

NA (PRO) SP 63/83/6/1

*Copy of Ormond and Council of Munster to Grey and Privy Council (Ireland),
29 April 1581*

Endorsement

Copie of the Lord Generall
& Councell of Mounsters
lettre concerning the
Countesse of Desmond
to the Lord Deputy & Councell.
. 29 April .

Text

Our very good Lorde. Wheras the Countesse of Desmonde
hath ben here vppon safeconducte graunted to her by me the
Lord Gennerall, at her earnest sute, and deliuered to vs a petition,
wherof, thinclosed is the true copie. We haue thought
fitte, to sende the same vnto your Lordship to be, by you considered 5
of, and your resolution with convenient spede returned vnto
vs: her Sister also comynge in her Company, and weary
of her lothsomme life, which hitherto since the beginninge of
the Warres she hath leade, hath made humble sute
for protection to be graunted vnto her, and twoo, or 10
three of her seruautes, and therevppon to withdrawe
her selfe to her brother the Lord of Donnboyne, and
other her frendes, from the traitors tyll your Lordships
pleasure herevppon be returned, which her petition I haue
graunted, and praye to vnderstande, whether your 15
Lordship will allowe or disallowe therof: And so committe
your Lordship to God / At Corke this 29th of Apriell 1581

Your Lordships assured to commaund*.
Thomas ormond

Warhaum SentLeger 20

Nicholas Walshe
Iohn myaghe
Andrewe Skyddye

Copia vera ex
Edmund Spenser 25

Note on hands

The text of the letter is in a neat and regular secretary hand (not Spenser's); some of the signatures appear to be autograph (particularly Ormond's which looks fairly convincing), despite the fact that, as the endorsement indicates, the letter is a copy; but they are almost certainly fanciful impostors. The endorsement is in Spenser's mixed hand, and his certification and autograph signature appear at the foot of the main text.

* **18 commaund]** the secretary has actually written 'conmaund', with an otiose flourish above to reinforce the double nasal; the intention, however, is clear, and we have supplied the missing minim.

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