

The total net "revenue" receipts of all the Presidencies of India in the year 1855-6 amounted to the sum of £28,812,097, and the total payment out of the income of £6,664,750, being an actual receipt into the Government treasuries of £22,147,347. The net revenue of Bengal amounted to £12,201,628; the gross receipts, of the Eastern settlements to £97,904, those of Coorg to £20,477; those of Burmah, &c., to £598,776; those of Nagpore to £529,127; those of Oude to £201,935; those of the North-west Provinces to £7,085,248; those of the Punjab and Trans-Indus territory to £1,216,492; those of Madras to £4,956,871; those of Bombay to £4,643,464; those of Scinde to £309,422; and those of Sattara to £251,327. The sum of £498,904 was received in 1856 as tributes and subsidies. The grand total revenue of India for the year ending the 30th of April, 1857, was estimated at £29,343,960, being an excess of expenditure over income amounting to £1,981,062. The military and war charges for the said year were estimated at £10,537,305. The revenue receipts of India have varied from £26,510,185 to £29,344,960 between 1853-54 and 1856-57, and for four years there has been an excess of expenditure over income varying from £972,791 to £2,044,117.

### Progress of Opium Eating in England and the United States.

Not only have the Chinese become devotees and consumers of the drug, but, within some fifteen or twenty years, the practice of using it has made fearful progress in England and the United States, and in some parts of Germany.

It is like tobacco—the previous excessive use of malt liquors, spirits, tea, &c., it is supposed, creates a desire for other stimulants, and hence the use of these narcotic drugs are resorted to for the purpose of gratifying it.

In the large manufacturing towns of England, where the population is dense, and the means of support scanty, while tea and beer are largely used, it is said that the use of opium has made rapid progress. In the United States its increase of consumption has been, perhaps, less marked, yet much larger than one would be led to suppose, as will be seen by the imports chiefly from Turkey, in the years named below:—

|                | IMPORTS.     | VALUE.   |
|----------------|--------------|----------|
| 1851 . . . . . | 40,885 lbs.  | \$40,000 |
| 1855 . . . . . | 111,229 lbs. | 407,683  |
| 1856 . . . . . | 157,814 lbs. | 485,846  |

We thus find that within the past five years the imports have increased from 50,885 lbs. to 157,814 lbs., and in value from \$40,000 to \$485,836. As the demand for medicinal purposes could not have produced this extraordinary increase in importation, (but a small portion of which is re-exported), it is clear that the practice of using it as a stimulant has fearfully increased. Should the consumption increase in the same ratio for some years to come both Europe and America will require protection by its prohibition, except for medicinal purposes.