

### CHILDREN AND WIFE SOLD FOR OPIUM.

One cold wintry day, as Dr. Hall of the Shansi Mission, was passing near a village, he heard a cry, "I want my mother? I want my mother!" He turned and saw a little waif standing by the roadside, the picture of despair. The wind was blowing—oh! so cold, and the little five-year-old could scarcely keep her footing.

Suddenly a servant man came around the corner, evidently, looking for something. When he saw the child he sprang to her, seized her by the arm, and dragged her rudely away towards the village.

Dr. Hall asked him, "Is that your child?" "No; I have no need of such a little pest." "It wants its mother; is she living?" "Yes, it does, but it will not get her."

By a series of persistent enquiries, Dr. Hall learned something of the child's sad history.

The father was a member of one of the wealthiest families in the village; his wife was one of the most beautiful of girls. Ten years ago they were married. Two children were born to them. The father had the cursed opium habit, and lost all his property by means of it. The mother never took opium, and labored hard to keep herself and children in food.

When his money was gone he could not get opium. So one day he told the mother to dress the children in their best, as he wanted to take them on the street. She did so, and the father took them out and sold them.

When the mother learned of it she was frantic, and rushed out to seek them. She went into a house where her little girl was sitting on the floor crying, caught her up in her arms, and had nearly reached the gate, when the master came upon her and struck her and said, "That is my child; I bought it to-day from your husband for five thousand cash," and pushed her out, and closed the door.

The woman went home weeping and wailing. On her way some one told her: "Your husband sold your little three-year-old boy to-day to a man from Yang Tsun, and he took him away in his cart."

This money was soon spent. New Year was coming on, and once more the father was in straits. One day he told his wife to put on her best clothes, and he would take her to see the children. She hurried, and they were soon in the cart.

They drove into the court of one of the richest men in the village. The wife said, "This is not the house; we are in the wrong court." But they went on, and into the room where the rich man's wives were. The woman sat down, and the husband and the rich man went into another room. Soon the rich man returned, and the woman asked where was her husband. "He has gone home. I bought you from him for ten ounces of opium and thirty thousand cash. You are mine not his." The woman cried, but that was all she could do. Such cases are constantly occurring.

As opium comes in, peace and plenty and prosperity go out. Opium is at this time the greatest obstacle to the advance of the Cross. Opium makes its votaries forget sin, and blunts the perception into a semi-imbecile indifference to all influences of good.—Congregational work.

### REGULATING THE CLOCK.

A colored man came to a watchmaker and gave him the two hands of a clock, saying: "I want yer to fix up dese han's. Dey jess doan keep no mo' kerrec' time for mo' den six munts."

"Where is the clock?" asked the watchmaker.

"Out at de house on Injun Creek."

"But I must have the clock."

"Didn't I tell yer dar's nuffin de matter wid de clock 'ceptin' de han's, and I done brought 'em to you? You jess want de clock so you can tinker wid it and charge me a big price. Gimme back dem han's." And so saying, he went to find some reasonable watchmaker.

His action was very much like those who try to regulate their conduct without being made right on the inside. They know no more of the need of a change in their spiritual condition than the poor negro did of the works of his clock. They are unwilling to give themselves over into the hands of the Great Artificer, who will set their works right, so that they may keep time with the great clock of the universe and no longer attempt to set themselves according to the incorrect time of the world. And their reason for not putting themselves into the hands of the Lord is very similar to the reason the colored man gave. They are afraid the price will be too great. They say: "We only wish to avoid this or that bad habb't." But the Great Clockmaker says, "I cannot regulate the hands unless I have the clock. I must have the clock."—Selected.