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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TOBACCO, FROM 1662 TO 1800.

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"L'introduction du TABAC offre une de ces époques singulières dans l'histoire des bizarreries humaines. Une herbe fétide, répugnante, fumée par les sauvages de certains cantons de l'Amérique, est à peine connue, que son emploi se répand non-seulement par tout l'univers civilisé, mais encore parmi les nations les plus lointaines, en communication avec les Européens, et devient la source d'un revenu immense, en opérant en quelque sorte dans nos mœurs révolution. On a dit de lui avec justesse, qu'il a conquis le monde en moins de deux siècles."—*Dictionnaire Universel Matière Médicale et de Thérapeutique Générale, etc.*, par F. V. Merat et A. J. De Lens, tom. iv. p. 606, 607.

WE have already shown* how much tobacco, in Virginia, during the seventeenth century, had usurped the place of coin, and that taxes were paid and fines levied in it. Many curious laws, illustrating these facts, might be copied, and many conceived in the spirit of those Puritanical ones of New England that we have cited.† We shall now only quote, as further specimens of Virginian legislation in 1662, one or two enactments. One is entitled "*An Act against Persons that refuse to have their Children Baptised,*" and reads as follows:—

"Whereas, many schismatical persons, either out of averseness to the Orthodox established Religion, or out of the new-fangled conceits of their own heretical inventions, refuse to have their children baptised:—

"Be it therefore enacted by this present General Assembly, and the authority thereof, That all and every person or persons that in contempt of the Divine Sacrament of Baptism shall refuse, when he or they may carry his or their child or children to a lawful minister in that County where he or they dwell, to have them baptised, shall be amerced *Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco*; half to the Parish, half to the Informer."‡

The spirit of religious intolerance which dictated this edict, also enacted the establishment of the Episcopalian church by law; forbade non-conformists to teach, even privately, under pain of banishment; allowed none but the favored clergy to expound the catechism or scriptures; and revived the Elizabethian laws against Quakers.§ The following mor-

* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxxvii., p. 336, 471.

† Ibid. vol. xxxvii., p. 472, 473.

‡ Extracts from the Provincial Statutes of Virginia, copied verbatim from the Colonial Records, p. 230.

§ Bancroft's History of the United States, vol. ii., p. 200, 201.

sel is another specimen of the legislative wisdom of the "Grand Assembly" of 1662. It is entitled "*An Act for the Punishment of Scandalous Persons*," and is propounded in these words:—

"I. *Whereas*, many babbling women slander and scandalize their neighbors, for which their poor husbands are often involved in chargeable and vexatious suits, and cast in great damages:—

"II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the Authority aforesaid*, That in Actions of Slander, occasioned by the Wife, after Judgment passed for the Damages, the woman shall be punished by Ducking; and if the slander be so enormous as to be adjudged at greater damages than *Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco*, then the woman to suffer a Ducking for each *Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco* adjudged against the Husband, if he refuse to pay the Tobacco.*

As afterwards laws were passed for "the building and maintaining of prisons, pillories, whipping-posts, stocks and *ducking-stools*,"† it would appear that the act was carried into execution, and that all husbands did not, or could not, interpose to prevent the novel punishment inflicted for exercising the "unruly member."

In 1669 there was another American settlement at Albermarle, whose staple was tobacco, and who, this year, by an assembly, made laws for the first time for their government, ignorant that Locke, at Shaftesbury's instance, had already framed for them a magnificent, impracticable, and aristocratic scheme of governmental policy.‡ Their first legislature appear to have received no compensation whatever, and Bancroft says that "to meet the expenses of the Governor and Council, a fee of thirty pounds of tobacco was exacted in every law suit."§

The evils under which the tobacco-planters of Virginia and Maryland groaned, were still further increased in 1672 by the duties laid on intercolonial traffic. Having loaded with burdens their trade with foreign countries, or rather having prohibited it except through the British, the English government now enacted laws to cripple the commercial intercourse of the Colonies between themselves. To make the requisitions still more galling, the duties thus laid produced no revenue available to the people, because the avails were given to the officers to stimulate their activity, and the result was to give increased favor to "the monopoly of the English merchant."|| It is no wonder, then, that the situation of Virginia began to be deplorable. In describing its state in 1674, Bancroft says:—"No newspapers entered the houses of the planters; no printing press furnished them a book." There were no roads, no bridges, no education of the rising generation. "Visits were made in boats, or on horseback through the forest; and the Virginian travelling *with his pouch of tobacco for currency*, swam the rivers, where there was neither ferry nor ford."¶ In Maryland, where likewise the "tobacco pouch" paid all kinds of expenses, there was, this

* Extracts from the Provincial Statutes of Virginia, &c., p. 232.

† Ibid., p. 233.

‡ Chalmers's Political Annals of the Present United Colonies, p. 525, 555.

§ History of the United States, vol. ii., p. 152.

|| Beverly's History and Present State of Virginia, &c., p. 66.

¶ History of the United States, vol. ii., p. 211, 212.

year, a State-house built which cost forty thousand pounds of tobacco, or about a thousand dollars.*

In 1676 the imports on their tobacco, and the hindrances to their humble trade, induced the people of Albermarle to send Eastchurch, the Speaker of their Assembly, to be their messenger in explaining their grievances in London. The proprietors appointed him governor, but also made one Miller secretary and collector of the customs, notwithstanding his conduct had compelled the North Carolinians to drive him from their settlement. In consequence of the delay of Eastchurch in the West Indies, when returning home, Miller exercised the offices not only of secretary and collector, but of governor also, and he rigidly put in force the enactments of 1672, compelling the tobacco planters to pay a penny on every pound of their staple which was exported to New England. Thus the small vessels from Boston and other ports of New England were excluded, to swell the odious monopoly of the English merchants, and the planters were left to send their tobacco to Great Britain as best they could.† And the whole of their exports, which British cupidity grudged to the Americans, amounted to only about eight hundred hogsheads of tobacco, some maize, and a few cattle.‡ The trade was weighed down by a tax of £12,000 per annum, an enormous burthen for *four thousand* inhabitants. But these taxes and navigation acts at length produced an explosion, as tyranny, when long continued, will always do.

On the 24th of June, old style, or July 4th, 1676, new style, just 100 years before the memorable and successful declaration of independence, Nathaniel Bacon's revolution occurred; but no sooner was the revolt suppressed, than all the old abuses were reinstated. In this strife against unlawful power the first American blood was shed on the charge of *treason*. The oppression of the tobacco interests was the main spring to the revolution, and the colonists endeavored to sustain their rights by arms to dispose as they pleased of their staple. Thomas Hansford was the name of the first American martyr who thus perished. His life was sacrificed by the minions of royalty, November 13th, 1676.§ Edmund Cheeseman was the next victim,|| and to him succeeded William Drummond.¶ Nineteen others were also executed, and Bancroft says, "three died of cruelty in prison; three fled before trial, and two escaped after conviction."*** Among the people of Albermarle, as well as of Virginia, was excited a spirit of insurrection. The violence, exaction and harshness of Miller, almost led the tobacco planters to abandon the country, and finally raised a popular rebellion which was headed by John Culpepper. He was tried for treason in England, in 1780, but

* History of the United States, vol. ii., p. 238.

† F. X. Martin's History of North Carolina from the Earliest Period, &c., vol. i., p. 167.

‡ Chalmers's Political Annals of the Present United Colonies, &c., p. 533.

§ Burwell's Account of Bacon and Ingram's Rebellion, first printed in the Massachusetts Historical Collections, vol. xi., p. 62.

|| Henning's Statutes at Large; being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia, from the first Session of the Legislature in 1619, vol. ii., p. 375.

¶ True Account, printed in Burk's History of Virginia, vol. ii., p. 255.

*** Bancroft's History of the United States, vol. ii., chap. xiv., p. 232.

through Lord Shaftesbury's influence, although his Lordship was one of the eight proprietors, he was acquitted by an English jury.*

In 1680 Lord Culpepper, Governor of Virginia, convened, in the month of June, an assembly of royalists, who authorized "a perpetual export duty of two shillings a hogshead on tobacco, and granted the proceeds as a royal revenue for the support of government, to be accounted for, not to the Assembly, but to the king."† These outrageous imposts were followed by other taxes laid by the English government, even more onerous and injurious to the tobacco producer.‡

In 1684 tobacco had extended so far into the Polynesian islands as to have reached Mindanao, where in the very clime of its Oriental rival, the betel, it held a divided empire, and to this time preserves its sway. The tobacco was obtained by the inhabitants of Mindanao from the Dutch, and an article of "excellent quality," as we are told in Dampier's *New Voyage Round the World*, was sold for one twelfth of a rial per pound.§ It was used in connection with the betel nut, for when Capt. Swan, of the *Cygnets*, during Dampier's celebrated circumnavigation of the globe, landed at Mindanao, he "was conducted to an audience, and entertained with betel and tobacco."|| The Ceylonese also chew with their betel a strong and intoxicating kind of tobacco which they call *kappada*.¶

In 1689, in the grand principality of Transylvania, the civil authorities became alarmed at the introduction of tobacco, and at the rapid and extensive favor it found among the people. The custom of using it was brought to Transylvania by some gypsies who had been on a visit to the Eastern portions of Europe. From them the habit quickly spread, and the custom seemed about to establish itself universally.** The magistrates viewed the advances of the novelty with alarm and dismay, and resolved to interpose the arm of the law to stay the dangerous innovation. Deeply impressed with the importance of acting energetically, it was decreed that whoever cultivated the pestiferous weed should suffer the entire confiscation of his estate, and such a term of imprisonment as the local magistrate should deem suited to the enormity of the crime. The consumer of the noxious article was visited with a fine for each offence, which varied, at the discretion of the magistrate, from fifty florins, as a minimum, to two hundred, as a maximum.†† The infractions of the enactment, however, were so numerous, so flagrant, and so popular, that all attempts to carry the edict into effect were found to be vain. In less than two years they were abandoned, and a full range was given to the habit, which was at first deemed so pernicious by the guardians of the law, but before whose influence they themselves soon learned to bow, thus adding the crowning triumph to the exotic weed.

In 1690, after having long received the smiles and approbation of the

* *Memoirs of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury*, p. 218.

† *Hening's Statutes at Large, &c.*, vol. ii., p. 568, 569.

‡ *Bancroft's History of the United States*, vol. ii., p. 252.

§ *Lives and Voyages of Drake, Cavendish and Dampier*, p. 279, 280.

|| *Ibid.*, p. 275.

¶ *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 278, p. 1143.

** *Historia de Rebus Transylvanicis*, tom. vi., p. 328.

†† *Ibid.*, tom. vi., cap. xcvii., p. 329.

citizens and priests at Rome, tobacco was again brought under the ban of papal denunciation. Anthony Pignatelli, Pope Innocent XIII., made snuff-taking in St. Peter's an offence that placed the criminal in a state of excommunication! *—a position by no means enviable, as all protestant readers will readily see by referring to *Tristram Shandy*, where Dr. Slop, albeit not spiritually empowered, pours the thunders of the Romish church full upon the head of the unlucky and knot-tying Timothy. † For thirty-four mortal years were poor Catholic snuff-takers denied their favorite luxury within the hallowed precincts of St. Peter's; but in 1724 Innocent XIII. was "gathered to his fathers," and Pietro Francesco Orsini, under the name of Benedict XIII., assumed the papal tiara. He himself delighted in the nasal titillation of the Nicotian powder, and among the first of his acts was a repeal of the interdiction under which snuff-taking had so long labored. ‡ Snuff was again without spot or stain, and diffused its odors about the very sanctum sanctorum of the proudest ecclesiastical structure in the world. Never since the advent of Benedict XIII. has the weed been excommunicated in the holy city, and from his day to ours the wit and devotion of the Romans have been stimulated at pleasure by its enlivening influence.

In 1718 the Senate of Strasburg, the city from whence, in 1665, Dr. Simon Paullus issued a quarto volume—*Commentarius de Abusu Tabaci*—against the health-destroying vegetable, prohibited the cultivation of tobacco throughout their jurisdiction, § though afterwards the plant became one of their most profitable staples, and constituted one of their most valuable exports—so tenacious of a foot-hold has this singular weed ever been!

In 1738 Thomas Shaw, an Episcopalian doctor of divinity, travelled in the East, and he tells us tobacco was then a staple in Syria, and that in the town of Latikea particularly, more than twenty thousand bales were exported every year. ||

So late as 1741, however, during Commodore Behring's voyage, the Kamptschadales knew nothing of either tobacco or spirits. Contrary to the general occurrence among savages, both smoking and brandy disgusted them, causing them to make wry faces and to spit violently. But Mr. Steller, in his Journal, remarks in the following manner upon this strange rejection of enlightened delicacies: "the civilized European," he says, "would be similarly affected if presented with toadstool, or rotten fish and willow bark, which are great luxuries with the Kamptschadales." ¶

About the year 1759 the principal product of General Washington's estate on Mount Vernon, was tobacco. He shipped it regularly to his agent in London, and drew on him twice a year for such articles as he wanted. ** In a letter to Robert Carey & Co., of London, dated Mount

* Les Hommes Illustres du XVIIe Siècle, par Masson, tom i., p. 408.

† The Works of Laurence Sterne, vol. i., p. 196—204.

‡ Masson's Hommes Illustres, tom i., p. 408.

§ Recueil de plusieurs Titres, Mémoires et Antiquités de la Ville de Strasbourg, p. 199.

¶ Travels, or Observations relating to several parts of Barbary and the Levant, p. 365.

|| A Translation of Mr. Steller's Journal of Russian Discoveries, p. 617.

** The Writings of George Washington, &c., by Jared Sparks, vol. ii., p. 329.

Vernon, 20th September, 1765, General Washington complains that Master Custis got better prices for tobacco than himself, the one averaging £7 7s. 7d. per hogshead, and the other only £5 17s. 6d. Washington adds, "I am certain my tobacco ought not to have been inferior to his in any respect, the lands being the same, and my directions for making it good equally express."* In a letter dated Mount Vernon, 1 Nov., 1787, General Washington says to Arthur Young, "the cultivation of tobacco has been almost the sole object of men of landed property."†

I have now brought the history of tobacco down to nearly the commencement of the nineteenth century. I shall not attempt to follow its progress further in chronological order, because the days of its persecution are already passed, and at the period to which I have now arrived it was an *universal* luxury, used everywhere, and suffering no penalties except, in some States, the burden of high duties, which only weigh upon it by increasing the price of the gratification to those who indulge in it. In some future articles I may consider the cultivation and commerce of tobacco, and in doing so, and when treating of the different methods in which the various inhabitants of the globe partake of the luxury, I shall have more to say of its history, but not in the same consecutive narrative I have hitherto followed.

PLAN AND STRUCTURE OF INSANE HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—As a new Hospital for the Insane is now about to be built and established in this State, it is important that it should begin with every advantage of location, arrangement, plan and structure, that the experience and observation of the past and present time can devise. Therefore the opinions of the Association of the Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane upon this subject, must be acceptable to the people of Massachusetts at this moment.

This Association includes the men most conversant with insanity and insane institutions in eighteen of the United States. Their meetings are holden every year, when they hear reports previously prepared by the members on the various topics connected with their peculiar vocation, and then these are discussed by the whole society. Among these subjects, few have excited more attention than the plan, arrangement and size of hospitals; for these are the most important instruments and means by which they can operate upon their patients. In 1850 this whole matter of hospitals was referred to a committee, at the head of which was the sagacious and accomplished Dr. Kirkbride, of the Pennsylvania Hospital. This committee made their report to the Association in May last. It was read at a full meeting, and then discussed, article by article, and the bearing of each was carefully and freely considered, and after some slight modifications, the report was adopted as here presented.

* The Writings of George Washington, &c., by Jared Sparks, vol. xii., p. 261.

† Ibid., vol. xii., p. 293.