight Christian Indians, had just arrived at Manaka, to visit the brethren there, when he heard that an Indian brother, with his wife, an Accaway, also a sister in the Lord, who had gone to visit her parents in the Demerara, were drawn into

the movement among the Accaway tribe, fully thinking that this expected One was no other than our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our brother Meyer, grieved to the heart at the thought of these two Christians being so deceived with the rest of the Accaways, sent at once to Kumaka for sister Catherine's husband, Thomas, a faithful brother, and an Accaway Indian, to accompany him immediately to the head of Demerara river, in order, if possible, to deliver this brother and sister from the delusion; and, by preaching the truth as it is Jesus, undeceive the others. It was a long foot journey for the white man, already worn with frequent fevers and hard living, but his love of souls was great, his faith in God was strong, and he must set out. Meyer's money then amounted to only one dollar and three-quarters. The dollar he took, the remainder he left with his wife, and then set out with the Indians, leaving our sister Meyer, with a dumb Indian lad, Clara the little Indian girl, and three little children, to await his return at Manaka. Thus were these few weak ones left among the Indians located there, in a dwelling without a door even to close against the wild beasts at night. But Mrs. Meyer feared not; she cast her burdens, both that of her travelling husband and helpless children, on Him who was

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mighty, and who cared for her. The dumb Indian boy was fisherman for the party; and Mrs. Meyer bought cassava bread from the neighbours with the little money she had. The supply of fish was abundant, the Lord sent plenty to the dumb boy's hook; but at last the money was spent. The last piece had just been paid for cassava bread, when they rose from morning prayers, and they had only enough for that day. They had finished with gratitude their last meal, when one of the children who had gone out exclaimed, "Mamma, come, see, Harriet with a *quake* full of cassava bread!" This was true; Harriet, an Indian sister from Kumaka, had just arrived with two Indian brethren, having been sent off *express* by sister Catherine with a bag of twenty-five dollars, sent by the Lord, through brother George Müller, of Bristol, and a large Indian basket of cassava bread added by herself.

This money having arrived in Demerara, *per* Packet, from our dear Christian brother, Geo. Müller, it was pressed upon our hearts to send it off with the least possible delay. Brother C—— A—— being extremely ill at the time, the Lord stirred up some trusty black brethren, with one Indian, to be the bearers of this bounty for Christ's sake. I will, however, give here an

extract from our brother C—— A——'s letter to brother and sister Meyer, sent with this money, which will show how the Lord was providing for them through the love of many hearts :—

“ Grace and peace be multiplied unto you, and all with you who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. You have been much on our hearts of late dear brother and sister. Much prayer has been offered up for you, and the prosperity of the work of the Lord among the Indians, mingled with thanksgivings for those already gathered through the preaching of the cross. Moreover, the Lord had put it into the heart of our dear brother T——y, and others, to send supplies, judging that you must be in need, and just as the Lord was disposing the brethren to liberality here, brother S——g received from dear brother Müller, of Bristol, twenty-five dollars expressly for you, which all thought should, if possible, be sent immediately to you, overland, if the Lord should dispose some brethren cheerfully, and in faith, to undertake the journey. Right glad should I have been to be the bearer, if the Lord had allowed, but He has laid me low at present, and I am very weak in body. Brother S——g has it much on his heart to visit you by the way of the sea and river, and

this you may expect he will do, if the Lord permit, when certain articles of food and clothing, which brethren have it in their hearts to send, are ready; but if you think of any things you much need, or that would be more acceptable, pray name them through the brethren who are the bearers of this—Frederick, Anky, an Indian named Micaiah, and William.”

Our sister scarcely knew how to thank the Lord for this fresh instance of His care, and minute arrangement of His mercies. The money leaving England, and reaching Demerara just as their supposed great need was laid upon the brethren's hearts there,—the hastening of the supply by brethren at once made willing for the arduous service,—their reaching Kumaka in safety, after three days' journey,—and the Indian sister, Catherine, despatching the Indians so promptly, with the needed supply of cassava bread in addition! Surely “the hairs of our head are all numbered;” “we are of more value than many sparrows;” and the Christian, in the path of willing service and depending faith, can never be forgotten by God!

Mrs. Meyer now felt extremely anxious that Meyer should benefit by this timely help, as she felt assured he was suffering under heavy afflictions from peculiar misgivings and impressions

on her mind never before experienced. Three weeks and more had elapsed since he left them; and at length he arrived at Manaka suffering intensely, and almost blind from inflammation in his eyes. He had succeeded in reaching the head of Demerara river, and found as reported. The Accaways, having reaped all their fields of cassava, did not plant again, as is their custom; but, having baked their bread, were all on the eve of departure, with their full quakes of food for the long journey, full of hope ere long to reach the promised happy land. Meyer, with the aid of Thomas, as interpreter, set before these poor deluded Accaways, God's way of salvation, even His own Son Jesus Christ, and exhorted them to receive remission of their sins now, through faith in His blood, that they might wait for Him from heaven, when He should come to receive all His believers to His glory, changing their vile bodies, and making them like His glorious body, so that where He was there should they be also! Showing them that the great Lord Jesus,—who was truly coming again in glory to receive the believers, and punish with everlasting destruction those who would not now obey His Gospel,—had expressly forbidden any of His disciples to follow a voice saying, "Lo! here, or Lo! there;" "He is in

the wilderness, or in the chamber." That "the Lord would come Himself with a shout, the voice of the arch-angel, and the trump of God!" That this word they had heard was not true, but of the devil, to deceive them.

Upon this, the aged people, and a few others, were convinced, and remained; but many, in their self-will, persisted.

In this journey our brother Meyer suffered much from the want of food. Those who had wood-cutting establishments were unwilling even to sell anything to him, because he was holding up the light, and their deeds were evil; but, especially, because he spoke much against the evil of giving the Indians rum, in payment for work, instead of money; which most evil habit is not only defrauding them of the due price of their labour, but demoralizing and ruining them body and soul, being also expressly against the colonial laws.

Bitter, indeed, was the enmity stirred against this servant of the Lord in the hearts of those who hated the truth, which he was the less able to bear as his mind and constitution gave way; yet it caused him more intensely to appreciate the blessing of truth, and the value of souls. His eyes having recovered soon after his return, he visited the town to procure necessaries for

the family; and while there, his zeal for the salvation of souls caused him to preach in the market every day, and in the evenings to many assembled at the sister's house, mentioned as having been brought to the Lord through his former testimony, in Mr. S——'s house, on his first arrival in New Amsterdam, with his family. Hearing that a convict lay in the gaol awaiting execution for murder, Meyer obtained permission to see him twice. These interviews proving very unsatisfactory, the hopeless condition of the man, through unbelief, weighed heavily on his mind; and he returned to Kumaka much depressed in spirits.

About this time, the writer of this Memoir, in company with his much-esteemed brother in Christ, Mr. C—— A——, left Demerara in a small schooner for New Amsterdam, in order to visit Kumaka, and carry to brother Meyer, and family, the liberality of many Christians in Demerara and Essequibo. We took with us in the vessel a tent-boat, four brethren volunteers as a crew, and a load of provisions, with the contributions for Meyer. The reader may, perhaps, pardon here the intrusion of a little history of this journey, by which I became an eye-witness of some of our brother Meyer's life and labours among these interesting people.

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We set sail from George Town early in the morning, and did not reach New Amsterdam until the second morning after, being two nights out, and remaining on the schooner's deck the whole time, being the last night completely washed over with salt water from the heavy rollers, which prevail on that coast, and which made clean breaches over the vessel. Having little or no rest during our short voyage, we did not move onwards that day; but landing safely in our boat, were most kindly received in the house of our before-mentioned sister in Christ (ourselves, crew, cargo, and all), where we remained that night. Our arrival being known to the neighbours, a number of persons attended in the evening, to whom I was enabled to preach the riches of God's grace in His dear Son. At daylight we loaded our boat, and prepared for our voyage up the river, hoping, by strenuous rowing, to reach Kumaka in time for worship with the Church on the first day of the week, our party being increased by two Indian brethren left here for us by our brother Meyer, who was expecting our visit. Commending ourselves to the Lord, we embarked; the wind proving fair, our sails well spread to the breeze, the well-freighted little barque bounding forward on the bosom of the broad river, soon left the

town, its shipping, and busy inhabitants, far behind.

There is something very refreshing to the Christian's soul in the certainty that you are going forth on the Lord's service, with the Lord's own sanction and fellowship; especially when you find yourself cheered with the mutual faith of those who, in the same spirit, are associated with you in service, and sitting with you at the feet of Him, who is to us now what the wondrous ladder was to Jacob in the wilderness, the communication of all God's grace and promise to his weary soul; the revelation at once of present and future blessings.

The companionship of such an one as the brother with whom I was then associated made the journey happy and profitable. With the exception of one very heavy squall of wind and rain, in which we were obliged to lower all sail, and totally lost sight of the river banks, we had a most favourable day's run, and reached, ere the tide turned to ebb, the hospitable dwelling of a settler and his family. He was of Dutch extraction, and received us kindly; adding to our stock for supper some fresh milk from his cows, as also giving fresh fish to carry with us, which himself and children had been most successful in taking in their nets that evening. It was also

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comforting to hear brother C—— A—— speak to him of the love of God in His unspeakable gift; of the remission of sins, and the gift of righteousness; of the end of this grace in a new creation where God would tabernacle with His holy perfect creatures, and death and tears would be unknown; as it is written, “The tabernacle of God shall be with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them as their God!” Our kind host listened with much attention to the word, and his heart seemed to respond. He was by birth and education of the Dutch Reformed Church; and seemed to be acquainted with the word of God. His family retiring to rest before the flood made, we remained in the gallery of his dwelling, unable to sleep for the musquitoes, until the crew summoned us to the boat, the stream now flowing upwards. A row of six hours brought daylight and the ebb tide, obliging us to land, and tie the boat. The shore afforded us a rising dry ground, the cool shade of spreading forest trees, smaller ones from which to suspend our hammocks, and dry fuel for our fire; and, to crown all our comforts, there were no musquitoes. Sanctifying our little bivouac with the word of God and prayer, we hung up our hammocks, and

obtained refreshing sleep for a few hours, so that before the returning flood warned us to proceed, we had slept, breakfasted, and bathed; then launching once more into the still, broad, and deep river, we were carried swiftly upwards by our oars and the favouring tide.

The sun had set, and the night closed in upon us before the flowing waters, having reached the permitted height, turned back again to reach their ocean bed; when, turning also our boat's head to the shore, our weary rowers gladly sought repose. Here a misunderstanding between ourselves and the Indian brethren amused us not a little. Fearing rain might fall in the night, we had inquired of them if any deserted house or shed were at hand, and both replied in the affirmative. Having now landed under their direction, while they were bringing up our hammocks, &c., from the boat, with lighted candles we were searching all around for the expected house. At length, John, the Indian, pointed out the place he meant in the deep forest gloom, but not all the light our candles produced could discover a house where the Indian pointed as our resting place. Soon, however, John explained it to be an Indian halting-place, from its high and dry situation, with trees convenient for our hammocks to hang up. This discovery of

our mistake amused, but in nowise disappointed us, as the night continued fine. In a very short time a cheerful fire was raised, and refreshing ourselves with delicious tea, our hammock beds were soon made, and we sank to rest under the green canopy of lofty spreading boughs, through which you might perceive each glittering star as it shone so calmly in the vault of heaven. With the dawn of day we launched again. It was the first day of the week; and, by the distance we had yet to run, all hope of reaching Kumaka in time for worship was given up. We passed that day many settlements of blacks and coloured people, where the river's bank was open, with grass land, and many cattle feeding. The river Berbice is deeper and broader than the Demerara, is very peculiar from its winding course, and differs from the latter in flowing through so many open savannahs, and having such magnificent groups of palm-trees on its banks. A little before noon, the turning waters told our rowers it was time to rest; and, accordingly, we landed at the foot of a pleasant wooded hill. Here, having secured our boat, we grouped ourselves in a shady place; and, spreading a cloth on the ground, laid out our bread and wine, and passed a happy two hours in worship and praise, reading, and exhortation, and par-

took together of the same loaf, drinking also of the same cup, in remembrance of Him who was guiding us through the wilderness to His promised glory. Our little church in the forest glade, consisting of two white men, three blacks, one mulatto, and two Indians, told us that there was with us "neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond, nor free; but that Christ was all and in us all."

Late in the afternoon we once more launched upon the water, and reached, soon after eight o'clock, the foot of the steep hill, on the brow of which the Indian village of Kumaka stands. There we were kindly welcomed by the Indian brethren and sisters in the Lord, but found our brother Meyer in low spirits, having suffered much from his exertions in his late journey to town. We brought them a good stock of biscuits, flour, sugar, tea, &c. The Indians came to Meyer's house for evening prayers, and he spoke to them with great earnestness from the word, in their own language. We had prayer and communion together in the Lord, and concerning His work there, before retiring to rest, but could not help observing how shattered brother Meyer seemed in his health and nerves from his labours and hardships. Mrs. Meyer also, and the three children, were suffering in health; the little boy

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had been very ill. Indeed, their manner of life rendered it impossible they should thrive in their bodies ; their frequent journeys and nights out in the boat, exposure to the sun and rain, the huts they lived in, so pervious to the wind and weather. We could not, however, hope for any change in these things, and could only cast them afresh on Him who had hitherto spared them, and certainly blessed the testimonies to His grace, and greatly owned the self-denying labours of His child and servant, John Meyer. Our stay was short, but sufficient to see the order of these Christians, and their value for the word, in their attendance at the hours for worship and expounding the word from the Scriptures of truth, growing thereby in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the upper side of the hill where this village stood, might be seen the huts of the Captain and his brother, who still retained their enmity to the truth, and those who loved it. Behind Kumaka grows a forest about a quarter of a mile in depth, from which you then emerge upon a fine undulating, open grass country, interspersed with groups of palm-trees, and snow-white hillocks of sand, over which a horseman might urge his steed without a check, even until he reached the deep and lofty forests that continuously skirt the river

Demerara. It is across this open country that our brother C—— A——, with the others, as soon as they could clear the forest ground, guided by a compass, and the eye of their Lord in heaven, have tracked their way to pay their kindly visits to the village of Kumaka.

Having endeavoured to soothe and cheer the spirits of our brother Meyer, and joined our prayers and tears with sisters Meyer and Catherine for his permanent recovery, we took our leave, at early dawn, of this dear company gathered from the forests to our Lord, and turned ourselves to reach, by the falling tides, the estuary of this mighty river, which we had, with very much toil, so recently left. Nothing of note occurred on our return. The first night we slept again in our hammocks beneath the forest trees ; part of the next was spent with our friend the Dutchman, who received us hospitably again, part of it in a tremendous thunder-storm and rain, which thoroughly wet our brethren at the oars ; after which, the tide turning, we anchored off the shore till daylight, getting no rest from the musquitoes, and so completely uncomfortable, that, as day dawned, we rowed against the tide to a village of black settlers, in one of whose houses, being kindly received, we partook of refreshments we had with us, and imparted to

our host, and some neighbours who came in, such as we had of the savour and knowledge of Christ in His gospel of grace. For this they seemed very grateful, and the tide now favouring, they set us forward from their water-side with thanks and good wishes, from whence we reached that afternoon, New Amsterdam, and engaging our passage in a vessel sailing for Demerara the next morning, passed another night under the roof of our Christian friend, preaching the gospel once more to a full room the evening of our arrival. The next morning we embarked, and in twelve hours reached the harbour, and landed in George Town, from whence we had set out.

I have here, however, to state that Mr. S—— the German, mentioned in a former part of this memoir as a near neighbour of Meyer, was in town, unwell. Hearing of this, I called upon him, and found him much prejudiced against our dear brother, from the evil reports constantly circulated about him. I spoke seriously to him on the truth of God's own word. I told him that John Meyer was a servant of Jesus Christ, and of the truth. I besought him to enquire at his mouth for the gospel of God's grace, and hoped he would soon feel the need of such a helper. That hour came. Not very long after he was taken very ill, and sent for Meyer. He, in his

ready love, visited him with the testimony of grace; Mr. S—— received the love of Christ, and is walking in it to this day. But herein must we perceive the wisdom and the grace of God. Our brother Meyer was drawing near to the close of his labours, and Mr. S—— was preparing of God to be a helper and friend to the little Indian flock, when bereft of the Evangelist who had been used to call them from darkness to light.

The more our brother Meyer suffered from mental infirmities, and his body was worn by fevers, the more did the love of souls increase in his heart, with desire that the Lord's name might be magnified among men. A short time before his death he visited town. Previous to setting out, he had been most of a day in the water with the Indians, repairing some damage done to his boat. When in town he was very earnest in preaching and speaking to all whose attention he could arrest, of the judgment coming on sin, and the present redemption out of all through the blood of Jesus. He seemed to groan over the unbelief of men, and mourn deeply the pressure of the darkness with which the god of this world envelopes the minds of those who believe not. He returned from town very ill with fever, and on the day after his return died in the arms of

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his beloved wife, who was thus left a widow, with her three children, and the prospect of soon giving birth to another, in the midst of this little group of Christian Indians. I need hardly say the mourning for him was very great among them, and those around, who were united with them in the blessings of God's free salvation. Our faithful brother in the Lord, Mr. S——, with many of the black and coloured population, attended at his funeral. According to the Indian fashion, his grave was dug in the floor of the dwelling, and there, in his simple coffin, was laid the body of the Lord's well-used servant, John Meyer; who, in the midst of many infirmities, never turned away his trust or hope from Jesus Christ, who had loved him, and given Himself for him; who, though often cast down, was not destroyed, and by whom the Lord has made His voice heard in another language, and called out from another Gentile family some people for His name.

Christian reader, we will not dwell on the infirmities or eccentricities of a departed brother in the holy faith, but upon the grace of God that was given him, the power of Christ working in and by him. He certainly was "crucified to the world, and the world to him." In his ministry of the Gospel he certainly "believed, and there-

fore spake." He sought the Indians for Christ, and was spent in his labours to bring them, through Christ, to God. Yea, it was to God his ministry brought them, and with God he left them. His death distressed them, bereaved them of an able teacher of the New Covenant, but it did not move them from their faith, or disturb their worship. His ministry especially taught them to lean only on Christ, to meet in the power of His name and Spirit. They were, as Christians, one spirit with the Lord, and the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, was with them, to guide them into all truth, help their infirmities, and bring to their remembrance the words of Jesus. Thus, never having been brought round a ministry, but round Jesus; never having been led to suppose their privileges as saints, or power for worship, depended on the presence or sanction of any man, the company continued assembling themselves together on the first day of the week, to break bread, and on other evenings to pray and praise. They poured out their hearts in supplication and thanksgiving to Him in whose name they met, and continued to realise the promise that where any meet in His name He would be in their midst.

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CHAPTER IV.

No sooner had the melancholy tidings of our brother Meyer's removal from his labours of love reached us, than C—— A——, the faithful helper in his mission, and sympathizer in the welfare of the Indians, set off for Kumaka, by the way of the sea and river, taking with him a small bateau and three brethren, and remained some time with them, to the consolation of the mourning widow and her little ones, as well as the comforting and strengthening of the Indian brethren, and others, consorting with them. Mr. S—— felt deeply the loss they had all sustained, especially having but just learned the value of that dear Saviour, and the word of His grace, which Meyer had so zealously taught. Accustomed to make the Indians understand enough for all his worldly purposes, in a kind of broken Dutch dialect, he was unable to assist them in the Arrawack tongue, either in reading the Scriptures, or in their hymns, or joining them intelligently in prayer, at least, only in a very small degree. Our brother C—— A——, also, being unable to speak or teach in the Arrawack, the Indian brethren were now left to feed upon Christ as they had learned Him, and felt the real presence of the Holy Ghost in stirring up their minds to

remembrance, and enabling them mutually to comfort and build up one another in their holy faith. Our sister Meyer, rivetted, as it were, by the dearest associations and remembrances, to the little Church at Kumaka, could not as yet make up her mind to leave them; and, being near her confinement, brother C—— A—— left her, and her little ones, under the care of her heavenly Father, in the sisterly charge of Catherine and the females there.

Our brother C—— A——, being now very desirous of establishing, if possible, a nearer and easier route of communication with the Demerara river, and for that purpose taking with him several Indian brethren in his bateau, entered a creek or arm of this river, called Wairooney, which flowed into the Berbice a little below Lana (Mr. S——'s place), and having penetrated far, by paddling up most of the day, found its course so very circuitous, that they deemed it advisable to pursue the rest of the journey by land; securing, therefore, the bateau, with its cargo, to the shore, and taking only those things they were able to carry, they walked on in a westerly direction, and reaching at night some deserted Indian houses, there they halted and slept. Going forward in the morning, they had to cross, by a fallen tree, the very creek they had

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abandoned the afternoon before. This day they unexpectedly fell in with a family of Arrawacks, unknown to the Kumaka Indians, but who, to their astonishment, declared that they believed on Jesus Christ, whom they designated as the Son of God, who came into the world to die for sinners, all men being sinners, but that God had loved the world, and given His only Son to die, that whosoever believed on Him might have eternal life; "and we," said they, "believe on Jesus Christ as well as you"! In answer to the interrogatory, "How came you by the knowledge of that name?" they said, "A white man came to us, and spoke of these things to us in our own language; but stayed only two days, leaving us with the promise of soon visiting us again." Then understood they that it must have been the evangelist John Meyer who had come to them, and spoken these words unto them. These Indians, being then on a journey, I do not think they have been seen or heard of since; but this instance will serve to show how far the Lord may have used our deceased brother as a witness for Jesus among these men of the wilderness. Two days more of heavy walking through a recently-burned forest brought them to the banks of the river Demerara, down which they procured a passage to P—— H——, where the Indian

brethren remained with us more than two weeks, and quite endeared themselves to the church there by their humble and holy deportment. After which time, our brother C—— A——, and his crew of black brethren, returned with them. Retracing the burned forest, they found their bateau, with its contents, quite safe. Indeed, the Indians never disturb or purloin from each other's canoes, or huts, if they light upon them deserted; a sort of mutual compact seems to be observed among them, and to be kept inviolate. Thus are they enabled to leave their few possessions as safely in the open wilderness as within the bars of a strong-hold.

About this time, our sister Meyer, with those at Kumaka, were daily expecting the return of C—— A—— and his party; and, from a scarcity of provisions, such as fish, or game, of any sort, were in much perplexity. The brethren were out every day, but without success in procuring more than barely satisfied themselves and families. So much did they feel this, that they had special prayer that the Lord would provide for their expected travellers. When the Indians were at P—— H——, I had presented John, a faithful young Christian Indian (the man who shot the tiger, as mentioned by our sister Meyer, in a former chapter), with a new gun and ammuni-

tion; thus had they two or three with them on their return.

Soon after they had taken to their bateau, and were swiftly descending the Wairooney creek, the Indians observed the recent track of a tapir from the water side. Two of them instantly landed in pursuit; while C—— A——, in the bateau, with the others, floated gently onwards. They soon heard by their shouts the game was roused; and, watching, saw a large tapir take the water, under which he dived, to walk across the bottom of the creek. C—— A——, having seized a loaded gun which lay near him in the bateau, marked the tapir as he raised his snout and head above water to gain the opposite bank, when aiming behind his shoulder as he was in the act of cleaving the stream, he shot the animal through the heart with a ball, to the delight of the Indians, who, securing and dissecting the carcase, managed to convey the whole of it to Kumaka, where they arrived, to the great joy of their expecting friends, that night. The meat thus obtained plentifully supplied them all, and caused the thanksgiving of many, who saw the Lord's hand in it; who, though He seemed to withhold His aid from those who were so eagerly seeking it, gave it unsought to those very brethren for whose sakes they were desiring it.

Just as our brother, C—— A——, was departing from Lana, on his return to Demerara, he received the pleasing intelligence that, in the Lord's goodness, our sister Meyer had safely given birth to a little girl; and, about a month after, she plainly saw it to be the path of duty to relinquish her Indian life, and, with her children, seek refreshment, and, if the Lord might grant it, repose, and better health, with her Christian brethren at Demerara. Her affections and feelings of deep interest in the welfare of the Indians were so strong, it was not without a hard struggle that she left Kumaka, believing it, on many accounts, to be her path of duty now. The Lord had taken from her head His servant, whose most faithful helpmate in the work she had proved herself in many trials, and her work there seemed over. Eighteen months after her removal, during which time the Indians visited her in Demerara several times, she followed the writer of these memoirs to England, where she still resides, with her children, putting her trust in God.

It remains now merely to show that the work of God, by His servant Meyer, standeth firm in the wilderness, through Him on whom it is all built; and that like the Eunuch, though their Philip is caught away from them, they can go on

their way rejoicing. That they still hold the Head, from whom the whole body is nourished, may be seen from the following facts. There are life and power in them to resist evil, and walk together in the truth. They have of themselves put away from among them evil persons, and this with the hope and prayer for their repentance and recovery. Their first acts of discipline were upon Indians, but one was upon a Mulatto, an intelligent, well-educated man. Having a comfortable residence, and many neighbours, he had invited the Indians from Kumaka to come in a body and spend the first day of the week with him, for a testimony to those, his neighbours. They having consented to this, were on their way down to his place on Saturday evening, in their bateau, when they observed him passing on the river in a boat, with many people, noisy and intoxicated. Upon this they immediately returned, and reporting what they had seen to Mr. S——, spent the first day, and broke bread together, at Lana. It is pleasing indeed to know that long since the person in question has been deeply humbled and penitent, and was then cheerfully received back into communion by his Indian brethren. Two of the sisters (Indians) had hired themselves out to work for a white man, and, according to the evil custom prevail-

ing, were persuaded to take part payment in rum, and had become intoxicated. As they worked and lived apart from the others on this occasion, the church could not have known of their evil, but their own consciences condemning them before the Lord, they confessed to their sin with deep contrition, before the whole church, refusing to sit at communion until restored by the sympathy and entreaties of their brethren, who showed them what they had learnt, that "if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive, and cleanse from all unrighteousness." Within the last year they have moved from Kumaka, as also several from Manaka with them, and planted new fields, and erected huts, on the banks of the Wairooney. They have had many trials since, of different kinds ; some have fallen away, and more than twelve have slept in Jesus since the Lord took His servant, John Meyer. But, perhaps, it will be most satisfactory here to insert the last letter received from our brother, C—— A——, who, in his persevering zeal and love to the Indians, has visited them many times since ; sometimes with much sorrow, but, as the reader will perceive by the following letter, at length with joy and hope. As this last visit was paid to them expressly in response to an invitation sent over by the Indian

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IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Catherine, and Mr. S——, I think it will be better first to insert copies of their letters. The bearers were two Indian brethren, who came by way of the river and sea, bringing letters from Mr. S—— and Catherine.

COPY OF CATHERINE'S LETTER.

“ Dear Brother,

“ I send you these few lines by the hand of our brother John, hoping that, by the blessing of the Lord, they may find you all in good health. I had it in my mind to send or write to you before this, but after removing from Kumaka, and the weather favourable for planting provisions, we had no time to send any of the brothers away. If you can come at once with brother John, we shall all be so glad to see you in the Lord's name; if you cannot come at present, pray write and say when you can be in Berbice town, and we will send a boat to wait upon you. I send four quakes of yams, one for yourself, one for brother T——, one for brother J—— C——, one for brother H—— C——. I always feel anxious to hear from you with the love I hold for the Lord. No more to say, but remain

“ Your sister in Christ,

“ CATHERINE.”

COPY OF MR. S——'s LETTER.

“ Dear Brother,

“ Sister Catherine, I understand, is sending John to you, and I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without writing you a few lines to say that, in the Lord's goodness, we are all healthy and well, with the hope that the Lord is thus blessing you. I had hoped we should have been blessed with a visit from you ere this, because when you left for Demerara it was with the intention of soon returning. I assure you I long for you, and always in my humble prayers ask, if it may please the Lord, to grant you to us. Sister Catherine asked me for my small punt, which I have lent her, but were I sure of your coming, I should have sent my corial, and if you can state the time, I will send it to meet you in town. We have, through the Lord's blessing, met in His name every first day of the week since your departure ; but with a sorrowful heart I say it, I do not feel that grace which I wish and hope, and pray to the blessed Lord for, in order to be empowered for speaking the words of the Holy Spirit, so as to produce on the hearers fruit for the Lord. Surely I need much grace from the Lord for this, but the Lord will give it in His time. From our Manaka brethren I have

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heard that Mabaka's wife, Lenky, with her child, has gone to rest in the Lord. Brother John is married to sister Cecilia, and John, the elder, to Caroline (*alias*, to give the Indian names, Quipas to Kalma). Now receive my love in the Spirit, and greet the brethren in Demerara, from your brother in Christ,

“J—— S——.”

On the receipt of these letters arose a difficulty, the expense needed for the journey. Brother C—— A——'s means being quite low, he laid the letters before the Lord, and felt it good to see brother B—— at the Craig, who was glad at his coming, since he had just received aid from brother Geo. Müller, and gave him ten dollars. Thus enabled for the journey, he soon set out on his visit, and, on his return from the Indians, penned the following cheering account, with which we will close this record.

“My beloved Sister in the Lord,

“I took down the enclosed letter for you from our sister Catherine in Arrawack, and afterwards translated it into English. Little comment is needed on this simple language of her heart; it will speak volumes to you, who know its author, but it may be gratifying to you this

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER

further testimony, that she grows in grace, and I am persuaded also the others are growing spiritually, the Lord be praised. I spent a happy time among them. We were mutually refreshed, comforted, and strengthened, and I felt more liberty than on any previous occasion. I dwelt almost exclusively among them, and much enjoyed our every evening meeting. I felt great freedom in applying truth to their consciences, and earnestly exhorting them to give their hearts more unreservedly to the Lord. Two more families have come from Manaka to reside with them in their new place, viz., Bonaparte, his wife, and children, and Curtis and his family. Bonaparte desired baptism, but we all thought it better to test his sincerity awhile, by delaying to gratify his wish. Many strangers from the Indians came to hear in the evening. Part of Romans viii. being read and explained, some of them said, 'It is true, we live here a little only to groan away our lives; there is nothing better for us than to believe God's word, and look for that good place where there is no groaning and dying.' The Lord grant they may turn to Him! I have, in a former letter, represented this little church of Indians as a field in the midst of the forest, cleared of its native growth, and planted with exotics, which, after

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the planter has reaped his crop, is destined to be abandoned and lost again, and covered with its native weeds, as though it had never been. But this, my last visit, has given rise to the hope that the Lord might continue the cultivation, perhaps, up to the time of His Second Advent (as the time is short), and get a succession of crops, and open more fields. I need not say what my hope is grounded upon, when, in addition to that related above, I now state that John Bart, the son of Frederick, has been to the joy of all, but especially of Catherine, added to the number of believers, and received by us into communion, after much prayer and examination. Thomas, Catherine, Tobias, and Quipas, at my request, questioned him, as also myself; and we all came to the conclusion that he ought to be received. When I suggested his waiting yet a little time before he was baptized, the youth told Catherine he should not object if we all thought it right; but he felt that by thus openly confessing to Christ at once, he should have more strength from Him to battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil, than if still neglecting the sign of what he firmly believed the Lord to have done for him. Accordingly, the last Saturday I was with them, we all went down to the creek side, and John Bart was baptized, to the joy of all. The fol-

lowing day he broke bread with us at Lana, and it gave joy in the Lord among all the saints then assembled, Indians, white, coloured, and black. We have good hopes of Bonaparte and others; and also that other Indians will come from the savannahs, and cast in their lot among them. Indeed, I repeat it, my last visit, although we did not go up to Manaka, has quite revived my spirit as to these dear souls.

“Some of my leisure hours spent among them were devoted to the rendering of Arrawack hymns into English, partly for my own profit as to communion with them in singing, and partly that I might be able to apply the truths they contain to their consciences. I am now making a fair copy of dear brother Meyer’s dictionary and grammar. I have spoken to J—— B—— about going up to *Matara* (their new settlement), knowing that his presence and ministry would be acceptable to them; but in doing it I avoided giving him an arm of flesh to lean upon. He might teach them English; and being, as I believe, a happy Christian, might lead them on, and assist them much in building them up in our most holy faith. We shall be able to locate him on brother S——’s land, which lies near *Matara*. This latter brother’s trials and temptations in his calling still continue, and are

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IN BRITISH GUIANA.

great hindrances to him. The last Sunday I spent there he appeared much humbled and happy; he spoke from Scripture in Creole Dutch, and prayed in English. I purpose, if spared, to sketch out a map of the river, and mark the places I am acquainted with. I conclude, in much Christian love,

“Your unworthy brother, C—— A——.

COPY OF CATHERINE'S LETTER, IN
ARRAWACK.

“Danshishia wabo dahukito Adaiahoeli oloko,

“Hehei kidohani ephirito Koushishi Adaiahoeli. Mainbunato Kanshihi Adaiahoeli. daluwamuni dai akonshiha Adaiahoeli. Dai akonshiha abassabu. Tomaqua Lishikin dai akuiabu ikidoadabu oloko fa rocha maibonoato. Kidohani dahukito dai ikoro kai ikashiabu. Adaiahoeli aburuatiniu wauhutshiki fa aiurukahoe Lanshihi oloko. Dai auhubada Adaiahoeli obora kassakabu kassakoda halikebe daloa. Dai ulushi Adaiahoeli oloko kiadoma dai ikoro adicha toho holoro. Ephirito kanshihirino. Usurutahoe nam a qua muni. Namaqua atshilikitshii aiurudato no ephirito kanshihi namaqua kanshihi Adaiahoeli. Kidohan dahukito dai adinama bahukito Adaiahoeli oloko.

“KARGIE.

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER

“P.S. Ababadia, wai ashiga Adaiahoeli umuni na aba, watshilikitshi Adaiahoeli ashiga hoeshia wamuni Yan Bart oloko. Loei kalida kali wama abali koro Sunday.”

In plain English :—

“My much beloved Sister in the Lord,

“Oh, yes, truly, the Lord’s love is great. The Lord has not ceased to love ; to my heart I love the Lord, but I want more love yet. He will give me everything I ask believingly and unceasingly. Truly, my sister, I do not forget you. The Lord hath forgiven us ; we shall obtain salvation in His love. I wait before the Lord, day and night, with a happy heart. I am full in the Lord, because I look not to the world. Great love to the children, and a kiss to each of them. To all brothers and sisters in the Lord great love, even to all who love the Lord. Truly my sister, I stand your sister in the Lord.

“CATHERINE.

“P.S. One word ; we give the Lord thanks : one of our brothers in the flesh God hath given us in Christ, John Bart. He broke bread with us last Sunday.”

Now, beloved brethren in Christ, what shall we say to these things—these simple facts ?

Shall we not say, "What hath God wrought!" We have not written for the glory of man. The weaker the agency to produce such results, the more manifest the power and wisdom of Him who wielded it, and made it so mighty to pull down the strongholds of Satan, and bring so many depraved hearts to the captivity of Christ! Mighty through God!

Let us admire, first, the power put forth upon the agent, to constitute him, naturally evil, naturally walking according to the course of this world, and the power of darkness, *a fellow-worker with God* in delivering others from sin and death! That he should forsake all to follow Christ! Count it such blessing to wear out his life in leading poor heathens to the Lamb of God! To labour in a field unnoticed and almost unknown! just trusting on Him whose word of life he held forth to the Indians, and who he knew would not forsake His own!

We have traced him through his brief days of labour in the wilderness, his journeyings, his fastings, his watchings, his conflicts, till he left his earthly tabernacle in an Indian hut, where they buried it. Hallelujah! and now what are the results of all this labour? Nearly fifty souls from another tribe of the earth's families, where

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER

His name was never known before, gathered, with many others, into the Church of the First-born! Many of their spirits gone to Him, while others are left to bear fruit, and give God salt from the forests of Guiana!

Before the white man penetrated their savannahs, the great name of Jesus was unknown there. The only great one among these poor sinners was Abaddon, the destroyer, whom they propitiated and feared. By what weapons has this handful been delivered from the darkness and control of the evil one? By the word of God! "Of His own will hath God begotten them again by the word of truth"! The same weapon hath worked mightily without reference to age or colour, intellect or education, bringing them to the same mind, the same blessed hope.

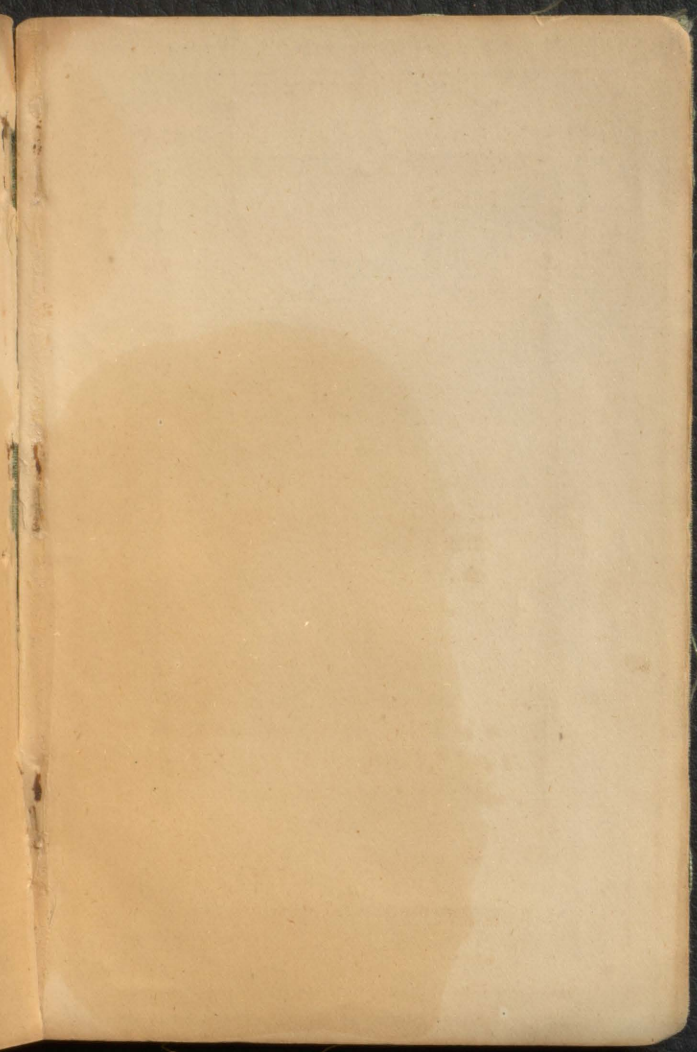
Reader, before John Meyer appeared in these parts all was darkness, all evil, at that river head. The sound of the axe, the hunter's cry, the boatman's song, the drunken revel, the voice of him that shouted for the mastery, or the cry of the sufferer, might mingle in the forest echoes, and, borne upon the breeze, alternately break the silence almost reigning there; but never was there heard the voice of prayer, or hymn of praise uttered in the name of Jesus, as now,

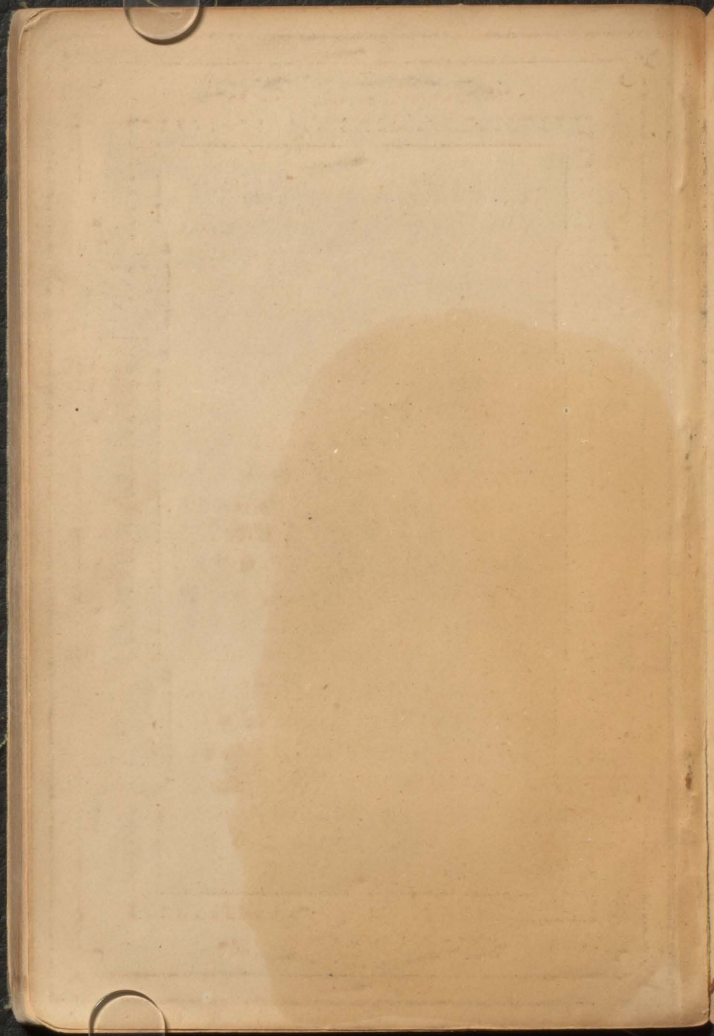
since the tongue of him, whose body sleeps so silently beneath the sandy floor of the Indian hut, proclaimed, in Arrawack and English, "Redemption by the blood of Jesus, Salvation in His name!" Now, dear reader, should the careless traveller be floating on that mighty river, so far from the ocean, on the first day of the week, the hymn of adoration and praise for redeeming love might rouse him from his dreams of sorrow or pleasure, and tell him, as he entered the humble room that held the worshippers, and cast his eye over the motley group assembled there (the educated German, the African savage, the wild American Indian, the once licentious Creole of Guiana, mingled in a common worship, saved with a common salvation, washed and sanctified by one blood), that truly God is no respecter of persons; that to Jesus all the prophets truly witness, "Whosoever believeth on Him shall receive the remission of sins;" that "the word of God is not bound;" but that God does still by the foolishness of preaching, in any language, save them who believe.

Think, then, and pray for the little flock thus rescued from perdition in this wilderness, and pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers to this yet unreaped field; for God

LABOURS OF JOHN MEYER, ETC.

has opened the door of faith to these Indians, granted to many repentance unto life; and now invites His children to care for his sheep who dwell in the forests of Guiana, by his servant John Meyer.





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