

want your opium or your Jesus." As I returned home with a heavy heart, I could not help wishing that English Christians who have sent the opium to China could have seen how they have hindered the Gospel message from entering this one house.

#### OPIMUM SMOKING IN CHINA.

The Christian Church must face the fact that she has no greater hindrance to her work in the great empire of the East than the habit of the opium victim. Its effects upon the health of the people are most deplorable, emaciating the body, paralyzing the mind, destroying all business capacity, and rendering humanity a more miserable wreck than even the slave of drunkenness in this country. But its moral effects are even more appalling than its physical. It is the spring of falsehood and fraud and deceit, so warping the moral character that the Chinese themselves call its enslaved victims "opium devils. By the absorbing hunger it produces for larger and larger quantities of the drug, by the blunting of all the intellectual and moral susceptibilities, and by the despair and hopelessness it brings into life, the Christian missionary sees in all opium dens a product of so-called civilization, a much greater obstruction to his work than the superstitious practices of heathen idolatry. When the missionary expresses his loathing at the vice, and counsels the poor slave to cast off his bondage, the pathetic response is often: "Have you a medicine that will cure it?" To the Chinese every foreigner is "a medicine man." And the Christian missionary has indeed the secret of the cure. Nothing but the grace that is in Jesus Christ can cast out the evil spirit from the poor man, whose possession is so strong that he bears the name of "opium devil."—*Church of Scotland Record.*

THE following from a United States contemporary will be well understood in these northern latitudes: Some give nothing to the Church because they are too cowardly to give a little. The widow's mite is the record of her courage as well as her generosity. The smallest coin given with the heart's hand is stamped with God's blessing. Some give nothing, because they feel that the Church will be supported by others; while they gloat over the fact that they get without cost all the benefits to life, property, morals and social order which the Church confers as its indirect blessing to the world. Will a man rob God? Certainly he will; he will rob his fellow-men, too, compelling them to pay for his goods of this kind, and these the best in the market. We sometimes hear that honest men have to pay a high price for their meat, to cover the losses inflicted by dishonest men. This is true also of the meat that does not perish; a few pay a high price for what would be comparatively cheap if the cost were fairly distributed.

## News of the Churches.

**BURFORD.**—The annual report of this church is good, the church having paid all its liabilities, and a small balance remaining in the hands of the treasurer. During the year eight members were received into fellowship, six by letter, and two by profession; against this, we have to report a loss of six, four removing to Paris, and two to Brantford. The Sunday school has prospered; the average attendance is good, and the staff of teachers and officers faithful and efficient. The Bible class has lost a number of members by removal; an extra effort is being put forth to again enlarge. A new cabinet organ has been purchased for the use of the Sunday school and prayer meetings, and a choir from the Sunday school organized; we are looking for special blessings this year. One drawback has been the illness of our beloved pastor (Rev. W. Hay), whom the Lord has seen fit to lay aside for nearly three months. During that time regular services have been sustained, and the congregations were good. For the first few weeks local supplies filled the gap, and during the month of January Rev. W. W. Smith, of Newmarket, preached for us with great acceptance. We are now looking forward to welcome again our pastor, who hopes to again minister to us in February. May the Lord spare him for many years to go in and out among this people, is our earnest prayer.

**KINGSTON RETHEL.**—In a letter addressed to the editor personally, Mr. McFayden, the pastor, writes: We are much encouraged in our work in Bethel Church. The Lord is working mightily in our midst. The spiritual life of the church during the past year has been much more encouraging than any of the previous years of my pastorate. I may safely say the darkness is passing away, and the true light is shining. In all the departments of our work we can report progress. There has been a marked growth of zeal amongst the brethren in winning souls to Christ. Our congregation has decidedly increased, and our Sunday school is getting too large for our new school room. The officers and teachers have worked hard, and their labours have been crowned with great success; they meet every Thursday evening to study the Sunday school lesson, and these meetings have been very profitable. One of our brethren presented the school with a handsome new organ, and the officers of the school are making arrangements to purchase a new library. My own class has grown too large for the room in which we meet. The Monday evening cottage meeting has been carried on with increased interest and success, and the Gospel has been brought to the homes of many of the careless ones. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting has of late shown signs of revived life and greater power. There is a