

NA (PRO) SP 63/81/4
Grey to Walsingham, 2 March 1580/1

Address

To th{e right Hono-}*
rable {my ...}
Sir F{raunces}
W{alsingham Knight}
Chief S{ecretary}
to her M{aiesty. /}

Text

Sir, I send heerwith an oother examination which tootchethe neere: It seem=
ethe that by degreese, Gods pleazure is, too haue this action dis-
couered: I praye yow that Meaghe, as beefore I wrote, bee appreh=
ended, •* & strayghtly handlyd, for from hym, I perceauē it
is, that the secretts of this combination must bee fetched: I was 5
neuer, & yet not I aloane, so deceaued by a mealie mouthed
fellowe, & surely prooff teachethe mee that extreemitie must
wryng it from hym, by oother dealyng expect nothyng:
Which I thowght not needeles too aduyce yow of {...}*
partie that declares this is an awncient man, all {...} 10
ging too the howse of Balltinglass, & stuarde too {...}
in a manner by Gods finger reuealed lyttle {...}
Allen* of St Woollstones* in the Countie of Du {...}
prograss guaue mee Knowledge of hym {...}
ayle neyther withowte aduenture was {...} 15
of Sir Wylliam Sarcefield,* one that make {...}
lus trew seruantes in this lande, {...}
these myght haue sum {...}*
handes at next wrytinge; for {...}
it. I greatly couett too knowe {...} 20
ceeding agaynst these noble men:* & {...}
sumwhat bee doonne in it, for I perceauē the {...}
greate harte in theyr fauorites* {...}
in theyr accuseres:* & heereuntoo {...}
a sudden common brute ••* heere ryzen, that I vppon great disple {...} 25
mee conceaued for Kildares committing* shall present {...}
76.* set at libertie;•* and the gouernment {...}
hym: I woold too God the fyrst were as neere as it shulde bee {...}
coome, the second, of displeazure, my conscience wylles mee not too feare,
the rest a fable I take & so I leaue it, yet maye yow see that owre bar= 30

barus countrie is not withowte practizies • as* well as more politicke* planes.
So I end for this tyme prayeng the Almyghtie God too keepe &
gouerne yow euer. this 2. of Martius Anno 1580/

Yowres euer most assu=
red,
Arthur Grey

35

Note on hands

The text of the letter is in Grey's characteristic italic hand, including several instances of the usual code (transliterated above the line, by Walsingham or one of his secretaries). The address (mostly destroyed by a large tear in the manuscript) is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, while the endorsement has not survived.

* **Address th{e right Hono-}**] Much of the address (like the text on the opposite side) has been lost due to a large tear in the manuscript. The reading offered in { } represents the likely text, drawn from Spenser's usual practice (and spelling) in other letters.

* **4 •]** 'I' deleted.

* **9 of {...}**] Here and for many lines following, a large chunk of the right-hand side of the document is missing, taking quite a lot of the text with it.

* **13 Allen]** A reader has flagged this underlined name with a symbol (four dots in a diamond configuration) in the margin.

* **13 Woolstones]** The double 'l' in this word is inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **16 Sir Wylliam Sarcefield]** A reader has flagged this underlined name with a symbol (four dots in a diamond configuration) in the margin.

* **18 sum {...}**] Part of a word, too questionable to warrant a guess, appears before the damaged edge of the paper.

* **21 these...men]** 'these noble men' in code, transliterated character for character above the line.

* **23 in...fauerites]** 'in theyr fauerites' in code, transliterated character for character above the line.

* **24 in...accuseres]** 'in theyr accusers' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. It should be noted the actual code reads 'accusares'; we have supplied the reading of the transliteration.

* **25 ••]** 'yt' deleted.

* **26 for...committing]** 'for Kildares committing' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. The numeric code for the earl of Kildare, used here, is 76.

* **27 76.]** Again, the earl of Kildare.

* **27 set...libertie]** 'set at libertie' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. A deleted character appears after the semicolon; though illegible, it appears from its size to have been another coded symbol.

* **31 • as]** '&' deleted, 'as' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **31 politicke]** The 'o' in this word inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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