

and urging upon the Indian Government the duty of ceasing "to grant licenses for the cultivation of the poppy and sale of opium in British India, except to supply the legitimate demand for medical purposes, and at the same time take measures to arrest the transit of Malwa opium through the British territory." In the past statesmen have claimed that the revenue would suffer so materially that it would be impossible to forego the profits from this trade; but it is cause for devout thankfulness that the British Parliament now decides in favor of righteousness rather than revenue.

WHILE we deplore the opium trade of India and China, there is cause for anxiety in regard to this traffic in our own country. Opium is manufactured largely in Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. The opium is imported in the form of sap done up in parcels weighing about three pounds. We quote the following from *Harper's Magazine*:

"The Chinese merchants in British Columbia find the method of manufacture very simple. The stuff costs \$2.50 raw, or \$3.50 per pound with the duty added. When it has been cooked into smokers' opium it has cost in the neighborhood of \$7, and it fetches from \$8.50 to \$12.50 per pound in various parts of the United States. There are thirty or forty firms of Chinamen manufacturing it constantly in the two British Columbia cities, and one firm—not the largest—admitted to me that they produced from two hundred to three hundred pounds a month.

THE passage of what is termed the "Scoble Bill," the object of which is the prevention of child-marriage, is an important event in the history of India. It is not all that could be desired, but it is hoped that it is the beginning of better things. It raises the "age of consent" to twelve years in the case of girls. Many desired the age of consent to be fourteen years, and because it was lowered to the age twelve would not advocate the bill. The vast majority of Hindus were bitterly opposed, and monster meetings were held to protest against its passage. The temples were visited, and the idols earnestly besought to "interpose for the protection of religion." The Government was appealed to on the ground that it was an interference with their religious convictions. Sir A. R. Scoble, who introduced the bill, declared that, "a discriminating regard for religious opinions was not incompatible with the suppression of practices repugnant to the first principles of civil society, and to the dictates of natural reason." That there should be such fierce opposition to the bill is only another proof of the prevalence of infant-mariages, and of the need of reform, and if such legislation is detrimental to their religion, it is evident there is something wrong with the religion.

RUSSIA is reckoned among the Christian countries, and yet, judging from a couple of questions and answers taken from one of the official text-books used in the Russian schools, it would appear that the country has only reached the mediæval period.

"Question.—What do we owe the Czar? Answer. Divine reverence, obedience, payment of taxes, military service, love, prayer, long-suffering, perfect and unlimited obedience in every respect, and the most careful execution without question or examination of all his commands. Question.—By whose example are these teachings enforced? Answer.—By the example of Jesus Christ, who lived and died as subject of the Roman Emperor, and submitted respectfully to the ukase that condemned Him to death. We have also the example of the apostles, who loved the magistrates, bore patiently imprisonment according to the emperor's will, and did not rebel like evil-doers and traitors. We must follow their example and endure all in silence."

According to Russian theory the Czar is the divine head of the Church, and therefore this teaching is consistent. But when the people begin to think for themselves, the examples quoted will be found to be more ingenious than reliable. It cannot be said that Christ showed great respect toward one at least in authority. When the Pharisees informed him that Herod had designs on his life, his reply began with, "Go tell that fox." Nor did the apostles fail to insist upon their rights. "They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; now do they thrust us out privily? Nay, verily, but let them come themselves and fetch us out."

LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE MISSION.

THE General Secretary on his way to British Columbia was detained for a few hours at North Bay, where he met Bro. Neville, who has had some genuine experience of backwoods missionary life, which, we doubt not, our readers will find interesting:—

Dear Dr. Sutherland,—According to my promise, I give you a short account of my visit and mission to Temiscamingue. Until the end of January (this year), I was on the North Bay District, under the Rev. John Webster, about thirty-five miles from Mattawa. Bro. Webster, hearing that Christ was not upheld at Temiscamingue in any shape by any on the spot, and the people were living as in heathenism, he did not rest until he had one of his men on the way to this "heathen country." The happy lot fell to myself, and after some talk and prayer with Bro. Webster, I left for Mattawa *en route* for Temiscamingue. After waiting at Mattawa for two weeks, receiving the kind hospitality of Mrs. T. G. McAmmond, I started on my journey of 114 miles to the head of the lake.

I had to travel on a sleigh, which was well loaded with both live and dead stock, of which we had a goodly load. We left Mattawa, hoping for a pleasant