

NA (PRO) SP 63/79/26
Privy Council (Ireland) to the Queen, 22 December 1580

Address and Endorsement

To the Quenes
most excellent
Maiestie

22 December 1580
From the Lord Deputy and
counsell of Ireland
vnto her Maiestie

Text

It maie please your maiestie From the begyning of this pale rebellion hauing hadd depe causes of surmise that the same was procured or at the leaste faouered of great parsonages either for gredines of paie or arrogante zeale to poapishe governemente, stirred vs to vse all endeour for the trieng out therof, whearby coming to apparant matter that chardged the lorde of Kildare and Barron of Delvyn, we thoughte it our dueties to call them to the aunswearing of it: An assemblie therfore of the nobillitie besides Councell was warned, in showe but for aduice and aide of the Countrie in the planting of garrisones nowe this winter aboute the rebells: The same accordinglie come together, and that matter in dede onelie begon to be delte in, the Lord of Delvyn we knowe not howe, breaking oute, founde him self greved, that he with other of the nobilitie was suspected, and further that he was aduertised from Englande it was informed youre Highenes that he was become a rebell He desired if any man coulde charge him, he mighte aunsweare and clere him self or ells reste condemned. This challendge by* the Barron of Delvin made to clere him self before he was charged, offred us occasion without further circumstaunce to examyne him howe often, in what places, vppon what occasions, and in what companyes, he had mett and conferred

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with the viscounte Baltinglas sithen Easter laste, and before the time of his rebellion,
his aunswere he laide downe, in writing and subscribed, we seperated him and vpon
deliuerie to the whole Councell of what hadd bene founde by examinacion falsifieng his
declaracion, all the boord vniuersallie (the Earle of Kildare being one) ordred his comitment to
the Castell to be further delte with: he thus comitted, we charged the Earle with suche
apparant matter, as proued he certainelie knewe the vicecount woulde breake out, and hadd
assured intelligence of diuers his principall Councillors and partakers, and that notwithstandi[ng]
hauing the vicounte after in his companye, hee rather guarded him from apprehention, then
assented or liked to haue apprehendid him (his aunswere denyeng) apparaunt matters
vttred by him to the Lord Archebusshopp of Dublin and from the Lord Archebisshopp to him,
occasionned us all vehementlie to suspecte him as a principall comforter of the vicecounte to
enter into this action, and so with an entier voice of all, he was likewies comitted: In warde
they boathe nowe remayne in the Castell of Dublyn: The matters which accuse them, we haue
set downe in as brief notes as we coulde comprehend them, and the same herewith sent to your
maiestie: We haue seized to your maiesties vse, all the landes and goodes of the saide
Earle and Barron: We haue his two sonnes, and the same comitted to the custodie of
me the Chauncellor, to be by me saulfelie kepte vntill we shall vnderstand your maiesties
pleasure howe to bestowe them. Ther be many materiall circumstaunces more then are
nowe sent, And because your maiestie might be the better satisfied of euerie scruple that
might arise concerning the Earle or the Barron, we thoughte good that one of our selues
might be employed in this messaige, and therfore haue concludid vpon one of your maiesties
Secretories here mr Fenton to be the bearer, to whom we haue deliuered full instructions to
aunswere any doubte that mighte be obiected, humblie craving your maiesties fauor and credit
to be given vnto him, which his care and diligence in your maiesties seruices here well deserue the
And so the eternall god whose rule goeth throwe all, preserue still your maiestie and your
royall estate. At Dublin the xxiiijth of Decembar 1580.

Your Maiesties most humble and faithfull
subiectes and servants.

Arthur Grey

William Gerard Henry Wallop Nicholas bagenall Lucas dillon Nicholas white
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John Chaloner

Note on hands

The text of the letter, including the subscription, is in a compact and very regular secretary hand, definitely not Spenser's; but the address is in Spenser's familiar secretary. The text includes the autograph signatures of Lord Grey, Sir William Gerrard, Sir Henry Wallop, Sir Nicholas Bagenall, Sir Lucas Dillon, Sir John Chaloner, and Sir Nicholas White.

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

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