

TNA: PRO SP 63/84/14*Grey to Walsingham, 10 July 1581*

This brief letter provides little more than an appendix to Grey's description of the fighting between Sir Hugh O'Donnell and Turlough Luineach O'Neill in his letter to the Privy Council, SP 63/84/13 (*supra*). But it shows very clearly that Grey considered Walsingham to be his most sympathetic contact on the Council, and the member of the Council most likely to support his requests. It shows, furthermore, that he saw the shortage of funds ('whereof wee are here vtterly destitute') as the most urgent point to be emphasised from the other letter, in which he writes that 'not onely her Maiesties treasure here is clene emptied but also all this Cittie so bare & needy as no money is here to be borrowed for the necessary furnishing & provision of all such thinges as to this or any other iorney apperteyne', and adds that 'I am earnestly to crave of your lordships that requisite consideracion may hereof bee had for present supply of this extremitie'. What is perhaps most interesting, then, about this letter is the way it implicates Grey, his ministers, and his secretaries in a carefully complementary traffic in official and personal correspondence, each distinguished by its own rhetorical modes (e.g. information and argument for the Privy Council, brevity and pathos for Walsingham).

The main part of the letter, with its address, is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, the only exceptions being the phrases 'For her Maiesties speciall affaires', and 'Hast hast post hast for lyfe' (on which see notes, below), which are in Spenser's italic hand, and of course his certificatory signature, which is in the usual ornate italic form. Grey has added the subscription, signature, and postscript in his own hand. The endorsement is in the same chunky secretary hand as that of SP 63/84/13.

Address and Endorsements

For her Maiesties speciall affaires

To the Honorable
my especiall good
frend Sir Fraunces
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiestie. /

Hast hast post
hast for lyfe.

Lords at Dublin
the xth of Iulie
Edmund Spenser. /

x^o Iulij 1581
 From the Lord Deputie to mr
 Secretary Walsingham

Text

Sir, vpon occasion of certain aduertizementes lately received concerning a bickering betwene Tirlagh and Odonell I have written vnto my Lords for the present supplying of vs with money, whereof wee are here vtterly destitute, without the which all the service here is like to fall to grownd. Wherefore praying you very instantly to vrge their Lordships with the due consideracion of the present extremitie, and withall to hasten the expedicion thereof, what in you lyeth I committ you to the goodnes of the Highest.
 Dublin. / the xth of Iulie. 1581. /

Yowrs most assuredly

Arthur Grey

By my next yow shall haue awnsswer* of the letters receaued* from yow with examynacyons & oother Instructions tootchyng the erl of Killdare & oother prisoners heere: I receaued that packet the viijth of this present.

Textual Notes

* **awnssewer]** Inserted above the line.

†

* **after receaued]** 'of' deleted.

Annotations

For her Maiesties speciall affaires] This is the only letter among those addressed by Spenser in which this extra endorsement appears; it was the standard superscription added to a sealed bundle of letters to be sent as a packet (see Crofts 1967: 73-4).

Hast hast post hast for lyfe] Versions of this urgent supplementary endorsement are not uncommon in early modern letters. See the inscription 'post hast hast post hast for lief' in one of Burghley's letters, illustrated in Stewart and Woolf (2004: 138). On this inscription, see also Crofts (1967: 76-7).

certein aduertizementes ... bickering ... Odonell] In SP 63/84/13 (*supra*), Grey writes that he has 'received knowledge of a certein bickering' between O'Donnell and Turlough Luineach O'Neill, in which several of O'Donnell's chief men had already been killed. The original **aduertizementes** seem not to have been copied or forwarded to Westminster, and so have not survived.

I have written] Clearly SP 63/84/13.

By my next] This letter apparently does not survive, though it is possible that Grey's intended answer to Walsingham's letters was overtaken by the urgency of developments in Tirconnell: Grey left on his hastily-coordinated journey against Turlough Luineach O'Neill by 19 July.

packet] Small parcel of letters.