

ago as May, 1647, it was enacted by the General Court of Connecticut as follows: "F rasmuch as it is observed that many abuses are crept in, and committed by frequent taking of tobacco, It is ordered by the authority of this Courte, That no person under the age of twenty years, nor any other, that hath not already accustomed himselfe to the use thereof, shall take any tobacco, until he hath brought a certificate under the hands of some who are approved for knowledge and skill in phisik, that it is usefull for him, and allso, that he hath received a lycense from the Courte for the same. And for the regulating of those who, either by theire former taking it have, to theire own apprehensions, made it necessary to them, or upon due advice are persuaded to the use thereof, It is ordered, That no man within this colonye, after the publication hereof, shall take any tobacco publicly, in the streett, highwayes, or any barneyardes, or uppon training dayes, in any open places, under the penalty of sixpence for each offence against this order, in any the particulars thereof, to be paid without gainesaying, upon conviction, by the testimony of one witness, that is without just exception, before any one magistrate. And the constables in the severall townes are required to make presentment to each particular Courte of such as they doe understand and can evict to be transgressors of this order:" Col. Rec., I., 153.

Years prior to this, the colony of Massachusetts had tried to stop smoking in public; in 1632 it was ordered that the punishment for this improper act should be "one penny" for every conviction. This law not accomplishing the intended purpose, in 1634 it was enacted that victuallers, or keepers of an ordinary, should not suffer any tobacco to be taken in their houses, under the penalty of five shillings for every offence, to be paid by the victualler, and one shilling by the sroker. Sterner still was the decree that followed, which inflicted a penalty of 2s. 6d. upon any one taking (*i.e.*, smoking) tobacco publicly, or "privately, in his owne house, or in the house of another, before strangers," or upon two or more taking it together anywhere. Apparently, there was nothing for a man, then, but to smoke up his own chimney in lonely solitude. In the following March this virtuous legislature ordered that, after the last of September then next, no person whatsoever should buy or sell any tobacco within the jurisdiction, under the penalty of 10s. a pound, and so pro-