

## FROM OPIUM FIEND

only one of the "million a month." The grief-stricken parents found a friend in the sympathizing evangelist, counselling, comforting, and pointing to the world to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

Much of China's idol worship is intermixed with spiritualism. Hence the proverb "Shen wu ching puh ling." "If the idol is not possessed of the spirit of some ancient worthy it is not efficient."

In our district there lived a family named Ch'en, in whose home the most efficacious spirit for miles around dwelt with the image, in the niche of the place of worship. This "Lao Yeh" (venerable one), it was reputed, could tell how high the river would rise during the ensuing year. Water, placed before his shrine, would upon his presence being invoked become inspirited and receive healing power. The medium, a poor but educated farmer, would upon yielding himself to the spirit, and thus becoming possessed, stagger about as if drunk. With steel stylus he would then write the spirit's message, with stiff spasmodic strokes, upon a board covered with sand, in the presence of the awed and worshipping people.