

as a narcotic drug. The great source whence China has always derived its opium has been India, where, since 1793 the drug has been a government monopoly, the cultivators, in Behar, Benares and Malwa being paid at a fixed rate for their crops for exportation to China. The trade which was conducted in clippers, was contraband, the Chinese government having in 1796 prohibited the importation of opium, and issued various subsequent proclamations on the subject, of the same tenor as the first. Nevertheless, by the connivance of the Chinese local officers, the importation about trebled in the twenty years between 1816-1817 and 1836-1837, in the two latter years being 20,049 chests, valued at more than \$10,000,000. In March 1839 the Chinese authorities, without warning given, enforced the law, forbade all foreigners to quit Canton and ordered them to deliver up the opium in their possession, which was burnt. War with Great Britain resulted, which ended in the defeat of the Chinese, who were obliged to pay indemnity for the opium. They (China) have since been compelled to admit it, and the Indian revenue derivable from its (opium) growth has risen to about \$45,000,000 annually.

Thus "endeth the epistle" of the encyclopedic chronicler who evidently has been very careful in editing facts so that there should be as little sting in it as possible for the perpetrators of this international outrage.

The effects of this monster drug is described as follows:

In pharmacy, in small doses it produces brief excitement, and then acts as a soporific. In large doses the sleep becomes coma and death ensues. It is given to allay pain and spasm.

And China has been getting opium in large doses, producing a sleeping nation, always in a state of coma, dying by inches. Perhaps it was given in Christian charity to "allay pain and spasm." But China has had more spasms because of opium than it had before doctor John Bull, or rather his shrewd statescraft artists, prescribed the vicious dried and pulverized juice from the "papaver somniferum" weed for the unsophisticated Chinaman.

Constant dulling of the senses produces truculency, a sagaviness that possesses all the attributes credited to the barbarian of every known age.

The reeling giant of China is beginning to sense his infamy, but he is justly concerned in finding out who has been administering the dope that has kept him in chains for the last two centuries while the rest of the world moved forward and left him behind, a senile old fossil of no account.

To the Chinamen, weak and addicted, partly conscious of his disgrace, every accident is "allasame." It was the white man of the West who became his despoiler, who stripped him of his commensurate human value and usefulness in the world. He has been made synical and suspicious. He has never been treated as a being of par value in the human world, because of the white man's ability to keep him chained to his weaknesses.

CHRISTIANITY—the white man's soul saving creed!

What a mockery it must represent to the millions of China who have learned to associate the white man with commercialized vice of the worst form.

All that China is asking and praying for is to be left alone. Is that an unfair prayer?

Even official representatives of America's commercial bodies have had the temerity to cry out in anguish, upon their return from China during the last

year: "In God's name let us quit interfering and meddling in China's internal affairs!"

That advice is sound. It would do more than anything else could possibly do to straighten up the domestic complications in that country.

Let us back up the practical religion of human brotherhood, which the Chinaman thoroughly understands and so readily appreciates. But we can't do it so long as we protect and uphold special interests and nations who are holding a tight grip on some commercial advantage in China.

The white man's religion of a Savior might strike a more responsive chord in China if we paved the way with JUSTICE, the kind that compels us "to do unto others as we want others to do unto us."

WHY LINCOLN WAS A GREAT MAN

From the Teacher's Helper

IN THE EARLY pioneer days, when Abraham Lincoln was a young lawyer and "rode the circuit," he was one day traveling on horseback from one town to another with a party of friends who were lawyers like himself. The road which they traveled led across prairies and through woods. As they passed by a grove where the birds were singing merrily they noticed a young bird which had fallen from the nest and lay fluttering by the roadside.

After they had gone a short distance Mr. Lincoln stopped, turned and said: "Wait for me a moment; I will soon rejoin you." As his friends halted and watched him they saw Mr. Lincoln return to the place where the helpless bird lay on the ground, and tenderly take it up and set it on a limb near the nest.

When he joined his companions, one of them laughingly asked: "Why did you bother yourself and delay us with such a trifle as that?" Abraham Lincoln's reply deserves to be remembered. "My friend," said he, "I can only say this—that I feel better for it. I could not have slept tonight if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground."

THE CENTENARY OF BENZINE

From the Washington Post

The one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of benzine, which recently occurred, amply merited the international attention which was given to it in London, and far more recognition than it received from the general public. To the majority of people benzine means merely an ill-smelling and highly inflammable fluid which was used years ago for removing grease spots from clothing but has latterly been replaced for that purpose with other fluids which are safer to use. The fact is that the discovery of benzine was one of the most important achievements of one of the leading scientists of the last century, Michael Faraday, and virtually marked an epoch in organic and synthetic chemistry.

The importance of benzine is not so much in the fluid itself as in the almost innumerable derivatives of it. It was from it that Sir William H. Perkin, three-quarters of a century ago, made his invention of aniline dyes, and it is from it that all the indispensable "coal tar" dyes today are made. Benzine is, indeed, the source of many thousands of chemical substances and preparations, many of them of the greatest importance in the industrial arts, and in medicine. It merits the tribute paid to it by one of the foremost chemists of our own day, that it is "the hub of the universe of organic chemistry."

It is good to see in the misfortunes of others what we should avoid.

—Syrus.