

**NA (PRO) SP 63/75/84**  
*Copy of Hugh O'Neill to Grey, 31 August 1580*

**Endorsement**

Baron Dunganon  
To the Lord Deputie.  
Vltimo Augusti

**Text**

The copie of **the** Baron of Dunganons **lettre**

Right honorable. Tirlagh Lennagh is repayering to these  
bordres **with** a great army of men who **pretendeth** to invade  
the pale, as I am credibly given to vnderstand by my secrete  
frendes about him, notwithstanding his promise of peace lately  
made to your Lordship **which** this his euill **pretence** I have sundry tymes  
revealed to her Maiesties Counsell in England & in Ireland  
all this yeare past & forasmuch as he is **presently** to reparaire  
for executing his **pretended** mischief **that** yt would please  
your honour to send downe hether some such force for **the**  
defence of **the** pale & vs her Maiesties subiectes as your Lordship may well  
spare. for yf now vpon **the** first you shall give him hend  
he will grow so prowde thereof as you will have more  
adoe **with** him then **with** all the rest her Maiesties enemies in Ireland  
**which** now you may **prevent** & have what peace you will at  
his handes yf you seeme at **the** first to **withstand** him **which** a  
smaller force will now doe then hereafter. And forasmuch as  
my grandfather my father & my brother hath both bestowed  
their goodes & lives in her Maiesties service And also I my self  
hath ventered **the** same euer sence I was hable to beare sword  
and so will contynue by godes grace during my life And  
also vnderstanding from her Maiesties Counsell in England  
by **lettre** ready to be shoven by this Bearer my servaunt  
her gracious pleasure **that** I should\* have some such enterteynement  
for **the** better mayntenance of my self my kinsmen & follo  
weres (now ready for want thereof to depart from mee)  
as your Lordship & my Lord Chauncellour shall thinck meete for mee  
I have thought yt good most humbly to crave **the** same  
now in my great extremitie having already at my  
late Lord Iustice handes xxv horsemen in pay doe  
beseeche them to be made vppe to some such company

as thereby I may be able to doe **the** better service.  
And yf **your Lordship** shall fynd that there may be any good\* ordre  
taken **with** Tirlagh Lennagh **that** you may stand assured  
of him, then will I not onely **with that** force I have in  
her **Maiesties** pay but all other forces **that** I am hable to  
make as skottes shott and galloglasses to repaire to  
**your Lordship** and serve vpon **the** rest her **Maiesties** enemies  
there both dutifully and truly **which** hath killed of late

35

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some of my **frendes** whose deathes I would  
gladly revenge Thus not omitting my  
duety &c Bally Scanlin  
The Last of August 1580

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To the right honorable  
my very good **Lord** the  
**Lord** Deputie of Ireland. /

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**Note on hands**

The text of the letter, including the original endorsement at the foot of the second page, is largely in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, here fairly rushed; the only exception comes in the words 'Baron of Dungannons' in the header, which are in Spenser's italic. The second line of the endorsement, 'To the L Deputie', written in Spenser's compact secretary hand, is the original endorsement. The first and third lines were added in a later italic hand, presumably when the letter was being filed in Westminster.

\* **24 should]** inserted above the line with a caret mark.

\* **33 good]** inserted above the line with a caret mark.

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