

NA (PRO) SP 63/115/41
John Norris to Burghley, 30 March 1585

Address and Endorsements

To the right Honorable
his very good Lord the Lord
Burghley Lord Threasorer
{of Engla}nd . /*

Vltimo Martij. 1585
Mr Iohn Norris to
my Lord

Lord Treasurer

Text

Right honorable my very good Lord though no great
occasion of Accidentes haue here lately happened to bee
aduertized vnto your Lordship yett forsomuch as I purpose
from tyme to tyme to acquaint your Lordship with the continuall
state of this Province vnder my Charge, I haue thought
meete to signifie vnto you, how the same now presently
standeth, in reasonable good condicion of peace &
quietnes in generall, though otherwise in some places
troubled with small stealths & filching by some, which being
lately come out of the Rebellion are lefte so bare &

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needy, that they haue no Waye to keepe life in them,
but by **that** bad occupacion, by meanes whereof some
of them wanting good successe therein, being so strei-
ghtly here prosecuted & restreyned by **the** scourge of
Iustice due to **that** offence, haue vtterly abandoned **the** 15
place & are gone into Vlster in hope there **perhaps**
to make some better shifte. The rest of **the** better
sort begynne to fall to tillage & manuring of the
land, seeing great hope of peace likely for **the** recouery
of their decayed estates. But in truthe **the** wastenes 20
is so huge & vniuersall, Chiefly for want of people, **that**
yt wilbee very long, ere they can bee hable to gett agayne
a fore hand or recouer themselues into any habilitie of
living. Neuerthelesse in peace I doubt not god willing
but to keepe them vnlesse more vehement occasions of 25
trouble doe fall out, then can as yett bee feared or
suspected. And whereas at my Coming
out of England your **Lordship** willed me, of such her **Maiesties**
landes as bee here fallen, to looke out what places I
should thinck most convenient to bee annexed vnto this 30

Moally and Tralee

Asketin

Presidencie, & **that the** Lord Deputie should therevpon
haue order for **the** establishing of them, I accordingly
named certein places, **which** I thought fittest, as I
signified vnto your **Lordship** of the **which** his **Lordship** hath assigned 35
vnto me by Custodiam these, **videlicet** Moally & Tralee
But Asketin, **which** indeed I named in especiall
as fitt both for **the** convenient situacion & other

Commodities thereof, very answerable to **the** service
of the Countrey, his **Lordship** would in no wise yield to
lay forth **the** same, nor to dispossesse **Captain** Barcley
thereof. One Chief cause why I nominated **that** place
was for **the** building & housing **which** is therevpon, being
almost in **present** readines to bee vsed, **which** in all these
other named **parcelles** is wanting, being vtterly ruined
& requiring great Charges of building & reparacion
before they can bee made serviceable. Whereof I be-
seche your **Lordship** to haue **that** consideracion **that** ether such
places may bee appointed, as may bee to some vse &
service, or **that** some Allowaunce may bee sett downe for
the repayring & building of those places, **without** **which** they
wilbee to litle purpose. for hardly can I thinck that
her **Maiesty** will giue away her owne house ready built
& builde another newe to annexe to **the** Presidencie.
Likewise at my coming into this Realme, yt pleased
her **Maiesty** to **promise** me some of her landes here for my
self in private, for **which** I beseech your **Lordship** also to bee a
meane, **that** direccion may bee giuen vnto my **Lord** **Deputy** to
assigne them vnto me so as I may in due season cast
for **the** inhabiting & framing of **them** to some readines, yt
being a very hard matter in long tyme to bring so waste
places to any **commoditie**, nether people nor almost ought
elles being here to bee had in the countrey.

His suite for
land

Victualing **the**
Soldier.

Here haue bene some Quantities of Corne & vittell
sent into this Province for **the** provision of **the** garrizon here

but nether so good nor in such quantitie* as perhaps may 65
 bee aduertized vnto your Lordship And now that the forces are with
 drawn hence, here being this long while lefte but
 onely I. footmen, very litle spending of them is made, so
 as needes great waste & losse must grow vnto her Maiesty
 for avoyding whereof & the great Accidentes that Comenly 70
 follow victelling besides the Charge of Officeres growing
 to great Summes & expences to her Maiesty I thinck (vnder
 correccion of your Lordship) that yt should not bee amisse to leave
 the Soldier to victell him selfe, being as seemeth thereto
 not vnwilling, incase order might bee giuen for his pay- 75
 ment, or he might haue the xij^s a moneth which (as I heare)
 was wont to bee allowed him for his victelling, which in
 regard of the great Charge which her Maiesty is otherwise
 needlesse at, should very behoofully bee yielded him,
 to provide himself as he could best, for his owne best 80
 contentment & ease. And yf occasion should happen that the
 Soldier should bee drawn forth to service, yt would
 not bee hard for him to victell him self for few daies, as
 the services now lye variable & vncertein, or from the
 nigh townes, being now in reasonable good sort & better habitie* to furnish 85
 him then heretofore, of which I beseech your Lordship accordingly to
 consider. Here haue of late bene many Pirates haun
 ting vpon this coast to the no small hinderaunce of traficque
 & of her Maiesties impost besides other casualties, of the which
 there haue bene of late ij by my procurement taken, & more 90
 would I haue enforced my self to restrayne them, but that I
 fynd my Lord Deputy vnwilling to grawnt any Allowaunce
 out of the commoditie & prizes which might happely arize

Pirattes.

vnto her Maiesty for the recompence of private Charges of shipping & men & other thinges without which yt is impossible to doe any thing to purpose or to imploy men that way without

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Consideracion. Therefore yf it might please your Lordship that commission might bee grawnted me & some order sett downe for the Allowaunce of private Charges vnto me for shipping & such like, out of such Pirates & prizes of theirs as I should bring in, & for the ouerplus to bee accoumptable to her Maiesty which I doubt not but would turne to her farre greater proffitt & aduantage, I would the rather vse some endeavour & meanes to ridde this coast of many the like, which annoy these her Maiesties dominions & proffittes greatly. Of all which craving your Lordships answeare, & in the rest being euer more most ready, in all that I may to your Lordships services & good pleasure I committ you to the gouernement of Almighty god. Clonmell, the last of March. 1585 /

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Your Lordships euer most assured to commaund,

110

Iohn Norreys:

The address and main text of the letter, including the subscription, are both in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. Norris has added his own signature. The marginal annotations are in a spidery italic hand, possibly Burghley's. The endorsement is in a compact and regular cursive italic, probably added during the process of filing the letter in London.

* **Address {of Engla}nd]** Some of the text is missing here due to the removal of the letter's seal; the letter must have been addressed after the seals had been closed, so that when the seal was removed, that part of the address written over the band was lost. There are four pairs of incisions in the paper to accommodate the bands.

* **65 quantitie]** Spenser seems to have begun (miscopied?) this word by writing 'quait', and then revised the 'it' to 'n'.

* **85 & better habilitie]** '& better habilitie' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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