

Dominion Dental Journal

Vol. X.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1898.

No. 1.

Original Communications.

NICOTIANA.*

BY A. C. COGSWELL, L.D.S., D.D.S., HALIFAX, N.S.

GENTLEMEN,—It requires sometimes more than the courage of one's convictions to express an honest opinion, much less caution in attacking a favorite of the people. A prudent man, one who wishes to sail quietly down the popular stream, would be disposed rather to flatter and applaud the object of their affections. But an honest man, who may differ a little from others, as a prudent one, can never flatter where he feels a friendship.

Facts are said to be stubborn things, but from these we form conclusions which, carefully analyzed, enable the unbiased and unprejudiced to return an honest and conscientious verdict.

History records that the name of Nicotine, or Tobacco, was said to be from one Jean Nicotte, who first introduced it into France, hence Nicoteana; or, as said by others, by Jacobius Nicotius, Ambassador to the Court of Portugal from Francis II., King of France, he having purchased some of the seeds of this plant from a Dutchman in 1560, who had brought them from America, and from this seed it was brought to France; Sir Francis Drake carried it to England, and Sir Walter Raleigh first brought it into fashion; the dried plant and leaf was afterward imported from Tobago, and hence its present name tobacco.

The common tobacco, so called Verginia (*N. Tabacum*), is a native of the warm parts of America, the cultivation of which had extended, before the discovery of the New World by Columbus, far to the north of the plant in which it is indigenous. We are

* Read before the Dental Association at Wolfville, N.S., Aug. 25, 1897.