

the weed ; and as men, women and children, are all fond of imitating the rich, and the great, soon the signs of wealth, intelligence and patriotism, began to fall in pearly drops from the nasal appendage, or was ejected from the mouth in torrents of amber, huge volumes of smoke. And so popular did its use become that it was thought nothing would finish a young buck so completely as tobacco ; and nothing else would so polish and preserve the teeth, and give a proper aroma to the breath of a young lady mopping her mouth with maccoboy. And it was fully believed that it added greatly to the matronly appearance of a young mother, increased the sap of life, and made the baby grow, for her to suck the perfumes of tobacco through an elder stick in the chimney corner ; and many have done so till they look as tawdry as a smoked ham.

So prevalent became the use of this poison, that in all classes of society, in all places, at all times, under all circumstances, the custom was possessed of almost omnipresence. The family hearth was stained, the sanctuary was polluted with worse than pig-sty filth, even the pulpit fouled by emanations from the nasty reservoir of him that had vowed cleanliness before God and man. The whole atmosphere seemed tainted with the nauseous fumes of tobacco, and all this time but little was said about the nature or effects of the barbarous custom. True, now and then an Abercrombie would declare snuff did not injure the brain, for no person that any brains would use it ; a philanthropist would count its cost, and calculate the benefit it would be to the world if differently applied, and publish to the world the result of his calculations ; or a moralist would expatiate upon the immorality of the habit ; but as a general rule the whole world of tobacco worms were allowed to feed upon the leaf in undisturbed felicity. Perhaps the reason for this silence in the press, the platform, and the pulpit, was that it has always been the policy of the Church to attack the most important errors and evil practices prevalent, as the circumstances around gave each a particular prominence. Thus while the great sins of intemperance and slavery have been thoroughly canvassed, and exposed in all their deformity, and the voice of philanthropists, moralists, and religionists, have been heard all over the civilized world denouncing these great sins, warning the unwary, trying to reclaim the fallen, and bring back the wanderer, comparatively little has been said about the use of that powerful poison called tobacco. But the developments of the past few years has opened