

NA (PRO) SP 63/88/39
Grey to the Queen, 25 January 1581/2

Address and Endorsement

To the Queenes most
excellent Maiesty
To hir Maiestie

25. Ianuarie. 1581.
From the Lord Grey, Lord De=
putie of Ireland.
Answere to hir Maiesties lettres
vnto him of the .12. of De=
cember: towchyng the
reducyng of hir garri=
son there to 3000 and
his bestowyng of the re=
bels lands in custodiam on
diuerse seruitors there.
Entred.

Text

Your Highnes lettre of the xijth of December last I receiued not till the date hereof: neuerthelesse vpon priuate aduertizement & direction from Mr Secretary a weeke before had, the contentes of the same touching the reducing of your forces here to 3000, & cassing of the rest, was entred into, & order taken for yt, as by a Booke herewith sent to your Highnes sayd Secretary⁵ in particulare may appeare; & God I call to record, how farre from me any other cause was in the forbearing hetherto th'accomplishing of the same then onely care & safety of your state here, the reasons wherefore seeming so light & weake to your Maiesty I beseech th'Almighty cause so in falling out to proue, that the contrary approue them not too worthy of better regard, & so humbly I yield. Now where by the rest of your Highnes letter I fynd yt enformed agaynst me, that the greatest part of the Rebelles Landes, are by Custodiams bestowed vpon sondry persons, no proffitt thereof arysing to your Maiesty to the easing of your charges; in trouth Madam nether is true: for not a fowrth part of them is bestowed, nor yett those that are, otherwise then with reseruatiō to your Maiesty of such a Rent, as your Commission for survey shall sett; so that hereby in case the Custodiams by me giuen were by your Maiesty confirmed in leasse for xxj yeares, your onely losse is the fyne, which surely the tickle hold &

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15

vse of land here, as dayes now are, & **the** generall extreme pouerty **with** all
weighed, can growe to no great account. I say not this to colour or
extenuate any thing by me herein doen, faulty I graunt yt may bee,
without euill or vntrew meaning I must **with** humblenes euer avowe it{.}
And though priuie malice fretting at others good, bycause theyr selues
may not attayne accustomed whole prayes, hath by credit & fauour
about your **Maiesty** (whose setting vp hath come by commodity of offices,
& therefore the readier by them selues to measure & coniecture of
me) so aggrauated this my simple stray (yf any it bee) & mere
gaynesse crime; yet yf the most fauorable promise, it pleased your
Highnes at my leaue taking to affoord, bee held, namely that no beleefe
should take place agaynst me, **without** first being heard to speake,
I nothing doubt, but theyr owne corrupt information, yf face will
serue them to maynteyne yt, shall playnely bewray the maske of

theyr envy, & cleare the syncerenes of my meaning in eache part of
your **Highnes** service. Yf your **Maiesties** officer here may not as well re=
ward as punish, surely small regard shalbee had of him, & thereafter
will his seruice fall out; though for my part in that, that is to come
I will præcisely follow your restreynt, as also certefy **the** Survey, so
soone as possibly it may bee taken; & for **the** past, how and what is by mee
graunted, I haue fully imparted to Mr Secretary both landes & goods.
Wherewith yf your **Maiesty** shall fynd cause to rest still offended, great
griefe yt must bring me, pardon I craue, & submitt my self to your
good pleasure. But for that **the** bruit of this your **Highnes** dislyke, and a
more truste* reposed in other here hath brought me into such discredit
with all, & so amated & distracted me in my self as nether powre nor⁴⁵
sence is lefte me to hold on the seruice, I most humbly beseeche your **Highnes**
in commiseration of my priuate, but espetially in regard of your owne
service, to free me, & appoynt hether some other, that better to your
content & auayle of this your state, may discharge **the** place. So the
liuing God bee alwayes your **Maiesties** directour & Protectour.
Dublin. 25^o Ianuary. 1581. /

Yowr **Hyghnes** most humble seruant
& faythefull subiect

Arthur Grey

□ **Note on hands** As in formal letters from Grey to the Queen (see e.g. 63/78/29), the text and address of this letter are in Spenser's formal italic hand. Grey has added his own subscription and signature. The endorsement, probably added during filing of the letter in London, is in a later hand.

□ * **44 truste•**] Single character (illegible) deleted.

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