

adds greatly to the force of the argument against any older employment of narcotics in the way of inhaling their fumes, based on the absence of earlier notices of so remarkable a custom. The use indeed of various narcotics, such as opium, bang: the leaf of the hemp plant, and the betel-nut, the fruit of the *Areca* palm, by the south-eastern Asiatics appears to be traceable to a remote antiquity. Northern Europe has, in like manner, had its ledum and hop, and in Siberia, its *amanita muscaria*, or narcotic fungus. But the evidence fails us which should prove that in the case of the pipe, as in that of the pouncet-box, the tobacco only came as a substitute for older aromatics, or narcotics similarly employed. Nor when the evidence is looked into more carefully, are such direct proofs wanting, as suggest a comparatively recent origin, in so far as both Europe and Asia are concerned, to the peculiar mode of enjoying such narcotics by inhaling their fumes through a pipe attached to the bowl in which they are subjected to a slow process of combustion.

When engaged, some years since, in the preparation of a work on Scottish Archaeology, my attention was directed, among various minor antiquities of the British Islands, to a curious class of relics popularly known in Scotland by the name of *Celtic* or *Elfin pipes*, in the north of England as *Fairy pipes*, and in Ireland where they are more abundant, as *Danes' pipes*. These are formed of white clay, with some resemblance to the form of the modern clay pipe, but variously ornamented, and invariably of a very small size compared with any tobacco-pipe in modern use. Similar relics have since been observed in England, found under circumstances calculated, like those attending the discovery of some of the Scottish examples to suggest an antiquity for them long anterior to the introduction of America's favourite narcotic, with what King James, on finding its taxability, learned to designate its "precious stink!" The most remarkable of such discoveries are those in which pipes of this primitive form have been found on Roman sites along side of genuine Roman remains. Such was the case, on the exposure, in 1852, of part of the ancient Roman wall of London, at the Tower postern; and, along with masonry and tiles, of undoubted Roman workmanship, a mutilated sepulchral inscription was found possessed of peculiar interest from supplying the only example, so far as I am aware, in Britain, of a Christian date of the second century:—

PO ANNO + C LXX\*

In the summer of 1853, only a few months after this London dis-

\* M.S. Letter J. W. Archer, Esq., London, April, 1853.