

**TNA: PRO SP 63/89/35**

*Grey to the Privy Council, 18 February 1581/2*

This letter reveals a little of the tensions that must have plagued early modern social life in Ireland, and suggests why Sir John Norris's proposal of March 1585, that the English soldier be left to victual himself in Ireland, could cause more problems than it solved (see SP 63/115/41, *infra*). The credit economy so basic to England during this period (see Muldrew 1998) was, as Spenser argued in *A view*, impossible to cultivate – not only because of the frequent wars and the consequent risk of loss, but because of the transient nature of settlement, both for Irish peasants and, as here, English soldiers. The text of the letter, including the subscription and address, is written in Spenser's usual secretary hand. The endorsement is in a later italic, probably added upon receipt of the letter in London, or at some later stage of the filing process. Grey has added his usual signature.

**Address and Endorsements**

To the right Honorable  
my very good  
Lords & otheres of her  
Maiesties privie Councill  
Yeue this

Lords  
February 18-  
The Lord Deputy.  
on the behalfe of the  
Town of Clonmell:

**Text**

Yt may please your Lordships The Towneship of Clonmell hath made petition vnto mee to bee a meane vnto your Lordships in their behalf for the obteyning of certain Summes of money, which are owing to them by Captein Tanner, Captein George Lower, Captein Thomas Morgan, for the victelling of their Souldieres since their having of chardg here in this Realme, as by their seuerale Billes, which this their Agent will shewe, appeareth. Who for that they are long sithens discharged, & nowe in no paye within this Realme, they haue no meanes to come by their money, but onely by your Lordships. Wherefore I beseeche your Lordships in the poore Townes mens behalf, that yt would please you to call the said Capteins before you, or before whome you shall therevnto appoint, and cause them to make satisfaccion of such Summes, as vnder their owne hand wryting shall appeare due to the said Towneship; whose Agent a right honest Marchaunt and one, who in all such causes of service, as he hath bene vsed in, hath discharged the part of an earnest faithfull Subiect towards her Maiestie now repaireth to your Lordships to

sollicite the same suitte, to whome I beseech your Lordships yield such furtheraunce therein, as to you shall seeme expedient. Even so I committ you to God. Dublin the xvij<sup>th</sup> of february. 1581

Your Lordships most assured  
to commaund,

Arthur Grey

## Annotations

**Township of Clonmell]** A garrison town in eastern Munster; see map.

**Captein Tanner, Captein George Lower, Captein Thomas Morgan]** A Thomas Morgan is reported in pay in Derry by Edward Sayntloo in 1567 (SP 63/20/28); if he was serving in Ireland at this early date, he had certainly been discharged by 1580, when he petitioned the Privy Council (SP 63/79/68) for £80 he ought to have had by Sir Edward Fyton, as well as a pension or commission to serve abroad. Sir Henry Wallop had written to Burghley on 21 August 1581 for £36 0s 51/4d to be paid to Roger Tanner, then discharged (SP 63/85/22); on 18 May 1582 he would certify to Walsingham that this sum had not been defalked (i.e. subtracted, or withheld) from Tanner's final reckoning (SP 63/92/50), meaning that Tanner had left Ireland with almost £40 he owed to the merchants of Clonmel. Of Lower no record survives, but we can probably assume, on Tanner's example, that the townspeople of Clonmel were acting faithfully in their complaint.

**long sithens discharged]** All three men seem to have been discharged by the time of Grey's arrival in 1580.

**this their Agent]** This letter was apparently delivered to the agent of the Township of Clonmell, Peter Sherlock (see SP 63/92/50), who was travelling to London to present the township's petition.

**satisfaccion]** Restitution.

**the xviiijth of february. 1581]** 1582, new style.