

NA (PRO) SP 63/82/48
Grey to Walsingham, 24 April 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Honorable
my very Loving
frend Sir Fraunces
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiesty /

1581.
Aprill. 24.
From the Lord Deputye.

Text

Sir, the xvjth & xvijth of this moonethe I receaued from yow two packetts
the one by Mouperson a seruant of myne owane whow in deede seemed •••*
too make but slowe haste, the oother by the ••* poste which made as greate
speede & came vnto mee beefore that •* of the far elder date:
The contents of them, with the aduertisments now from the Northe agayne
& oothers, but allso the sending of this bearar for the more perfitt
enfoormyng, earnest solliciting, & speedie dispatche of the cause.
I haue sett downe as playnely as I maye with reuerence, the peryll & disho=
nor that is lyke too coome of it if it bee not gon thowroghe with; &
certaynely Sir if shee eyther wyll not, or bee not able too beare the

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if hir maiestie will not
beare the charges of
a suffecient force to

bridle **the** rebels shee
is not lyke to rule
long there.

A great part of **the**
charge will be borne
by the rebels lands.

the pardon will doe
more hurt then
good.

chardge of it, I see so farre into **the condition & disposition*** of **the**
peeople **that** shee wyll not long beare rule heere; That shee maye see
how a good parte of her chardgies wyll bee requyted, I haue by **the**
bearar sent her a valew of those landes **which** wyll fall vntoo her
& **the** same rather vnder then ouer estimated; neyther arre these in my
conscience **the** halff of them **that** wyll coome into **the** same predicam=
ent, in case her Maiestie hoald owte: but if **the** proclamation, & generall
pardon yow wryte of coome ouer, •••* & now therbie bring them
in blood whowse harttes **the** swoorde hathe in manner burst, as if
it bee followed, in God I rest assured, wyll very shortly appeere,
fare well all, & lett her hyghnes accounte of no oother amendes
then that allreadie shee hathe & doothe feele; •••••* vnless shee
take one waye, wherby in deede her chardgies maye bee saued hence=
fourthe, & a good rent **perchaunce** too bee* rayzed beesydes, for so long as it
wyll last; 76.* I woold haue enlarged & Leinster comitted too his
gouernment **with** a good rent imposed, •* in lyke sorte 120* too 112,*
Vllster, too 4.* & Connaghe too 40.* & all Inglishe men called awaye,* this
were a moast certayne waye too putt them owte of dowght **that**
60* meanes no inuasion, whereas **yowr** proclamations, theyr consciencies
condemnyng themsellues,* wyll eyther breede dowght in them, or els bee as greatly
esteemed of them as former ••* experience hathe fownde, wherof I
••* haue putt her hyghnes allso in mynde: & in good earnest **Sir**,* I meruayle
mootche **that** yow arre caried in it so farre as too thynck it canne doo

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no hurt: ••• •• •• •• ••••• wyll it not thynck* yow encourage & harten a* rebell too
haue pardon offered where noane was sowght, can that doo no
harre, wyll it not bee a good reazon for **the** chieffes too perswade
by **that** her Maiestie is wearie of **the** warre, wyll that doo no harre,

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<p>sendeth a plotte for the defraying of some part of the charge.</p>	<p>will it not discouradge & putt in feare the true & good subiect that boathe in action vppon them,* & in beewrayeng theyr offencies haue harmed them,</p>	<p>40</p>
<p>to moue hir maiestie for his reuocation if sufficient assistance be denied him</p>	<p>can that doo no harme, will it not thynck yow stoppe oot= hers mouthes that arre in openyng too discoouer the rest, & can this doo no harme, iudge now yowrsellf, beesydes the dishonor it woold turne 60. too, in case it shulld fall owte as lightly regarded, as •* oother beefore haue doonne./ The bearar lyke= wyze shall enfourme her Hyghnes of the plott that is entended presently too bee putt in vre vppon coomyng ouer of the supplie for the defrayeng of her Hyghnes sum chardge in paye of bandes, & in greate coomforte, I am too bryng it eare a yeare more* goe abowte ••• ••••• ••* too a good recknyng if greate ones cross it not mootche, or that 60 with sudden pintchyng mar not all: which, if bee fownde vncurabe, I praye yow vppon all professed freendshyp, earnestly too further my dezyre concurring with yowr owane wysshe, that I bee called hoame.</p>	<p>45</p> <p>50</p>
<p>The remouing of 112.</p>	<p>The remoouyng of 112 that yow wysshe mee too press, I doo as mootche as I maye in, that respected that I can not bee careless •• of;* it goes neere mee on eyther syde, ease mee therfore I praye & lett not the whoale burden swaye on mee: but yet I see not why 30.* & yowr self* shulld conceaue that 112 shulld harme more •* beeing yn* 65* then 70.* in* 65 onely woordes can harme & yet not so but that awnsswers of greater reazon & more creditt arre there readie too fruntt hym:,* & heere* deedes hurt, beesydes perswasion with the greate credit that presence* daylie encreasethe, & therin beesydes reazon, experto crede Roberto; & in shortt the wownde of that parte will neuer bee perfectly cloazed, tyll the prowde flesshe bee withdrawen, deale in it therfore as yow shall thynck good; but if neyther this nor encrease of force will bee harckned too, remember the foote of my song, awaye with mee for Gods sake in tyme that trust of yowr frendshyp beecooome not my ouerthrowe.</p>	<p>55</p> <p>60</p> <p>65</p>

sendeth a collection
of such seruices
as haue been don
since his coming
thither.

The cause why **the**
reformation intended
taketh no better ef
fect is because out
ward obedience only
is sough and relligi
on left alone.

•••• Because* her Maiestie, I vnderstoode, thynckes very small seruice doonne
heere for her greate chardge, I haue by ••••* this brynger
sent a collection of sutche seruicies as sin•ce* my chardge hathe
been doonne, wherby I trust shall appeere **that the** bandes haue
neyther been idle, nor theyr trauayle vainely employed, & surely
sir thynges arre throwghe Gods good blessing browght now
too **that** issewe **that** were it not for 40 bearing one waye, &
112. forbearing an oother, 65 shulld rest no quyeter then 70
shulld beecoom; but **that the** fawlt mainfestly seene maye not bee
harckned too,* mootche less redressed is certaynely this, **that the** wrong
eend is beegonne at, rebellioon & oother disobediencies too **the**
Prince warde arre chieffly regarded & reformation sowght of,
but Gods cause is made a seconde or nothyng at all, & bee **yowr**
sellf **the** wittness, for **the** manie challengies & instructioons **that** I
haue receaued for **the** will & politick gouernment & care
taking too **the** husbandrie of worldly treazure, where is there
one article **that** concernes **the** looking too Gods due seruice, seeyng
of hys churtche fed **with** true food, & repressyng of supersti=
tion & idolatrie, wher**with the** groues of Canaan were surely no* more
filled nor infected then this lamentable Ilande is, naye rather
haue I not been watchwoorded **that** I shulld not bee too eeyfull
therin, & I confess my sinne, I haue followed man too mootche
in it, & •••* this **the** cause **that** neyther **the** chyeff can harcken too
that **that** concernes boathe honor & •* saftie most, nor yow **that** perswade
the truthe bee beeleeued, nor I **that** dezyre **the** ryght can bee satisfied,
but Balls prophetts & councelors shall **preuayle**: I see it is so,
I see it is iust, I see it past healp, I rest dispayred, healp
mee awaye agayne for Gods sake. /

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By one of [yowr letters](#) it seemes enformed yow [that](#) I had ••* lett [the](#) countro-
 lershyp of [the](#) impostes too oother & depnyed Brisckett, truly [sir](#), ney=
 ther lett nor guyuen haue I it too any then too hymself &
 therefore [the](#) information •* was hastier then trew: & amongst
 oother good opinions I hope yow carie of mee lett this bee settled, [that](#) 100
[Arthur Grey](#), wyll neuer by anye office, lease or warde in this lande
 bee euer [the](#) woorth of* a pennie [the](#) better; her maiesties paye & ryght of [the](#)
 office for ••* howse fynding shall onely bee my share, for any oother

benefitt or takyng, all chardgies I defie & pardoone refuse,
 how euer deerely it cost mee, as I fynde it doothe,* / & onely God 105
 I hoape on, for [the](#) world, I feare wyll fayle mee. /

How 76. [syster dealethe](#)* with mee by ootherwyze I
 also partly heare, well, I had rather it were [her](#)* wrong
 then my dezertt, & dowght not but in end faythe shall decypher
 fynes. So for this tyme wyll I leaue trooblyng 110

yow any further, repoasing [the](#) rest of [the](#) bearares sufficiencie
 whowme too creditt, countenance & procure speedie dispatche
 I earnestly praye yow. / * God increase all his vertewes in yow,
 keepe & direct yow euer. / [Dublin](#) this xxiiith of [Aprill](#)
 Anno 1581. / 115

It greethe mee* too see good [sir Nycholas](#) Euer vnfaynedly
[Mallbie](#) so thancklessly vzed, & yowres,
 breedes no less coomforte in oothers
 of lyke rewarde: greate wrong hee [Arthur Grey](#)
 hathe for if any hathe deserued 120

well in this lande hee surely it is. /

mr Secretary

Note on hands

The text of the letter is written throughout in Grey's usual italic hand, with his autograph signature. Spenser has added the address in his usual flowing secretary hand. The endorsement, in a later hand, was probably added during the filing of the letter in London. The mixed hand of the marginal annotations is probably Walsingham's. The addressee note added to the right foot of the letter ('mr Secretary') is in Grey's distinctive hand, and was added to remind Spenser, upon dispatching the letter, to whom it should be addressed.

- * 2 •••] 'but' deleted.
- * 3 ••] two-character deletion: 'pe'?
- * 4 •] 'f' deleted.
- * 12 condition & disposition] these words were probably underlined by a reader, and perhaps by the same hand as that responsible for the marginal annotations.
- * 19 ••••] 'fare' deleted.
- * 23 •••••] 'sauyng' deleted.
- * 25 **bee**] 'bee' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 26 **76.**] the Earl of Kildare.
- * 27 •] single-character deletion.
- * 27 **120**] possibly a cipher for Munster.
- * 27 **112**] the Earl of Ormond.
- * 28 **4.**] unknown cipher.
- * 28 **40**] unknown cipher.
- * 28 **awaye,**] 'awaye,' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 30 **60**] the queen.
- * 31 **themsellues,**] 'themsellues,' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 32 ••] 'ep' deleted.
- * 33 ••] 'hu' deleted.
- * 33 **Sir,**] 'Sir,' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 35 ••• ••••• **wyll it not thynck**] 'can it doo no harme' deleted, and 'wyll it not thynck' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 35 **a**] 'a' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 40 **them,**] 'them,' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 45 •] single-character deletion; apparently 'p'.
- * 49 **more**] 'more' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 49 ••• ••••• ••] 'too bryng it' deleted.
- * 55 •• **of**] 'in' deleted, and 'of' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * 57 **30.**] the Earl of Leicester.

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- * **57 yowr self]** 'yowr self' in code, transliterated letter by letter above the line (possibly by a much later hand).
 - * **58 •]** single-character deletion.
 - * **58 beeing yn]** 'beeing yn' in code.
 - * **58 65]** unknown cipher, possibly Ireland.
 - * **59 70]** unknown cipher, possibly England.
 - * **59 in]** 'in' in code.
 - * **60 hym]** 'hym' in code.
 - * **61 heere]** 'heere' in code.
 - * **61-62 credit that presence]** 'credit that presence' in code.
 - * **68 ••• Beecause]** 'that' deleted. 'Because' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **69 •••]** Four characters, perhaps 'thys', deleted.
 - * **70 sin•ce]** illegible single-character deletion.
 - * **77 too]** 'too,' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **86 no]** 'no' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **90 ••]** 'not' deleted.
 - * **91 •]** single-character deletion: 's'?
 - * **96 ••]** 'too' deleted.
 - * **99 •]** 'n' deleted (?).
 - * **102 of]** 'of' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **103 ••]** illegible deletion, of about two characters.
 - * **105 doothe]** the last three letters of this word, 'the', inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **107 syster dealethe]** 'syster dealethe' in code.
 - * **108 her]** 'her' in code.
 - * **113 yow. /]** 'yow. /' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **116 mee]** 'mee' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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