

Mr. Eaton, the governour of New Haven, wrote to the governour of the Bay, to desire the advice of the magistrates and elders in a special case, which was this: one Plain of Guilford being discovered to have used some unclean practices, upon examination and testimony, it was found, that being a married man, he had committed sodomy with two persons in England, and that he had corrupted a great part of the youth of Guilford by masturbations, which he had committed, and provoked others to the like above a hundred times; and to some who questioned the lawfulness of such a filthy practice, he did insinuate seeds of atheism, questioning whether there were a God, etc. The magistrates and elders (so many as were at hand) did all agree, that he ought to die, and gave divers reasons from the word of God.¹ And indeed it was horrendum facinus, and he a monster in human shape, exceeding all human rules and examples that ever had been heard of, and it tended to the frustrating of the ordinance of marriage and the hindering the generation of mankind.

A petition was presented to the court under many hands for the continuance of the two laws against anabaptists and other heretics, which was done in reference to a petition presented at the former court concerning the same laws.²

¹ The margin informs us "he was executed at New Haven."