

Since I commenced writing this letter I
received yours of the 26th inst - in which you
had corrected three words of my last letter
but I do not think you found all the ~~many~~^{copy of the}
~~the~~ mistakes for it strikes me that in the compass-
tion ~~at~~ I spelled the word forest wrong



Mr. Wm. W. Woods
Newark, Ohio.

Give my love to all our family
Truly your Brother
Charles R. Woods

Worthington Dec

Dear Brother

I received yours of the 20th in due season. But not until I had mailed my last to you. I feel confident that in my last letter you will find more misspelled than usual but I will try and have this one written correct.

The composition which I intend to give you a copy of is one I wrote in opposition to another it is as follows.

In the composition which you have just heard read there have been a few assertions made but no arguments produced in favor of the weed as it is rightly called.

We will examine ^{some} ~~a~~ ^{part} of them and see if they will bear inspection.

In the first place he attempts to prove that tobacco has good qualities, by asserting that it has a great many enemies, and that he says is a sufficient proof of its usefulness. Such proof may satisfy him, but I doubt very much whether he can find any one who will agree with him on those ground.

However I will admit that it has ~~many~~ enemies and friends to if he calls those that use it such. But these selfsame friends are its most bitter enemies and as he is one of them, if he dared or even could he would break those ties of friendship.

and wage eternal war upon the weed. The friends of tobacco are its friends only from compulsion.

He furthermore says that every good thing which is introduced into society has more enemies than those which are evil. Upon such reasoning the writings of Paine and Voltaire which every one knows have exercised an evil influence and which are in themselves the very dregs of wickedness and blasphemy, must have virtues unequalled by the productions of any other writers, for their enemies are more numerous. But if they are evil then must tobacco be an evil also.

Inddy He would try to make it appear that the practice of using tobacco is very cleanly, and for proof of this he says, that if you do not want your floors stained ~~up~~ you must set out your spit-boxes, which is becoming every respectable person. Well admitting that it is becoming to set out the spit-box, it is also unbecoming in a visitor to put his friends to any unnecessary trouble, and if it is as cleanly as he would make you believe it is I can see no use of having spit-boxes unless it be for an ornament, and I really should not covet the taste of those who would set a spit-box in their parlor for an ornament.

By He says that tobacco is useful for many purposes, the first of which is that it is a stimulus. Well so is whisky and yet I do not —

consider it of any use when taken as a beverage but rather an injury. Besides its being a stimulus he says "it is great company for one who is in trouble" I wonder if any one would think so who has not been in the habit of using it. Do men take emetics when they get into trouble to raise their spirits, and drive away care.

And to prove that it strengthens the nerves, and makes the mind more clear, he has related to you a story about a young man whom he saw writing a counterblast on tobacco. I suppose he refers to a composition written a short time since on the force of habit. Would that it might prove as fatal to the pernicious habit as did the blight to the potatoe crop in Ireland, Tobacco strengthens the nerves only after weakening them and clears the mind only after clogging it.

As the gentlemen's arguments will not stand the test of examination I will again say that tobacco is of no account whatever and that the practice of using it is unbecoming and filthy. For proof of this look at the walls and floor of this room, and you will there find evidences which cannot be disputed.

If the money which has been foolishly spent for tobacco had been put in the missionary box every family in the world might have a bible, and every benighted soul a guide to happiness here and bliss hereafter.

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Mrs. Maria W. Woods
Newark Ohio

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