

was lying curled up on a matted couch on the opposite side of the room with an eighteen months old child asleep in his arms. Our conversation aroused the little one from its slumber and it began to cry and refused to be pacified. We offered it candy, nicknacks and nickels, but it was of no avail. It had evidently made up its mind to cry and continued to bellow lustily. A score or more of Chinamen popped their heads in at the door to ascertain the cause of the disturbance and when they saw us they disappeared instantly and one of them frightened the others almost out of their wits by telling them that we were San Francisco custom house opium seizers. The woman, however, soon disabused their minds of this idea. In the meantime her husband had succeeded in quieting the little one by folding it in his arms as he lay upon the bed and allowing it to inhale the fumes of opium as the smoke was emitted in dense volumes from his own nostrils. The child drew the smoke into its lungs in a manner that was truly astonishing. "Oh, he likes smoke, too," laughed the father when we expressed our surprise and horror at the performance.

Understanding that confirmed opium votaries are generally childless, I asked the father how long he had been an habitual smoker and he replied, "one year." He stated further that he consumed one dollar's worth of opium every twenty-four hours. His habitation was a perfect picture of poverty and woe. Wretchedness and misery were stamped upon the countenances of the entire family, which consisted of the parents and three children. When I saw the terrible destitution that prevailed there I asked the Mongolian if he would not forego the awful habit in order to better provide for his wife and children, and he muttered as he continued to smoke away at his pipe, "Me no can doee that. I die if I no smokee." And he no doubt told the truth.

Most of the Chinamen in this country, it is claimed by dealers in opium, smoke a superior article of the drug while the majority of opium smokers in China are too poor to buy the best and consequently get what they can—a vile adulteration. The habit is more widespread in this country than is generally imagined. Even Americans indulge in it to an alarming extent. They are, as a rule, however of the criminal classes. A close observer can detect them on the streets by their ashen complexion, sunken and expressionless eyes, spare forms and feeble walk. Several such characters were engaged in smoking in one of the places we visited. It is claimed by some that opium can be moderately used without ill effects. Those who thus contend are unquestionably mistaken. The best informed physicians say that it cannot be taken constantly in the slightest degree without soon making visible ravages on the system. A man who contracts the habit soon becomes indolent and useless, losing all business tact and enterprise and finally becomes a slave, a disgrace and a pitiable wreck. No reliance whatever can be placed upon the word or honesty of such a man. He is an object who shuns and is shunned by society. Moral degradation and ruin have overtaken him.

Home is no longer home. Business—he has none. He is hopelessly enthralled, spending his time smoking more and more. The desire for food vanishes and he draws temporary strength from the pipe. His form becomes drawn and pinched, his skin tight and shriveled, his eyes a sickly yellow. There is a terrible gnawing at his vitals. His strength decreases daily until he grows too weak even to smoke. He then falls back upon his miserable pallet and dies in such agony as would cause the stoutest heart to quail.

It is estimated that about thirty per cent of the Chinese in the United States are confirmed opium sots. As a commercial commodity the extract is a well paying article. San Francisco is the opium smoker's Mecca of America. There he revels in it day and night and gives no end of trouble to the police. He makes opium smuggling as well as smoking a part of his business. The vice there finds its way secretly into the magnificent palaces of even rich Americans, though my guide, who has spent considerable time investigating the opium traffic in that city, says that such cases are gratifyingly rare. There as here, he says, it is generally only depraved white people who use it, but they are numerous.

Statistics show that nearly if not quite half a million pounds of opium have passed through the hands of San Francisco custom house officials during the last eight years, to say nothing of the enormous quantities smuggled into the country along the Pacific coast unseen and unheard of. It is further estimated that 120,000 pounds of opium are consumed by smokers west of the Rocky mountains annually, most of it in San Francisco, of course. In 1883 the tariff was raised from \$8 to \$10 per pound on smoking opium and \$1 per pound on opium in its crude state. This duty remained in force until the McKinley bill went into effect when it was raised to \$12 per pound for all kinds of opium. Notwithstanding this enormous tax the trade continues unabated. Last year more than three-fourths of a million dollars were paid as opium duties in San Francisco alone.

I have been informed by a number of Chinamen that most of the opium used in this city comes here via British Columbia. That a great deal of it is smuggled there is no doubt. One Chinese store—and there are a number here—it is said, is now carrying a stock of eighteen hundred pounds of opium.

Opium, as is well understood, contains valuable medicinal properties and is the dried juice extracted from the unripe capsules of the white poppy the botanical name of which is *Papaver somniferum*. The plant is an annual and is supposed to be a native of Asia. It is extensively cultivated in India, Persia, Asiatic Turkey and western China. It is also grown to a limited extent in southern Europe. It varies in height from one to six feet, and is branched and has dark-green ovate-oblong sessile leaves. In India the business of raising opium is a government monopoly and yields an annual revenue to the imperial treasury of between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000. The profitable cultivation of the poppy requires the very best soil.

The seed is planted in India early in November. It flowers in January and in February the capsules are ready for the opium extractors, who, with a notched instrument resembling a saw, go through the fields making incisions in them. A milky fluid oozes out and dries on the surface from which it is scraped off the following day. It is then transferred to an earthen mould where it is formed into a kind of cake, after which it goes through a curing process for three or four weeks, at the expiration of which time it is ready for the market. What is known as the East India company first introduced the drug into China. The latter government protested vigorously. She even exhibited her displeasure by seizing English vessels loaded with the drug and destroying their cargoes. England resented and war followed. China was beaten and as an unwilling compromise legalized the trade that is annually ruining untold millions of her subjects.

NEMO.

A NORWEGIAN GOVERNOR.

The constitutional inhibition upon foreign-born citizens becoming President or Vice-President ends at that point; they may be and have repeatedly been in the President's cabinet, while there are numbers of them always in the Senate and House of Representatives. We are not advised that any state in the Union has a similar provision and believe that none of them has; while it is certain that many of them have had governors who were not only not to the manner born as regards the state but to the United States as well. It has been left to Minnesota to present to the country the first instance of a native Norwegian being placed at the head of a commonwealth, it having chosen one to that position on Tuesday last. His name is Knute Nelson and his majority of 10,000 or more was a very large one, especially when we consider that the land nearly all slid the other way. Mr. Nelson is practically a thorough American in appearance and otherwise; he speaks our language without impediment, is fairly educated in it, and is a politician of considerable experience and attainments. He was a member of the lower house of Congress in the latter part of President Cleveland's administration when the Mills bill was before that body, and to the astonishment of at least some of his political associates, voted for the measure. He thus enjoys another unique distinction in this country—that of being a Republican "free trader."

BISHOP HARDY'S BONDS.

Chief Justice Zane of the Territorial Supreme Court, has approved the bond of Bishop Leonard G. Hardy, in his capacity of trustee for the escheated Church fund. His sureties are President Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, William B. Preston, John R. Winder, George Romney, H. Dinwoody, George H. Taylor, L. S. Hille, F. Armstrong, Joseph S. Richards, Thomas W. Jennings and R. T. Burton. The amount of the trustee's bond is \$500,000.