

NA (PRO) SP 63/84/28
Grey to Walsingham, 18 July 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Honorable
my very good frend
Sir Fraunces Wal-
singham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiestie

18 Iuly 1581
From the Lord Gray.
To further mr Mompesso{ns}
sute
Mompesson

Text

Sir, whereas I graunted vnto my seruaunt
Richard Mompesson the life of one of the
Spaniardes taken at the fort of Smerwick
to be raunsomed for his most benefitt, I vnder-
stand, that sithens the prisoner being by him
carried vp to london & committed* is through the negligence
or rather with the privity of his keeper (as is
thought) escaped, by meanes whereof he is
in daunger not onely of the losse of the raunsome
which was covenanted, but also of private costes
bestowed vpon him & other charges whereat he
hath bene in carrying him ouer, besides him* owne
travell to his great hinderaunce. Wherefore
vnderstanding that by your self he was com-
mitted, I am earnestly to desire you in my
said seruautes behalf, to afford the sollicitoures
of his cause there, which will resort vnto you,
what favour and furtheraunce you may, for
obtainyng of the said Summes against the keeper
yf in equitie he shall appeare vnto you to
be guiltie of the cause, or otherwise bownd by
law to the answering thereof. for the which I
shall account my self greatly behoulding vnto you*
and rest euer ready to requite such your frendlines

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and so committ you to god. Dublin, the xviith
of Iulie, 1581. /

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Youres most assured,
Arthur Grey

Walsingham for Mompesson

Note on hands

The text of the letter, including the subscription, and the address are both in Spenser's characteristic cursive secretary hand. Grey has as usual added his own signature. The notes added at the foot of the text and the endorsement ('Mompesson', 'Wals. for Mompesson') are in a distinct italic hand, probably Spenser's; these notes seem to have been added to remind Spenser (or another secretary) that, upon sealing of the letter, the packet should be addressed to Walsingham.

* **6 & committed]** 'committed' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **12 him]** *sic*.

* **24 you]** 'you' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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