

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/2
Grey to the Privy Council, 3 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the right Honorable
my very good **Lords** &
otheres of her Highnes
privie Councill. /

Lords

3 Ianuary 1581

From **the Lord** Deputye

Entred

Text

May yt please your **Lordships**; In a late **lett**re written from your **Lordships**
I am expressly required (as by direction from her **Maiestie** that
of the threasure then assigned for this land 15000^{li} should bee
converted onely to pay bandes & other companies discharged & to bee
cassed & not to other vses **without** apparaunt necessitie, & **the** residue
being but 5000^{li} to bee imprested to **the** Souldieres contynuinge
still in service and to answeere all other growing charges; For
my part conferring now **with the** Councill vpon th'arrivall of
the threasure **which** way her **Maiesties** said direccion might bee **performed**
and this poore miserable Army somewhat comforted And fynding
by informacion of the Threasurer, how farre his word & credit
is engaged for great Summes, to bee repayed vpon tharrivall of
this threasure, of the **which the** most were borrowed in ready money
vpon vrgent necessity of the service, & the rest rysing for pro-
visions bought **with** the dewes to some poore Townes, that to their
vtter vndoing (**without** payment) haue borne **the** fynding of **the** Soldier
(in **which** number especially Maryburgh & Philipstowne may bee
reckoned) I see not (**without** borrowing somewhat of **the** said direccion{ }
how th'one of these ij extremities might bee avoyded, either **the**
Souldieres to bee lefte to a hazard of mutinie & disorder (**which**
hethervnto hath bene **with** great difficultie prevented) or elles
the **Threasureres** word & credit to bee broken, **which** sure cannot but
bring many inconveniences to the service, **which** is seeldome **without**
necessitie of borrowing, besides his particulare discomfort.
Therefore yf for **the** preventing of these evilles, & not to make
desperate the hope of the Souldieres, that haue so long expected

I bee driven to apply to theis vses some 3000^{li} of the said Sum
restreyned, yt may please* your Lordships in acquainting her Maiestie with our
extremities to bee a meane that her Highnes interprete me not
to doe any thing therein in contempt or neglect of her Maiesties
will & Commaundement, but as compelled by the very force & nature
of the present necessities here. for truly vpon casting downe
the money for the present pay, and dividing the same into shares
and portions, wee fynde that impresting one monethes pay
to the garrizons in Leynster & Vlster, with my self & the other
Chief Officeres, without relieving the other remote partes the
whole remayne of the said 5000^{li} will not suffice the said
Allottement, and yett the Souldier neither clothed, nor his credit
answered, which bee ij Aduersities so great and daungerous, as how

farre they may tempt and provoke men so long dis-
contented, I leave to your Lordships to discern & iudg, being
for myne owne part so ouerpestered with the claymoures of the
Army, (which I cannott but confesse to bee iust) & followed
still with other Crosses, which I see this gouernement cannott eschew
that I must more & more importune your Lordships to move
her Maiestie for my revocacion, and to make choyce of some
other whome her Highnes thincketh better hable to menage
and weeld so great a burden and Crosse. And so I
Committ your Lordships to the goodnes of th'Almighty. At
Dublin, the third of Ianuary. 1581./

Your Lordships assured to Commaund,

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

The address and the text of the letter are in Spenser's familiar secretary hand. The signature is Grey's usual italic mark. The endorsement, in a later hand, was probably added when the letter was filed in London.

* 28 please] 'please' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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