

NA (PRO) SP 63/89/18

Copy of John Nugent's confession, 5 February 1581/2

Endorsements

Copy of Iohn Nugents
Confession.:/

Iohn Nugents
confession

.Lords.

The coppinge of Ihon Nugentes
confession.
5 February 1582.

Text

A playne Discourse aswell of William Nugentes
rebellious Actes as also of the search made for his youn-
gest sonne Christofer & also of his wife Gennett Mar-
wardes behaviour during the tyme of the Rebellion, where
in Ellen Plonkett wife to Nicholas Nugent is touched,
made & declared by Iohn Nugent hereafter particularly
ensueth. At the castle of Dublin the vth of February 1581 ./

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The first going out of William

1 First vpon thapprehencion of the Lord of Delvin, the said William Nugent

Nugent vpon **the** apprehension of **the Lord** his brother.

Edward Delahyde sendeth victelles to **William** Nugent. This **Edward** is taken but yet not thoroughly examyned, hee was my **Lord** of Delluins steward.* Piers Oconoghan since taken & his confession herewith* sent.

Edmond **Christofer** & **Robert** Bane Nugent & **Edmond** Faye./

Richard Nugent of Donnower./

being then in **the** Clonene, hearing say **that** **Captein** Bryan fitz Williams & **McStraunge** then Sheriefe was come thether to apprehend him he made an escape & tooke his said wife **with** him to a Castle **that** lyeth in Loghsiline in **the** Breny, **which** he purposed to defend against **the** Princes powre, & had victelles sent to him thether by Edward Delahide my **Lord** of Delvins Stuard out of **the** Clonene & from **the** Neighboures therevnto nere adioyning. Whose names I doe not perfectly know, by reason **that** I do dwell a farre of. **which** Edward & another of **the** Houshold servautes of **the** Clonene called Pieres o Connoghan are fled & gone out of **the** Countrey, for **the** said cause./

2 **Item** his wyfe being as he thought layed vp safely he sent to his base brother Edmond Nugent who then was a Horseman. & soone after he sould his Horses & caused **Christofer** Nugent, **Robert** Bane Nugent & his owne brother Edmond faye to sell their Horses **which** he gave them & to become kearne & they & ij of **the** Fayes viz **Robert** & **Edmond**, Cahell mac Gillese o Relye & the rest of Sleight •• ••••••••* Hee accompanied **the** said **William**, where euer he went.

3 **Item** it was spoken & bruted throughout **the** Countrey, that **the** said **Captein** would have lefte a ward in **the** Clonene & the said **William** assembled his people & was lurking about the Clonene afforesaid along while to prevent him: & **Richard** Nugent of Donnower was of **the** company, & as many men as he could make./

4 **Item** about **the** tyme **that** **Sir** Lucas Dillon knight &c & **Nicholas** Nugent then Iusticer went in Commission into **the** County of

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William Nugent - procureth
all the Nugents to breake out.

Iohn Cusack falsefieth this
in the Article 36./

Westmeath to appease the warre, the said William Nugent was a
Commen procurer of all the Nugentes in generall to Rebellion,
except Thomas Nugent of Dardestowne* & Levallen Nugent
of Dromcree, that would not bee ledde by him, vntill by the
good exhortacion of the said Sir Lucas & Nicholas they were
brydeled & stayed./

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Victellers of Castelton
send meat to William Nugent
This Castelton is belonging
to my Lord of Delvin.

5. Item vntill Sir Edward Mores coming into the country the said
William Nugent & his company were wont to lye at a woodde
called killmenekartagh, sometymes at the Bolly Roo, & Lavallen
Nugent of Dromcree his woodde of the Dirre, where they had
great fyres in the night, & victelles was sent to them by the
victellers of Castelton, viz Thomas Bane, Teig o Balrey,
Edmond Browne, & William Fernane./

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The Oconnoures & others com
bine with William Nugent.

6 Item at which tyme the Oconnoures viz Patrickes sonnes, viz Teig, &
Briene, & Lisagh Oconnoures sonnes, Brian Magoghan, his
brother Coule & his Cossen Calvagh Magoghan appointed
Clonefaddy in Ferrebille as a meeting place for William Nugent
to come vnto them, & there they combyned together & it was
concluded betwene them, that William Nugent, Brien Magoghan,
Sir Nicholas Eustace & a few more should goe into the North
Edmond Nugent & his company to goe to ORorick his country
& the Oconnoures to remayne about the great more, of purpose
to th'end that they might draw the Irish lordes to come & disturbe
the English Pale, where they remayned a long tyme./

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Purpose fayled, for Pro-

{7.}* Item the said William Nugent procured his base brother Edmond

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teccion could neuer be graunte{d}	Nugent to come before him into the Country, & to make suitt for a Proteccion, vnto th'end that he might have liberty to come into the Country, so as he might bee a Procurer of the country people to goe with him: at which tyme Edmond Nugent sonne to Gerrott Nugent & as many men as he could make, was perswaded to goe with him; And when soeuer that they had heard of his Coming from the North, to send to the Oconnoures, and they all to meete vpon the great More.	65
Garrett Nugents sonne.		
Iohn Cusack taketh an oth of the Confederates.	{8} Item during which tyme Iohn Cusack now Prisoner wrought with the Gentlemen & Heires of the Pale, that they might bee furtherers of the holy cause now in hand, as they tearmed yt, And his maner was to take a Corporall othe of ech one that made him promise that they would doe & bee ledde by William Nugent their generall in whatsoever entreprize he would take in hand. and bycause I was neuer required to bee of the number of them, that wrought the Conspiracy against the Prince, I doe not know what they pretended to doe, but what I heard by the Common brute of others. And therefore I referre that to the said Iohn Cusack, who knoweth most of all men thereof.	70
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William Nugent doubteth Oneill./	9 Item when yt was motioned that my Lord Deputy would goe into the North the said William Nugent came vp from thence bycause he stood in doubt of Oneill and he dispersed his	people &
The Rebelles sever them selves.	People, & went but a fewe in company, whereof Patrick Cusack & another Iohn Cusack were euer two that went with	85

him in his company, & **the** rest were dispersed as followeth.
viz Cahir Beddy oReily, who supplied Cahill **mac** Gillese rownie
was alwaies succored in Fertullagh; Edmond Nugent,
moriertagh **mac** lysagh & Christofer Nugent remayned in the
Countray & tooke meat & drinck violently wheresoeuer they came./

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Piers Boy Nugent telleth
th'examine of **william** Nugent.
wherevpon he speaketh
with him./

10 Item yt was my vnfortunate Chaunce, that as I had occasion
to goe to **the** Towne of Coilladogherane, I went through **the**
towne of Maxeston, & there it fortuneth **that** I mett Pieres boy
Nugent of **the** same, who told me, **that** **William** Nugent & Edmond
mac gilleteane Harper lay in his Barne & he would gladly
have spoken **with** me: to whome I made answeere & said, that I
durst not goe to him; & he said **that** I should not need to
feare. by whose **persuasion** I went in. And emongst all other
Communicacion **the** said **William** said, **that** he was litle behoulding
to his vnclcs & kinsmen, **which** gave him nothing, & was at their
owne Ease at Home, & he driven to travell into farre countreies
& that it should not be long so. And said he is it possible, **that**
you should shifte me 20 or 40 Banlavase of rough Canvas
to make me a Tent to lye in, in **the** Night. No indeed, said I,
yt is not possible for me to gett so much Canvas, but that
yt should bee knowen by mee, but I have a Caliver, and
a Flaske **which** Captein Crase gave me, and I will bring
yt you at Night, and a small bottle to carry some Aqua
vite about you, and according to promise I brought the
Calliver & **the** rest **the** Night following./

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11 Item I being in company **with** the said **William** & Edmond in
the Barne aforesaid, yt fortuneth **that** a litle before supper
Iohn Cusack came in, being before in **the** English pale. and

the same William reioysed greatly at his Coming. and as he
beganne to tell newes of the Pale, they stood both a litle
besyde, & they had long Communicacion together, & what they
said, I know not. but Iohn Cusack spake of a Monday,
and said William, say not so, keepe that to your self, and by all
lykelyhode yt was some meeting day, that was betwene
the Conspiratoures./

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Nicholas Nugent & his
wife come vp towards
William Nugent.

12 Item when supper was doen, we went all fowre to a litle
grove of wood, that lyeth vpon the land of Maxeston, and
there we lay vntill yt was towardes day: at which place &
tyme the said Iohn Cusack began to tell to the said William that
his wife was somewhat crased. and that his vncl Nicholas
& his mother Ellen were coming vpon the morrow after
into the Countrey to fynd out his sonne Christofer; & tould

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him, that the said Nicholas was bownd to bring him
in by a day, or to submitt his body to the castle, where-
vnto the said William answered, that it was lesse force, that he
should remayne there awhile, then that he should have
iij pledges from him, signifying my Lord of Delvin his brother
his wife & his childe. what said Iohn Cusack, will ye seeme
to be so vnkynd to your vncl, that ye will suffer him ly
in prison for a childe, & cannot tell how long he will live.
no doe not so, said Iohn Cusack, for it is the mother of the
childes pleasure that the Child bee sent in, in hope to gett her
self sett at Liberty: for I saw a lettre written with her owne
hand of that effect with her mother to the childes fosterfather. &

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William Nugent refuseth
to deliuer in his child.

have not you seene it as yett: no indeed said William I saw yt
not, & yf I had seene it, yt shall not be hable to persuade me to
putt in the childe. But in this sort yf I can gett my wife
inlarged, & at myne owne will, I wilbe contented to send in
any of both my sonnes & not otherwise. which argument was
mislyked of by the said Cusack & me.

William Nugent meeteth with
Ellen Plonkett at Richard
Crosses house.
The said Ellen is wyfe
to Nicholas Nugent late
Iustice & mother to
Iennett of Skryne
wyfe to William Nugent.
This Crosse is fled.

{ 13 } Item at the breake of the day we removed from that place to
another place called Bolly roo, & Iohn Cusack said I promised
to mete Ellen Plonkett to day at Killowa, & yf you will I
will bring her to some convenient place, where you may
have speach together; I wilbe glad thereof said William & there
they concluded to mete at Richard Crosses howse in Castelton
& thether they came both vpon the said Cusackes draught the
night following: & what Company they had, or how they did
behave them selues, I doe not know, by reason that I was not present
and I referre that to Walter Porter now prisoner, who was
then present. But yt fortunied after that I mett the said Crosse*
who tould me that yt was through the night, that my Mistris Ellen
Plonkett came to his house, & that he was constrayned to flie
from the same: how hapned that, said I? yt hapned said he, that
she would needes goe to the great Castle, & thether came William
Nugent & Tadee Noland in his company; and they had con-
ference together; and I have vndoen my self (quod he) that I follo-
wed not Sir Edward mores Counsell when he would have me to
goe to Dublin.

{ 1 }4 Item vpon the morrow after her being at Castleton she came
as farre as the wodde of Ballinvealle & there lighted, & yt

Ellen Plonkett deliuereth
to thexamine a **lett**re from
Iennet of Skryne mentioned
in the 12th former Article.

was my fortune to heare of my **Master** Nicholas Nugentes coming
to Dromcree, and thether I went, & being standing **with** him
awhile there he willed me to ryde forward towards **Ballin-**
vealle, & to bidde his wyfe to stay for him; and I did so. And
there she deliuered mee the **lett**re mencioned before by Iohn Cusack
and she told me how my **Master** was vexed for **William** Nugentes youngest
sonne: and therevpon she willed me to goe **with the lett**re to Hubert

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Faye,

who as she said brought away **the** childe from kilkarne.
& bycause I knew of **William** Nugentes •••* mynd before, I said
yt was but in vayne for me to goe thether, and **that** vnlesse it
pleased his father that **the** child would not bee had.

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Iohn Plonkett &
Oliuer.

Thomas **mac** Shane
Orely./

15 **Item** soone after my said **Master** Nicholas Nugent & his brother Oliuer
came **present**, & then they mused what was best to doe therein
& in the end they concluded to goe to Iohn Plonkett of Bally
Loghcreawe, & he to worke **with** our Thomas **mac** Shian Orely
who is an alter to **William** Nugent, to gett **the** childe, & we lighted
on a hill aboue Bally Loghcreaw: & I was sent to **the** said Iohn
Plonkett to require him to come forth, & to speake **with** his cosen
Ellen Plonkett, **that** staid for him on **the** hill ouer **the** towne; & thether
came he & fownd her there: & being in **communicacion** together, **Nicholas**
Nugent came thether, who went a while in **the** way **with** his
brother Oliuer; & after he had lighted they began to talke of
the childe: in somuch **that** Iohn Plonkett said **that*** it lay not in **Thomas**
mac Shian to gett **the** child, vnles yt pleased **the** father. &
when I heard him say so, I said, yf you will keepe counsell

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Nicholas Nugent & Oliuer
speake for **William** Nugents
child.

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of me, I will presume to goe to his father, & I will showe him his wives handwryting, & then I hope he wilbe moved to cause the childe to bee sent in./

William Nugent at the house of Gerrott Nugent in Fower./

16 Item this being doen, I traveiled so farre vntill I came to Fowre, & I fownd William Nugent in Gerrott Nugentes chamber in fower afforesaid, & I shewed him his wives lettre concerning the childe, who answered that he would not assent, that the childe should be deliuered, vnlesse he could gett his wife sett at liberty. which answer I repeated at my retourne./

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Another lettre from. Iennett of Skryne for her Childe.

17 Item soone after I received another lettre by William Miller of kilkarne, which was subscribed by William Nugentes wife, and directed to Hubert fay concerning the said childe; & I told the said fay of the tenour thereof; who answered that one Robert fay by William Nugentes appointment brought the child from kilkarne & not he, which lettre is forthComing./

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Ellen Plonkett sends money to the traitour william Nugent

18 Item vpon relacion made by me of William Nugentes wantes and lacke of money, Ellen Plonkett deliuered me ij^{li} in money, which I sent to him after by Bryen mac gillhev{e}ike* his footboy./

fermanagh is maguyers cuntrie

19 Item when all practizes could not fynd out the child, the said Ellen Plonkett disposed her self to make search for him in the Breny, & went as farre as lough roue. & I went with her & there we learned that the child was sent to a countrey called fearr managh, and there as it is said remayneth./

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	The traiterous Actes giuen me to be * vnderstand and by whome particularly enseweth./	215
Maguyre promised to ioyne.	20 First William Nugent tould me that Maguire promised to send him iij ^{xx} shott & targett men vpon his owne proper charges, when soeuer that he would attempt to doe any harme to the English Pale	220
The Priour & Art Oneill consented.	21 Item he told me that the Priour Oneill & Art Oneill with as many men as they can make, promised to assist him in this Rebellion, & he told me also that he did send vnto them alredy and that their answeere was, that they would not hazard them selues nor their men vntill the said William had begonned the warre & donne some harme of him self.	225
William Nugent made Generall of the Pale by the Popes authority. which sheweth further that this Rebellion was intended before any apprehencion of matter meantt against the Lord his bro ther or him self.	22 Item the said William told me that vpon the death of Iames fitz Morish the pope of Rome made Sir Iohn of Desmond Generall & furtherer of the holy cause, so by him termed and the said Sir Iohn gave him the same Authority to bee Generall of the English pale./	230
	23 Item he tould me that yt was partly through his meane that the pray of Breacklure was taken	
Practize to intercept Sir Nicholas Malbey.	24 Item the said William tould me that he lay in an Amboishment at killareteary for Captein Malbey, thincking that by taking him he should purchase him self a Pardon	235
	25 He saith that Ellen tould him that she had talked with	

William Nugent in the great castle at Castleton.
He saith further that he thincketh vpon his conscience
that Nicholas Nugent knew that Ellen spake with William as
is afforesaid 240

Written by
Mr Secretary
Fenton./*

26 He confesseth that William Nugent told him, that a litle befo{re}
Michaelmas last, the Baron Delvin wrote a lettre to
the said William of this tenour: viz lett the poore man enioy
his shepe, or elles you doe him great wrong. This lettre 245
William answered in this sort. viz, yf yt had bene a Shepe
that had bene scabbed, yt had bene better he should haue
perished, then the whole flock.

This lettre was
written in the name
of fraunces Hamon
& directed to Laurence
Hamon but meant
to the Lord of Delvin./*

27 Another lettre at the same tyme the said William shewed to the xami
nate conteyning this matter, viz the worke that I haue taken 250
in hand, I cannot as yett go through with it, for that nether the
stones nor Masons are ready nor lyme burnt. And therefore
we must wayt a tyme. This was written with William his
owne hand./.

Signed vnderneath with 251
Iohn Nugentes owne hand
wherewith all the rest was written

Note on hands

The main text of this document is neatly written in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, and the annotations, running down the left margin of each page, are in Spenser's mixed hand. That Grey personally checked these annotations is indicated by the second of them, where he has added a final phrase ('hee was my Lord of Delluins steward.') in his distinctive hand. The original endorsement is almost certainly in Spenser's mixed hand, and the others, added later, in distinct italic scripts.

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- * **Annotation hee was my Lord of Delluins steward.]** this phrase added to Spenser's marginal annotation in Grey's hand.
 - * **Annotation herewith]** a long oblique line pointing to this underscored word appears in the left margin below it.
 - * **26]** 'he accompanied' deleted.
 - * **38 Dardestowne]** 'Dardestowne' annotated in the text with a small cross.
 - * **60 {7.}]** most of this number, and the '8' that presumably heads the next paragraph, have been subsumed into the binding.
 - * **156 Crosse]** this word is annotated in the text with a small cross.
 - * **175]** 'wife' deleted.
 - * **189 that]** 'that' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **209 gillhev{e}ike]** the unclear letter in this word was apparently smudged in the writing.
 - * **215 be]** 'be' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.
 - * **Annotation Written by Mr Secretary Fenton./]** a bracket connected to this note takes in articles 25, 26, and 27.
 - * **Annotation Delvin./]** a hand (or index) has been drawn in the left margin, pointing to this note.

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