

The reason given thirty years ago was thus expressed. "In the present state of the revenue of India it does not appear desirable to abandon *so important a source of revenue.*" The character of the trade and the reason for sanctioning it remain unchanged. The question is between Mammon and God, between unrighteous gain and the high interests of humanity, and the world knows which has prevailed "Shall I not visit for these things saith the Lord, and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

And must not the attentive observer of the doings of a retributive Providence see in the *Indian mutiny the punishment of British Mammon worship.* All have noted the fact that at Meerut where Christianity, in the person of the converted Sepoy was expelled from the Bengal army, there the want of that saving element was exhibited in the first outbreak of the explosive forces. Is it less remarkable that in the Madras Presidency, where no Opium is grown or shipped, there has been no rebellion, that in the Bombay Presidency, where much is shipped, though not grown on British territory, where the chief profit of the Malwa Opium is realized, the waves of retribution have been painfully felt, whereas in the Bengal Presidency, where the largest quantity is grown and shipped, the British Opium garden which distils such deadly influences on China, the flames of rebellion have rolled with the destructive desolation of a lava tide.

And now the main question regards the future. *Shall this iniquity continue?* Shall we go on poisoning until the victims of our unholy gains shall equal in number the population of the British Islands? IS IT RIGHT? Is it in accordance with the Statute Book of Heaven or the Royal Law of Love, that our people should be encouraged to violate the laws of another nation, in prosecution of a trade but one remove from murder, because that nation is too feeble to resist? If the rights of humanity prevailed against mammon to abolish the Slave Traffic and Slavery wherever our national banner floats, why should they not prevail against the Opium traffic abroad, and the equally destructive Rum traffic at home! Ah, when men and governments grow wealthy by wrong doing, it is difficult for them to discern the right. But it is the more incumbent on all who do see the wrong to raise a voice of warning, and to say, "It is the price of blood!"

IS IT SAFE? The doom of Tyre was pronounced when she was where Britain now is, at the height of her maritime greatness, her sin being an *all-engrossing selfishness*, causing her to rejoice in the calamities of Jerusalem, and in making merchandize of her children. Who can measure England's sin, if, after warning from God and from man, from Bible and Providence, she, honoured and blessed among the nations of the earth, should persist in a traffic quite as iniquitous, and for a reason quite as selfish and unfeeling? If we are Christians our hearts will mourn in secret places, at the fact that our brethren in the southern portion of a great and growing republic, are involving themselves and their nation in the crime of extending and perpetuating a trade in slaves and in the souls of men; we will hang our heads in shame at our own national vice of Intemperance, sustained and pampered by the State for purposes of revenue; but, to crown the whole, this drug, the culture of which our Indian Government monopolizes, seizes its victim by a yet more terrible grasp, and gives promise of destruction on a still more gigantic scale!

We have sent a million of New Testaments, *probably in Opium vessels*, but we could not thus send the blessing of that God who saith, "I love judgement and hate robbery for burnt offering" The Chinese hold up to scorn the inconsistency of sending men with the Bible in one hand and Opium in the other.

England is again thundering at the gates of China and may again be successful in opening them still more widely, and thus the designs of Providence be accomplished for the gospel to reach those teeming myriads, but we may rest assured, that the conquering nation will be called to account. There must be national repentance or punishment. Our safety lies in turning to God. His judgments are discipline. *They are sent first to reform, but next to destroy.* We have encountered in the East the outside sweep of the whirlwind; and the Pulpit and the Press, England's Queen and England's people, have bowed before the Most High in humiliation for unfaithfulness to the Lord and his anointed in India. Should they refuse thus to acknowledge the wrongs of China and the sin committed against Jehovah, by casting a stumblingblock in the way of the conversion to the Lord of those millions, we may see the poisonous vapours of that drug rolling back in dense death clouds,