

are the scalp war-trophy, and the peace-pipe of the American Indian,—the characteristics not of a tribe, or a nation, but of a whole continent. Of the indigenous uniqueness of the former of these there is no question. It may not be altogether unprofitable to reconsider the purely American origin of the usages connected with the latter, on which doubts have been repeatedly cast, and more especially by recent writers, when considering the inquiry from very diverse points of view.

Among the native products of the American continent, there is none which so strikingly distinguishes it as the tobacco plant, and the purposes to which its leaf is applied; for even were it proved that the use of it as a narcotic, and the practise of smoking its burning leaf, had originated independently in the old world, the sacred institution of the peace-pipe must still remain as the peculiar characteristic of the Red Indian of America. Professor Johnston, in his "Chemistry of Common Life," remarks with reference to this and others of the narcotics peculiar to the new world:—"The Aborigines of Central America rolled up the tobacco leaf, and dreamed away their lives in smoky reveries, ages before Columbus was born, or the colonists of Sir Walter Raleigh brought it within the precincts of the Elizabethan Court. The cocoa leaf, now the comfort and strength of the Peruvian muletero, was chewed as he does it, in far remote times, and among the same mountains, by the Indian natives whose blood he inherits." The former of these narcotics, however, it is scarcely necessary to say, was not confined, within any period known to us, to central America, though its name of tobacco,—derived by some from the Haïtian *tambaku*, and by others from *Tabaco*, a province of Yucatan, where the Spaniards are affirmed to have first met with it,—appears to have been the native term for the pipe, and not for the plant, which was called *kohiba*.

So far as we can now infer from the evidence furnished by native arts and relics connected with the use of the tobacco plant, it seems to have been as familiar to most of the ancient tribes of the north west, and the Aborigines of our Canadian forests, as to those of the American tropics, of which the *Nicotiana Tabacum* is believed to be a native. No such remarkable depositories indeed have been found to the north of the great chain of lakes, as those disclosed to the explorers of the tumuli of "Mound City," in the Scioto valley, Ohio, from a single one of which, nearly two hundred pipes were taken; most of them composed of a hard red porphyritic stone, with their bowls elaborately carved in miniature figures of animals, birds,