

## Caring for the sick in dreadful times

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### Brandfords History of Plymouth Plantation, 1606-1646

In these hard and difficult beginnings they found some discontents and murmurings arise amongst some, and mutinous speeches and carriags in other; but they were soone quelled and overcome by the wisdom, patience and just and equall carriage of things by the Gov and better part, which clave faithfully together in the maine. But that which was most sad and lamentable was, that 2. or 3. moneths time halfe of their company dyed, espetially in Jan: and February, be the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with the scurvie and other diseases, which this long vioage and their inacomodate condition had brought upon them; so as ther dyed some times 2. Or 3. Of a day, in the fore said time; that of 100. And odd persons, scarce 50 remained.

And of these in the time of most distress, ther was but 6. or 7. sound persons, who, to their great commendations be it spoken, spared no pains, night nor day, but with abundance of toyle and hazard of their owne health, fetched them woode, made them fires, drest them meat, made their beads, washed their loathsome cloaths, cloathed and uncloathed them; in a word, did all the homly and necessarie offices for them whick dainty and quesie stomacks cannot endure to hear named; and all this willingly and cheerfully, without any grudging in the least, shewing herein their true love unto their friends and bretheren. A rare example and worthy to be remembered. Tow of these 7. were Mr. William Brewsster, ther reverend Elder, and Myles Standish, ther Captein and military commander, unto whom my selfe, and many others, were much beholden in our low and sicke condition. And yet the Lord so upheld these persons, as in this generall calamity they were not at all infected, either with sicknes, or lamnes. And what I have said of these, I may say of many others who dyed in this generall visitation, and others yet living, that whilst they had health, yea, or any strength continuing, they were not wanting to any that had need of them. And I doute not but their recompence is with the Lord.