

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/10
Grey to Walsingham, 9 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the right Honorable my especial
good Frend **Sir Fraunces**
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiesty.

9 January 1581
The Lord Graye

Text

I may not, **Sir**, but grace this bearar **with** such
letters how lyttle matter soeuer ootherwyze I haue
now too wryte. Continew I beeseetche yow **yowr** care
of hym, a dowble commendation dowghtless it wyll
•* bryng yow, **yowr** Nature for itsself, **yowr** iudgement 5
for hys dezert. Vnless sum certaynetie of hys
good eyther by obtaynyng hys awncyent sute or oother=
wyze maye ••••• •* sheowe, I would not wysse
hys staye there long for it wyll not further
hym. I am sorrie too see **that** my Nicies 10
matche is broaken of, I would bee glad at **yowr**
leazure too vnderstand **the** cause, God sende **owre**
greate matche no faster hoalde*
Thus in **the** rest crauyng creditt for **the** bearar I
beeseetche **the** Allmyghtie God too bee **with** & make 15
yow blessed euer. Dublin **the** ixth of Ianuarie 1581.

Yowr moast assured,

My Lord of Ormond eeuen
now sent mee **the** aduer=
tissment heerenclozed, 20
the partie **that** sendes it is
ootherwyze called **the** Whyte Knyght,
& so mootche **the** lyker it is too bee true **that** one of **the**
sellf cuntrie certifieth it, neyther is it too bee wayed
that from Ihon Zowtche hymself nothyng is yet hard, for 25
beesydes **that** hee is a greate deale farther of, •* owane mess
engers can neuer pass in that haste & saftie that
the cuntrie mens maye: well if it bee true **the** seruyce
is greate* how euer there it wyll bee accounted. /

Note on hands

The text of the letter, including subscription, signature, postscript, and addressee note, is in Grey's usual italic. Slightly more than one line's worth of Grey's regular code appears toward the end of the text of this letter, here not transliterated above the line by the recipient (Walsingham), as often in other such instances. The address is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, and the endorsement in a later hand, presumably added during filing of the letter in London. The 'addressee note' at the foot of the letter ('Mr Secretary'), in Grey's hand, was added to remind the secretary responsible for dispatching the letter to whom it should be addressed.

* **5 ••**] 'by' deleted.

* **8 •••• ••**] two words deleted; the first is probably 'cawse', and the second definitely 'it'. Grey seems to have changed his mind about the wording while drafting the letter.

* **13 owre...hoalde**] 'owre...hoalde' in code, not transliterated above the line. We have supplied this reading based on other examples of (transliterated) code in Grey's letters to Walsingham.

* **26 •**] illegible single-character deletion; as often, Grey's blotting has been ruthlessly efficient.

* **29 greate**] 'greate' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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