

also informed that when Columbus visited the West Indies he found the natives smoking this plant, made into cylindrical rolls wrapped in maize leaf.

It also seems from records of old that the American Indians have been using the plant from unknown antiquity, and with them it ever has a religious character in connection with their worship and all important transactions; thus the calumet, or pipe-of-peace, is indispensable to the ratification of a treaty, and smoking together has even greater significance of friendship than eating together has among other nations, believing that the Great Spirit smelled a sweet savor as the smoke of the sacred plant ascended to heaven.

There seems to be no record of the use of tobacco in Shakespeare's time, while it is supposed to have been used only by the wealthy, as the price was very high, and smoked in small pipes.

The use and application of tobacco from its first discovery has been various. As a medicine it has been recommended, and it has been used where digitalis has been unsuccessful. Dr. Flowers, an English physician, in some cases of dropsy recorded its use with beneficial results.

The great Linnaeus, in classifying this plant, places this genus as one of those having five stamens and one style, having eleven species, one of which is *hyoscyemus*, from its similarity to the deadly henbane. He also places tobacco in the class of *lucidae*, which signifies pale, ghastly, livid, dismal, fatal, classing it also with other poisonous plants, bearing the name of *Atropa*, one of the furies. The oil of this plant is one of the strongest vegetable poisons, inasmuch that no animal has been known to resist its mortal effects.

Tobacco, when first taken into the stomach, creates nausea and external disgust; if swallowed, it excites violent convulsions in the stomach and bowels, in the effort to eject the poison upward or downwards, and, if not speedily and entirely ejected, it produces vertigo, faintness, and prostration of all the senses, and in many instances death has followed. For the destruction of insect life on plants, flowers, especially roses, it is used as a decoction by florists, botanists and others successfully during the blooming seasons.

The excessive use of tobacco is not confined to America alone. So general had become its consumption in the seventeenth century that much was done to prevent its use and suppress the increasing and prevailing habit. In Turkey, Pope Urban VIII. and Innocent XI., as well as priests and sultans made strenuous efforts to suppress it by declaring it a crime to smoke or chew the plant, and we have it recorded that Sultan Amurath IV. decreed punishment of the most cruel kind of death, by having the pipes of smokers thrust through their noses, and in Russia the noses of smokers