

and lastly, the preparation of the yellow leaves, which are merely rubbed to pieces, and then put into the pipe, so peculiar, that they could not possibly derive all this from America by way of Europe, especially as India, where the practice is not so general, intervenes between Persia and China." But the opinions of Dr. Meyen, formerly Professor of Botany in the University of Berlin, are worthy of still greater weight, set forth as they are, alike on Archæological and Botanical grounds. In his "*Grundriss der Pflanzengeographie*," or "Outlines of the Geography of Plants," recently translated for the Ray Society, he observes: "It has long been the opinion, that the use of tobacco, as well as its culture, was peculiar to the people of America, but this is now proved to be incorrect by our present more exact acquaintance with China and India. The consumption of tobacco in the Chinese empire is of immense extent, and the practice seems to be of great antiquity, for on very old sculptures I have observed the very same tobacco pipes which are still used. Besides we now know the plant which furnishes the Chinese tobacco, it is even said to grow wild in the East Indies. It is certain that this tobacco plant of eastern Asia is quite different from the American species. The genus *Nicotiana*, generally speaking, belongs to the warmer zones, yet a few species of it have a very extensive area, and a great power of resisting the influence of climate, for they can be grown under the equator, and in the temperate zone, even far above 55° north latitude, where the mean summer heat is equal to 15.87° Cels. The southern polar limit for the culture of tobacco is not exactly known, but it seems to extend to the 40th degree of latitude, for in south America tobacco is cultivated at Conception, and in New Zealand enough is grown for the consumption there."*

To India, then, Dr. Meyen inclines, with others, to refer the native habitat of an Asiatic tobacco, which he thus affirms to have been in use by the Chinese as a narcotic, and consumed by inhaling its smoke through a pipe, altogether independent of the introduction of this luxury to Europe by the discoverers of America in the fifteenth century. While the Turk still chews the opium in which he so freely indulges, the Chinese, and also the Malays smoke it, most frequently using as a pipe a bamboo, which serves also for a walking stick, and requires a very slight operation to convert it into an opium pipe. The Chinese opium smoker secures the utmost effects of that powerful narcotic by swallowing the smoke; and notwithstanding this mode of using the narcotic derived from the poppy is

* Meyen's Outlines of the Geography of Plants. Ray Society. Page 361.