

TNA: PRO SP 63/90/52*Grey et al. to the Privy Council, 28 March 1582*

One of the most upsetting aspects of the conflicts between the Irish and English in Ireland during this period was the way both sides seemingly carelessly consumed the lives of men, women, and children. The sympathies of Grey and his Council were regularly extended to English 'pensioners' like this one, whose years of service in Ireland, if they left them alive, left them lame and impoverished. Burghley apparently took offence at Grey's readiness to send such pensioners over to England for alms (see Grey's anger at this offence in SP 63/88/40, *supra*; as he complains to Walsingham, 'by my passporte there were neuer twoo pencioners seene [in England] attonece'); clearly Grey's sympathy for these wasted soldiers was of a piece with his commitment to a military reformation of Ireland, and his frustration with the lack of committed support from England. The address and the text of the letter, including the subscription, are in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. Grey and his council have added their signatures. The endorsement is in a rough mixed hand, and was presumably added later, when the letter was being filed in London.

Address and Endorsement

To the right Honora
ble our very good Lords
and otheres of her
Highnes privy Councill

Lords
28 Marche 1582
The Lord Deputy and Councill
on the behalfe of
Thirst.

Text

Yt may please your Lordships this bearer Iohn Thirst late Ensigne vnto Captein Dowdhall having nowe many yeares served her Maiesty in this Realme, and alwaies with very good endeavour & forwardnes discharged the partes of a tall Soldier, is now thereby become lame & gretly* enfeebled in his body. By meanes whereof being altogether dishabled from service, & otherwise quite vnprovided of living, He hath bene humble sut{our}* vnto vs to recommend his present hard estate vnto {your} Lordships wherevpon we humbly beseech your Lordships tha{t} such favorable Consideracion may be had of hi{s ex}tremity, as that thereby both otheres may bee e{nco}raged to contynue their good service, & this {...} eternally bownden to pray for your Lordships long lyf{e &}

happines. And so remitting him to your Lordships {...} consideracion, we humbly take leave. D{ublin} the xxviiijth of March. 1581 . /

Your good Lordships assured to Comm{aund}

Arthur Grey

Adam Dublin cancellarius

Henry Wallop Robert Dillon

Nicholas white
Edward Waterhous:
Geffray Fenton

Textual Notes

gretly] Inserted above the line.

† sut{our}] Damage to the right edge of the manuscript has obscured this word, along with several other words in the following passage; the proposed readings, where they may be ventured, suit the sense and are consistent with Spenser's spelling in other places.

Annotations

Iohn Thirst] Nothing further is known of Thirst.

Captein Dowdhall] Captain John Dowdall is listed in Grey's book of the service, on 27 January 1581/2, as still in service with a band of horse in Munster (SP 63/88/40/2). A letter of August 1581 suggests that Dowdall may have been a Walsingham client (SP 63/85/15).

Adam Dublin cancellarius] Adam Loftus, Chancellor of Ireland; see biographies.

Henry Wallop] Treasurer of Ireland; see biographies.

Robert Dillon] Recently elevated to Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (Ireland); see biographies.

Nicholas White] Master of the Rolls in Ireland; see biographies.

Edward Waterhous:] Receiver General of Ireland; see biographies.

Geffray Fenton] Secretary of State for Ireland; see biographies.