

NA (PRO) SP 63/92/11/1

Copy of Grey et al. to the Queen, 9 May 1582

Endorsement

Copy from my Lord
Deputy & Councill
to her Maiestie . /
x Maij

Text

May yt please your maiesty where yt appeareth by your maiesties late
lettre of the xxvth of the last moneth, that vpon Informacion giuen
to your Highnes how a great part of the Threasure sent into this
Realme intended chiefly to answeere the wages & interteynementes of martiall
men hath bene by indirect order converted to the payment of Concordatums
obteyned & graunted contrary to an Article of Instructions sent ouer by
your Highnes late Chauncellour of this Realme: your Maiesty fyndeth yt straunge
that besides so small regard shewed to your Highnes said Instructions
with other abvses noted vpon the maner of graunting & private subscribing
the said Concordatums, so litle care hath bene had of the Consumpci{on}^{*}
of your threasure in that kind of Charges, whereby your maiesties debtes
are increased & sondry your Soldieres remayne vn timerly payed; we are
bold for your maiesties better satisfaccion & following your expresse Com
maundement to send to your Highnes in a schedule inclosed a true report

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answeare to the first
point of hir Maiesties
lettre touching
Concordatums

sendeth a note of
all concordatums he
hath giuen

they haue been al
agreed to by the
Councel though
signed seuerally

& content of all such concordatums as can vpon the sodein be collected .
& are of most importaunce, & haue bene payde by me the Treasurer, the
rest yf any bee are in the Custody of the parties, to whome such
allowaunces haue bene given; which concordatums doe conteyne in them
selues the growndes & causes of the guift, wherein we assure your
maiesty vpon our truth & credittes, that contrary to the tenour of the
informacion none haue passed without their due debating at the
Councell table, & the parties & their merittes throughly weighed &
examined before any order hath bene giuen for the wryting of any
such concordatum, though perhaps some of them were afterwarde sub
scribed seuerally & privately, euen by those that before were at their
first debating: And moreouer as in number they are not so
many & in value so great as in former tymes (albeit the tyme of
the Accion well weighed might both haue expressed & borne yt
yf yt had bene farre greater) So nether are your maiesties debtes
increased further, then necessity hath constraigned by consump{cion}
of your threasure in that kynd of Charge nor any of the Army
lefte vn payed, so farre as the seuerall quantities of threasure sent
ouer to those vses would extend & stretch vnto. Neuerthelesse we
hope your maiesty will consider, that in so great a cause & of such
continuaunce as this warre hath bene there must be many
extraordinary Allowaunces, that haue required present disbursement
but for the full satisfaccion of your Maiesty, we humbly desire that ye
would cause all the concordatums not payed & that haue growen

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since the tyme of me the Deputy to be examined by Commissioneres
which we wish to bee the informeres themselues yf they bee of any

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for bestowing of rebels lands	<p>creditte meete for such trust: <u>To the second</u> part of your maiesties lettres <u>which</u> chiefly concerneth me your Deputy for bestowing Rebelles goodes & Custodiams of their landes namely since <u>the</u> restreint made by your Maiesty in your former lettres, like as no one thing hath passed the great seale ether since or before (but a lease to Sir William Russell)</p>	45
{He} hath granted no Custodiams vnder the seale but a lease to Sir William Russel	<p>that might preiudice your maiesty in the free disposing of <u>the</u> said Rebelles landes: So did I not till now vnderstand so much of your Maiesties meaning that <u>the</u> disposicion of <u>the</u> escheated* goodes was prohibited vnto me. for yf I had so conceived of your maiesties lettres, I would haue prevented all euill opinion, howsoeuer the parties gratified had wanted their due deserved benefitt. But in truth I neuer mistrusted but <u>that</u> I might <u>without</u> your Maiesties disfavour haue kept a modest course in rewarding of vertue aswell as in correcting of vice.</p>	50
Lord deputy barred from giuing escheats. inferior officers hauing authority to doe it in <u>the</u> particular Prouinces	<p>especiallly whenas your liberality was not extended to <u>the</u> Consumpcion of your threasure, but out of casuall proffittes, <u>which</u> in <u>the</u> particulare provinces is warranted by your Maiesty to be giuen <u>away by inferiour officeres & neuer denyed to any Deputy heretofore, wherein I fynd my lott very hard</u> that my true service & indeavour here should receive so hard construccion or be so lightly accepted: But fully to resolue your</p>	55
4. onely granted since the restraynte.	<p><u>Highnes in the last parte</u> of this Article what Custodiams I haue graunted since <u>the</u> said restreint, it is true <u>that</u> I haue graunted onely fowre the <u>first of Nicholas Nugentes landes</u> to Sir Robert Dillon, the second of Edward Cusackes landes to Captein Thomas Norrice, the third of one Walshes to Garrett Birne viceseneschall to Sir Harry Harrington, the fourth of Wogans landes to Mr Briskett, the reasons <u>that</u> moved me were the seuerall desertes of <u>the gentlemen</u> at least as I haue iudged of them in their seuerall professions: Mr Norrice hath painfully served your Maiesty since <u>the</u> begynning of this warres <u>without</u> reward Birne is an honest discrete Officer & hath lost his blood in your Maiesties service this yeare past: Sir Robert Dillon hath bene formerly</p>	60
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Commended to your Maiesty & I suppose wanted not frendship at Court to inhale him to your guifte, Mr Briskett hath served long as Clerke of your Councill & is a gentleman very honest & sufficient. But now yt may please your most excellent maiesty not to hearken to the onely opinion of me your Deputy touching Custodiams but to vs all

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custodiam giues not any such estate in the land as hir Maiesty hath been informed.

who doe gather by the weight of your maiesties* wordes, that the Informeres of your Highnes haue made yt seeme vnto you, that whosoeuer hath a Custodiam of any land here hath some such estate of Contynuaunce as taketh from you some notable benefitt ether in the sale demise or guifte of the land. But in this their informacion they are ether ma-

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commodityes that come by custodiam

litious aboue measure or too too ignoraunt: for in trouth; ••••* yt agreeth both* with auncient Custome here & with reason ••••* & most convenient for your Maiesties Commodity, that as soone as any land es cheateth, yt should be presently Committed to the Custody of some

howses and woods preserved tenants kept from running away. the rent aunswared.

person who should see the houses & woodes preserved & the tenants kept vpon the land (who here in such cases do accustomedly runne away) & is bownd to answer the rent to your Maiesty as yt

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the custodiam repealable at hir Maiesties pleasure

shalbe surveyed by your officer, in which Custodiam he is to continue till such tyme as your Highnes or your Commissioneres & officeres might according that Survey lett yt by lease, or that your Maiesty did by instruccion dispose the same in guifte or sale as to you should seeme good. This graunt is called a Custodiam; of this nature are

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all the Custodiams ••••* that haue bene giuen here, not one vnder the great seale, but all in pay by Consent of the Gouernour & Councill, or els by ordinary course out of the exchequer, And the onely advauntage that any man can hope of by having a Custodiam is, that being in possession of the land, he may thinck

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3. impositions vppon the pale.

him self one step the nearer to your maiesties favour ether in the sale
 leasse or guifte thereof, whensoever your maiesty shall dispose the
 same, which good respect your Maiesty accustomedly hath to the fermoures
 of your Highnes revenue in England: yf this be true (as vpon our
 credittes to your Maiesty yt is) what reproche doe they deserve from
 your Highnes which persuade the disgrace of ●●● ●●● ●●●● ●●●●●●●●*
 vs who serve your maiesty here, & that in a matter which can no* way be
 interpreted against your maiesties honour and proffitt, And being not
 doen the land must haue lyen waste without any proffitt
 or Commodity to your Maiesty at all. And where in the last claus{e}
 of your maiesties lettre yt seemeth your Highnes is informed of sondry ex-
 tortions & ouercharges donne vpon the Countrey, by the Soldieres, not
 withstanding the increasing of their ordinary wages, & your maiesties
 losses susteyned in victelles so as the people through their into-
 lerable greevaunces are entred into a great discontentment & alie-
 nacion of hart; for our partes as we may in our Conscience afore god

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No meanes hath
 {be}en omitted that
 might restrayn the
 {s}oldiors.

{...} of procla
 mations and orders
 {...} that were taken
 for Cesse by the
 {Deputy} and Councel.*

& in truth to your Maiesty safely affirme that there hath bene
 no provision nor polling which the tyme would suffer or we could
 conceive, omitted, which might ether restreyne the insolency of the
 Soldieres or assure the countrey from vnlawfull & extraordinary
 exactions; so that our care & dealing may sincerely appeare to your
 Maiesty, we haue caused to bee collected & impacketed herewith not
 onely such proclamations Commissions & Commaundementes with their
 penalties as we thought good to devise & publish for the same
 but also the particulare maner & rates of the monethly Cesse
 for the whole garrizon agreed on not onely by vs & the rest of the

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120

Many idle men taken away for ease of the cuntry	privy Councell but also by the Nobility of the pale & grand Councell as here it is termed & in those matteres vsed: wherein carrying a greater care & Compassion of the Countrey then re- gard to relieve & ease the Soldieres (as in equity we ought & in tymes before have bene doen) we haue cutt of in euery land many numberes of horses & horseboyes which formerly haue bene allowed	125
the way open to com plaine if any were greued	& by the Countrey yt self cannot be denied. Besides the way hath bene alwayes free & open to any yea euen the meanest to com playne vpon any violence or wrong doen contrary to the tenour of the said Proclamations, & present orders yssued out to apprehend the offendoures to thend they might receive the reward of the euilles they had doen. And where further we fynd in the same Article, that	130
impossible to auoyd all extortions in so troublesome a tyme.	extortions haue bene exacted by the Horsemen & footmen , <u>like as we</u> suppose some such disorderes haue bene Commited & impossible in such a tyme to bee fully prevented, yet yf your maiesty consider our propor- tions for the laying downe of the Cesse (sent in this Packett) yt wilbe fownd that yt is not our faultes who require nothing but a	135
	rate of victell & horsemeat to be brought to the places of garrison and those rates not superfluous , & we appoint payment & prises for yt according the Soldieres wages. And yf any man thincking to make a better price of his corne or other victell, or lothe to cary	140
	his provision to the place of garrison, shall vountarily enter into a composition with the Soldier* when yt is in his owne choice to deliuer ether his proporcion of Cesse or that Composition may this be called an extortioner? No surely; & yett yf any such extreame dealing had bene complayned of, yt should haue bene ouerruled &	145
	punished in any that had bene obstinate or refused his due Cesse	150

redresse vpon
complaint

this point not com-
municated to the
irish councellers
because they are
to popular.

All impositions breed
mislike which cannot

but yf that none haue complained here but hath bene heard &
redresse giuen, we thinke yt straunge they should presse your
Maiesties eares with such vntrue rumoures. And here I the Lord Deputy am
to giue your Highnes knowledg, that having regard to the fraile & light
disposicion of this people namely how apt they are to take hold
of the least occasion that is giuen, expounding all thinges to their
owne aduantage, I thought good not to Communicate this your maiesties lettre
in respect of this Article to any other of the Councell, as haue here
subscribed, least some of them being of this Countrey birth {&}
interested in sondry partes of the countrey, & inclined indeed mo{re}
to popularity & private Commodity then to the reducing of the peop{le}
to due obedience or regard of the necessity of the service, might
spred amongst the people, how farre your maiesty had taken knowledg
of the outrages of the Soldieres & other informacions made to the
disauantage of the gouernement & thereby become more insolent and
carelesse of their due office & duties: A matter which in this land
is to Commune & most needfull to be restreyned & mett withall.
This device as such of the Councell as are vsed alwaies in matters
of most importaunce & secrecy allowed for good & consented to
yt foreseeing the harmes that might ensue yf in so tottering a tyme
inclined too much to contempt & loosenes the people might take
aduantage of your Maiesties favour against the due & orderly pro-
cedinges of the gouernement here or in trowth of their owne desertes as
we cannot but affirme & the eventes too manifestly & ryfely
doe wisse. So for these reasons we thought good to keepe
that article of the lettre concealed emongst our selues, though your maiesties
direccion was ioyntly to vs & the residue, for the which we doubt not but
your maiesty will hold vs excused, or otherwise vpon your pleasure
signified yt shalbe* redressed. And so to knitt vp the
matter our duties willeth vs to impart vnto your maiesty, what ex

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be remedied but
ether by

perience leadeth vs to iudg herein, namely that in euery impo-
sicion laid vpon the pale, mislikes & grudge will grow in the
multitude, **which** yf **your maiesty** will haue vtterly raced away, were
a great happines to him that should gouerne. But then must
your maiesty take one of these iij waies, ether to giue a through
maintenance to **your Soldier** increasing his pay so as he may
live therevpon **without** pressing **the*** Subiect or to pro-

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increasing of the
soldiors pay

victuel the gar-
rison at hir **Maiesties**
charges.

vide such a continuall masse of victelles as may throughly
serve the numberes **your maiesty** shall resolue to keepe or elles **that**
your maiesty would cash **your whole forces**, & looke for such an obedience
as the good disposicion of the people & **the** execucion of **your** lawes
without force will affoord you in all **which** **your maiesties** direccion shalbe
obeyed.

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or dissolue the
whole forces

{Aduer}tise
{ment} out of
{M}ounster.

Lastly having euen now received out of Mounster **the** lettre &
aduertizementes hereincloused we are bould to send **the** same to
your maiesty humbly referring to **your maiesties** wisdomes **the** consideracion
of the perill, & speedy remedy & prevencion of further euilles
threatning not onely that province, but together this whole
vnhappy & wretched land For **the** particulare of me the
Lord Deputy & some otheres seuerally of this Councell, as I haue
formerly aduertized my **Lords** of **your maiesties** Councell there, that
seing by **withdrawing** **your maiesties** forces from thence, the province
was left abandoned to **the** will & appetite of **the** Rebelles, other was
not to be looked for, then an vniuersall revolt & breaking out of all
partes & a butcherly ruyne & massacre of those few of **your Highnes**
Army left in garrizon there, So the first event of **that** appeared in

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200

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2 bandes sent
thither.

the late slaughtering of Capt^{ain} Iames Fentons band, garrized
in the partes of Carbery & secondly in this Accident of Ardagh
lying in the nether skirtes of Kerry vpon the borderes of Clon
Morish, & the like is to bee feared will fall vpon other places 210
yf speedy remedy be not applyed; we haue presently sent away
thetherwardes ij of the old bandes of footmen out of the Pale. And
though for the small assuraunce we haue either of the Pale
yt self (the Oconnoures being now in their pride, against
whome these ij bandes with the other should presently haue bene 215
imploied) or any other part of this land, we could but with
great daunger spare any ••••* forces from hence: yett
considering the distresse of those in Mounster, & how perillou{s}
yt may bee in so generall revolt & (as may be feared) in an
expectacion of forreyne powre not to haue the citties there 220
manned & furnished, we thought good to comfort them with
these ij bandes having lefte but ij more both in Leinster &
Vlster to answere all occasions, nether yf any greater
extremity

extremity should happen there, is yt possible for me the 225
Deputy in this great* want of ••••* money forces & victelles to
advance to their ••* relief. Such is the extremity which
now this state is growing vnto, which we most humbly betake
to your maiesties care & consideracion, the rather bycause your
Maiesty may be informed by th'enclosed lettres what treachery 230
hath bene vsed in Connagh to your Soldieres, that in orderly
maner have sought to leavy your maiesties rent. And so most
humbly we Committ your maiesty to the goodnes of th'Almighty
Dublin this of May.* 1582 .

