

used by the human race, opium is, on the whole, the most pernicious. It not only injures the physical system, but has a peculiar effect upon the brain, perverting the moral sensibilities, and permanently confusing, in the patient's mind, the distinctions between right and wrong, truth and falsehood." Thus opium deadens its victim to all appeals and makes him unable to respond to Christian truth and friendly pleading.

In view of all these facts, is it not evident that the Chinese need the gospel? Their good traits of character are perverted by their many sins. Anger and lying, cheating and stealing, wine-drinking and gambling, obscenity and lasciviousness, malice, revenge, cruelty, and opium-smoking have defaced the fair image of God, in which they were created, and have reduced them to a most deplorable state of degradation and misery. They need—oh, how greatly they need—the forgiving mercy of God and the compassion and help of all true Christians!

Thirdly, I must tell you briefly their character as redeemed by Christ, and what has been done for them already. The gospel bears fruit among them, as it does in all the world. Their repentance and faith are proved to be sincere by the change that takes place in their lives. One of our native preachers was once addicted to gambling, and another used opium, but both have lived irreproachable Christian lives for many years. The converts destroy their idols, study the Bible, learn to sing and pray, and testify for Christ among their neighbors and friends. They are generally truthful and honest, in which respects they are very different from the heathen. We find that Christian servants do not cheat us, nor steal our goods, as heathen servants do. The members of our church have a good reputation for paying up their debts; whereas the heathen have to be dunned repeatedly, and

always avoid paying if they possibly can. Christian faith, in greater or less degree, frees the converts from superstition and from the fear of death. They all endure more or less of persecution. Unworthy ones have been excommunicated. So that, between persecution on the one side and church discipline on the other, the sincerity of the Christians has been fully tested. In the south of China at a few points the gospel has been preached for about forty-five years, and the churches number several thousands of communicants. In the northern half of the country the work was begun twenty-seven years ago by one missionary, and now there are about a hundred ordained missionaries, and perhaps two hundred lady assistants, and about three thousand converts. The Bible has been translated into the book language and into all the principal dialects of the spoken language. Gospels and tracts have been sold in great numbers throughout the empire.

At the end of 1887 there were 38 missionary societies represented in China by 1,030 missionaries, of whom 489 were men and 221 were single ladies. There were 175 native ordained ministers and 1,316 unordained helpers, 32,260 communicants, and 13,777 pupils in schools, and the contributions by native Christians amounted to \$38,236.70. The increase over the preceding year was, of missionaries, including men and women, 111, or over 11 per cent.; of communicants, 4,260, or over 12½ per cent.; and of contributions, \$19,862.14, or over 100 per cent. Last year the Chinese Christians, in their extreme poverty, doubled their contributions to every benevolent work. Do not they set a noble example to their brethren in this more favored land?

It requires great moral courage for a Chinaman who believes the gospel to openly confess it. He is looked