Views on opium: trader William Jardine and Archdeacon Moule:

William Jardine in a letter to Rev. Karl Frederick August Gutzlaff. Gutzlaff spoke multiple Chinese language ("dialects") and Jardine tried to recruit him as an interpreter for a voyage up north. As Blake says "[Gutzlaff] was not alone in believing that commercial intercourse was the best way of bringing true religion to the 'Heathen Chinese'. But there was the question of what sort of commerce."

"... we have no hesitation in stating to you openly that our principal reliance is on opium. Though it is our earnest wish that you should not in any way injure the grand object you have in view by appearing interested in what, by many, is considered an immoral traffic, yet such traffic is so absolutely necessary to give any vessel a reasonable chance of defraying her expenses, that we trust you will have no objection to interpret on every occasion when your services may be requested... You must be well aware that in the stae of our intercourse with the coast of China no other cargo holds out a prospect of gain sufficient to induce any private merchant to engage in such an expensive expedition. From all we can learn opium appears to be the only article through the medium of which we are likely to be able to gratify the cupidity of the authorities on the coast; gain sweetens labour and, we may add, lessens very materially the risk incurred in the eyes of those who partake therein."

(William Jardine to Gutzlaff. Gutzlaff took the job. From Robert Blake. *Jardine Matheson: Traders of the Far East*. London: Weidenfield and Nicholson, 1999, p. 46.)

Blake: “The general missionary attitude is epitomized in a best-selling books by Archdeacon Moule first published in 1878. He referred to the Convention of Peking of 1860 by which, after the Second Opium War, the Emperor reluctantly legalized opium. He goes on:

Opium which had formed so mighty a factor in the fomentaion of war! War which had opened China! China needing the gospel in all her wide provinces! Can Christian missionaries consent to be introduced at court by the opium trade against which they must ever protest? Such conflicting thoughts must often occur to the sensitive mind. And yet the answer seems simple enough. God in his loving mercy every delights to bring good out of evil. And Christian missionaries dare not hesitate to be the almoners of God’s mercy.”

(Archdeacon Moule, quoted in Robert Blake. *Jardine Matheson: Traders of the Far East*. London: Weidenfield and Nicholson, 1999, p. 48.)