

and drinking, makes the following observation : "Tobacco lessens a man's interest in woman, and his enjoyment of their society, and this is the true reason why almost every lady of spirit is the irreconcilable foe of tobacco" "Smoking does certainly blunt a man's sense of cleanliness. It certainly is an unclean habit. If smokers were to be judged by the places they have left—by the smoking car after a long day's use, or by the bachelor's quarters when the bachelor has gone down town—they must be rated very low in the scale of civilization."

The evil effects of this habit are not appreciated until health has *depreciated*, which takes place only after the habit is beyond control. Dr. Frantzel, of Berlin, recently made a report of his observations upon the effect of immoderate smoking, from which I quote the following : "Smoking as a rule agrees with persons for many years (20 or more), but all at once, without any assignable cause, troubles are experienced with the heart, which rapidly increase and compel medical aid."

POLITICS.

The present attitude of political parties in the United States cannot receive the hearty approval of the true, conscientious and patriotic citizen for obvious reasons, a few of which it shall be the purpose of this article to mention. Granting that constitutions and laws express the will of the people, still they cannot execute themselves. Therefore, the execution of the laws and the administration of governments must be entrusted to the people. It is at this point that the "weakness and wickedness of human nature have entered into all systems of government ever yet established."

Each of the two prominent political parties base their claims to the control of the government on what they were in the past instead of what they are at present. Both the parties with equal earnestness endeavored to solve the only political problem : How to govern people with-

out interfering with their freedom. It is true each has a method of solution almost opposite the other. The Democratic party has sought for a liberty which should determine their law which to a great extent was shown in the doctrine of States rights. The Republican party has looked for a law which should maintain their liberty which was manifested in their attitude towards the Southern secession, compelling obedience to lawful authority. These two political parties have deteriorated, in their earnestness to solve the problem, since their origin. How great their interest to solve this problem is, at present, is a puzzle. They have been justly accused of insincerity and these accusations have found voice through the many political parties which have originated within the last few years.

While they should be commended for their past work, yet we should exact other claims than the dead issues of the past. The wounds of past political contention must ever be torn open by some whose only weapon, in a political contest, is a harangue on the "bloody shirt," "the restoration of the rebel flags to the South," "the G. A. R.," "Secession," and "turn the rascals out."

It is well enough to give such subjects attention, but there is a limit beyond which "forbearance ceases to be a virtue."

It would be a difficult task to enumerate the many foul devices resorted to by politicians to "gain their point." It was stated by a man of veracity that at the recent election in New York men formed themselves in a line, with their tickets elevated at right angles to their bodies, and when the polls were opened cast their votes, walked into an adjacent saloon, and received each a five dollar bill as the price of his ballot. In Philadelphia thousands of illegal names were on the register. In Baltimore, persons after voting in one district went to others and repeated their vote.

Many more instances which occurred within the past year could be cited if necessary. The