

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/39
Grey to the Queen, 25 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent Maiesty
To hir Maiestie

25. Ianuarie. 1581.
From the Lord Grey, Lord De=
putie of Ireland.
Answere to hir Maiesties lettres
vnto him of the .12. of De=
cember: towchyng the
reducynge of hir garri=
son there to 3000 and
his bestowyng of the re=
bels lands in custodiam on
diuerse seruitors there.
Entred.

Text

Your Highnes lettre of the xijth of December last I receiued not till the date hereof: neuerthesse vpon priuate aduertizement & direction from Mr Secretary a weeke before had, the contentes of the same touching the reducing of your forces here to 3000, & cassing of the rest, was entred into, & order taken for yt, as by a Booke herewith sent to your Highnes sayd Secretary 5
in particulare may appeare; & God I call to record, how farre from me any other cause was in the forbearing hetherto th'accomplishing of the same then onely care & safety of your state here, the reasons wherefore seeming so light & weake to your Maiesty I beseech th'Almighty cause so in falling out to proue, that the contrary approue them not too worthy of better 10
regard, & so humbly I yield. Now where by the rest of your Highnes letter I fynd yt enformed agaynst me, that the greatest part of the Rebelles Landes, are by Custodiams bestowed vpon sondry persons, no proffitt thereof arysing to your Maiesty to the easing of your charges; in trouth Madam nether is true: for not a fowrth part of them is bestowed, nor 15
yett those that are, otherwise then with reseruatioun to your Maiesty of such a Rent, as your Commission for survey shall sett; so that hereby in case the Custodiams by me giuen were by your Maiesty confirmed in lease for xxj yeares, your onely losse is the fyne, which surely the tickle hold & vse of land here, as dayes now are, & the generall extreme pouerty with all 20

weighed, can growe to no great accoumpt. I say not this to colour or
extenuate any thing by me herein doen, faulty I graunt yt may bee,
without euill or vntrew meaning I must with humblenes euer avowe it{.}
And though priuie malice fretting at others good, bycause theyr selues
may not attayne accustomed whole prayes, hath by credit & fauour
about your Maiesty (whose setting vp hath come by commodity of offices,
& therefore the readier by them selues to measure & coniecture of
me) so aggrauated this my simple stray (yf any it bee) & mere
gaynesse crime; yet yf the most fauorable promise, it pleased your
Highnes at my leaue taking to affoord, bee held, namely that no beleefe
should take place agaynst me, without first being heard to speake,
I nothing doubt, but theyr owne corrupt information, yf face will
serue them to maynteyne yt, shall playnely bewray the maske of

theyr envy, & cleare the syncerenes of my meaning in eache part of
your Highnes service. Yf your Maiesties officer here may not as well re=
ward as punish, surely small regard shalbee had of him, & thereafter
will his seruice fall out; though for my part in that, that is to come
I will præcisely follow your restreynt, as also certefy the Survey, so
soone as possibly it may bee taken; & for the past, how and what is by mee
graunted, I haue fully imparted to Mr Secretary both landes & goods.
Wherewith yf your Maiesty shall fynd cause to rest still offended, great
griefe yt must bring me, pardon I craue, & submitt my self to your
good pleasure. But for that the bruit of this your Highnes dislyke, and a
more truste* reposed in other here hath brought me into such discredit
with all, & so amated & distracted me in my self as nether powre nor
sence is lefte me to hold on the seruice, I most humbly beseeche your Highnes
in commiseration of my priuate, but espetially in regard of your owne
service, to free me, & appoynt hether some other, that better to your
content & auayle of this your state, may discharge the place. So the
liuing God bee alwayes your Maiesties directour & Protectour.
Dublin. 25^o Ianuary. 1581. /

Yowr Hyghnes most humble seruant
& faythefull subiect

Arthur Grey

Note on hands

As in formal letters from Grey to the Queen (see e.g. 63/78/29), the text and address of this letter are in Spenser's formal italic hand. Grey has added his own subscription and signature. The endorsement, probably added during filing of the letter in London, is in a later hand.

* **44 truste•]** Single character (illegible) deleted.

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