

NA (PRO) SP 63/81/20

Copy of the Archbishop of Cashel to Sir Lucas Dillon, 11 March 1580/1

Endorsement

Copie of the Archbisshop
of Casshell his lettre
to Sir Lucas Dillon

Text

Amice prædilecte, huius temporis calamitas efficit vt iuxta
voluntate et etiam occasionem ad te et reliquos amicos ac iuxta
debitum officium ad Gubernatorem scribere non possim: voluntas
autem scribendi veritatem et delegendi perversas subditorum
(nomine) mentes non deest: caro tamen infirma. persuasam
enim habeo Dominum Generalem tam vigilantem esse in suo officio
et huius temporis statu vt nihil accidat in his partibus rela=
tionem dignum, quin de his quæ ad statum harum partium pertinent
scribat. ad te ergo tanquam ad fidum amicum privatumque mei
principis Consiliarium ea quæ audio video et intelligo scribere
statui. Certissimis litteris et nuntijs his vltimis diebus percepi
quod hi Momonienses, qui iam Subditorum nomine se gerebant vel
potuis fingeant, rebellantium Geraldinorum partes assumpserunt
videlicet Macarthy more, Macharthy rioch, cum eorum sequaribus
vterque. Osuillevan, filijs Barry Moore cum reliquis eiusdem
nominis: filij Domini Roche adhuc dissimulant, sed eadem tendunt
via; Cormacus m^a Teig inter suspectos numeratur multique
alij inter illos, magni nominis Rebellium sectam palam profitentur
Nunc ad mare affixos tenent oculos, spem gaudij illorum deus
in luctum convertat: ex his qui Subditorum nomine adhuc rema=
nent, multi dissimulant expectantes aduersariorum fortunam
Omnes fermem ad malum declinaverunt simul invtiles facti sunt
vix apud nos invenitur qui faciat bonum: quibus vos maiorem
datis fidem, ego illos vt reliquos timeo. Infra has partes
fluminis Synayn filius m^a Brian ara Donatus Burgorum
rebellantium partes assumpsit castrumque in patria de Ara
nominatum Casslen Gearue detinet in quo Iohannem de Burgo
et Hugonem eius fratrem, quotiens totiens tractatum habent cum
Geraldinis vel alijs in his partibus quos ad rebellionem sedu=
cere intendunt, accipit alit et defendit: pater vero illius
licet se fidelem. Subditum (more multorum) fingit, tamen
de die in diem nutrit et alit Rebelles: in illo castro

nihil habetur alimenti præter ea quæ ab eo et suis administrantur, et si habuit aliquos in sua potestate ex filij familiaribus eos absque. Villo damno dimisit, certe nisi destruat^{ur} castrum illud seducentur multi in aduitorium Rebellium 35

in Ara, Ormond, Owny, Imolrian, Eli Okarroll et eorum factionibus Momoniæ rebelles se iungant Connaciæ rebellibus sic fortiores fient: quidam dicunt vxorem Iohannis Burke in ille castro custodiri, facilem tamen et paucis impensis devinceretur Patria illa de Ara iunctu eum et affixa Stagno siue Lacui Dergert et flumini Synayn multa^{que} fortia continens castra ferme inexpugnabilia quia in medio lacus situatur. Ego enim in initio huius Rebellionis consului vt omnia castra ex vtra^{que} parte fluminis Synayn in Anglorum custodia reponerentur Id ipsum nunc etiam consulo, quod in fiat posthac pænitebit. Si Momonienses et Connacienses rebelles in vno exercitu Vltoniensibus et Scotis supervenientibus se iunxerint, difficilius debellari poterint quàm si in partes divisas bella gesserint: ergo etc. Venit etiam ad me ex Vltonia circa primum diem huius mensis quidam meus consanguineus, qui vnica causa meis parentibus ad me missus erat, vt mihi ostenderet adventura huius temporis pericula: dixit inter alia Onellium Odonayll et reliquorum Vltonum Magnates, confederatos esse Rebellibus Geraldinis et reliquis similibus, secretem tamen per litteras, eos^{que} paratos esse generaliter ad expugnandos 55 Anglos hæc æstate, conductos etiam in eorum aduitorium Scotorum ingentem multitudinem; quare ille iussu meorum parentum et amicorum me obiurè rogavit vt ex prima hac prius quam ista contingerent effugerent: et cum illius verba contemnerem et nihili facerem, ostendendo et declarando potentiam mei principis, fleus dixit (ob) inquit ista te seducent, sed ego amplius te non videbo; et sic in summo mærore et animi tristitia abijt: Non noceret ergo meo iudicio vt aliqui fidissimi exploratores ad illas partes mitterentur qui prudenter illorum dicta et gesta observarent: Sunt enim homines a quibus facile secreta subtrahi possunt: minus incula feriunt 65 quæ providentur* ergo etc. Quantam ad me attinet in eo ipso statu existo in quo me esse in vltimis meis litteris tibi declaravi. Tu illum statum cum poteris perpende. Vale et viue diu fælax in Christo, qui Rebelles omnes confundat. Amen. Toom xj^o die Martij. 1580. 70

Siqua habes nova de statu illorum Dominorum in castro remanentium præsertim Domini Baronis Ossoriensis mihi

rescribe: si ille non deliquit in principem semper illi
favendum sentio: multos habet adversarios sed vtinam
illi tam fideles essent Principi vti ego illum esse puto. /

75

Tuæ excellentiæ verus amicus

Marmadukius Cassellensis

Copia vera . /
Edmund Spenser

¶Note on hands

The text of the letter is in Spenser's usual mixed hand. The letter bears Spenser's signature, beneath the words 'copia vera', on the final page. The endorsement is apparently also to be in Spenser's mixed hand. This document is followed in the National Archives series by PRO SP 63/81/21, an English translation of the Latin text; we have provided the text of this translation at the foot of the endnotes, below.

† **59 effugent]** Someone (probably the translator – see PRO SP 63/81/21) has underlined the terminal 'nt' here and added an 'm' above the line, apparently indicating that Spenser made a mistake in his copying of the Latin here, and should have written 'effugerem'. This, of course, makes better sense.

† **66 providentur]** It appears that Spenser initially inserted a period after this word, but that he smudged it out in favor of 'ergo etc.'

National Archives (PRO) SP 63/81/21

Coppie of the Bishop
of Cassells Letter
to Sir Lucas Dyllon
.11. Marche. 1580

Right welbeloued frende, The wretchednes of this tyme stayeth me from writing as in good will I would to youe and the rest of my frendes & as in duty I ought to the Lord Deputy. My good will is ready enough to write a truth & to discouer the euill disposed myndes of them that falsely chaleng to them selues the name of subiectes: but the flesh is fraile. for I am perswaded that the Lord Deputy is so watchfull in his charge committed to him, especially the state of this tyme considered that there can fall out nothing in these partes worthie the aduertisement but his Lordship writeth of them and reporteth truly the state of the same. And therefore I haue thought good to write vnto youe as to my good frende, and one of her maiesties priuy counsaill, such thinges as I see & vnderstand & heare. I am by Lettres of late aduertised as of a truth that they of Munster which hitherto cloked themselues vnder the name of subiectes, and did in truth but desemble it haue now ioyned themselues to the trayterous *Geraldins* to witt *Macarty More*, *Macarty Rioch* and their followers, both the *Oseulleuans*, and the sonnes of *Barry More* with the rest of that name: the sonnes of the *Lord Roch* do yet desemble but they runne the same course. *Cormach Mac Teig* is holden as suspect and a great number of others emongest them of great name & creat do make open profession of adherency to the Rebelles. And now their eyes are wholly bent vpon the sea: God turne the hope of their Ioy into mourning; Many of them that do yet coler the name of subiectes dissemble the matter loking what successe the enemies shall haue. They are almost all fallen away to wickednes they are all become vnprofitable there is scarce one emongst vs that doth good, and such as youe put great trust in, there some do I feare as much as the other. Within these quarters of the riuer *Synain*, the sonne of *Mac Brian Ara*, *Donat* of the *Burghs* hath taken part with the Rebelles, & keepeth the castell in the country of *Ara*, that is called *Casslin Gearre*, where he receiueth, intertayneth & defendeth *Iohn Burgh* and *Hugh* his brother whensoever they thinck good to haue any conference with the *Geraldins* or other of these quarters whome they labour to draw into their faction. And his father notwithstanding a counterfaict shew he maketh (as many other do) to be a loyall subiect yet doth he dayly entertaine & releiue the Rebelles. That Castell is not victualled by any other meanes but by such prouisions as he maketh, and if at any tyme he had any of his sonnes frendes in his handes he let them go and did them no harme. Out of doubt if the Castell be not destroyed there will a number be drawn to the ayd of the Rebelles in *Ara*, *Orman*, *Owney*, *Imolrian*, *Eli*, *Okarrol* and their factions: Let the Rebelles of *Munster* ioyne with the rebelles of *Connaught* and then they wilbe stronger. It is reported that *Iohn Burghs* wyfe is kept in that Castell it might easily be taken with small or no expense. The contry of *Ara* lyeth vpon the Lake *Dergert*, & the Riuer *Synain* and hath many strong castells in it, almost inexpugnable because it is situate in the myddest of the Lake. In the beginning of this Rebellion I gaue myne aduise, that all the Castells in both sides the Riuer of *Synain* should be taken into the english mens handes: and I am of that opinion still, and vnlesse they do so they will afterwarde repent it. If the *Munster* and *Connaught* Rebelles ioyne themselues in one Army with the Rebelles of *Vlster* and the *Scots* that come into their ayd it wilbe a harder matter to subdue them then if they were seuerally and a part sett vpon. therefore &c: About the first of this moneth there came a frende of myne to me out of *Vlster*, who was sent to me of purpose from my kinsfolkes there to shew me of the dangers that are lykly to fall out in these daies. Emongest other thinges he told me that *Oneill*, *Odoneil* and the rest of the Nobility of *Vlster* were confederate with the *Geraldins* the Rebelles & their followers secretly by Lettres & that they are in a readines to set vpon the English men this sommer & that they waged a great number of *Scotes* to assist them. And therefore this party in the name of my kinsfolkes & frendes requested me to forsake this Contry before these mischeifes begonned, & when he saw me make light of his wordes laying before him the mightines of my Prince, he brast forth into teares & vsed these speaches: Oh these thinges will deceaue youe, but I will see youe no more & so in great heauines & greif departed from me. And therefore in my opinion it were not amisse to send some wise espialls into these partes to obserue & mark their speaches & accions. for they are a sort of people so open that aman may easily enter into their secretes. the darts hurt not so easily that are foreseene. As for my self I am in the same state I was when I wrote last vnto youe, consider youe of my state as oportunitie may serue youe. fare youe well and send youe a long and happy lyfe in Christ

who confound all Rebelles 11 *Martij* 1580

[The text of the letter is written in a neat and flowing secretary hand (not Spenser's), with italic used to emphasize proper names; because of the clear and regular use of this system throughout the letter, we have chosen to reproduce the italic emphases here with an italic face. The single endorsement is in a testeggiata italic script, not Spenser's. Lineation has not been preserved. The English translation concludes with a series of flourishes under the date. The final portion of the Latin letter (i.e. 63/81/20), which appears to be something of an afterthought despite the fact that it precedes the signature, is not included in the translation. That the translator also omits the place of writing (Toom, or Tuam) from the final salutation, and makes an uncharacteristic grammatical mistake ('confound' for 'confounds'), suggests that the translation may have been completed in haste, and that it was not thought necessary to expend a fresh piece of paper on the remaining Latin text. A rough translation of the remaining Latin text might read: 'If by anyone you have news of the state of those lords remaining in the castle and particularly of his lordship the Earl of Ossory, reply in writing to me. As long as he has not transgressed against the queen I will consider him favorably: he has many enemies but would that they were so faithful to the queen as I think him to be.']

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