

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18, 1839.

THE OPIUM TRADE.—The China question excites much notice. Some exclaim against the British practice of forcing a trade, demoralizing and every way destructive to the millions of China, while others plead indirectly for the traffic; they place it on the same footing as the trade in ardent spirits in the British Islands, and argue that the people of China should be relieved from the paternal vigilance of its government on this subject, and that they should be allowed to please their appetites as they like. The latter is sorry reasoning, except indeed that human health and happiness are, as they often seem to be treated, as the mere dust of the balance in which commercial interests are weighed. The extent of this trade, the regularity and power with which it has been kept up in defiance of the native authority, the respectable and systematic prosecution of so apparently nefarious a matter, appears, to a disinterested spectator, a melancholy evidence of the deadness of man, generally, to moral perceptions, when in opposition to mere pecuniary interests. A few extracts from a late British journal, will give some interesting information on this subject. Our first extract shows the extent of the trade:

The quantity of the opium grown, under the sanction of the East India Company, and imported into China during the last twenty years, is given by the Rev. W. H. Medhurst, in his work on the state and prospects of China, in the following tabular form:—

	Chests.	Value.
In 1816	3,210	3,657,000 dollars.
1820	4,770	8,400,800
1825	9,621	7,608,205
1830	18,760	12,900,031
1832	23,670	15,338,160
1836	27,111	17,904,248

In a note, Mr. Medhurst adds, that during the year ending in the spring of 1837,—34,000 chests were imported, and the deliveries during the month of July, of the same year, amounted to 4000 chests.

This quantity of opium, thus grown in India, and annually imported into China, appears large; but what is surprising in reference to it is, that every one of these chests are smuggled into the Celestial Empire. As early as the year 1796, the evils resulting from the practice of smoking opium had awakened the attention of the Chinese Government, and the practice was accordingly forbidden, under penalties which have been continually increasing in severity.

A China council presented a memorial to the Emperor, in 1836, from which we take a passage exhibiting the opinion of those authorities on the subject.

"To sum up the matter," it says "the wide-spreading and baneful influence of opium, when regarded simply as injurious to property, is of inferior importance; but when regarded as hurtful to the people, it demands most anxious consideration, for in the people lie the very foundation of the empire. Property, it is true, is that on which the subsistence of the people depends, yet a deficiency of it may be supplied, and an impoverished people improved; whereas it is beyond the power of any artificial means to save a people enervated by luxury. In the history of Formosa we find the following passage:—'Opium was first produced in Kaout-sinno, which by some is said to be the same as Kalapa or Batavia. The natives of this place were at first sprightly and active, and being good soldiers, were always successful in battle; but the people called Hung-mou (red-haired) came thither, and, having manufactured opium, seduced some of the natives into the habit of smoking it. From these the mania for it rapidly spread throughout the whole nation, so that, in process of time, the natives became feeble and enervated, submitted to the foreign rule, and were ultimately subjugated.' Now, the English are of the race of foreigners called Hung-mou. In introducing opium into this country their purposes have been to weaken and enfeeble the Celestial Empire. If not early aroused to a sense of our danger, we shall find ourselves ere long on the last step towards ruin."

Our next extract is an interesting evidence of the fine arts being enlisted in the cause of national prosperity, in China, and of an attempt to act on the popular mind in its own behalf.

A native artist, named Sunqua, residing in China-street, Canton, has executed some paintings on rice paper, which, forming a series, are six in number, and which, in fact, are an exact counterpart of Hogarth's famous *Rake's Progress*. The design of these pictures is to show the progress of the opium smoker from health and prosperity to misery and degradation. The first of these pictures represents a young man, the son of a gentleman of fortune, richly attired, and in all the freshness and vigor of youth. On his right is a chest of treasure, gold and silver; and on his left a personal attendant, constantly employed in preparing the crude article purchased and brought to the house for his use. In the second of these pictures he is reclining on a superb sofa, with a pipe in his mouth, surrounded by courtesans, two of whom are young, in the character of musicians. His money now flies without any regard to its amount. The third of these pictures represents him, after a short period of indulgence, with a countenance sallow and haggard, with high shoulders and naked teeth, and moping on a very ordinary couch, with his pipe and other smoking apparatus lying by his side. At this moment his wives, or his wife and a concubine come in; the first, finding the chest emptied of its treasure, stands frowning with astonishment, whilst the second gazes with wonder at what she sees spread on the couch. In number four, his houses and lands are all gone, his couch is exchanged for rough boards and a ragged mattress, his shoes are off his feet, and his face awry, as he sits bending forward and breathing with great difficulty. The fifth represents him scraping together a few copper cash, with which he hurries to one of the smoking-houses to buy a little of the scrapings from the pipe of another smoker, to allay his insatiable cravings. In the last of these pic-

tures he appears as a confirmed sot, sitting upon a bamboo chair, continually swallowing the fæces of the drug, so foul that tea is required to wash them down, his wife and child seated near him, and, by winding skeins of silk from bamboo reels, earning for themselves and him the means of dragging out a miserable existence. These pictures are to be considered, not as the result of a singular notion in the mind of an isolated individual, but as indications of the general sense of a large class of the community in reference, of this degrading vice.

After perusing these means of judging on the subject, what can be thought, of the tens of thousands of *Christians* who force the trade,—of the mortifying effect which the question has on British character,—and of the dangerous tendency which commercial views sometimes have in confounding right with wrong,—or in urging wrong as right, merely because commercial interests are concerned. A more wholesome principle, we trust, will triumph,—one more in accordance with the eternal character of man,—as well as with the temporal interests of *all* men.

London papers remark that Ireland is the part of the Empire, at present most at repose, and least requiring the painful vigilance of Government. The troops are decreasing in Ireland, and regiment after regiment is transmitted to other parts which call for their presence. The Chartist agitation makes the provincial towns of England have the appearance of so many garrisons, while the state of Canada requires a strong military force in that direction, and British rule in India demands more than usual activity and intelligence.

Mr. O'Connell has addressed his Dublin constituents, declaring that the hope for proper attention, and for full justice, to Irish affairs, in the British Parliament, was altogether vain, and that he will urge the Repeal question as the only efficient remedy for the evils complained of. A local legislature he argues is essential to the obtaining of fair play and equal privileges for Ireland.

UNITED STATES.

The Western Railroad from Boston to Springfield was opened on October 1, and the event was duly celebrated:—the length of the Railroad is 99 miles, which was done in five hours, exclusive of stoppages.

There was much fluctuation in the N. York Stocks, but it was represented as the result of gambling operations.

Four gentlemen of Vicksburg subscribed \$20,000 to the Methodist Centenary fund.

A Destructive Fire occurred in Philadelphia on the night of October 4,—between Market and Chesnut streets, and destroyed property to the amount of about two millions of dollars. Fifty two buildings were on fire, forty were reduced to ruin. Loss of life also resulted from the calamity, and several severe wounds were received.

The New Orleans Bulletin says that General Francis Gaiennie fell in a duel on September 18, near Nachitoches,—his antagonist was general Bossier. They fought with rifles at forty paces,—the first fire proved fatal.

NEW YORK FIRES.—On Sunday morning, October 6, a fire broke out 189 Water street, opposite Holt's hotel, and continued raging until property to the amount of a million and a half of dollars was consumed. Holt's vast establishment, was saved by means of wet blankets and a small engine belonging to the house. Soon after the commencement of this fire another broke out south side of Burling Slip, which destroyed six three story houses. Previous to these fires and on the same night, two other conflagrations occurred, which destroyed or greatly injured 8 or 9 houses—and another, at Brooklyn, which consumed property to the value of 15,000 dollars.

Sickness still prevailed to an alarming extent in Mobile. The number of deaths for the week up to September 24, was 80, and for the month, 329. Contributions were making in other parts of the United States, to relieve the distress at Mobile.

A meeting of the friends of Mr. Wallack, whose Theatre was recently destroyed by fire, was held at the Astor House, N. York. It was resolved that a Theatre should be built at an expense of \$350,000 and be placed under the charge of Mr. Wallack.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH QUEEN.—The delay of this fine ship for about two hours created an unusual degree of speculation—the detention was owing to a most villanous act of some unknown person, while she was in port the apartments containing her beautiful machinery, were thrown upon for the inspection of the public; some one availing himself of this privilege, took occasion, with the evident design of breaking the machinery, to place a bolt at the bottom, upon the top of the safety valve—and the consequence was, she could not condense her steam. To discover and remedy the evil, occupied two hours. Some delay was also occasioned, waiting for the Steward's supply of fresh Eggs.

The Small Pox, in its worst forms, was raging in the vicinity of Wiscasset, Edgecomb and Boothbay, Lincoln county, Me.

The use of Steelyards, by butchers, grocers, &c., is prohibited in New Orleans under a penalty of twenty dollars.

On the 22rd, ten vessels arrived at Oswego from Lake Erie, with upwards of 35,000 bushels of wheat.

Mr. Audubon has opened his gallery of original drawings, at New York, and it has been crowded with visitors. They are eminently beautiful. The copies of these, in his published volumes, cost £250 each set.

Late accounts from S. America represent the state of affairs as very wretched. Agriculture and commerce nearly extinct, and commotions in many quarters.

St. JOHN N. B.—Great scarcity of labourers and builders, and of building materials, is said to be experienced in St. John.

On Wednesday week, Capt. Clark of the Night Steamer, running between Fredericton and St. John, fell overboard and was drowned. He left a wife and four small children.

St. ANDREWS, N. B.—A fishing company is about to be formed in this town, capital £1500, in 120 shares of £10 each.

P. E. ISLAND.—A fair and cattle show at Charlotte Town, passed off recently, very well.

St. JOHN, N. F.—A destructive fire occurred on the morning of Sep. 16. It originated in the premises of Duscomb & Co. and destroyed much property. The estimate of loss is not stated.

BERMUDA.—A Bermuda paper giving an account of the gale of the 14th, after enumerating a number of disasters, in glowing terms, winds up the climax with the following—"Sign boards, wrenched from their fastenings, and cast *hither and thither*."

QUEBEC.—H. M. Steam frigate, *Medea*, started for England on the morning of Oct. 5.

BYTOWN U. C.—Major Bolton, R. E. presented the Church of Bytown with a service of Communion plate, and his lady, Mrs. Bolton, presented a Christening vase, all of solid silver.

NOVA SCOTIA.

THE DELEGATION.—An article in last Novascotian gives an account of what has been accomplished by the Delegates of the House of Assembly during their late mission to London. We give the substance of the article.

After much deliberation,—it was agreed, besides the opening of the ports of Arichat and Digby, that Cumberland, Parrsborough, Windsor, Shelburne and Lunenburg should be *Free Ports*, not warehousing ports,—that the Customs and Excise should be combined, by which, it is said, about £1500 a year will be saved,—that the £1500 granted yearly to the Post Office establishment, by the local legislature, should not be required,—that a bill regulating the granting of Crown lands should receive the sanction of government,—and that the Incorporating, Bounties Acts, etc. should be adjusted, as desired.

ADMIRALTY COURT.—James Barry, coming into the harbour on Saturday last, ran his schooner over a net which was placed a mile from the shore. The owner of the net complained that damage had been done, and claimed 30s. in consequence. Barry refused to comply, asserting that he did not injure the net, and that nets should not be allowed to impede the navigation. The complainant placed his case in the Admiralty, and Barry, fearing the consequences of a suit there, settled on Monday, by paying £12. 13s. 6d. He was very indignant, and could not understand how law or justice could require such expenses, and could thus, without trial or judgment, inflict such serious punishment.

The Chamber of Commerce of St. John N. B. urge the establishment of a more speedy mode of communication between St. John and Halifax, on the attention of the Society for promoting Trade and Manufactures of the latter place.

AGRICULTURE.—2½ lbs. of the Rohan potatoe, planted on 28th May by E. Allison, Esq. yielded 168 lbs. this fall. The same seed planted by J. Fairbanks, Esq. yielded 77 lbs. for 1 lb. and 110 potatoes for one potatoe.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Committee of the Halifax Agricultural Society, have published, during the week, their half-yearly report. Beside stating the views generally of such associations, and of the Halifax Society in particular, the following view of the season and of the produce of the peninsula of Halifax, is given:

The long continuance of the cold rains in the early parts of the spring gave rise to fears that both the hay and potatoe crops would be seriously affected. The season, however, became more promising, and the hay, although not so heavy as in some former seasons, yielded nearly an average, and the potatoe both in quantity and quality will turn out well. The grain harvest was particularly favourable; and the weather up to the present time has been excellent for pastures. In referring to the following table of returns for the Peninsula it will be seen that the field of cultivation is extending and that wheat is growing more into favour. Six years ago there was only twelve acres, and this present year to 116½, and other grains in a corresponding ratio. The following return includes the crop in the Peninsula and Dutch Village:—Wheat 116½ acres, Oats 101½, Barley 11, Potatoes 177½, Turnips 7½, Hay 620½—Total, 1044½.

The society resolved on a Ploughing Match, which was held accordingly, and prizes of, a Medal value \$10, of \$8, \$6 and \$4 were awarded respectively, to D. Burns, J. Winters, C. Kline, and A. McCulloch.