

**THE INDO-CHINESE OPIUM TRADE:
CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO ITS HISTORY,
MORALITY, AND EXPEDIENCY, AND ITS
INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIAN MISSIONS. BEING
THE ESSAY WHICH OBTAINED THE MAITLAND
PRIZE OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR 1882**

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J. SPENCER HILL

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AND
ITS INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

BY
J. SPENCER HILL, B.A.,
SCHOLAR OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

*BEING THE ESSAY WHICH OBTAINED THE MAITLAND PRIZE
OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR 1882.*

WITH PREFATORY NOTE
BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD JUSTICE FRY.

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1884.

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TO

MY FATHER AND MOTHER.

ADVERTISEMENT.

I SHOULD not have published this Essay, which was fortunate enough to obtain the Maitland Prize in the University of Cambridge, had it not been required by the regulations of that foundation. Some may think the treatment of the subject one-sided. I can only say that I commenced with a strong prejudice against the Anti-Opium agitators; but my investigation of the facts and arguments on both sides of the case compelled me to adopt their views, and forced me to the conclusion that our connection with the traffic is wholly unjustifiable. In such a hackneyed subject originality is necessarily impossible, and I have, of course, made the fullest use of all available information: as however so much of what has been written on this question is common property, I have not thought it needful to give references in every case, and hope that this general acknowledgment of my indebtedness will be sufficient.

J. S. H.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
March, 1884.

PREFATORY NOTE

BY THE

RIGHT HON. LORD JUSTICE FRY.

THE MAITLAND PRIZE in the University of Cambridge was founded by the friends of the late Sir Peregrine Maitland, K.C.B., late Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in South India, for an English Essay on some subject connected with the propagation of the Gospel through missionary exertions in India and other parts of the heathen world. The subject selected for the year 1882 was 'The Opium Traffic between India and China viewed politically and morally, and in its bearings on the efforts of Christian missionaries.' The following essay was successful in the competition for that prize.

I have read the essay with much interest, and I trust that it may be the means of calling the attention of many persons to what I believe to be one of the greatest sins that lie at our door as a nation. I am particularly interested in observing that Mr. Hill *commenced his study* of the subject with 'a strong *prejudice against the anti-opium agitators,*' and that

he was compelled by the force of reason to concur in their conclusions.

The subject is one on which great ignorance still prevails, and it is not possible to form an intelligent opinion upon it without some study. Few of those who investigate it with honest and unbiased minds can, I believe, come to any other conclusion than that we are still year by year doing a grievous wrong to China—a wrong which, I believe, will some day, and perhaps before very long, cause to our own nation trouble and sorrow.

E. F.

February 1884.