

Excerpts from *A Counterblast to Tobacco*, by King James I, 1604

...I am now therefore heartily to pray you to consider....

....First, it is {my opinion) [it is used] in the administration of medicine..... Of this argument both the proposition and assumption are false.....

....For the nose being the proper organ and convoy of the sense of smelling to the brains, which are the only fountain of the sense, doth ever serve us for an infallible witness, whether that odor which we smell be healthful or hurtful to the brain.....

....It is an undoubted ground among all physicians that there is almost no sort either of nourishment or medicine that has not some thing in it disagreeable to some part of men's body because, as I have already said.....

....the gentry of this land bear witness, some of them bestowing three, some four hundred pounds a year upon this precious stink, which I am sure might be bestowed upon many far better uses.

Have you not reason then to be ashamed and to forbear this filthy novelty..... In your abuse thereof sinning against God harming yourselves both in person and goods.....

custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/docs/ElementaryCounterblastExcerpt.pdf>

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