

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 Deputye.

Text

Sir, the xxvijth of the last I receaued a packett from yow
beeyng in Camp then in the Birnes countrie, which causethe 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, 5
no obedience too Prince or God, no pollicie & quyett of the Common
Wealthe at all respected or regarded; in conscience too
Godward & dutie too my Prince that it greeues mee not I maye
not surely denye, thowghe in myne owane pryuate beehallf 10
••* too thynck God moste good vntoo mee that •* this contrarie
cource too myne aduyce & dezyre is taken greate cause I
conceaue. I wyll God wylllyng with best endeouore followe
what is directed mee, & esspecyally yowr owane moast freend
ly aduyce, too patche vp thynges as I maye, since I 15
maye not as I woold. I acknowledge sir yowr greate
trauayle & endeouore for too haue had the best waye taken
wherin thowghe I know the cause itsellf was yowr princi=
pall inducement, yet hauyng •••* fownde my priuate
in credit & good euer cared for & faouered by yow 20
I can not but moast thanckfully take yowr moast
freendly or rather••* brootherly cariadge toowardes mee euer
since my beetakyng too this place, wherin so long as hoape
remayned too doo God, prince & cuntrie seruice, toyle & care

were **the** both lyghter burdens vntoo mee, but those endes now 25
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 woold requyre
any further laboor too allter **the** direction now sent, it is far
from my meanyng, onely & lastly, I trust in God, tendes it 30
too craue **yowr** woonted earnest trauayle too gett mee ryd ••* of
••* **the** office, good Sir faouure mee in this sute, **the which**, beefore God
I protest, **with** more earnestnes & dezyre too obtayne I make, & **with**

opinion of more bonde vntoo yow for I woold receaue, then 35
any **that** euer yet I had vntoo yow; press it* therfore I bees=
eetche yow.
I haue signified too my **Lord** of Ormond her **Maiesties** pleazure
for hys dischargd 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 40
not a lyttle trooble mee, & sure **presently** order & direction
from **the** table there must ••••••* coome or els it is lyke
in a moonethe too growe too **that** perchaunce in
a yeare wyll not bee recoouered, & vnder correction,
greate ouersyght it was **withowte** an oothers placyng 45
too displace hym & so I euer aduyced. For **the** tyme
how there in I meane to deale, as of this my Ioorney
hytherto, & oother thynges concernyng this state at
sum lengthe I haue written too my **Lords** in generall,
crauyng awnsswer therof **with** sum conuenient speede, 50
& **prezent** dispatche of Mr **Fenton** & amongst **the**
rest lett not **yowr** resolutions for **Tyrlogh 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 55
as mootche of hym regarded, as one from **the** Pope of mee.
I vnderstande by **mr Fenton** **that the** certificate of **the** check
••* yow woold not haue emparked beecause of **the** smallnes
therof, I can not tell **sir** what it maye seeme or what
••* is expected, but I am sure **that** as strayght oorders for 60
true dealyng in it & oftener views, where they myght bee,
haue been taken then euer toofore were, & if former checkes
for x yeeares 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 65
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, & therefore must
requeyre too bee borne with tyll my retourne thyther.
Thus hauyng enfoormed yow* of all that at this tyme is needefull 70
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.

Yows most assuredly euer,
Arthur Grey 75

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 wythe the adui{c}e.
hee gueuees ••••* owte •••* speatchies that 10* 80
dealest 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. / * 85

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^m' deleted.
- * **31 ••]** 'fr' deleted.
- * **35 it]** 'it' inserted above the line, with caret mark.
- * **42 ••••••••]** 'p^resently' 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 'feae', 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.

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