

**NA (PRO) SP 63/91/22**  
*Grey to the Privy Council, 12 April 1582*

**Address and Endorsement**

To the right Honorable  
the **Lords** & otheres of  
her **Maiesties** pryve  
Councell yeue  
                                  this

**Lords**  
12 April. 1582  
From the **Lord** Deputy  
Entred.

**Text**

Maie yt please your **Lordshipes** Since the comyttinge of **Nicholas** Nugent and Edward Cusack  
I haue bine much labored booth by theimselues and Frindes that they might be chardged  
and brought to tryall, And for that cause the ordinarie Sessions beinge now houlden  
at Tryme **which** is **within** the Countie where they inhabite and where their conspiracies  
and traytarous Councelles were wrought, I thought it the fytttest tyme for their  
**Arraigementes** booth for the Aptnes of the place and ease of the Countrey being assembled  
for the other seruice of the quarter Sessions and gaiole Deliuerie: Besides I  
remembred by the experience of the termes before, howe much the Iurours and **apparaunt**{...}<sup>\*</sup>  
of the countrey grudged to be so longe Deteyned and so farr from their hoames {...}  
their owne chardges in the action of tryalles and Atteindures, and yet for want {of}  
sufficient tyme to fynishe all, manie surceassed and were referred to the ter{me}

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followinge: For thies reasons principallie **with** others materiallie tendinge {to}  
 the same end, after consultacion had **with** the Councell, I caused to be made a speciall  
 commission, Naminge therin as asistautes and commissioners **with** the other Iudges, certe{n}  
 of the privey Councell, and **with** them I went in parson and satt vpon the benche to 15  
 see Iustice more equallie mynistred and their tryalles to passe **with** that sincearitie  
 and integritie as apperteined: And for that aswell the Propper conscience of  
 the Prisoners might be satisfied as the myndes of the Iurours throwlie induced and  
 instructed, and no occacion of skrupull or Downt left to the generall multitude  
 of People that thither was resoarted, I caused to be caried thither Iohn Cusack 20  
 vpon whose declaracions rested the greatest matter of evidence and obiections to be  
 handled against them, who as at the first simplie and freelie did Disclose  
 what he knewe of their treasons and consentes thervnto, So now standing to confronte  
 them in open Courte, He Did **with** the same constancye and freedome of mynde as  
 at first, affirme and confirme the whole and full of his former accusacions **without** 25  
 varyenge or alteringe so lytle as might giue cause to make him suspected of  
 vntruthe or **partialitie**: And albeit there were added to his Declaracions manie  
 other probabilities and circomestances verie materiall to enforce the treason, yet  
 the prisoners being obstinat and Willfull occupieng the tyme in Defendinge and  
 Denyenge, Did all they could by weake and frivolous **presumpcions** to falsefie the 30  
 affirmacions Neuertheles the Iurye being caried **with** the apparaunt truthe of the  
 evidence and some of them knowinge in their privat conscience that the prisoners  
 were farr from that Innocencye they **pretended**, after they were resolued of some  
**particuler** Dowtes in lawe by some of the Iudges and Councell licensed to goe  
 to them for that purpose, they founde booth the prisoners guiltie of highe 35  
 treason and for suche condemned them by seuerall verdites whervpon the  
 Court proceaded to giue Iudgement of death of them booth: But for that {...}  
 ••••• Nugent\* being as it seamed vehementlie labored by the spirite and inward sugg{...}  
 of his owne conscience, Did even at the barre the Courte yet syttinge and in  
 the hearinge of so great a multitude standing by, submytt himself to\* her **Maiesties** 40  
 mercie confessinge there the Indictment and euery **parte** therof to be true **which** he hath  
 also subscribed vnder his hande, And remembringe **with**hall howe vprightlie he had

toofore caried himself being returned foreman of a Iurye and not spared in  
that seruice those whose offence was non other then his owne I thought  
not Amiss to pardon his lief not Dowting but by the experience and fealinge  
of this affliction, He wilbe hereafter renewed to a better estate and course of  
lyef, and to doe to her Maiestie some acceptable seruice to repaire this his offence

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and requite the mercye But for Nicholas Nugent who reteyned still his former  
obstinacye and yet acknowledged privatlie to Mr Waterhowse and Mr Secretorie  
Fenton so much of the treason as verified and made good all the other partes of  
John Cusackes Declaracion, I thought that to a mynde so yll disposed to submytt  
and confesse his falte at full, the guifte of lief was booth vniust and vnworthie  
and therefore thought it better to make an example of him to the terrour of  
others of his sorte, And heare I thought not Amisse to giue to your Lordshipes this  
specyall note towching his Aptnes to be of the Combynacion with the other  
Conspiratours, for that being her Maiesties chief Iustice of the common plees and sworne  
of her priuey Councill heare, And being throwen into a deape Discontentment  
for being Deposed of two so apparaunt callinges, Adding heareto his wonted  
Disposicion to repine at and impugne her Maiesties prerogatiue as was not manie  
yeres past tryed to his punishment, And being withall vnclie to William Nugent  
nowe in Rebellyon, and husband to the mother of the Baroness of Skrene wief  
to the said William, And seing lastlie howe generallie the whole howse  
of the Nugentes is blemysed and spotted with this treason, I Dowt not but  
your Lordshipes will gather with me howe easilie a man of thies propperties  
match and kinredd maie be drawn to consent to alteracion of the goverment  
and to be a partie therin: Thus much I thought good to aduertize your Lordshipes  
of the proceadinges of the Sessions, And now having formerlie written to  
Mr Secretorie Walsingham of the generall estate of this Countrey, and  
particulerlie of Mounster, I Dowt not but he hath informed your Lordshipes of suche  
thinges as I haue obserued towching that Province, And of the likelihoode of

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some alteration which maie be feared will happen yf it be not in good tyme  
mett withall: For my parte (the same tokens and apparaunces still contynewing)  
I cannot but Dowt that there wilbe some newe and more breakinge owt  
then before, whervnto the waie seames made open by the late Cashing of so great  
a parte of the Armye, and leavinge the mayne bodie of the Province in Manner 75  
abandoned to the will and appetyte of thennemye and vnrulie subiecte, which  
wilbe no smalle opportunitie and encorraidgement to them to calle in againe  
forreine Ayde the same beinge alreadye sollicitied by their aduocates abroade  
as I vnderstand by common aduertisementes from such as haue seane some of their  
Agentes newlie returned with lettres and hoapes to feede on the faction till the 80  
supplies and preparacions maie be perfected: Neuertheles I thought good  
notwithstandinge my said privat aduertizementes to Mr Secretorie, to ymparte  
thus much to your Lordshipes hopinge yt shall not offend to signifie what I heare  
and finde, though heretofore I haue bine somewhat taxed and reproued as having  
bine more carefull for privat mens comodities to mainteyne sturres then for lighteninge 85  
of her Maiesties costes and chardges to appease the same, howe iustlie the Lord knoweth, and  
according to desert therin I craue at his handes requytall, Dischardge of  
myself against anie Crosse event procureth this aduertizementes from me, The Iudgement  
and resolucion therof is her Maiesties and your Lordshipes whervnto I humblie conforme my 90  
self and yt: So humblie beseching your Lordshipes to haue consideracion or rather  
comisseracion of my privat estate, which yf no other cause weare as manie but for  
tediousnes might be reckoned, for decaye of health is brought vtterlie vnhable  
to hould on the toyle of the seruice; and therefore enforced sekes release of the place  
by your Lordshipes faorable ayde and mediacion, I take leaue, Prayeng the almightie  
ever to direct and Defend your Lordshipes Dublin xij<sup>o</sup> Aprilis 1582: / 95

Yowr Lordships assured too  
Commaunde,

Arthur Grey

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**Note on hands**

The text of the letter is in a compact and regular secretary hand (not Spenser's). Spenser's familiar, flowing secretary hand appears in the address. Grey has added the subscription and autograph signature in his distinctive hand. The endorsement, presumably added during the filing process in London, is in a different hand.

\* **8 {...}**] Here and in several succeeding lines, damage to the manuscript has obliterated some of the text.

\* **37 {...}**] Here and in the line following damage to the manuscript has obliterated some of the text.

\* **38 Nugent]** 'Cusack' deleted, and 'Nugent' inserted above the line, in a different hand (probably Grey's own). This correction is, of course, incorrect--it was Edward Cusacke who was reprieved, and Nugent executed, as the following page, and many other surviving documents, make clear.

\* **40 to]** 'to' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

\* **56 being•]** A low stroke, perhaps a comma, deleted.

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