

**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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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.)

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1885.



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Anno 1604.

TO THE READER.

AS every humane body (*deare Country men*) how wholesome soever, is notwithstanding subject, or at least naturally inclined to some sort of diseases or infirmities: so is there no Commonwealth, or Body-politike, how well governed, or peaceable soever it bee, that lacks the owne popular errors, and naturally enclined corruptions: and therefore is it no wonder, although this our Country 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 lovingly and most reverently obedient to our Prince, yet are we (as time has often borne witness) too easie to be seduced to make Rebellion, upon very slight grounds. Our fortunate and off proved 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

foorth a generall sluggishnesse, which makes vs wallow in all sorts of idle delights, and soft delicacies, The first seedes of the subuersion of all great Monarchies. Our Cleargie are become negligent and lasie, our Nobilitie and Gentrie prodigall, and solde to their priuate 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 vs 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 vs ashamed of our prodigalitie: By his quicke admonitions and carefull overseeing of the Cleargie to waken them vp againe, to be more diligent in their Offices: By the sharpe triall, and seuer punishment of the partiall, couetous 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 euill grounded abuses. For this will not bee Opus vnius

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 vpon: 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 VVrenne Auis, 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 à populo may serue 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 use (or other abuse) of taking Tobacco in this Kingdome, which hath moued me, shortly to discover the abuses thereof in this following little Pamphlet.

If any thinke it a light Argument, so it is but a toy that is bestowed vpon it. And since the Subject is but of Smoke, I thinke the fume of an idle braine, may serue 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,