

NA (PRO) SP 63/92/20
Grey et al. to the Queen, 9 May 1582

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent **Maiesty.** /

9 Maye 1582
From the **Lord D{eputie}**
vnto her **Maiestie**

Entred:

Text

Maie it please **your Maiestie** Where it appeareth by your **Maiesties** late **lettre** of the xxvth of the last mone{th} that vpon enformation given to your Highnis howe a great **parte** of the **Treasour** sent into this Realme intended chieflie tanswer the waiges and enterteignementes of martiall men, hath bine by indirect order conuerted to the **payment** of Concordatums obteyned and graunted contrarie to an article of instruccions sent over by **your highnis** late Chauncellour of this Realme: your **Maiestie** findeth 5
it strainge that besides so small regard shewed to **your Highnis** said instruccions **with** other abuses noted vpon the manner of grauntinge and privat subscribinge the said Concordatums, so lytle Care hath bine had of the consumption of **your treasour** in that kinde of Chardges, wherbie **your Maiesties** Debtes are increased and sundrie your souldiours remeyne vnpaid. Wee are tould for **your Maiesties** better satisfaccion and followinge **your expresse comaundment**, to send to your **Highnis** in a scedule enclosed, a true reaport and content of all such Concordatums as cane vpon the sodeyne be collected and are of most ymportaunce, and haue bine paid by me the treasurer, the rest yf anie be are in the 10

custodie of the parties to whom such allowances haue bine given, which Concordatums doe conteigne
 in theimselues the groundes and causes of the guifte, wherin wee assure your Maiestie vpon our truth
 and Credittes, that contrarie to the tenour of the informacion, none haue passed withowt their
 due debatinge at the Councill table, and the parties and their merites throughlie weighed
 and examyned before anie order hath bine given for the writinge of anie such Concordatum, though
 perhappes some of them were afterwarde subscribed seuerallie and privatlie, even by those
 that before were at their first Debatinge: And moreover as in number they are not so manie, and
 in value so great as in former tymes (albeit the tyme of the action well weighed might both
 haue expected and borne yt yf it had bine farre greater) So neither are your Maiesties Debtes
 increased further then necessitie hath constrained, by Consumpcion of your treasur in that kinde
 of chardge nor anie of the Armye lefte vnpaid, so farre as the seuerall quantities of treasor
 sent hither to those vses would extend and stretche vnto Neuertheles wee hoape your Maiestie
 will consider, that in so great a cause and of such contynuaunce as this warre hath bine,
 there must be manie extraordinarie allowances that haue required present Disbursementes, but
 for the full satisfaccion of your Maiestie, wee humblie Desier that you would cause all the
 Concordatums not paid and that haue growen since the tyme of me the Deputie, to
 be examyned by Comissioners which wee wishe to be the enformers theimselues yf they be of
 any Creditte meate for such trust: To the second parte of your Maiesties lettre which chiefelie
 concerneth me your Deputie for bestowing Rebelles goodes and Custodiums of their landes
 namelie since the restraunte made by your Maiestie in your former lettres, Like as no one thinge
 hath passed vnder the great Seale either since or before (but a lease to Sir William Russell)
 that might prejudice your Maiestie in the free Disposing of the said Rebelles landes: So Did
 I not till nowe vnderstand so muche of your Maiesties meaninge that the Disposicion of the
 escheated goodes was prohibited vnto me, for yf I had so conceaued of your Maiesties lettres
 I would haue prevented all euill opinyon, howesoouer the parties gratified had wanted
 their due deserued benefitt But in truth I neuer mistrusted but that I might withowt
 your Maiesties Disfauour haue kept a modest course in rewarding of vertue aswell as in correctinge
 of vice, especiallie when your liberallitie was not extended to the Consumpcion of your treasure
 but owt of Casuall Proffittes which in the particuler provinces is warraunted by your Maiestie to be
 given awaie by inferior officers, and never Denied to anie Deputie hearetofore, wherin

I finde my Lott verie hard that my true **service** and endeuour heare should receaue so hard
construccion or be so lightlie accepted: But fullie to resoluue your Highnis in the
last **parte** of this Article what custodiums I haue graunted since the said restraunte, 45
it is true that I haue graunted onlie fower, the first of Nicholas Nugentes
landes to Sir Roberte Dillon, the second of Edward Cusackes landes to Captein
Thomas Norris, the third of one Walshes to Garrett Birne viceseneshall to
Sir Henry Harrington, the fowrth of Owgans landes to Mr Briskett: The
reasons that moued me were the seuerall Desertes of the gentlemen at least as I 50
haue Iudged of them in their seuerall professions: Mr Norries hath painefullie
serued your Maiestie since the beginninge of this Warres withowt reward, Birne is an

honest Discreete officer and hath lost his bloode in your Maiesties seruice this yeare past. Sir Roberte
Dillon hath bine formerlie comended to your Maiestie and I suppose wanteth not frendshipp in Courte
to enable him to the guifte. Mr Briskett hath serued longe as Clarke of your Councell, and 55
is a gentleman verie honest and sufficient: But nowe it maie please your most excellent Maiestie
not to harken to the onlie opinyon of me your Deputie touchinge custodiums, but to us all in
generall, who doe gather by the weight of your Maiesties wordes, that the enformers of your Highnis have
made it seame vnto you, that whosoeuer hath a Custodium of eny land heare, hath some such estate
of Contynuaunce as taketh from you some notable benefytt, either in the Sale, Demise or 60
Guifte of the land: But in this their enformacion they are either malitious aboue measure
or too too ignoraunt, for in trothe it agreeth booth with auncyent custome heare, and with reason,
and most convenyent for your Maiesties comoditie, that as sone as eny land excheateth it should be
presentlie commytted to the custodie of some person who should see the howses and woodes preserued
and the tenautes kept vpon the land (who heare in suche cases doe accustomedly ronne awaie) 65
and is bound, tanswer the rent to your Maiestie as it shall be surveied by your officer, in which custodium he is
to contynewe till such tyme as your Highnis or your Comissioners and officers might according that Survey
lett it by lease or that your Maiestie Did by instruccion Dispose the same in guifte or sale as to you should
seeme good:

This graunte is called a Custodium, of this nature are all the Custodiums that haue bine given heare
not one vnder the great Seale, but all in paper by Consent of the Governour and Councill, orelles
by ordinarie course owt of the chequer, And the onlie advauntaige that eny man cane
hoape of by having a Custodium is, that being in pocsession of the lande, he maie thinck himself
one stepp the nearer to your Maiesties fauour either in the Sale, lease, or guifte therof when
soever your Maiestie shall Dispose the same, which good respect your Maiestie accustomed hathe
to the Fermours of your Highnis Revenewe in England: yf this be true (as vpon our Credittes to
your Maiestie it is) what reproache doe they deserue from your Highnis which perswade the Disgrace of
us who serue your Maiestie heare, and that in a matter which cane no waie be interpreted against
your Maiesties honour and proffitt. And being not done, the land must haue lyen wast withowt an^{ie}*
proffitt or Comoditie to your Maiestie at all; And where in the last clause of your Maiesties l^{etter}
it seameth your Highnis is enformed of sundrie extorcions and overchardges done vpon the Countrey
by the souldiours notwithstanding thincreasinge of their ordinarie waiges and your Maiesties losses
sustained in victualles, so as the people throwe their intollerable grevaunces are entred
into a great Discontentment and alyenacion of harte: For our partes, as wee maie in our
conscience affore god, and in truth to your Maiestie salflie affirme, that there hath bine no
provision nor pollicie which the tyme would suffer or wee could conceaue, omytted, which might
either restraine the insolencye of the souldiours or assure the Countrey from vnlawfull
and extraordinarie exaccions. So, that our Care and Dealing maie sincearelie appere
to your Maiestie, wee haue caused to be collected and empacketed hearewith not onlie
such proclamacions, Comissions, and Commaundmentes with their penalties as wee thought
good to deuise and publishe for the same, but also the particuler manner and rates of
the monthlie Cesse for the whole garrison, agreed on not onlie by us, and the rest
of the privie Councill, but also by the Nobilitie of the Pale and grand councill
as heare it is termed and in those matters vsed: wherin carieing a greater care and
compassion of the Countrey then regard to releeve and ease the Souldiours (as in
equitie wee ought, and in tymes before haue bine Done) wee haue cutt of in euery band
manie numbers of horsseis and horsseboies which formerlie haue bine allowed, and by the Countrey
itself cannot be denied: Besides the waie hath bine alwaies free and open for anie
yea even the meanest, to complaine vpon any vyolence or wronge done contrarie to the

tenour of the said proclamacions, and present order yssued owt to apprehend the offendours to the end they might receave the reward of the evilles they had done: And where further wee finde in the same Article that extorcions haue bine exacted by the horssemen and Footemen, like as wee suppose some such Disorders haue bine comytted and ympossible in such a tyme to be fullie prevented, yet yf your Maiestie consider our proporcions for the layeng Downe of the Cesse (sent in this packett) yt wilbe founde that it is not our faultes who require nothing but a rate of victell and horssemeat to be brought to the places of garrison, and those rates not superfluous, and wee appointe

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Payment and pryses for yt according the Souldiours waiges. And yf eny man thincking to make a better price of his Corne or other vittell, or loth to carrie his provisions to the place of garrison shall voluntarilie enter into a Composicion with the Souldiours when it is in his owne Choise to Deliuer either his proporcion of the Cesse or that composicion, maie this be called an extorcion? No surelie, and yet yf eny such extreame Dealing had bine complayned of, yt should haue bine overruled and punished in eny that had bine obstynat or refused his due Cesse, but yf that none haue complained heare but hath bine harde and redresse given, wee thinck it strainge they should presse your Maiesties eares with such vntrue Rumours. And heare I the Lord Deputie am to giue your Highnis knowledge, that having regard to the frayle and light Disposicion of this people, namelie howe apte they are to take hould of the least occacion that is given expoundinge all thinges to their owne aduantaige, I thought good not to comvnicat this your Maiesties lettre in respect of this Article to eny other of the Councell then such as haue heare subscribed, leaste some of them being of this Countrey byrth and interessed in sundrie partes of the countrey and enclyned in Deede more to popularitie and privat comoditie, then to readucinge of the people to due obedience or regard of the necessitie of the seruice, might spreade emongest the people howe farre your Maiestie had taken knowleadge of the owtrages of the souldiours and other informacions made to the Disaduantaige of the goverment, and therby become more insolent and carelesse of their due office and Dueties: A matter which in

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this land is too common and most needfull to be restrained and mett *withall*: This
 Deuise as such of the Councill as are vsed alwaies in matters of most ymportance
 and secreasie allowed for good and consented to yt, forseing the harmes that might
 ensue, yf in so * totteringe a tyme inclyned too much to contempe and loosenes, the
 people might take aduantaige of your *Maiesties* fauour against the due and orderlie
proceedinges of the government heare, or in troath of their owne Defectes as wee cannot
 but affirme, and the eventes too manifestlie and rieflye doe wyttnes: So for
 thies reasons wee thought good to keape that Article of the *lettre* concealed
 emongest our selues, though your *Maiesties* Direction was Ioyntlie to us and the residue
 for the *which* wee Dowbt not but your *Maiestie* will hould us excused, or otherwise vpon
 your pleasure signified it shalbe redressed: And so to knytt vpp this matter our
 Dewties willeth us to *imparte* vnto your *Maiestie* what experience leadeth us to Iudge
 herein, namelie that in euery ymposicion layd vpon the pale, mislikes and grudge{s}
 will growe in the multitude, *which* yf your *Maiestie* will haue vtterlie raced awaie
 weare a great happines to him that should governe, But then must your
Maieistie take one of thies three waies, eyther to giue a through maynetenaunce to your
 souldiour encreasing his paye so as he maie lyue thervpon *withowt* pressing the Subiect,
 or to prouide such a contynuall masse of victualles as maie throughlie serue
 the *numbers* your *Maiestie* shall resolute to keepe, orelles that your *Maiestie* would Cashe your
 whole forces, and looke for such an obedience as the good Disposicion of the people
 and the execucion of your lawes *withowt* force will afforde you, in all *which* your
Maiesties Direction shalbe obeyed:
 Lastlie having even nowe receaued ••• •••••* owt of Mounster the *lettre* and aduertisementes
 hereinclosed, wee are bould to send the same to your *Maiestie*, humblie referring to your *Maiesties*
 wisdom the consideracion of the *perill*, and speedie remedie and *preuencion* of further
 evilles, threateninge not onlie that Prouince but together this whole vnhappy
 and wretched lande: For the *particuler* of me the Lord Deputie and some others
 seuerallie of this Councill, as I haue *formerlie* aduertised my *Lordes* of your *Maiesties*
 Councill there, that seing by *withdrawinge* your *Maiesties* forcies from thence, the Province

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was left abandoned to the will and appetite of the Rebelles, other was not to be looked for then an vniuersall revolte and breakinge owt of all partes, and a butcherlie Ruyne and massacre of those fewe of your Highnis Armye left in garrison there, So the first event of that appered in the late slaughteringe of Captein James Fentons band garrysoned in the partes of Carbery, and secundlie in this Accident of Ardagh lyeing in the nether skyrtes of Kirrye vpon

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the borders of Clanmorishe, and the like is to be feared will fall vpon other places yf speedie remedie be not applied; wee haue presentlie sent awaie thitherwardes two of the oald bandes of Footemen owt of the Pale. And though for the small assuraunce wee haue eyther of the Pale it self (the okonnours being now in their pride against whom theis two bandes with the other should presentlie haue bine employed) or any other parte of this lande, wee could not but with great Dainger spare any forces from hence, yet consideringe the Distresse of those in Mounster, and howe perillous it may be in so generall a revolte, and (as maie be feared) in an expectacion of forreyne power, not to haue the Cytties there manned and furnished, wee thought good to comfort them with theis two bandes having left but two more booth in Leynster and Vlster to answer all occacions, neither yf any greater extremytie should happen there, is it possible for me the Deputie in* this ••* great wante of money, forces, and victualles, to aduaunce to their releefe, Such is the extremytie which nowe this State is growinge vnto. which wee most humblie betake to your Maiesties Care and consideracion, the rather because your Maiestie maie be enformed by thenclosed lettres what treacherie hath bine vsed in Connought to your souldiours that in orderlie manner haue sought to leavye your Maiesties rent: And so most humblie wee comytt your Maiestie to the goodnes of thealmightie. Dublin this ixth of Maye 1582

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Your Highnes most humble Subiectes &
faithfull Servauntes,

Arthur Grey

Adam Dublin cancellarius

Nicholas Bagenall

Lucas Dillon

Henry Wallop

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Edward Waterhous.

Geffray Fenton

Note on hands

The text of the letter is in a small, cramped secretary hand (not Spenser's). Spenser has added the subscription and the address in his usual flowing secretary hand. The signatures of Grey and the members of the (Irish) Privy Council are autograph. The scribe's habits of capitalization and spelling are occasionally inconsistent, which leads to trouble in words like 'Maiestie' and in expanding certain abbreviations (superscript *r* in particular). We have chosen to regularize usage by giving 'Maiestie' and 'Highnis' always in majuscule, which in a few cases seems unwarranted but as a general intention seems clear; and by supplying '-our' for superscript *r*, despite the fact that the scribe sometimes spells out such words with '-or' terminals. The endorsement to the letter, probably added on receipt or filing of the letter in London, is in a different, rather upright secretary hand.

* **79 an{ie}** in this and the succeeding line, slight damage to the manuscript has truncated the final letters of the last word.

* **130 •]** single-character deletion, indecipherable.

* **149 •• •••••]** 'the *lettre*' deleted. This is a clear case of corrected eyeskip; the scribe had initially omitted 'owt of Mounster'.

* **173 in]** 'in' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

* **173 ••]** 'in' deleted. This is a clear case of inversion, where the scribe deleted an inverted word and re-inserted it in its proper place.

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