

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

No. I.

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INDIAN REVENUE FROM INDIAN OPIUM;  
CHINESE MONEY AT THE EXPENSE OF CHINESE LIFE;  
BRITISH HONOUR OR BRITISH DISGRACE;

QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE  
CONSIDERED IN THE

TREATY TO BE CONCLUDED WITH CHINA.

BY

CAPTAIN TYLER, R.E.

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LONDON :

JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

1857.

(Price One Shilling.)

In the Biography of Sir John Bowring it is admitted that the Chinese were right, and that the charter had expired before they arrested Chinese criminals on board a Chinese vessel. For this last offence war this country is responsible before God. After much slaughter, rapine, and devastation, the cries to heaven of widows, orphans, and parents bereft of children, the result gained was an enforced tariff to legalise the importation of the drug that has been the greatest curse ever inflicted by one nation upon another, by a powerful army upon a people unable to offer effectual resistance.

Psa. ix. 19. Isaiah xxvi. 20. 21.

## BRITAIN AND CHINA.

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ON a recent well known occasion, the Chinese authorities boarded a vessel called the "Arrow," belonging to a Chinese subject resident in Hong Kong, which was trading in the Canton river, under British colours, under a British name, and under a British master ; and, after hauling down the British ensign, they carried off twelve Chinese subjects, out of the fourteen men who composed its crew, upon the plea that some of their number had been guilty of piracy.

The "Arrow" was in the habit of trading at Canton, under a licence from the Colonial Government at Hong Kong, renewable annually ; and the term of that licence had expired eleven days before the transaction referred to. The Chinese could not, however, have been aware of its expiration ; and there appears to be no doubt, that, though they objected to the system which had obtained, of granting British licences to the vessels of Chinese subjects, they yet acted on the belief that the "Arrow" had a right, according to British custom and British regulations, to British protection.

Conceiving, therefore, that a gross insult had been offered to the British Flag, the Officers

Origin of  
present  
hostilities  
in China.

Registry  
of  
"Arrow."

Steps  
taken by  
British

and  
Chinese  
Authori-  
ties.

charged with the superintendence of British interests on the spot, demanded an apology for what had occurred, as well as an assurance that the British Flag should be respected for the future; and these demands not being complied with to their satisfaction, they seized upon a Chinese Junk by way of reprisal. As the Imperial Commissioner still persisted that he was in the right, and still neglected to comply with the requirements of the British representatives, and as he refused to grant that much coveted object—a personal interview, either to the chief Superintendent of Trade or to the Admiral commanding, forts were taken, and hostilities were thus commenced by the British forces. The Chinese Commissioner protested against these measures, and professed, on his part, the greatest moderation; but his subjects retaliated to the best of their power, by poison and assassination, and even offered, in a public proclamation, a reward of £33,\* for every Englishman that should be taken alive, or whose head should be “cut off and delivered to the authorities.”

Opportu-  
nity will  
be offered  
for a fresh  
Treaty.

In consequence of these proceedings, the two nations are now at war in the Canton river, and an Ambassador of high rank and great reputation is proceeding to China with a considerable naval and military force, for the purpose of continuing hostilities, and of concluding a peace when they

\* Blue Book “Proceedings of H.M. Naval Forces at Canton,” p. 128.



shall happily be terminated. As an opportunity will thus be afforded for remodelling the existing Treaties, and making a fresh one, the present is a most appropriate occasion for considering seriously the means by which the real interests of the two empires may be best promoted.

In reflecting upon this important subject, it must not be forgotten, that whilst we are the most favoured nation on the face of the earth ;—whilst our wealth, our power, our maritime supremacy, our advancement in civilization, our freedom of intercourse, and, above all, our possession of the light of the Gospel, and our facilities beyond those of all other nations for its extension, are so great ;—whilst we possess all these advantages, of which we are sufficiently proud, and in which all of us who reflect must rejoice ;—our national responsibilities are at the same time strictly proportionate to our national opportunities ; and it is our solemn duty, in providing for the increase of our commerce, the safety of our countrymen, and the honour of our flag, not to lose sight of, undervalue, or neglect those higher destinies with which Providence has entrusted us : but to afford a conspicuous example, at once of firmness, justice, and forbearance ; to promote, to the best of our power, the fulfilment of just laws ; and to abstain, ourselves, from giving unnecessary offence to all other nations whatsoever, whether they be weak, or whether they be strong.

These convictions should dictate the terms of all our Treaties, and this spirit should guide their ob-

Our chief  
objects in  
a new  
Treaty.

Our mo-  
tives of  
action.

servance. Then will our sway permanently extend, and then will our power be beneficial. Thus only can we fulfil our highest destinies, and thus only can we hope to meet with the approval, and escape the righteous judgments, of Him who ordereth all things. Avoiding undue intervention, we should not, however, shrink from just wars; but we should exert all our strength, when necessary, in the defence of that which is right, and in opposition to that which is wrong; and, taking "Dieu et mon droit," in reality, as our national motto, we should always remember that such wars, though the greatest of temporary evils, are intended ultimately to answer good purposes, and that they have been not only permitted, but enjoined, from the earliest ages. If we ourselves abstain from wrong and injury to the Chinese, we have always strong reasons for war with them so long as they refuse to treat us as equals, and to afford to us those facilities for intercourse and commerce which nations have no right to deny to each other. But we must keep our own hands clean while claiming these our rights. We must give the Chinese no *just cause* for refusing to admit us into their country, or for declining to grant suitable means for carrying on the trade which has sprung up between the two nations, upon an equitable footing.

General  
opinions  
on the  
present  
war.

There are many who wish that the nominal cause of the hostilities now pending was a more unexceptionable one, but there are few who are not in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war that has re-

sulted. It has happened that a majority of the Lower House of Parliament has condemned the proceedings of the British officers in China, while the mass of the country has approved of them; and sufficient cause may be assigned for this difference of opinion, without attributing it to the party feeling, or to the factious combinations, that have been so much insisted on. The representatives of the country, who studied more minutely the papers that were placed before them, came to the conclusion that the insult offered by the Chinese did not render necessary the violent measures that were adopted, and desired that an officer of higher rank should be dispatched to the scene of action, with full powers; the merchants on the spot, with strong feelings in regard to other matters, and deeply interested, themselves, in humbling the Chinese authorities and the inhabitants of Canton, believed that such measures would ultimately improve their position; and the nation at large, less informed upon the abstract question, always ready to uphold the honour of the British Flag, and with a strong feeling that war only would improve its relations with a people that refuse foreign intercourse, despise foreign commerce, and oppose all progress,—gave credit to the officers employed, for acting with as much humanity as the case permitted, for being actuated by proper motives, and for using sound judgment.

It may be regarded as certain that the English Government would never have been placed in a minority upon this question, either if Sir John Bowring had



Policy of more fully explained the real cause of his proceedings, Sir J. Bowring, or if the course which was afterwards adopted had in the first instance been taken, of sending a Plenipotentiary to the Chinese waters. Sir John Bowring has been much blamed for insisting in his communications with Commissioner Yeh, that the "Arrow" was a British vessel, while he admitted to Consul Parkes that she had no right to be considered as such; and the question of the right of the vessel to British protection has thus been too prominently brought forward. The real causes of quarrel with the Chinese were, that they *acted under the belief* that the "Arrow" was a British vessel, according to the Colonial regulations, that they *intended* to break the 9th article of the supplementary treaty, that they *intended* to insult the British Flag, and that they refused to make the apology for the past, and give the assurance for the future, that was in consequence required from them; and if Sir John Bowring had represented these simple facts to the Chinese Commissioner, had told him the exact circumstances connected with the registry of the "Arrow," and had informed him that the necessary satisfaction for the *intended* insult would be required; he would then have had a clear case, and a good cause, and have been saved from much animadversion. Sir John Bowring no doubt committed an error of judgment, in not thus entering into more ample explanation with the Chinese Commissioner, but no harsher term can properly be applied to his conduct of the negotiations.

Actual  
causes of  
quarrel.



Different opinions may be, and are entertained, on these subjects ; but, whatever be thought of the justice or injustice of the present war, there can be no disagreement on one point. All must desire that the Treaty to be concluded at its termination, should contain such provisions as will tend to forward the real interests of British commerce, to promote friendly intercourse on equal terms between the two nations, and to extend the blessings of Christianity. It is not to be doubted that the great body of the nation, would, if their feelings were consulted, and their opinions taken, pronounce as distinctly for the abandonment of any course of action that should be calculated seriously to interfere with these objects, to sully the British name, or to inflict real evils upon others, as they have done for the prosecution of the war ; that they would be as anxious to preserve the honour of the British Flag in the one case as in the other ; as desirous to avoid the giving of just cause of offence to others as they are ready to demand redress for insults offered to themselves. Under the full conviction that such is the temper of the British nation, and under the belief that the present moment—while a Treaty is pending—is auspicious for bringing forward the subject, the author desires to make an appeal to his fellow-countrymen, in addition to those which have already been laid before them, against the Opium traffic which is being carried on between their Indian possessions and the coasts of China ; to suggest to them the course that should be taken by themselves

Object of  
present  
pamphlet.

for the removal of a national disgrace ; and to urge them to obtain a settlement of this much vexed question. A great deal has already been published on this subject, both in the numerous general works that have appeared on China and the Chinese, and in various reviews and pamphlets specially devoted to its consideration ; and the author only endeavours now to collect, and repeat as concisely as he is able, the leading features of the case ; and to lay before the public, as forcibly as he may, the conclusions to which they lead.

Cultiva-  
tion and  
supply of  
opium.

Opium is prepared from the juice of the white poppy, which is cultivated for commercial purposes in India, China, Persia, and Turkey. In China the cultivation is prohibited by the Government ; but since the war of 1842, and the rebellion of Tae Ping Wang, the Imperial authority has not been sufficiently strong to enforce its prohibition ; and the annual yield of opium, which is rapidly increasing, is now supposed to amount to some thousands of chests. In Persia and Turkey the production is comparatively small, and need not be further referred to. In India the poppy is grown, both in British and independent territory. In Bengal there were sold in 1855,\* 53,319 chests of 164 lbs. each ; and the exports from Bombay in 1854-5 reached 27,688 chests, of 140 lbs. each ; and, as nearly the whole of this quantity was for the Chinese market, the total amount supplied by India

\* "The Opium Revenue of India," pub. by Allen and Co. p. 10.

to China in 1855 is admitted to be nearly 80,000 chests, even by the upholders of the trade. Calculating roughly, 50,000 chests, or 8,200,000 lbs. from Bengal, furnish 47,000,000,000 grains of opium, or 23,500,000,000 of smokeable extract, as it is called; and 27,000 chests, or 3,780,000 lbs. from Bombay, furnish, in like manner, 22,773,000 grains of opium, or 11,400,000,000 grains of smokeable extract. The Bengal export supplies, therefore, 3,200,000 customers, at 7,300 grains a year of smokeable extract, or 20 grains (equal to 40 grains of opium) a day; and the Bombay export, 1,500,000 customers, at the same rate.

The opium shipped from Bombay is grown principally in Malwa. The Indian Government, since the subjugation of Sindh, has been able to prevent it from being carried to the Portuguese ports of Din and Demaun; and now levies a duty of £40. per chest upon it. Bombay  
opium.

The Bengal opium must, as the average produce is about 22 lbs. per acre, be gathered from 400,000 acres of the richest land in the British territories. The Government agents advance money to the ryots, or native farmers, for the cultivation of the poppy; they compel them to sell the juice, which is extracted from the poppy-head on the fall of the flower, at a fixed rate; they prepare it and flavour it specially for the Chinese market; they carry it to Calcutta, and there sell it to the speculators who convey it to the Chinese coasts. Bengal  
opium.

The *net* opium revenue derived by the Indian Government in 1854-5 was £3,282,401, the costs or Opium  
Revenue  
of India.



Minute,  
28 Feb.  
1856.

charges amounted to £1,536,246, and the gross revenue for that year was therefore £4,818,647. The gross opium revenue for the year 1856 was estimated by Lord Dalhousie at £5,000,000, or about one-sixth of the whole revenue of the Indian empire.

Of the net revenue for 1854-5, £2,187,449, or about two-thirds, was derived from the Government monopoly of Bengal, and £1,094,952 or about one-third from the duty levied in Bombay. The cost or charges on the monopoly revenue, which was in gross rather more than three and a half millions, amounted to nearly a million and a half. The prices obtained for the opium vary considerably, but it may be stated, roughly, that each of the 50,000 chests of monopoly opium which go to China, is sold by the cultivator for £25, by the Government for £100, and by the speculator for, perhaps, £150.

The following tables will be interesting to the reader:—

TABLE I.

*Quantities of Opium exported from Calcutta and Bombay to China AND OTHER COUNTRIES.*

McGREGOR'S  
Commercial  
Statistics,  
vol. v. p.  
75.

YEARS.	Calcutta.	Bombay.	Total
	No. of Chests.	No. of Chests.	No. of Chests.
1795-96	5,183	.....	.....
1796-97	5,644	.....	.....
1797-98	3,503	.....	.....
1798-99	3,342	.....	.....
1799-1800	3,926	.....	.....
1800-1801	4,788	.....	.....
1801-1802	3,467	.....	.....
1802-1803	3,068	.....	.....
1803-4	3,053	.....	.....
1804-5	3,358	.....	.....

TABLE I—(continued.)

YEARS.	Calcutta. No. of Chests.	Bombay. No. of Chests.	Total No. of Chests.
1805-6	3,657	.....	.....
1806-7	4,384	.....	.....
1807-8	4,255	.....	.....
1808-9	4,639	.....	.....
1809-10	4,246	.....	.....
1810-11	4,909	.....	.....
1811-12	4,713	.....	.....
1812-13	4,832	.....	.....
1813-14	4,272	.....	.....
1814-15	3,872	.....	.....
1815-16	3,848	.....	.....
1816-17	4,325	.....	.....
1817-18	3,708	.....	.....
1818-19	4,299	.....	.....
1819-20	3,091	.....	.....
1820-21	5,147	2,278	7,425
1821-22	2,591	3,855	6,446
1822-23	4,100	5,535	9,635
1823-24	5,209	6,063	11,272
1824-25	7,076	5,563	12,639
1825-26	5,165	5,565	10,730
1826-27	6,568	4,504	11,072
1827-28	7,903	7,709	15,612
1828-29	6,554	8,099	14,653
1829-30	9,678	12,856	22,534
1830-31	7,069	9,333	16,402
1831-32	7,427	14,007	21,434
1832-33	9,485	11,715	21,200
1833-34	11,930	11,678	23,608
1834-35	11,050	12,933	23,983
1835-36	14,807	11,724	26,531
1836-37	12,734	21,073	33,807
1837-38	19,317	10,627	29,944
1838-39	18,221	17,515	35,736
1839-40	18,510	5,292	23,802
1840-41	17,410	15,762	33,172
1841-42	19,739	16,356	36,095
1842-43	16,670	18,321	34,991
1843-44	17,774	.....	.....
1844-45	18,794	.....	.....

McCulloch's  
Commercial Dic-  
tionary,  
1850. Ar-  
ticle,  
Opium.

TABLE 2.—*Different Species of Indian Opium imported into China.*

YEARS.	Patna and Benares.	Malwa.	Total	Value
	No. of Chests.	No. of Chests.	No. of Chests.	in Dollars.
1816-17	2,670	600	3,270	3,657,000
1817-18	2,530	1,150	3,680	3,904,250
1818-19	3,050	1,530	4,580	4,159,250
1819-20	2,970	1,630	4,600	5,583,200
1820-21	3,050	1,720	4,770	8,400,800
1821-22	2,910	1,718	4,628	8,314,600
1822-23	1,822	4,000	5,822	7,988,930
1823-24	2,910	4,172	7,082	8,575,100
1824-25	2,655	6,000	8,655	7,679,625
1825-26	2,442	6,179	8,621	7,608,205
1826-27	3,661	6,308	9,969	9,610,085
1827-28	5,134	4,401	9,535	10,425,075
1828-29	5,965	7,771	13,736	12,535,115
1829-30	7,143	6,857	14,000	12,057,157
1830-31	6,660	12,100	18,760	11,904,263
1831-32	5,672	7,831	13,503	10,934,695
1832-33	8,167	15,403	23,570	15,322,759
1833-34	8,672	11,114	19,786	13,056,540
1834-35	7,767	8,747	16,514	9,655,010
1835-36	6,173	10,612	16,785	10,539,875
1836-37	8,078	13,430	21,508	14,287,330
1837-38	6,165	13,875	20,040	10,883,157

N.B. During the first ten years of the present century the exports of Opium from India to China averaged about 2500 chests of 149½ lbs. each.—*McCulloch's Com. Dict.* 1850.

TABLE 3.—*Statement exhibiting the Number of Chests of Opium sold in Bengal or exported from Bombay from 1840 to 1849.*

YEARS.	Number of Chests of 164 lbs. each.	Number of Chests of 140 lbs. each.
	Bengal.	Bombay.
1840-41	17,858	16,773
1841-42	18,827	14,681
1842-43	18,362	24,337
1843-44	15,104	13,563
1844-45	18,350	20,660
1845-46	21,437	12,635
1846-47	21,648	18,602
1847-48	30,515	15,485
1848-49	36,000	16,509

Statistical paper  
printed for the  
Court of  
Directors  
of the East  
India  
Company  
in 1853,  
quoted  
from page  
76, Churh.  
Mission-  
ary Intel-  
ligencer,  
April  
1857.



TABLE 4.

*Quantity and Value of Opium exported from Bengal and Bombay in each of the years ending 30th April 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855. (Calculated at 2s the Company's rupee).*

YEARS.	Bengal Chests.	Value.	Bombay Chests.	Value.	Total Chests.	Total value.
		£.		£.		£.
1851	24,162	3,155,075	19,200	2,304,060	43,362	5,459,135
1852	23,274	3,137,781	28,242	3,377,433	52,966	6,515,214
1853	36,178	4,020,094	25,219	3,013,981	61,397	7,034,075
1854	41,917	3,688,963	26,258	2,748,135	68,175	6,437,098
1855*	53,319	3,711,137	27,688	....	81,007	....

Board of  
Trade  
Returns.

Pamphlet  
"The  
Opium  
Revenue  
of India,"  
p. 10.

TABLE 5.

*Quantity and Value of Opium exported from British India, by sea, in the year ending 30th April, 1853, and the countries to which it was sent.*

	Pegue.		China.		Penang, Singapore, Malacca.		Coast of Africa.		Total.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.
Bengal.	28	3,097	31,433	3,482,948	4,717	534,049	nil.	nil.	36,178	4,020,094
Bombay.	nil.	nil.	24,979	2,987,967	239	25,950	1	64	25,219	3,013,981

Board of  
Trade  
Returns.

N.B. The above return does not include the quantities shipped to ports in British India, or to Ceylon.

TABLE 6.

*Gross and net amount of Revenue derived from Opium, and net Revenue from other sources in British India, in each year ending 30th April, from 1840 to 1854.*

Board of  
Trade  
Returns,  
Part I.  
1856,  
p. 13.

YEARS.	OPIUM.			Total net Receipts from other sources.
	Gross Receipts.	Charges.	Net Receipts	
	£	£	£	£
1840	784,266	446,489	337,777	17,029,595
1841	1,430,499	556,221	874,278	17,695,487
1842	1,599,628	580,862	1,018,766	18,447,223
1843	2,087,696	511,114	1,576,582	19,261,739
1844	2,638,766	613,940	2,024,826	20,119,254
1845	2,848,786	667,498	2,181,288	20,154,863
1846	3,578,002	774,652	2,803,350	20,766,111
1847	3,678,207	792,005	2,886,202	22,527,831
1848	2,735,129	1,071,745	1,663,384	21,162,423
1849	3,913,091	1,067,328	2,845,763	21,781,395
1850	4,497,254	966,974	3,530,280	23,917,625
1851	3,795,300	1,044,952	2,750,348	23,904,690
1852	4,259,778	1,120,532	3,139,246	23,945,300
1853	5,088,184	1,370,252	3,717,932	24,376,833
1854	4,777,231	1,418,211	3,359,020	23,681,842

Opium  
Trade  
with  
China.

The opium is conveyed from India to China in well armed, well manned, clipper ships, and of late years even in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's monthly steamers; and on its arrival it is stowed to a great extent in receiving ships, from whence it is conveyed to different parts of the coast, according to the demand. The official returns from the colony of Hong Kong show that as many as 36,499 chests of opium were imported into that island in 1853, and

Board of  
Trade  
Blue  
Book,  
Part I.  
1856,  
p. 361.

46,765 chests in 1854, in the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company.

In order to give an insight into the proportion of legal and illegal trade carried on between the British and Chinese empires, it may be stated, that the value of the opium imported from India is equal to three times the value of all other British imports, (exclusive of bullion and specie,) and that it amounts to three-quarters of the value of all the produce that we receive from China; so that more than half of the whole trade which passes between the two empires is contraband.

Relative  
proportion of  
legal and  
illegal  
traffic.

Such is the nature, and such the extent of the Indian opium trade with China; and such are the leading facts connected with the cultivation of opium in our Indian territories. The Indian Government enjoys what is believed to be an illegal monopoly in producing and manufacturing the drug, specially prepares it for contraband purposes, and, by publicly selling it in Calcutta for the Chinese market, does its best to encourage a lawless race in an unlawful calling. It must next be stated what are the effects of this opium upon the Chinese, and what means the Chinese Government has adopted to prevent its importation.

Well known as a valuable medicine, opium is in many countries employed as a narcotic, but when thus used it has always produced lamentable effects upon its votaries. It is sometimes eaten and

Effects of  
opium.



sometimes smoked, the effect being somewhat similar in both cases ; but the process of smoking produces a more immediate result, and appears to be more seductive and more hurtful than that of eating it. It has been stated that opium smoking and alcohol drinking may be considered much in the same light, and that opium smoking is in one respect the lesser of the two evils, inasmuch as the alcohol drinker is led on to criminal actions, and is an offence to society, while the opium smoker stupifies himself, and is harmless to his neighbours. But this is not altogether correct. Opium has exciting qualities, though not to the same extent as alcohol ; the want of it to a regular opium eater, or opium smoker, leads to the commission of the worst crimes, as well as the use of it ; and it acts differently upon different dispositions and temperaments, and according to the amount of the dose. We may see in this country, and unfortunately too often, some stupid, others furious, and others again who are amusing under the influence of alcohol ; and, in fact, any qualities that a man may happen to possess are liable to be exaggerated when he is intoxicated. So also in other countries may be seen the Tartar, who, by the use of the stimulant opium, is enabled to perform enormous journeys upon scanty fare and without rest ; and the “Cut-chee” horseman who shares his store of opium with “his flagging steed.” We read of the excitement of the Malay, and also of the Javanese, who rushed

“Chemistry of  
Common  
Life.”  
Johnston,  
vol. ii.  
p. 71.

under its influence upon the pike's point, and continued fighting with the weapon in his body, utterly regardless of his wounds. We hear that in 1840, "one-half of the crime in the opium districts (of India), murders, rapes, and affrays, had their origin in opium eating." We are told that confirmed opium eaters will commit any crime, will sell their wives and property, and even be guilty of murder, in order to obtain their accustomed dose.

Mr. Sim's letter of 13 March, 1840, p. 18, Genl. Alexander's first pamphlet.

Vide p. 22.

There are strong reasons why alcohol cannot compare with opium in regard to the injury which it inflicts. Alcohol is taken by whole nations in various forms, and is productive, no doubt, of much crime and evil: but a state of habitual, constant drunkenness, is the exception amongst those who drink spirituous liquors. Opium is indulged in by vast numbers of Chinese, Indians, and others; but the exceptions amongst its votaries appear to be those who can eat it, or, more particularly, smoke it for any length of time in moderation, and without becoming more or less victims to it. Alcohol affords, in different forms, a luxurious beverage, and sometimes a beneficial, and even a necessary one. Opium is only admissible as a medicine, and the constant use of it for other than strictly medicinal purposes, is a vice. A regular partaker of beer, wine, or other spirits, may be, and is generally, a sober man; and he can give up his stimulants at any time, when it may be necessary for him to do so; but the

Alcohol and opium compared.

P. 5, Mr.  
Matthe-  
son's  
pamphlet,  
1857.

opium smoker, when once he has become habituated to the practice, loses his life if suddenly deprived of his drug, and can only be broken of the habit by means of such an ordeal as few can be induced to undergo, however much they may lament the vice that possesses them, and fear its ultimate consequences. The Rev. Carstairs Douglas, of Amoy, in writing to England in 1856, stated that so many of these unhappy opium smokers were anxious to give up the habit, that the manufacture and sale of pills which somewhat assisted the attempt to abstain from it, covered the necessary expenses of the mission. The only fair comparison between alcohol and opium is, as has often been stated, that which places the habitual drunkard, and not the habitual partaker of wine, beer, or spirits, in moderation, on a par with the regular opium smoker.

It is impossible to do more here than lay before the reader a few extracts from the writings of those who have testified to the effects of opium; but further evidence on this subject will be found in the several works which are referred to at the end of the present pamphlet; and under the head of Narcotics, in Johnston's "Chemistry of Common Life," may be seen an able and impartial description of opium and its effects.

Forbes—  
"Five  
Years in  
China,"  
p. 347.

In an official report, dated Hong Kong, 8th August, 1845, Mr. Consul Alcock says, "The use of  
" it (opium) in China seems to extend to the very



“lowest classes ; coolies and even beggars are in  
 “the habit of taking a pipe, though it may often be  
 “at the price of their meal of rice. They allege  
 “that having once commenced the practice, they  
 “become unable to follow their avocations if the daily  
 “stimulus be withdrawn.”

A Chinese paper says :—

“I have learned that those who smoke opium,  
 “and eventually become its victims, have a periodi-  
 “cal longing for it, which can only be assuaged by  
 “the application of the drug at the regular time.  
 “If they cannot obtain it when that daily period  
 “arrives their limbs become debilitated, a discharge  
 “of rheum takes place from the eyes and nose, and  
 “they are altogether unequal to any exertion ; but  
 “with a few whiffs their spirits and strength are  
 “immediately restored in a surprising manner.  
 “Thus opium becomes to opium smokers their very  
 “life : and when they are seized and brought before  
 “the magistrates, they will sooner suffer a severe  
 “chastisement than inform against those who sell  
 “it.”

Davis's  
 Chinese,  
 pub. 1846,  
 vol. iii. p.  
 204.

A quotation in No. 52 of the North British  
 Review is thus given :—

“There is no slavery on earth to be compared  
 “with the bondage into which opium casts its victim.  
 “There is scarcely one known escape from its toils,  
 “when once they have fairly enveloped a man.”

“Chinese  
 Repository,” for  
 1836,  
 quoted in  
 Dr. Allen's  
 pamphlet.

Mr. Marjoribanks, who was president of the select  
 “Rise and  
 progress

of British committee at Canton, is thus quoted by General  
 opium  
 smug-  
 gling,"  
 p. 60.

Alexander:—

“Opium can only be regarded, except when used  
 “as a medicine, as a most pernicious poison. To  
 “any friend of humanity it is a painful subject of  
 “contemplation that we should continue to pour  
 “this black and envenomed poison into the sources  
 “of human happiness. The misery and demoralization  
 “occasioned by it are almost beyond belief.  
 “Any man who has witnessed its frightful ravages  
 “and demoralizing effects in China, must feel deeply  
 “on this subject.”

Mr. Bruce, too, the Superintendent of the tea  
 plantation in Assam, was quoted in 1840, and has  
 several times been quoted since, in proof of the evils  
 that opium has inflicted upon Assam. Amongst  
 other statements on the subject he makes the following:—

“Few but those who have resided long in this  
 “unhappy country know the dreadful and immoral  
 “effects which the use of opium produces on the  
 “native. He will steal, sell his property, his children,  
 “the mother of his children, and, finally, even  
 “commit murder for it;” also, “That dreadful  
 “plague (opium) which has depopulated this beautiful  
 “country . . . . And has degenerated  
 “the Assamese from a fine race of people, to the  
 “most abject, servile, crafty, and demoralized race in  
 “India.”

“The  
 opium

The author of a pamphlet published in the course

of the present year, for the express purpose of supporting the opium monopoly, says :—

revenue  
of India,"  
p. 8.

"The condition of the Rajpoots of Central India is universally held up as an evidence of the demoralizing, enervating, life-destroying effect of this "drug."

These extracts have been given as bearing most strongly against the use of opium as a narcotic ; and it is only right to add, on the other side, that Mr. Meadows, Dr. Burnes, Dr. Eatwell, and others who have seen much of those who use opium, represent that it does not produce such bad effects as have been attributed to it, and that it appears to be used without much ill effect by great numbers of people. Mr. Meadows, however, who is our latest authority, admits that the "daily whiff," *must* be obtained when the habit has been once contracted ; and that the Chinese Court, the Opium merchants, and the Tae Ping rebels, equally discourage the use of opium amongst their own people ; as well as that he "never heard opium smokers, themselves, justify the practice."

Opinions  
in favour  
of the use  
of opium  
as a nar-  
cotic.

Meadows,  
"Chinese  
and their  
rebel-  
lions," p.  
487.

The bad effects *may* have been exaggerated by many who have written on the subject ; but few who take the trouble to study the evidence on both sides of the question, and seriously to consider it, will have any doubt that the use of opium as a narcotic, is an ensnaring, a seductive, and a deleterious habit ; and most Englishmen would deeply regret to hear that there was a prospect of its being

Conclu-  
sions  
from the  
above.



brought into constant use amongst any class of their own countrymen. The right-thinker and the true Christian, also, of whatever nation, must deeply lament the spread of such a vice, either in his own or in any other country, and must regard with but little respect those who, for the sake of pecuniary profit, promote, and, still more, are employed in increasing the evils which it occasions.

The  
opium  
war.

But, what are *we* doing? For more than fifty years our fellow-countrymen have been engaged in smuggling this pernicious drug into China, in direct opposition to the wishes and utmost efforts of the Chinese Government. Ever since the year 1800 the trade has been contraband; but the annual importations from British India into China have gradually increased from 2000 up to 80,000 chests. By the year 1834 the trade had assumed a regular character, and the Chinese Government had become much alarmed, both on account of the increased consumption of the drug, and in consequence of the drain of silver which it occasioned. They therefore made strenuous efforts to put a stop to it; and the violent measures which they adopted—in publicly strangling one of their own subjects in front of the Canton foreign factories for participation in the trade; in virtually imprisoning the British merchants, as well as the Chief Superintendent of Trade, who hastened to their rescue; and in destroying 20,000 chests of opium which they induced him to deliver up to them;—were the principal causes that led to the Chinese war of 1841-2.

We were successful in that war; we upheld our smugglers with a strong hand; we made the Chinese pay for the opium that they had destroyed; and we still furnish them with the same "black dirt," as they call it, in continually increasing quantities. Its result.

Since the termination of that war the Chinese authorities have made no great effort against the opium traffic. Torn by internal dissensions, and in want of money, they are powerless to prevent, and are even compelled to allow their mandarins to profit by encouraging it; and the result is, that it has acquired more than three times the dimensions it had at the time of that war, and has almost assumed the appearance of a regular authorised trade. State of the opium trade since the war of 1841-2. British merchants of great respectability are engaged in it, and we are even told that if they did not join in it they would be unable to compete with their neighbours, and would be compelled to leave China altogether. Matthe-son, p. 16. This helplessness on the part of the Chinese cannot, however, be brought forward as any excuse for ourselves. On the contrary, the greater their inability to carry out their just prohibition against an injurious trade, the more blameable and the less worthy of the British nation is our infringement of it.

The Chinese have been accused of insincerity in their attempts to put down this traffic; and it has been alleged against them that they cared not so much for the opium that was imported, as for the silver that went out of the country to pay for it; as Disinterested conduct of the Chinese.

well as that, after having once prohibited it, their pride alone has prevented them from retracting that prohibition. But the arguments that have been brought forward in reply to this accusation are of an overpowering nature. It is stated, on the other hand, that if the Chinese Government had chosen to legalise the admission of opium upon payment of a fixed duty, they might all along have made a large revenue out of it; that if they had not most materially checked the growth of the poppy in their own country, enough opium might have been produced there, at one-fifth of the price they now pay for it, for internal consumption; and that the drain of silver that they so lamented might thus have been effectually stopped. Looking at their conduct in this light, it would really appear that their efforts have been most disinterested, and that they have patriotically and persistingly striven, to their own detriment, and solely for the good of their people, to check a national evil of vital importance. The well known reply of the Chinese Emperor is deeply striking:—"It is true, I cannot prevent the introduction of the flowing poison; gain-seeking and corrupt men will, for profit and sensuality, defeat my wishes; but nothing will induce me to derive a revenue from the vice and misery of my people."

Dr. Morrison says, too, on this subject:—

Quoted in "Davis's Chinese," vol. i. p. 114. "It is a principle of the Chinese Government not to licence what they condemn as immoral. I know they glory in the superiority, as to principle,

*Vide Narrative of Rev. G. Smith, present Bishop of Victoria, quoted by Gen. Alexander, p. 63.*



“of their own Government, and scorn the Christian Governments that tolerate these vices, and convert them into a source of pecuniary advantage, or public revenue.”

How different our own conduct! While the Chinese Emperor has been so largely sacrificing pecuniary interests to his people's welfare, our Indian Government has been involving our countrymen in, and inciting them to, a smuggling trade; has been sacrificing its native subjects, and has been itself flavouring the pernicious substance, so as to make it as tempting as possible to its wretched customers. How great, too, our ingratitude! The Chinese furnish us with the most harmless, the most refreshing, the most pleasant, for constant use, of all beverages—with a beverage which is equally appreciated by our young sportsmen in distant countries, and our old women at home—which is in almost universal use amongst us, which we designate proverbially as the “cup that cheers but not inebriates,” and the loss of which to our poorer classes would be one of the greatest evils that a general war could produce: they thus contribute largely to our comforts, and even to our daily necessities, and we smuggle into their country, in return, a drug which is poisoning more or less slowly vast numbers of their people.

It is, of course, impossible to determine the exact number of regular opium smokers in China, or the number of smokers of Indian opium. But an approximation to these numbers has been already given

Our different policy and conduct.

Vide ante p. 19, line 5, *et seq.*

The amount of the injury to the Chinese.

at page 11, where it appears that, allowing 20 grains a day for an average smoker, the Bengal monopoly of the Indian Government would supply 3,200,000 victims, and the Bombay opium 1,500,000 more. It may therefore be estimated that the Indian opium is continually in process of poisoning 4,700,000 Chinese. The average life of an opium smoker is stated at 10 years, after he has contracted the habit ; but, if twice that term of life be allowed him, it may even then be further estimated that the Indian Government, with the Bengal monopoly alone, kills its customers at the rate of 160,000 a year, and derives a net profit of £14 from each victim during his 20 years of opium smoking existence. But this is not all, for the evil is an increasing one. It has increased forty-fold in the last half century, four-fold in the last 20 years, and two-fold in the last 10 years ; and the production of the Government monopoly has been more than doubled in the last four years. If the evil be not now checked, it is impossible to estimate to what further extent it may be made to grow.

Profession and practice of Indian Government.

Mattheson, p. 18.

This, then, is the Christian forbearance that has guided for a series of years the policy of those who have administered our Indian Government, and this the respect that they have shown for the rights and liberties of the Chinese nation. They expressly stated in 1834 that they retained the opium monopoly, not so much for the purpose of revenue, as to restrain the use of this pernicious

drug. They said, " Were it possible to prevent the <sup>Alexander, p. 80.</sup> use of the drug altogether, except strictly for the " purpose of medicine, we would gladly do it in com- " passion to mankind ;" but between 1834 and 1857 they have nearly quadrupled their exportation.

In spite of the struggles that the Chinese autho- <sup>Their present</sup> rities formerly made to avoid the ruin thus brought policy. upon their country, and fifteen years after the termination of the war which was mainly caused by their violent efforts to stop the contraband importation of opium, the Indian Government still persists—not merely in winking at, or tacitly permitting, but absolutely in conducting the manufacture of this drug, for the express purpose of selling it to those who import it into their helpless country. There can be no question about this fact, no dispute about it. The opium thus manufactured by the Indian Government is quite different from that which is prepared for medicine. In this case, let it be repeated, they flavour the drug in the most tempting manner, and make it as attractive as possible ; they prepare it in the most approved form for smuggling, that it may elude what little vigilance and opposition the Chinese Government is yet able to exercise ; they thus encourage and enable those to whom they sell it to carry on an illegal, a hurtful, and an iniquitous trade, little less demoralizing to those employed in it than it is destructive to their Chinese victims ; and they depend upon opium receipts for a sixth part of their whole revenue.



Its ten-  
dency.

Could Commissioner Yeh disgrace the British Empire, or dishonour the British Flag, to the same extent, by any means within his power? Does not the Indian Government, by persisting in, increasing, and profiting by, this wretched traffic, do more to dishonour the British name, to demoralize British commerce, and to injure Christ's religion, than all that the Chinese Commissioner has done, or can do? Does it not do more real permanent injury to the British nation, than all the insults that all the nations of the world could offer us?

Official  
opinion.

The Noble Lord now at the head of Her Majesty's Government once wrote as follows on the subject of the opium trade :—" No protection can be afforded to enable British subjects to violate the laws of the country to which they trade." That principle has since been departed from ; let it now be returned to ; let us no longer permit our Indian Government to act in opposition to it, or promote its violation. Captain Elliot, who was Her Majesty's Superintendent of Trade at Canton, said in a despatch to his own Government, " No man entertains a deeper detestation of the disgrace and sin of this forced traffic on the coast of China than the humble individual who signs this despatch. I see little to choose between it and piracy." But since this despatch was written the traffic referred to has more than trebled in amount, and it has become, therefore, the more important that some steps should be taken in regard to it.

Alexan-  
der, p. 35.

Ibid.  
p. 62.

The Spaniards have prohibited the export of opium to China from Manilla, the Dutch from Batavia. Conduct of other countries. The Americans, who are, in common with ourselves, under treaty to prohibit the smuggling of opium into China, do not employ their clippers in this trade.... It is the British flag—the flag that ought to be the sign of civilization, honour, and Christianity—the flag that we all love—the flag that we wish others to respect, which is thus dishonoured. We are right to love our flag, we are right to cause it to be respected; but we should also be particular about what it covers and protects. The Chinese now fear not opium from other countries, nor under other colours. The “Union Jack” is its protector in the waters of Canton, the British ensign its emblem on the coasts of China. Every vessel under British colours is associated by the Chinese with the demoralization and ruin of their country; every British subject reminds them of the drug which he represents. All good Chinese, Imperialists as well as Insurrectionists, dislike the British, who bring ruin to so many of their countrymen; and all bad ones hate the British, by whom they are ruined. The merchant is cursed for it, the man is detested for it, the missionary is reproached for it, and applied to for remedies to counteract it. Let Englishmen reflect on these things, and approve them if they can. Alexander, p. 69.

The British and Chinese empires contain together more than half the population of the whole world; the former possessing 200,000,000, and the latter Chinese feelings towards the British. Our Merchants and our Missionaries.

from 350 to 400,000,000 inhabitants ; an eighth part of the former being Protestants, and hardly any of the latter Christians. To the nation which has given its name to the former, has been entrusted the privilege, the responsibility, the duty, of extending civilization, and promoting Christianity. The people of the latter, ignorant, though highly educated, and barbarous, though old in civilization, vast in number, and capable of great utilities and mighty improvements, present the largest, the most unoccupied, the most fertile field for the exercise of these duties, responsibilities, and privileges. In obedience to their destiny, our countrymen visit China either as merchants or missionaries ; either in the cause of commerce, or in that of Christianity ; either for their own pecuniary profits, or for the religious benefit of their fellow-creatures. In the capacity of merchants, they are engaged in a most useful and highly honourable calling, so long as they obey the just laws of the country with which they trade, promote friendly intercourse with it, and tend to improve the condition of its inhabitants ; but they bring discredit on their profession, and disgrace on their nation, when they infringe those just laws, and injure those inhabitants. As zealous missionaries, they receive but little of this world's goods, but they are honoured by all good men, and they look for a higher reward.

Their  
respective  
doings.

It is of the greatest importance to ourselves as a nation to consider well the proceedings of our coun-



trymen in this distant part of the globe. Our merchants are amassing wealth there:—are they doing so with advantage to themselves and their customers? Our missionaries are engaged in their holier calling:—what are the principal difficulties in their path? Let us answer these questions fairly, and without exaggeration. The merchants are amongst the most respectable of their class, and they rank high in our commercial nation; but they carry on a trade, half of which is illegal; they procure from the Chinese that which is most beneficial, and has become a necessity to us; and they supply to them, in return, in large and increasing quantities, a substance which is hurtful, and even destructive to them as individuals, and demoralizing to them as a nation. The missionaries complain, and apparently with great justice, not that the Chinese will not hear them, not that their task is rendered impossible by the laws, customs, or insensibility of the Chinese themselves; but that the almost overwhelming difficulties which they encounter, are placed before them by their own countrymen; that the opium manufactured by the Indian Government, carried to the coasts of China in British vessels, and supplied by British merchants, has so awful an effect upon the minds and bodies of those to whom they preach, and prejudices the minds of their would-be-converts so strongly against everything coming from their country, that their task becomes nearly an impossible one. Dr.

"China, its State and Prospects."—Medhurst, p. 91.

Medhurst tells us, that "almost the first word uttered by a native, when urged to believe in Christ, is, 'Why do Christians bring us opium, and bring it directly in defiance of our own laws? That vile drug has poisoned my son, has ruined my brother, and well nigh led me to beggar my wife and children. Surely those who import such a deleterious substance, and injure me for the sake of gain, cannot wish me well, or be in possession of a religion that is better than my own. Go, first, and persuade your own countrymen to relinquish this nefarious traffic; and give me a prescription to correct this vile habit, and then I will listen to your exhortations on the subject of Christianity.'" The statement of the Amoy missionary, who provided for the necessary expenses

Vide p. 20. of his mission by the sale of pills which he manufactured, which somewhat assisted the attempt to

give up opium smoking, has already been quoted. The Rev. W. Welton, also, writing in Feb. 1856, says, "When recommending Gospel truth to this people, we are constantly taunted with being the introducers of this noxious drug; and when we endeavour to dissuade them from the use of it, they say, 'You bring it to us, and yet tell us not to use it,' venting their indignation at our apparent hypocrisy in so doing; and it is very difficult to convince them of the contrary." The same gentleman, alluding to the evils and effects of opium smoking, and the physic which he also employed to assist the victims to break them-

Quoted at p. 85, No. 4, vol. viii. of Church Missionary Intelligencer.

selves of it, says, "This has given me more influence among the Chinese than all my other practice combined. The natives themselves are Ibid.p. 81. most anxious to devise means to relinquish the habit, without suffering the dreadful and distressing bodily ailments and symptoms already detailed. In proof of this, at the time I write this, numerous handbills are posted in every direction in the streets, pretending to have discovered some such precious antidotes to the evil effects of the drug. Empirics, as in England and America, avail themselves of the credulity and urgent necessities of their countrymen, by advertising a nostrum for the evils of this vice, pretending to be derived from America, Spain, India, the Red Haired Country, Western Ocean Country, &c. Handbills for six of these different nostrums are now to be seen in the streets and suburbs of this city; and the natives tell us missionaries how anxious they are to be rid of this appalling vice, and ask whether these pretended nostrums, with our country's name and letters attached, are genuine. I have had the anxious, solicitous wife accompany the husband, enfeebled by the practice of opium smoking to my house, to see him deposit the opium pipe with me, and obtain the remedy; and then leave with joy at the prospect of being freed from the greatest of all curses. I have seen the husband dying with incurable diarrhoea, induced by the inability to obtain the drug any



“ longer, the poor surviving wife left to earn a scanty  
 “ pittance by making baskets. Missionaries never  
 “ commend themselves nor their work to the Chinese  
 “ in so favourable a light as when they denounce  
 “ the evil of opium smoking, and exhort them to  
 “ desist from it. The interest upon such occasions  
 “ is genuine, and accompanied by earnest requests  
 “ whether the missionary has medicine to aid in  
 “ breaking off the habit. Missionaries find, as the  
 “ Chinese declare and fully know, that those who  
 “ smoke opium are useless as servants, or in busi-  
 “ ness, or in any responsible situation, and cannot  
 “ be trusted or depended upon. A person engaged  
 “ in the sale of opium at this port, an Englishman,  
 “ lately told me that he would not keep a servant,  
 “ *i.e.* a native, whom he knew to smoke opium, as  
 “ one quite unworthy of credit and confidence.”

Religious  
 bearing  
 of the  
 question.

Unfortunately, there can be no manner of doubt  
 that our merchants are spreading vice in China, by  
 means of opium, much more rapidly and more ex-  
 tensively than our missionaries can introduce anti-  
 dotes to it, either physical or moral. Our country-  
 men at present go to China “ with their Bible in  
 one hand and their opium in the other.” They  
 teach the Chinese, amongst the other command-  
 ments, “Thou shalt do no murder,” but they pro-  
 vide them with a drug which, as Dr. Medhurst  
 says, and as all other testimony goes to prove,  
 “annually destroys myriads of individuals.” They  
 teach them to say, “Lead us not into temptation,”

Medhurst,  
 p. 84.

while they are pandering to their vices. They preach to them, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," Matt. xix. 19. while they shew to them that they care much for their money and little for their lives. They proclaim to them, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink," while they present to them the means of intoxication. Hab. ii. 15. They tell them not to "do evil that good may come," while they themselves do evil that Rom. iii. 8. money may come. They echo to them the memorable words, "It must needs be that offences come, Matt. xviii. 7. but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh;" and at the same time they appear before them in the character of gross, unmistakable, persevering public offenders, against principles human and divine. Truly, the individuals who persist in this course will receive their rewards: the missionaries, for the good they have preached; the manufacturers, the merchants, and the speculators, for the evil they have practised; and the nation, itself, which knowingly allows this course to be continued, and neglects to employ the constitutional means within its power for stopping it, must not expect to escape the just vengeance of an avenging Providence.

It will be seen by the following paragraph that Opium at Sarawak. opium smuggling is believed to have been the immediate cause of the horrible transactions at Sarawak, of which the news has just reached us:—

"The immediate cause of this frightful attempt "The Times," "to destroy the whole of the Government European 29 April, 1857,

quoted  
from the  
"Straits"  
Times"  
of 21  
March,  
1857 ;

" authorities at Sarawak, is stated to be the stringent  
" measures which Sir James Brook has found it  
" expedient to adopt, to prevent opium smuggling.  
" Some heavy fines have been levied on the smug-  
" glers, the amount being paid by the Kungsi, and  
" latterly some of the offenders have been impri-  
" soned ; but these seem scarcely sufficient to ac-  
" count for such ruthless slaughter and destruction,  
" not sparing age or sex."

and Mel-  
bourne.

And the latest accounts from Australia bring  
news of an " opium question " there also. The fol-  
lowing letter on the subject appears in the " Mel-  
bourne Argus " of the 20th December, 1856 :—

" Sir,—There has been a great deal written and  
" said about the propriety of imposing a heavy duty  
" on opium imported into this colony, and there  
" seems to be a certainty that Government contem-  
" plates a measure of this kind. I should be sorry  
" to see opium taxed merely because its chief, and  
" almost only, consumers are Chinamen, but I would  
" heartily applaud the total prohibition of this ener-  
" vating drug, on account of its demoralizing influ-  
" ence both on mind and body.

" Is it in the delicious swoons produced by this  
" infamous drug that our missionaries and advocates  
" of the Gospel expect to convert to Christianity the  
" infidel hordes now squatted on our shores ?

" Mauritius, with her numerous Malay and Chi-  
" nese population, might add considerably to her  
" revenue by admitting duty-paid opium : but, con-



“scious of the evil produced by its use, she strictly  
“prohibits its introduction.

“The punishment for smuggling, as you are  
“aware, is very severe there; and any captain  
“caught in the act not only forfeits his ship, but is  
“sent on the roads for several years.

“Is there no one here who would agitate this  
“most important question? It seems to me that a  
“law to this effect could meet with no opposition,  
“either on the part of our Legislature or the public.

“Feeling confident that by mootng this question  
“you will confer a lasting benefit, not only on the  
“colony generally, but also on the well disposed  
“portion of our Chinese population, I trust that the  
“suggestion may find a place in your valuable  
“columns.—I remain, Sir, &c. &c.

“VOX POPULI.

“Melbourne, Dec. 13th, 1856.”

As no account of opium admitted into the Mauritius Government in-  
appears in the statistical returns of that colony, the consis-  
above statement in regard to it would appear to be tency.  
true. Shall we deny to the Chinese that privilege of  
prohibiting the importation of opium which we exer-  
cise ourselves, through the Colonial Government of  
the Mauritius, for the good of our subjects there? Is  
it not a strange anomaly that one branch of our Im-  
perial Government should be occupied in excluding  
from one portion of our empire, on account of its  
hurtfulness, a substance which is manufactured for  
the sake of profit by another branch of our Imperial  
Government?

Speech to  
consti-  
tuents,  
*vide*  
"Times,"  
24 March,  
1857.

The noble words of our noble Premier still ring in the ears of the country. "I also," said he, "want Peace, but I want Peace with honour and safety, Peace with the maintenance of national rights, Peace with security to our fellow-countrymen in foreign lands." England wants all this, and even more than this. England wants also

Our duty  
towards  
the Chi-  
nese.

peace with *international* honour, peace with *international* justice. All her good patriots wish England to fulfil her *highest* destinies, and not to be content with providing for her national rights, while she persists in her national wrongs. No, let her by all means secure her national rights—there is fortunately little fear at present of her not doing so—but let her also avoid all wrong to other nations. She does so in the case of the strong, let her do so also in the case of the weak. Lord Clarendon judiciously refrained from doing all that he might have done, in order to avoid the risk of giving offence to the Government of the United States, when recruits were required for the Russian war ; let him now adopt a similar policy when it becomes his duty to conclude a Chinese peace. Let him declare to the Chinese victims of the Indian Government, that their case has at length been favourably considered ; that from this time forth, the importation of opium into China from British India will gradually cease. Our Ambassador will otherwise be placed in a false position, when it becomes his duty to enter upon terms of peace : for thus, and thus only, can we have peace with honour to our country.

The first step that should be taken is an obvious one. As the Government monopoly for the manufacture of opium in India is a disgrace to us as a nation, so we should as a nation unite for its suppression. No question of revenue, no question of policy, should be allowed to influence us in the matter. The monopoly is a grievous national sin, and a grievous international wrong: therefore it should be put down: therefore a limit should be assigned to it: therefore it should be decreed, that in—say five years time, it should be no more. The Indian Government has no just claim to compensation. It has inflicted a grievous injury upon its own subjects, and upon the Chinese, for a number of years, and it should be compelled to refrain from such a course for the future. If any compensation be due in the matter, it is from the Indian Government itself, for the wrong it has so long persevered in.

Not a poppy can be grown in British India without the permission of the Indian Government; and the next object, as well for the sake of our Indian population, as for their Chinese customers, is to prevent all cultivation of the poppy, and manufacture of opium, for other than medicinal purposes.

The exportation of Malwa opium from Bombay, is also under the control of the Indian Government; and the third step to be taken, is gradually to put a stop to this branch of traffic. It should be limited to,—say 10 years, after which time all exportation of

Course to  
be adop-  
ted.

Monopoly  
to be  
abolished.

Vide p.11.

Cultiva-  
tion to be  
checked.

Exporta-  
tion to  
cease.



Minute,  
quoted  
North  
British  
Review.  
Feb. 1857,  
p. 537.

opium from British India should cease. The £3,250,000 of net revenue that the East India Company would thus lose, should be made up, partly by more honest means, and better employment of the 400,000 acres which are now under poppy cultivation; and, for the rest, Lord Dalhousie's advice should be adopted, loans of British capital should be properly invited and freely obtained, and it should no longer be attempted to defray out of the income of the Indian Empire the expense of "the innumerable and gigantic works which are necessary to its due improvement." The opium monopoly, the opium cultivation, and the opium exportation, are a sin and a wrong. They should cease.

Probable  
effect on  
the  
Chinese.

The Chinese are well aware that the manufacture of opium in Central India is a Government monopoly, and a large source of revenue. Such knowledge is intensely aggravating to them; and it would be the greatest satisfaction to them to be informed that the monopoly was about to cease, and the exportation from British India to be checked. If, therefore, they were informed of these facts, it is by no means improbable that they would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity that would be thus afforded them, of saving their pride, and benefiting their people; and that they might be induced to admit, upon payment of duty, for the next few years, the opium that they cannot keep out of their country. If such duty were not fixed at too high a rate, smuggling would be no longer advantageous,

and would necessarily cease ; and a great obstacle to amicable intercourse would be removed. But, even if the Chinese should refuse to consent to such an arrangement, the duty of gradually putting a stop to the opium monopoly, and gradually suppressing the growth of the poppy, and the exportation of opium, is not a whit the less imperative upon the British nation. The first step to be taken, therefore, is the abolition of the Government monopoly ; the second, the gradual cessation and final prohibition of the cultivation of the poppy ; and the third, the prevention, by degrees, of the exportation of opium from British territory.

It would appear, then, that an occasion has arrived, Summary  
on which this opium question may be most appropriately re-discussed. Hostilities having broken out, a new treaty with China will be required. The British nation has, through its Indian Government, been manufacturing opium, for a series of years, for Chinese smoking ; and its subjects have been conveying it to the Chinese coast, for the supply of a contraband trade. It has thus been inflicting a grievous wrong, and an illegal injury upon the helpless Chinese people. It has supplied the means for breaking, and the temptation to evade the Chinese laws, and it has pandered to the vices which consume great numbers of the Chinese inhabitants. It will now be afforded an opportunity of gracefully declaring, in the plenitude of power, and in the hour of victory, that such a course shall no longer

be pursued. It would thus act in a manner creditable to itself, and extricate itself from the false and unworthy position which it at present occupies ; and it would thus, also, in all probability, conciliate the Chinese, and form relations with them more amicable than any which it has hitherto been found possible to establish.

Conclu-  
sion.

So long as the opium stumbling-block remains, the Chinese cannot but look upon us with deep feelings of animosity : they must regard us as their bitterest enemies, individually and nationally. It can never be otherwise, whether the reign of the present dynasty be continued, or whether the insurrectionists gain the upper hand. For every genuine reason of state policy, for the sake of humanity, for the cause of legitimate commerce, for the honour of the country, for consistency of religious profession, on every other account but that of temporary pecuniary profit, this offence should be discontinued. Unite, then, my countrymen, as a nation, for its suppression ! You, who have done so much towards abolishing the trade in negro bodies, let it be your object and your pleasure, as it is your duty, to put an end to a traffic which has such pernicious effects, mentally and physically, on a considerable proportion of the vast Chinese nation. Employ all the constitutional means that are placed within your reach, for this great object ; and you cannot but succeed. If your voice be lifted up, it will at once be heard. You will thus have the satisfaction of



promoting amicable intercourse between the two nations which together form half the population of the world; of extending commerce between them; and of assisting, more than by any other means in your power, in the spread of the Gospel from the 25,000,000 Protestants, that your own empire now contains, to the 350,000,000 subjects of the empire with which you are at war.

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The following recent publications on the subject of the Opium Trade are recommended for perusal.

“The Rise and Progress of British Opium Smuggling,” by Major-General Alexander. Judd and Glass, Paternoster Row.

“Contraband Opium Smuggling,” by the same. Seeley, Jackson and Haliday.

“What is the Opium Trade,” by Donald Mattheson, Esq. Hamilton, Adams and Co.

“The Trade in Opium,” article in the North British Review, No. LII.

“The Opium Question,” article in the Church Missionary Intelligencer for April 1857.

And particularly,

“The Opium Revenue of India,” published by Wm. Allen and Co. Leadenhall Street, with the replies to it which have been published by Major-General Alexander and Mr. Lewin.



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