

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/40
Grey to Walsingham, 27 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To right Honorable
my assured good
frend **Sir Fraunces**
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her **Maiesty./.**

Mr Secretary
27 Ianuary 1582
The **Lord Gray.**
Lords

Text

Sir, the xxth of this moonethe I receaued **yowr** letters with
a Copie of her **Maiesties** for reducyng of **the** whoale
garrison heere too 3000. **the** accomplysshyng
wherof I **presently** entered into as a booke
heer**with** sent shall particularly sheowe the 5
same: * The xxiiith after **Ritch** arryued **with the** orig=
inall of **the** **forsaid** Copie & oother **yowr** letters of **the**
xijth of **December**; by first & last of **which** I fynde
what ientle enformations arre made of mee &
how eazely her **Maiestie** is caryed too conceaue **the** hard= 10
liest of mee, well my God is yet styll where
hee was & my rest as euer onely on Hym; **yowrsellf**
I greatly thanck for **the** warnyng, & **yowr** aduyce
I haue followed in wryghtyng to her **Maiestie the**
Copie wherof I allso send yow, & therefore too **yowr** 15
sellf wyll no further stande in my cleering for
the guyftes I am chardged **with**; A note therof
I thowght necessarie too beetake vnto yow **that**
my faulte at onece, if there bee any, myght
appeere & receaue iudgement: • * a forme lyke= 20
wyze of **the** Custodiams I send wherby it maye
appeere whyther **the** guyftes bee so free & **withowte**
proffitt to her **maiestie** as **the** enformation wouold
affirme; but **the** best is her **maiestie** maye chooze
whyther **the** guyftes shall stande or no of **the** landes 25

& as for **the** goods, in Gods name, if they shallbee
thowght so greate a matter lett them bee turned
vppon myne owane head & verifie scripture, hee
that hathe lyttle et **cetera**: •••••and* for **the** great studderies

that I shuld guyue, I woonder wheruppon it is 30
ment, truly **Sir** I neuer yet hard of any
sutche petition, neyther doo I knowe of any
of these pale rebells **that** hathe a stud of
vj mares, & for **the** Irisshe, if it were a
stud of 1000: **the** partie **that** woold fetche them 35
myght very well dezerue them; but Lord
what inuentions ar these, in trowthe they
offend mee not so mootche in myne owane
beehalf, as **that** any sutche shuld haue **the** da=
ryng too abuse so her Hyghnes eares & beeleeff: 40
Further **that the** Captaynes heere shuld bee in dislyke
with mee for my guyuyng to oother & beestowyng
nothyng on them; truly mysellf could yet
neuer fynde any sutche lykelyhood, too **the** con=
trarie, it hathe been heere my chyeffiest coom=
forte lykyng & wyllyngnes **that** I haue ••* tryed 45
in them towards mee; neyther is there allm=
ost a Captayne or officer of note heere **that** hathe not
tasted of rewarde from mee how so euer my
masters he enfourmers pleaze too certifie, well my 50
God I thanck **that** hoaldes my steps from far=
ther awrye: But in deede my state is hard,
I serued onely for my Princies faouore & my Cuntries
good, **the** one I haue lost, **the** oother lyttle auayled in;
my sellf in pryuate condition halff vndoon, 55
•••* add to this **that** not one of my assocyats*
I can bynde vppon, thowghe cause I knowe noane,
vnless it bee **that*** so many shrappes* fall not

too •••••* thier shares* as woont was
& no small pleazure I am sure it dyd **them** 60
to finde* by yowr letters* **that** 60* was
so mootche **offended*** **with mee***
I perceau by oothers pryuate letters from hym **that** 324*
is a greate ••••• obseruer* & fawltfynder **with** thynges
heere; I neyther waye it, nor dowght but too 65

bee fownde euer honeste & iustere in dealyng
 then hymself & so I leaue hym, onely
 I wysse of God **that** hee woold bee my chardger
 face too face beefore her Maiestie & **the** rest of yow.

In a **letter** to 111* hee fyndes fyrst fawlte **with the**
70
 beestowyng of **the** landes, as yf they had been all
 guyuen awaye in feesymple, next at **the** chardge
 of **the** pencioners as thowghe the same were alltoo=
 geather my default, where how lyttle therin I

am too bee tootched my late aduertissement by Sir Nycholas
 75
 Mallbye declares, & heere fursoothe a specyall note
 hee makes of hys seeyng of them there in England, as
 thowghe it were an vnwoonted thyng ••••*

a Ientleman seruyng heere too haue lycence for a
 80
 tyme too repayre ouer, & yet truly Sir I dare
 auowe **that** •••••* by* my passpote there were neuer
 twoo pencioners seene there attonece; lastly
 hee falls into a detestation of this place & termes

it a gulf of consumyng threasure, as in deede
 85
 truly hee maye, & **the** more throwghe hys good
 meanes & aduyce, for **which** if repentance & Gods

mercies befall not **the** greater hys soale wyll
 awnsswer in **the** gullff of hell.

Amongst these dischardgies Ned Dennie
 90
 is one; & if now hee bee putt from **the** Custo=
 diams **that** I haue guyuen hym it wyll
 goe hard **with** hym; I wysshed too hym allso
 an oother thyng if it had stooode in my
 guyft, **which** myght in deede doo hym sum

good **the** oothers beeyng but very tryffles;
 95
 it is **the** abbey of Fowre in westmethe
 wherof my Lord of Delluyn hathe by lease
 onely an estate of ••* three or xxiiij yeares:
 gett it for hym Sir & hee shall haue good

cause too thynck yow freend hym: In
 100
the rest if **the** discreditt bee layed vppon mee **that**
 the grawntes maye not stande; healp yet
 what yow maye **that** Ihon Dyue & Warrham
 St linger maye haue theyrs & **the** bonde of **the**

benefitt too yow shall bee myne. •••••*
 105
 I long now to heare of **the** resolution of **the**
 plott yow wrote of: but whyther that fall
 owte or no, I beeseetche yow forgett nott

my plott* too bee taken from this
miserable place; which obtayned my earthely blyss
restored I shall accounte. 110

The Baron of Dungannon this oother weeke dyd*
a seruyce of greate importance, in takyng one
Ihon Cusacke the princypall practizer in this

last consspiracie, the aduyce & perswasion of Sir
edward Moore was no small furtherance therof 115
I praye yow therfore haue mynde of that that by
Ned Denny in hys beehallff I requested; &

if miserie drowned not ryght & pollicie, it
were requysite that the Baron had a fee farme of 120
a hundrethe marckes or powndes of those landes
that by this meanes wyll bee brought too her

Maisties handes; hyssellf meanethe, if God lett
not shortly too repayre ouer, & then my thowg=
hroghe commendation hee shall haue,* thowghe per= 125
chance hys speede bee the woors for it./

Now too the partie apprehended; hee reuealethe mootche
& yet is not hallf sease ouer, the particulares of the
matter prezent tyme woold not suffre too bee
emparted, a note of theyr names that hee hath 130
detected allreadie heerwith is sent:

the Lord & Lady of Deluin* hee vtterly con=
fowndes: & whowme beesydes hee tootchethe
the* parable enclozed wyl sheowe* 135

yet too mee it seemes not of any regard in 10*
behallf, but rather a forgerie of deluin*
too encourage the rest by the hope of* 10.*

vnsowght or vnthowght of it was delyuered & so
yow haue it too vze at yowr owane* best discretion, myne opi=
nion I haue said of it. 140

There arre Sir Lucas & Sir Robart Dillons with Sir Ihon
Plunckett that haue & doo styll dischardge the partes

of zelus & vpryght seruantes for shame lett
them taste of sum rewarde beesydes woordes in
the disposition of these esscheated landes. 145

And lastly Sir I beeseetche yow gett mee warrant
for my due entertaynement, & thowghe no gayne
maye bee afforded mee or myne, yet for Gods

sake lett not my ryght bee **with**heald, yet take
mee awaye quyckly & guyue mee what yee lyst. 150
The allmyghtie God euer keepe, guyde & bless
yow. Dublin xxvijth of Ianuary 1581.

Yowrs most assuredly
euer,

Arthur Grey 155

I fynde by **letters from my lady***
of **lincolne*** **that the** cause of
76* continuance in this sorte is long of my not ad=
uertising **the** state of •* his cause; wherin as I am 160
wrong conceaued of, so I praye yow **that** I maye bee
cleered by yow as occasion seruethe; all my knowledge
& **presumption** is long since & sundrie tymes delyue=
red, neyther doo I fynde, if **that** serue not any thyng
of new too tootche **hym*** neyther doo I thynck it 165
amyss **that hee*** were **called ouer**.*

James Fittz Christopher there yow arre to see
well looked too for greate matter is lyke too
fall owte agaynst **hym**, & if **Ihon Cusacke**
saye trowthe there wyll not one honest Nugent 170
bee fownde heere.

As I was sealyng vp heerof **yowr** packett of **the** xxth
of this date came vnto mee, wherin I fynde noth-
yng requyres awnsswer* in these not tootched; & as

for **the** oother entended dischardge, a Gods name, lett 175
it coome, there shall no more any bones bee made

at •••* it, & then Caueat ademptor, is all **the**
care I wyll take: good **Sir**, stryke hard **the** iron
whyllst I perceauie it is hott now, for my callyng 180
hoame, the lyttle hoape wherof that these **yowr**
letters browght mee, made mee eate my supper **with**

a better appetite then at any meale these twoo
moonethes past I had, a thowzande thanckes
I render for **the** newes, onely feare of a cosnerlyng
carde by **the** next beereaues **the** full coomfort of 185
the ioye, but perfect it •••* good **Sir**, I wyll
not bee vnthanckfull

Note on hands

The text and subscription of this letter are in Grey's characteristic italic hand, and the signature is his customary mark. Spenser's usual secretary hand appears in the address; the endorsement, added upon filing of the letter in London, is in a distinct, later italic.

* **same:]** Immediately to the left of this word, and on three further occasions on the same page, oblique lines appear in the left margin. These (occasionally accompanied by the word 'wanting', and keyed to underlinings in the text of the letter) appear to be marks added to the manuscript much later, probably during the extensive Victorian cataloguing process that resulted in the indispensable Calendars. Because these marks are not contemporary, we have chosen to ignore them here, and later in this letter. Where they occur in other letters, they are similarly noted and dismissed.

* **•]** single character deleted, possibly '&'.

* **••••and]** 'and' inserted above the line, with a caret mark, above a single-word deletion of four or five characters (possibly 'next').

* **••]** 'ty' deleted.

* **••••]** '&', and two or three other characters (illegible), deleted.

* **assocyats]** in code, not transliterated. Here, and in subsequent instances of untransliterated code in this letter, we have supplied readings based on examples of transliterated code elsewhere in the series.

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

* **shrappes]** in code, not transliterated.

* **•••••]** 'theyr' deleted, and carefully concealed with flourishing strokes.

* **thier shares]** in code, not transliterated.

* **them...finde]** in code, not transliterated.

* **yowr letters]** in code, not transliterated.

* **60]** Grey's usual cipher for Queen Elizabeth.

* **offended]** in code, not transliterated.

* **mee]** in code, not transliterated.

* **324]** unknown cipher.

* **•••••obseruer]** 'oberse' deleted, 'obseruer' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **111]** unknown cipher.

* **••••]** 'that' deleted.

* **• ••••]** 'I since' deleted.

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

* **••]** 'xx' deleted.

* **• ••••]** 'I long' deleted.

* **•••••]** single word deleted: 'da••e'.

* **••••dyd]** single word deleted, and 'dyd' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **haue]** 'haue' inserted above the line, with caret mark.

* **the Lord & Lady of Deluin]** in code, not transliterated (the actual code reads 'the L and La of...').

* **hee tootchethe the]** in code, not transliterated.

* **enclozed wyl sheowe]** in code, not transliterated.

* **10]** unknown cipher.

* **deluin]** In code, not transliterated.

* **the hope of]** in code, not transliterated.

* **10]** unknown cipher.

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

* **my lady]** in code, not transliterated.

* **lincolne]** in code, not transliterated.

* **76]** unknown cipher.

* **•]** 't' deleted.

* **hym]** in code, not transliterated.

* **that hee]** in code, not transliterated.

* **called ouer]** in code, not transliterated.

* •] 's' deleted.

* •••] 'then' deleted.

* •••] 'god' 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.