

*A*  
*Counter-Blaste*  
to  
*Tobacco*

JAMES I



MINIATURE BOOKS

*The Rodale Press*

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#### FOREWORD

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TOBACCO SMOKING: A VICE, A VIRTUE, A VAGARY, an extravagance, a cure for all ills? When tobacco stands on trial, no jury will agree to a verdict, and discussion will be lengthy and tortuous. In 1604, James I of England published his *Counterblaste to Tobacco* in an attempt to curb a smoking habit which had become general and which he personally found distasteful. Three hundred and fifty years later, cancer specialists have issued their counterblast. Both have been instigated by a concern for public health—James's diatribe on the one hand, biased, unfounded, ranting, and the specialists' on the other, factual, concise, authoritative. Both provoked comment, neither has reached definite conclusions. And so the cure of the tobacco leaf continues, and smoking remains a solace to many, the delectation of a few.

In assuming that he was divinely chosen to rule over his people, James found justification in behaviour which was to alienate both Church and Parliament. But this assumption also gave him a curious sense of moral responsibility, and it was as a self-appointed Keeper of the Public Morals that many of his treatises came to be written. There is no doubt that he took this responsibility

seriously. He believed that the reading public such as it was, would value the golden words that flowed from so exalted a pen, and in his conceit, he felt that his intellectual superiority justified his lectures. They were read, but in the more pertinent cases his injunctions were ignored.

The *Counterblaste* was published anonymously in 1604, within a year of James's succession to the throne, its authorship only being disclosed twelve years later. It is lighter in vein than most of his writings, as he himself says, it is 'but a toy' and 'the fume of an idle braine'. The temperature of the language indicates his personal loathing of the tobacco habit—clearly he detested the smell, and with colourful medical details he hoped to strike terror into the heart of the tobacco taker. He follows this with an ageless appeal to economy, and a less powerful appeal to the gallantry of the men towards their womenfolk. It is significant that less than a year later, a Proclamation was issued and all imported tobacco was made subject to a tax of six shillings and eightpence on every pound weight. So much for the effectiveness of the *Counterblaste*. Having failed by his arguments to prevent people from smoking, he decided to make it as expensive as possible for them. Much of his argument is equally applicable now, though the quaintness and extravagance of his language contrast sharply with the clinical sobriety of today, and we, at a distance of three and a half centuries, can find his vehemence and his unconscious naïveté disarming.

ANN HILL



## TO THE READER

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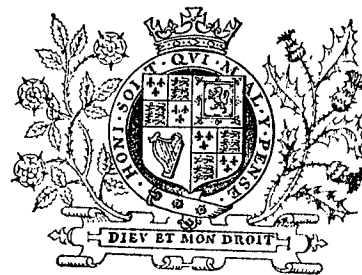
AS EVERY HUMANE BODY (DEARE COUNTRY MEN) how wholesome soever, is notwithstanding subject, or at least naturally inclined to some sorts of diseases, or infirmities: so is there no Commonwealth, or Body-politicke, how well governed, or peaceable soever it be that lackes the owne popular errors, and naturally enclined corruptions: and therefore is it no wonder, although this our Countrey and Commonwealth, though peaceable, though wealthy, though long flourishing in both, be amongst the rest, subject to the owne naturall infirmities. We are of all Nations the people most loving and most reverently obedient to our Prince, yet are wee (as time has often borne witness) too easie to be seduced to make Rebellion, upon very slight grounds. Our fortunate and oft proved valour in warres abroad, our heartie and reverent obedience to our Princes at home, hath bred us a long, and a thrice happy peace: Our Peace hath bred wealth: And Peace and wealth hath brought forth a generall sluggishnesse, which makes us wallow in all sorts of idle delights, and soft delicacies, The first seedes of the subversion of all great Monarchies. Our Cleargie are become negligent and lazie, our Nobilitie and Gentry

prodigall, and solde to their private delights, Our Lawyers covetous, our Common-people prodigall and curious; and generally all sorts of people more carefull for their private ends, then for their mother the Common-wealth. For remedie whereof, it is the Kings (as the proper Phisician of his Politicke-body) to purge it of all those diseases, by Medicines meete for the same: as by a certaine milde, and yet just form of government, to maintaine the Publicke quietnesse, and prevent all occasions of Commotions by the example of his owne Person and Court, to make us all ashamed of our sluggish delicacie, and to stirre us up to the practise againe of all honest exercises, and Martiall shadowes of Warre; As likewise by his, and his Courts moderatenesse in Apparell, to make us ashamed of our prodigalitie: By his quicke admonitions and carefull overseeing of the Cleargie to waken them up againe, to be more diligent in their Offices: By the sharpe triall, and severe punishment of the partiall, covetous and bribing Lawyers, to reforme their corruptions: And generally by the example of his owne Person, and by the due execution of good Lawes, to reform and abolish, piece and piece, these old and evill grounded abuses. For this will not bee *Opus unius diei*, but as every one of these diseases, must from the *King* receive the owne cure proper for it, so are there some sorts of abuses in Common-wealths, that though they be of so base and contemptible a condition, as they are too low for the Law to looke on, and too meane for a *King* to interpone his authoritie, or bend his eye upon: yet are they corruptions, as well as the greatest of

them. So is an Ant an *Animal*, as well as an Elephant: so is a Wrene *Avis*, as well as a Swanne, and so is a small dint of the Toothake, a disease as well as the fearefull Plague is. But for these base sorts of corruption in Common-wealthes, not onely the *King*, or any inferior Magistrate, but *Quilibet e populo* may serve to be a Phisician by discovering and impugning the error, and perswading reformation thereof.

And surely in my opinion, there cannot be a more base, and yet hurtfull corruption in a Countrey, then is the vile use (or other abuse) of taking *Tobacco* in this Kingdome, which hath moved me, shortly to discover the abuses thereof in this folowing little Pamphlet.

If any thinke it a light Argument, so it is but a toy that is bestowed upon it. And since the Subject is but of Smoke, I thinke the fume of an idle braine, may serve for a sufficient battery against so fumous and feeble an enemy. If my grounds be found true, it is all I looke for; but if they cary the force of perswasion with them, it is all I can wish, and more than I can expect. My onely care is, that you, my deare Countrey-men, may rightly conceive even by this smallest trifle, of the sinceritie of my meaning in great matters, never to spare any paine that may tend to the procuring of your weale and prosperitie.



## A Counter-Blaste to Tobacco

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THAT THE MANIFOLDE ABUSES OF THIS VILE custome of *Tobacco* taking, may the better be espied, it is fit, that first you enter into consideration both of the first originall thereof, and likewise of the reasons of the first entry thereof into this Countrey. For certainly as such customes, that have their first institution either from a godly, necessary, or honorable ground, and are first brought in, by the meanes of some worthy, vertuous, and great Personage, are ever, and most justly, holden in great and reverent estimation and account, by all wise, vertuous, and temperate spirits: So should it by the contrary, justly bring a great disgrace into that sort of customes, which having their originall from base corruption and barbarity, doe in like sort, make their first entry into a Countrey, by an inconsiderate and childish affectation of Noveltie, as is the true case of the first invention of *Tobacco* taking, and of the first entry thereof among us. For *Tobacco* being a common herbe, which (though under

divers names) growes almost everywhere, was first found out by some of the barbarous *Indians*, to be a Preservative, or Antidot against the Pockes, a filthy disease, whereunto these barbarous people are (as all men know) very much subject, what through the uncleanly and adust constitution of their bodies, and what through the intemperate heate of their Climate: so that as from them was first brought into Christendome, that most detestable disease, so from them likewise was first brought this use of *Tobacco*, as a stinking and unsavorie Antidot, for so corrupted and execrable a *Maladie*, the stinking Suffumigation whereof they yet use against that disease, making so one canker or venime to eate out another.

And now good Countrey men let us (I pray you) consider, what honour or policie can moove us to imitate the barbarous and beastly maners of the wilde, godlesse, and slavish *Indians*, especially in so vile and stinking a custome? Shall wee disdain to imitate the maners of our neighbour *France* (having the stile of the first Christian Kingdom) and that cannot endure the spirit of the Spaniards (their King now being comparable in largenes of Dominions to the great Emperor of *Turkie*). Shall wee, I say, that have bene so long civill and wealthy in Peace, famous and invincible in Warre, fortunate in both, we that have bene ever able to aide any of our neighbours (but never deafed any of their eares with any of our supplications for assistance) shall we, I say, without blushing, abase our selves so farre, as to imitate these beastly *Indians*, slaves to the *Spaniards*, refuse to the world, and as yet



*Indians smoking. This picture, which appeared in 1575, is believed to be the first printed illustration of the use of tobacco.*

aliens to the holy Covenant of God? Why doe we not as well imitate them in walking naked as they doe? in preferring glasses, feathers, and such toyes, to golde and precious stones, as they do? yea why do we not denie God and adore the Devill, as they doe?

Now to the corrupted basenesse of the first use of this *Tobacco*, doeth very well agree the foolish and groundlesse first entry thereof into this Kingdome. It is not so long since the first entry of this abuse amongst us here, as this present age cannot yet very well remember, both the first Author, and the forme of the first introduction of it

amongst us. It was neither brought in by King, great Conquerour, nor learned Doctor of Phisicke.

Withe the report of a great discovery for a Conquest, some two or three Savage men, were brought in, together with this Savage custome. But the pitie is, the poore wilde barbarous men died, but that vile barbarous custome is yet alive, yea in fresh vigor: so as it seemes a miracle to me, how a custome springing from so vile a ground, and brought in by a father so generally hated, should be welcomed upon so slender a warrant. For if they that first put it in practise heere, had remembered for what respect it was used by them from whence it came, I am sure they would have bene loath, to have taken so farre the imputation of that disease upon them as they did, by using the cure thereof. For *Sanis non est opus medico*, and counter-poisons are never used, but where poyson is thought to precede.

But since it is true, that divers customes slightly grounded, and with no better warrant entred in a Commonwealth, may yet in the use of them thereafter, prove both necessary and profitable; it is therefore next to be examined, if there be not a full Sympathie and true Proportion, betweene the base ground and foolish entrie, and the loathsome, and hurtfull use of this stinking Antidote.

## [ 2 ]

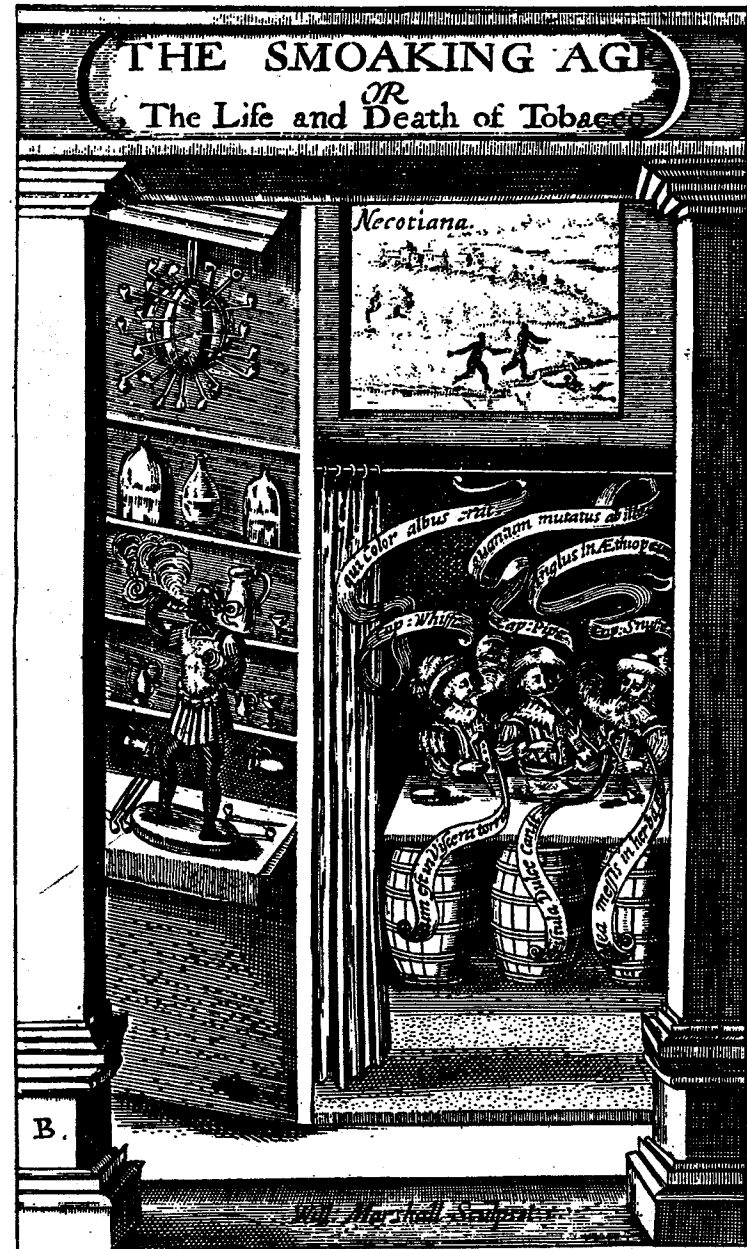
I am now therefore heartily to pray you to consider, first upon what false and erroneous grounds you have first built the generall good liking thereof; and next, what sinnes towards God, and foolish vanities before the world you commit, in the detestable use of it.

As for these deceitfull grounds, that have specially mooved you to take a good and great conceit thereof, I shall content myselfe to examine here onely foure of the principals of them; two founded upon the Theoricke of a deceivable appearance of Reason, and two of them upon the mistaken Practicke of generall Experience.

First, it is thought by you a sure Aphorisme in the Physickes, That the braines of all men, being naturally colde and wet, all dry and hote things should be good for them; of which nature this stinking suffumigation is, and therefore of good use for them. Of this Argument, both the Proposition and Assumption are false, and so the Conclusion cannot but be voyd of it selfe. For as to the Proposition, That because the braines are colde and moist, therefore normal things that are hote and drie are best for them, is an inept consequence: For man beeing compounded of the foure Complexions (whose fathers are the

four Elements) although there be a mixture of them all in all the parts of his body, yet must the divers parts of our *Microcosme* or little world within ourselves, be diversely more inclined, some to one, some to another complexion, according to the diversitie of their uses, that of these discords a perfect harmonie may bee made up for the maintenance of the whole body.

The application then of a thing of a contrary nature, to any of these parts is to interrupt them of their due function, and by consequence hurtfull to the health of the whole body. As if a man, because the Liver is hote (as the fountaine of blood) and as it were an oven to the stomache, would therefore apply and weare close upon his Liver and stomache a cake of lead; he might within a very short time (I hope) be sustained very good cheape at an Ordinairie, beside the cleering of his conscience from that deadly sinne of gluttonie. And as if, because the Heart is full of vitall spirits, and in perpetuall motion, a man would therefore lay a heavy pound stone on his breast, for staying and holding downe that wanton palpitation, I doubt not but that his breast would be more bruised from the weight thereof, than the heart would be comforted with such a disagreeable and contrarious cure. And even so is it with the Braines. For if a man, because the Braines are colde and humide, would therefore use inwardly by smells, or outwardly by application, things of hot and drie qualitie, all the gaine that he could make thereof would onely be to put himselfe in a great forwardnesse for running mad, by overwatching



himselfe, the coldnesse and moistnesse of our braine beeing the onely ordinarie means that procure our sleepe and rest. Indeed I do not denie, but when it falls out that any of these, or any part of our bodie growes to be distempered, and to tend to an extremitie, beyond the compasse of Natures temperate mixture, that in that case cures of contrary qualities, to the intemperate inclination of that part, being wisely prepared and discreetly ministered, may be both necessarie and helpfull for strengthening and assisting Nature in the expulsion of her enemies: for this is the true definition of all profitable Physicke.

But first these Cures ought not to bee used, but where there is need of them, the contrairie where of, is daily practised in this generall use of *Tobacco* by all sorts and complexions of people.

And next, I deny the minor of this argument, as I have already said, in regard that this *Tobacco*, is not simply of a hot and dry qualitie; but rather hath a certaine venemous facultie joyned with the heate thereof, which makes it have an Antipathie against nature, as by the hatefull smell thereof doeth well appeare. For the nose being the proper Organ and convoy of the sense of smelling to the braines which are the onely fountaine of that sense, doeth ever serve us for an infallible witsse, whether that Odour which we smell, be healthfull or hurtfull to the braine (except when it fals out that the sense it selfe is corrupted and abused through some infirmitie, and distemper in the braine.) And that the suffumigation thereof cannot have a drying qualitie, it needs no further probation, then that

it is a smoake, all smoake and vapour, being of it selfe humide, as drawing neere to the nature of the ayre, and easie to be resolved againe into water, whereof there needes no other prooffe but the meteors, which being bred of nothing else but the vapours and exhalations sucked up by the Sunne out of the earth, the Sea, and waters, yet are the same smoakie vapours turned, and transformed into Raynes, Snowes, Dewes, hoare Frostes, and such like waterie Meteors, as by the contrarie the raynie cloudes are often transformed and evaporated in blustering winds.

The second Argument grounded on a show of reason is, That this filthie smoake, as well through the heat and strength thereof, as by a naturall force and qualitie, is able and fit to purge both the head and stomacke of Rhewmes and distillations, as experience teacheth, by the spitting and avoyding fleame, immeadiately after the taking of it. But the fallacie of this Argument may easily appeare, by my late preceding description of the Meteors. For even as the smoakie vapours sucked up by the Sunne, and staid in the lowest and colde Region of the ayre, are there contracted into Cloudes and turned into raine and such other watery Meteors: So this stinking smoake being sucked up by the Nose, and imprisoned in the colde and moyst braines, is by their colde and wett facultie, turned and cast foorth againe in waterie distillations, and so are you made free and purged of nothing, but that wherewith you wilfully burdened yourselves: and therefore are you no wiser in taking *Tobacco* for purging you of distillations, then if for preventing the Cholike you would take all

kinde of windie meates and drinkes, and for preventing the Stone, you would take all kinde of meates and drinkes, that would breede gravell in the Kidneys, and then when you were forced to avoyde much winde out of your stomacke, and much gravell in your Urine, that you should attribute the thanke thereof to such nourishments as bred those within you, that behoved either to be expelled by the force of nature, or you to have *burst at the broad side*, as the Proverbe is.

As for the other two reasons founded upon experience. The first of which is that the whole people would not have taken so generall a good liking thereof, if they had not by experience found it verie soveraigne, and good for them: For answere thereunto how easilie the mindes of any people, wherewith God hath replenished this world, may be drawen to the foolish affectation of any noveltie, I leave it to the discreet judgement of any man that is reasonable.

## [ 3 ]

Doe we not dayly see, that a man can no sooner bring over from beyond the Seas any new forme of apparell, but that hee cannot bee thought a man of spirit, that would not presently imitate the same? And so from hand to hand it spreades, till it be practised by all, not for any commoditie that is in it, but only because it is come to be the fashion. For such is the force of that naturall Selfe-love in every one of us, and such is the corruption of envie bred in the brest of every one, as we cannot be content unlesse we imitate everything that our fellowes doe, and so proove our selves capable of everything whereof they are capable, like Apes, counterfeiting the maners of others, to our owne destruction. For let one or two of the greatest Masters of Mathematickes in any of the two famous Universities, but constantly affirme any cleare day, that they see some strange apparition in the skies: they will I warrant you be seconded by the greatest part of the Students in that profession: So loath will they be, to bee thought inferiour to their fellowes, either in depth of knowledge or sharpnesse of sight: And therefore the generall good liking and imbracing of this foolish custome, doeth but onely proceede from that affectation of noveltie,

and popular error, whereof I have already spoken.

The other argument drawn from a mistaken experience, is but the more particular probation of this generall, because it is alleaged to be found true by prooffe, that by the taking of *Tobacco* divers and very many doe finde themselves cured of divers diseases as on the other part, no man ever received harme thereby. In this argument there is first a great mistaking and next a monstrous absurditie. For is it not a very great mistaking, to take *Non causam pro causa*, as they say in the Logicks? because peradventure when a sicke man hath had his disease at the height, hee hath at that instant taken *Tobacco*, and afterward his disease taking the naturall course of declining, and consequently the patient of recovering his health, O then the *Tobacco* forsooth, was the worker of that miracle. Beside that, it is a thing well knowen to all Physicians, that the apprehension and conceit of the patient hath by wakening and uniting the vitall spirits, and so strengthening nature, a great power and vertue, to cure divers diseases. For an evident prooffe of mistaking in the like case, I pray you what foolish boy, what sillie wench, what olde doting wife, or ignorant countrey clowne, is not a Physician for the toothach, for the cholicke, and divers such common diseases? Yea, will not every man you meete withal, teach you a sundry cure for the same, and swear by that meane either himself, or some of his neerest kinsmen and friends was cured? And yet I hope no man is so foolish as to beleve them. And al these toys do only proceed from the mistaking *Non causam pro causa*,

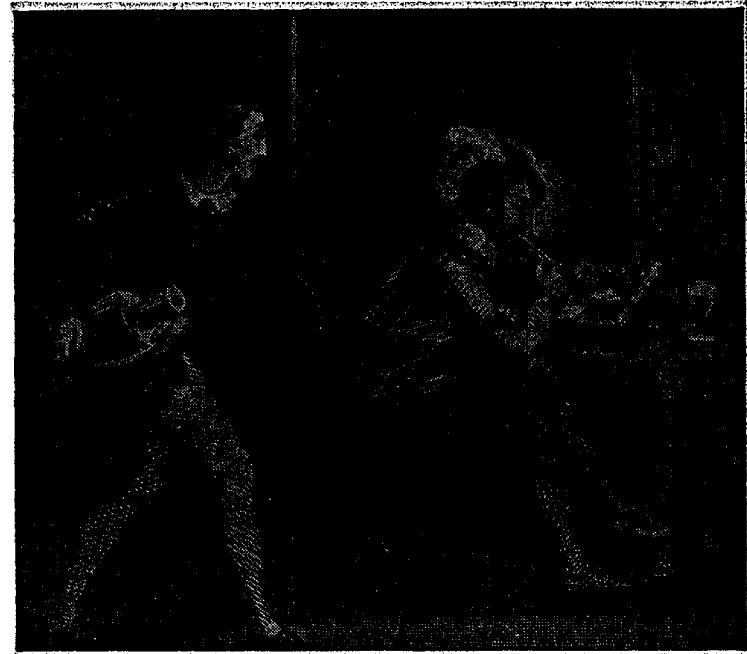


Some with the Smoking Pyre and quaffing Cupp. Should be 1. Gyrrats  
 Whole Lordships oft have swallowed and vobone up.  
 Their names, names, goods, strength, health, & lives & fill wasting  
 In practising the Apish Art of Tasting.  
 at the Exchange

A Lady smoking.

as I have already sayd, and so if a man chance to recover one of any disease, after he hath taken *Tobacco*, that must have the thankes of all. But by the contrary, if a man smoke himselfe to death with it (and many have done) O then some other disease must beare the blame for that fault. So do olde harlots thanke their harlotrie for their many yeeres, that custome being healthfull (say they) *ad purgandos Renes*, but never have minde how many die of the Pockes in the flower of their youth. And so doe olde drunkards thinke they prolong their dayes, by their swine-like diet, but never remember howe many die drowned in drinke before they be halfe olde.

And what greater absurditie can there bee, then to say that one cure shall serve for divers, nay, contrarious sortes of diseases? It is an undoubted ground among all Physicians, that there is almost no sort either of nourishment or medicine, that hath not some thing in it disagreeable to some part of mans bodie, because, as I have already sayd, the nature of the temperature of every part, is so different from another, that according to the olde proverbe, That which is good for the head, is evill for the necke and the shoulders. For even as a strong enimie that invades a towne or fortresse, although in his siege thereof, he do belae and compasse it round about, yet he makes his breach and entrie, at some one or few special parts thereof, which hee hath tried and found to bee weakest and least able to resist; so sicknesse doth make her particular assault, upon such part or parts of our bodie, as are weakest and easiest to be overcome by that sort of disease, which then



*Sir Walter Raleigh's servant when first he saw his master smoking believed him to be on fire and attempted to extinguish him with water.*

doth assaile us, although all the rest of the body by Sympathie feele it selfe, to be as it were belaid, and besieged by the affliction of that speciall part, the griefe and smart thereof being by the sense of feeling dispersed through all the rest of our members. And therefore the skilfull Physician presses by such cures, to purge and strengthen that part which is afflicted, as are only fit for that sort of disease, and doe best agree with the nature of that infirme part; which being abused to a disease of another nature, would proove as hurtfull for the one as

helpfull for the other. Yea, not only will a skilfull and warie Physician bee carefull to use no cure but that which is fit for that sort of disease, but he will also consider all other circumstances, and make the remedies suitable thereunto; as the temperature of the clime where the Patient is, the constitution of the Planets, the time of the Moone, the season of the yere, the age and complexion of the Patient, and the present state of his body, in strength or weaknesse. For one cure must not ever be used for the self-same disease, but according to the varying of any of the aforesaid circumstances, that sorte of remedie must be used which is fittest for the same. Whear by the contrarie in this case, such is the miraculous omnipotencie of our strong tasted *Tobacco*, as it cures all sorts of diseases (which never any drugge could do before) in all persons, and at all times. It cures all maner of distellations, either in the head or stomacke (if you beleeve their Axiomes) although in very deede it doe both corrupt the braine, and by causing over quicke digestion, fill the stomacke full of crudities. It cures the Gowt in the feet, and (which is miraculous) in that very instant when the smoke thereof, as light flies up into the head, the vertue thereof, as heavie, runs downe to the little toe. It helps all sorts of Agues. It makes a man sober that was drunke. It refreshes a weary man, and yet makes a man hungry. Being taken when they goe to bed, it makes one sleepe soundly, and yet being taken when a man is sleepe and drowsie, it will, as they say, awake his braine, and quicken his understanding. As for curing of the Pockes, it serves for that

use but among the pockie Indian slaves. Here in *England* it is refined, and will not deigne to cure heere any other then cleanly and gentlemanly diseases. Omnipotent power of *Tobacco*! And if it could by the smoke thereof chace out devils, as the smoke of *Tobias* fish did (which I am sure could smel no stronglier) it would serve for a precious Relicke, both for the superstitious Priests, and the insolent Puritanes, to cast out devils withall. Admitting then, and not confessing that the use thereof were healthfull for some sortes of diseases; should it be used for all sicknesses? should it be used by all men? should it be used at al times? yea, should it be used by able, yong, strong, healthfull men? Medicine hath that vertue that it never leaveth a man in that state wherein it findeth him; it makes a sicke man whole, but a whole man sicke. And as Medicine helps nature being taken at times of necessitie, so being ever and continually used, it doth but weaken, wearie, and weare nature. What speak I of Medicine? Nay let a man every houre of the day, or as oft as many in this countrey use to take *Tobacco*, let a man I say, but take as oft the best sorts of nourishments in meate and drinke that can bee devised, hee shall with the continuall use thereof weaken both his head and his stomacke: all his members shall become feeble, his spirits dull, and in the end, as a drowsie lazy belly-god, he shall evanish in a Lethargie.

And from this weaknesse it proceeds, that many in this kingdome have had such a continuall use of taking this unsaverie smoke, as now they are not able to forbear the same, no more than an olde drunkard can abide to be

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sober, without falling into an incurable weakenesse and evill constitution: for their continuall custome hath made to them, *habitum, alteram naturam*: so to those that from their birth have bene continually nourished upon poison and things venemous, wholesome meates are onely poisonable.

## [ 4 ]

Thus having, as I truste, sufficiently answered the most principall arguments that are used in defence of this vile custome, it rests onely to informe you what sinnes and vanities you commit in the filthie abuse thereof. First are you not guiltie of sinnefull and shamefull lust? (for lust may bee as well in any of the senses as in feeling) that although you bee troubled with no disease, but in perfect health, yet can you neither be merry at an Ordinarie, nor lascivious in the Stewes, if you lacke *Tobacco* to provoke your appetite to any of those sorts of recreation, lusting after it as the children of Israel did in the wilderness after Quales? Secondly it is, as you use or rather abuse it, a branche of the sinne of drunkennesse, which is the roote of all sinnes: for as the onely delight that drunkards take in wine is in the strength of the taste, and the force of the fume thereof that mounts up to the braine: for no drunkards love any weake, or sweete drinke: so are not those (I meane the strong heate and the fume), the onely qualities that make *Tobacco* so delectable to all the lovers of it? And as no man likes strong headie drinke the first day (because *nemo repente fit turpissimus*), but by custome is piece and piece allured, while in the ende, a drunkard will

have as great a thirst with a draught as when hee hath need of it: So is not this the very case of all the great takers of *Tobacco*? which therefore they themselves do attribute to a bewitching qualitie in it. Thirdly, is it not the greatest sinne of all, that you the people of all sortes of this Kingdome, who are created and ordeined by God to bestowe both your persons and goods for the maintenance both of the honour and safetie of your King and Commonwealth, should disable your selves in both? In your persons having by this continuall vile custome brought yourselves to this shameful imbecilitie, that you are not able to ride or walke the journey of a Jewes Sabbath, but you must have a reekie cole brought you from the next poore house to kindle your *Tobacco* with? where as he cannot be thought able for any service in the warres, that cannot endure oftentimes the want of meate, drinke, and sleepe, much more than must hee endure the want of *Tobacco*. In the times of the many glorious and victorious battailes fought by this nation, there was no word of *Tobacco*. But now if it were time of warres, and that you were to make some sudden Cavalcado upon your enemies, if any of you should seeke leisure to stay behinde his fellowe for taking of *Tobacco*, for my part I should never bee sorie for any evill chance that might befall him. To take a custome in any thing that bee left againe, is most harmefull to the people of any land. *Mollicies* and delicacie were the wracke and overthrow, first of the Persian, and next of the Romane Empire. And this very custome of taking *Tobacco* (whereof our present purpose is), is even at this day accounted so effeminate



Best baccy Ho! Come buy my ware,  
Each one of you must have his share.



I smoke too much, it makes me retch,  
Ah look away now, I beseech!

among the Indians themselves, as in the market they will offer no price for a slave to be sold, whome they finde to be a great *Tobacco* taker.

Now how you are by this custome disabled in your goods, let the gentry of this land beare witness, some of them bestowing three, some foure hundred pounds a yeere upon this precious stinke, which I am sure might be bestowed upon many farre better uses. I read indeede of a knavish Courtier, who for abusing the favour of the Emperour *Alexander Severus* his master by taking bribes to intercede, for sundry persons in his master's eare (for whom he never once opened his mouth) was justly choked with smoke, with this doome, *Fumo pereat, qui fumum vendidit*: but of so many smoke-buyers, as are at this present in this kingdome, I never read or heard.

And as for the vanities committed in this filthie custome, is it not both great vanitie and uncleannesse, that at the table, a place of respect, of cleanlinesse, of modestie, men should not be ashamed, to sit tossing of *Tobacco pipes*, and puffing of the smoke of *Tobacco* one to another, making the filthie smoke and stinke thereof, to exhale athwart the dishes, and infect the aire, when very often, men that abhorre it are at their repast? Surely Smoke becomes a kitchen far better then a Dining chamber, and yet it makes a kitchen also oftentimes in the inward parts of men, soiling and infecting them, with an unctuous and oily kinde of Soote as hath bene found in some great *Tobacco* takers, that after their death were opened. And not onely meate time, but no other time nor action is



I need my baccy it does me good,  
It calms the ague and clears the blood.



My nose is all blocked up, I fear,  
It needs a dose of snuff to clear.

exempted from the publicke use of this uncivill tricke: so as if the wives of *Diepe* list to contest with this nation for good maners their worst maners would in all reason be found at least not so dishonest (as ours are) in this point. The publicke use whereof, at all times, and in all places, hath now so farre prevailed, as divers men very sound both in judgement, and complexion, have bene at last forced to take it also without desire, partly because they were ashamed to seeme singular (like the two Philosophers that were forced to duck themselves in that raine water, and so become fooles as well as the rest of the people) and partly, to be as one that was content to eate Garlicke (which he did not love) that he might not be troubled with the smell of it, in the breath of his fellowes. And is it not a great vanitie, that a man cannot heartily welcome his friend now, but straight they must bee in hand with *Tobacco*? No it is become in place of a cure, a point of good fellowship, and he that will refuse to take a pipe of *Tobacco* among his fellowes, (though by his own election he would rather feele the savour of a Sinke) is accounted peevish and no good company, even as they doe with tippeling in the cold Easterne Countries. Yea the Mistresse cannot in a more manerly kinde, entertaine her servant, then by giving him out of her faire hand a pipe of *Tobacco*. But herein is not onely a great vanitie, but a great contempt of God's good giftes, that the sweetnesse of mans breath, being a good gift of God, should be willfully corrupted by this stinking smoke, wherein I must confesse, it hath too strong a vertue: and so that which is an ornament of



Both wine and beer my pleasure earn.  
Tobacco too shall have its turn.



Forgive me, snuff's a purge I warrant,  
This wind escapes me in a torrent.

nature, and can neither by any artifice be at the first acquired, nor once lost, be recovered againe, shall be filthily corrupted with an incurable stinke, which vile qualitie is as directly contrary to that wrong opinion which is holden of the wholesomnesse thereof, as the venime of putrifaction is contrary to the vertue Preservative.

Moreover, which is a great iniquitie, and against all humanite, the husband shall not bee ashamed, to reduce thereby his delicate, wholesome, and cleane complexioned wife, to that extremetie, that either shee must also corrupt her sweete breath therewith, or else resolve to live in a perpetuall stinking torment.

Have you not reason then to bee ashamed, and to forbear this filthie noveltie, so basely grounded, so foolishly received and so grossely mistaken in the right use thereof? In your abuse thereof sinning against God, harming yourselves both in persons and goods, and taking also thereby the markes and notes of vanitie upon you: by the custome thereof making your selves to be wondered at by all forraine civil Nations, and by all strangers that come among you, to be scorned and contemned. A custome lothsome to the eye, hateful to the Nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and the blacke stinking fume thereof, neerest resembling the horrible Stigian smoke of the pit that is bottomelesse.

