Endorsements

Copy of Iohn Nugent's confession.

The copye of Iohn Nugent's confession.
5 February 1582.

Text

A playne Discourse aswell of William Nugent's rebellious Actes as also of the search made for his youngest sonne Christofer & also of his wife Gennett Marwardes 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.

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 Deluins steward. Piers Oconoghan since taken & his confession herewith sent.

Edmond Christofer & Robert Bane Nugent & Edmond Faye./

Richard Nugent of Donnowre./

being then in the Clonene, hearing say that Captein Bryan fitz Williams & McStraunge then Sherifie 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 Neighbours therevnto nere adioyning. Whose names I doe not perfectly know, by reason that I do dwell a farre of. which Edward & another of the Houshould servauntes 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 aforesaid along while to prevent him: & Richard Nugent of Donnowre 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
William Nugent - procureth all the Nugents to breake out.
John Cusack falsefieth this in the Article 36.

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

The Oconnoures & others combine with William Nugent.

Purpose fayled, for Pro-

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.

5. Item vntill Sir Edward Mores coming into the countrey 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 victelleres of Castelton, viz Thomas Bane, Teig o Balrey, Edmond Browne, & William Fernane.

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 countrey & 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.

{7.} Item the said William Nugent procured his base brother Edmond
Nugent to come before him into the Countrey, & to make suitt for a Proteccion, vnto th'end that he might have liberty to come into the Countrey, so as he might bee a Procurer of the countrye 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.

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 whatsoeuer entreprize he would take in hand. and bycause I was neuere 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 otheres. And therefore I referre that to the said Iohn Cusack, who knoweth most of all men thereof.

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 &

People, & went but a fewe in company, whereof Patrick Cusack & another Iohn Cusack were euere two that went with
Piers Boy Nugent telleth th'examine of William Nugent, wherevpon he speaketh with him.

him in his company, & the rest were dispersed as followeth. viz Cahir Beddy oReily, who supplyed Cahill mac Gillese rownie was alwaies succored in Fertullagh; Edmond Nugent, moriertagh mac lysagh & Christofer Nugent remayned in the Countrey & tooke meat & drink violently wheresoever they came.

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 fortuned 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 answere & said, that I durst not goe to him; & he said that I should not need to feare. by whose persuasian I went in. And emongst all other Communicacion the said William said, that he was little 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 known 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.

11 Item I being in company with the said William & Edmond in the Barne aforesaid, yt fortuned that a little before supper John Cusack came in, being before in the English pale.
the same William rejoysed greatly at his Coming, and as he beganne to tell newes of the Pale, they stood both a little byside, & 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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12 Item when supper was doen, we went all fowre to a little 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 vncle 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 vncle, 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 childe fosterfather. &

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

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 my 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.

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 Castleton & 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 fortuned 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 conference together; and I have vndone my self (quod he) that I followed not Sir Edward mores Counsell when he would have me to goe to Dublin.

Item vpon the morrow after her being at Castleton she came as farre as the wodde of Ballinvealle & there lighted, & yt
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 Ballinvealle, & to bidde his wyfe to stay for him; and I did so. And there she deliuered mee the lettre mentioned before by John Cusack and she told me how my Master was vexed for William Nugentes youngest sonne: and thereupon she willed me to goe with the lettre to Hubert 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.

15 Item soon 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 John 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 John 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 John 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
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 be sent in. 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 be sent in.

16 Item this being done, I traveled so farre vntill I came to Fowre, & I found 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, vndlesse he could gett his wife sett at liberty. which answere I repeated at my retourne.

17 Item soone after I received another lettre by William Miller of kikarne, 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 kikarne & not he, which lettre is forthcoming.

18 Item vpon relacion made by me of William Nugentes wantes and lacke of money, Ellen Plonkett deliuiered me iijl in money, which I sent to him after by Bryen mac Gillhev(e)ike* his footboy.

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 roure. & 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.
Maguyre promised to ioyne.

The Prio & Art Oneill consented.

William Nugent made Generall of the Pale by the Popes authority.

The traiterous Actes giuen me to be vnderstand and by whome particularly enseweth.

20 First William Nugent told me that Maguire promised to send him iijxx shott & targett men vpon his owne proper charges, when soeuer that he would attempt to doe any harme to the English Pale.

21 Item he told me that the Prioir 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 answere was, that they would not hazard them selues nor their men vntill the said William had begonne the warre & donne some harme of 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./

23 Item he told me that yt was partly through his meane that the pray of Breacklure was taken.

24 Item the said William told me that he lay in an Amboishment at killareteary for Captein Malbey, thincking that by taking him he should purchase him self a Pardon.

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

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 enjo
his shepe, or elles you doe him great wrong. This lettre
William answered in this sort. viz, yt had bene a Shepe
that had bene scabbed, yt had bene better he should haue
perished, then the whole flock.

27 Another lettre at the same tyme the said William shewed to thexami
nate conteyning this matter, viz the worke that I haue taken
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
John 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 Delliuns 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.
Annotation hee was my Lord of Delleins 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 [?] 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 gilheve[like] 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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