

**NA (PRO) SP 63/76/10**  
*Copy of John Barnes to Grey, 4 September 1580*

**Endorsement**

John Barnes  
To the Lord Deputy  
4 September

**Text**

The Copie of Mr Iohn Barnes *lettre*

Right honorable my humble Duety remembred  
whereas I have written to your Honour of the state  
of this County I have not as yett heard from your  
Honour and whereas I have written that Iohn a Desmond 5  
was prively kept in this Country as yt was suppo  
sed and that we weare like to be besieged, your Honour may  
vnderstand that yt is so fallen out: for they have taken  
all the holdes and Castles within the baronies that I named 10  
in my former letter except the Disert Stradballie  
the Shia and the forte, notwithstanding they have  
taken a pray from the fort, and the Constables horses  
and kild fowre Souldieres and hath so mvard the  
fort about with a great number of men that there is 15  
none can come out of the towne nether none of  
their friendes can goe to them & as I vnderstand  
there is no ayd as yett come to them. the enemies  
are a CCC\* or iij C horsemen & footemen & looketh  
this night or to morrow at the furthest for Iames  
Eustace and his Company to bee here with them.<sup>20</sup>  
therefore yt is very needfull yf your Lordship meneth to have  
the Queenes forte saved & vs the few that bee here, that your  
Honour presently repaire hether with as great strength as you  
may to remove this siege & also with as great speede  
as you\* may for yt is no small ayd can doe vs any<sup>25</sup>  
good. I am the bolder to wryte vnto your honour for that  
I thinck the Constable hath not wrytten bycause  
he is so mvard in & also all the rest & although  
I am in a castle as yett not finished & looking  
howrly to be besieged, your honour shall heare by godes 30  
helpe bee they neuer so many that they shall dearly

bye yt yf they wyne yt And thus expecting your  
honoures present ayd I most humbly take my leave  
the iij<sup>th</sup> of September 1580 From the disert  
in the Queenes County.

35

Post script      Right honorable I am fayne to send this poore begger to  
carry my lettre for there is none other that dareth goe.

Copia                                      To the right honorable  
Respondet originali\* the Lord Grey Lord Deputie  
of Ireland yeue this. /

Post hast

40



¶ **Note on hands** The bulk of this letter is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, including the original sender-side endorsement appended to the foot of the page. The only exceptions are the annotations/additions at the bottom of the letter ('Pt scr., etc.', 'Copia Respo. originali', and 'Post hast'), which are in Spenser's mixed italic hand. The receiver-side endorsement, as with the other letters in this series of copies, comprises two lines (the first and third) in an italic hand, and the original (second) line in secretary.

\* **18 •**] Single character deletion, effacing the fabric of the page (Spenser may have mistakenly written four 'C's to begin with, and then corrected his error).

¶\* **25 you**] This word is inserted above the line with a caret mark.

¶\* **38-39 Copia Respondet originali**] 'The copy answers (i.e. is faithful to) the original': a certification of the authenticity of the letter, added by Spenser in his mixed hand.

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