Address and Endorsements

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

Vltimo Martij. 1585
Mr John 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 &
needy, that they have no Waye to keepe life in them, but by that bad occupacion, by meanes whereof some of them wanting good success therein, being so strightly here prosecuted & restreynd by the scourge of Justice due to that offence, have utterly abandoned the 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 recoery of their decayed estates. But in truthe the wastenes 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. Neuertheless in peace I doubt not god willing but to keepe them vnlesse more vehement occasions of 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 Maistes landes as bee here fallen, to looke out what places I should thinck most convenient to bee annexed vnto this 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 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 Captein 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 utterly ruined & requiring great Charges of building & reparacion before they can bee made serviceable. Whereof I beseech 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 repaying & building of those places, without which they wilbee to little 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.

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 bee aduerized vnnto your Lordship And now that the forces are with drawn hence, here being this long while left but onely l. footmen, very little spending of them is made, so as needes great waste & losse must grow vnnto her Maiesty for avoying whereof & the great Accidentes that Comenly follow victelling besides the Charge of Officeres growing to great Summes & expences to her Maiesty I think (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-ment, or he might haue the xij* 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 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 habilitie* to furnish 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 hinderauce of traficque & of her Majesties impost besides other casualties, of the which there haue bene of late ij by my procurement taken, & more 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 happily arize
vn to her Maiesty for the recompence of private Charges of shipping & men & other things without which yt is impossible to doe any thing to purpose or to imploy men that way without

Consideracion. Therefore yf it might please your Lordship that commission might bee gравnted me & some order sett downe for the Allowance of private Charges vn to me for shipping & such like, out of such Pirates & prizes of theirs as I should bring in, & for the ouerplus to bee accountable to her Maiesty which I doubt not but would turne to her farre greater proffitt & avantage, I would the rather vse some endeavour & meanes to ridde this coast of many the like, which annoy these her Maiesties dominions & proffitts greatly. Of all which craving your Lordships answere, & in the rest being euermore 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 /

Your Lordships euer most assured to commaund,

John Norreys:

Note on hands
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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