

107 The Plague

1472 Bacon
Exhibit

Plague persisted in making life a hazardous affair until the latter part of the seventeenth century, although it was not as frequent as in the two previous centuries. Particularly severe outbreaks were experienced in the years 1513, 1531-32, 1563, 1603, 1625, 1665. Plague in general was more severe in the larger towns because of the crowded and unsanitary conditions; therefore those who could, fled to the country. Queen Elizabeth moved her court to Windsor in the plague year of 1563 and made it a hanging offence for plague-ridden individuals to come to this country retreat.

A letter from one William Fellgate in London to Lady Anne Bacon at Redgrave reflects upon the situation in the summer of 1603.

- A Right Worshipfull maye it pleas you to vnderstand I rec from you fyften poundes the which I hav payd to Mrs. Ryppyn according to yor direxcion and I have sent to you herin in Closed the agrement my vncle made with hur, with hur recytt in full dich Charge for the mony. It pleaseth god to Continue his visitasion vpon vs every daye more and more: I hav sent you a Iust note and trew bref of them that dyed this least wek with in the lybertynes of the Cyty and in the Cyty: and I doe very belev thear dyed as many hath out the lybertis. I praye god to be mercyfull to vs the Riche men all for the most part are fled the Cyty

Thus being very bould in trubling yor worship
I comitt you to the Lord Londn this iith of Iuly
Yor Worships in all duty
to Command Willem Fellgate

4175

Do. Ho. High North in full
and born. ~~and~~ good. Long
Baron. Give God. a.
Bodysak. Grace