

minister the smoke, and when he was thoroughly intoxicated by it the cure was mostly effected. On returning to his senses, he told a thousand stories of his having been at the council of the gods, and other high visions."¹

Many legends among the Indians ascribe a divine origin to tobacco. A chief of the Susquehanna Indians told of two hunters of the tribe sharing the venison they had cooked with a lovely squaw, who suddenly appeared to them ; and on returning to the scene of their feast thirteen moons after, they found the tobacco-plant growing where she had sat. Harriot, who sailed in Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition of 1584, tells that the Indians of Virginia regarded tobacco as a means of peculiar enjoyment, in which the Great Spirit was wont freely to indulge, and that he bestowed it on them that they might share in his delights. Repeated allusions also refer to its intoxicating effects as an influence analogous to that which produced the visions and inspirations of the fasting dreams. It seems, therefore, by no means improbable, that the original practice of inhaling the fumes of tobacco was associated exclusively with superstitious rites and divination ; so that the tobacco-plant may have played a part in the worship of the ancient Mound-Builders, analogous to that of the inspiring vapour over which the Delphic tripod was placed, when the priestess of Apolló prepared to give utterance to the divine oracles.

¹ *History of the New World.* By Girolamo Benzoni. Hakluyt Society, 1857.