

NA (PRO) SP 63/86/50
Grey to the Queen, 6 November 1581

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent [Maiestie](#) /

6 Nouember 1582
To hir [Maiestie](#) from [the](#)
[Lord](#) Deputye.

Text

It may please your [Maiestie](#) vpon retourne from my late iorney into Mounster (the discourse whereof hauing certefied to my [Lords](#) of your Councell, I omitt for feare of tædiousnes to repeate) I mett [with](#) [lettres](#) from theyr [Lordships](#) signifying the great dislyke your [Highnes](#) had conceyued [with](#) the charges you fownd your self to bee at in this land vpon the late booke [the](#) Auditour here had certefied: and therevpon was willed by their [Lordships](#) in your [Highnes](#) name to enter into consideration [with](#) some of my Associates in Councell, both how your [Highnes](#) sayd charges by cassying of bandes might bee eased, & also to answere certeyn doubttes & obiections rysing to their [Lordships](#) vpon the sayd Auditours booke, & collected by them into certeyne Memorialles. The answering of [the](#) Memorialles being not fewe, & diuersely misgathered, doth aske a more tyme, then this present dispatch to full satisfaction could affoord, [which](#) yet, God willing, shall not bee long; The other point for cassing of bandes is so perillous, as I could not execute the direction, [with](#)out first certefying [the](#) condition of this State, & consequently the daunger thereof. But ere I enter into the

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discourse, I am humbly to craue pardon: for fynding how the charges of this
seruice hath not so much darkned & made of no accoupt all care trauell &
endeuour by mee therein vsed, but hath brought euen my self into meane
termes of your Highnes lyking & good opinion, I cannot but rest in feare, or
rather doubtlesse, that this my Theme seeming to impugne sparing shall
bring small content, yf happely yt escape displeasure; yett zealous & duetifull
true meaning being my emboldener in th'one, & defence in th'other, with confi=
dence that Trough shall not rest buried, how euer clouded, I will playnely,
yet with most humble & reuerent entent deliuer myne opinion, & then referre
& submitt all to your Maiesties will & direction. /
How this state in euery part thereof was in stirre & reuolt at my entring
into the gouernement, is not vnknown to your Highnes & how generall the
combination of the conspiracie, besides those that in action haue shewed yt,
the late discouery of no small number nor commune persons, euen of the harte
of the Pale hath manifested. How such an action without great charge could
be prosecuted, & how hard, yf not impossible it is to warre & spare at once,
your Maiesties indifferent iudgment I appeale vnto. But it is obiected, that

tyme is to be respected, otherwise that two Inglands were vnhabable for
such a continuall charge; wherevnto I might say, that tymes & houres of all
thinges are onely in god his knowledge & appointment, yet in this cause soe
certeine lykelyhoods his goodnes had affoorded me, as within two yeares space I
durst haue limited vpon pawne of my lyfe, to haue throughly ended these
broyles, reformed the state, & settled such a Gouernement, as in fewe yeares after
the charges should haue bene well repayed, in case your Highnes had helde on
your resolute begynning. But when before one half yeare fully expired,
your Maiestie griued with the warre by reason of the charge, beganne to thinck
the tyme long, & too esteeme of no seruice, bycause all was not doen at once,
nor God his pleasure, to haue that that was doen to light on the chiefest, and

settled in that conceipt, fell to temporizing & pardoning them, whome
your warre had now brought to that exigent, as by th'ende of this winter
of necessitie they must haue famished, fought, or yielded to your mercye;
here, **with** humblenes & all submission I speake it, was **the** ouerthrow of
the seruice, & making vayne of all former cost & trauayle. for by this
proceding the onely shewe of good was the taking in of such of them, as
had most welth & lyuing, & whose bodies were by age or other accident
growen vnhabable, the younger sort* & men of action in the meane while stan-50
ding out were relieued by these, & so the worke brought in maner to
the same state, that at the begynning yt was: their abettours and
fauorers herevpon so comforted & emboldened, as where before warily
& **with** great heede they affoorded them succour & reliefe, now carelesly
euen at noone dayes they sticked not to accompany •••* & harbour55
them: on the contrary syde the trewe man & duetifull Subiecte,
that had either serued on them, or discouered any theyr conspiracies,
became all amated, resting doubtfull of defence, & casting sure ac-
count of malitious reuenge. If now to this your Highnes shall for
proffitts sake adde cassing of your bands here, the slippery hould of
these lately taken in people, the generall conspiracie now last descried,
the peace

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the peace still threatning warres of Tirlogh, the arrogant & disobedient
carriage of Clanrichard his sonnes & Ororick, the insolency of the
Oconnors, Moores, & Cauanaghes, the rebellious action of Desmond Barry,
& their accomplices, not reckoning Baltinglasse, nor William Nugent,
these thinges I say weighed, the stay and bitt to all which is onely **your**
force, & not duety nor good will your Highnes can account of, I feare **that**
eare two yeares come about, such sparing will proue costly husbandry,
ether in treble expences, or losse of the stocke. The Lord make me a false

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Prophete, or els inspire your **Maiestie** not to trye it. It is not **Madam** any priuate **commoditie** (God I take to record) that carrieth me to this declaration in my iustefying, wherein no fauour or pardon will I craue, neither that I haue bene lesse carefull to serue your lyking in proffitt, then any other that hath borne the place, so farre forth as your honour & good of this poore countrey hath not **commen therewith** in balaunce; and yet in that sort too, by indifferent Auditt, I litle feare to be fownd a prodigall or retchlesse Factour. I haue not perchaunce looked so narrowly into matters of accoumpt, & the Ministers thereof, as the cause might require, & your **Highnes** expecte: to be borne **with** therein, not vniustly I humbly craue; for care thereof & willingnes wanted not, but hablenes to tend to that, & answeere the infinitenes of **the** other seruice, **which** the generall trouble of this land required, was not in me; what thus onely discharge of duety hath exacted of me, I most humbly craue to bee as æqually and fauorably taken & considered, as it is reuerently & zelously intended, & all submitted to your **Highnes** good pleasure.

Further whereas by part of your **Maiesties** instructions vnto me by Mr Fenton, your will is I should make peace by what meanes soeuer, surely **Madam** to make you an honorable & sownd peace some tyme yt will aske, & your warre the onely meanes. If præsentnes of tyme & charge bee respected, & honour **with** more aduenture sett asyde, of such a peace th'onely way, that I can see, is this: Your **Highnes** must reuoke all exceptions in your

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Generall pardon, free all **Rebelles** from the highest to the lowest, restore them to all their landes & Seignories, admitt no English Gouvernour of Prouince, interrupt nor call to accoumpt no Irish Captein of countrey or chiefe of Sept, permitt their willes to be lawe, & lustes Reason, lastly your **Highnes** self to bee contented **with the** English pale, or somuch thereof as the Irish borderers will suffer you to enioy, & herewith **the** name of

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Queene; this Madam betwixt God & me, is th'onely meanes of a present
Peace: to which yet as I see no reason for any to advise your Highnes so I must
confesse my daring farre lesse to vndertake th'executing of yt. Pardon
me therefore I most humbly beseeche your Maiestie though I haue not followed
that your Highnes direction; the glory of God, your Highnes honour, & well
willing to a trew reformation of this most forwandered state, are the
causes of yt./ 100

Our distresse is here great for want of money, & such as if your Maiestie
haue not care to see yt relieued, hardly will the Souldier be conteyned
in duety, & from other great disorders. Weigh I beseech your Highnes
the inconvenience of yt; yf extremity pressed not, I would not surely
trouble your Highnes with so dislyked a suit, as I fynd craue of pay to bee.
So with a priuate most humble petition I will end, that yt will please
you to haue consideration of my self, who fynding himself greatly
in health decayed, for the discharge of the seruice, besydes the hardnes
of his happe to content your Maiesty in the same, most humbly beseecheth
with your fauour to be called home. The Lorde of Lordes euer kepe and
continew in all happines your Maiestie Dublin the vjth of Nouember 1581. 105

Yowr hyghnes most faythefull
subiect & humble seruant,

Arthur Grey

¶ **Note on hands** The text of the letter and the address are written in Spenser's formal italic hand, characteristic of these letters from Grey to the Queen. Grey has added his own subscription and signature in his usual style. The endorsement, presumably added during the filing process in London, is in a later hand.

*50 sort] 'sort' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

¶* 55 ••••] 'them' deleted

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