

it is *ultra vires* on the part of the Dominion. Thus Rome is asserting in this Canada of ours the right to rule supreme, and to ride rough shod over all our laws and institutions. Keep these facts in memory.

THE DRINK CURSE IN AFRICA.

O! cursed lust for gold! when for thy sake
The fool throws up his interest in both worlds,
Harassed in this, then damned in that to come.

No prouder year has British history than 1833, when Parliament voted \$100,000,000 to free her last slaves. No more disgraceful year than 1839, when she declared war upon the virtually helpless Chinese to force upon an unwilling government the impious opium traffic. And to-day, for the sake of £10,000,000 annually, the British Government in India, having the sole monopoly, continues, for purposes of revenue, to trade in the forced degradation of thousands, for the opium curse has only one competitor in working human degradation—the curse of intemperance. And gain is the end to be sought in either case, even as the slave trade was for money. We are just now specially interested in Africa. That dark continent has been by heroic efforts opened up to the civilized world. England looks to it as a future market; the missionary societies are fast girdling it with stations, from which the Gospel shall sound forth. Our missionary has chosen it for his field of labour, and already she who was to have been the partner of his joys and partaker of his labours has filled a silent grave in that lone land. We have a life interest in Africa.

An article by Canon Farrar, in the *Contemporary Review* for July, has suggested these reflections; and here, acknowledging once for all our indebtedness to that article for many of the facts and thoughts we give, we shall speak in our own way of some solemn subjects for humiliation, prayer, honesty and action.

We have little conception of the untold difficulties of missionary work by English-speaking missionaries where the white man has established commercial relations. I say "the white man," because the Anglo-Saxon is not the only guilty party in the nefarious traffic of which we shall speak. Portuguese, Dutch and other European traders are there. Let England did not—because others did—engage in the lucrative slave traffic.

Why should she join in this, whose tale we shall now in part tell?

In Egypt and in the Soudan Mohammedanism prevails. It is well known that the Meccan prophet prohibited strong drink; the true Mohammedan is a total abstainer. Therefore where Mohammedanism prevails, the liquor traffic is not. Not that the country is free from the curse—we are not free from burglaries, though the penitentiary is the penalty—but the traffic is illegal, publicly reprobated. England sent an army there; the British soldier must have his grog; the liquor trade followed the course of the army; the army is withdrawn, the traffic *remains*. That English influence is largely responsible for the increase of the liquor curse in Egypt is shown by the public-house sign-boards, "The Duke of Edinburgh," "The Union Jack," "Queen Victoria," etc. The Khedive, as his religion requires, is against the traffic; but he is bound hand and foot by treaty obligations to protect European trade, and "spirits" form part—alas! the most lucrative part—of European trade. We went to maintain Egyptian rights, and to give to the Copts the blessings of civilization; under the guise of trade we are blighting the land with the rum traffic!

Madagascar has long been considered the crown of the London Missionary Society. Some 500 miles east of Madagascar is a much smaller island, Mauritius. This island was ceded by France to Britain in the treaty of 1814. Its principal product is the sugar cane. Economy (?) takes the refuse of the sugar cane mill, and manufactures rum. This Mauritian rum is not good enough for the European market; it is taken to Madagascar. The results may be imagined; the curse was received in innocence, and crime in one year became a terrible record. Radama I., with patriotic zeal, ordered every cask to be staved in, except such as went to the Government stores, paying the duty himself. His son became a drunkard, a criminal and a maniac; after reigning nine months he was assassinated by his own Privy Council. Madagascar is blighted by rum, because "it pays" the European trader.

Western Africa tells similar tales. A missionary says: "For generations the West Coast negro has been accustomed to see the ocean cast up the powder-keg, the rum cask and the demijohn—these have been the shells of his strand. Borne from