

and this done, and the warriors having buried their war clubs, they smoke their first peace-pipe, and depart :

While the Master of Life, ascending,  
Through the opening of cloud-curtains,  
Through the doorways of the heaven,  
Vanished from before their faces,  
In the smoke that rolled around him,  
The pukwana of the peace pipe !

It is no mean triumph of the poet thus to redeem from associations, not only prosaic, but even offensive, a custom which so peculiarly pertains to the usages and the rites of this continent from the remotest times of which its historic memorials furnish any trace ; and which was no sooner practically introduced to the knowledge of the old world, than that royal pedant, king James, directed against it his world-famous "Counterblast to Tobacco," describing its use as "a custom loathesome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless !"

The history of the custom thus dignified by the assaults of royalty, and against certain uses of which the supreme pontiff, Urban, VIII., fulminated the thunders of the church, has attracted considerable attention in modern times on various grounds. In their relations to physiology the use and effects of narcotics claim an important consideration ; and the almost universal diffusion of tobacco in modern times, accompanied with its peculiar mode of enjoyment, so generally adopted by the most diverse tribes and nations in every quarter of the globe, give its history a preeminence in any such inquiry. The questions as to whether the practice of smoking narcotics, or even the use and peculiar properties of tobacco, were known to the old world prior to the discovery of America, have accordingly repeatedly excited discussion ; though it has not been always remembered that the inquiry as to the indigenous character of certain varieties of the tobacco plant in the old world, and even as to the use of such a narcotic, involve questions quite distinct from that of the origin of the very peculiar mode of partaking of the exhilarating or intoxicating effects of various narcotics by inhaling their burning fumes through a pipe.

The green tobacco, *nicotiana rustica*, cultivated in Thibet, western China, northern India, and Syria, is a different species from the American plant ; and while it is affirmed by some to have been