



SHANGHAI—THE RACE CLUB.

and wealth of the nation. . . Unless something is soon done to arrest this awful scourge in its devastating march, the Chinese people will be transformed into satyrs and devils."

The highest European authority as to the sentiments of the ruling classes of China is undoubtedly Sir Robert Hart, G.C.M.G., Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs since 1859, described by Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., as "the most interesting and influential foreigner in China." Sir Robert Hart writes: "The position the Chinese take up may be said to be this: 'We did not invite you foreigners here,' they say; 'you crossed the seas of your own accord, and more or less forced yourselves on us. . . . To the trade we sanctioned you added opium smuggling, and when we tried to stop it, you made war upon us! . . . Your legalized opium has been a curse in every province it penetrated, and your refusal to limit or decrease the import has forced us to attempt a dangerous remedy; we have legalized native opium,—not because we

approve of it, but—to compete with and drive out the foreign drug. And it is expelling it, and when we have only the native production to deal with, and then have the business in our own hands, we hope to stop the habit in our own way.'"

At both the Missionary Conferences held at Shanghai, in 1877 and 1890, representing all the Protestant Missions of every nationality at work in China, unanimous resolutions were adopted in strong condemnation of the habit. Missionary testimony is, on a matter of this kind, of the highest possible value. Speaking the language, constantly moving about, and always in close contact with the people, they are able to give far more trustworthy opinions on such a subject than any other class of persons. A memorial was presented to the Opium Commission, signed by seventeen British missionaries in China, all of over twenty-five years' standing, in which they state "that the consumption of opium in China is exerting a distinctly deteriorating effect upon the Chinese people, physically,