

he is beheld stretched on the floor, like a lump of insensate clay—with ghastly features and powerless limbs, and heavy slumber waiting the horrors of his awaking hour, to be devoured again by an appetite insatiable as the grave. It is known that millions in China are thus passing through the brief life of an opium-smoker to an untimely death; that thousands of families are ruined; and that the entire resources of the empire are sucked up, as by a devouring monster: but the supply of this drug brings gold and dividends into the Company's coffers—and still the merciless traffic is pursued. The Marquis of Dalhousie, the late Governor General of India, stated in his Report to the Company for the past year, that in its course *five millions of pounds sterling*, revenue, had been realised from the opium trade with China alone! Yes, it appears that a sixth part of the whole revenue of the East India Company is derived from their trade in articles which the heathen emperor of China has declared contraband, as ruinous to his people, and which is carrying hundreds, if not thousands, every day into an undone eternity. Ah! brethren, I fear we read in the report of this revenue from such a trade, a deep reason for God's judgments against us this day. If we are determined to have gain from what is ruining the bodies and souls of God's creatures, we need not wonder though he show us, by terrible works in righteousness, that we put it into a bag with holes. Is this, I ask, like christians? is this like Britons? is this like men? to grow a product on God's own earth, and bear it on his sea, and offer it for sale to his offspring—which it is well known will destroy them—and this merely because money can be made by the transaction? No! We have need here to look to those divine judgments which are on us in the very scene of our sins, and to learn righteousness in our commerce in the East. We require, as a people, to besiege our Legislature with petitions till the traffic in opium is abolished as impolitic for India, and ruinous to its unhappy victims.

(3.) We are to learn righteousness by awaking from our lethargy, to active christian effort for India. Who can doubt that that great country has been placed by Almighty providence under British rule, for a grand purpose? I do not require here to defend the ambition of conquest that has often marked the progress of our Eastern empire; neither do I offer any palliation or apology for the cruelties of war and fraud that have given us possession of province after province in India. I may be permitted to view it here as a fact in the history of Providence, that our empire in the East has been established and extended till, now, nearly two hundred millions of human beings are there under British rule. Our acquisition of power there has been so rapid and so disproportioned to the limits of our native empire in this small Island, that the hand of God must be owned in it, and his Providence has operated on it for an end worthy of himself.

Who can question that this immense dominion in the Oriental world has been placed in our hands for some great and benignant issue. It is not merely that it may glow as a bright jewel in the diadem of our Sovereign; it is not only that it may open fields of commercial and military enterprise for our youth. No. I believe God has given India to Britain that she may carry there the blissful influence of British civilisation and British christianity. It is that we may fill that distant land with Bibles, and preach the gospel to its millions of heathen people.