

celebrated Raleigh contributed most to introduce the custom of smoking among the nations of the north. As early, as the end of the sixteenth century, bitter complaints were made in England "of this imitation of the manners of a savage people." It was feared that, by the practice of smoking tobacco, "Englishmen would degenerate into a barbarous state." \*

When the Ottomacs of Uruana, by the use of niopo (their arborescent tobacco), and of fermented liquors, have thrown themselves into a state of intoxication, which lasts several days, they kill one another without ostensibly fighting. The most vindictive among them poison the nail of their thumb with *curare*; and, according to the testimony of the missionary, the mere impression of this poisoned nail may become a mortal wound, if the *curare* be very active, and immediately mingle with the mass of the blood. When the Indians, after a quarrel at night, commit a murder, they throw the dead body into the river, fearing that some indications of the violence committed on the deceased may be observed. "Every time," said Father Bueno, "that I see the women fetch water from a part of the shore to which they are not accustomed to go, I suspect that a murder has been committed in my mission."

We found in the Indian huts at Uruana the vegetable substance called "touchwood of ants," † with which we had become acquainted at the Great Cataracts, and which is employed to stop bleeding. This substance, which might

potato in Europe more than 120 or 140 years. When Raleigh brought tobacco from Virginia to England in 1586, whole fields of it were already cultivated in Portugal. It was also previously known in France, where it was brought into fashion by Catherine de Medicis, from whom it received the name of "herbe à la reine,"—"the queen's herb."

\* This remarkable passage of Camden is as follows, *Annal. Elizabet.* p. 143 (1585); "ex illo sane tempore [tabacum] usu cepit esse creber-rimo in Anglia et magno pretio dum quamplurimi graveolentem illius fumum per tubulum testaceum hauriunt et mox e naribus efflant; adeo ut Anglorum corporum in barbarorum naturam degenerasse videantur, quum iidem ac barbari delectentur." We may see from this passage that they emitted the smoke through the nose; but at the court of Montezuma the pipe was held in one hand, while the nostrils were stopped with the other, in order that the smoke might be more easily swallowed. (Life of Raleigh, vol. i, p. 82).

† Yesca de hornigas.