

NA (PRO) SP 63/140/37
Thomas Norris to the Privy Council, 22 January 1588/9

Address and Endorsements

To the right Honorable
my very speciall good **Lordes**
the **Lordes** of her **Maiesties**
{Privie} Councell of
{England} ./*

1588 Lords
22 **January**
The Vicepresident of
Mounster to the **Lords**

Sir William Stanley not
greatly to be feared.
Munition wanteth, and
therefore some supplie
required to be sent over.
Some of **the** escheted landes
to be vnited to **the** presi=
dencie, for **the** better main=
tenance of **the** same./
The disorder of **the** vnderta=
kers causeth some dislike
amongest **the** subiectes
there./

Text

Right honorable my most humble Dewty to your **Honoures** promised;
Your honorable **lettres** being dated at Greenewitch the xxjth of
December last, I received **the** xijth of this present Ianuary by **the**
handes of your Pursuivaunt as I was vpon my way from Dublin
into Mounster, being newly retourned from **the** voiage, **which** my⁵
Lord Deputy lately made into the North: **which** your **lettres** import
some present doubt of **the** arrivall of **Sir William** Stanley in this
Province, who (as it seemeth) your **Honoures** are aduertized to bee in a
readines **with** his Regiment and some other forces to embarck at
Donkerk for some secrete attempt intended against these partes:
for the **withstanding** of whome **with** all **the** diligence & good endevores
which I may, I will **with** **the** small forces **which** her **Maiesty** hath here

now in this province, presently apply my self. And where your
 Honoures doe in your lettres seeme to conceive some speciall doubt of the
 fort of Doncanon vpon the river of Waterford, as seeming to you 15
 a place daungerous both for harbouring of great number of shippes
 and also for offending of other partes adioyning, the which place was
 the last year begunne, by Sir Iohn Perrott to bee fortified, & yett
 nott finished, I did likewise bend my self with all humble dew
 regard to the accomplishment of your direccion: but forsomuch 20
 as I had not any present reasonable meanes nor sufficiency
 without being furnished from the Lord Deputy to compasse the same,
 and the rather also for that the same is without the precinct of the
 Province of Mounster, now vnder my charge, I presently sent
 knowledg of your honorable pleasure vnto his lordship who I doubt 25
 not but with all speed & expedicion will haue that carefull
 consideracion thereof & of the rest as behoveth & the importaunce
 of the cause requireth. And as for the aydes of the countrey here
 which your Honoures wish to bee putt in a readines, although hetherto
 I haue in my simple discrecion forborne to impart any such 30
 intelligence or doubt of forreyne invasion vnto them, knowing
 how prone & ready they euer bee to entertayne theyr wayne hope
 of Popish succoures with any the like occasions, & to listen after trou-
 blous rumoures; yett now vpon your Honoures direccion, I will frame
 some other colourable occasion, whereby to draw such of the 35
 noble men & better sort of gentlemen, whome I thinck best
 affected to the gouernement & most faythfull to her Maiesty

to bee at all tymes in a* reasonable readines
 to ryse out, to meete any such accident of forreyne arrivall
 yf yt shall happen. And albeeit I conceive that, this Province⁴⁰
 standing as now yt doth, Sir William Stanley with such small
 forces as he is hable to bring with him, shall fynd so weake a
 party here to ioyne with him, as that he shall not bee hable
 to compasse any thing which may breed any suddein hazard, or
 that wee shall not here bee hable reasonably to affront, not- 45
 withstanding I could wish that some present supply of municion
 were sent ouer hether, Whereof here is now small store, as I
 haue already aduertized vnto my Lord Deputy. Further whereas
 by sondry your former lettres, your Honoures haue often signifyed, that
 your meaning was that for the better supportaunce of the Presidency 50
 here, some convenient parcelles of her Maiesties excheated landes should
 bee vnited vnto the place, and therevpon Carigrohan with some
 other small thinges was by the then Commissioners appointed out
 for the same, I haue thought good to continew the remembraunce
 thereof vnto your Honoures knowing how very necessary the same 55

is for mayntenaunce of Stable needementes and other household Provisions, for which yt is very hard here otherwise to make purveyaunce, & whereof here is most need. which place now being chalenged by Sir Richard Greenevill, clayming the same by Sir Warham SaintLeger as a part of Kerrywhirry (notwithstanding that his interest in the sayd Kerrywhirry yt self is well knowen to your Honoures; and yt being also very apparaunt that before the Earles entry into rebellion, the sayd Sir Warham had no possession in Carigrohan) yt is very necessarily to bee considered, that all the vndertakers of the counties of Cork Kerry and Desmond holding their tenures of that Manour, yt should bee vnmeete that the same should bee derived into any other handes then her Maiesties or her Gouvernoures of the Province. And therefore aswell for avoyding of such difficulties, as also for the necessity of such private provisions, yf it might please your Honoures to sett downe some such establishment of that place & of the rest vnto this gouernement, as might take away such

such doubttes and demaundes therevnto, I suppose (vnder reformation) that yt would give aswell great help & furtherrance vnto the service for the so nigh keeping of horses, yf suddein occasion should happen, as also yield great ease and conveniencie for the furnishing of other needfull wantes. Also vpon my retourne out of the late Northerne voiage I fownd this Province in reasonable good conditions of peace and tranquillity, in sort as I lefte the same, saving that some of the vndertakers, bearing them selues (as seemeth) vpon the privileges & immunities grawnted them by her Maiesty have very disorderly of late thrust into other mens landes & taken Castles the which were not formerly excheated nor fownd by office to her Maiesty through whose disordered doinges both the countrey people conceive great discontentment as they haue cause, and others also gather an euill ensample of licentiousnes, seeing the gouernement here by them so despised and neglected. To the redresse whereof when I shall putt hand, I doubt not but I shalbee by some of them reported to your Honoures to bee an hinderer of that Accion, which otherwise in all good sort I further and favour to my vttermost. But my hope is, that when any such misenformacion shalbee made of me, your Honoures will consider thereof according to the good intent & affeccion which I carry to the generall welfare of this broken Province, & to the good continewaunce thereof in peace. And for avoyding both of the one & the other former inconvenience, yf it might please your Honoures to lett the sayd vndertakers by some your lettres to vnderstand, that aswell for

their owne safety as for good ensample to others, they should fashion **themselves** to live in compas of law, & to measure theyr actions by **the** rule thereof, accordingly as in England they haue bene accustomed, yt would doubtlesse take good effect & draw **them** to a nearer consideracion both of their private & of **the*** comen good Both **which** I hartely desyring & praying alwaies for **your Honoures** good successes in all **your** grave counselles & for preservacion of **105** **your Honoures** in all health & happinesse, I most humble take leave./ Shandon castle, **the** xxijth* of Ianuary. 1588./

Your Honoures euer most humble at commaund,

Thomas Norreys

¶ **Note on hands** The address and the main text of this letter, including the subscription, are all in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand. The endorsement is in two distinct mixed/italic hands, probably added during the filing process in London. Norris's autograph signature concludes the letter.

* **Address**] part of this line has been obscured, apparently by the removal of the seal.

¶* **38** •••] 'reason ble' deleted.

¶* **103 the**] 'the' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

¶* **107 xxijth**] the superscript appears to have been added in a different hand.

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