

SOUTH AMERICA.

XLV.—COUNTRIES OF THE PLAINS.

(PART I., PAGES 89-96, 102-107.)

SOUTH AMERICA is a remarkable continent. It has the highest mountains on the globe excepting the Himalaya, the most extensive forests in the world, and vast treeless plains that at one season are covered with the richest vegetation, and at another are parched by the sun and swept by flames until they seem like a desert. It lies mainly in the Torrid Zone; yet even here the valleys between the Andes have the temperature of spring, and the tops bear snow throughout the year. All the countries of South America are republics, excepting Guiana, which is a small mountain land, belonging to countries in Europe.

The hard names in this lesson are pronounced thus:—

Bra-zil', Ven-e-zwee'-la, Pah-rah-gwi', Oo-roo-gwi', Ar-jen-te'-na, Re'-o de Zha-na'-e-ro, Bo'-nus A'-riz, Gee-ah'-na.

The **plains** of South America contain five countries,—Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Brazil includes the larger part of the silvas, and has valuable gold districts. There are few people except in the coast regions.

Agriculture is the **chief pursuit**, and coffee the prin-