



NANKING.—THE HOUSE WHERE LI-HUNG-CHANG STAYED ON HIS WAY TO PEKING.

This is a sample of houses built by Europeans and sold to rich Chinese.

ous nature and the cruel and hopeless bondage of the opium crave. He said, "I remember well a Chinaman who had taken a kitchen chopper and cut off his finger that was wont to handle the awful pipe; this was by way of clinching his divorce from his great enemy. But after a short time, there he was again smoking, only with the stump of his finger to remind him of his miserable failure."

My own inquiries in China convince me that the foregoing pictures are true types of Chinese life. For instance, a Chinese gentleman of good social position, in telling me at Canton that the opium habit was the greatest evil that had ever fallen upon China, said that of the sixteen of his father's family, eleven were addicted to the habit.

A sample of the heartless callousness which opium begets, a proof of the above, is depicted in a few sentences by Mr. G. F. Easton (China Inland Mission): "At present we have an old woman living in our house, aged seventy. She is respectable, and has been well-to-do. She has three married sons, all, I think,

over thirty years of age. Two of them and one of their wives are amongst the most inveterate opium-smokers in the city. They have ruined the family, sold everything, even to the garments off the poor old woman's back, and the bedstead from under her, and left her on the floor to starve."

Another proof. Dr. Wm. Hector Park, Surgeon in charge of the Soochow Missionary Hospital (American), wrote on December 10, 1898:

"While I am penning these lines, the crying of a wife who has been sold by an opium-smoking husband can be heard on the street in front of our house. He is one of our nearest neighbors, and I have known the wife even since I came to China, when she was a pretty, young girl. When he first began smoking, his mother, who was a widow and had some property, and was also a teacher of embroidery in our Mission, seeing no hope in life, took opium and killed herself. He then sold off the houses one by one, then the furniture in the house, then his wife's clothes, then his grandmother's grave-clothes she had prepared against her burial, then his own clothes, and now he has sold his wife. The two children born to him have fortunately died, else he would sell them next. This is not an isolated case, but can be duplicated in nearly every street in every city and town of this vast empire."

Nor have Asiatics alone been thus snared. I could name, among others, a young woman, a once promising missionary in China, who has had to return to her native land, a wrecked