

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent Maieſty/

2^d. letter.

From the Lord Grey to
her Maieſty.
Dublin 10* December

Text

It maye please your Maieſtie As the bearer was dispatched with my other Lettres;
I receaued one from your Highnesse dated the seconde of the last monethe: by
whiche I finde twoo thinges in this your gouernement greatly to dislike you,
the Charge you haue beene at, and the small seruice donne to the aunsweringe
thereof; which taken to bee caused throughe defaulte of your gouernors and other
Ministers of your seruice heere, you will the grownde of the faulte to bee
searched out and thereafter punished: This generall slacknes then your
Maieſtie bringethe to a particular, namely in chardginge of your Forcies in
Mounster with lesse seruice then eny other Province of this Lande: And
therevpon your Highnesse gathers an expectation that in my late Iorney too those
partes, I shoulde dischargd myne owane duetie & your truste in examyninge
the matter that thereby I might bee able to yeelde good accoumpte of the cause
of the defect in that seruice: wherein I am further directed by your highnesse to call
my Lord of Ormond to answeere the coaldnes conceaued of his prosecutinge the
seruice duringe his government: and likewise by Commissioners to enquire of
the Captaines defaults that the saide Erle hathe seemed to charge;
Lastly vpon allegiaunce and duetie that I owe vnto you (which nexte too God I
acknowledge only and greatiest) you enioyne mee too trye out the neglecte
of your seruice in that and the rest of the Provinces within this your Realme:
Myne Answer herevnto it maye please your Highnesse to receaue; That your
Maieſtye shoulde haue eny thinge to dislyke and greeue at in this Gouernment
(which it pleased your selfe too throwe vpon mee) hathe beene and is the greatest
Care and grieffe that in this lieff I haue accounted of and endeoured all my
compasse too procure and wyne the contrarye; whereof the Lorde I take to
recorde: Butt since I finde the iniquitie of my fate too debarre mee the dewe
of my chiefest desyre and sparelesse toyle, only your gayneles fauor and
gracefull opinion, and seeinge still the loathesome sownde of Chardge too
drowne and deface all faithe, toyle and seruice heere, which Chardge hetherto
howe to haue lessened with regarde to the principall was nott possible,

I can nott 30

I can nott butt accounte, if nott accurse, the tyme of my destenie heether,
the onely haplesse and harde parte of all the yeeres **that** heetherto I haue
passed, and therefore what ioye the continuaunce of it bringes mee
with all submission to your owan thoughte I referre, and moste humblie
doo craue Consideracion of itt. And where your highnesse pleasure 35
is too haue the conceaued faulte of your Seruice heere neglected
throughly sifted and the grownde founde oute, and especially by Commission
too enquire thereof beetwixte the Earle of Ormond and the Captens of Munster,
the execution heereof withall stricktnes and seueritie your Maiestie layeth
vppon mee vnder no small coniuration namelye allegiaunce & duetie; 40
In neither of whiche godwillinge will I ever bee fownde slowe or dooble,
and therefore will **with** whatt diligence I maye perfourme this your
direction; howbeit selfe dischargd willeth mee to declare vnto you
the hardenes of yt, the hindraunce to oother present seruice thereby, and
the small effect **that** I doughte will yssue thereof: Other then of your 45
priuie Counsell heere and that three or twoo at the leaste I can nott
appointe too this Office and those Englishe too of whome in all your
Highnesse hathe heere butt five, and one nowe dispatched theether,
howe weake the assistaunce then will bee left your Maiestie easelye seethe.
so muche the more too bee regarded **that the** Cuntrie Counsellours the 50
Terme beeing ended and the tyme of Christes birthe so neere with=
drawe them selues hoame; A greater difficultie yett is, thatt theis
Commissioners can nott bee sente without a good Conuoye **which** besides no
small charge too your selfe, greate burden to the Countrie (alreadie
wretched ynowghe) and displeasure too the Seruice by nakedninge 55
one or other Garrison it muste assuredlye bringe; the attendaunce
then of the Captains from their chardgies **that the** tyme for suche an enquirye
will

will hoalde, **which** can nott bee without manye of their chiefest Sowldiers
and Officers boathe too prooue and disproue will hardelye stande **with the** 60
furtheraunce of the Seruice if happelie it bringe nott preiudice thervntoo;
Further is nott to goe vnconsidered whether **that** the dislike and malyce
that by this enquirye shall arrise beetwixte the Earle and Captains
shall tourne the seruice to no small afterdeale, contynuall experience
witnessinge thatt in no trade more then in thatt of warre Envie and 65
dissention too breede Confusion: The hardnes thus borne and service
hyndraunce adventured, lett see whatt greate good is like thereof too bee
reaped: surelye in case there were extant suche proofes as mighte
geve hoape of detectinge the guiltie it coulde nott bee denied butt the
prosecution thereof might bringe foorth a moste necessarie and profitable 70
ensample; Butt howe vnlike is it too come to thatt yssue? the cawse
toocheth neere in honor & credit; the one partie of greate accounte in
either respect, the oother a companye of gentlemen whose estimation is too
bee reckned deerer vnto them then lief: withoute verie due and good
proofe to touche suche soe neere as this: Noate wolde I iudge greate 75
regarde will bee hadd: Nowe doo nott I see neither haue hearde of eny
particular matter too prooue against either syde this neglect of seruice,
onely is the faulte gathered vppon a generall Chardge thatt the

Service there hath beene lesse then of eny oother the Provinces,
heereof to collect a definite Sentence thatt therefore the Gouvernor or
Captains of thatt Prouince haue neglected duetie and spared endeouore
were, as I take itt hardly drawn, for as in sundrie Accions the greatest
traueylers are nott the best speeders, so in noane more then this is
successe the vniustest meazure; This causeth mee too doughte thatt
all traueill, coste, and tyme beestowed in this Commission will bee butt
loste and bringe foorth the nothinge of thatt itt is entended too.

As your

As your Highnesse seemeth too haue expected, I was nott altogether forgetfull
of itt att my late beeing in those partes, I chardged some of the Captains
with the ●●●●* matter, I enquired also and searched whatt I coulde to haue
hadd some iust triall, I coolde nott finde enny thinge woorthie of greate
Condemnacion, though faultlesse quighte will I nott affirme them all,
neither is itt too bee looked for thatt in suche a number all shoulde bee
a like forward or carefull; and yett; if without offence I maye speake itt,
hath nott the service beene there so little as I finde itt esteemed,
as dyuers my aduertisements maye testefye if they bee remembred:
I gave them a generall and earnest admonishemente that former greate
tokens of slacknes mighte bee amended and due care and regarde
hadd to the service. By my Lord of Ormond him selfe I never
receaued eny Complaintes of them sauinge thatt once hee signified
vnto mee the weakenes of some of their Bandes, and els nothinge
thatt charged them with eny backwardnes in service; Too enquire of
this faulte, I presently sente the Clerke of the Checkque, by whome
I vnderstoode that in moste of the Companies there were indeede
moe sick then whoale throughe nakednes, harde fare, and extreme
traueill; And this is all that in this Cawse I can saye; Your Highnesse
Commaundment god willing shall bee too the vttermoste of my powre
executed, though nott so soone as yett I wolde or your Highnesse maye
expecte, wayinge the greate partes of this Conspiracies yett
remayninge too bee further dealte in and sownded, which withoute full
assistaunce and especially of your Englishe Counsell can nott bee done,
whereof I tooke itt needefull to remember your Highnesse leaste ootherwise
Carelesnes or contempte shoulde haue beene conceyued in mee which my god

I truste

I truste will neuer suffer mee to deserue especiallie vppon suche a
coniuration. Your Highnesse further pleasure for the Casshing of
Companies heere, which god graunte too tourne to the same good effecte
that your highnesse seemeth to conceaue, shall likewise bee followed so
soone as wee shall haue resolute aunswere & direction from my Lords
there, vppon this and our late former Lettres: And so withe one
humble remembraunce and Petition to ende: It may please your
Highnesse* houlde some indifferent Consideracion of your People heere in

Service, thatt the[•]* casshied nowe leauinge the yoake and toile of this
wretched service, maye nott seeme whoaly cared and prouided for,
and the oother thatt are still to contynewe vnder the burden, toile 125
& perill too bee left as it weere to the Ayre and Imagynation too
feede on; **which** muste followe, if the order nowe sett downe for the
issuinge of your Threasure nowe sente bee helde or no better proporcion
affourded; Pardon me I beseeche your High**nesse** in thus boldly {laying}*
it downe vnto you, the extremitye of the cawse and the inconuenience 130
thatt maye fall too your Service dryves mee too itt; So the Almightye
keepe, direct & blesse your Ma**iestie** ever. Dublin this xth December
1581.

I moast humbly beseetche **yowr**
Ma**iestie** too affourde **the** bearar
a soone dispatche, ootherwyze
the lenger yow keepe hym **the** more
it wyll cost yow./

Yowr Hygh**nes** moast humble seruant 135
& faythefull subiect,
Arthur Grey

[†]Note on hands

The text of this letter is written in an italic hand, not Spenser's. The subscription, signature and postscript, as well as the line, "2d letter" below the address, are in Grey's familiar italic. Spenser's Italian hand is to be seen in the first section of the address ("To the Queenes most excellent Maiesty"). The endorsement, probably added when the letter was being filed in London, is in a distinct italic hand.

* **Endorsement Dublin 10]** it appears that the '0' may be written over a '2'.

[†] **90 ●●●●]** 'like' deleted.

[†] **122 Highnesse]** It seems that the scribe originally placed an 'n' here (to carry on with 'Highnesse?'), but then blotted it to move on to 'houlde'.

[†] **123 the●]** 'y' deleted.

[†] **129 {laying}]** Discolouring of the manuscript here has rendered this reading slightly doubtful; but the contours of the word, and the context, make this reading fairly certain.

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