

any business so absolutely indefensible on all grounds as the opium traffic :

"It might be true that the power of England was forcing it upon the Chinese, and was spreading among them demoralization, disease and death—but there was the Indian Revenue. It might be true that the traffic created an enormous amount of ill-will and heart-burning towards England on the part of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, which had led to one war and might lead to another—but there was the Indian Revenue. It might be true that the traffic constituted the most formidable of obstacles to Christianity among the Chinese—but there was the Indian Revenue. It might be true that it interfered with the development of every kind of legitimate commerce—but there was the Indian Revenue. It might be true that it dishonored the character of England in the eyes of other nations, and prevented her from protesting against similar practices elsewhere—but there was the Indian Revenue."

"To put it plainly as Mr. T. A. Denny had well put it, this plea amounts to this, that 'the English nation cannot afford to do right.' I sincerely trust that this meeting will make it very plain that in its estimation the English nation cannot afford to do wrong. In conclusion, Mr. Taylor expressed a hope that the wrong may be put right while there is opportunity, and before the wrong-doer is visited by divine judgment.

Dr. James L. Maxwell, formerly missionary to Formosa, seconded the resolution. It is quite true, he said, that the Indian Government is the chief party to the evil. But before that there is a British House of Commons to be reached, and still before that there is the conscience of England to be reached, and, yet again, before that, there is the heart of the Christian church in England to be touched. The question is absolutely beyond discussion. We deliberately cultivate the poppy and minister to the vice of a heathen people; more than that, we fatten upon that vice, in spite of the fact that the rulers of the Chinese have again and again remonstrated with us, and in spite of the fact that our action is leading to the physical, moral and social ruin of the people. Of late years there has crept over the Christians of this country a very strange apathy in dealing with this opium trade. Intellectually we have acknowledged that it is wrong, and we have signed memorials against the traffic; but we have not kept it in our hearts as a burden upon our souls before God. Why do we not arouse ourselves? In this hall to-night, there is a constituency large enough, if set on fire on this subject, to begin to move England from end to end. Who dares to measure what the progress of speed in dealing with this would be, if each of us pledged himself before God not to forget the matter; but in private and in public so to move that this blot shall be removed from the nation? Only let us get to faithful handling of the evil, looking to God for help, and absolute suppression will in due course be reached." The resolution was carried unanimously.

NATIVE RACES AND THE DRINK.

Dr. W. M. Taylor, of New York, submitted the following resolution, which he supported, by a tremendous earnest and rousing speech:—

"That the International Conference, comprising delegates from most of the Protestant Missionary Societies in the world, is of opinion that the traffic in strong drink, as now carried on by merchants belonging to Christian nations among native races, especially in Africa, has become a source of terrible and of wholesale demoralization and ruin, and is proving a most serious stumbling-block to the progress of the gospel. The Conference is of opinion that all Christian nations should take steps to suppress the traffic in all territories under their influence or government, especially in those under international control, and that a mutual agreement should be made to this effect without delay, as the evil, already gigantic, is rapidly growing.

"After stating that he had received several pressing mandates on this topic, to be delivered to the Conference from Presbyterian bodies in the United States, Dr. Taylor said: 'We who look back to this as our dear old home land have a very tender regard for her reputation, and we feel sad to have to hang our heads in shame over her when the opium traffic is brought