

one hundred and forty chests, and killed and took prisoners, scores of smugglers; yet, the traffic was not at all checked. Multitudes of the people have but little dread of the laws, while they use every device to escape punishment, and are eager after gain: indeed, the laws are, some times, utterly without effect."

When a Chinese mandarin undertakes to make, and the Emperor consents to receive, such a statement as the above, we may conclude that true, and much more, is true. In fact, opium is not only regularly introduced, but openly sold, in all parts of China. Notwithstanding the prohibition, opium shops are as plentiful in some towns of China, as gin shops are in England. The sign of these receptacles, is a bamboo screen, hanging before the door, which is as certain an intimation there, as the chequers are here, that the slave of intemperance may be gratified. Into these shops, all classes of persons continually flock, from the pampered official to the abject mendicant.

To the foreign community of Canton we would appeal, did we not fear that most of them are now actively engaged in the traffic; and should the present residents, influenced by principle, abandon the trade, there are not wanting others, who will gladly embrace the opportunity of enriching themselves at the expense of the miseries of thousands. Many, doubtless, are deluding themselves with the idea, that if they do not deal in it, others will; and as the Chinese will have opium, whether or not, they may as well furnish them with it, as let others reap the profit of what their over-scrupulousness would deprive them. They are fully aware that opium is injurious to the constitution, and that, imported in such quantities, and consumed by so many, it must tend to the destruction of life, and the diminution of happiness. But, then, they plead that they were involved in the trade, before they were aware of the extent of the evil; and, now that they are embarked in it, they cannot well retract; besides, they intend soon to return to their native country, when they will leave the Chinese, and future opium dealers, to do as they please. The principle, sanctioned by all this special pleading, it will easily be seen, is untenable: it is simply this, that immediately we can ascertain that a thing will proceed, whether we take part in it or not; or that others will carry on a measure, if we abstain from abetting it; it then ceases to be an evil in us to participate in the transaction, however ruinous or destructive it may be. True morality will lead us to enquire, whether the thing be right or wrong; and, if the latter can be established, it is ours to renounce it, however lucrative to our lives, or grasped at by others. The golden rule, of doing to others as we would be done by, will teach us to avoid being accessory to the spread of allurements, and incentives to vice, when we pray every day, for ourselves, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." When Mammon has less hold on the hearts of civilized men, and when educated merchants begin to be more scrupulous about the craft, by which they get their wealth, then we may expect that opium dealers will be diminished, even in Canton; and the time is not, we hope, far distant, when it shall be considered as disreputable to administer to the vicious indulgences of the Chinese, as it is now to those of the British—and as creditable to abstain from opium dealing abroad, as from distillation at home.

As the Chinese government cannot put down, and the foreign community of Canton, it is to be feared, will not abandon, the illicit traffic in opium, we must look for a more immediate remedy in another quarter. It is well known, that the greatest part of the opium is grown within the territory, and transported through the provisions of the Honourable East India Company. It is, in the general presidency, a monopoly in the hands of our Indian government, who dispose of it to our merchants, at the annual sales.—The profit derived from the transaction is, doubtless, great; and to a comparatively small quantity of the article is consumed by the immediate subjects of the Company, and the evils consequent thereon, are confined to foreign lands, it is possible, that the Board Directors, at home, and our Indian government, abroad, may have overlooked the enormity. Now, however, neither the Company, abroad, nor the Directors, at home, can plead unconsciousness in the matter: it has been told, and it shall be rung in the ears of the British public, again and again, that opium is demoralizing China, and becomes the greatest barrier to the introduction of Christianity which can be conceived of. Not only are the wretched victims of the indulgence, themselves, impervious to

remonstrance, and callous to all feeling—not only must we despair of the conversion of an opium smoker, almost as much as if his doom were already sealed—but the difficulty of convincing others of the truth of Christianity, and of the sincere intentions of Christians, is greater in proportion, to the extent of the opium trade to China. Almost the first word uttered by a native, when urged to believe in Christ is, "Why do Christians bring us opium, and bring it, directly, in defiance of our own laws? That vile drug has poisoned my son—has ruined my brother—and, well might lead me to beggar my wife and children. Surely, those who import such a deleterious substance, and injure me, for the sake of gain, cannot wish me well, or be in possession of a religion that is better than my own. Go, first, and persuade your own countrymen to relinquish this nefarious traffic; and give me a prescription to correct this vile habit, and then I will listen to your exhortations on the subject of Christianity." Alas! they little know, that the one is almost as impossible as the other; and that the work of persuading the growers and vendors of opium, to relinquish the source of their ill-gotten wealth, is as difficult as the task of curing a confirmed opium smoker of his vile habits; and that both are to be effected, alone, by that Power which can cause the Ethiopian to change his skin, and the Leopard, his spots; and make those who have been accustomed to do evil, learn to do well. But, surely, when the evil is known, and its effects seen, the rulers of an empire which professes to be governed by the principles of mildness and equity, will never lend themselves to the promotion of a measure which demoralizes a population, in such a wholesale manner; and still less, condescend to derive a profit from that which ruins myriads. The lands now employed in the cultivation of the poppy, being necessarily rich and fertile, would, if laid out in the raising of other productions, be equally valuable to the possessors; and, while the revenue was not diminished, the happiness, health, and industry of the people, would be increased; in addition to which, the Divine blessing would, doubtless, be doubly bestowed on those, who renounced an apparent benefit to themselves, in order to extend a real good to others.

### NURSING MOTHERS.

We are rejoiced to find that perjury is fast giving way in regard to the supposed necessity for nursing mothers to use intoxicating liquors. In a late *Herald* we recorded the fact that in forty-three societies in the north of England, there are two hundred and thirty-one nursing mothers who use no kind of intoxicating liquors. We have now the satisfaction to lay before our readers the two following communications.

[Extract from a letter of a Correspondent]

"When lately on a visit at the house of a physician in London, his lady informed me that her experience was most decidedly in favor of our principles; she has nursed seven children, five when she used intoxicating liquors, and two since she has entirely abstained from them; these two latter children are remarkably fine and strong, and have been able to walk when only nine months old, whilst neither of the five nursed on anti-tee-total principles, could walk before they were twelve months old.

This case is the more remarkable from the fact that the lady was not in the habit of taking intoxicating liquors; but resorted to the use of porter during the period of nursing the first five children, with the expectation of deriving additional strength and nourishment from its use; an expectation which I believe would prove equally fallacious in most other cases, if the ladies of our country disregarding the ignorant notions of their nurses, and the prejudice of medical men, would under similar circumstances, give a fair trial to the practice of Total Abstinence."

Another Correspondant observes:

"I think there is little doubt but if medical men would examine into the moral as well as physical effects, which too often result from the advice they give in this respect, they would soon prove themselves to be free from the feel-