

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 Maiesty

Entred:

Text

Maie it please your Maiesty 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 Maiesty 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 vnpaied. 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 paied 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 Councell 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 nomber 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 left vnpaid, so farre as the seuerall quantities of treasor
sent hither to those vses would extend and stretch 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 preiudice 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 restraints, 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 Councill, 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 whosoouer 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 auntyent custome heare, and with reason,
and most conveyent 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 surueied 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 xchequier, And the onlie advauntaige that eny man cane
hoape of by having a Custodium is, that being in pocession 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 denyed: 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 receaue 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 garryson, and those rates not **superfluous**, and wee appointe

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Payment and pryces for yt according the Souldiours waiges. And yf eny man thinking 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 occasion 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 government, and therby

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become more insolent and carelesse of their due office and Dueties: A matter **which** in
 this land is too **common** and most needefull to be restrained and mett **withall**: This
 Deuise as such of the Councell as are vsed alwaies in **matters** of most ymportaunce
 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 contempte 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 **nombers** **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 vnhappie
 and wretched lande: For the **particuler** of me the Lord Deputie and some others
 seuerallie of this Councell, as I haue **formerlie** aduertised my Lordes of **your Maiesties**

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Councell there, that seing by withdrawinge your Maiesties forcies from thence, the Province
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 Iames 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 emploied) 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 *lett*re' 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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