

NA (PRO) SP 63/93/64/1
Copy of Thomas Meagh to James Meagh

Endorsement

Copy of Thomas Meagh
his *lett*re to James Meagh
alias mac Kedagh Omoore.

xvij^o Maij

1582

Text

IHS Marya.

The Chiefest cause that I send this bearer into Irland {at}*
this tyme was to see you and to bring me some money
yf he can gett yt; I am assured to be enlarged very
shortly after my Lord of Kildares Coming ouer, so *that the* wan{t} 5
of money to pay, for my fees & other extraordinary Char{ges}
wilbe a great lett; I haue written a *lett*re to Walter
Ashpoll to lend me x^{li} *sterling* vpon my stuffe vpon
my stuffe* that he hath in his handes; he promised be
fore my Coming away to lend me somuch, yf I had 10
written to him. I thought he should haue had mo{re}
of my corne money in his handes then x^{li} besides

the paymentes that I willd him to make. Yf he doe
refuse to send yt me, send you for him & be earnes{t}
with him to lend the same & charge him with his promis{e} 15
and putt to your helping hand your self. Truly xli^{li}
powndes •* wilbe the least, that will carry me freely
home: yf the money that was due vnto me with
Rory Downe before my Coming away, or the frutes
of the last Harvest of the Vicarege of Rathangan 20
bee taken out of my handes, be you earnest with my
Lord Deputy to cause the same money to bee restored
agayne & sent me by this bearer and to tell him
of the great neede & pouerty that you vnderstand I
am in: truly good brother farre greater yt would 25
haue bene, were yt not for my wives brother, who
hath very eftsones supplied my wantes bee earnest
also with the Gouvernour to wryte to Mr Secretary
Walsingham in my favour. I meane neuer to serve the
Earle of Kildare agayne, yf you had knowen how 30
he hath dealt with me both before my Committing and
since, you would marveile that I did not requite his
vsage of me, having such a tyme as I haue to further
any thing that I would say against him.

there bee many reportes of me, but the truthe 35
wilbee knowen to you very shortly. I hope to
goe ouer with the newe gouvernour, and yf you handle
the matter well with my Lord Gray to wryte earnestly
in my favour, there is no mistrust of my going

too nourrishe in hys broot=
her glorie of bastardrie &
declaring theyr moother
a harlott.

the meanyng heerof woold bee
learned, for the prezent state
of the man is far from any
sutche hoape./

Hartpowle & Mackwoorthe,
better & truar seruantes
too theyr Prince then euer
were or wyll bee of the oother
surnames./

I haue not yet spoaken
with the messenger./

in credit. Your case & your name of the Moores is
better knowen vnto me, then to your self, such was
the care I tooke of you in the tyme of your trouble.
I omitt to say any more of the matter, till yt please
god wee meete; keepe yt to your self. I haue no
mistrust yf god lend you life before the end of
three yeares; that your creditt with your presence shalbe
such, as you shalbe hable to pleasure all the frendes
you haue. I haue written very lately before this
vnto you; bee carefull to performe the contentes thereof.
keepe your self well from being in the daunger of ij
of your neighboures the first lettre of their surname is
H. & M. they are accustomed to cary poison & suger
together in their mouthes; a sufficient warning
to beware of them. I pray you chalenge my brother
Pane for dealing so vnfrendly with me. I haue written
sondry tymes to him, making choice of him of all
other frendes & to this howre I hard nothing from him
or any elles in Ireland since my Coming, but our
lettre from my mother in law. he will say he durst
not wryte vnto me, but he might a written to my
wife, whereby I might vnderstand how I am dealt
with all in my absence. but I mistrust that the cause
is fearing that I should know of the base mynded man
Walter Eustace his dealing with me touching the
vicaredg of Rathangan. I will say nomore till
this beareres retourne, which I looke for in all hast
I pray you procure it with as much spede as may bee

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Provide a couple of good horses for me against
my Coming; I meane to attend daylie on **the** go-
vernour when I come there, **which** attendaunce I hope
will grow to **your** proffitt & myne. It is not
knownen certainly who shall goe but **the** eleccion is
betwixt **Sir Henry** Sidney & **Sir William** fitzWilliam
This I take leave **with** my wives loving Commendation
& myne &c./ May xvij^o 1582./

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Your assured brother during life

Thomas Meagh.

Ex. Edmund Spenser/

Note on hands

The text of the letter, apart from the marginal annotations but including the subscription and (copied) signature, are written in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. Spenser has also added his signature in the certification appended to the end, and endorsed the letter in his italic hand. Grey has added marginal annotations in his usual hand on the second page of the letter and, it seems, has underlined some of the text.

* **2 {at}}** this word is slightly obscured by damage to the right margin of the manuscript (also affecting a few subsequent lines of the text), but given the context is undoubtedly 'at'.

* **8-9 vpon my stuffe]** Spenser's slip here – repeating a phrase in copying – is a common scribal mistake.

* **17 •]** a single character has been deleted.

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