

NA (PRO) SP 63/85/6
Grey to the Queen, 10 August 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes
most excellent
Maiestie /

10.º Augusti 1581
From the Lord Deputy of Irelande
to the Quenes Maiesty.

Entred

Text

It may please **your** most excellente maiesty. As in my other letters, heerewith sente vnto **your** highnes, I haue declared the effecte of my late travell to the northen border, and my purpose now to prosecute, the rebelles vnder the vicount Baltinglas, and the obirnes and Toolles, so haue I thought good to lett **your** maiesty vnderstande, that those rebelles* of the mountaines, are daily assisted by the Cauenaughes of the county of wexford, whose woodes and fast places, so ioine, and are mixed, one **with** an other, as yt is harde to containe them from parte taking **with** the rest: I take this occacon **partelye** to expresse to **your** Maiesty the state of Leinster, and how the Irrishe that offende yt, are the omoores, the oconnoures, the obirnes, the otoolles, and the Cavenaughes, Over the omoores, and oconnours, a gouernour hathe euer bene appointed, the leiftenaunte of **your** fortes, by whome till of late yeares, those people, weare **with** force helde in obedience, and not suffred to grow in suche multitudes, as of late they weare: The Obirnes, and Toolles had their Senishall, by whome they were

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kept in good tearmes, till this declining from duety, **which** generally hathe happened since **the** landing of Iames Fitzmorice, and the practise made **with** forraine ennimies, But for ought that I canne discern, the Cavenaughes haue since the **departure** of **Sir** Nicholas Heron, bene left in manner 15
to them selues **without** comptrollment: For if yt be saiede, that the Senishall of the Countye of wexford, hathe had superioritye ouer them, yt may be aunswered, that hee **neuer** had force to comaunde them, and that three **partes** of fower in multitude, weare out of his rule in the County of Catherloughe, as those of the baronies of Simolin, and Idrone, And therefore for their better subieccion heereafter, I see no better pollicy then to establishe ouer them a **gouernour** 20
that may haue like rule, as **Sir** Nicholas Heron had, who may geue them Iustice **with** severity, and make them wholly to depende of **your** maiesty, from whome they haue bene diversly drawne, **with** dependauncy vppon others, To the perfecting whereof, one thing is very necessary, that **your** maiesty take to **your** self, the **landes** that weare **Sir** Peeter Carewes, now in possession of George Carew, and he to be recompensed for yt at a reasonable valewe, ether in pencion, as **your** 25
maiesty may haue the rent duely aunswered, or in exchaung at a conueniente rate, By **whiche** this comodities will follow, that he to whome the Cavenaughes, and **your** house of Leighlin should be comytted, might haue those **landes** as a demaine, at a certaine rente for his Diet and shalbe defalkeable vppon his entertainement, yt shall take awaye all offence from the people, whome no good vsage ether of George Carew, or of his brother **Sir** Peeter 30
coule winne to lyve in good Conformity, and obedience, thoughe vppon examinacion thereof I finde that bothe **brotheres**, haue sought to winne them bothe by curtesey, and liberallitye, and by a iust order of dealing, How well George Carew hathe **deserved** since my coming hether, bothe in execucion of **service**, and also **with** Care and diligence to keepe that border in good tearmes to the vttermost of his hability, I can well wytnesse, And 35
therefore cannot but geve him his dew Comendation for yt to **your** maiesty.

But this rule is generally to be noted, not only in the Cauenaughes, but in all the Irishe, that whatsoever they bee, (not gouerned by a man of aucthority, or by **your** maiesties forces), they disdaine to obey to inferior **personnes**, and especially the Cavenaughes, who haue, (as I heere) made many petitions, to depende vppon **your** maiesty, How necessary yt is for **your** maiesty to be 40

possessed of thes landes, and to sett a man of some Countenance there, will appeare if
you Consider the Situacon, whiche is suche, as seuerethe the Cauenaughes, from the omoores,
and the County of Wexford from Kildare, and Leix, and stoppethe, or openethe at your pleasur
the whole trade and entercours, betweene Mounster, and the englishe pale, & therefore
meete to be only at your maiesties devocion, and neuer to be put from you into the handes of eny
subiect ether Englishe, or Irishe./

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Thus muche I thought good to say to your maiesty, touching the Cavenaughes, and for the
meane, to gouerne them heereafter, not doubting but your maiesty shall finde emonges your
counselloures, diuers, that will not dissente from this opinion, concerning the setting of those
partes: And so I leaue yt to your maiesties further Consideracion: At Dublyn the xthe
of Auguste. 1581.

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Yowr Maiesties most humble seruant,
& faythefull subiect,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

The text of the letter is in a compact and regular secretary hand (not Spenser's). Both Grey's subscription, in a rough italic, and his signature are in his own hand. The address is Spenser's bold and expansive secretary hand, and the endorsement in a distinct, later hand.

* **4 rebelles]** Here, as elsewhere, this secretary has been inconsistent in his usage of the terminal 'es' brevigraph, supplying it in addition to the 'e' (i.e. writing, in effect, 'rebelles'). Because the scribe occasionally uses terminal 's', terminal 'es', and the terminal 'es' brevigraph more conventionally, we have chosen to interpret the apparent 'ees' endings as 'es', and have represented them in the usual way.

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