

NA (PRO) SP 63/86/50
Grey to the Queen, 6 November 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent *Maiestie* /

6 Nouember 1582
To hir *Maiestie* from *the*
Lord Deputye.

Text

It may please your *Maiestie* vpon retourne from my late iorney into Mounster (the
discourse whereof hauing certefied to my *Lords* of your Councell, I omitt for feare of
tœdiousnes to repeate) I mett *with* *lettres* from theyr *Lordships* signifying the great dislyke
your *Highnes* had conceyued *with* the charges you fownd your self to bee at in this land
vpon the late bookes *the* Auditour here had certefied: and therevpon was willed by
their *Lordships* in your *Highnes* name to enter into consideration *with* some of my Associates
in Councell, both how your *Highnes* sayd charges by cassying of bandes might bee
eased, & also to answeere certeyn doubttes & obiections rysing to their *Lordships* vpon the
sayd Auditours booke, & collected by them into certeyne Memorialles. The
answering of *the* Memorialles being not fewe, & diuersely misgathered, doth aske
a more tyme, then this present dispatch to full satisfaction could affoord, *which*
yet, God willing, shall not bee long; The other point for cassing of bandes is so
perillous, as I could not execute the direction, *without* first certefying *the* condition
of this State, & consequently the daunger thereof. But ere I enter into the
discourse, I am humbly to craue pardon: for fynding how the charges of this

5
10
15

seruice hath not so much darkned & made of no accoupt all care trauell & endeuour by mee therein vsed, but hath brought euen my self into meane termes of your Highnes lyking & good opinion, I cannot but rest in feare, or rather doubtlesse, that this my Theme seeming to impugne sparing shall bring small content, yf happely yt escape displeasure; yett zealous & duetifull true meaning being my emboldener in th'one, & defence in th'other, with confidence that Trough shall not rest buried, how euer clouded, I will playnely, yet with most humble & reuerent entent deliuer myne opinion, & then referre & submitt all to your Maiesties will & direction. / 20

How this state in euery part thereof was in stirre & reuolt at my entring into the gouernement, is not vnknown to your Highnes & how generall the combination of the conspiracie, besides those that in action haue shewed yt, the late discouery of no small nomber nor commune persons, euen of the harte of the Pale hath manifested. How such an action without great charge could be prosecuted, & how hard, yf not impossible it is to warre & spare at once, your Maiesties indifferent iudgment I appeale vnto. But it is objected, that 25 30

tyme is to be respected, otherwise that two Inglands were vnhabable for such a continuall charge; wherevnto I might say, that tymes & houres of all thinges are onely in god his knowledge & appointment, yet in this cause soe certeine lykelyhoods his goodnes had affoorded me, as within two yeares space I durst haue limited vpon pawne of my lyfe, to haue throughly ended these broyles, reformed the state, & settled such a Gouernement, as in fewe yeares after the charges should haue bene well repayed, in case your Highnes had helde on your resolute begynning. But when before one half yeare fully expired, your Maiestie griued with the warre by reason of the charge, beganne to thinck the tyme long, & too esteeme of no seruice, bycause all was not doen at once, nor God his pleasure, to haue that that was doen to light on the chiefest, and settled in that conceipt, fell to temporizing & pardoning them, whome 35 40

your warre had now brought to that exigent, as by th'ende of this winter
of necessitie they must haue famished, fought, or yielded to your mercye; 45
here, *with* humblenes & all submission I speake it, was *the* ouerthrow of
the seruice, & making vayne of all former cost & trauayle. for by this
proceeding the onely shewe of good was the taking in of such of them, as
had most welth & lyuing, & whose bodies were by age or other accident
growen vnhabable, the younger sort* & men of action in the meane while stan- 50
ding out were relieued by these, & so the worke brought in maner to
the same state, that at the begynning yt was: their abettours and
fauorers herevpon so comforted & emboldened, as where before warily
& *with* great heede they affoorded them succour & reliefe, now carelesly
euen at noone dayes they sticked not to accompany •••* & harbour 55
them: on the contrary syde the trewe man & duetifull Subiecte,
that had either serued on them, or discouered any theyr conspiracies,
became all amated, resting doubtfull of defence, & casting sure ac-
count of malitious reuenge. If now to this your *Highnes* shall for
proffitts sake adde cassing of your bands here, the slippery hould of 60
these lately taken in people, the generall conspiracie now last descried,
the peace

the peace still threatning warres of Tirlogh, the arrogant & disobedient
carriage of Clanrichard his sonnes & Ororick, the insolency of the
Oconnors, Moores, & Cauanaghes, the rebellious action of *Desmond* Barry, 65
& their accomplices, not reckoning *Baltinglasse*, nor *William* Nugent,
theise thinges I say weighed, the stay and bitt to all which is onely *your*
force, & not duety nor good will your *Highnes* can account of, I feare *that*
eare two yeares come about, such sparing will proue costly husbandry,
ether in treble expences, or losse of the stocke. The Lord make me a false 70
Prophete, or els inspire your *Maiestie* not to trye it. It is not *Madam* any

priuate commoditie (God I take to record) that carrieth me to this decla=
ration in my iustefying, wherein no fauour or pardon will I craue,
neither that I haue bene lesse carefull to serue your lyking in proffitt, 75
then any other that hath borne the place, so farre forth as your honour
& good of this poore countrey hath not commen therewith in balaunce; and
yet in that sort too, by indifferent Auditt, I litle feare to be fownd
a prodigall or retchlesse Factour. I haue not perchaunce looked so narroly
into matters of accoumpt, & the Ministers thereof, as the cause might
require, & your Highnes expecte: to be borne with therein, not vniustly I 80
humbly craue; for care thereof & willingnes wanted not, but hablenes to
tend to that, & answeere the infinitenes of the other seruice, which the generall
trouble of this land required, was not in me; what thus onely discharge
of duety hath exacted of me, I most humbly craue to bee as æqually and
fauorably taken & considered, as it is reuerently & zelously intended, & 85
all submitted to your Highnes good pleasure.
Further whereas by part of your Maiesties instructions vnto me by Mr
Fenton, your will is I should make peace by what meanes soeuer, surely
Madam to make you an honorable & sownd peace some tyme yt will aske,
& your warre the onely meanes. If præsentnes of tyme & charge bee 90
respected, & honour with more aduenture sett asyde, of such a peace th'onely
way, that I can see, is this: Your Highnes must reuoque all exceptions in your

Generall pardon, free all Rebelles from the highest to the lowest, restore
them to all their landes & Seignories, admitt no English Gouvernour of
Prouince, interrupt nor call to accoumpt no Irish Captein of countrey 95
or chiefe of Sept, permitt their willes to be lawe, & lustes Reason,
lastly your Highnes self to bee contented with the English pale, or somuch thereof
as the Irish borderers will suffer you to enioy, & herewith the name of
Queene; this Madam betwixt God & me, is th'onely meanes of a present

Peace: to **which** yet as I see no reason for any to aduise your **Highnes** so I must
confesse my daring farre lesse to vndertake th'executing of yt. Pardon
me therefore I most humbly beseeche your **Maiestie** though I haue not followed
that your **Highnes** direction; the glory of God, your **Highnes** honour, & well
willing to a trew reformation of this most forwandered state, are the
causes of yt./ 100

Our distresse is here great for want of money, & such as if your **Maiestie**
haue not care to see yt relieued, hardly will the Souldier be conteyned
in duety, & from other great disorders. Weigh I beseech your **Highnes**
the inconvenience of yt; yf extremity pressed not, I would not surely
trouble your **Highnes** **with** so dislyked a suit, as I fynd craue of pay to bee. 105

So **with** a priuate most humble petition I will end, that yt will please
you to haue consideration of my self, who fynding himself greatly
in health decayed, for the discharge of **the** seruice, besydes the hardnes
of his happe to content your **Maiesty** in the same, most humbly beseecheth
with your fauour to be called home. The Lorde of Lordes euer kepe and 110
continew in all happines your **Maiestie** **Dublin** the vjth of Nouember 1581. 115

Yowr hyghnes most faythefull
subiect & humble seruant,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

The text of the letter and the address are written in Spenser's formal italic hand, characteristic of these letters from Grey to the Queen. Grey has added his own subscription and signature in his usual style. The endorsement, presumably added during the filing process in London, is in a later hand.

*50 sort] 'sort' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

*55 •••] 'them' deleted

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.