

**TNA: PRO SP 63/94/28***Grey to Walsingham, 16 July 1582*

This terse and slightly vindictive letter from Grey reveals that of which he had been warning all along: the chief Irish lords, he claimed, would use any sign of disagreement between the Queen and her government in Ireland as an opportunity for spoil and conquest. Sir Nicholas Malby, who had received sharp words for his expenditure when last in England, was reluctant to engage Turlough Luineach O'Neill openly; Grey, similarly, was only awaiting the final word for his own revocation in Dublin. The address and text of this letter, including the subscription, are in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. Grey has added his own signature, as usual, and the postscript beginning 'I can not forbear...' in his usual hand. The endorsement, added upon receipt and filing of the letter in London, is in a distinct hand.

**Address and Endorsement**

To the right Hono-  
rable my especiall  
good frend Sir  
Fraunces Walsingham  
Knight Chief  
Secretary to her Maiesty

16. Iulye 1582  
From the Lord Deputy

**Text**

Sir, this day I received aduertizement out of Connagh from the Gouvernour, how that those Scottes, which I lately signified were entred into that Province vnder the leading of Con Odonell, hearing that the strength of the Countrey was assembling & making towards them, are retired backe, having altogether spoiled the country of Sligoh and burned the towne yt self. The which I thought good to aduertize vnto you, to the end yt may bee certified vnto their Lordships. So having no more at this present, I Committ you to the goodnes of Almighty god. Dublin, the xvj<sup>th</sup> of Iulie. 1582./

Your very assured loving frend,

Arthur Grey

I can not forbear to putt yow styll in mynde for my reuocation or at least for a leaue to repayre ouer, it tootchethe mee neere, but more the seruyce, bee not therefore forgettfull nor slowe in it I beeseetche yow. /

## Annotations

**out of Connagh . . . Gouvernour]** From Sir Nicholas Malby, the English governor of Connaught and Thomond.

**those Scottes . . . Con Odonell]** In a letter to Grey a few days earlier (SP 63/94/20), Sir Nicholas Malby had described Con O'Donnell, Turlough Luineach O'Neill's cousin, as the O'Neill's particular favourite.

**spoiled]** Wasted, burned, and pillaged.

**Sligoh]** Con O'Donnell's campaign had proceeded unusually far west and south; Malby was right to be anxious that, if Turlough could bring Connaught under his control, he would wield half the kingdom (see SP 63/94/15/1).

**at this present]** At this present time.

**it tootchethe . . . seruyce]** 'It is important to me personally, but has even greater consequences for official business here.' As Grey had warned Walsingham on 10 July (SP 63/94/16), the rebels, knowing of his planned revocation, would strike while the New English administration was in disarray.