

in smoking the opium, and others lying in a state of stupor in the rows of bunks or "layouts" found there—a painful and repulsive spectacle.

Our country needs to be aroused concerning the insidious but cruel foe which has entered it through the Golden Gate; and the most severe repressive and prohibitory measures are necessary, not only on the part of the State Governments, but also of the general Government.

President Arthur, in his message to Congress a few months ago, urged the enforcement of the stipulations of the new Chinese treaties, and stated that those regarding the opium trade would undoubtedly receive the approval of Congress, "thus attesting the sincere interest the American people and Government feel in the

efforts of the Chinese to stop that demoralizing and destructive traffic." Congress did approve and American citizens are prohibited from importing opium into China; but it is just as necessary to prevent them and the citizens of all other countries from bringing the smoking opium into the United States. This smoking opium, it should be remembered, is a much more potentially poisonous preparation than ordinary opium. On the latter our Government levies only one dollar per pound, but on the smoking opium six dollars. More than seventy thousand pounds of the smoking opium were imported into the United States in 1880, and there is an increase of thousand of pounds each year—sad proof of the growth of the vice among Americans.

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

THE UNION VOTE.

' We need not say to the readers of this MAGAZINE that we greatly rejoice at the vote on the Basis of Union in the Montreal and Toronto Conferences. The rejection in the Toronto Conference by such large majorities, not only of the anti-basis motion of the Rev. S. J. Hunter, and of the ingenious compromise amendment of Dr. Hunter, but even of the rider of Dr. Burwash, accepting the Basis but suggesting delay, and the acceptance by a vote of 137 to 37 of the Basis as it stands, is a striking endorsement of the labours of the Union Committee, and gives great moral support to the Union cause. That midnight hour when the vote was taken was, we believe, a historic crisis in the history of this land. Few more important votes, if any, have ever been given in Church or State. It will, we believe, profoundly affect the entire future of Methodism in this Dominion.

The solemnity of the moment, and the far-reaching issues of the act, we believe, were deeply realized. When the final vote was announced there was no sign of party triumph, but heads were bowed in silent prayer, and eyes were moistened with tears of strong emotion, and then every voice was raised in the sacred song:—

"O for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise."

We are not, and we will not be, on this question, a divided Church. The large minority of the Montreal Conference—strong men in position, in ability, in influence—have already, we were assured during the late debate, very largely, if not entirely, given their adhesion to the Union movement on this Basis. The smaller, but able, minority in the Toronto Conference, we are confident, will unite with the immense majority in carrying on the movement. And no less confident are we