

How did the war commence, of which this late conflict is a result? It commenced on false pretences on our part. If it was not quietly prepared for, and then the first trifling offence made a *casus belli*, as some affirm, certainly we were in hot haste to commence on a very small matter. A nation of Christians, whose profession is the religion of the Prince of Peace, we showed ourselves to have little faith in our principles or in our Master. And what is this event, which has sent mourning and sorrow into many English families, but the fruit of the seed we there sowed—the natural, the certain result of our own sin? And more than that, there is underlying all, the original cause of the hostilities with China—that which is at the bottom of all reasons, and is a fact which no pretence can hide—the abominable and wicked Opium traffic; and so long as that is continued—so long as the English government encourage and derive profit from its growth—so long as they force it upon a reluctant people, so long will it be a source of constant trouble, difficulty and sorrow. Let the opium trade be abolished, and we firmly believe that this generation would not see another conflict with China. A million of Bibles for China, was the Christian cry a year or two back; yes, let us send them by all means; but let us also show the Chinese that we believe in it, and that we are not offering for their acceptance a book without influence upon ourselves—the teachings of which are despised, and the principles of which we treat as a dead letter.

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The accident to the *Great Eastern* is not without its lesson. The nation has been puffed up beyond measure about this steamer for months past. Such an amount of self-glorification has seldom issued from the British press. Nothing could happen to her; she was incapable of danger; her safety and success were among the fixed facts of creation!—and behold, on her first trip an accident happens, which, in what it might have been, as well as in what it unhappily was, proves the vanity and folly of human boastings and calculations. Well, let us hope that those who have to do with the monster ship, will learn some of the lessons which this sad accident teaches—lessons of humility, of dependence, and of prayer. We rejoice in every attempt to facilitate intercourse between the nations of the earth. We believe that the Electric Telegraph and Steam are but instruments in God's hands for working out His counsels of love to mankind, and we would earnestly pray that no sin of pride may interfere to prevent the success of this the latest development of God's plan of good to the world.

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The Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to enquire into the working of the Bible monopoly, in view of the expiration of the patent, were not able to complete their labours, their appointment having been made so late in the session; they therefore simply reported the evidence they had received, and recommended their reappointment next year. After carefully reading over the evidence of Mr. Spottiswoode, the patentee, we are constrained to say that no case has been made out for a renewal of the patent. Bibles are not cheaper or more accurate because of the patent, but because it has been to some considerable extent invaded. The Messrs. Bagster, with their beautiful editions, and several other printers have clearly violated the patent, but no patentee dared prosecute: the obloquy he would incur would be overwhelming. So, also, in the matter of accuracy; while it is freely admitted that the Oxford and Mr. Spottiswoode's bibles are now accurate, yet, competition has produced that also; and the knowledge that inaccuracy would quickly be detected and lead to loss, has had great effect. On the whole, the advantage is decidedly on the side of free trade in bibles. Before the Scotch competition, they were neither cheap nor accurate, and it is not too much to expect that the effect of throwing the trade open to all would be the *ne plus ultra* of both cheapness and accuracy.

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We gladly clip the following from the speech of the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, on proroguing the Parliament. It will be a relief to the thousands who feel interested in Mr. Moffat and the Mission in South Africa: