

Laranjeiras Pro de Sergipe
Brazil.

My dear young friends.

Some time has passed since you have heard from your distant friend, in respect to that which is of so much interest - the progress of the Gospel in foreign parts. Since our last letter, we have changed our residence, from Bahia to Laranjeiras to this the Pro of Sergipe. At present your friend is the only minister of the Gospel in this Pro of 200,000 souls. However we are not alone, the Holy Spirit is here, and busily at work in different parts. Let me tell you of a visit or visits which we made lately, in which will appear some of the movements of the Holy Spirit. The writer & his Colporteur made ready & left for a point 25 miles distant. As we rode along, we passed through some large sugar estates, where we saw the poor slaves at work. At another point we passed along the foot of a high mountain, whose sides at this point are almost vertical, and just here, away up on the crest we there is a great cross planted, the work of a bold monk. Finally, towards sunset we reached our kind friends. Here we were warmly welcomed. We held services with them each day, during our stay, often singing & talking of the Gospel until far into the night. The last day of our visit we celebrated the Lords Supper together, at which time eight persons professed their faith in Christ & were baptized. But let me give some items, more directly showing the work of the Holy Spirit. We visited a family where after talking for a while of Jesus and his love, we heard two little tots & one older child sing, so sweetly & well, eight hymns. The same hymns which so many of you love to sing, but in another language. It would have pleased you very much to have heard them. Their father was one of the persons who professed their faith. In another family which we visited, we met with a little boy of eight years, who had learned the whole of the "Childs Catechism" & repeated it for us. He had done more, he had taught his aunt, a young woman the same catechism. This was one of the means of bringing her to the Saviour. She was amongst those who professed their faith.

The grandmother of this same little boy had been a very bitter Romanist, but was led to listen to the Gospel story & believed. When she learned that images could not be worshipped, she soon made up her mind as to what she would do with them, - she destroyed them. She also professed her faith as did her husband. A son of this woman a year ago, began to frequent our services in the same vicinity, he seemed very much interested, so much so, that his parents forbid him to come home. They hated any thing which savored of the Protestants. Today the parents are humble believers in Christ, the son is still undecided. An old mulatto woman assisted at the services, she was so much moved at hearing of the love of Jesus, that she would weep. She wished to profess His name. She was received. Now her great desire is to have her sons ~~to~~ know of the same loving Saviour. Are not these some signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit? After our return, we made a visit in another direction, some six miles from L- where we saw other signs of the Spirit's presence. Some time ago, a countryman from this vicinity was visiting in L- on the market day, where he had the acquaintance of a merchant, a believer, who on this particular day had been telling him something about the Bible, about Christ & the way of Salvation. He in turn told a friend of what he had heard, she became interested and bought a Bible, which he is now studying. About this same time, a nephew had the custom to visit his uncle's house in this same neighborhood. He, whenever the occasion offered would speak of the Protestants and their doctrines. Especially of the Bible would he speak. His Aunt did not wish to hear anything about these things; because she was such a strong Romanist. Finally she consented to compare the Bible of the Roman Cath' Church with our Bible. She found no material difference. In the course of the comparison, she read the 2^d Commandment, which as you know prohibits the worship of images. When she read this in the Bible of her own church, she was alarmed. She read many other equally alarming passages. She was in trouble. She sought Christ & found him. She confided in Him as her only Saviour, until she died, which was not long after. No Minister of the Gospel had ever visited or spoken to her on this subject.

Her death, & the manner of it, made a profound impression. Our services here, although held in stormy weather, were very well attended. At this point we have three, yes, four families who are very much interested in the Gospel; who hope to receive many of them into the Church. Our visit, was the first that any Minister of the Gospel had ever made in that vicinity. Here in Lavangeiras the cause of the Gospel is spreading. We now have thirty nine members of the Church. At our late communion eight persons made a profession of their faith. We have a Bible Class every Sabbath morning, in which we study some portion of God's word. Mrs Kolb & I both have classes of children on Sabbath afternoons, when we teach the catechism, read the Scriptures & sing together. We are now worshipping in a room which has been fitted up for the purpose, in the lower part of the house in which we live. But we must have a little church building. We do not wish to build a house and ^{then} not be able to pay for it. For this reason we wish to arrange the money beforehand. Some small part of the money can be raised here; but the people are very poor. They have the desire to do. They are praying for it & hope to see ably their desire realized. Of their time & labor they will give, but you know, one must have money to buy lumber, boards, doors, windows, paint and the many little things necessary. In our poverty our hearts turn towards our dear friends in the home land and wonder, if among the many calls for help, the cry from L- may find a response. We thank you for your interest in us & our work, which you have shown in the past. We feel that you have been blest in your giving; because the Holy Spirit has been blessing the Church & Sabbath Schools in our home land. May we ask you to help your little brothers & sisters, who live away off here under the bright tropical sun! We do not cease to pray for you all, & hope to hear of large blessings upon you during this winter, and all the year round. Any monies can be sent to the Treasurer of the Board, who will give us credit for them; at the same time advising your friend of any remittance. Yours in the love of Jesus.

Lavangeiras Oct. 6th 87.
Jno B. Kolb.