

NA (PRO) SP 63/83/6
Grey to Walsingham, 12 May 1581

**Address and
Endorsement**

To the Honorable
my very loving
frend Sir Fraunces
Walsingham Knight
Chief Secretary
to her Maiestie

.12. May 1581
receiued the .20.
From the Lord Deputie
of Ireland.
Mr Secretary /

Text

Sir, the lettres
heerenclozed from the
Lord generall &
councell of Munster
with a petition of the
Countess of
Desmoundes chiefly
guyues mee

occasion of wryting now; owre awnsswer too the same I lykewyze
thought good too send: I knowe not what it wyll too yow
but surely too mee it seemes a strange cource,
that prouince* goes de malo in peius I knowe not
what too saye too it; forbearing hathe caused it, thyncking that at

pleasure it woold haue
been healped, but it
fayles fowly, so
as 112 is in a laberinthe
wythe it.* There
arre twoo of the Dessies
of the Countie of
Waterfourd gon owte¹⁰
with a 100. or moe
swoordes as I am
enfourmed: It must bee
looked too in tyme &
not dallyed with, or ells
it wyll very shortly
too mootche sheowe
itself; & looke for no
healp so long as iris
she doothe gouuern &
that 112 is heer,*
thowg=
he I knowe 30* nor
yowrsell* wyll
beeleeue it, howeuer
70*¹⁵
& mysell* doo & shall
feelee it, & so I leaue it. /
barrie roe* withowte
eyther submission or
seruice dooyng ••••*
is protected* hee it is

that killed george Champern.*
& hys broother daue* is proclaymed now by 112.* Now shall the
oother rest in owr bozoommes for too spye & rel²⁰
ieue* from tyme too tyme the knaue that is owte,* &
this is owre pollicie, god send it good luck.
I make styll as fayre wether with Tyrlagh as I can: vppon the last trea=
tie of owre commissioners, hee came ouer the blackwater too the limines
& Mac Mahoundes countrie in sheowe too haue taken pledgies²⁵
of them for restitution of wronges & spoyles doonne by them, vppon
the pale, but the end sheowed that it was onely too assure those cunt=
ries the more vntoo hym, for not •* the woorthe of a pennie that
restitution was made for all hys pledgies takyng, & for* better prouff
of hys good meanyng in retourne hee tooke Clan de Boy in hys³⁰
waye, prayed the towne of Knockfergus, tooke buyinges of the
chiefist of the cuntrie & enforced them by othe too beecome hys
men; ••* this mee thynckes maye guyue no meane sheowe of hys
purpoze in the rest in case hee bee lett goe on; & aduertisments daylie
coome too mee of a greate force* of Scottes daylie expected too lande. / 35

To procure a greater
supply of treasure.

To hasten **mr fenton**
and **dillones** dispatch

To cause **Dean Chap**
man to be sent ouer
whom **the** Chapter haue
elected Dean of
Christchurche.

To remember **the**
warrant for his enter
taynement.

Owre supplies of men
arre not yet coome
which brynges no small

hinderance too **the**
seruice.

The Threasure **that**
came now is so small as
very little or no good
at all it doothe, not
beeyng able therof too

imprest **the** bandes

so moutche as wyll broage, trowe & mantell euerie
soldior, & leaue any stake for any extremitie, good **Sir**
take care of vs & in **summe** good tyme procure a more supplie.

Hasten I praye yow **Mr Fentons** & Iustice **Dillons** dispatche,
& forgett not I beeseetche myne owane dispatche hence, if
my iust demaundes maye not bee harckned too.

Vppon **the** Late **Lord** Chauncelors deathe **the** Deanerie of Christchurtche
heere is fallen voyde, **the** coompanie haue called a Chapter & fallen
too an election according too **the** patent of theyr corporation **which**
mysself sawe, they haue made choyce of Doctor Chapman,
which I am very glad of, wysshyng wee had many sutche men
heere to fyll owre beneficies **with**; I earnestly praye yow **that**
hee maye bee sent ouer, **the** lyuyng is good, & hee fitt for **the**
place, wherin greate good woorck hee maye doo, as I dowght
not in God but hee shall, bee carefull therfore good **Sir** that
hee coome **with** sum speede.

Lastly **Sir** I commend vntoo yow* myne owane pryuate estate, **that** I
maye haue my warrant for entertaynement renewed according
too that **that** by **Mr Waterhowse** was drawn or ootherwyze
gett mee to guyue ouer **with** recoouerable loss. So leauyng for
this tyme I beetake yow too **the** good gouernment & saff⁶⁰
keeping of **the** Allmyghtie euer. **Dublin** this 12th of Maie Anno
1581.

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Lett my Lord of Bedford bee acquainted Yowrs most assured
with this I praye yow. /euer,

I had almost forgotten not the smallest matter, Arthur Grey
the last of this moonethe now the terme of the composition
for the cease endes, I wyll not renewe it
withowte commaundment from thence, neyther doo thynck it conuenient too bee
doonne, for onece great hinderance doo I* fynde by it too the seruice, & agayne a
chardge & no sauynge to her Maiestie; I knowe greate laboure wyll bee made⁷⁰
for the gettingyng of it & no small feese guyuen; but hoald yow hard I beeseetche
yow in it, & beefore the sute coome it woold preuent well that I had a lettre*
from her Maiestie or the table there that
consideryng the trowbles heere & eeuyll
awnsswering of the due, which in deede⁷⁵
is most true, ⁸⁰⁰⁰li not beeyng too bee
gotten of it, it is thowght good no
lenger too bee contynewed. I long to
heare how owr owynge* goethe
forwarde, Deus bene auertat. ⁸⁰

65

To cause a commission
to be granted to the Lord
Chancellors man for
collecting of such
writings as were
with him at his death
{...}

The bearar heerof seruant too the lat Lord Chauncelor heere as I was sealyng
vp, came & requesty••d* the cariadge of this packett gratis, & further offered
his trauallye too collect all the wrytinges concernyng this state that rem=
ayned with his late master now at his deathe, in case hee myght haue
lettres from yow there too my Lords Gerrard & oothers that hathe hys dooynges:⁸⁵
the seruice surely wyll bee of good recknyng for many thynges remainyd

with hym the notes &
recordes wherof wyll
bryng no small auayle
& lyght too matters

heere well sorted & wayed, I praye yow
therefore, Sir, lett hym haue commission for the view, takyng &
bryngyng hyther of sutche. & so with this 2^d postscript many farewells
in God agayne I beequeathe yow. The parties name is Rodger Radford.

¶**Note on hands**The text of the letter is in Grey's characteristic italic hand, with many passages in code. A recipient, perhaps Walsingham, has annotated the letter in its later pages in a clear italic hand. The address is in Spenser's characteristic secretary, and the endorsement, as usual, in the later italic of a filing clerk.

* **4-6 what it wyll...prouince]** 'what it wyll', 'too mee it seemes a strange cource', and 'that prouince' are in code, transliterated by the recipient, presumably Walsingham, above the line. Here, as elsewhere, we have supplied the transliteration rather than the code itself.

¶* **8-9 so as...wythe it]** 'so as 112 is in a laberinthe wythe it' in code; as Walsingham's supralineal note ('Orm:') makes clear, '112' is Thomas Butler, the Earl of Ormonde.

¶* **13-14 irisshe...heer]** 'irisshe doothe gouuern & that 112 is heer' in code; '112' is, again, the Earl of Ormond.

¶* **15 30]** '30', as Walsingham's note ('E: leceyster') reveals, is Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

¶* **15 yowrsellf]** 'yowrsellf' in code.

¶* **15 70]** According to Walsingham's note, '70' is 'Ireland' itself.

¶* **16 mysellf]** 'mysellf' in code.

¶* **17 barrie roe]** 'barrie roe' in code.

¶* **17]** five-character (illegible) deletion.

¶* **18 is protected]** 'is protected' in code.

¶* **18 george Champern]** 'george Champern' in code.

¶* **19 dauie]** 'dauie' in code.

¶* **19 112]** Again, the Earl of Ormond.

¶* **20-21 in owr..relieue]** 'in owr bozoommes' and 'spye & relieue' in code.

¶* **21 the knaue...owte]** 'the knaue' and 'owte' in code.

¶* **28 •]** 'a' deleted.

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

¶* **33 ••]** 'his' deleted.

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

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

¶* **69 I]** 'I' inserted above the line, with caret mark.

¶* **72 lettre]** The eight lines following this have been written at a right angle in the left margin, top to bottom.

¶* **79 owr owynge]** 'owr owynge' in code, transliterated character by character above the line (the last two letters not expanded, leaving the transliteration as 'owr owyn').

¶* **82 requesty••d]** The letters 'ng' deleted, and 'd' added above the line, with a caret mark.

¶* **Annotation {...]** A fold in the paper here has obscured the last line of the marginal annotation.

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