

us to rebuke and rectify the evil at any cost of self-denial. Thus we have not only the meaning of the Master's life, but also a light shed upon our own way, making the subject of great practical value as affecting our true relations to Christ and His cause; and as determining our duty in respect to any widespread evil of our day. The value of Christ's life is that it exhibits great ruling principles, and He leaves it to the intelligence and loyalty of His followers to apply them willingly and faithfully to the particular circumstances of their own times.—*Christian Miscellany*.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC IN CHINA AND THE OPIUM VICE IN AMERICA.*

Of course we do not charge Great Britain with the first introduction of the opium vice into China, except on the middle and northern seaboard in the way already indicated. For fifty years or more before Warren Hastings sent his two heavily-armed opium ships to Chinese waters, the Portuguese had taken about two hundred chests of the drug annually to Macao, where duty was paid on it as medicine, it being used, as we have shown, to some extent, in some parts of China, medicinally. Some of the Chinese had learned also to smoke it before the arrival of the British ships, and the Government had prohibited the new vice. The indictment drawn up by well-informed assailants of the traffic could not perhaps be better stated than in the words of the Rev. Storrs Turner, the able Secretary for the Suppression of the Opium Traffic:—

"The charge brought against us is that when the opium vice in China was in the early stage in which we see it now in America, and when the Chinese rulers were endeavouring to extinguish it in its first beginnings, as the Government of New York and California are now doing in their states, we (the British nation) stepped in to furnish the supply for the vice, in violation of Chinese law, and have continued this infamous support by bribery, smuggling, war, and diplomacy, ever since, during which time the vice has rooted itself firmly in the soil, and overspread the land."†

In a debate in the House of Commons, the Marquis of Hartington admitted that if the Government, of which he was a member, were to establish a vast distillery for the purpose of supplying England with intoxicating liquors it would be acting like the Viceroy and his Council in

* From the second and enlarged edition of *Opium*.—*England's Coercive Opium Policy, and its Disastrous Results in China and India; the Spread of Opium-Smoking in America*. By the REV. JOHN LIGGINS. New York. Funk & Wagnalls, 1883. Price 10 cents.

We have already commended this very important and timely book. It is highly approved, and its wide circulation advocated by Bishop Stevens, who has visited China; by S. Wells Williams, LL.D., who has resided there forty-three years, and by other distinguished persons. Mr. Liggins was for many years a missionary in China, and became convinced that nothing so prevents the progress of the Gospel as the vile opium habit.

† *Friend of China*, November, 1882.