

NA (PRO) SP 63/89/11
Grey et al. to the Privy Council, 4 February 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the right Honorable **our** very good
Lords & others of her
Maiesties privie Councell

Yeue this /

4. februarij 1581
from the **Lord** Deputy and
counsell of Irlande

Entred

Text

Maie it please Your **Lordshipes** Having this daie receaued her **Maiesties** **lettre** of the xxvijth of Ianuary Directed to me the **Lord** Deputie. I haue according the contentes therof, vpon consultacion had **with** the residue of her **Maiesties** Councell heare, sett downe an other cashe of seven hondered men to beginne the last of this Moneth: And where for the more speadie easinge of her **Maiesties** burden (**which** wee cane not but be sorrye that her **highnes** findeth to waigh so heavie,) wee would haue restrained the daie of the Cashe to a shorter tyme, Yet consideringe booth the distaunce of the waies (some of them being in the furthest **partes** of Mounster) and no money remayning to satisfie their paies, wee were driven to extend the tyme so farr for avoiding of harmes and mutynies **which** might ryse amongst Companies to be dischargd and no paie to be made to theim. Assuringe Your **Lordshipes** that yf wee had bine as well hable to satisfie them their waiges, as wee are willinge and readie to obey her **Maiesties** will to putt them owt of paie, the daie of their dischargd should haue bine too morrowe; For the **lettre** was not one hower in the handes of me the **Lord** Deputie, but that I called a consultacion of the rest, whervpon wee **presentlie** agreed vpon this Dymynucion, wherof two hondered might **within** three daies haue bine dischargd and sent awaie yf there had bine money wher**with** to paie them: wee haue in a scedule herew**ith** named the Capteins of the vij^C nowe cashed and the provinces where they serued, Emonges **which** the three barwick bandes are thought meate to be retorned and to be sent to Chester there to expect her **maiesties** resolucion, whether they shalbe employed in

their ould place of garryson in Barwick, or otherwise seuered to 25
 the places of their byrth or former beinges, wherin wee praie your
 Lordshipes to haue your speadie direction. And that aboute all thinges your
 Lordshipes will consider of the certificat latelie sent by me the treasurer
 and mr Auditor, howe much treasor there wanteth for satisfieng
 of those formerlie dischargd, and adding thervnto the vij^c souldiours 30
 nowe cashed, to dispatch so much Money at the least as maie
 Necessarilie serue for dischargd of all the Nombres: For your Lordshipes maie
 consider the estate of the poore souldiours and howe hard it were for
 them to be dischargd withowt paye, carieng with it, besides slaunder
 to the state, eyther desperacion in the poore men causing them to 35
 come into some Disorder, orelles to falle into the dainger of famyn

and starvinge, or be driven to breake the lawes so soone as they
 sett foote in England to the disscoradginge of all other to be imployed
 in her Maiesties service: Of all which wee hartelie praie Your Lordshipes to 40
 haue regard. And that your willingnes to send treasor in a case
 of so great ymportance and necessitie. May answer our readines
 to obey the direction of her Maiestie and of your Lordshipes: For the sooner the
 treasour arryveh, the sooner shall this great chardge of her Maiestie
 cease, and till then we haue no waie to ease yt; vnlesse speciall
 order from her Maiestie or your Lordshipes be given us, that withowt any respecte 45
 the direction be executed, which receaued, god willinge shall not be
 Delayed: And so cravinge your Lordshipes speadie resolucion herein
 wee comytt the same most hartelie to almightie god: At
 Dublin quarto Februarij 1581

Your Lordshipes most assuredlie to commaunde: 50

Arthur Grey

Adam Dublin cancellarius

Henry Wallop

William bagenall Lucas Dillon Robert Dillon
 Edward Waterhous: Geffray Fenton

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Note on hands

The text of the letter is written in a fairly cramped but regular secretary hand (not Spenser's), distinctive for its bold up- and down-strokes. Spenser's familiar secretary hand appears in the address. The endorsement is in a fairly conservative secretary hand, with a few italic forms, and was probably added when the letter was being filed in London. The signatures concluding the letter, including Grey's, are autograph. The distinction between majuscule and miniscule forms in this hand is a particular problem. In our transcription we have in several cases been forced to choose rather arbitrarily; as these decisions do not much affect the sense of the letter, we hope they will not occasion overmuch anxiety.

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