NA (PRO) SP 63/83/43
Grey to Walsingham, 9 June 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the right
Honorable my
very good frend
Sir Fraunces
Walsingham
Knight Chief
Secretary to
her Maiestie ./

1581
June .9.
From the Lord Depuyte.

Text

Sir, the xxvijth of the last I receaued a packett from yow
beeyng in Camp then in the Birnes countrie, which causeth the that
sooner I could neyther awnsswer them, nor as yet execute the
direction for the proclamations: well I see that lyke or dislyke
of gouernment heere is alltoogeather •• settled vppon encrease
or decrease of the chardge, no honor, no saftie of the State,
no obedience too Prince or God, no pollicie & quyett of the Common
Wealth at all respected or regarded; in conscience too
Godward & dutie too my Prince that it greeus mee not I maye
not surely denye, thoughge in myne owane pryuate beehallf
•• too thynck God moste good vntoo mee that •• this contrarie
course too myne aduye & dezyre is taken greate cause I
conceaea. I wyll God wyllyng w ith best endeuoure followe
what is directed mee, & esspecyally yowr owane moast freend
ly aduye, too patche vp thynge as I maye, since I
maye not as I wooll. I acknowledge sir yowr greate
trauayle & endeuoure for too haue had the best waye taken
wherin thowghe I know the cause itself was yowr princi=
pall inducement, yet hauyng ••• fownde my priuate
in creditt & good euer cared for & fauoured by yow
I can not but moast thanckfully take yowr moast
freendly or rather••• brootherly cariadge toowardes mee euer
since my beetakynyng too this place, wherin so long as hoape
remayned too doo God, prince & cuntrie servuice, toyle & care
were the both lyghter burdens vntoo mee, but those endes now dispayred of all encouragement is depryued, beesydes tootche of conscience that this cource must bring too see & suffre all insolencie & wickednes: I vrdge not this that I would requyre any further laboor too allter the direction now sent, it is far from my meanyng, onely & lastly, I trust in God, tendes it too craue yowr woonted earnest trauayle too gett mee ryd ••• of ••• the office, good Sir faoure mee in this sute, the which, befoore God I protest, with more earnestnes & dezyre too obtayne I make, & with

opinion of more bonde vntoo yow for I woold receaue, then any that euer yet I had vntoo yow; press it’ therfore I bees= ettech yow.
I haue signified too my Lord of Ormond her Maiesties plezure for hys dischardge as yow directed mee; The care of that prouince now, waying the loase condition that itself & oothers now stande in & no gouernor too remayne in it doothe not a lyttle trouble mee, & sure presently order & direction from the table there must ******** coome or els it is lyke in a moonethe too growe too that that perchaunce in a yeare wyll not bee recoouered, & vnnder correction, greate ouersyght it was withowte an oothers placyng too displace hym & so I euer aduysed. For the tyme how there in I meane to deale, as of this my Ioorney hythertoo, & oother thynges concernyng this state at sum lengthe I haue written too my Lords in generall, crauyng awnsswer therof with sum conuenient speede, & prezent dispatche of Mr Fenton & amongst the rest lett not yowr resolutions for Tyrlough Lennough bee for= gotten, ootherwyze if too mee it bee referred, truly I hoald it best, as this purpose hoaldes, to grawnte hym all, for ootherwyze the offre of pardon wyll bee as mooche of hym regarded, as one from the Pope of mee. I understannde by mr Fenton that the certificate of the check •• yow woold not haue empard beecaues of the smallnes therof, I can not tell sir what it maye seeme or what •• is expected, but I am sure that as strayght orders for true dealyng in it & oftener viewes, where they myght bee, haue been taken then euer toofoore were, & if former checks for x yeares space bee compared with this scarce of one since my tyme, I durst wager that the one shall matche the x., & if yet it content not, for my lyeff I knowe not how too healp it. As tootchyng my opinion for renewyng of
the inhabitantes charter of Dublin, I can not saye any thyng
too it hauyng neuer as yet seene the same, & therfore must
requyre too bee borne with tyll my retourne thyther.
Thus hauyng enfoormed yow of all that at this tyme is needefull
I wyll take leaue beeseetchyng the Allmyghtie God too
bee with yow contynually & sende yow all happynes in this
& the lyeff too coomme. / Waxford the 9th of Iune Anno 1581.

Yowrs most assuredly euuer,
Arthur Grey

112° I thynck eare long •••• wyll repayre ouer.
hee seemes too dislyke wythe this coorce of
pardons greatly & proteste{t}he that hee was
neuer acquainted withe the adui{c}e.
hee gueeues •••• owte •••• speatchies that 10°
delest not the firmeliest wythe hym.

For that no poste lyethe the waye that these arre too pass I thowght
conuenient too beetake the packett too a’ specyall messenger, the
rather too that hee was of hys owane buzynes to repayre ouer/ ,
I sett downe the for fea{r}e of blame for the chardge. /*
Note on hands
The text of the letter, including the subscription, signature, and several passages in cipher, is in Grey's usual italic hand. The address is in Spenser's characteristic secretary, and the endorsement – presumably added during the process of filing the letter in Westminster, in a later italic.

' 5 ••] 'es' deleted (?)
' 11 ••] 'it' deleted
' 11 •] single-character (illegible) deletion.
' 19 ••••] 'euer' deleted.
' 22 •] 'ly' deleted.
' 30 ••••] 'fro'' deleted.
' 31 ••] 'fr' deleted.
' 35 it] 'it' inserted above the line, with caret mark.
' 42 ••••••••] 'p'rently' deleted.
' 58 ••] 'it' deleted.
' 60 ••] 'it' deleted.
' 70 yow] 'yow' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
' 76 112] From other examples of Walsingham's code, we know that '112' stands for the Earl of Ormond. This paragraph ('112 I thynck'....wythe hym') is mostly in code; unusually, Walsingham has not deciphered the symbols above the line; the transliteration supplied here (in blue) has been pieced together from other examples.
' 76 ••••] Unknown code. These unfamiliar symbols (as in the two following cases, below) may simply be fillers, included to put an unwelcome eye off the track.
' 80 ••••] Unknown code.
' 80 •••] Unknown code.
' 80 10] The identity of '10' remains uncertain; it is possibly the Queen herself.
' 83 a] 'a' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
' 85 sett downe...chardge./] The context makes it likely that Grey meant 'feare' for 'feae' here, though the sense of the phrase is still obscure; it seems likely that a word is missing after the definite article. The wider context, in combination with the particular error that Grey has made in 'feare', suggests that he intended to write 'I sett downe the fee for feare of blame for the chardge' – i.e., that he paid the special messenger in Wexford rather than leaving payment to Walsingham.