

India as regards the opium. But this is only a part of the parallelism, and not the worst part. If he had said for the purpose of compelling a foreign State which prohibited intoxicants to receive them, his parallel would have been complete. The *London Spectator* is fairer and fuller than the Marquis :

"The allegation of sensible philanthropists is not that Great Britain sells a drug which may be abused, like alcohol, but that she forces a Government, anxious to restrict its importation, to allow its admission free. Grant, that opium is as harmless and as harmful as whiskey—which is, we conceive very near the truth—and does not the case stand thus? The ruling classes of Maine wish to prohibit whiskey, and so to make its use very costly and quite illegal. Has any country a fair moral right to say that this is folly, and therefore, if Maine is not wiser, we shall invade Maine? That is what we do in China, and that is exceedingly difficult to defend."

We may say here that what the States of Maine, Kansas, and Iowa, in our own country have done, Canada has also done, and that for a long time, in her North-Western Provinces. Having regard to the welfare of the many Indians in those provinces, and to peaceable and friendly relations between them and the whites, she prohibited the introduction of the fire-water, and has rigidly enforced the prohibition; and the result has been an unexampled peace and prosperity, which does infinite credit to the Canadian authorities—as infinite as the discredit which an opposite policy toward the Burmese and Chinese has brought upon the authorities in India. The Marquis of Lorne, as is well known, has recently visited those north-western provinces, and the statement is published that what he has seen has not only convinced him of the sound policy of prohibition in north-western Canada, but also of the wisdom of suppressing the liquor traffic everywhere.

And now we come to what very immediately concerns ourselves, and calls for prompt attention and ac-

tion on the part of our own statesmen. Dr. H. H. Kane, of New York city, whose investigations and published works have been mainly on the various drugs that enslave men, and who during the last four or five years has been specially engaged in the treatment of American victims of opium smoking, has recently published, through G. P. Putman's Sons, a very valuable work entitled "Opium Smoking in America and China," which deserves to be read by every American citizen. In it he well says: "Chinese smokers themselves are not free from blame, but every honest observer must believe that if China had been allowed to have her own way the vice, to-day, would be nearly dead."

The first American began to smoke in San Francisco, in 1868, and the second in 1871; and now, says Dr. Kane, there are at least six thousand American men and women in all classes of society, who are the slaves of the vice, and the number of victims is rapidly increasing. "At the present day," he says, "almost every town of any note in the United States, and more especially those in the West, have their smoking dens and habitues. Even the little frontier towns and mining camps have their layouts and their devotees. Arrests are being constantly made in San Francisco, Virginia City, New Orleans, and occasionally in Chicago."

Nevada has passed severe measures of repression, and the vice has been somewhat checked in that State; but in California they are less severe, and there the victims are increasing in number. These are the only States that have as yet taken action.*

Nothing seems to have been done in New York city to suppress the many opium dens. These are found in Mott, Pearl and Park Streets, in Second and Fourth Avenues and in twenty-third Street. Not only in those kept by Americans, but also in those whose proprietors are Chinese, American men and women may be seen, some of them engaged

* New York has since passed a prohibitory law.