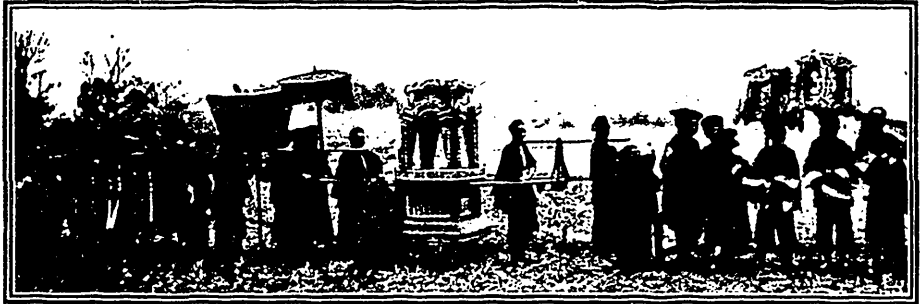


# Methodist Magazine and Review.

SEPTEMBER, 1906.

## THE CRIME AGAINST CHINA.



A CHINESE MARRIAGE PROCESSION.



HERE can be little doubt that the opium habit constitutes a vice more hopeless and deadly in its effects upon the human system than any other known among men. Opium is far more deadly than alcohol, because it fastens its grip upon its victims much more quickly, and because, when the habit is once formed, deliverance from its thralldom is practically impossible. To-day it is estimated that one hundred and twenty millions of Chinese are slaves of this debasing and pauperizing habit.

Yet less than one hundred years ago opium was almost unknown in China. Whence, then, came this awful scourge? It was forced upon China at the muzzle of British guns. For it was only after two wars against Great Britain, in defence of her right to exclude the drug, that

China, in shame and humiliation, was forced to put a customs duty upon opium, and thus recognize the traffic as a lawful one. Since then China has made repeated attempts to induce the British Government to withdraw its coercion, but her appeals have been put aside.

And on what ground has Great Britain been pursuing this iniquitous and shameful policy toward China? For the sake of India's revenue. For India supplies about one-sixth of all the opium consumed in China, and the cultivation of the poppy, from which the opium is made, the preparation of the opium and its sale, whether wholesale or retail, is a monopoly of the Indian Government, from which it draws a revenue of not less than one hundred million rupees annually. How and where shall we secure the money to replace the revenue from opium, should the latter be swept away by vote of the House of Commons? is the question