

A brief abstract of the virtues of the American tobacco plant, or, The use and abuse of tobacco and snuff : wherein its physical and other qualities are impartially investigated.

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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6. A
BRIEF ABSTRACT
OF THE
VIR TUES
OF THE
American Tobacco Plant;
OR
The USE and ABUSE
OF
Tobacco and Snuff:
Wherein its Phyfical and other Qualities
are *impartially* investigated.

LIKEWISE,
Containing, among many other valuable RECEIPTS,
(Some of which are of the greatest Consequence to Farmers,
Graziers, Gardeners, and Husbandmen)
An effectual Cure and Prevention of BUGS;
*Also every necessary Information relative to the Choice
of Herbs proper for Smoking:*

To which is added,
An ADDRESS to the LEGISLATURE;
In which is comprised Observations of the most
essential Nature, elucidated by historical Facts,
And humbly submitted to the most serious Con-
sideration of the Public at this particular Crisis.

And to the Whole is prefixed,
A fuitable PREFACE,
WITH
A DEDICATION to the Right Honourable the
LORD-MAYOR, and the other principal CITI-
ZENS of LONDON.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by Wade, No. 163,
Fleet-Street; Thatcher, Hemmings-Row, St. Martin's
Lane; and Lovell, No. 158, St. John's Street; may also
be had at Langham's, under the Great Piazza, Covent-
Garden; Thompson, No. 2, behind the Royal-Exchange;
at all other Booksellers and Pamphlet-Shops in Great-

BRIEF ABSTRACT
OF THE
VIRTUES
OF THE
American Tobacco Plant;
The USE and ABUSE
OF
Tobacco and Snuff:
Wherein its Physical and other Qualities
are minutely investigated.

L. K. A. W. A. S.
Containing, among many other valuable RECEIPTS
(some of which are of the greatest Consequence to Farmers,
Gardeners, Grocers, and the Household)
An Effectual Cure and Prevention of R U G S;
Also every necessary Information relative to the Culture
of these useful and growing Plants:
To which is added,

An ADDRESS, to the LEGISLATURE,
in which is comprised Observations of the Author
on the Nature, Extent, and Consequences of the
and hereby submitted to the most serious Con-
sideration of the Public in this particular Case.
And to the Whole is prefixed,

A suitable PREFACE.
BY
A DEDICATION to the Right Honourable
LORD MAYOR, and the other principal CITI-
ZENS of LONDON.

L O N D O N.
Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by W. B. No. 105,
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Lane; and Lovell, No. 148, St. John's-Street; by
be had at Langham's, under the Great Piazza, St. Paul's
Church; Thompson, No. 2, behind the Royal Exchange;

DEDICATION.

To the Right Honourable

Nathaniel Newnham, Esq.

Lord-Mayor,

And to the Aldermen and
Commons of the City of
LONDON.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

RELYING on your Candour,
and patriotick Zeal for the
Welfare of the British Nation, I
could do no less than entrust the
following

following Work to your generous
 Protection, and although conscious
 of my Inability to do Justice to the
 Subject, yet I trust its Importance
 will justify me in presuming to ex-
 pect your Approbation.

The Encouragement ever shewn
 by you to Trade, Commerce, and
 useful Improvements, induces me
 to hope for your kind Indulgence on
 this Occasion.

With a sanguine Wish that your
 laudable Exertions for the Interest
 of your Country in general, and
 the Prosperity of the City over
 which you so eminently preside, in
 particular, may be crowned with its
 desired

desired Success. I subscribe my-
self, with all possible Respect,

My L O R D,

And GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient

Humble Servant,

And Fellow Citizen,

The A U T H O R.

March 29, 1783.

A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
P U B L I C,
B Y W A Y O F
P R E F A C E.

THE principal Inducement for writing the following Observations on Tobacco and Snuff was a sanguine Wish, that the Subject, being maturely considered, might influence Parliament, at this particular Crisis to have a particular Attention to an Article that seems to claim the highest Regard.

If a friendly Connection with *America* should be established, the valuable Plant

in

in Question, may be a Means of cementing that mutual Confidence, which in Time must operate for the Advantage of both Countries.

Therefore, if any Means can be adopted to lessen the Price, and of Course increase the Consumption of this Article, we shall find it of the most essential Service in promoting the laudable Intentions of every Friend to his Country.

By a candid Perusal of this Work it will appear, that if Individuals and publick Bodies were attentive to their Happiness and Health, double the Quantity of Tobacco now used would be consumed in this Kingdom; but before this can ever happen, the Price must be considerably lessened.

In my Description of the valuable Plant in Question, I have been as clear and concise as possible; Experiments easy to practice, and Theory the most rational, is the Basis on which every Observation is founded,

ed; and the Advice which is given is truly disinterested.

The Receipts are all genuine, and were never before printed, and the Remarks concerning the Herbs of our own Country claim particular Attention.

The Part appropriated for the Consideration of the Legislature, I trust, will obtain universal Approbation.

Being conscious of my Inability to do strict Justice to a Work of this Kind, I can do no less than crave the Indulgence of every learned and candid Reader for the Inelegance and Imperfections, which an attentive and critical Perusal will easily discover; but as these Errors will be no Ways injurious in Respect to the real Utility of the Subject, I trust my Expectations will in no Respect be disappointed, especially as I have endeavoured to express myself in such Terms as may be easily comprehended by the weakest Capacity.

C H A P. I.

Of the particular Kinds of TOBACCO.

THE most efficacious Kind of Tobacco is the *Virginia*, which is known by the Largeness of its Leaf; when growing it blossoms a most beautiful Flower, of various pleasing Colours, at which Time it is in its Prime, the Leaves being of a fine Sea-green; when dried, and imported to this Country, it appears of a dark dingy Brown; in Smell it is very reviving and fragrant, and to most People exceeding agreeable; when cut fit for smoking, it seems oily and soft, free from the least Harshness, (which other Tobacco is not); when manufactured for chewing, it looks dark and filky, and in using is much cheaper than any other Sort.

The *New-York* Tobacco has nearly the same Appearance, but its Virtues are something inferior.

The *Flemish* and *Maryland* Tobacco is distinguished by the Smallness of its Leaves, has a large Stalk, is lighter in Colour, and greatly inferior in Flavour to any other Sort.

The *Oroonoko* Tobacco is of a fine Brightness, between a Straw and Cinnamon Colour, in Flavour very like fine new Hay, in Respect to Weight it is distinguished for its Lightness; it is at present very little used, and then mostly by juvenile Smokers.

C'naster Tobacco is the Growth of the *Varinas* Islands; it is generally imported in Rolls of about 14 lb. Weight; its Nature is remarkable mild, and Flavour peculiarly delicate; the most puny Constitution may use it without any disagreeable Sensations, and its Smell entirely evaporates from the Cloaths in less than a Quarter of an Hour after using; Foreigners, particularly *Dutchmen*, are very partial to this Tobacco.

Brazil Tobacco is distinguished by a faint sweet Flavour, which is rather agreeable than not; it is generally manufactured into Snuff.

British Herb Tobacco is a Mixture of curious Herbs and Plants, and ought to be judiciously selected from the Physic and Pleasure Garden; but that which is commonly sold is an heterogeneous Jumble of various Kinds, flavoured with the Effence of some Flower, or scented with a foreign Perfume, which deprives it of
that

that Merit it might otherwise deserve. In the VIth Chapter Directions for the proper Collection of Herbs fit for smoking are fully given.

C H A P. II.

Of Smoking TOBACCO.

IT is very improper to smoke immediately after eating, it prevents the body from receiving that Nourishment so essentially necessary to preserve Health ; it also causes the Humours of the Body to be predominant in the Stomach, but to smoke about an Hour after Meals greatly promotes Digestion. Persons afflicted with Colds should smoke fasting, it draws the Phlegm from the Stomach, and greatly relieves the Breath. Constant smoking agreeable to these Rules fortifies the Head and Lungs against the pernicious Effects of foul Air and noxious Vapours ; it also greatly strengthens the Nerves, rendering the Body Proof against the Inclemency of the most severe Weather.

I shall illustrate what I have said, by observing, that Persons who frequent the Play-houses, publick Assemblies, and crouded Places of Devotion as well as Diversion, do generally, unless of a very athletic Constitution, expe-

rience much Illness the next Day, which is occasioned by the foul Air proceeding from the Breath, and other Causes, of so many People, which unnaturally heat the Place where they meet, and the Pores being open, this unwholesome Warmth penetrates into every Person, they suddenly rush from this hot Bath into the cold Air; thus a Combination of Foulness, hot and cold, striking inwardly, occasions those Disorders which frequently terminate in Death. On the other Hand, only attend to a Club of Smokers, confined in a small Room, a large Fire, Candles, &c. they shall, heated from the same Causes above alluded to, also rush into the cold Air, they will, however, next Morning, be in good Health. To what Cause can this be attributed, but to the smoking of Tobacco? but some may say they have known Persons to be ill the next Day after attending such a Club now spoken of; true, they may be so, but from what Cause? excessive drinking, or imprudently smoking *immediately* after eating a hearty Meal.—To comment on what I have advanced would be needless, the most common Capacity may anticipate all I could say in elucidating the Facts now mentioned.

Large cut Tobacco is recommended in Preference to the fine, it is not so liable to get through the Pipe into the Mouth, besides the
 Virtues

Virtues of the Tobacco are more powerfully retained in the large than the fine cut.

C H A P. III.

Of Chewing TOBACCO.

THE best for chewing is *Virginia* or *New-York*, cut into Shag, or twisted into fine Rolls. A too constant practice of chewing Tobacco is not recommended, for the Oil or Spirit of it is sure to be received into the Body, which will prove as pernicious to the Constitution as the using of Spirits does to constant Dram-Drinkers, though such People who travel much or labour hard will find no ill Effects from it, to them it is as the Staff of Life: In these Cases it is a sovereign Substitute for other Food.

C H A P. IV.

Of SNUFFS.

FOREIGN SNUFFS are very pernicious, particularly the *Levant*, *Brazil*, and *Spanish*, they having little or nothing of the *Virginia* Tobacco in them, though they are very pleasing and grateful to the Smell; these Snuffs, with *Strasburgh* and other Sorts, that are highly scented, are only proper to be used on any sudden disagreeable Smell; but the Use of these Snuffs, with good plain Rappes, in
the

the Proportion of three Ounces to the Pound, is very agreeable, and no Ways pernicious ; Snuff is particularly useful in all Places of publick Amusement, fortifying the Head and Stomach against the ill Effects of unnatural Heats : In these Cases I recommend the plain Rappees ; not the common Sorts, they being greatly adulterated.

Scotch and *Irish* Snuffs are only proper to be used at going to Bed, for they are, if a good Sort, so very pungent, that the Pores of the Head are much opened, occasioned by their Lightness and Dustiness, which by the Breath is drawn so quick into the Head ; this occasions Colds and Disorders of the Head, and also greatly alters the Speech of those so using it ; but if these Snuffs were to be taken medicinally, it would cure those Disorders it helps to make worse, by being so frequently used ; all Sorts of high-scented Snuffs cause the Head to ache : Persons who from any Cause are inclinable to be drowsy, should never take *Scotch* Snuff to enliven them ; but a Pinch of good Rappee will be found very serviceable, for Rappee is never injurious, it never suddenly flies into the Head, but the Part affected imperceptably draws the Virtue of the Snuff to it, and generally works off those disorders which have in a particular Degree settled in the Head or Eyes ; Persons who drink much
should

should not use much *Scotch* Snuff, and *vice versa*, for the Spirit of the Liquor, joined with the Strength of the Snuff, may be truly said to cause a War with the Senses; a Pinch of strong *Scotch* taken by those not used to it, will sometimes make such Persons really drunk.

In short, the Snuffs most proper to be used for Complaints occasioned by Colds, &c. are *Scotch* and *Irish*, if taken at Bed-time only; but *Dutch* Snuffs, and plain Rappees, are most proper for common Use, proving the best Preventatives for what *Scotch* and *Irish* Snuffs will best cure. In Respect to Herb Snuffs I shall speak more particularly of them in the VIth Chapter.

C H A P. V.

Some valuable Receipts for different Uses and various Disorders; the principal Ingredients of which are TOBACCO and SNUFF.

1. *To make a Pill for the Tooth ache.*

A Quarter of an Ounce of the best *Scotch* Snuff, a Quarter of an Ounce of ground Black Pepper, six Grains of Kyan Pepper, a Quarter of an Ounce of double-refined Sugar, a Quarter of an Ounce of the best Flour, a proportionable Quantity of the best white Wine Vinegar; make these Ingredients into a Paste, roll the Paste into Pills the Size of a
Pepper

Corn, bake them quite hard in a Piece of Tin over the Fire, and put one of them into the hollow Part of the Tooth.

2. *A Paste for the Tooth-ache occasioned by a Cold.*

In Half a Quartern of the best *French* Brandy steep for one Hour an Ounce of the best *Virginia* Shag Tobacco; after the Liquor is squeezed from the Tobacco mix in it one Ounce of grated Ginger, and Half an Ounce of the best *Scotch* Snuff; let it boil till it becomes a thick Paste; then spread it on a Piece of brown Paper, large enough to cover the Cheek and Ear; apply it at going to Bed to the Part affected, in the Morning a Cure will be obtained.

3. *For a Cold in the Head.*

Fill a Pipe of the best fine cut *Virginia* Tobacco, light it thoroughly, get a Friend to assist you in blowing the Smoke into your Head through both Ears, which must be done by a Piece of strong fine Linen, having some Holes pierced in it with a large Needle, and covered over the Bowl of the Pipe, the small End of the Pipe must be put to the Ear, and the Smoke blown in from the Bowl; while the Smoke is blowing in at one Ear, stop the other with a Piece of Cotton; when the Operation is per-

performed keep the Cotton in both Ears, cover your Head warm, take a Sweat, and rest in Bed 12 Hours.—A Cure will certainly be effected.

4. *For Consumptive Complaints.*

Mix *Virginia* and *Oroonoko*, of each an equal Quantity, to which add to a Pound of the above a Quarter of a Pound of the Herb Colts-foot, smoke this Tobacco every Morning fasting; when a Cure is partly obtained decrease the Use of the *Oroonoko* and the Herb by Degrees, and smoke *Virginia* only. *Please to note*, early rising, Exercise, and Temperance, must be particularly attended to.

5. *To keep the Teeth clean, and cause a sweet Breath.*

Rub the Teeth clean every Morning fasting with Leaf or Twist Tobacco; and for the Breath go to rest with a little Bit of either in your Mouth: To rub the Teeth and Gums with Tobacco Ashes will keep them clean, and help the Scurvy in the Gums.

6. *To kill Vermin in the Head, and prevent their returning.*

After combing the Head thoroughly, powder the Head with the best *Scotch Snuff*; after the Hair is dressed, you may, as usual, use

common Hair Powder; this will kill them; repeat this Practice constantly for a Fortnight, you will then never be troubled with Vermin again.

7. *To prevent Flees.*

Strew the Rooms with Tobacco Dust, or if Sand is used mix *Scotch Snuff* with it.

8. *To clean Paintings.*

In a Quart of the best Vinegar boil Half a Pound of Shag Tobacco; to which put two Ounces of Bay Salt; squeeze the Tobacco from it, and with the Liquor and a Sponge rub the Picture; then varnish it.

9. *A Receipt to prevent greasy Heels in Horses, and enable them to perform a Journey with Spirit.*

Before you set out on a Journey, mix in the Horses Corn one Ounce of the best fine cut *Virginia Tobacco*; if at first giving he should refuse to eat, decrease the Quantity of Tobacco to the Quantity that he will eat with his Corn, afterwards gradually increase it to the Quantity at first prescribed; this may be given every Day during a Journey, otherwise once in three Days is sufficient, or in the Water he drinks let Shag Tobacco be steeped in it, about one Quarter of a Pound to Half a Pail full.

10. *For the Mange in Dogs, &c.*

Shag Tobacco well boiled in Vinegar, and the Parts affected washed with the Liquor, will shortly cure the Animal.

11. *To cure the Itch, or any cutaneous Eruptions.*

To a Quart of the best Vinegar add Half a Pound of the best Shag Tobacco, two Ounces of Cream of Tartar, and two Ounces of Salt of Tartar, let it boil about Half an Hour, with the Liquor bathe the Body every Day for a Week, apply the Tobacco taken from the Liquor, when hot, to both Arm-Pits as a Poul-tice, and during the Time of Use take inter-nally two Ounces of Sulphur, four Ounces of Cream of Tartar, and one Ounce of *Ethiop's* Mineral, mixed in Treacle; this may be used Morning and Evening, and according to the Advice in the IId Chapter smoke *Virginia To-bacco*.

12. *A very valuable Receipt, which will be found an infallible Cure for the Bugs.*

When your Bedstead and Furniture is taken to Pieces, and well dusted and brushed, wash it well with hot Vinegar, when it is dry, rub the Parts mostly touched with Bugs with

Spirits of Wine, put a Candle to it, it will blaze till the Spirit is evaporated, which effectually kills all the Nits, and when this is done fill every Hole and Cavity with a Preparation made of the following Ingredients : A Quart of the best Vinegar, Half a Pound of the best Shag well boiled in it, squeeze the Liquor from the Tobacco, and to it add one Quarter of a Pound of the best *Scotch* Snuff, one Ounce of Staves Acre, three Ounces of Bay Salt, as much killed Quicksilver as will lay on a Sixpence, add to all this as much Flour as you think will make it a strong Paste after it is well boiled.

A Demonstration of the Efficacy of this Receipt.

Upholsterers generally destroy Bugs with Spirits of Wine and Turpentine, this effects a temporary Cure only, because the Spirits eat away the Wood, and the Turpentine leaves a Heat behind it ; the former causes more Room for the Bugs to harbour, the latter causes an Increase. This is evident, because Bugs are always found more numerous in Deal, where Turpentine abounds, than any other Wood, therefore this Method can be no Preventative ; some use Soap and others Soap Lees, these are of a hot Nature, and have no retaining Quality ; others use poisonous Ointments, and various hot Liquids, which Articles help to breed as well as to kill, but the Receipt now given has the Advantage of

of all others, for while an infallible Method is used to destroy, as good a one is used to prevent a Return, for this Paste, when dried in the Holes and Cavities, is as hard and durable as the Wood itself, and instead of causing the Wood to rot is a great Preservative.—Note, the Tops of the Valence, Curtains, &c. may be gently brushed over with Spirits of Wine, into which put some *Scotch Snuff*.

C H A P. VI.

The Use of Herbs, with the proper Sorts to make them into Tobacco and Snuff.

1. *To strengthen the Sight.*

SNUFF up the Juice of Eyebright, and drop a little into the Eyes.

2. *Or,*

Make a Snuff with the following Herbs, and occasionally use it.

Sweet Marjorum, Marum, Syricum Leaves, Lavender Flowers, each Half an Ounce, Eyebright one Ounce, Afarabaeca Leaves a Quarter of an Ounce, and plain black Rappee one Ounce, rub and dry the Whole into a Powder.

Or,

Or,
Take Betony Leaves, Marjorum, Rosemary,
and Lillies of the Valley, and *Scotch* Snuff, an
equal Quantity of each made into a Powder.

3. Or,
Take Flowers of Lavender, Eyebright, white
Rose Leaves, Clove July Flowers, Coltsfoot,
and *Oroonoko* Tobacco, of each an equal
Quantity, when made into a Powder moisten
it with a little Hartshorn, into which put Half
an Ounce of Salt of Tartar.

N. B. Oil of Nutmegs and Oil of Lemons is
a very agreeable Ingredient, mixed with either
of the above.

4. *To make a very agreeable and good Herb Snuff,
for many Disorders of the Head and Eyes.*

Flowers of Lavender, Clove July Flowers,
each one Ounce, Flowers of Sage, Betony,
Rosemary, and Tops of Sweet Marjorum, each
Half an Ounce, Cinnamon, Aloes, and yellow
Sanders, and Hellebore Root, Nutmeg, and
Lemon Peel, each a Drachm, a Quarter of an
Ounce of Oil of Sweet Almonds, two Cloves,
and two red Rose Buds; pound them all well
in a Mortar, add 50 Drops of volatile Salt, put
it in a Lead Cannister, in a Week it will be fit
for Use.

5. *The proper Ingredients for Herb Tobacco.*

Eyebright, Coltsfoot, Sweet Marjorum, Lavender, Syriacum Leaves, Asarabacca Leaves, Bitony Leaves, Clove July Flowers, and Lillies of the Valley, of each three Ounces, Thyme, Flowers of Sage, Tieltree Flowers, white Hellebore, white and red Rose Leaves, of each one Ounce, the Whole to be cut fine, about the Size of common Tobacco.

N. B. *Virginia* and *Oroonoko* Tobacco, about an Ounce of each, to the above Preparations, will be agreeable and wholesome.

Please to note, A Pinch or two of these Snuffs may be taken at any Time; if taken medicinally Night and Morning it is most proper. The Herb Tobacco may be smoked in the same Manner as the *Virginia* is recommended. The Snuffs here recommended open and purge the Head, strengthens the Nerves, revives the Spirits, have a most grateful aromatic Smell; the Disorders of the Organs of the Sight and Hearing are much relieved by them, as well as Head-achs, Palfies, Giddiness, Lethargies, with a Variety of other Complaints.

6. *A List of different Articles by which Snuffs may be scented or perfumed agreeable to the Fancy.*

Rose-Water, Lavender-Water, Hartshorn, Civet, Musk, Bergamotte, Lemonette, Ambergrease,

bergrease, Jessamine, Violets, Musk Roses, Tuberoies, Volatile Salt, &c.

C H A P. VII.

Advice to Publick Seminaries, Seafaring People, and Country Farmers, Gardeners, &c.

THE Snuffs and Tobacco, as spoken of in the four first Chapters of this Book, are recommended to Persons who visit the Sick in private Houses, Hospitals, Schools*, &c. also to those who go into any Kind of unwholesome Rooms and hot Climates, or any unhealthy Places, as they fortify the Head against noxious Exhalations, pernicious Fumes, or infectious Air; also Persons who live in cold, aguish, damp Places, will find great Benefit from a judicious Use of them; if Farmers and Gardeners were after a wet and damp Season to sift the best *Scotch* Snuff over their Grounds it would kill the Vermin such Weather generally causes; also if Gardeners in remarkable dry Seasons were to water their Gardens with Water in which Tobacco has been strongly steeped, and *Scotch* Snuff mixed with it, it would be productive of the same salutary Effects; there is nothing but the high Price of
of

* A Snuff made of Tobacco, that has been steeped in Vinegar, would be very efficacious on these Occasions.

of these Articles can prevent those Methods being adopted, it is therefore to be hoped that the Legislature will pursue such Ways and Means in respect to Tobacco, as may give Encouragement to its Use by lessening the Duty, by which may be obtained a friendly Inter-course with our *American Brethren*, and Trade, as formerly, once more flourish in *Britain*.

N. B. If Tobacco was occasionally burnt on board of Ships, in Hospitals, &c. it would undoubtedly tend to prevent an Increase of Disorders, which are very liable to be caught in such Places; also the Smoking of Tobacco in aguish Countries is a great Preventative from that cruel Disorder; likewise greatly relieves those that have it.

C H A P. VIII.

Speculative Ideas, elucidated by historical Facts, and humbly submitted to the most serious Consideration of the Legislature, as well as the Publick.

THE Name of the immortal *Raleigh* can never fail to be held in the highest Estimation by every true *Englishman*; for to this renowned Hero and Naval Patriot is *England* indebted for the Benefits she has so happily experienced from an Article that may with the strictest Propriety be denominated the most valuable of all the vegetable Creation; a Plant

to whom Thousands have been beholden for a Continuance of that Life which must otherwise have terminated in the lonely Desert, through the pinching Pangs of Hunger, unrelieved, or the parching Anguish of Drowth unquenched : Hail, happy Plant, whose Virtues are unconfined, whose Benefits are capable of being expanded around the whole Creation, whose genial Warmth can reanimate the whole Race of Man, and whose balmy inspiring Juice revives the drooping Spirits of the exhausted Veteran travelling o'er the rugged Field of Mars, or Neptune's boundless Ocean.

Previous to the Introduction of Tobacco into this Country, *England* was frequently and severely afflicted with Plagues and other dangerous Disorders, which the Skill of the most eminent and learned Physicians could not combat ; its deadly Progress proclaimed the Triumph of that all-conquering Monarch the King of Terrors, to whose Dominions the assisting Hand of Pestilence wasted Thousands and Tens of Thousands of desponding Objects ; no Cessation of Hostilities from the Vengeance of this dreadful and powerful Foe could ever be obtained, nor a Balm be found to heal the poisoning Touch ; but relentless to all, all dreaded the Approach of what regarded neither Age or Youth, Health or Disease, Riches or Poverty ; these Ministers of Destruction
failed

failed not to exert their Power on the Just, and on the Unjust.——But what Art and Learning could not effect, Providence and Nature kindly performed; the healing Plant Tobacco, though at first but little known or regarded, imperceptibly and by Degrees came to be universally esteemed. At the Commencement of the last great Plague Tobacco was only used by the higher Orders of the People; however, as the destructive Power of the Plague increased, the middling Orders of Men sought *Virginia's* friendly Aid, and those who were employed in conveying the dead Bodies of their fellow Creatures to the general Receptacle, now known by the Name of *Holywell-Mount*, experienced the Efficacy of smoking Tobacco; at that Time they did not expect the Protection they so happily experienced, it being only used with a View to cause the deadly Stench of rotten Carcasses to be less offensive, little thinking that what they used for momentary Relief would prove a constant Preventative; when the Plague was happily stayed, the Virtues of Tobacco began to be investigated, it was found that those Persons who plentifully used it, either in smoking or snuffing, had most wonderfully escaped the dire Contagion; for though they visited the Chambers of the Sick, attended the Funerals of Cart Loads at a Time, they unexpectedly

avoided the Infection; even Merchants, and Dealers in the Article, from the Stores in their Possession, were secured from the Infection; these Particulars being gratefully remembered, it became into general Use, and was by Experience found to be truly serviceable and agreeable, for it proved a good Substitute for the most substantial Food. The Soldier and the Sailor, the Citizen and the Cottager, found their exhausted Strength recruited by the Fumes and Juice of the inspiring Friendly Plant. The Heart of the Physician acknowledged its Power, though his Silence proved him jealous of its Worth; it proved the rich Man's Companion, and the poor Man's Friend: By a candid Attention to the Facts now related no one can deny but that the Virtues of Tobacco is superior to any other Plant; since it has been generally in Use, contagious Distempers have been less frequent and fatal; previous to the great Plague *England* very often and severely had its Thousands and Tens of Thousands suddenly swept away by the all-destroying Hand of Pestilence: But in Disparagement of Tobacco it has been said that the Alteration *London* experienced in Consequence of the great Fire that succeeded the Plague has been the only Cause of our happy Escape from a similar Scourge; in Answer to which Assertion it may be asked, How comes it that
other

other large Cities and Towns in *England*, which used frequently to have the Plague, when *London* was freed from it, and yet are no Ways altered since those Times, except by Increase of Buildings and Inhabitants, should also escape what, previous to the Use of Tobacco, was so frequent and common. To doubt therefore of the Efficacy of Tobacco must in my Opinion betray a most prejudiced Mind; its physical Properties most certainly cannot be disputed, and its general Use is by the clearest Demonstration proved to be of the most publick Utility, for though *London* has increased in Luxury and Population, its Inhabitants are as healthy as any on the Face of the Globe; to what Cause may this Change be attributed, most certainly to the powerful Virtues of the sovereign Plant; it is to me a Matter of great Surprize that the Gentlemen of the Faculty have not enlisted under their physical Banners this universal Good, though indeed some liberal and unprejudiced of the Profession candidly recommend it to their Patients; some use it themselves, and I can appeal to others of the most eminent in their Line if they do not cordially acquiesce in the Use of Tobacco and Snuff; Dr. *Watthen*, of *Walbrook*, himself always uses plain Rappce, and Dr. *Hield*, of the *London Infirmary*, constantly, while examining the Patients brought before him,

him, smokes his Pipe. How much then is it to be regretted, that so great a Blessing should be so highly taxed, which renders the Purchase of it (especially in these trying Times), beyond the Ability of a great Majority of the Nation: It used formerly to be sold for 9 d. and 10 d. per Pound; it is now * taxed at 17 d. $\frac{1}{4}$, and retailed at 3 s. 4d. so that if a poor Man smokes a Pipe, or chews a Quid, it costs him near a Penny; therefore, if the Soldier or the Sailor should necessarily indulge themselves with it, it will make a great Hole in their small Pittance, and hardly leave them sufficient to purchase any other Article: A free Importation of it would prove of the greatest Utility to this Nation, and be a Means of cementing a lasting Friendship with that Country, to whose Soil *England* is beholden for the greatest Part of its most valuable Trade and Commerce. It has been in Contemplation by some Members of Parliament, to get an Act for the Growth of Tobacco in *England*, it might be done, but the Tobacco of *English* Growth will never be Half so efficacious as the *Virginia*, the Soil and Climate of this Country will always be against it. However, the Disadvantage of Soil may be greatly helped by manuring the Land with such damaged Tobacco as is condemned to be burnt, or if this damaged Tobacco was not to be used for this Intent, it would be of great

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Service to manure, and enrich the Earth for other Purposes ; and I have great Reason to think if it was so used it would prevent an Increase of those devouring Insects that so constantly infest our Gardens, &c. and if after an extraordinary wet Season, which greatly breeds and encourages these Insects, a Quantity of *Scotch* Snuff was to be judiciously sifted over the Grounds where Vegetables are produced it would kill and destroy most of the Insects on their first Appearance ; so, likewise, in a dry Season, Tobacco steeped in Water, and the Gardens and other Places watered with it, would be productive of the same salutary Effects. That this is not a vain Speculation is evident from the Means used by some judicious Persons at the alarming Appearance of the all-destroying Insects the last Season, to kill which the principal Article used was *Scotch* Snuff, which had the desired Effect. Had this Mode been universally adopted it might have prevented that Illness which was so prevalent at the Time. Likewise if Tobacco was judiciously burnt in certain Quantities at particular Seasons in Hospitals, Prisons, Gaols, as well as in private Houses, it would be of the most essential Benefit ; also for it to be burnt on board of Ships, particularly those which by Law perform Quarantine, seems absolutely necessary.

Thus

Thus I flatter myself from these few Hints such Measures might be adopted as cannot fail to answer the most sanguine Wishes of every Friend to this Country, and indeed there is no Objection can be raised against the Advice now offered, but the present excessive Price of Tobacco, which, it is hoped will, by the Wisdom of Parliament, be speedily removed; a free Importation of so valuable an Article will be of greater Service to *England* than the Duty on it; the Smuggling and illicit Trade occasioned by its being taxed will be prevented, the fair Trader will be encouraged, the lower Classes of People will be enabled to obtain an Article essentially necessary for the Preservation of their Health, and the strongest of all Ties, Interest, Trade, and Commerce, judiciously joined, will be the happy Cement by which *England* and *America* may again be united in the Bonds of Friendship and mutual Confidence; an Event most devoutly to be wished for by every Friend to Trade, Liberty, and his Country; an Event that appears not ideal or chimerical; an Event which, in my Opinion, the Wisdom of the Legislature may accomplish without any Detriment to the Revenue of the Kingdom. But should a free Importation not meet that Approbation and Encouragement which appears to me essentially necessary for the securing the

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valuable Trade and Commerce of the Thirteen United States of *America*; surely then no one can hesitate in acknowledging the Necessity of reducing the present excessive high Duty on Tobacco. At this * Time the Merchant purchases this Commodity for about eight Guineas per Hundred Weight, which would, if freely imported, enable it to be retailed at about 21 d. per Pound; but the Duty on it being 1 s. 7 d. $\frac{1}{4}$, causes it to be sold to the Public for 3 s. 4 d. which excessive high Price has undoubtedly greatly decreased the Consumption of this valuable Article; and should not the Duty be lessened, the Price will not be decreased less than 4d. per Pound, as the *Americans* will always be able to get at any Market in *Europe* six Guineas per Hundred Weight; supposing then the Duty on Tobacco to be reduced to 9 d. per Pound, that, with the Price at the Rate of six Guineas per Hundred Weight, would enable it to be retailed at 2 s. 2 d. per Pound; this would put it in the Power of the most Indigent to avail themselves of the salutary Effects of what, for the Safety of the State, and the Health of the lower Orders of the People, seems absolutely necessary; the Revenue would be increased by the additional Consumption of this Commodity; it must therefore appear plain to every one that a late Premier was wretch-

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edly out in his Calculation, when he imagined he should increase the Revenue by his additional Taxes, for we have found the very Reverse has been the Case: Therefore if his Plans have proved disadvantageous to this Country, it may very well be concluded that a contrary Line of Conduct will be productive of the opposite Effects.

ACROSTIC on the valuable *American Plant*.

T o praise enough the Virtues of this Plant
 O thers must try, for I the Power want,
 B estowing Meat and Drink on Sons of War,
 A mazing Benefits all from it draw;
 C ommerce without it would recline her Head,
 C ourage would fail, and we our Foes shou'd dread;
 O, may its Use increase and Virtues spread. }

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Reader is most respectfully requested to observe, that in a few Days the Author will appoint proper Persons who may with Safety to every Individual who chuses to make Use of the Receipts, as recommended in this Publication, be trusted to make up, and vend the same, which Method he thinks proper to adopt for the Conveniency of such who may not be a Judge of the Quality of the Articles they should purchase, necessary for each Prescription. The same Persons will also be appointed to sell every separate Article of which these Receipts are composed, which will be in their highest Perfection; Prudence of Course will induce all such as make the Receipts themselves to buy each Commodity at the Places of Appointment.

Please to note, The Receipts, if made agreeable to the Directions given, will keep any Length of Time, and in no Respect loose their

their Virtues, therefore none need be afraid of making more than may be wanted for immediate Use, and indeed the trifling Expence and little Trouble attending their Preparation may laudably induce Persons in affluent Circumstances to make such sufficient Quantities as may last several Years, and be occasionally distributed to their indigent Dependants.

The Particulars concerning the Persons who will be employed to sell the Receipts and Ingredients will, in due Time, be made publick in the News-Papers.

S. I. N. I. S.