Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most excellent Maiestie /

6 Nouember 1582
To hir Maiestie from the Lord Deputye.

Text

It may please your Maiestie vpon retourne from my late iorney into Mounster (the discourse whereof hauing certefied to my Lords of your Councell, I omitt for feare of tediousnes to repeate) I mett with leettes from theyr Lordships signifying the great dislyke your Highnes had conceyued with the charges you fownd your self to bee at in this land vpon the late bookes the Auditour here had certefied: and thereupon was willed by their Lordships in your Highnes name to enter into consideration with some of my Associates in Councell, both how your Highnes sayd charges by cassying of bandes might bee eased, & also to answere certeyn doubtes & obiections rysing to their Lordships vpon the sayd Auditours booke, & collected by them into certeyne Memorialles. The answering of the Memorialles being not fewe, & diuersely misgathered, doth aske a more tyme, then this present dispatch to full satisfaction could affoord, which yet, God willing, shall not bee long: The other point for cassing of bandes is so perillous, as I could not execute the direction, without first certefying the condition of this State, & consequently the daunger thereof. But ere I enter into the discourse, I am humbly to craue pardon: for fynding how the charges of this
service hath not so much darkned & made of no account all care trauell & endeavours by mee therein vsed, but hath brought euén my self into meane terms of your Highness looking & good opinion, I cannot but rest in feare, or rather doubtlesse, that this my Theme seeming to impugne sparing shall bring small content. yf happily yt escape displeasure; yet zealous & duetifull true meaning being my emboldener in th'one, & defence in th'other, with confidence that Truth shall not rest buried, how euer clowded, I will playnely, yet with most humble & reuerent entent deliver myne opinion, & then referre & submitt all to your Maiesties will & direction. / How this state in euery part thereof was in stirre & revolt at my entring into the gouernement, is not vnknown to your Highness & how generall the combination of the conspiracie, besides those that in action haue shewed yt, the late discouery of no small nomber nor commune persons, euén of the harte of the Pale hath manifested. How such an action without great charge could be prosecuted, & how hard, yf not impossible it is to warre & spare at once, your Maiesties indifferent judgment I appeale vnto. But it is objected, that
tyme is to be respected, otherwise that two Inglands were vnable for such a continuall charge; wherevnto I might say, that tymes & houres of all things are onely in god his knowledge & appointment, yet in this cause soe certeine lykelyhoods his goodnes had affoorded me, as within two yeares space I durst haue limited vpon pawne of my lyfe, to haue throughly ended these broyles, reformed the state, & settled such a Gouvernement, as in fewe yeares after the charges should haue bene well repayed, in case your Highnes had helde on your resolute beginnyng. But when before one half yeare fully expired, your Maiestie grieued with the warre by reason of the charge, beganne to thinck the tyme long, & too esteeme of no seruice, bycause all was not done at once, nor God his pleasure, to haue that that was done to light on the chiefest, and settled in that concept, fell to temporizing & pardoning them, whome
your warre had now brought to that exigent, as by th'ende of this winter of necessitie they must haue famished, fought, or yielded to your mercye; here, with humblenes & all submission I speake it, was the ouerthrow of the seruice, & making vayne of all former cost & trauayle. for by this proceeding the onely shewe of good was the taking in of such of them, as had most welth & lyuing, & whose bodies were by age or other accident growen vnable, the younger sort & men of action in the meane while standing out were relieued by these, & so the worke brought in maner to the same state, that at the beginnyng yt was: their abettours and fauorers herevpon so comforted & emboldened, as where before warily & with great heede they affoorded them succour & reliefe, now carelessly euen at noone dayes they sticked not to accompany **** & harbour them: on the contrary syde the trewe man & dutifull Subiecte, that had either serued on them, or discouered any theyr conspiracies, became all amated, resting doubtfull of defence, & casting sure ac- coumpt of malitious reuenge. If now to this your Hig
hnes shall for proffitts sake adde cassing of your bands here, the slippery hould of these lately taken in people, the generall conspiracie now last descried, the peace

the peace still threatning warres of Tirlogh, the arrogant & disobedient carriage of Clanrichard his sonnes & Ororick, the insolency of the Oconnors, Moores, & Cauanaghes, the rebellious action of Desmond Barry, & their accomplices, not reckoning Baltinglasse, nor William Nugent, theise thinges I say weighed, the stay and bitt to all which is onely your force, & not duety nor good will your Highnes can accoumpt of, I feare that eare two yeares come about, such sparing will proue costly husbandry, ether in treble expences, or losse of the stocke. The Lord make me a false Prophete, or els inspire your Maiestie not to trye it. It is not Madam any
priuate commoditie (God I take to record) that carrieth me to this decla-
ration in my iustifying, wherein no fauour or pardon will I craue,
neither that I haue bene lesse carefull to serue your lyking in proffitt,
then any other that hath borne the place, so farre forth as your honour
& good of this poore countrey hath not commen therewith in balaunce; and
yet in that sort too, by indifferent Auditt, I little feare to be fownd
a prodigall or retchlesse Factour. I haue not perchaunce looked so narroly
into matters of accoumpt, & the Ministers thereof, as the cause might
require, & your Highnes expecte: to be borne with therein, not vniustly I
humbly craue; for care thereof & willingnes wanted not, but hablenes to
tend to that, & answere the infinitenes of the other seruice, which the generall
trouble of this land required, was not in me; what thus onely discharge
of duety hath exacted of me, I most humbly craue to bee as æqually and
fauorably taken & considered, as it is reuerently & zelously intended, &
all submitted to your Highnes good pleasure.
Further whereas by part of your Maiesties instructions vnto me by Mr
Fenton, your will is I should make peace by what meanes soeuer, surely
Madam to make you an honorable & sownd peace some tyme yt will aske,
& your warre the onely meanes. If præsentnes of tyme & charge bee
respected, & honour with more adventure sett asyde, of such a peace th'only
way, that I can see, is this: Your Highnes must reuoke all exceptions in your

Generall pardon, free all Rebelles from the highest to the lowest, restore
them to all their landes & Seignories, admit no English Gouernour of
Prouince, interrupt nor call to accoumpt no Irish Captein of countrey
or chiefe of Sept, permit their willes to be lawe, & lustes Reason,
lastly your Highnes self to bee contented with the English pale, or somuch thereof
as the Irish borderers will suffer you to enioy, & herewith the name of
Queene; this Madam betwixt God & me, is th'only meanes of a present
Peace: to which yet as I see no reason for any to advise your Highness so I must confesse my daring farre lesse to undertake th'executing of yt. Pardon me therefore I most humbly beseeche your Maiestie though I haue not followed that your Highnes direction; the glory of God, your Highnes honour, & well willing to a trew reformation of this most forwandered state, are the causes of yt./

Our distresse is here great for want of money, & such as if your Maiestie haue not care to see yt relieued, hardly will the Souldier be conteyned in duety, & from other great disorders. Weigh I beseech your Highnes the inconvenience of yt; yf extremity pressed not, I would not surely trouble your Highnes with so dislyked a suit, as I fynd craue of pay to bee.

So with a priuate most humble petition I will end, that yt will please you to haue consideration of my self, who fynding himself greatly in health decayed, for the discharge of the seruice, besydes the hardnes of his happe to content your Maiesty in the same, most humbly beseecheth with your fauour to be called home. The Lorde of Lordes euer kepe and continew in all happines your Maiestie Dublin the vjth of Nouember 1581.

Yowr hyghnes most faythefull subiect & humble seruant,

Arthur Grey
Note on hands
The text of the letter and the address are written in Spenser's formal italic hand, characteristic of these letters from Grey to the Queen. Grey has added his own subscription and signature in his usual style. The endorsement, presumably added during the filing process in London, is in a later hand.

*50 sort] 'sort' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
*55 ••••] 'them' deleted

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