

THE
COTTAGER'S FRIEND,
AND
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USE OF TOBACCO.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOBACCO, READ BEFORE THE
JEFFERSONVILLE DISTRICT MEETING, HELD AT CHARLESTOWN,
INDIANA, APRIL 9TH AND 10TH, 1855.

The subject on which your present committee is called upon to report, is so very indelicate in its nature, that it is quite embarrassing for a *modest man* to bring so filthy a subject before an intelligent and refined assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. Your committee do not propose to make minute examination into the practice of using tobacco in its various forms—this would so arouse the morbid sensibilities of the inner man as to produce very unpleasant consequences.

For many years after the introduction of tobacco into civilized society its use as a luxury met with great opposition from all classes of society, but gradually the opposition gave way, and the practice became fashionable with the multitude. Physicians recommended it as a remedy for a variety of ills to which human flesh is heir, as tooth-ache and colic, water-brash and heart-burn ringworm and vermin, and many others too tedious to mention; and your committee are to admit that it is mighty in the destruction of insect existence, and is perhaps absolutely necessary to the well-being of some of those that use it. The barrister chewed his quid, the parson smoked his cigar, and the old ladies filled their noses with the dust; claiming they had the best of reasons to justify them in the use of this narcotic; indeed, it was considered a mark of extra ability, intelligence, and patriotism, to be found an advocate for the use of