

opium, which is taken by rich and poor alike.

Why does not the Emperor make a law, you will say, that the people are not to buy it? So he has, but the law is never kept, because the mandarins, who have to punish those who break the laws, smoke opium themselves, and do nothing to others who use it, because they know they would get into trouble themselves if they did.

And yet the very men who take it are angry with themselves for doing it, and say they would give anything to be saved from it. They constantly come to the missionaries, begging them to give them some medicine which will take away the longing for opium, and the missionaries who speak the most strongly against opium are those who are most loved and respected by the Chinese.

A Chinaman once went to the English Hospital at Swatow, and asked to be cured of the habit of opium-smoking. He was a learned man, but a great smoker; he had got so used to having opium, that he almost died when he gave it up, so, as the only hope of saving his life, the doctor gave him back his opium pipe and let him smoke again; then he began to get better. As soon as he felt his strength coming back, he asked the doctor to try again, but the doctor said, "I have tried already, and you were almost dead; I cannot venture to try again." The poor man's answer was, "Teacher, whether I live or whether I die, I want you to try and cure me, I take all the risk." So the doctor tried again, and this time the man was cured, though he suffered terribly and was in great danger.

HOW MUCH IT COSTS.

More than ten million pounds are spent every year by the Chinese on opium. And who do you think gets all the money? This is the saddest part of the whole thing, that although the Chinese have asked again and again that opium may be kept out of their country because it is ruining them, large quantities are constantly forced upon them by England, because

the money paid for opium is paid to the British government in India, and rather than give it up, they have even gone to war twice with China, in 1840 and 1847, to make them take it, or rather to force the emperor to give permission to the Chinese merchants to buy opium of the English merchants in India, when the emperor and all his people want to have a law forbidding opium to be bought or sold in China, except in very small quantities for medicine.

WHEN ITS USE BEGAN.

It was in the year 1773 that opium was first taken to China in large quantities, and ever since then the Chinese have used it more and more. In 1776 a thousand chests were brought, in 1833 there were twenty thousand chests, costing more than three million pounds, that is, more than China got from England for tea. Opium merchants now settle in all parts of China. When a shop is first opened in a town or village, it never gets on well, because the people there have not learned to like opium, so the owner of the shop gives away little bits and persuades the people to buy it, and when once they try, they soon come back for more, and get it very cheap at first, till they have got so fond of it, that they are willing to buy it at any price, and so the evil habit spreads.

You will not wonder that the Chinese are puzzled to know how it is that the same country should send missionaries to teach them a pure, holy religion, and opium to destroy both their bodies and their souls.

HOW BRITAIN IS TO BLAME.

A Chinese ambassador said to an English gentleman a little while ago -- "You say that England is a more moral country than China; why then does England insist upon our taking her opium?" This question is constantly being asked of the missionaries. Men say to them, "You tell us that Jesus taught men to love others as well as themselves, and always to bear in mind the golden rule, 'Do to others what you would like them to do to you,' but every year you send opium to China, and