

**A DIALOGUE AGAINST  
THE FEUER PESTILENCE,  
PART I - THE TEXT**

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A Dialogue against the Feuer Pestilence, Part I - the Text by William Bullein

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**WILLIAM BULLEIN**

**A DIALOGUE AGAINST  
THE FEUER PESTILENCE,  
PART I - THE TEXT**



William Bullein's  
Dialogue against the Feuer Pestilence.

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Early English Text Society.

Extra Series, No. LII.

1888.

A Dialogue  
against the Fever Pestilence.

By WILLIAM BULLEIN.

FROM THE EDITION OF

1578,

COLLATED WITH THE EARLIER EDITIONS OF

1564 AND 1573.

EDITED BY

MARK W. BULLEN AND A. H. BULLEN.

LIBRARY

PART I.—THE TEXT

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY  
BY N. TRÜBNER & CO., 57 & 59, LUDGATE HILL.

1888.

## NOTE.

THE earliest extant edition of William Bullein's *Dialogue* is dated 1564 (8vo.). A unique copy of this edition, which differs considerably from later editions, is preserved in the Britwell Collection; and the editors return their best thanks to Mr. Christie-Miller for his kindness in allowing them to make free use of the precious volume. The *Dialogue*, being full of merry tales (pills to purge melancholy at plague-time), is one of those books that are most easily thumbed out of existence; and it is not surprising that the Britwell copy is unique. On the title-page (which is here reproduced in facsimile) the book is stated to be 'newly corrected'; but occasionally publishers made statements of this kind without any strict regard to truth, in order to push the sale of their ware. Not improbably ed. 1564 is the genuine *editio princeps*. Another edition appeared in 1573,<sup>1</sup> 8vo.; a third in 1578, 8vo.; and the present edition is the fourth.

Nashe in his 'Address to all Christian Readers,' prefixed to *Have with you to Saffron Walden*, 1596, writes:

"Memorandum, I frame my whole Booke in the nature of a *Dialogue*, much like Bullen and his Doctor Tocrub."

This passage shows that the *Dialogue* was well known in 1596; but it must have dropped out of notice shortly afterwards. One might have expected that it would be republished in the plague-year, 1603, when Dekker in *The Wonderfull Yeare* gave his vivid account

<sup>1</sup> *A Dialogue bothe pleasaunt and pietifull, wherein is a godlie regiment against the Feuer Pestilence, with a consolation and comforte againste death. Newlie corrected by William Bullein, the authour thereof. Imprinted at London, by Ihon Kingston. Julij. 1573.*

of the awful visitation; or in 1625, when (as described in Dekker's *A Rod for Runawayes*, and Thomas Brewer's *The Weeping Lady*) London underwent sufferings of exceptional severity. It is to be noticed that Nashe used the edition of 1573 or 1578; for the name "Dr. Tocrub" does not occur in ed. 1564. There can be no doubt that "Dr. Tocrub" was intended (by way of anagram) for Dr. Burcot, an expert in metals and minerals, whose name turns up frequently in the state-papers of the time. It will be remembered that Chettle introduces Dr. Burcot ("though a stranger, yet in England for phisicke famous") in *Kind-Harts Dreame*, n. d. [1593].

The editors are preparing some notes on the *Dialogue*, which, with a biographical and critical memoir of William Bullein, and copious extracts from his remaining works, will form a separate Part.

In the present edition the text of ed. 1578 (from a copy belonging to Mr. Mark W. Bullen) has been followed in the main; and the readings of eds. 1564, 1573 are recorded at the foot of the page. When the previous editions give an obviously better reading, it has been used, and the reading of ed. 1578 noted. It has not been thought advisable to reproduce in modern type the few contractions used by the old printer, their meaning not admitting of doubt in any case. In the labour of collation the editors have been greatly assisted by Mr. W. H. Utley.

Facsimiles of the title-pages of eds. 1564, 1578, are given on the opposite page.





A DIALOGVE

bothe pleasant and  
puerfull, wherein  
is a goodly regimēt a-  
gainst the feuer perillē  
with a consolation and  
comfort againt  
death.

Newly corrected by Wil-  
liam Bullein, the  
author thereof.

Imprinted at London,  
by Ihon Kingston.

Mercer, Anno Sebaste,  
M.D. LXXIII.



A DIALOGVE

bothe pleasant  
and pitifull, where-  
in is a goodly regimēt a-  
gainst the feuer perillē,  
with a consolation and  
comfort againt  
Death.

Newly corrected by W.  
Bullein, the author  
thereof.

Imprinted at London,  
by Ihon Kingston.

1578



To the right worshipfull

*and his singular frende<sup>1</sup> Maister*

Edward Barrette of Bel-

hous of Essex, Esquier, Wil-

4

lyam Bulleyn sendeth

salutations.

Right worshipfull Sir, if my<sup>2</sup> Chamber, Hall, Gallerie, or any newe decked house were apparelled or hanged al in one mournyng 8 darcke colour, it would rather moue sorowe then gladnes: but no pleasure to the beholders of the same. Therefore the diuersitie or varietie of pleasaunte colours dooe grace and beautifie the same through the setting forth of sondrie shapes: and as it were to com- 12 pell the commers in to beholde the whole worke. Euen so I dooe commende vnto you this little Booke (wherein I writte part thereof in your owne house) which dooe intreate of sonderie thynges to you I dooe hope not vnprofitable, wherein I have shortly described our 16 poore nedic brothers<sup>3</sup> pouertie. Callyng vpon the mercilesse riche, whose whole trust is in the vain riches of this worlde, entangeled as it were emong briars, so that in the hour of death God is farthest from his mynde, and the gooddes euill gotten are worse spent and 20 come to nothyng, at what tyme Physicke<sup>4</sup> can not preuaile. I haue also not forgotten the shamfull syn which raigneth in this worlde called ingratitude, which linially came from the loines of that false villain Judas, neither the sicopantes,<sup>5</sup> gnatoes, liars and flatterers of this 24 worlde, the verie poison of the soule. Oh better, saieth Salomon, is

<sup>1</sup> Ed. 1564, *singulare good frende*; ed. 1573, *singular good friende*.

<sup>2</sup> Ed. 1564, *any*. <sup>3</sup> Eds. 1564, 1573, *brother his*.

<sup>4</sup> Ed. 1564, *no Physicke can*; ed. 1573, *Physicke no can*.

<sup>5</sup> Eds. 1564, 1573, *Sicophantes*.