

ever, is this ancient process from indicating a mode of inhaling herbs, in any sense equivalent to the American luxury by which it may be supposed to have been superseded, that it is by no means banished, even now, from the practise of ancient female herbalists and domestic mediciners, whom I have known recommend the inhalation of the fumes or steam of various plants, not by means of a tobacco pipe, but through the spout of a teapot!

There is no question, however, that many plants have been employed as substitutes for tobacco, since the introduction of the practice of smoking. The slight astringency and diuretic qualities of *polytrichum* and other *Bryaceæ*, led to their use formerly in medicines, and the practice was once common, as I have been assured, in Annandale, and other border districts of Scotland, and is not even now wholly obsolete, of smoking the dried *sphagnum latifolium*, or the *obtusifolium* and others of the mosses which abound in the marshy bogs. So also the *millefolium* or yarrow, one of the various species of the genus *Achillea*, and several of the herbs which from their shape and the velvet surface of the leaves, are popularly known by the name of *mouse ear*, have long supplied to the English rustic an economic substitute for tobacco; just as the sloe, hawthorn, sage, and other leaves have furnished a native apology for the tea plant. But the "time immemorial" to which such practice extends probably falls far short of well ascertained dates when tobacco and the tobacco pipe were both recognized as gifts of the new world to the old. But it is curious to note, that one of the most anciently accredited substitutes for tobacco: the coltsfoot, appears to have been employed to adulterate it almost as soon as it came into use in England. Dame Ursula, in Ben Jonson's "Bartholomew Fair," (1614,) thus addresses her dull tapster:—"I can but hold life and soul together with this, and a whiff of tobacco at most, where's my pipe now? not filled, thou errant incubee! . . . Look too't sirrah, you were best; threepence a pipe full, I will ha' made, of all my whole half-pound of tobacco, and a quarter of a-pound of *coltsfoot* mix't with it too, to itch [eke] it out. I that have dealt so long in the fire will not be to seek in smoke now."

The libraries of Canada furnish very slender means for dallying with the Bibliography of the nicotian art. But some of the references made above may be thought to bear on the subject, and the very terms in which the royal author of the "Counterblaste" assails it as a novelty of such recent origin "as this present age can very well remember both the first author and forms of its introduction," seem