

**AMONG THE PIMAS; OR,
THE MISSION TO THE PIMA
AND MARICOPA INDIANS**

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Among the Pimas; Or, the Mission to the Pima and Maricopa Indians by E. S. Parker

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E. S. PARKER

**AMONG THE PIMAS; OR,
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AND MARICOPA INDIANS**

TO VIEW
ARIZONA



MISSION HOUSE AND CHAPEL AT SACATON, ARIZONA.

AMONG THE PIMAS

OR

THE MISSION TO THE

PIMA AND MARICOPA INDIANS.

“With their names
No bard embalms and sanctifies his song:
And history so warm on meaner themes,
Is cold on this.”

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INTRODUCTION.

The object of the present volume is to show the providence of God in the fulfillment of his purpose to send the gospel to the friendly Indians living on the Gila river reservation in the territory of Arizona.

The condition of these Indians, with their deprivation of the privileges enjoyed by other inhabitants of our highly favored country, was brought to our knowledge through the officers of the U. S. Army in the year 1868.

These officers, General Frederick Townsend and Gen. A. J. Alexander being on military duty in Arizona, became acquainted with the Pima and Maricopa Indians, and when, a few years later an association of ladies in the state of New York was found to promote mission work in our country, an appeal was made to them in behalf of the Indians of the Gila river reservation, Gen. A. J. Alexander, then stationed at Fort McDowell, Arizona, addressed to one of the members of the new association the following letter :

FORT McDOWELL, Arizona, Ter.

October 18, 1868.

"I have just returned from a ten days' scout in the mountains, which was very successful. I was accompanied by one hundred Pima and Maricopa Indians, whose wild ways and picturesque appearance were highly interesting. I have acquired a great deal of influence over them, since I led the whole band in a charge over hills, rocks and streams. After my return I had a very interesting conversation with Antonio Azul, the chief of the Pimas, who told me he would welcome any person I would send to teach them, and that the children should go to school. These Indians are docile and friendly, and easily approached. As several white men reside near them, who speak their language perfectly, it could be easily acquired. I told Antonio that the good people in the east, who loved the Indians, would send a good man to come and live there and teach them; that he did not want land or money from them, but would come only to do them good, and whatever he told them would be good, and he could trust him. He said it was very good and wanted to know when he would come."

A letter was subsequently received from Mrs. Alexander, in which she said, that her husband before leaving the post on military duty desired her "to urge upon her friends at home, the importance of sending a missionary or teachers to this interesting tribe of Indians, now living in the heart of Arizona.

“There are about five thousand souls in this tribe and though they have been living for two or three generations in their present reservation, cultivating the soil in a rude way, they are still sunk in the lowest depth of heathenish superstition.”

“The most intelligent of the Indians—and there are many such—are anxious for instruction. There are two white men living at their villages,—(one of them a licensed trader)—who have a thorough acquaintance with their language, and could assist a new-comer in acquiring it. They make it their boast that they have never killed a white man, but that while they are at deadly enmity with the Apaches, they are the white man's friends.”

It is supposed that there are in Arizona, about thirty-four thousand Indians, not one of whom has ever yet been instructed in the christian faith.

The president of the new society, Mrs. Julia M. Graham, and the secretary, Mrs. Florence K. Prentice, were personal friends of General and Mrs. Alexander, and being warmly attached to them, they entered heartily into their plans for the welfare of the Indians, with whose needs they had become