

TWO PAPERS CONCERNING RICHMOND.¹

I. "DR. SMITH OF EASBY ABOUT THE PLAGUE IN RICHMOND."

GIVEN out for the good of the town of Richmond which was visited with the plague from about Martinass, anno 1644, untill about the same time 1645, in which sickness dyed in all about 700 persons, Mr. Brodrick being then alderman.

CARE OUGHT TO BE TAKEN. I. *Who should—Follow.* 1. That every one be brought (as much as may be) to a sensible feelinge and humble confession of there sins: for in the time of pestilence hartly prayer will prevaile where costly medicines cannot operate. 2. That every one use constantly some preservative or other, because where the disease once catcheth hold it is to be feared that then sero medicina paratur. 3. That the poorer sort use to eate every morninge, rue, sage, sorrell, &c., and it is good to mix with there meats vinegre and verjuyce—richer sort provide themselves of more effectuall antidotes. 4. That if any be forced to go abroad in any danger that they either—chew the roote of zedoary, anglica, pimpermell, enula campaigne, &c.,—carry about them a sprigg of wormwood, rue, or mugwort, &c.—*Avoyde.* 1. That every one keep his house from all filthinesse, sluttishnesse, ill smells and corruption, and that all streets, channells, stables and other houses of office be made clean. 2. For prohibiting unnecessary and sportfull courses and meetings of people and (if possible it could be) noe man suffered to frequent other mens houses. 3. That every one either kill or keep close there swine, doggs, catts, &c. 4. Let there be noe excessiveness neither in meate nor drink. 5. That in muddy and moyst weather (especially when the wind is in the south) that every one keep there doores and windowes close shutt.

II. *Directions for the Plague both what the Infected should—Follow.* 1. That if any find themselves not well or ill at ease, that (forthwith without delay) they take some advise for preventing further danger. 2. That if the sicknesse catch any imediatly after meals, that presently they force themselves to vomitt either by finger, feather, &c., and then get something of the doctor to expell the poyson by sweate, taking after some cordiall medecine. 3. That the infected fumigate their houses once or twice a day, with pitch, rozen, brimstone, frankensence, juniper, &c.....the doctor, truly informe him of all symptomtes, and acci-

¹ From old copies in the possession of Mr. Denham of Piersbridge.

dents that befall the infected, as lax, costiveness, sleepeing, wakeing, dissinesse, doteinge, thirstinesse, vomitings, &c.—*Avoyde*. 1. That if the party infected be given much to slumberinge and sleepe (especially in the begininge) that he be kept wakeinge, for much sleep is hurtfull. 2. That if nature expell the venome outwardly to some of the emunctories, either by botch, blish, [or] carbuncle, that then you assist her by layinge too an attractive supplicative and mollyfyinge cataplasme, and, in great danger, (if you please) you may with a lancett or sharp penknife superficially scarifye the place.

III. *Clersers and Watchmen should—Follow*. 1. That in clensing they remove all (or most) things, fumigateinge the house with odoriferous smells, and purifyinge cloathes with diligent washing and airinge. 2. That watch be strictly kept both over the infected and clersers, and that the watchmen be admonished not to venture over furr, least they indanger both themselves and others, and be forced to come of with a “too late, had I wist!” 3. That where any house falls foul, that the householder be admonished to make an inventory of his goods (as near as may be), the copy of which in time of danger may be given to the magistrate, least, in clensing, they be imbezilled and purloyned. 4. That there should be some convenient remote place chosen where the infected corps should be buried and not be suffered to be brought to the common church-yarde. 5. That the watchmen and those that are visitors of the sick deliver them nothing, but they observe still to goe (as they call it) on the wind-hand of them.—*Avoyde*. 1. That there be none suffered to clense but such as have had experience and are known to be honest, upright, and skilfull persons. 2. That they assume not that office for private gaine and filthy lucre, but that they be carefull and diligent, not slubbering things over halfe done. 3. That they come in no man’s company that’s clear, neither any suffered to come at them. 4. That none be permitted to bury the deade but either such as have had the sicknesse, or else those that are latelyest sent to the pest-houses. 5. That those which are sent to the pest-houses be not all shutt up together, neither those which came last in suffered to accompany them that came first, but that they may have severall particions according to the degree of danger.

Where medicines effect, give God the glory.

II. A “PETITION OF THE TOWNE OF RICHMOND FOR AN AUGMENTATION TO THEIR MINISTER.”

To the Honorable the Trustees for Maintenance of Ministers: THE HUMBLE PETITION of the aldermen and burgesses of the Burrough of Richmond, in the county of Yorke, on the behalfe of themselves, and many thousands inhabitants in and about the said towne; HUMBLY SHEWETH— That the said towne is a very auintient burrough, populous and very full of poore by reason of the manufacture of makeing stockings here, being

the only trade they have to gett their livelyhood by, and which, in regard they make them of a course sort, afoards them but a very meane subsistance.—That there is a very great market weekely kept there, to which is great resort by the Dale-men comeing from Wenserdale, Swadale, Coverdale, Bisshoppdale, and other dales, being persons of the most ignorant and under sort of people.—That the place hath been for a long tyme supplied by a weake and meane ministry, and that often changed, by reason that the yearely maintenance for maynteyning a minister there is not above 50*li*. per annum, whereby the inhabitants and the neighboring people resorting frequently to that towne have been kept in great ignorance, and for want of a painefull and able minister amonge them are like still to bee contynued in the same sad condicion, unless a better provission bee made for them by some augmentation of maintenance for an able and godly minister to reside among them.—ALL which considered, and forasmuch as His Highness and the councell have in a speciall manner recomended it unto your honours to make provission and give encouragement for the ministers in market townes and populous places by setling an addicion of maintenance to the ministers thereof, THE PETITIONERS doe most humbly beseech your honours to take the premisses into consideracion, and to graunt such a considerable augmentation as may bee an incouragement for a minister of parts and abillities to reside in soe remote a part of the nation. AND they shall ever pray, &c.