

Response to the editor of "the Daily News" / by one of the so-called "fanatical anti-tobacconists," ; to which is added fifty-four objections to tobacco / prefaced by the late Dr. Hodgkin.

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Publication/Creation

London : Pitman, [between 1870 and 1879?]

Persistent URL

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RESPONSE

TO THE EDITOR OF

"THE DAILY NEWS,"

BY ONE OF THE SO-CALLED

"FANATICAL ANTI-TOBACCONISTS,"

AND

"MUCKLEWRAITHS OF THE ANTI-TOBACCO MISSION."

TO WHICH IS ADDED

FIFTY-FOUR OBJECTIONS TO TOBACCO,

PREFACED BY THE

LATE DR. HODGKIN.

ONE PENNY.

London :

PITMAN, PATERNOSTER ROW, AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

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THE SO-CALLED "FANATICAL ANTI-TOBACCONISTS" AND
"THE DAILY NEWS."

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TO THE EDITOR OF "THE DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—As I belong to the band of men whom you have designated "Fanatical Anti-tobacconists and Mucklewraiths of the Anti-Tobacco Mission," I venture to make an effort to convince you, that by whatever motives you are actuated, nothing is more uncalled for, and nothing more disingenuous, except indeed, that one of the three following considerations have been in operation in your mind.

1st. It may be that you are desirous of opening the columns of "*The Daily News*" for the discussion of this *paramount question*, or that you are actuated by motives of benevolence from the consideration that smoking is a contribution to human happiness, to do all you can for the encouragement of this habit, or that you are desirous of eliciting all the information you can for your personal guidance. These topics being merely conjectural, I shall deal with them in the order in which they stand.

If the first be the admitted motive, I unhesitatingly affirm, that in the present state of society there is not a thing within your power, that you can do, which will lay your countrymen under greater obligation than a full and fair discussion of what tobacco is and does. Wherefore? Because there is nothing which is daily employed *by choice* that so much interferes with the laws of nature as fumes of tobacco, and why, because the *potency* of the empyreumatic oil of tobacco, which is produced by heat, as its name signifies, infinitely exceeds that of any other commodity in daily use, NOT EXCEPTING OPIUM. This may be confirmed by any one not accustomed to either tobacco or opium, if he will one day chew and swallow three or four grains of opium, with the saliva which is secreted in the process of chewing it, and the next day chew and swallow in like manner an equal quantity of "Cavendish" or even "Returns." In fact, but for the ejection of saliva when chewing or smoking is commenced, there would be neither smokers nor chewers at all, except the last by goats, or perhaps a few other animals of that class.

But this is not all. *Smoking* is a very indefinite term to employ. If, as was said in the *Review*, of the discussion of "The Great Tobacco Question," in the pages of the *Lancet*, "All smoking before the bodily powers are fully developed is excess," and if on juvenile smokers injuries are inflicted which are never overcome in after life, you, sir, will deserve to be enrolled among the noblest benefactors of your fraternity, if you will aid us in our Great Anti-"Mucklewraith Mission."

I now come to the second conjectural motive, that is; that you may be actuated from motives of benevolence by the consideration, that because wounded men, by missiles of war, are helped through blunting their sensibilities, better to bear their pains and privations, you may conclude that a like operation on the nerves of sensation may to

others be a contribution to felicity. But, sir! that same mode of operation diminishes also the higher faculties. It destroys in great measure the power of the will, which was designed by the all-wise Creator, to fortify mankind against versatility, and the temptations of the great adversary of our souls. If then fumes of tobacco destroy the power of the will, no wonder so many become an easy prey to their own corrupt inclinations, and surrounding evil allurements. Of the versatile, well might the poet say :—

“ Weak and irresolute is man :
The purpose of to-day,
Woven with pains into his plan,
To-morrow rends away.”

But, sir! there is another effect of the operation of fumes of tobacco which claims consideration. That process which blunts the susceptibility of the sensitive nerves, at the same time exerts a baneful influence on the moter nerves. These Solomon called “the keepers of the house.” That operation is most, and earliest manifest in the trembling hand which not unfrequently has its climax in paralysis.

There is yet another effect of smoking produced which may not have entered your mind. Our opinion has the endorsement of Dr. Richardson, himself a smoker, viz., that the process of healing is greatly retarded by this custom. He once bled a gentleman in the morning, whose blood coagulated and presented healthy, that is flesh-making, globules. He bled him again in the afternoon, after he had smoked, and his blood was more fluid, consequently the flesh-making globules were absent. Now, if through the employment of tobacco, wounded mens’ healing be protracted, in the aggregate, they doubtless suffer a larger amount of pain than though they did not smoke.

I now come to my third conjecture, viz., your probable desire to elicit all the information you can for your personal guidance. But, as you will perceive, I have in this respect greatly anticipated myself. Still that information will not be less valuable from being antecedently introduced. Before summing up the data which is corroborative of the views we are accustomed to enunciate,—I may be excused for saying, in what sense Professor Huxley is “dead against us” in his *exhibition* before the Members of the British Association, is to us utterly inexplicable. Should God be pleased to “*open blind eyes and unstop deaf ears,*” and induce *another generation* to try and make the best of this, and preparation for the next world, we cannot but wonder what will be said of a medical student who, in his determination to “conquer nature,” was thrown repeatedly on the floor after inhaling half-a-dozen whiffs of poisonous and intoxicating tobacco! It is true that gentleman did say, he could not discover more harm in smoking than in a cup of tea, but he cannot be ignorant of the fact, that tea diluted with 75 per cent. of water, as it is usually employed, without the adjuncts of sugar and milk, does not admit of more comparison with fumes of tobacco than fire does with water. So much for Professor Huxley’s dangerous misrepresentation to undiscerning and unsuspecting young people, and others of riper age and smoking proclivities. Moreover, he must know that not only is there no admissable comparison between the principles of tea and tobacco, but that no correspondence exists between the effects of “The cup that cheers, but not inebriates,” and besotting

smoke that fuddles. A writer in *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal*, says,—“Intoxication, to a greater or less extent, is a certain consequence of using tobacco in any of its forms; hence, between the habitual smoker and the habitual dram-drinker there can scarcely be said to be a shade of difference. It is only because tobacco does not ordinarily produce that excess of intoxication known as drunkenness, that it is viewed as a thing less pernicious. The secretion and waste of saliva is considerable; thirst is produced; and thus, the pipe and pot are generally associated.”

I now ask your consideration, sir, of the following results, which are known to have their origin in the employment of pipes and cigars. Dr. Grindrod, in his Prize Essay, entitled *Bacchus*, says,—“The amount of intemperance arising from smoking is truly startling.” One writer on the subject is of opinion “that it would amount to one-tenth of all the drunkards throughout the kingdom.” Again, sir! think of the *cost of tobacco and drink to accompany it*. And if the calculation be reliable, that smoking and tippling cost the nation between forty and fifty million pounds sterling per annum, even you must feel that you ought to use your endeavour to arrest as much as possible, the gigantic vice of smoking. If you could be induced to visit a lunatic asylum, you may there learn that no greater mistake can be made than to conclude that drink is a chief cause of insanity. The testimony of medical superintendents is, that, with few exceptions in the male wards, smoking has preceded their lost reason. If you peruse the report of the hospital for paralytics, in Queen Square, you may learn that that malady is frightfully on the increase, that there are more than a thousand out-patients—that in the waiting-rooms the cases are stranger than fiction, too pitiable for tears—that a new sphere for medical investigation is presented through this form of disease. To say this is the result of smoking may excite your risibility, but that does not neutralise the fact. The late Dr. Conquest said of tobacco, ‘*I am confident this poisonous weed produces every kind and degree of nervous derangement, from lowness of spirits to palsy, apoplexy, and insanity.*’ Out of 280 male inmates in St. Pancras Workhouse, an inquiry brought to light that 190 are paralysed, and 189 of them have been smokers! Of 450 females one only was paralysed! Who then will attempt to negative the inference? If you wish to ascertain the chief causes of diseases in general, I recommend you to call at the Metropolitan Free Hospital, and there Dr. Drysdale will convince you by unmistakable demonstration, that smoking is the most important factor of disease in the present day, and which, through hearing and seeing, you will be constrained to endorse.

There are many other reasons, sir, why you should rescind your resolution, if such really exists, to weaken our efforts for checking the obnoxious, vicious, vice-creating, and body and mind destroying custom of smoking!

What! you may be ready to inquire is the sum of all this? I answer,—Things for you to think on.

1.—That as smoking is unequivocally an enemy to mankind, every one that employs his pen, for the purpose of neutralising the efforts of those who are exerting themselves for the repression of this unhallowed custom, is answerable to God and society for his disingenuous endeavours.

2.—That recourse to the humiliating representations of Professor Huxley as being opposed to our views and endeavours is not consistent

with the avowal of "high class" journalism, inasmuch as the very reverse is inscribed on his testimony, so we interpret his *experience*, and his saying "that he did not know anything worse, or more likely to destroy health than excessive smoking." See a medical definition of excessive smoking in page 1, paragraph 4, of this paper.

3.—We ask you, that as a means of diminishing the drinking uses of society, from the premises we have propounded, to call on the advocates of temperance to abstain from, and uniformly condemn the thirst-creating weed. "The late Duke of Wellington issued a general order at the Horse Guards, calling on officers to discountenance smoking on the ground, that being in itself a species of intoxication, it also created a desire for strong drinks."

4.—It would be gratifying to us to have our representations of the poisonous, intoxicating, and body and mind-destroying power of fumes of tobacco, submitted for criticism in the columns of the "Daily News," for the increase of lunacy, paralysis, and other forms of disease in the present day, demands enquiry into its actual cause. If we are wrong, let our opinions be negatived, but we are prepared to encounter a legion of disputants.

It will not be in our day, but smoking will ruin England. And how greatly is the honour of God, as well as the dignity of the nation, involved in this question!

"The habit of smoking tobacco, says Dr. Copland, "has given rise to the following ill effects, which have come under my observation in numerous instances, and that of all the medical men with whom I am acquainted.

"1. Smoking weakens the digestive and assimilating functions, impairs the due elaboration of the chyle and of the blood, and prevents a healthy nutrition of the several structures of the body. Hence result, especially in young persons, an arrest of the growth of the body; low stature; a pallid and sallow hue of the surface; an insufficient and an unhealthy supply of blood; and weak bodily powers. In persons more advanced in life, these effects, although longer in making their appearance, supervene at last, and with a celerity in proportion to the extent to which this vile habit is carried.

"2. Smoking generates thirst and vital depression; and to remove these, the use of stimulating liquors is resorted to, and often carried to a most injurious extent. Thus two of the most debasing habits and vices to which human nature can be degraded are indulged in, to the injury of the individual thus addicted, to the shortening of his life, and to the injury and ruin of his offspring, if he become a father.

"3. Smoking weakens the nervous powers; favours a dreamy, imaginative, and imbecile state of existence; produces indolence and incapability of manly or continued exertion; and sinks its votary into a state of careless or maudlin inactivity and selfish enjoyment of his vice. He ultimately becomes partially, but generally, paralysed in mind and body—he is subject to tremors and numerous nervous ailments, and has recourse to stimulants for their relief. These his vices cannot abate, however indulged in, and he ultimately dies a drivelling idiot, an imbecile paralytic, or a sufferer from internal organic disease, at an age many years short of the average duration of life."

5.—We are not without the hope, that you will be convinced it

is the duty of all who love their country and their kind, to consider what can be done to arrest the *grand impediment* to advancement in the physical, social, and religious scale, which we aver smoking to be, and which we pronounce, "THE MASTER VICE OF THE AGE." But until some new instrumentality is employed, some talented, single-eyed journalist dares to risk his popularity with smokers, the following peroration may be aptly quoted:—"Public journalists say *that* man would deserve well of his country who could find out a remedy for the drinking habits of the people; but will they abstain from the drunkard making weed tobacco, or recognize with approbation those who seek its repression? Not if their country be ruined! Will ministers of religion and other christian men who sigh and cry, weep and pray, for the perishing heathen, abstain? The application is obvious. Will princes and nobles abstain? Not until death summon them away! Will medical men abstain? Not if they see, as another generation will see, the young of England, including their own sons, wrecked! Will superintendents of lunatic asylums abstain? Not if they themselves have hereafter to drivel in dotage! Will parents abstain? Not if their sons smoke away their health, estates, and intellect! To use the figure of another, we may with propriety say, 'This thick-skinned monster of the ooze and mire no sword can pierce and no disciple can tame!' Ragged children will increasingly abound in every locality; penury will stalk through the land; public-houses will be proportionately in demand, as smoking increases; and who does not see that our youth, of all classes, are to be men,—*if, indeed, they become men at all.* It is shelling the stronghold of the enemy with soap-bubbles, to condemn drinking and connive at smoking. I have been ready to enquire,—Thou that sayest a man should not get drunk—Dost thou smoke? I consider all efforts to repress the drinking habits of the people like playing an engine on the *smoke* instead of the *fire*, when tobacco is not condemned."

Another, and a still more serious result of this blunted sensibility, is its obfuscating influence in relation to the soul and eternal things. "As a statistical fact," says the Rev. Henry Allon, "90 per cent. of smoking young men are irreligious, and if they are brought under serious impressions, they are in danger of losing them, if they continue to smoke." An affecting, but not a surprising fact, for as the Saviour said—"He that soweth to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption." Such is smoking, and such its result! Nor is it surprising that since smoking in the morning has become a rule by smokers, "not more than 2 per cent. of the working classes of London," as was recently said by the Earl of Shaftesbury in the Lord Mayor's parlour, "attend churches and chapels on Sundays;" and as it has been said in the *City Mission Magazine*, "For every working-man found in churches and chapels within the borough of St. Mary-le-bonn, fifty are found in public-houses." The percentage of the classes above them, it is to be feared, do not greatly exceed!

Finally, Sir, when I reflect on the long train of consequences which are unmistakably traceable to pipes and cigars, and which as certainly as that the inverted pyramid cannot stand, will go on with proportionate elongation to the increase of smoking, I am pained at heart to think that with comparatively few exceptions, so much indifference is manifested by our countrymen and countrywomen respecting these consequences, as if it mattered not whether the seed of the next generation—men—

children and women-children—be answerable to prospective manliness, and mental and moral dignity, or answerable to a lamentable defection in all these important qualities, the latter of which is an inevitable impending result. "The Glory of Children" used to be their parents, as the boast of breeders of the lower animals is now in sires and dams; nor until we exclude from our minds the idea that the laws of propagation were Divinely contrived, can we apologise for this allusion.

Should the foregoing remarks induce you to take the initiative, and to summon, through your "world-wide" circulated journal, co-operation with us by the gentlemen of the press, medical advisers, ministers of religion, and temperance advocates, yours will be the honour, ours the reward, and multitudes in present and coming generations the unspeakable advantage. Nor will He who died to redeem our bodies and souls, and the holy angels be unconcerned observers.

If you are ready to say "almost thou persuadest me" to do my duty. Go further, Sir, and say—I WILL DO IT, IRRESPECTIVE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

With due consideration, I am,

ONE OF THE SO-CALLED 'FANATICAL ANTI-TOBACCONISTS.'

FIFTY-FOUR OBJECTIONS TO TOBACCO,

PREFACED BY

THE LATE DR. HODGKIN.

"I WOULD strongly urge any one, who is attached to the employment of Tobacco, to read and weigh my friend Thomas Reynolds's Fifty-four Objections to Tobacco, since each of them is truly *argumentum ad hominem*—a personal appeal to every man, and applies to his bodily and mental well-being—to his happiness in his children—to the interests of his property—to his social comfort, and even, in some degree, to his eternal hopes.

Bedford Square, 1862.

THOMAS HODGKIN, M.D."

"TOBACCO IS THE PARENT OF A HOST OF PHYSICAL EVILS.

TOBACCO contains an essential oil, and nicotin, both of which are highly poisonous. Tobacco, when first smoked, chewed, or snuffed, deranges the whole system. Tobacco, by perverting the nourishing saliva, prevents the due elaboration of chyle and blood. Tobacco exerts a special influence on the brain and nervous system generally. Tobacco, by weakening the nerves, produces morbid excitability and irritability. Tobacco impairs the senses of smelling and tasting, and often of hearing and seeing. Tobacco seriously affects the action of the heart and circulation of the blood. Tobacco mars beauty, destroys the complexion, and impairs the brilliancy of the eyes. Tobacco, smoked in confined rooms, is very injurious to sickly women and children. Tobacco consumers are more liable to disease than if they were in a natural condition. Tobacco weakens the constitution and renders recovery from sickness a greater difficulty. Tobacco, by undermining physical vigour, causes the "keepers of the house" to tremble. Tobacco has a tendency to loosen the "silver cord" and superinduce paralysis. Tobacco harms the gums and teeth, and the grinders cease, because they are few. Tobacco weakens every function and fibre of the human frame by poisoning the blood. Tobacco hastens the evil days in which many say, "I have no pleasure in them." Tobacco is a known cause of enfeeblement to the posterity of its consumers. Tobacco arrests the growth of the young, and thereby lowers the stature.

**"TOBACCO INTERFERES WITH THE INTELLECTUAL AND
LOWERS THE MORAL FACULTIES.**

Tobacco frequently induces habits of indolence, apathy, and listless inactivity. Tobacco when freely used, depresses the energies of the mind, and leads to despondency. Tobacco, in numerous instances, weakens the memory, and thereby tends to insanity. Tobacco, as James the First said, bewitches him that useth it. He cannot leave it off. Tobacco, smoked, chewed, or snuffed, deceives, by causing delusive imaginations. Tobacco, by enfeebling the will, becomes a prolific cause of irresolution. Tobacco is at variance with the dictates which Christianity inspires in the soul. Tobacco greatly detracts from the honour of God, by frustrating his benevolent designs. Tobacco is very powerful in leading to forgetfulness of God and the duty of self-denial. Tobacco keeps many of its besotted victims in a state of habitual semi-intoxication. Tobacco is a great promoter of drinking customs, by creating unnatural thirst. Tobacco, by its exhausting and depressing power, renders strong drink a necessity. Tobacco is the admitted cause of multitudes breaking the "total abstinence" pledge. Tobacco is therefore a great hindrance to the progress of Temperance Reform. Tobacco, by weakening mental perception, leaves its victims an easy prey to tempters. Tobacco is an acknowledged cause of demoralization to the young of all classes. Tobacco, when smoked by boys, causes a craving for it, to gratify which they often steal. Tobacco has caused many parents to exclaim, "Would God I had died for thee, my son."

**"TOBACCO IS OPPOSED TO INDUSTRY, IS AN ENEMY TO ECONOMY,
AND OFTEN LEADS TO MISERY.**

Tobacco is expensive; and if wives and children want food, the pipe must be filled. Tobacco smoking occasions great waste of time—"The stuff which life is made of." Tobacco and drinks are causes of long credit for articles of necessity and utility. Tobacco, by robbing working-men, clothes many of them and their children with rags. Tobacco has done much to fill poor-houses, hospitals, and lunatic asylums. Tobacco, and drink, which its use demands, cost enough to evangelize the world. Tobacco is the frequent cause of destructive fires, by which many lives and much valuable property is destroyed.

"TOBACCO IS OPPOSED TO SOCIAL COMFORT AND PUBLIC GOOD.

Tobacco, smoked, chewed, or snuffed, is opposed to the politeness of a gentleman. Tobacco pollutes the breath, and unfits its consumers for refined society. Tobacco is a class-breaker, and greatly tends to lead its victims into bad associations. Tobacco, being much in demand, induces many to keep their shops open on Sundays. Tobacco robs the pulpit, by circumscribing the qualifications of smoking ministers. Tobacco robs the pew and Sunday Schools of multitudes who smoke that day away. Tobacco begets strife in railway carriages, ale and temperance-houses, and home circles. Tobacco and its appendages cost the United Kingdom at least £13,000,000 a-year. Tobacco enriches the revenue, but entails vice and misery on the community. Tobacco was one main upholder of Slavery in the United States of America.* To Young and Old we say, **TOUCH NOT TOBACCO, FOR A CURSE IS IN IT.**

**"AGAINST THESE NUMEROUS EVILS THE LUXURY OF TOBACCO
HAS NOT ONE REDEEMING VIRTUE TO PLEAD."**

* Happily there is no longer need to pray for the liberation of slaves in the tobacco plantations of America, but there is greater need than ever to pray that consumers of Tobacco may be delivered from their bondage; especially on account of the young, and with prayer to blend precept and example.

