Address and Endorsement

To her most excellent
Maiestie

26 Aprill 1581
To hir Maiestie from the Lord
Grey.
Entred

Text

It may please your Highnes The course of thinges here willeth me agayne to trouble your Maiesty with former causes and besides to sende this Bearer for solliciting of the same fynding resolutions there not to answere that which the necessitie here requireth. I haue often tyme advertised to my Lords and lately to your Highnes selfe the tickle hoalde or rather rebellious disposition that Tirlagh contynually resteth in, & dayly more and more makes shewe of, as the Marschalls lettres to mee herewith sent to your Highnes will nowhitt darkly display, besides a generall holownes of hartes here to your Maiesty The contentes whereof falling out true & the manmering condition of all the other provinces weighed, howe necessary yt is for your Maiestie to haue care of it, & in the meane how nerely yt toucheth me importunately to putt you in mynde of the same your Highnes selfe bee the decerner: To prouide for the worst hath neuer bene faulty, nor gone without commendation, though shewe haue not brought forth the effecte; to bee secure, and that in manifest warninges, besides great losse & late repentance, neuer with the wise escaped condemnation; If then no doubtfull signes of the perill appeare vnto you, & the looking to yt is to you ether the safetie or losse of this state, I most humbly beseche your Maiestie in your own’ honours behalf & especially in gods respect, who hauing betaken vnto you the interest & gouernement of this land with nolesse duety of care and charge, then of the same
wherein you abyde, will doubtles challenge nolesse account at your handes for the one then for the other, most humbly, I say, I beseech your Highnes to haue earnest regard in tyme of it & pardon likewise humbly I craue, if herein I exceede any thing the limits of becoming, the Lord is my witness true & earnest zeale to your honour and service is the onely cause of the miscarriage, yf any there bee. Vnlesse your Maiesty will affoord the encrease of force I late wrote for, I see not but one of these inconvenience will light, ether a most dishonorable composition with Tirlagh contayned in one Article or rather worde, namely his owne will, & the same to stand on no better certenty then his owne liking; or els hazard yf not losse of the whole; the numbers already here not being hable both to front him and leave sufficient force to answere the Rebelles of the other provinces, as but now they are, which weaknes in vs once founde, & that your Highnes will not goe through with what you haue begonne, for one that is out now account then of tenne, & setled they will growe in their already commune boast, that for the charge they will enforce your Highnes to giue them ouer. Your Highnes charge indeed is very great, I cannot denye & to God I would, that I might as well, as willing I am to helpe yt; but your Maiestie in this case is not to looke onely vpon the charge, but vpon the cause as well, and then I doubt not but the cause shall appeare as rare as the charge vnwonted: That any needlesse or without good ground hath bene raised or longer contynued then the cause required, with your Maiesties indifferent favour I dare take vpon me to answere; & where I beare some fault to be found at the number of Colonells that should be here, truly Madam there are in all but twoo, Sir George Bourchier for the Garrisons in the County of Limerick & Connelagh, which is very necessary the Lord Generall not being alwaies in the Prouince, and Iohn Zowche in Kerry a farre remoued place from all other companies, where necessitie nolesse required the like Officer I am also giuen to understand that your Highnes is the more grieued at your charges for that you find the same very slenderly answered in seruice; indeed so great seruices as such cost might seeme to craue, I will not affirme to bee doen nether doe I hope will your Maiestie measure accidentall euentes by such a continuall certein ground, but if endeouour haue bene ouerslipped or trauaile & aduenture spared, then lett your threasure be accounted vainely wasted & the burden on me layd. I haue
not ever certificed of every service done, because I expected still as I desired such
a one, as worthily might have come to your Highness ears but if taking of Cowes, killing
of their Kerne & churles had bene thought worth the advertising I could haue had
every day to haue troubled your Highness the which services in total yet not being to goe
unaccounted of, would in particular report have brought but meane delight; marry
now seeing that by saying nothing, nothing is thought to be done I thought good to too
commend to your Highness by this Bearer a Collection of all the services done here since my
governement, so far as may be remembered, which though not so great as ether your Highness
may expect or my self would wish, yet doubt I not but it shall appeare, God
to haue favored your Highness forces as much in this time, as in any other heretofore
I tarry not so long in this theme, that I would carry your Highness to the contynuance
or increase of charges or proceeding in the Action further then apparent reason holde
with me for your owne honour & safety of state here; ye if any other shall bring better
reason to the contrary & shall think with less charge & yet safety this governement may
be carried, which I confess to goe far beyond my reach either in conceipt or execution
I most humbly craue for furtherance of your Highness service to be called home and such
a one to haue the place: ye if it not unknown to me, that things might be patched
up, and a face of peace & quietness made to appeare, but then the governement or rather
Confusion must be this; that no vice, disobedience or insolence should ether be punished,
or brideled, your Highness laws answered by none, but by a handful of the English pale
murder, stealth, rapes & all other insolencies to have free allowance, otherwise the
maske of this quiete would soon be thrown off, as daily experience shewes; for
he that to day seems a dutiful Subject, let him for any of these or other lesse crimes
be to morrow called vpon to come & answere, straight a protection is demanded
& in the meane he will bee vpon his keeping, as here they terme yt, which in plaine
English is none other, then a Traitor that forcibly will defend his cause & not
answree to justice: I know the great feare, due reverence & sownd knowledg
your Highness hath of god, besides the naturall regard to your honour & place cannot
suffer you to like or rather not to detest such kynde of governement: your wisedome
then cannot but see the great vnsurety of the same, & as touching the sparing whereby lett the forepast charges of so many yeares caused onely by this irresolute proceeding in the action, shewe the gayne & whether in reason one eight or tenne of these yeares charges bestowed at once vpon a thorough reformation had not bene a farre more sparing way, besides other good, then to suffer yt to runne into this continuall consumption of threasure which neuer wilbee helped vnesse the plott bee altered. A peaceable gouernement were the easiest & quietest trade for me or whosoeuer should supply this place, & travaile enough well entended too, shall any Gouernour here finde of cuile & politque causes, what reason should then induce me, to that labour to add care, toile, & hazard of warre causes, yt with duety & conscience to God & Prince saued I might eschewe yt. Your Maiestie I heare, is in purpose bestowe a generall pardon vpon this nation with some exceptions; I beseech your Highnes to consider well of it: of myne owne tyme this proofe I haue; in the proclayming of these mountayne Traytours a generall pardon was graunted to all, certayn of the chief exempted, that would leaue the rest, & reward withall sett downe, to whomesoeuer should bring in alius {or} dead any of the Archknaues; since agayne infinite secrete offers of pardon and hire haue I made to the chiefest for seruice vpon other chieffs: nay further haue I adventured my self vpon your grace in maner against one of my Instru-
cions from your self at my coming away; I offerd to Desmond him selfe pardon, in case he would quick or dead deliuer into mee his brother Iohn & Doctor Saunders; which most easely I knew he might haue doen, being hourely & forcelesse in his hand: what of all these offers is hearkned to, what thancks is giuen, what submission is made, what grace accepted? nay in trouth Madam I neuer fownd but these mercifull dealings haue euer lifted them vp to greater insolencies, nether holdes this my experience by the tyme of their most prosperitie, but in their most ebbe and misery hath lenitie fownd this effect: after the Fortes wynning passed my offer to Desmond since my coming into these partes very lately after many spoiles & slaughters executed vpon Pheagh and his followers, so that his self demaundd the Parley; sondry tymes like grace hath bene granted, but in end Beggers fall to pride, raile at your Maiestie leaue god, & onely relye vpon the Pope, & that charges shall in end free them: herevnto laye for the good that pardons here worke, that in Sir William fitz Williams tyme there was like to this now entended a graunt
of generall Pardon, and therevpon a great number were sent abroade,
but somuch regarded, as three partes of them yett lye in Kilkenny, and
never once asked for, as I am credibly enformed: to bee shorte vnder
your Highnes correction pardon & protection next to the small care had of
trew Religion & settling of Gods Worde hath bene the onely destruction of
this Gouernement which triall enforceth me to say, that onely sworde will
salue the sore of. for the contrary I dare defend to haue essayed as much as
any Gouernour toofore, & will tye my selfe to your Maiesties justice onely,
yf it can be iustly layd vnto mee, that euer yet I tooke lyfe from any, how
euer euill deseruing that submitted him self to your mercy: feare there=
fore and not dandling must bringe them to the byarsse of obedience.
I would gladly receiue your Highnes resolution touching 63. yt is a cause re=
quireth not your least consideration: I did in my last say what I thought
in it: very fewe that in priuate frenndshippe •••••• • ••••• • ••
nether that I thincke more •••••• • • •••
••• ••••• 7. in any •••••• onely excepted: thus doothe faythfull
dutie & •••••• sincere affection too 7. •••••• ••• of ••• that which ootherwyse •
••• •••••• •••••• ••••••
The Bearer now bringeth your Highnes an estimate of the benefitt that vpon
these attaynders will fall to your Maiestie and he shall likewise enforce you
of a Plott for the lightening your Highnes of 2000 mens pay by yeare, which in God
I hope shall take effecte in short tyme, in case your Highnes shall thinck good to
answere wantes here, & the same presently vpon the coming of the supplye
now appointed hether shalbe entered into. /
I beseche God to direct your Highnes resolution to that course, that may most
make for your owne honour & reformation of this yet most miserable nation
utterly deuoyde of his knowledg, & nowhitt regarding you his annoynted
nor guided by any other rule then sensuall libertie.
So fearing to haue held your Highnes too long, though not so long as the cause
yet requires, were yt not in trust of the Messenger, whome I humbly
commend to your Maiesties credit for the rest I take most humble leaue, beseec
ching the Almighty to prolong your lyfe in all happinesse in this world, and send your Maiesty eternall ioy in that to come. Dublin the 26 of Aprill, 1581.

Yowr hyghnes most humble seruant & faythefull subiect,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands
The text of the letter is in Spenser's formal italic hand, typical of formal reports from Grey to the Queen. Grey has added the injunction and his signature in his own hand. A long passage in cipher on the final page uses codes distinct from those normally used by Grey in his letters to Walsingham; this probably represents a system designed for use only in letters to Elizabeth.

* 15 own] Inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
* 22 of these] 'of these' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
* 85 •] 's' deleted
* 87 ••] 'to' deleted.
* 92 {or]} A large inkblot has here obscured the word, but the reading is pretty sure from the context.
* 103 spoiles &] 'spoiles &' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
* 125 ••••• sincere] A deletion of about eight characters (indecipherable); 'sincere' has been inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
* 122-26 •••••• ] This whole section in an indecipherable (as yet) code (different from the one Grey usually uses).

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