

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/10
Grey to Walsingham, 9 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the right Honorable my especiall good Frend **Sir Fraunces** Walsingham Knight Chief Secretary to her Maiesty.

9 January 1581
The Lord Graye

Text

I may not, **Sir**, but grace this bearar **with** such **letters** how lyttle matter soeuer ootherwyze I haue now too wryte. Continew I beeseetche yow **yowr** care of hym, a dowble commendation dowghtless it wyll ••* bryng yow, **yowr** Nature for itsellf, **yowr** iudgement for hys dezert. Vnless sum certaynetie of hys good eyther by obtaynyng hys awncyent sute or oother= wyze maye •••• ••* sheowe, I would not wysse hys staye there long for it wyll not further hym. I am sorrie too see **that** my Niecies matche is broaken of, I would bee glad at **yowr** leazure too vnderstand **the** cause, God sende **owre** **greate matche no faster hoalde***
Thus in **the** rest crauyng credit for **the** bearar I beeseetche **the** Allmyghtie God too bee **with** & make yow blessed euer. **Dublin the ixth of Ianuarie** 1581.

Yowr moast assured,

My Lord of Ormond eeuen
now sent mee **the** aduer=
tissment heerenclozed,
the partie **that** sendes it is
ootherwyze called **the** Whyte Knyght,
& so mootche **the** lyker it is too bee true **that** one of **the**
sellf cuntrie certifieth it, neyther is it too bee wayed
that from Ihon Zowtche hymself nothyng is yet hard, for
beesydes **that** hee is a greate deale farther of, •* owane mess
engers can neuer pass in that haste & saftie that
the cuntrie mens maye: well if it bee true **the** seruyce
is greate* how euer there it wyll bee accounted. /

†Note on hands

The text of the letter, including subscription, signature, postscript, and addressee note, is in Grey's usual italic. Slightly more than one line's worth of Grey's regular code appears toward the end of the text of this letter, here not transliterated above the line by the recipient (Walsingham), as often in other such instances. The address is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, and the endorsement in a later hand, presumably added during filing of the letter in London. The 'addressee note' at the foot of the letter ('Mr Secretary'), in Grey's hand, was added to remind the secretary responsible for dispatching the letter to whom it should be addressed.

* **5 ••]** 'by' deleted.

† **8 •••• ••]** two words deleted; the first is probably 'cawse', and the second definitely 'it'. Grey seems to have changed his mind about the wording while drafting the letter.

† **13 owre...hoalde]** 'owre...hoalde' in code, not transliterated above the line. We have supplied this reading based on other examples of (transliterated) code in Grey's letters to Walsingham.

† **26 •]** illegible single-character deletion; as often, Grey's blotting has been ruthlessly efficient.

† **29 greate]** 'greate' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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