

**ST. NICOTINE OF THE
PEACE PIPE,
WITH 4 FULL PAGE
PLATES AND 5 TEXT CUTS**

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St. Nicotine of the peace pipe, with 4 full page plates and 5 text cuts by Edward Vincent Heward

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EDWARD VINCENT HEWARD

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ST NICOTINE
OR
THE PEACE PIPE



From a drawing by F. W. Pursh

TOBACCO PLANTS.

1. *Nicotiana Tabacum*; 2. *N. Rustica*; 3. *N. Persica*.

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OF
THE PEACE PIPE

BY
EDWARD VINCENT HEWARD

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1909



INTRODUCTORY

THE history and associations of tobacco carry the thoughts back to the jubilant days when Good Queen Bess was the idol of her people, to the stirring times when bounding gaiety and lusty banter found expression in unrestrained mirth as readily in the open street as within doors. The writer's aim in the following chapters has been to bring together (in a somewhat desultory way, it may be) the chief features of interest which the story of the 'Indian's herb' presents to us to-day. The social element undoubtedly dominates all others; this, coupled with the primitive belief in its medicinal properties, at once secured for it the good-will of men longing for knowledge of the New World and ever ready to adopt an indulgence so alluring. That this feeling was universal is shewn by the rapidity with which the smoking habit spread over the Earth wherever there was a human habitation. No less remarkable is the sturdy tenacity with which men everywhere stuck to it despite the determined opposition of potentates and pontiffs.

In the eyes of her votaries St Nicotine's virtues are rare and manifold. Indeed all sorts of pretty things have been said and sung in her praise, and as becomes a faithful devotee at her shrine the writer believes them all as implicitly—well, as a child believes fairy tales. Many a non-smoker when questioned about his indifference to her gracious influence has heaved a pensive sigh and lamented Dame Nature's ill-usage in denying him the taste for the nicotian incense. Consolation comes not to him when told that the good genius has knit together a brotherhood who, regaled with her balmy breath, realize the touch of nature which makes the whole world kin; that on her approach petty vexations vanish into space, and fancy, untrammelled, roves in Parnassian bowers, or sees in the vapour rising from the bowl nebulous forms resembling those in the far-off starry sky.

The demon of insomnia flies from her presence, and upon the sleepless she breathes 'tired nature's sweet restorer.' Faith born of experience bears willing testimony to this priceless virtue. Once upon a time, too remote to recall the year, it befell the writer of these lines to suffer from the effects of insomnia. Wakeful nights followed by comatose days passed into months, and the relief the poet Young had wooed in vain still held aloof. At last fortune smiled. Walking with a friend one evening a cigar was proffered him. Not being a smoker he declined the weed. Again urged to try it (without any suggestion of its narcotic properties) he did so and smoked it to the end. That night he fell into a sleep so profound that on waking the next morning the hours that had fled seemed but as a moment. Years have rolled by since then, but not an evening has passed unsoled by the gentle anodyne.

Opponents of tobacco-smoking generally base their objection on the rather shaky ground of what they with emphasis term, 'principle.' A case of the kind cropped up a few years ago when Professor Huxley related the story of how he had become a convert to the creed of the tobaccoist. It runs as follows:—

'When I was a young man I went with a party of my friends to Holland. It happened that they were smokers and I was not. I did my best to fortify myself in determined resistance to the pernicious habit, which from my standpoint I looked upon as wholly indefensible. The tobacco plant belongs to a family of poisoners—certainly a poisonous family, what then could be said in its favour? Science and reason being opposed to it how could intelligent beings submit to its sway, and with so much assumed pleasure? Thus I mused with my back propped against the hotel wall where in a cosy room inside my friends were quietly enjoying themselves with their weeds and social gossip. I fought with myself. I fought against the seductive influence of the goddess, and failed. The flesh was too strong for philosophy: I crept in and joined them with my first cigar.'

A lady once confessed to the writer that she had all unwittingly followed in the wake of a smoker whose cigar

shed on the air a fragrance so delicate that for a time it was quite irresistible. Doubtless many another could, if so minded tell of a similar experience. A good cigar indeed—Havana or Cuban leaf for preference—is an inspiration. A meerschaum pipe when ‘mellow, rich and ripe’ is a treasure; but cigarettes are becoming, if they have not already become, a nuisance.

Grateful memories of the weed are enshrined in the literature of every language; and many an old and odd volume have yielded to the gleaner the materials of which the following pages are made up. Some parts have already seen the light in the form of magazine articles, and for permission to republish these the writer tenders his thanks to Sir James Knowles, of the Nineteenth Century Review, to the Editor of Macmillan's Magazine, and to Sylvanus Urban of the Gentleman's Magazine.

And this may be the fitting place to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of the principal (Mr. A. C. Wood) of the Statistical Office of H.M. Customs, who has furnished the tabular statement, which appears below, shewing the latest facts and figures on importations of tobacco, on the rate of consumption per head of population in the United Kingdom, and the revenue derived therefrom.

STATISTICAL OFFICE,
H.M. CUSTOMS.

Since the date of your article there have been some considerable changes in the fiscal position of Tobacco and the following are the chief changes in rates of duty per lb. since 1898:—

	Unmanufactured Tobacco.		Cigars.		Foreign Cavendish.		Other Sorts.		
	s	D	s	D	s	D	s	D	
1898	2	8	5	0	3	10	3	5	
1900	3	0	5	6	4	4	3	10	
1904	3	3	6	0	4	4	4	10	Cigarettes. Other Sorts.
	3	1½					3	10	
	3	0							
			Whole Leaf.						