A COUNTER-BLASTE TO TOBACCO

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A counter-blaste to tobacco by Edmund Goldsmid & James I (King of England)

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COVNTER-BLASTE

TO

TOBACCO.

(WRITTEN BY KING JAMES I.)

EDITED BY

EDMUND GOLDSMID, F.R.H.S. F.S.A. (Scot.)

> EDINBURGH: E. & G. GOLDSMID.

> > 1885.





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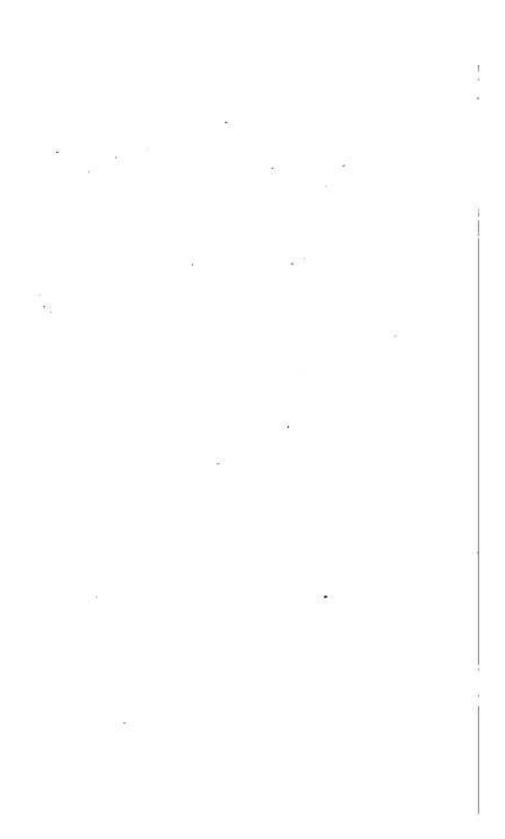
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Covnter-Blaste To Tobacco.

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Anno 1604.



TO THE READER.

AS every humane body (deare Country men) how wholesome somer, 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 spener it bee, that lackes the owns popular errors, and naturally enclined corruptions: and therefore is it no wonder, although this our Countrey and Common-wealth, though peaceable, though wealthy, though long flourishing in both, be amongst the rest, subject to the owne naturall We are of all Nations the people most louingly and most reverently obedient to our Prince, yet are use (as time has often borne witnesse) too easie to be seduced to make Rebellion, voon very slight grounds. Our fortunate and off prooued valour in warres abroad, our heartie and reverent obedience to our Princes at home, hath bred vs a long, and a thrice happy peace: Our Peace hath bred wealth: And Peace and wealth hath brought

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foorth a generall sluggishnesse, which makes vs wallow in all sorts of idle delights, and soft delicacies, The first seedes of the subversion of all great Our Cleargie are become negligent and lazie, our Nobilitie and Gentrie prodigall, and solde to their private delights, Our Lawyers couetous, 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 Physician of his Politicke-body) to purge it of all those diseases, by Medicines meete for the same: as by a certaine milde, and yet iust form of government, to maintaine the Publicke quietnesse, and prevent all occasions of Commotion: by the example of his owne Person and Court, to make vs all ashamed of our sluggish delicacie, and to stirre us up to the practise agains of all honest exercises, and Martiall shadowes of Warre; As likewise by his, and his Courts moderatenesse in Apparell, to make us askamed 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, couctous 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 enill grounded abuses. For this will not bee Opus vnius

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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 means for a King to interpone his authoritie, or bend his eye opon: 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 VV renne Auis, as well as a Swanne, and so is a small dint of the Toothake, a disease as well as the fearefull Plague But for these base sorts of corruption in Common-wealthes, not onely the King, or any inferior Magistrate, but Quilibet è populo may serve to be a Phisician, by discovering and impugning the error, and by 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 vsc (or other abuse) of taking Tobacco in this Kingdome, which hath moved me, shortly to discover the abuses thereof in this following little Pamphles.

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,