

languid with an idiot smile upon their countenances, too much under the influence of the drug to care for passing events.—The last scene in the tragic play is generally a room in the rear of the building, a species of dead house, where lie stretched those who have passed into the state of bliss which the victim madly seeks, an emblem of the long sleep to which he is blindly hurrying.” “Walking skeletons, (says Dr. Ball,) families wretched and beggared by drugged fathers, and husbands, and who have lost house and home, may be seen dying in the streets, in the fields, on the banks of rivers without even a stranger to care for them while alive, and when dead left exposed to view till they become offensive masses.” Time forbids me to add the united testimony of Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries.

*To what extent does this destructive habit now prevail?* Its apologists concede that between nine hundred thousand and a million are indeed victimized smokers, while its opponents maintain, and in fact maintained at the breaking out of what was called the Opium War, that the number could not fall far short of two millions and a half. These victims then *far exceed* the whole population of Australia, or of all these Lower Colonies.

*Why do not the Chinese exclude it?* Because they are corrupted and paralyzed by it as we are by the influence of strong drink. For sixty years it has been prohibited, and occasionally sincere efforts have been made to exclude it. Why unsuccessful?

1. Because those smugglers are *swift, well armed*, and manned by daring men.

2. Because those officials are, but men, and liable to corruption. They may be corrupted by *bribes* to be *elsewhere* when the daring smuggler glides along. They may be doubly corrupted by *relish* for the fatal drug.

3. Because no heathen people have sufficient patriotic and moral principle to resist such influences. But whence come those bribes? Not from Christians certainly, but from those who hail from Christian nations and are protected by their Consuls; and thus the prohibitory law of half a century is rendered null and nugatory for want of moral power in the people, integrity in the officials, and justice, honor and the love of humanity in Christian nations.