

times from the opium box over the light into the pipe before a sufficient quantity of smoke is produced. At length the smoker puts the stem into his mouth and draws steadily until there is no more smoke in the pipe. He swallows as much of the smoke as possible. After a half minute's draught he is bathed in sweat, his eyes have started from their orbits, he seems almost prostrate. He proceeds to fill his pipe again and after three or four more whiffs falls back into a lethargic sleep which lasts for many hours. It is said that the opium habit is incurable and that often a single smoke suffices to contract it. Its effects are most baneful. After he has indulged in the habit a few years the opium smoker is reduced to a continual state of torpor; he is void of ambition, energy, and often becomes a burden to the community. Opium is not produced in China but it is imported from India at an enormous cost. Taking this fact into consideration it is indeed surprising that so many Chinese, in all other respects so temperate and saving, become victims of the opium habit. The government of China has made and continues to make many ineffectual efforts to prevent the introduction of the drug into the country. Our readers doubtless remember that the war between England and China some years ago originated from the seizure of opium smuggled in by English merchants. In America the harm done by the poisonous drug can hardly be estimated. The smoker, as we have seen, makes use of a light. Often before he thinks of extinguishing this light he falls

into a profound sleep, and when next he awakes he finds himself perhaps in the midst of a conflagration. But an evil greater even than a conflagration is brought to the American continent by the Chinese opium smokers. From him numbers of young people of our own race, both male and female, contract the terrible habit. The statistics of western cities in this respect are a source of no little uneasiness to Canadian and American legislators.

Great precautions are being taken on the eastern side of America against cholera, yet the danger there is hardly greater than it is on the western side of the continent. Asia is the home of cholera and it is rather surprising that Chinese immigration has not long ere this brought the merciless epidemic to our shores. As a matter of fact it was reported a short time ago that a case of cholera had been found aboard the Empress of Japan. The truth of this statement could not be, or at least, has not been established. Such a rumor, however, goes to show that the danger of this awful pestilence being imported directly from Asia is by no means an imaginary one. Were such a misfortune to happen, appalling indeed would be the havoc caused thereby in the ill protected cities of the West. This impending evil, the recent outbreak of small-pox, the opium habit and John's deplorable want of morality will doubtless in the near future cause Canadian legislators to enact against him restrictive measures similar to those already adopted by the United States.

JAMES MURPHY, '94.



"A scholar sir ! to Brown six tongues
are known
(The blockhead ! never spoke one thought
his own !)"