

In considering the causation of this or any other vice, we perceive certain primary methods of initiation, and subsequent to or around these, subsidiary ones dependent upon the influence of the former on different classes of people. The primary ones are all that we need at present consider, and these are, first, the introduction and use of the drug by Chinese *habitués*. Their influence in the dissemination of the vice must be chiefly indirect, as both the teachers and their surroundings are decidedly repulsive and not calculated to affect the better classes of the people and their pupils must of necessity be drawn from the ranks of the sport, the thug and the courtesan; of course these are comparative gradations in the scale of society and merge one into the other and gradually into the higher stratas above them. A much more important factor is the perusal of literature concerning the habits and customs of eastern countries. These, fanciful as they are usually, lose nothing at the narrator's hands and the reader is thus pleasantly introduced into the realms of hash-eesh and opium; or perhaps more modern writers may dilate upon the virtues of a drug capable of transforming a rhymester into a Shakespeare or the literary hack into a man of letters or of mental entertainment in which the *habitué* enters an enchanted paradise. He walks through gardens whose beauty exceeds the luxuriance of the tropics. He listens to music such as Beethoven and Mozart would not dare dream of. What wonder then, that our weaklings on such mental pabulum are ready and eager to investigate these pleasures for themselves? What if a DeQuincey tell them that present pleasures are but the prelude to future torments so much the greater by comparison. Such reasoning has seldom any deterrent effect on human beings and especially on our weaklings, for the feeble the mind, in fact the stronger it is in the opinion of its owner. The strong mind fears itself where the weak one has implicit trust. They propose to themselves to taste of the delights of this elysium but if at any moment there is the slightest chance of the drug overcoming them they will by strong force of will abruptly discontinue its use. Large