

memory of Bethel of which he spake to his sons in his departure.

Doré must have had a lofty ideal of the Christ of God to put on canvas such a figure and such a face—a face so full of sweetness and purity, and yet of firmness and dignity, reminding us of the expression that He set His face steadfastly to go up to Jerusalem. There is no appearance of sadness or timidity there. There is no hint about the scourging and indignities, to which He had been subjected during the night, on the part of those that made long their furrows upon his back and plucked off the hair. On the contrary there is a radiance in His look and a lightness in His step that speak of the delight He had in doing the will of the Father. His step is not that of one that is dragged to the cross by an awful necessity, but rather the step of a conqueror who has already overcome and waved away the temptation and who for the joy set before Him is going forward to the consummation of his work, strong in God and in the power of His might. In looking at that picture I thought of the passage: Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength? The answer is: I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like Him that treadeth in the winefat? The answer is: I have trodden the wine press alone and of the people there was none with Me, and I looked and there was none to help, and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me, and my fury it upheld me. (Is. lxiii.)

It is, indeed, a great picture, and I do not wonder that it is the great attraction of the gallery. Many a tear is shed over it. Many an inspiration for good flows from it, for it is impossible to look upon it without feeling the force of that great truth that Christ became a sin-offering for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. This was the theme on which poor Miss Carruthers so often dwelt in her lessons—the great central truth of Revelation; and I can see now better than when sitting in her class, why such prominence should be given to it on the part of our teachers.

One remarkable feature of the picture is that each figure represented there is a finished picture—nothing to fill up—the hair, the hands down to the nails on the fingers—all life size, and all so real and life like! And when you think of the number of the figures in the work, the diversity of attitude and the variety of expression—marvellously helped by his management of light and shade—you will not wonder that he spent about four years in its execution. But it is not a picture that you can take in at a glance. It is a picture that grows upon you like any great spectacle in nature, such as the Falls of Niagara. You have to come again and again before you are able to make your full estimate and feel its full power.

The effect of the picture on the spectator is striking. There is a strange silence—(or shall I say awe, reverence?) comes over one in standing before it; and I am not speaking of myself alone, but of the general effect on visitors. Everything like levity here is out of the question—unnatural, as I saw in the case of two young girls who had come hither in a happy mood. At first they were merry and talkative but when they reached this picture their speech subsided into a whisper and their levity gave way to something of the solemnity of worshippers.

I have been trying, my dear friends, to give you something like a description of this great work of art, but how poor is the whole thing on paper! To help your conception of it, let me send you along with this some sketchings—simple outlines. These are fair enough in their way, but I am not able to give you the strong lights in which the figures stand, the wealth of colouring with which they are illustrated, the bounce and glamour of those Roman soldiers, and the simper and ill concealed blasphemy of those fierce ecclesiastics that have at length succeeded, as they suppose, in their machinations. This picture did me good—the face, the figure of our blessed Saviour! How can I ever forget it? If Jacob Parsons was blessed with a vision of Jesus in a dream of the night—a vision that followed him through life growing brighter and brighter till the light of time melted away into that of eternity, so I trust this vision that I behold in the Doré Gallery, London, will follow me and be a cheer and a comfort to me when all other comforts fail!

I enclose a ten-pound note to buy something nice, and please say to Miss Carruthers, if you see her, that I will write her soon and give her some account of the great preachers I have heard in London. Believe me, my dear old friends, your ever dutiful boy,

P. S.—Mind Rover and let him have a share of the good things too.

(To be continued.)

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE OPIUM CURSE.

The Bombay section of the opium trade of the Indian Government with China got into proper working order about 1834-35. A study of the figures of the Bombay and Calcutta exports to China combined for forty years will show that the present reduction may only be a temporary ebb in the rising flood of Indian opium.

Year.	Chests exported to China from Calcutta and Bombay.	Year.	Chests exported to China from Calcutta and Bombay.
1834-35.....	16,292	1855-56.....	63,427
1836-37.....	31,375½	1856-57.....	66,305½
1837-38.....	26,484½	1857-58.....	68,003½
1838-39.....	31,852	1858-59.....	74,707
1840-41.....	17,839½	1859-60.....	54,863
1841-42.....	25,225	1860-61.....	59,379
1842-43.....	31,236	1861-62.....	60,012
1843-44.....	30,011	1862-63.....	75,331½
1844-45.....	32,859½	1863-64.....	62,025½
1845-46.....	34,035	1864-65.....	75,932½
1846-47.....	38,057½	1865-66.....	76,863½
1847-48.....	38,825	1866-67.....	70,360
1848-49.....	49,262½	1867-68.....	79,655
1849-50.....	47,509	1868-69.....	68,668
1850-51.....	48,030	1869-70.....	81,748
1851-52.....	56,089½	1870-71.....	77,105
1852-53.....	56,412½	1871-72.....	80,903½
1853-54.....	60,054½	1872-73.....	76,378
1854-55.....	69,910½	1873-74.....	80,121

Such a table as this is worthy of careful study. In past years the upholders of the British Indian opium curse have endeavoured to take the nerve out of the anti-opium movement in such periods as 1859-60, 1863-64, 1868-69, 1872-73 by saying that the opium trade was dying of itself and there was no need to take any notice of it. All the while it was really steadily increasing. It is probable that one cause of the fluctuations in the traffic has been the efforts of the Chinese viceroys from time to time to put down the local growth of the poppy. When they have done so it has caused the import figures to go up. When they have relaxed their efforts the figures have gone down again.

It is interesting in searching the back numbers of the London *Lancet* to find a number of illusions to the opium traffic. On one occasion the editor speaking on behalf of the whole medical profession in England, says: "Opium is from first to last a drug and a poison. Its proper place is in medicine and there only." *Apropos* of the subject of opium in medicine, it is noteworthy that, owing to British action, opium is no longer of any use as a medicine over a large part of Asia. Doctors cannot use it as such with an opium-eater or smoker. They have to substitute something else for it.

In reading the other day an article written in England in favour of the opium curse I came across the extraordinary argument that "the poppy does not interfere with other crops." In my thousand miles' journey through the Central India poppy states I found everywhere that it did interfere with other crops, and in three ways. First, by taking up the very finest land; secondly, by taking from twice to six times the water required for other and more useful crops, no light matter in a tropical country; and thirdly, by taking from six to twelve times the labour necessary for other crops. Often one could see the poppy, cotton and food crops growing in the same field, the poppy always in the best position nearest the well.

"Rajahstan" was the name given at the beginning of the century to the districts now governed by English officials under the title of the Rajputana and Central Indian (or Malwa) Agencies. Just as Hindustan means "the land of the Hindus," Afghanistan, "the land of the Afghans," and Beloochistan "the land of the Beloochees," so "Rajahstan" means "the land of the Rajahs." The title thoroughly describes the character of the country. From time immemorial the Rajputana-Malwa districts have been governed by rajahs, great and small, who have derived their power from one imperial overlord, who was their absolute master, able to depose them at will, and, if necessary, to place other rulers in their place. The British Government has carried out the same plan, and has frequently deposed rajahs who have outrageously treated their people, and has placed others in their place. Some times other punishments of imprisonment or fine were inflicted.

In my journey, just completed, of a thousand miles through these states, I found everywhere that England is reckoned by the natives as the "Sirkar," or supreme government, of these states, and the rajahs as the servants of the British.

It is necessary to remember these facts in view of the coming abolition of the opium traffic. England as the overlord of these rajahs is their absolute master, and as such is responsible for the suppression of any great and widespread evils in their states, though not for the petty details of their administration.

This has been recognized by the establishment of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department in these districts for the suppression of the great evil of Thuggism, or professional robbery with murder, which was so rampant at the beginning of this century. This department is superintended by English Government officials. A similar system will shortly be wanted for the suppression of the poppy plague, a tenfold deadlier evil than that of Thuggism, and an evil for which, as it exists in its present form, the English Government is directly responsible.

The "opium-agents" in Central India are English Government servants "lent" to the various Maharajahs and paid by them. From time to time they are pensioned according to the ordinary rules of the English civil service, and fresh officials are "lent" by the Anglo-Indian Government. They are presided over by the Agent General of the Viceroy in Central India, the highest English official in that part of the empire.

At Indore, the capital city of the Maharajah Holkar, and one of the principal centres of the Malwa opium trade, a native cotton merchant very kindly took me in his carriage to see some of the opium merchants. In one of their offices I saw two piles of silver rupees, eight feet in circumference and ten inches deep. If the opium traffic were swept away tomorrow, these men would have plenty of money left, from their previous gains, to invest in other and cleaner forms of trade. And it would be a great blessing to them to be thus transferred. In no trade on the face of the earth is there more gambling and speculation. A man may be a millionaire to-day and a beggar to-morrow. I saw one such case when I was out with the above native gentleman. An old man with drawn, pained face, came running and shouting after the carriage. My friend told me that he was one of a number of others who had become mad through being ruined in opium speculation.

(To be continued.)

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DO THE OLD GROW IRRITABLE?

Shelley says that old age is the most miserable corrupter and blighter of the sweetest charities of the human heart; and he seems to think that people must of necessity grow irritable as they grow in years. This is a mistake. Old persons whose blood is pure and whose livers remain active are generally the most delightful persons we can meet. And there is no excuse for any one having impure blood or a torpid liver when they can procure Beecham's Pills for 25 cents a box. If your druggist does not have them, send to B. F. Allen Co., 365 and 367 Canal St., New York.

HOW TO BECOME ROSY-CHEEKED WOMEN.

The political battle is over, but the battle with disease must be constantly and unceasingly waged else the grim reaper will come out victorious, and loved ones will be gathered to their long home. On all sides may be seen pale and listless girls who should be enjoying the health and glow of rosy youth. Everywhere we are met with women young in years, yet prematurely old, who suffer in silence almost untold agonies, the result of those ailments peculiar to the female system. To all such, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills come as a blessing. They restore wasted vitality, build up the nervous system, enrich the blood, and transform pale and sallow complexions into glowing, rosy cheeks that alone follow perfect health. In a word they are a certain cure for all these distressing complaints to which women and girls are peculiarly liable. A trial of these pills will convince the most sceptical of their wonderful merit. For suffering men Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are equally efficacious. For overwork, mental strain, loss of sleep, nervous debility, and all those diseases that lead to broken-down manhood, they are a certain specific, stimulating the brain, reinforcing the exhausted system and restoring shattered vitality. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are nature's restorative and should be used by every weak and debilitated person. For sale by all dealers or sent postpaid on receipt of price (50 cents a box) by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co Brockville, Ont.

THE NEW PREMISES

OF THE OLIVER DITSON COMPANY.

The Oliver Ditson Company, so well known throughout the United States for its prominence as a centre for musical publications, musical instruments and all else appertaining to the divine art of music, has lately perfected a movement which not only gives the company additional room, in which to carry on their constantly increasing business, but also one of the finest buildings for the purpose in the city. The premises were originally numbered 453 to 463 Washington Street, and at the time of their construction were occupied as a dry goods store by Churchill, Gilchrist, Smith & Co., the firm occupying the whole building. Later, changes have occurred, alterations were made whereby a number of parties became occupants of the same; those giving way to the alterations and changes which, in taking possession of the building, were found necessary for the new business to be conducted therein. As now arranged, there is but one main entrance to the structure, which opens direct into the retail department, where every facility for handling the immense quantity of music demanded by the constant influx of patrons is to be noticed and appreciated. The counters, shelving, and in fact all the woodwork of this floor is of chestnut, and gives a light, cheerful appearance, conforming with the ceilings and other surroundings, all of which are the best that experience could suggest. Near the elevators, which are directly in front of the entrance, is the office of Mr. Clarence Woodman, Superintendent of the store; and at the rear is the entrance to the express and mailing departments, which are convenient and of good size and apparently all that is needed for this portion of the work of the establishment. On the floor above is the office of Mr. J. C. Haynes, and the counting-room; also the pianoforte salesroom, in charge of Mr. S. A. Gould, recently of New York, which is one of the best in size, light and space to be seen anywhere, and which, in its fitting up, includes a suite of three parlours, carpeted, finely-lighted and otherwise made attractive, and in which parties purchasing pianos can have them tried, and thereby get the same tones and effects as they would on the floors of their own homes. From this floor entrance is had to the second story of the building, in which the concern has been so long, and where will be found the publication department and the publications of the house arranged on shelves in this and stories above for immediate use as the retail and wholesale departments may require. On one side of the third and fourth floors at a little later date will be established the wholesale and retail departments of the large business of John C. Haynes & Co., which, as is well known, is a branch of the Oliver Ditson Company, and which will, by this change, have excellent facilities for the display and sale of the various musical instruments carried in the large and general assortment of the house. On the fourth floor, which is admirably arranged to handle the great stock of music, is also the advertising room of the concern, which has been made very pleasant by neatly-tinted walls and pictures, and which is presided over by Mr. J. C. Johnson; and on the upper story there is still more stock, all of which is placed for quick handling as may be desired. The whole building is lighted by electricity and fitted with electric bells, having sufficient power in the basement for all the wants of the establishment. In summing up it can be stated that the building has a frontage of seventy feet, is elegantly appointed from basement to top, and in the alterations made care has been had to have convenience and comfort go hand in hand, so that in receiving goods, preparing them for sale and in meeting the demands from customers, the easiest and pleasantest methods for the accomplishment of the same have been secured, and cannot fail to meet the approval of both those who serve and those who are served.