

NA (PRO) SP 63/86/51

Grey to the Privy Council, 6 November 1581

Address and Endorsements

To the right Honorable
my very good **Lords** and
otheres of her **Maiesties** most
Honorable privie Councell./

Lords

6 Nouember 1581

From **the Lord** Deputye.

Entred.

Text

After the receipt of soche letters, as came from **your Lordships** in September last, aboute the setling of a gouernement in Mounster, **whiche** you then wissed to be comytted to the cariage of **Sir** Warham Seintleger, I was advertised of his passage into Englande, whereby I founde the necessity of mine owne repaire into Mounster, And therefore according my former advertisementes, I prepared for yt, And set forewarde from hence **with** some companies of horssemen and footemen, the xvijth of the same monethe. The chardg of the pale in myne absence I lefte generally, to the **Lord** Chauncellour, and counsell, But specially the martiall causes I comytted to **Sir** Henry Wallopp, and perticulerly **Sir** Lucas Dillon to haue the care of Meathe, and Westmeathe, and did settle garrisons, aswell vppon the

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The **generall*** charge of **the** Pale in his absence admitted to **the Lord** Chancellour and Councillor.
{T}he direction of martial causes to **Sir** Henry Wallopp.

{He} hath compounded the difference between the Earl of Ormond lord of vpperossery.

necessary that vpperossery should be made shire ground.

Protection granted to James Meaghe.

otooles, and Cavenaughes, as vpon the omoores, and oconnoures, Whereof I haue formerly enfourmed your Lordships: Having thus left the state heere, I founde yt requisyt to take my iourney throughe the Queenes countie, and vpperossery, because vpon the deathe of the late baron, I founde some apparaunce of disorders in those partes{.}

The now baron repaired vnto me besides Mariboroughe, and attended me throughe his owne, Countreye, to the countie of Kilkenny, where vpon the meting with therle of ormounde, and the vicounte Mountgarrett, I made a finall end betweene them, for the infinyte challenges, and contencions, that haue bene, betweene vpperosserye and Kilkenny for thes twenty yeares past. Neuerthesse I finde that for the preseruation of their quyet heereafter, yt is necessary that vpperossery be lymitted to be sheire gronde, whiche therle, and the vicount desire may be annexed to Kilkenny, The Baron desirous to haue yt of the Queenes countie, The lymitacion whereof, I deferred till I might haue thadvise of the counsell heere:/

At my being in those partes, peticon was made, in the behalf of Iames Meaghe, now called Iames mac Kedaughe omoore, that he might be receaued to pardon, or proteccion, or at lest dispensed withall, till he might do some service wourthie that grace, And for the good behaiour of him self, and those dependautes vpon him ••* he would put in pledges, and deale dewtifully as he should be directed, by enny assigned from me, vpon which offerrs knowing hir maiesties dispotition to Clemencye, I appointed him to repaire vnto me to Waterford, To which place he came (according my direccion) and made, an humble submission, acknowleging him self to be one, of the Cheif Instrumentes, in thes sturres about the vicount Baltinglas, whome he Long served before the rebellion, but when I entered into the errour of his adoption, to be an omore, wissing him to renounce the same, and to be accompted Iames Meaghe as he had bene all his Lief, till this yeare past, I found, that the liberty of his loose lief, had setled him in that follye, as he would not acknowledg his owne name, But imputed this exchaung to the ordinaunce god* & laied the synne

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James meagh sent for by the •*
councill for confere ment
Thomas Meagh in the Towre.

500 persons protected by the last
pardon not 60 resorted
to him vppon proclama
cion.

of his birthe vppon his parentes, neyther did I finde him willing, to redeame his
faultes, with enny action thankewourthie from the state, In thende I referred him vppon
my letter to Humfrey mac Worthe, who tooke pledges vppon him: Since which time
I heere not, but that he hathe contayned him self, within soche bandes, as the Capten
hathe assigned, and is now vppon the councelles Letter, repaired hether for conference
with mr Secretary Fenton, touching Thomas Meaghe, prisoner in the Tower./ 40
From Waterford I marched to Dongarvan, Lismore, Youghall, and Cork, searching
all the woodes, and strengthes, about Dromfinen, and Imokellye, but founde not
enny to resist, the rebelles being then scattered in smale companies into remote partes: At 45
my coming to Cork, I setled my campe in Barries countrey for vij dayes, ordering
the bandes euery day* to marche abroade, and to visit all the Countrey, betweene
Mallow, Youghall, and Cork, where they did some execucion, but to more purpose
distroyed the provision which the rebelles had hidden in woodes, and secreate places, 50
whereby the greatest parte of their releif is taken from them: In the meane
season I caused publique proclamacion to be made, that all protectees, and suche as
had taken the benefyt of hir maiesties pardon, should resorte vnto me to Cork, at a day
appointed: The bookes delyuered me by Iustice Meaghe, conteyned the names
of v^C persons, or therabout, but after longe stay cheifly for that(note) purpose there 55
appeared not lx. of the whole number, And those for the most parte, olde men, and
freeholders. The yonger, and looser sorte appeared not, but vehement presumption, that
they weare revolted, or stood in very doubtfull termes, for they, and their severties, were
bothe absent, Neuertheles to make farther tryall of their entencon I referred them
by a secunde proclamacion, to an other day of apparunce, at the cessions in Cork, And 60
till I be enfourmed thereof, I will not absolutelie iudge of the men, But in all
apparaunce, I see no likelihoode of good effectes to follow of their receaving to pardon,
when they put in none other assuraunce, but one Kerne to be bounde for an other,
which Iustice Meaghe affirmethe is all, that could be gotten, For as they had no pledges

Carbery appointed to beare the
Charges of Capten Apsley
and 100 footmen

advice taken with the Capteyns
for the service in Munster.

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Mr Zouche elected coronel 3
of Munster by the Captens

a cedule/

to put in so was there no honest, or answerable man, that (as he saide) would be bound for a rebbell:/ In my stay about Cork I visited Kinsale, tooke order in all pryvate contraversies, and setled the countrey of Carbery to beare still the wages of Capten Apsley, and one hundrethe footemen, notwithstanding that I withdrew him to other place of garrison neerer the service: And by Example of Carbery, hope may be conceived (as soone as eny quiet growethe) to deall with other partes of Mounster, to beare, Convenyent numbers at their owne Chardges: Lastely at my being there, when Sir George Bouchier, and the rest of the Captens in Mounster weare repaired vnto me, I proponed to them in Consultacon three things, whereof I required their opinions: First what kind of warre might

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soonest ouerthrow the rebellion, ether continuall Iourneyes of the gouvernour, or garrison warre: if garrison warre, what places, and whate numbers weare fyttest for those garrisons, And lastely emonges suche equalitie of Captens, what person, they would most willingly obaye: To the first they concluded vpon garrison warre as indeade in all probability, there is none other way to bring the rebellion to a shorte issue,: To the secoude they agreed, that those garrisons should be planted at Glanmire neere Cork, at Mallow vpon the passage of the broade water, And at Lismore vpon the same ryver, neere the woodes of Lisfinnen: At Kilmallock and Asketyn in the County of Lymerick, and at Ardert, Dingle, and castle Mange in the county of Kirrye. Thirdely they made elecon of Iohn Zowche, to be their cheif Colonell: Their reasons being herde for euery point, I allowed of their opinions bothe for the manner of the warre, the places of their residence, and the person of the Cheif collonell, And vniting the Lord Roche, Sir Cormack mac Teige, Sir Donoughe mac Cartye, Sir Thomas of Desmound, and Maurice Roche, to their asistaunce, espetyally for conveyance of their victualles,* I concluded vpon suche numbers in euery garrison, with the captens advises, as ys sett downe in a callender or schedule heere vnto annexed. Neuertheles the wante of victualls was suche, at my being in those partes, as I could

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not presently, plante those garrisons at Glanmire, and Mallow, But ordered them to remeyne in Cork, and Kilmallock, and from thence to make their roades and Iourneies, till the victualles weare aryved, and from thenceforthe to settle themselues in the places before named./ This done I repaired towerdes the county of Lymerick, visiting Kilmallock, and Asketyn, and ordering my iourneies as I thought might be most conveyent, for the annoyeng of the Traytors, but founde no resistance eny where Neuertheles while I was thus employed in the countie of Cork, I was enfourmed (3. dayes after thacte done,) that the traytours attempting to take a pray from Casshell, weare followed by the Inhabitauntes at the allurement of the archbisshop, and that the Townsemen being nether of corage, or conduicte, weare ouerthrowne, and slaine to the number of Lx: I offred the towne ayde, but that they refused, because they coulede geve no releif towerdes the victeling of the Soldiours, nether to the cariage of the victelles from Waterford or other places, And therefore I ordered the Townes of Fiderte, and Clommell to lende them some competente number of men who with victels of their owne might remayne for their assistaunce till other order might be taken: In Lymerick I made some stay, aswell to holde Sessions, as for geving suche necessary authorities, and Instruccion to the Colonell, as was conuenyente for the gouernemente: In whiche Sessions some weare arreygned, and executed, namely a notable rebell, nephew to the Bisshop of Limerick, and foster brother to therle of Desmounde, vppon the Bisshoppes accusacion, who likewise Charged the

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The bishop of Limerick accused to be confederate with the rebels

Bisshop to haue councelled him, and his father to enter into rebellion with desmound, thereby to preserve the proffittes of his Bisshoprick, whiche the Bisshop did not aunswere, because he was visited then with greate infirmyties, an other being a merchaunte of that cyttie, that had yelded releif to the Traytours, A thirde one

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The viceconstable fyned for
the escape of Patrick Fitzmorice

{He} sendeth for the Erle of Clan
reckards sonnes.

their aunswaere.

Decayes of Maryborough
Dongaruon
Phillipstown

Warren, that being a victualler in pay, had imbasiled the victualles, and greatly abused him self in his Charge: And lastely I caused Iohn Shrief the viceconstable to bee areigned for thescape of Patrick Fitzmorice, and other pledges, but being found not giltye, he was neuertheles put to his fine:/

This done I departed towerdes Galleway, sending Letters to therle of Clanricardes sonnes to repaire vnto me, in my passage throughe Clanricard, allowing the benefyt of there proteccion, and willing to heere at there handes suche complayntes as they had against enny person, Cheif officer, or other, within the province, And to know the cause, whie they refused the benefitt of there pardon, They aunswared dilatorily, as thoughe there weare maniye circumstaunces to be vsed, before they woulde accepte there pardon, adding that if I would preferre there sewte to hir maiesty, they woulde acquayncte me with the perticulers, And in the meane season, they desired that they might not appeare before me, I willed them to sende me there petitions, And if they weare not dishonourable for hir maiesty or inconueniente for the state, I would not refuse to deall for them, But hetherto, I haue not heard of there aunswere to that point, only this I note in them, That they are men insolente, and full of malice to the state, and moste inconstaunte, and vnfaythfull of there promisses. And to expresse there dispotitions to continew thes troubles, they offred violence to a Soldior of my companye, whome they Chaced, and hurte, not farre from the way as I marched: The rest of Connought is quyet, saving that orwarke entertainenethe Scottes, and makethe shew of Assistaunce of William Nugente in soche incursions as he makethe vppon the Countye of Longeford: This is the Substaunce of my late Travell, whereof the purpose was, to place a settled gouernement in Mounster.

It restethe, that I note thus muche to your Lordships that in my iourney by Mariboroughe and Dongarvan, I finde those houses in very greate Ruin, (as Phillipstowne also is,) And hardly defensable by the ordinarie garde of the places, And For as muche as they are of importaunce for the Comaunding of

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the countreies about them, I do remember your Lordships to be meanes to hir

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maiestye, for convenyent reparacions, to be spedely bestowed vppon those three, whiche I suppose cannot be lesse in eache place then v^C li sterling: And so being hastened homeward, aswell by the loose dealing of oreighly, in restoring Shane oneylles sonne to Turloughe Lennoughe, contrary to my expresse comaundement, and his owne faythfull promisse, as by the Causes of the late conspiracy heere in the pale, wherein the most of thenglishe families heere wilbe apparauntly touched, I cease and referre all other matters to the generall letter: At Dublyn this vjth of November.

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Yowr Lordships most assured
too Commaunde,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

The letter is written in a small, compact secretary hand (not Spenser's). This hand occasionally uses terminal 'e' followed by 'es' brevigraph, which we have recorded as '-es' and marked in blue. The subscription and signature are Grey's, while the address is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. There is extensive underscoring, and annotation in the left-hand margins; this annotation is in at least two distinct hands, the latter of which is probably that of William Cecil, Lord Burghley (accounting for three of the marginal notes: 'a cedula', 'Decayes of Maryborough Dongaruon Phillipstown', and the final annotation, 'vC vC vC').

- * **Annotation generall]** This contracted word inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * **27 ••]** 'he' deleted.
- * **37 ordinaunce god]** It seems likely that the word 'of' has been omitted before 'god' here.
- * **Annotation •]** single character deleted.
- * **48 day]** inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
- * **89 of their victualles]** inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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