

NA (PRO) SP 63/92/11/1
Copy of Grey et al. to the Queen, 9 May 1582

Endorsement

Copy from my Lord
Deputy & Councell
to her Maiestie . /
x Maij

Text

May yt please your maiesty where yt appeareth by your maiesties late
lettre of the xxvth of the last moneth, that vpon Informacion giuen
to your Highnes how a great part of the Threasure sent into this
Realme intended chiefly to answeare the wages & interteynementes of martiall
men hath bene by indirect order converted to the payment of Concordatums
obteyned & graunted contrary to an Article of Instructions sent ouer by
your Highnes late Chauncellour of this Realme: your Maiesty fyndeth yt straunge
that besides so small regard shewed to your Highnes said Instructions
with other abvses noted vpon the maner of graunting & private subscribing
the said Concordatums, so litle care hath bene had of the Consumpci{on}*10
of your threasure in that kind of Charges, whereby your maiesties debtes
are increased & sondry your Soldieres remayne vnpayed; we are
bold for your maiesties better satisfaccion & following your expresse Com
maundement to send to your Highnes in a schedule inclosed a true report

5

answeare to the first
point of hir Maiesties
lettre touching
Concordatums

sendeth a note of
all concordatums he
hath giuen

they haue been al
agreed to by the
Council though
signed seuerally

& content of all such concordatums as can vpon the sodein be collected . 15
& are of most importaunce, & haue bene payde by me the Threasurer, the
rest yf any bee are in the Custody of the parties, to whome such
allowaunces haue bene given; which concordatums doe conteyne in them
selues the growndes & causes of the guift, wherein we assure your 20
maiesty vpon our truth & credittes, that contrary to the tenour of the
informacion none haue passed without their due debating at the
Councell table, & the parties & their merittes throughly weighed &
examined before any order hath bene giuen for the wryting of any
such concordatum, though perhaps some of them were afterwardes sub 25
scribed seuerally & privately, euen by those that before were at their
first debating: And moreouer as in number they are not so
many & in value so great as in former tymes (albeit the tyme of
the Accion well weighed might both haue expressed & borne yt
yf yt had bene farre greater) So nether are your maiesties debtes
increased further, then necessity hath constrayned by consump{cion} 30
of your threasure in that kynd of Charge nor any of the Army
lefte vnpayed, so farre as the seuerall quantities of threasure sent
ouer to those vses would extend & stretch vnto. Neuerthelesse we
hope your maiesty will consider, that in so great a cause & of such 35
continuaunce as this warre hath bene there must be many
extraordinary Allowaunces, that haue required present disbursement
but for the full satisfaccion of your Maiesty, we humbly desire that ye
would cause all the concordatums not payed & that haue growen

since the tyme of me the Deputy to be examined by Commissioneres 40
which we wish to bee the informeres themselues yf they bee of any

for bestowing
of rebels lands

{He} hath granted no
Custodiams vnder the
seale but a lease
to Sir William Russel

Lord deputy barred
from giuing
escheats, inferior
officers hauing
authority to doe it
in the particular
Prouinces

4. onely granted
since the restraynte.

creditt meete for such trust: To the second part of your maiesties lettre
which chiefly concerneth me your Deputy for bestowing Rebelles
goodes & Custodiams of their landes namely since the restraint made
by your Maiesty in your former lettres, like as no one thing hath passed the
great seale ether since or before (but a lease to Sir William Russell)
that might preiudice your maieſty in the free disposing of the said
Rebelles landes: So did I not till now vnderstand so much of your
Maieſties meaning that the disposicion of the escheated* goodes was pro-
hibited vnto me. for yf I had so conceived of your maieſties lettres, I would
haue prevented all euill opinion, howsoeuer the parties gratified had
wanted their due deserved benefitt. But in truth I neuer mistrusted
but that I might without your Maieſties disfavour haue kept a modest
course in rewarding of vertue aswell as in correcting of vice.
especialy whenas your liberality was not extended to the Consumpcion of
your threasure, but out of casuall proffittes, which in the particulare pro-
vinces is warranted by your Maieſty to be giuen away by inferiour officeres
& neuer denyed to any Deputy heretofore, wherein I fynd my lott very
hard that my true service & indeavour here should receive so hard
construccion or be so lightly accepted: But fully to resolue your
Highnes in the last parte of this Article what Custodiams I haue graunted
since the said restraint, it is true that I haue graunted onely fowre
the first of Nicholas Nugentes landes to Sir Robert Dillon, the second of
Edward Cusackes landes to Captein Thomas Norrice, the third of one Walshes
to Garrett Birne viceseneschall to Sir Harry Harrington, the
forth of Wogans landes to Mr Briskett, the reasons that moved me
were the seuerall desertes of the gentlemen at least as I haue iudged of
them in their seuerall professions: Mr Norrice hath painfully
served your Maieſty since the begynning of this warres without reward
Birne is an honest discrete Officer & hath lost his blood in your
Maieſties service this yeare past: Sir Robert Dillon hath bene formerly

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custodiam giues not
any such estate
in the land as
hir Maiesty hath been
informed.

commodityes that come
by custodiam

houses and woods preserved
tenants kept from
running away.
the rent aunsweared.

the custodiam repealable
at hir Maiesties pleasure

Commended to your
Maiesty & I suppose
wanted not frendship at
Court
to inhale him to your
guifte, Mr Briskett hath
served long as
Clerke of your Councill
& is a gentleman very
honest & sufficient. But
now yt may please your
most excellent maiesty
not to hearken to the
onely opinion of me
your Deputy touching
Custodiams but to vs all

75

who doe gather by the
weight of your
maiesties* wordes, that
the Informeres of
your Highnes haue
made yt seeme vnto
you, that whosoouer
hath a
Custodiam of any land
here hath some such

estate of Contynuaunce
as taketh from you some notable benefitt ether in the sale demise or
guifte of the land. But in this their informacion they are ether ma-80
litious aboute measure or too too ignoraunt: for in trouth; ••• ••* yt
agreeth both* with auncient Custome here & with reason ••••* & most con-
venient for your Maiesties Commodity, that as soone as any land es
cheateth, yt should be presently Committed to the Custody of some
person who should see the houses & woodes preserved & the tenants85
kept vpon the land (who here in such cases do accustomedly
runne away) & is bownd to answer the rent to your Maiesty as yt
shalbe surveyed by your officer, in which Custodiam he is to continue
till such tyme as your Highnes or your Commissioneres & officeres might
according that Survey lett yt by lease, or that your Maiesty did by in-
struccion dispose the same in guifte or sale as to you should seeme
good. This graunt is called a Custodiam; of this nature are
all the Custodiams ••••* that haue bene giuen here, not one
vnder the great seale, but all in pay by Consent of the Gouvernour
& Councill, or els by ordinary course out of the exchequer, And95
the onely advauntage that any man can hope of by having a
Custodiam is, that being in possession of the land, he may thinck

90

3.
impositions vppon
the pale.

him self one step the nearer to your maiesties favour ether in the sale
leasse or guifte thereof, whensoever your maiesty shall dispose the
same, which good respect your Maiesty accustomedly hath to the fermoures¹⁰⁰
of your Highnes reuennue in England: yf this be true (as vpon our
credittes to your Maiesty yt is) what reproche doe they deserve from
your Highnes which persuade the disgrace of*
vs who serve your maiesty here, & that in a matter which can no* way be
interpreted against your maiesties honour and proffitt, And being not¹⁰⁵
doen the land must haue lyen waste without any proffitt
or Commodity to your Maiesty at all. And where in the last claus{e}
of your maiesties lettre yt seemeth your Highnes is informed of sondry ex-
tortions & ouercharges donne vpon the Countrey, by the Soldieres, not
withstanding the increasing of their ordinary wages, & your maiesties
losses susteyned in victelles so as the people through their into-
lerable greevaunces are entred into a great discontentment & alie-
nacion of hart; for our partes as we may in our Conscience afore god

110

No meanes hath
{be}en omitted that
might restrayn the
{s}oldiors.

& in truth to your Maiesty safely affirme that there hath bene
no provision nor polling which the tyme would suffer or we could
conceive, omitted, which might ether restreyne the insolency of the
Soldieres or assure the countrey from vnlawfull & extraordinary
exactions; so that our care & dealing may sincerely appeare to your
Maiesty, we haue caused to bee collected & impacketed herewith not
onely such proclamations Commissions & Commaundementes with their
penalties as we thought good to devise & publish for the same
but also the particulare maner & rates of the monethly Cesse
for the whole garrizon agreed on not onely by vs & the rest of the

115

{...} of procla
mations and orders
{...} that were taken
for Cesse by the
{Deputy} and Cuncel.*

120

Many idle men taken away for ease of the cuntry	privy Councell but also by the Nobility of the pale & grand Councell as here it is termed & in those matteres vsed: wherein carrying a greater care & Compassion of the Countrey then regard to relieve & ease the Soldieres (as in equity we ought & in tymes before have bene doen) we haue cutt of in euery land many	125
the way open to com plaine if any were greeued	numberes of horses & horseboyes which formerly haue bene allowed & by the Countrey yt self cannot be denyed. Besides the way hath bene alwayes free & open to any yea euen the meanest to com playne vpon any violence or wrong doen contrary to the tenour of the said Proclamations, & present orders yssued out to apprehend the offendoures to thend they might receive the reward of the euilles they had doen. And where further we fynd in the same Article , that	130
impossible to auoyd all extortions in so troublesome a tyme.	extortions haue bene exacted by the Horsemen & footmen, like as we suppose some such disorderes haue bene Committid & impossible in such a tyme to bee fully prevented, yet yf your maiesty consider our propor- tions for the laying downe of the Cesse (sent in this Packett) yt	135
	wilbe fownd that yt is not our faultes who require nothing but a rate of victell & horsemeat to be brought to the places of garrison and those rates not superfluous , & we appoint payment & prises for yt according the Soldieres wages. And yf any man thincking to make a better price of his corne or other victell, or lothe to cary	140
	his provision to the place of garrison, shall vountarily enter into a composicion with the Soldier* when yt is in his owne choice to deliuer ether his proporcion of Cesse or that Composicion may this be called an extortioner? No surely; & yett yf any such extreame dealing had bene complayned of, yt should haue bene ouerruled & punished in any that had bene obstinate or refused his due Cesse 150	145

redresse vpon
complaint

this point not com-
municated to the
irish councellors
because they are
to popular.

All impositions breed
mislike **which** cannot
but yf that none haue **complayned** here but hath bene heard &
redresse giuen, we thinck yt straunge they should presse **your**
Maiesties eares **with** such vntrue rumoures. And here I the Lord Deputy am
to giue **your** Highnes knowledg, **that** having regard to **the** fraile & light
disposicion of this people namely how apt they are to take hold
of the least occasion **that** is giuen, expownding all thinges to their
owne aduantage, I **thought good not to Communicate this your maiesties** lettre
in respect of this Article to any other of **the** Councill, as haue here
subscribed, least some of them being of this Countrey birth {&}
interested in sondry partes of the countrey, & inclined indeed mo{re}
to popularity & private Commodity then to **the** reducing of **the** peop{le}
to due obedience or regard of the necessity of **the** service, might
spred amongst **the** people, how farre **your** maiesty had taken knowledg
of the outrages of the Soldieres & other informacions made to the
disauantage of the gouernement & thereby become more insolent and
carelesse of their due office & dueties: A matter **which** in this land
is to Commune & most needfull to be restreyned & mett **withall**.
This device as such of **the** Councill as are vsed alwaies in matters
of most importaunce & secrecy allowed for good & consented to
yt foreseeing the harmes **that** might ensue yf in so tottering a tyme
inclined too much to contempt & loosenes the people might take
aduantage of **your** **Maiesties** fauour against **the** due & orderly pro-
cedinges of the gouernement here or in trowth of their owne desertes as
we cannot but affirme & the eventes too manifestly & ryfely
doe wisse. So for these reasons we thought good to keepe
that article of **the** lettre concealed emongst our selues, though **your** **maiesties**
direccion was ioyntly to vs & **the** residue, for **the** **which** we doubt not but
your **maiesty** will hold vs excused, or otherwise vpon **your** pleasure

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160
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signified yt shalbe
.....* redressed. And
so to knitt vp the
matter our dueties
willeth vs to impart
vnto your maiesty, what
ex180

be remedied but
ether by

increasing of the
soldiors pay

victuel the gar
rison at hir Maiesties
charges.

or dissolue the
whole forces

{Aduer}tise
{ment} out of
{M}ounster.

perience leadeth vs to iudg herein, namely that in euery impo sicion laid vpon the pale, mislikes & grudge will grow in the multitude, **which** yf **your maiesty** will haue vtterly raced away, were a great happines to him that should gouerne. But then must **your maiesty** take one of these iij waies, ether to giue a through
185
maintenance to your Soldier increasing his pay so as he may live therevpon **without** pressing **the***
Subiect or to pro-

vide such a continuall masse of victelles as may throughly serve the numberes **your maiesty** shall

resolue to keepe or elles **that** **your maiesty** would cash your whole forces, & looke for such an obedience¹⁹⁰ as the good disposicion of the people & **the** execucion of **your** lawes **without** force will affoord you in all **which** **your maiesties** direccion shalbe obeyed.

Lastly having euen now received out of Mounster **the** **lettre** & **aduertizementes** hereinlosed we are bould to send **the** same to **your maiesty** humbly referring to **your maiesties** wisdomes **the** consideracion of the perill, & speedy remedy & prevencion of further euilles threatning not onely that province, but together this whole vnhappy & wretched land For **the** particulare of me the Lord Deputy & some otheres seuerally of this Councell, as I haue formerly aduertized my **Lords** of **your maiesties** Councell there, that seing by **withdrawing** **your maiesties** forces from thence, the province was left abandoned to **the** will & appetite of **the** Rebelles, other was not to be looked for, then an vniuersall revolt & breaking out of all partes & a butcherly ruyne & massacre of those few of **your Highnes** Army left in garrison there, So the first event of **that** appeared in

195

200

205

2 bandes sent
thither.

the late slaughtering of Captein James Fentons band, garrized
in the partes of Carbery & secondly in this Accident of Ardagh
lying in the nether skirtes of Kerry vpon the borderes of Clon
Morish, & the like is to bee feared will fall vpon other places
yf speedy remedy be not applyed; we haue presently sent away
thetherwardes ij of the old bandes of footmen out of the Pale. And
though for the small assuraunce we haue either of the Pale
yt self (the Oconnoures being now in their pride, against
whome these ij bandes with the other should presently haue bene
imploied) or any other part of this land, we could but with
great daunger spare any ••••* forces from hence: yett
considering the distresse of those in Mounster, & how perillou{s}
yt may bee in so generall revolt & (as may be feared) in an
expectacion of forreyne powre not to haue the citties there²²⁰
manned & furnished, we thought good to comfort them with
these ij bandes having lefte but ij more both in Leinster &
Vlster to answere all occasions, nether yf any greater
extremity

210

215

extremity should happen there, is yt possible for me the
Deputy in this great* want of ••••* money forces & victelles to
advauce to their ••* relief. Such is the extremity which
now this state is growing vnto, which we most humbly betake
to your maiesties care & consideracion, the rather bycause your
Maiesty may be informed by th'enclosed lettres what treachery²³⁰
hath bene vsed in Connagh to your Soldieres, that in orderly
maner have sought to leavy your maiesties rent. And so most
humbly we Committ your maiesty to the goodnes of th'Almighty

225

Dublin this
May.* 1582 .

of

