

that from the native states, about 85,000 chests, containing over 5,000 tons of opium, are thus exported annually from India to China, and a revenue of five, six, or seven millions sterling is derived by Government from it. It is a great Government institution, for which England is directly and peculiarly responsible.

*Because* through many, many years this traffic has been carried on in spite of the remonstrances of the Chinese Government, and of the thousandfold testimony that it ministered only to debauchery, and to moral and social ruin. The Convention of 1885, though it has given to the Chinese the right to put a heavier tax upon imported opium, has not altered in the slightest degree our own relations as a country to the gross immorality of the trade.

*Because* while, for very shame's sake, we have done a little (only a little) to restrain the havoc which opium was working among our Burmese fellow-subjects, we have done *nothing* to check the ruin which it is working in China among a people in friendly alliance with us.

*Because* every thoughtful and educated Chinaman, heathen though he be, cannot help denouncing the immorality and unrighteousness of the nation which has deliberately sown among his people a seed of ever-extending vice and degradation.

*Because* in the largest mission field of the world, according to the unanimous testimony of missionaries in China, our relations as a country to the opium traffic form one of the chiefest hindrances to the spread of the gospel.

*Because* national judgment must surely follow upon national sin, and it falls upon British Christians especially, not only to acknowledge this sin, but to lead the community in protesting against it, and in continuous efforts to effect its removal.

—The Foreign Liquor Traffic. We are glad to hear that the Foreign Missionary Society of the Glasgow Y. M. C. A. are making investigations into this subject with a view to the taking of some definite action. Britain has a terrible account to settle with the Almighty in this matter. The blood of thousands of natives in India and Africa is today crying out to Heaven against her. These dark races implore our aid in turning the tide of a traffic which threatens them with rapid ruin; but Church and State alike seem to turn a deaf ear to every appeal. Why is the voice of our churches silent? Can it be that the terrible extent of the trade is not fully known? or is it that the Church shrinks from fear of the revelations which a careful search would entail? Silence, in view of the facts which many of her ministers and pastors do know, only increases her blood-guiltiness. Already it is known that in her very bosom are a number

of the vilest offenders in "the trade," some holding positions as office-bearers, others, through their liberality and pecuniary aid to missionary and charitable institutions, enjoying contentedly the admiration of their fellow-worshippers as great Christian philanthropists. It is a sin and disgrace that the representation of a Christian to a heathen mind should be the rapacious cupidity of merchants whose merchandise is making the unhappy peoples they trade amongst "twofold more the children of hell than themselves." It is impossible that the Church's foreign missionary effort can succeed as long as she goes with a soul-saving gospel in the one hand and a soul-damning trade in the other. May God give her ministers grace to declare His whole mind and will in the matter, and enable her to wash her hands and garments clean from all complicity therein. If her efforts in the ensuing struggle are not to prove futile, in deep contrition her first step must be that of self-judgment and purification. Judgment must begin at the house of God. As co-workers with God all His true followers are under a threefold obligation to do their utmost. We owe this for the sake of our Lord and Master, who has commanded His gospel to be preached in every part of the world; for the sake of our missionary brethren, in removing the stumbling-blocks we have placed in the way of their work; and for the sake of the poor heathen whom we have enthralled body and soul.—*Christian Leader*.

India.—We have received the report of the Travancore District Committee of the London Missionary Society. It is a closely packed little volume, and its perusal leaves a vivid impression of unusual activity and ingenuity in all departments. Reading-rooms have always played an important part in Travancore. The room at Nagercoil has now been the scene of special gatherings on Sunday afternoons for many months. At these meetings the people have produced the publications of the Hindu Tract Society, and have put forward their best men to argue the case against Christianity, while the Christians have replied forcibly and clearly. This is excellent work, stirring up in the people a great excitement, and making them feel that Hinduism must fight if it is to continue to live. The medical mission has proved itself of great value. There is a medical native agency, carefully trained, and doing most valuable work in the branch dispensaries, and it is proposed to enlarge this department by training a large number of young Christians as dressers. Classes have been held in which domestic medicine has been carefully taught to catechists who have to labor in the remoter parts of the districts; and the elements of obstetrics have been