

TOBACCO LEAVES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649002023

Tobacco leaves by John Bain Jr.

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOHN BAIN JR.

**TOBACCO
LEAVES**



TOBACCO LEAVES
by
John Bain Jr.

CALDWELL & CO.
BOSTON.



IN
MEMORY OF
Many Smokes

On sea and land —

From corn silk to divine perfectos

In the wood-shed and on promenade decks

*To many pipes over the mountains and around the
camp-fire*

THESE LEAVES ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED



INTRODUCTION

TOBACCO and its uses have contributed to so many phases of human nature and the social life of centuries, that it is not strange indeed that it should inspire in each new generation of smokers and writers, much new thought in the form of prose and poetry and philosophy.

No other plant has blossomed forth to such good offices. No other plant has stimulated the activities of the world in so many channels. True, it has been and is being prostituted by commercial pirates and tricksters who would debase anything for the dull yellow god of gold. In spite of this, however, tobacco has had for its

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associates so many of the master-minds of the world who have spoken and written in its praises, that it is evident to any one that this "great plant," rightly used, is a power for physical, mental, and even moral well-being.

So much of the literature of tobacco has been collected in book form, that the editor of this anthology would feel some misgivings in attempting to bring forth another volume on the subject were it not for the fact that the influence of tobacco and the growth of its cultivation have developed new features and vital relations with our modern civilization. That this deserves consideration (not alone from the lover of tobacco and literature, but also from him who loves to watch the sidelight of the world's progress) I feel confident.

While some of the interesting items discussed in this little book have been touched upon and even considered seriously in the

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past, they have been scattered through so many publications, that it makes their accessibility in this volume welcome. In addition to this, many aspects and conditions — curiously related to the above — have since arisen as to render their embodiment by contemporaries in this book, if not original, at least fresh in treatment and in accord with the times.

The other chapters, treating as they do of tobacco topics, of which little has been publicly known, but which have, nevertheless, a bearing upon the whole, it is felt will be found readable and informing.

The Poetry of Smoke, contained in this volume, has been selected with great care, and, so far as can be found, has not to any degree ever appeared between permanent covers before, and very little of it is now "in print" in any current work.

That it deserves as high a place as the

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poetry in the companion volume to this, "Tobacco in Song and Story," is assured to its readers by the sentiment it possesses, and the fact that most of it is the product of the pens of graceful and recognized writers who would not sign anything unless it was up to their standard.