Address and Endorsements

To the Righte
Honorable the
Lords and otheres of
{h}er Maisties Privie
{C}ouncell./

12º Augusti 1581
From the Lord Deputy of Irelande
to the Lordes of the Counsel.

Entred

Text

It may please your Lordships. I haue of late receaued 2: lettres from yow of the 26. and 30 of the laste, whiche came to my handes after I dispersed my companies in my retorne from my trye with Turloughe Lennoughe: your Lordships I doubte not do remember what I aduertised in my last letters, touching the occacion of my late Iorneye northward, namely how odonnell had praied aide of hir maiestye, against Turloughe, or els for ever to bee lefte to shifte for him self, and that in our opinions heere, the losses sustained by him, coulde no way be repaired, nor Turloughe staied from the totall overthrowe of him, and his countrey vnesse I had presently made hedd into those partes. According to whiche determinacion, I did not only sende Sir Nicholas Malbey, withe the forces vnder him in Connoughte, to enter Tierconnell, by the way of Sligo, and prepared victualls, and
munition, to be sent by sea into Loughfoill, for suche services, as I purposed about Leefer, but marched in person, with those few Companies, which I had to the forte uppon the black water, And in my way there, I sent to Turloughe, to declare that having had hearde somewhat of the violente manner of dealing betwene him, and odonnell, I could do no lesse, then deal betwene them, to the stopping of those contraveries, and to heere and determine the causes, that had mouded so greate outrages, and losse of so many hir maesties subjectes on bothe sides, being sorye that men of theire condiciion, and so well hable to serve hir highnes, should so farre exceede them selues as without lycense to enter into warre and to disturb the state, And therefore I appointed him a place, and a tyme for conference and speache to be had in the matter: To this I was aunswered that he woulde repaire to the place, appointed, at the time I assignd, For the rumour of my coming had caused him, before this, to retorne from the Chace of odonnell, and heering of a preparacion heere for a battry to be sente, into Loughfoill, he gaue order for the rasing of his owne castle of Strabane, vppon that ryuer, and of the castle of Leefer, belonging to Con odonnell, on Tierconnell side: At the day appointed he came neere vnto the place with a minde prepared altogether for warre, (so farre, as I could ghesse) notwithstanding he sente vnto me to know my pleasure, wherevpon I addressed the Iustice Dowdall, and Mr Briskett to treate with him vpon certaine articles, which I gaue them by way of Instrvcion, subscribed by me, and by Mr. Thresoror, and Mr Marshall, there with mee, whiche articles with the aunsweres, or concludions of the peace I send vnto your Lordships heerewith, to avoyde tediousnes in my letter, only this I will note, that the Comissioners founde soche passions and alteracions in him, as weare straunge, before he Could bee temperede by them to enny conformity, But in the ende he was so handeled, as he sought withe humility, to come to the entervewe, but in soche mistrustfull manner as the riuer devided vs, So likewise when wee had concluded, sometyme he put of his hatte, and ioyed that he had peace, And by, and by an other difficulty grew, when he, and his followers should swere, and subscribe to the condicions, by whiche stormy manner of dealing, I note his vsnteddy nature, and how lytle truste is to bee hadd, ether to his wordes, or wrytinges, and on the Contrary parte
do commend the dealing of those gentlemen, in that they so ouercame his obstinacy, withe perswaccon, as the dignety of the state was preserved, and he wrought to seeke whatesoeuer I desired, although the most efficient causes indeade were the forces, by whiche he feared Invasion on bothe sides: And whereas sondry speaches, had bene geven forthe by the rebellles, that he was a principall partie in the rebellion, and had promised ayde, to them from tyme, to tyme, after he had subscribbed, he protested, that he had neuer made ennye soche othe, or promisse to enny rebell, thoughge sondry had sente vnto him for that purpose which he offred to advow before enny, that would so charge him. The comissioners had in Charge also to deliuer the proclamacion of generall pardon, whiche for all the province of Vlster was proclaimed without enny exception, But when yt was made knowne in his Campe yt moued not enny man there, to take the benefyt of yt, for they saied yt concerned offendoures, and offences, whereof there was none in Vlster of that qualety; Turloughes wief seemed ernestly to further this pacificacion, being fearefull of the double force, whiche bothe she saw with me, and hearde to be Coming with odonnell vnder Sir Nicholas Malbey, by whiche I must confesse to your Lordships I might haue taken soche an occacion to haue dishabled Turloughe for euer doing hurte to the pale, as hardely Can be founde soche an opportunitie, but that I know hir maiesties inclinacion so bente, vppon temporising withe a calme, and a peaceable cours, as I would not enter into a matter of warre, that afterwarde might lacke dew prosecution, And therefore having sente the Iustice Dowdall, and other comissioners of Turloughes into Tierconnell to attende Sir Nicholas Malbey, for composition to be taken betweene him and odonnell, I accepted the peace before mencioned nothing pleasing to me, thoughge I assure my self, yt will be better thought of at home, then a warre that might haue brought forthe, bothe an honourable and a perpetuall assuraunce against the Northe: After this pacifacion, and my retorne from the place, I receaued (as I haue formerly sayed) your Lordships letters, withe whiche I finde the articles aggreed vppon by hir maiesty, to Turloughes peticions, and for sondrye respectes am glad, that they came not sooner to my handes, For althoughe the grauntes are very honourable, and more liberall in some thinges, then I Could haue perswaded, if I had bene there, yet the condicions, wherevnto he should be tied be such as are verye beneficiall to the state, and suche, as he will neuer accept, For that whiche
tendeth to the banishmente of the Scottes, will neuer be yelded vnto by his wief, and
hir frendes, neither would he haue consented to yeld anny pledges, And then if he had
falne from the condicions, and hir maiestry, not bente to haue maintayned hir purpose by
force, yt would presently haue geven an end of all his expectacion from Englande,
and made him perhaps desperate in the rest, as by all likelihoode he may be. Neuertheles
if Capten Peirs, his messenger (of whome your Lordships wryte) be not verye circumspect
how to reveale thes thinges, or to vse warely his message, and soche matter as his master
fantasiethe in his platte of Vlster, And in troathe I finde yt very straunge, that
enny soche messenger should be sente, without first being directed hether, to acquainte
me with the Cours he purposethe to take, and to enfoarme him self by the state heere,
what hathe passed, and how farre he may goe in reason, in thes Treaties with the Turloughe
For how muche Capten Peers misconceauethe in thes matters, and is abused in his
opinion may appeare to your Lordships by the aunswere of euery article of his platte, Whereunto
wee haue postilde, whiche I speake not in disgrace of the man, whom indeade I loue,
and wishe to be holpen in his particulier, and that he may be vsed in trust in those
seruices, wherewith he is acquainted, ether in the ardes, or Clandeboy, But that he
hathe enny Creddyt at all with Turloughe, (but in the way of good fellowship, whiche
lastethe no longer then that humour Continueth) I haue suff{ic}yent proof, and
very good cause to iudge, And what golden mountaines soeuer are promised, ether
by his messages, or my peace now Concluded, I assure your Lordships I accept yt none
otherwise thankeworthye; then as patched stuffe that Cannot longe houlde. For
the intollerable pride and insolencye of Turloughe is soche, as Cannot be contynued
within the bondes of duetye to hir maiesty, or good neighbourid to hir highnes subiectes
This only benifitt I take of the peace now Concluded, and of the time now wonne,
that I may, as soone as I Canne fornishe me of a conuenyent proportion of
 victuall, marche to the mountaines, and breake ether that broode, or retorne
withe losse, for vppon tryall of goddes will ether in the one, or the other, I am
constauntlye determined. Your Lordships in your letter wisshed my staye from the
borders, in respecte of the trobles of other partes, But I thought yt most convenient
to take this oportunitye, by whiche I suppose the hope, whiche they conceaued in Turloug{he} is cutt of from the confederates in all partes, so as now the occonnours, beginne to make meane vnto mee to bee receaued, and so do some of the obirnes, and the base brother of the Baron of Delvin, all whiche bothe before and in the time of the treaty withe Turloughe, and till the peace was published, had no regard at all to the proclamacion of pardon

And thus muche I thought meete to say aswell in declaracion of my late Iorney northward, as in aunswere of your Lordships lettre of the 30 of Iuly: Your Lordships other letter of the xxvj. of Iuly. concernethe the good acceptacion of Iohn Zouches service, the opinion of the reuolte of Odonnelles sonne, and the placing of Sir Warham Sentleger colonell of the forces in Mounster. To the first I am very glad in the behalf of the gentleman, that hir maiesty and your Lordships do so well conceaue of Mr Zouche, which opinion may be bettered, by a secound service, done since, wherein he hathe had very good Successe, and hathe slaine, & taken of the erle of Desmoundes followers of good accoumpt, and redused Kerrye in manner to depende wholly vppon him, Neuertheles, I feare that an accidente lately happened, will put his service there in some Daunger, for I am enfourmed, that by the negligence of one Sherif viceconstable in the Castle of Limereck, and by the practise (as yt is thought) of some of the Citizens, the Lord Fitzmorice two sonnes, and two other pledges are escaped, whereby yt is likely that all Fitzmorice his countrey, willbe distempered, I can geue no remedy to this misadventure, but by seuere punishment of the partie to preuente the like negligence, or abuse in men of his sorte heereafter. Secoundly for Odonnells sonne, supposed by Capten Peirs to haue revolted, and to be supported by his fosterfatheres, there hathe bene no cause of eny soche Conceipt, for nether hathe his sonnes, (who are of age but Childeren) so fallen from theire father, nether hathe eny of the countrey left him, but mainteyned his quarrells with expence of theire bloode, sauing a few followers of Con odonnells, his nephew Whose ambicion, & desire to haue the captency, hathe moued this sturre, and diuers other heeretofore depending
euer since the deathe of his father Culloughe odonnell, vppon the Captens of Tirone in the time of Shane oneyll, and euer since vppon Turloughe Lennoughe. Thirdely for Sir Warham Seintleger, to be Cheif Collonell in Mounster, I like well of your Lordships Choice of the gentleman, to supply the place for a tyme, till hir maiesty shall resolue farther, for as his profession in the beginning of his lief was to follow the warres, and at his entry into service heere was the firste presidente of that pouince, so hathe his behauiour since this rebellion, deserved well of hir maiesty, And therefore I haue good cause to allow of his nominacion, neuertheles I do not wishe, that yt should haue long Continuance, because his authoritie there must needes be accompanied with the disliking of therle of ormond, betweene whome there hathe bene some Contrauersies in my tyme 130

And therefore I wishe, that hir maiesty woulde shortly thinke vppon some apt choice of some of hir highnes servauntes in England, and to vse that gentlemans service in some other kinde, And for the present Sir Warham Seintleger, shall haue a comission asosiated with the other of the Colonelles, and Captens, as your Lordships haue well deuised, and his entertainement, assigned with as lytle charg to hir maiesty, as may be, and some smale addicon of horsemen, to his owne retinew already in pay, But that they should be defalked from other bandes, I do not think convenyent, because yt wilbe hinderaunce to the service, and very offensive to the captens, who if they wante in theire companies had rather aunswere the checques to hir maiesty, then to be abridged in theire numbers for eny private respecte.

I am aduertised out of the annalye, that while the Cheife baron, and the attorneye, Were holding a sessions there, Orwark was entered the county of Longford with the number of 1000 of all sortes whereof the most parte Scottes, and begann to burne, and spoile the countrey, to the rescwe whereof the Cheif baron, assembled suche as Could be gotten vppon the soddaine, and Charged the Scottes, in whiche there was slaine viij. of them, and xx. or thereabouts hurte, notwithstanding they weare not hable to rescue the pray, but there was taken from them 1000 Cattell, and viij. or viij. villages burnu: 140

150
It seemeth by the letter, and informacion which I haue receaued, that there is no grea{t} valuer in the offarrolles. or that they did any more then they weare enforced vnto by the Cheif Baron, and the attorneye, who bothe weare in daunger, and more forward, then the rest in the Charge geuen, This your Lordships may see, notwithstanding enny peace, & compotitions, that may be made, how this state is disturbed, with that nation of the Scottes, which swarme euery where to the annoyance of the Subiectes:

Lastely I haue humbly to thanke your Lordships for your determinacion to sende hether threasure, municion, and victuals, of which kindes, there is not enny of late aryued, but the threasure is staied at Chester, by a post dispatched yesterday, because I heere that 2. pirates, well appointed with 140 shott, do remaine in the hauen of Beamorice, redye to make a pray of yt, or of some honest merchauntes: If the handmaide do retorne from Loughfoill she shall scowre the coast, and fetche the threasure. But in the meane tyme We liue in want and therefore wishe that yt weare well wafted from Chester." So hauing not farther, whereof to enfourme your Lordships but that Sir William Standley within thes iij. daies, hathe executed some of the rebelles neere Artlow. whose heddes he sendethe me by water, not yet aryued, & that capten Deeringes company, haue likewise slaine xiiij. in a glan neere Powerscourte, I comytt your Lordships to god. At Dublyn the xijth of August 1581.

Your Lordships most assured
to Command,

Arthur Grey
Note on hands
The text of the letter is in a neat and compact secretary (not Spenser's), familiar from many of the letters in this series. Spenser's own secretary hand appears in the address. Grey has penned the subscription and signature himself, in his characteristically awkward italic. A later hand has added substantial underlining throughout the text of the letter, probably in order to emphasise certain points to members of the Privy Council, to whom the letter would have been circulated upon receipt.

* 17 subiectes] As often, the secretary has here joined a terminal 'es' brevigraph to a word already ending in 'e', in effect writing 'subiectees'. As the intention is clear enough, we have chosen to represent this ambiguous usage in the normal way.
* 142 that] Inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
* 142-143 But that...hinderance] This underscored passage has been flagged in the left margin with a hash mark.
* 166 and therefore...Chester] This underscored passage has been flagged in the left margin with a hash mark.

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