

**NA (PRO) SP 63/81/4**  
*Grey to Walsingham, 2 March 1580/1*

**Address**

To the right Honorable  
my  
Sir Francis  
Walsingham Knight  
Chief Secretary  
to her Majesty.

**Text**

Sir, I send heerwith an oother examination which toucheth the neere: It seemeth that by degrees, Gods pleasure is, too haue this action discovered: I praye you that Meaghe, as beefore I wrote, bee apprehended, & straghtly handlyd, for from hym, I perceaueth is, that the secretts of this combination must bee fetched: I was neuer, & yet not I aloane, so deceaued by a mealie mouthed fellowe, & surely prooff teacheth me that extremitie must wryng it from hym, by oother dealyng expect nothyng: Which I thought not needeles too aduyce you of {...} partie that declares this is an awncient man, all going too the howse of Balltinglass, & stuarde too in a manner by Gods finger reuealed lyttle Allen\* of St Woollstones\* in the Countie of Dufferin\* progress guae mee Knowledge of hym ayle neyther withowte aduerture was of Sir Wylliam Sarcefield,\* one that make lus trew seruantes in this lande, these myght haue sum handes at next wrytinge; for it. I greatly couett too knowe ceeding agaynst these noble men: somewhat bee doonne in it, for I perceaueth greate harte in theyr fauorites in theyr accuseres: & heereuntoo a sudden common brute heere ryzen, that I vppon great displeasur mee conceaued for Kildares committing shall present 76. set at libertie; and the gouernment hym: I woold too God the fyrst were as neere as it shulde bee

coome, [the](#) second, of displeazure, my conscience wylles mee not too feare,  
[the](#) rest a fable I take & so I leaue it, yet maye yow see [that](#) owre bar=<sup>30</sup>  
[barus](#) countrie is not [withowte](#) practizies • as\* well as more politicke\* planes.  
So I end for this tyme prayeng [the](#) Almyghtie God too keepe &  
gouerne yow euer. this 2. of [Martius Anno](#) 1580/

Yowres euer most assu=  
red, 35  
[Arthur](#) Grey



¶ **Note on hands** The text of the letter is in Grey's characteristic italic hand, including several instances of the usual code (transliterated above the line, by Walsingham or one of his secretaries). The address (mostly destroyed by a large tear in the manuscript) is in Spenser's usual secretary hand, while the endorsement has not survived.

\* **Address th{e right Hono-}**] Much of the address (like the text on the opposite side) has been lost due to a large tear in the manuscript. The reading offered in {} represents the likely text, drawn from Spenser's usual practice (and spelling) in other letters.

¶\* **4 •]** 'I' deleted.

¶\* **9 of {...}**] Here and for many lines following, a large chunk of the right-hand side of the document is missing, taking quite a lot of the text with it.

¶\* **13 Allen]** A reader has flagged this underlined name with a symbol (four dots in a diamond configuration) in the margin.

¶\* **13 Woollstones]** The double 'l' in this word is inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

¶\* **16 Sir Wylliam Sarcefield]** A reader has flagged this underlined name with a symbol (four dots in a diamond configuration) in the margin.

¶\* **18 sum {...}**] Part of a word, too questionable to warrant a guess, appears before the damaged edge of the paper.

¶\* **21 these...men]** 'these noble men' in code, transliterated character for character above the line.

¶\* **23 in...fauerites]** 'in theyr fauerites' in code, transliterated character for character above the line.

¶\* **24 in...accuseres]** 'in theyr accusers' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. It should be noted the actual code reads 'accusares'; we have supplied the reading of the transliteration.

¶\* **25 ••]** 'yt' deleted.

¶\* **26 for...committing]** 'for Kildares committing' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. The numeric code for the earl of Kildare, used here, is 76.

¶\* **27 76.]** Again, the earl of Kildare.

¶\* **27 set...libertie]** 'set at libertie' in code, transliterated character for character above the line. A deleted character appears after the semicolon; though illegible, it appears from its size to have been another coded symbol.

¶\* **31 • as]** '&' deleted, 'as' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

¶\* **31 politicke]** The 'o' in this word inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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