

## DR. HAPPER ON THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

IN our last issue it was stated that some twenty millions in China were addicted to the use of opium. The information on which that was based was not correct. Dr. Happer, who has been for forty years a missionary in China, writes to the *N. Y. Evangelist* as follows:

According to Mr. Hudson Taylor, of the Chinese Inland Mission, more than one hundred millions of Chinese are addicted to its use. It is said more than one-half of the daily wages of the laborers are spent upon its consumption. The Chinese army is represented as the slaves of the opium habit. The consequent wreck is inevitable. Further still, the writer of the article "opium" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* states that the number of those who use it, to be one hundred millions, or one hundred and twenty millions, as the population may be three hundred or four hundred millions!

And now the British Government in India, to increase its revenue, has authorized the licensing of shops throughout India and Burmah for the free sale of opium. These licenses are issued in a very unusual form. Those who take the license come obligation to sell a stipulated amount, or to pay a forfeit! Thus the Government almost compels the holders of the license to stimulate its subjects to consume a deadly poison! The door is thrown wide open for all the inhabitants of India to take that which destroys at once the body and the soul.

The unrestricted sale of opium is permitted in Java, with its twenty millions of population. It is also permitted in the French possessions in Southeastern Asia, with a population of eight or ten millions. The vice is also carried by the Chinese immigrants into Siam, and all the islands of the Eastern Archipelago. If the populations of the various countries in Asia, in which the free sale of opium is permitted, are added together, the aggregate number is more than six hundred millions!! In Europe and America the sale is restricted to medicinal use, by the direction of physicians, and the vials and boxes containing it, when thus given out by druggists, are carefully labeled "Poison!"

So the laws of China once prohibited the sale and use of opium, the violation of which was punished by death. So earnest were the Chinese to prevent its introduction into the country, that the Government became involved in a costly war with England about it, at the close of which a treaty was made, in which England recognized China's right to prohibit the introduction of opium, but left it with China to seize the vessels that smuggled it in, and confiscate the vessel and cargo! But as the smugglers were Englishmen, and the ships English ships, the Chinese were afraid to execute the law, and so opium was brought in *English bottoms* from India to China from 1842 to 1860.

After thus fighting the traffic for sixty years, the Chinese Government, finding it could not stop the smuggling of opium into the country by British vessels, finally gave up the contest, and submitted to legalize the horrible traffic which it could not destroy. And once admitting it into the country, it could not enforce the laws against its sale and use, and shops were opened in every city and town and village in the empire.

The next step was, as they could not keep out the opium from India, to begin the cultivation of the poppy in China itself. Now the opium made from the native grown poppy, is said to be three times as much in quantity as that imported from India. In the districts where it is thus grown,

the price of the native opium is very cheap, and its consumption has spread among men, women, and children, so that some resident missionaries in those districts say that sixty and seventy out of every hundred of the people are, more or less, opium eaters! When I went to China in 1844, it was supposed that two millions used it. Before I left China, I estimated that the two millions had grown to forty millions, while Mr. Hudson Taylor now puts the number of those who use it directly or indirectly, at one hundred millions!!

Now let us sum up the enormous extent of this curse. The population of India and Burmah, according to the census taken last year, is 285,000,000; that of China is 350,000,000, some make it 400,000,000. The Island of Java counts its 20,000,000, to which the French possessions in Southeastern Asia add at least 10,000,000 more. The Eastern Archipelago has, say 5,000,000, making altogether a total of 670,000,000!!

This curse of Asia has been saddled upon that continent by Christian Europe! For this terrible blight cast upon the greatest of the four quarters of the globe, the British Government is chiefly responsible. A hundred years ago the East India Company commenced to monopolize the production of opium for sale in China, and the Government at home gave to the company the protection of the British flag. Since 1853 the British Government has had a monopoly of the production and sale of opium. Great Britain is thus directly responsible for the prevalence of the opium plague among the six hundred and seventy millions of people in Asia.

## HOW THEY FOUND A PASTOR.

LIKE many another church the --- street church needed a pastor. The future of the church was not the most promising. For months they had been on the outlook, but the keenest search among possible candidates had failed to discover the right man.

The church in the meantime was suffering as all pastorless churches suffer. At length the business men belonging to the church, who especially had the matter in charge, said to each other:—"This will never do. Things must not longer continue as at present. Our wisdom is not sufficient for this thing, we must seek it from a higher source." So they organized a business men's prayer meeting for this one specific object, to pray for a pastor, and every morning of the week, before going to their stores and counting-rooms, they met together in prayer for this single purpose. Still the answer was delayed; but they persevered. For weeks and months the meeting was continued, until at last they heard of a young man in an obscure town, to whom the hearts of the people were drawn. The church called him, and he accepted the call, and his pastorate has been a wonderful success. The church has grown from a membership of two hundred to a membership of eight hundred; a beautiful and commodious edifice has been built and paid for, and the church is known throughout the whole state for its outreaching benevolence and for the aggressive type of its Christianity, and the pastor endears himself more and more to his own people and to thousands of others to whom his influence extends.

Who will say that the business men's prayer meeting was ineffectual? Who will say that there are not other factors beside large salaries and fine church buildings and influential positions which are potent in bringing the right man to the right church for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God?—*Golden Rule.*