

NA (PRO) SP 63/94/15
Grey et al. to the Privy Council, 10 July 1582

Address and Endorsements

To the right Honorable our very good
Lords and otheres of her
Highnes privy Councell/

Lords

10 Iuly 1582
The Lord Deputy and
Council.

Text

It maye please your Lordshipes: Since the departure of Sir Nicholas Malbye with the Erle of Clanricard, whereof wee formerly enformed you wee have received advertizementes from him of a gathering of a greate force of horsemen Irishe footemen and Scottes, vnder the leading of Con ODonnell (butt beeing for the more parte of the retynewe of Turlough Lennoughe,) of purpose to invade Connaght and to make their entrie vppon Oconnour Sligoes Cuntrey, to prevent which and to strengthen Oconnour / Sir Nicholas sent presentlie suche englishe forcies as hee hadd to those partes, and proclaymed an hostinge of that Province to withstand the purpose of those of Vlster, butt the Province beeing drawn into many partes with pryvat quarrells have not vsed eny dilligence in the rysinge out or fidelitie one to another, whereby the Scottes have entred

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and spoyled the Countrey, as in the inclosed Lettre from the Governour maye appeere. Hee demandeth aide and reliefe from hence, which wee have nott to geve vpon eny soddein, for if wee shoulde remove theis fewe in the Pale which are placed for the prosecution of Th'oConnours wee give open waye to the spoyle of the whole Pale, or if wee shoulde direct the forcies in Mounster, which nowe are employed vpon Desmond and FitzMorice to resorte to the aide of Mr Malby in Connaght, wee shoulde give scope to the Rebels of Mounster to spoyle all the Countie of Kilkenny, as they have alreadye Tipporarye./

This draught or device of Turloughe Lennoughe tendeth to this (as wee can gather) to withdrawe her Maiesties forcies from the action againste Th'oconnours and dothe make more playne thatt which wee have longe founde in his disposicion and have often advertized, to accepte euery oportunitie thatt hee can finde againste her Maiesty beeing no waye provoked with eny offence of discourtesye to the valewe of a heaire, and therefore if eny bee thatt have perswaded your Lordshipes that the Irishe woulde lyve in quyett, if they weere not provoked maye see his errour by this outrage of Turlough Lennough, which is as wee take it, butt the begynning of the Northern troobles.

Wee perceave also by other privat Lettres, that Sir Nicholas Malbye hathe beene so rebuked in England for layinge charge partelie vpon hir Maiestie butt moste chiefly vpon the Inhabitautes in his rules vpon suche like* extremities, as hee will not attempte to stoppe this soddein mischief without warraunt, by eny charge to bee layed vpon her Highnes

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or the Countrey. And therefore as wee have alreadye given him auctoritie to vse his discrecion for this service: So are wee to crave her Maiesties resolucion from your Lordshipes what shalbee don for the suppressing of thies violencies, and the necessarie defence of the good Subjectes especially of Oconnour Sligo, whome

wee esteeme one of the soundest of all Connaght, for the streight* 40
wherevnto wee are dryven by the restraynt given by her Maiestie nott to
encrease eny extraordinarie chardge and the necessitie of the Service
dryveth vs to this extremytie, thatt whatsoever wee see convenient, wee dare
nott yett resolve vppon eny thinge without her Maiesties expresse direccion./
Finally, because your Lordshipes may also bee informed of the state of the rest of 45
Connaught, wee sende you the Lettre, which Iohn and Vlick Burke have sent
to Sir Nicholas Malbie, after they had parlee with their father beesides
Galway, whereby yee maye gesse att their insolencies, and howe farre
they bee from the Condicion of beeing Pledgies, and howe farre different
from their fathers opinion of them, appearing in his Lettre to Sir Nicholas 50
which wee sende your Lordshipes also incloased./ Whatt your Lordshipes shall
nowe resolve for the Erle, wee wolde gladlie knowe, beeing willing to
followe your direccions therein, butt if hee bee restrayned till his sonnes or eny
of them shall yeelde them selves to prison, wee thinck hee shall neuer inioye his
Libertie, and therefore have suspended the revoaking of him to Dublin, 55
notwithstanding your late direccion: Hee is nowe at Galwaye sicke
of the Iandies, and attended by some of the Governours servauntes, att whose
request and by Sir Nicholas advice, wee have graunted pardon to his sonnes
if they will accept it. Whatt her Maiestie shall resolve in bothe theis
cawses, and especially for the matter of the invasion, wee once agayne praye 60
your Lordshipes presently to wryte And so committ you to the Lorde.
Att Dublin the x:th of Iulye 1582.

Your Lordshipes assured to commaunde./.

Arthur Grey

Adam Dublin cancellarius

Edward waterhous:

Henry Wallop Lucas Dillon
Geffray Fenton

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Note on hands

The letter is written in a neat secretary hand (not Spenser's); Grey and members of the Irish Privy Council have added their autograph signatures. The address is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, and the later endorsement – probably added when the letter was being filed in London, is in a distinct hand.

* **32 suche like]** the secretary has filled the line with a flourish.

* **40 streight]** the secretary has again filled the blank remainder of the line with a flourish.

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