

we say, this Memoir before us is written in Mr. Richey's best style. We thank him for his labour, and cordially recommend the present volume to all who have a taste for religious biography presented in an elegant style.

The Wesleyan.

HALIFAX, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21.

We are convinced that our readers will need no apology from us, for presenting them with a full and extended account of the proceedings of the late British Conference, held at Liverpool, Great Britain, in the month of August last.

We call the attention of town readers to the advertisement of the services connected with the Religious Observation of the 25th ult., as the day appointed for celebrating the Centenary of Methodism throughout the world.

From the Colonial Pearl.

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 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-spread 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 sinne, 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-maon (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-maon. 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."

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 transferred 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.