

NA (PRO) SP 63/76/10

Copy of John Barnes to Grey, 4 September 1580

Endorsement

John Barnes
To the Lord Deputy
4 September

Text

The Copie of Mr Iohn Barnes *lett*re

Right honorable my humble Duety remembred
whereas I have written to your Honour of the state
of this County I have not as yett heard from your
Honour and whereas I have written that Iohn a Desmond 5
was prively kept in this Country as yt was suppo
sed and that we weare like to be besieged, your Honour may
vnderstand that yt is so fallen out: for they have taken
all the holdes and Castles within the baronies that I named
in my former letter except the Disert Stradballie 10
the Shia and the forte, notwithstanding they have
taken a pray from the fort, and the Constables horses
and kild fowre Souldieres and hath so mvard the
fort about with a great number of men that there is
none can come out of the towne nether none of 15
their friendes can goe to them & as I vnderstand
there is no ayd as yett come to them. the enemies
are a CCC* or iiij C horsemen & footemen & looketh
this night or to morrow at the furthest for Iames
Eustace and his Company to bee here with them. 20
therefore yt is very needfull yf your Lordship meneth to have
the Queenes forte saved & vs the few that bee here, that your
Honour presently repaire hether with as great strength as you
may to remove this siege & also with as great speede
as you* may for yt is no small ayd can doe vs any 25
good. I am the bolder to wryte vnto your honour for that
I thinck the Constable hath not wrytten bycause
he is so mvard in & also all the rest & although
I am in a castle as yett not finished & looking
howrly to be besieged, your honour shall heare by godes 30
helpe bee they neuer so many that they shall dearly

bye yt yf they wyne yt And thus expecting your
honoures present ayd I most humbly take my leave
the iiiith of September 1580 From the disert
in the Queenes County.

35

Post script Right honorable I am fayne to send this poore begger to
carry my lettre for there is none other that dareth goe.

Copia
Respondet originali*

To the right honorable
the Lord Grey Lord Deputie
of Ireland yeue this. / Post hast

40

Note on hands

The bulk of this letter is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, including the original sender-side endorsement appended to the foot of the page. The only exceptions are the annotations/additions at the bottom of the letter ('Pt scr., etc.', 'Copia Respo. originali', and 'Post hast'), which are in Spenser's mixed italic hand. The receiver-side endorsement, as with the other letters in this series of copies, comprises two lines (the first and third) in an italic hand, and the original (second) line in secretary.

* **18 •]** Single character deletion, effacing the fabric of the page (Spenser may have mistakenly written four 'C's to begin with, and then corrected his error).

* **25 you]** This word is inserted above the line with a caret mark.

* **38-39 Copia Respondet originali]** 'The copy answers (i.e. is faithful to) the original': a certification of the authenticity of the letter, added by Spenser in his mixed hand.

The transcription of this text is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Non-Derivative 3.0 License (see <http://creativecommons.org/>). You are free to download this transcription, but may not use it for commercial purposes, and must attribute the transcription to the authors, Christopher Burlinson and Andrew Zurcher, and to 'Hap Hazard: A Manuscript Resource for Spenser Studies' <<http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/haphazard>>. Permission to reproduce or adapt the manuscript originals, where necessary, should be sought from the manuscript-holder.