

"The Scornful Lady" speaks ironically of "wealthy tobacco-merchants, that set up with one ounce, and break for three!" It shares indeed, with gambling, drinking, and other vices, in helping on the young spendthrifts of the drama to speedy ruin. In "Bartholomew Fair," (Act II., Scene VI.) the puritan Justice, Overdo, warns against "lusting after that tawny weed tobacco, whose complexion is like the Indian's that vents it!" and after berating it in terms scarcely quotable, he reckons the novice's outlay at "thirty pounds a week in bottle-ale, forty in tobacco!" So, too, in Beaumont and Fletcher's "Wit without Money," Valentine "a gallant that will not be persuaded to keep his estate," picturing to his faithless rivals in his love suit, the beggary that awaits them, sums up a list of the slights of fortune with: "English tobacco, with half-pipes, nor in half a year once burnt." More quaint is the allusion with which Robin Goodfellow, in "the Shepherd's Dream." (1612.) fixes the introduction of the novel luxury, where reluctantly admitting the benefits of the Reformation, he bewails the exit of popery and the introduction of tobacco as concurrent events!

From this date the allusions to the use and abuse of the Indian weed abound, and leave no room to question the wide diffusion of the practice of smoking in the seventeenth century. Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," (1621). prescribes tobacco as "a sovereign remedy to all diseases, but one commonly abused by most men;" while in Zacharie Boyd's "Last Battell of the Soule in Death," printed at Edinburgh in 1629, the quaint old divine speaks of the backslider as one with whom "the wyne pint and tobacco pype with sneesing powder, provoking sneuele, were his heartes delight!"

The term employed by Zacharie Boyd for snuff, is still in the abbreviated form of "*sneeshin*," the popular Scottish name for this preparation of tobacco. There are not wanting, however, abundant proofs of the ancient use of aromatic powders as snuff, long before the introduction of tobacco to Europe. One familiar passage from Shakespeare will occur to all; where Hotspur describing the fopling lord "perfumed like a milliner," adds:—

"And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he held
A pouncet-box, which ever and anon
He gave his nose, and took't away again;
Who, therewith angry, when it next came there
Took it in snuff."

The illustration which this passage affords of the ancient use of pungent and aromatic powders in one manner in which tobacco has been so extensively employed since its introduction into Europe,