

NA (PRO) SP 63/85/5
Grey to the Queen, 10 August 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes
most excellent
Maiesty./

10.º Augusti 1581
From the Lord Deputy of Irelande
to the Quenes Maiesty
Entred./.

Text

It may please your Highnes vpon the contention betwixt Tirlagh & Odonell and an ouerthrow therein fallen to Odonell (as formerly I aduertized thether) yt was by your Highnes counsell here thought necessary, that I with some parte of your forces here should make to Tirlogh ward, both for the saving of Odonelles vtter spoile & suppressing, (who since my coming, hath euer most duetifully carried him self) as also to stay the sayd Tirloghs further attemptes against the Pale, which reason gaue greatly to bee mistrusted, or rather certainly looked for. The order & purpose of my expedition was this; Liffer is a Riuer, that parteth Tyrone & Tirconell: vpon yt are twoo castelles, the one called the Liffer the other Strabane; these Castelles are the onely keyes of Odonnelles countrey towards Tirloghs: Sir Nicholas Malbey I directed with fowre Companies that he had in Connagh and his horssmen to ioyne that way with Odonell & so drawe downe to the Liffer. My self with eight Companies of Foot. & 300 Horss. to marche by the black water, & to meete them at the sayd Castle: the purpose was to haue taken these Castelles & deliuered the one into Odonelles handes, namely the Liffer, & into Strabane to haue putt an English warde; in case Tirlogh came not vnto me to the black water. This plott layde; a day or two before I entred on my iorney, I dispatched lettres to *** Tirlogh signifying vnto him that bycause I heard of a great stirre betwene him & Odonell, & the same to haue gone further then I liked, or ought on their sydes, in case theyr dueties **** to your Highnes had rightly bene weighed, I could not but put them both in mynd of them selues, & for theyr owne behoofes & quiett of their Countreys take the traueill to repaire into those partes, for the appeasing of the quarrell, and therefore willed him to surcease from further forceable dealing against Odonnell, & with all convenient speed to repaire vnto mee to the Black water, where I would endeuour to compownd the cause betwixt Odonell & him, & besydes empарт somewhat vnto him of your Highnes pleasure concerning parte of his Petitions: which though I had not then receiued, yett knowing that the same would be no small cause to draw him to talk, & hauing besydes former direction from my Lords of your Councell to vse

myne owne discretion in yt, for the holding of quietnes **with** him, I tooke the boldenes to giue him that knowledg. On my way now ••* at Dundalk **lettres** from Tirlogh mett mee that he would meete me, as I had appointed

him, & that he had vpon my warning surceased from further inva= 35
ding of Odonell; marry that he merueiled why I should make such præ-
paration as he heard of to take his Castelles, which to præuent he signified
that he had broken & in maner razed, as indeed he had. In my answeare to
these I did comfort him to the meeting, I willed him not lightly to credit
rumors, I doubted not but he should bee well satisfied in all thinges at our 40
meeting, wherevnto I referred the rest.

So I came to the Black water, where I stayed twoo or three dayes before I
heard any thing of him, in no small lacke both of Beoffe & grasse; yet to auoyd
all causes of quarrell on his part (farre against nature I confesse) I would
nether remoue to the farsyde being his Countrey, nor yett take a Cowe of the 45
Galloglasses, whose creat lyeth all on this syde vpon your **Maiesties** owne grownd
without answering you any rent, nor yett owing you, at least affoording you

any trowth or alleageaunce, but in good or euill holde to him & bend against
you. At the last he comes, & first he sendes his wyfe vnto me both for the
appointing of the place for the Parlea, as also to impart vnto mee some of his 50
griefes: the place he desyred migt bee vpon the Riuer, hee on the one syde, and
I on the other: his griefes were partly for iniuries doen him by the Baron

of Dunganon, & agayne that his Messenger (so he termed him) Captein Piers
was so long stayed **with** his Petitions: I answered that **the** Place was very
vnfitt, for the Riuer beeing betwixt, causes of such weight could nether bee 55
well debated, nether was yt convenient that euery stander by should bee
priuie to the thinges that therein were to passe, **which** in this sorte could not
bee eschewed; I wished therefore that either he would come to my Campe

vpon sufficient Saufconduct or Protection, or els that wee might meete* in the
playne field, equall numbers on eyther syde appointed. As touching his 60
griefes, I sayde that whatsoever iustly could bee challenged by him not onely
of the Baron, but any other Subiect, he should bee assured of all iustice
that was in mee to helpe him too, & that hisself knewe, how I had
purposely appointed Commissioners for the taking of order in those causes.

Concerning Captein Piers his stay, that I looked euery howre for his retourne, 65
& that I tooke his stay now rather to growe vpon his owne particulare
businesse, then that he was not dispatched by your **Hignes** neuerthelesse that
I had receiued some notice of your pleasure in some of his Petitions, **which** I
was to

was to emparte vnto him, in case I found his dealings to answeare the office 70
of a good & duetifull Subiect; I added to this that as he seemed to fynd
him self griued **with** the forereckened causes, I was no lesse but more iustly
to complayne of his carriage, first that he had often made shew of armes
against the state, espetially at such tymes, as he fownd me bent to iorneyes
against your **Maiesties** open Rebelles, that he demaunded iustice still by force, 75
that he was a dayly receauer of Traitours messengers, & by their owne

reportes a Combiner *with* them, that contrary to his peace late made and
sworne *with* the late Earle of Essex, namely that he should apprehend
& deliuer any Traitor, that should come vnto him, & bee demaunded
of him, he of late flatly refused it to the Knight Marschall, who hauing
knowledg that William Nugent was *with* him, did earnestly demaunde
him of him, lastly that before any complaint exhibited & redresse required
at your *Maiesties* handes, he had invaded & fought *with* Odonnell one of your
Hignes good & duetifull subiects. In her reply to this, the best shee could
say, was, that the dislike her husband had taken agaynst *the* Baron, had
carried him into farther shewes of offence, then he indeed euer meant,
neither that messengers from the Traitors had bene *with* her Husband
could she denye, but that he euer combined *with* them, that she *withstood*, nether
could she excuse the charge for William Nugent, Odonolles matter shee de-
fended, in that Odonell had first broken truce, & sett vpon her husband:
finally whether her Husband would come into my Camp, or haue talke
any otherwise, then that the Riuer might part vs, she doubted, but the
next morning early that I should haue knowledg: so shee departed.
His answeere the next day was, that onely vpon the riuer he would speake
with me: as force was, I agreed, thincking that yt might yet bee an enteraunce
to further talke by *Commissioners*, to how small purpose soeuer yt otherwise
were: as I meant yt, so by his owne request occasion fell out; for after a
very litle talke *with* him, hisself required, that bycause of the vnaptnes
of the place, & inconuenience it might bring to the cause, to haue so many
hearers, I would send ouer some *Commissioners* to treat *with* him of *the* affaires,
the choice I tolde him was his owne fault, yet since I was content in
the worse to assent to him, I wold not refuse it in the better, & so I
presently sent ouer Iustice Dowdhall & Lodouick Briskett our Clerk
of the Councill here *with* Instructions; in summe these, that the Peaces

heretofore taken & covenanted by him *with* Sir Henry Sidney late
Gouernour & the Earle of Essex should stand & bee performed
by him; next that the cause now betwixt him & Odonell should bee
heard & determined by such *Commissioners* as I should appoint; lastly
that for performauce hereof he should putt in* such Ostages as I should
require or lyke of; To stand to the former peaces he vtterly refused;
marry to holde the Composition that *with* me he tooke this last yeare,
he was content till Captein Piers his retourne *with* your *Hignes* resolution
to his demaundes. To putt the cause betwixt him & Odonell to *Commis-*
sioners, *with* much adoe he was thus farre brought, that by my *Commis-*
sioners yt should be heard but adiudged onely by my self. Pledges
for performauce of these, he in maner disdayned to heare of, to bee
sworne to the keeping of these Conditions, was all the surety that could
be wonne of him; the conditions of his part consisted onely to haue
former orders (by the *Commissioners* therefore appointed) against *the* Baron
of Dunganon & others for iniuries towards him & his executed by a
day, as he likewise was to answeere right, for such as were on his peace
by the same orders, & that all wronges hereafter to happen, should
likewise be tyed to the *Commissioners* order.
Thus is there a peace *with* him concluded, *which* though nether for *the* surety

of yt, nor honour I can greatly commend, yet weighing the dislike your Highnes carryeth to enter into force with him, & besides hauing by your Highnes Lords of Councill there bene giuen to vnderstand, that by any meanes to holde him in, & temporize with him should bee accepted for no small good seruice, I haue endeoured in all that I might to frame the course to your Maiesties lyking & their Lordships direction; in discourse whereof though I haue bene the longer & perchaunce tedious, I am to craue humble pardon, & withall to say for iust excuse therein, that fynding hard taking and diuersly construing of all my doings here hath willed me to lay before your Highnes the whole circunstance of the action, submitting the same to the censure your Highnes shall thinck yt to deserue. And now I am humbly to craue your Highnes direction, how I shall deale with Tirlagh, in case he shall refuse to stand to the order that I shall award vpon the examyning of the cause betwene him & Odonell;

and surely

& surely I feare, constraint must bee the cause, yf it doe take place: on the other syde your Highnes is to waye the great touch to your honour, besyde discouragement to others, yf Odonell bee lefte so to the others ravine & spoile without your protecting & assistaunce, considered that the thwart is happened him, chiefly for that he would neither come to composition with Tirlogh without our assent here, nor yet retayne any Scottes, being by vs forwarned thereof. My next iorney, & that forthwith, God not letting shalbee to the Mountaynes here, whence I meane not to depart, till I haue broken that nest; whereof, with Gods fauour, I make no doubt, though some liues yt will cost. I can certefy your Highnes of no great seruice doen by the garrisons there now in myne absence, for that yt hath pleased God, so to visite them with a pestilent feuer, as moe then half of the numbers are layde, & many haue dyed, so that rather to defend then offend they haue bene driuen: yf it bee not the Lords pleasure to stay this his hand, & to giue health to those that are fallen downe, surely Madam I shall not know what to doe without a new supply, or els to fill vp the bandes with Irish here, as continually by these accidents of sicknesse and running away of our English soldiers we are enforced to doe, a thing yett I cannot denye but very perillous. Your Maiesty is to remember the gouernement of Mounster, & to resolue of some meet English man for yt, in the meane season the direction that from my Lords there I haue now receiued, shalbee followed. Iohn Zowtche, I heare, hath agayne donne a good service vpon those Rebelles & slayne about 60 of their kerne & Galloglasse. I heare of very few & none indeed of accoumpt that make any reckoning of the pardons your Highnes wonted great mercy vnworthely, as it shewes, hath vouchsafed; well I pray god that the error of this clemency, yf it bee clemency, to spare iustice, bee not too late in this land fownde. To conclude, I see that the sore of this countrey without force will not bee cured, I see that force is chargeable to your Highnes, I see that charge is grieuous & dislyking, I see, that it pleaseth not God to giue the short successe & end to things, that your Maiesty expecteth, I see that my seruice thus becomes altogether condemned & disfauored, the contrary whereof, God I call to record, hath euer bene the onely proiect of my

gayne: am I then to be blamed, if I seeke to bee rid of *that*, that causeth me my greatest grief, *which* is *your* disfauour, & putts me hopelesse of my greatest comfort, *which* is *your* Highnes fauour & good grace? I trust not, & therefore *with* all humblenes & duety I beseech *your* Highnes to haue consideration of mee, & take me from this place, *which* I perceauē, doe what I can, wilbee the dayly encrease of my hell & continuall stay of my

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blisse. And thus as he that desires no greater earthly happines of God, then in all thinges to serue & content your *Maiestie* I take most humble leaue, beseeching the same God alwayes to defend, direct & prosper your Highnes. Dublin. this xth of August. 1581./

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Yowr Hyghnes moste humble seruant
& faythefull subiect,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

The text of the letter, with the address, is in Spenser's formal Italian hand, the norm for official letters from the Lord Deputy to the Queen. Grey has added his own subscription and signature. The endorsement, in a later hand, was probably added by a clerk handling the letter during the filing process.

* **19** ●●] 'him' deleted.

* **22** ●●●] 'doen' deleted.

* **33** ●●] 'to' deleted.

* **59 meete**] 'meete' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **109 in**] 'in' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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