

Traffic, the Drink Traffic, and Licensing Sin—naturally lent themselves to the expression of strong feeling; both speakers and hearers fully took advantage of the opportunity. The opinion was expressed during the evening that in the matter of the opium trade the Christian conscience of Great Britain has of late gone to sleep. The proceedings of Wednesday evening ought to do something in waking it up and keeping it wide awake till the cause for such wakefulness has disappeared. The outstanding features of the evening were the powerfully explosive utterance of Dr. Taylor, of New York, the remarkable reception given Mr. Alfred Dyer, on his return from India, and the heartiness of feeling shown towards our two eloquent American brethren, Dr. Gordon and Dr. Pierson.

"The chair was taken by Sir Arthur Blackwood, who was supported on either side by an array of gentlemen well known for their active interest in questions of national morality. In the opening prayer, Dr. Parsons, of Toronto, struck an appropriate keynote by his reference to the foes that oppose the kingdom of Christ and prevent the salvation of men.

SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD'S ADDRESS.

"After some remarks on the wisdom of the decision to hold such a meeting in connection with the Conference, the Chairman said: 'Not as part of a cut-and-dried plan prepared beforehand, not as an outburst of hasty enthusiasm, but as the deliberate, solemn conviction of men and women qualified to judge, you have decided to speak out and denounce certain deeds and practices, and to deplore their terrible results. I am sure I am right in saying that we do this in sorrowful confession of the blameworthiness of the churches, as well as in solemn condemnation of these practices. Were it not for lack of faithful testimony, watchful attention, earnest prayerfulness, courageous utterance, these things could never have attained their present magnitude. Surely the standard of morals in so-called Christian nations and governments must be low indeed, when practices like those cannot only continue unchecked, but be defended; and that not merely on the ground of expediency, but of actual necessity. Where have the churches of Christ been in their testimony against these things? We must confess our own guilt. We are not met for discussion; that time has gone by. Denunciation is our object to-night—unanimous, I hope, and vehement if need be. What cause can demand it more? It is to be the denunciation of deeds done contrary to every precept of the gospel, contrary to the whole spirit of the Christian dispensation, and even protested against by the very heathen themselves. We are indeed deeply thankful that no sooner has one of those practices in its clear and terrible character been fully exposed and recognized than the British House of Commons resolved unanimously (for the few defenders of the practice dared not record their votes against the resolution) that this system should be abolished root and branch.* That proves, thank God, that the moral sense of this nation is still alive with regard to such matters. But doomed systems often live long, and your denunciation and your protest to-night are none the less needful because, so far as that judgment has been uttered, this thing is doomed in all its horrible enormity and atrocity.

We are not only here to denounce, but to deplore the results, direct and indirect, of these deeds and practices. The direct results, alas! who can esti-

* This reference is to the formal licensing of harlotry by the British Government for the gratification of the army in India. A fierce fight has been going on against the awful and scandalous iniquity for months past, led on by Mr. Alfred S. Dyer, who in return has been assailed with as much bitterness as the *Pall Mall Gazette* once received for uncovering similar, though unlicensed, iniquities in London. The British Parliament was finally forced by the terrible revelations made and the protests uttered to repeal the act, just as the Conference came together.—Eds.