

NA (PRO) SP 63/94/107
Certificate of High Commissioners to Grey, 29 August 1582

Address

To the righte honorable
our very good Lord the Lord Grey
Barron of Willton, knight
of the honorable order
of the Garter, and Lord
Deputy generall of this
Realme of Ireland

Text

Maie yt please your honorable Lordship That where this bearer Iohn Bird, Regester
to vs the Queenes highe Commyssionners hath requested our Testymonie
of his behaviour, in the execution of that Office, in regarde that he doubtethe
him self to haue ben accused of Corrupte dealinges theren: At his requeste
for declaracion of a troathe wee can no lesse doe then to yeld this reporte
and Testymonie of him: He hath serued that place verie painefully
carefully* (and for oughte wee can learne vprightly, and sincerely) which seruice could
not be tendred withoute muche displeasure and myslyke of the offendours
and Culpable whereby in our opynions he hath very well deserued
that place (And notwithstanding that anny thing may to the contrary¹⁰
happen to haue ben suggested) that your Lordship might stand his good Lord.
And so we humbly take leave. Dublin the xxixth of August 1582

Mr Waterhouse
addition /.
Though the bearer haue ben generally myslyked, and evill
speeches geaven of him, yet we see no prooffe particularly
to chardge him hetherto. 15

Your honorable Lordships humbly
at Commaundement,

The Lord Prymat of all Ireland/. Thomas Armacdh
and Archbusshop of Armagh/.

Henry Myden the Lord Bishop of meth 20

the chieff baron of her Lucas Dillon
maiesties exchequer/. Nicholas Malby governor of the province of Connaghte
the Bisshop of R. Daren kyldare John Garuey the Deane of
Christes church in dublin

the Bisshop of Hugo Feren Feren 25
Edward waterhous esquier one of the pryvy councell

Edward Morre Knighte.

copia vera ./.
Ex. Edmund Spenser 30
Secretary to
the Lord Grey
Lord deputy here/.

Ambrose forth. . Doctor of Lawes

Richard Thomson

To thende you mighte the better
knowe the seuerall callinges of these
persons, I have described them at
their names /. 35
threasorer of Saint
Patrickes

¶ **Note on hands** The address and text of this letter are written in an unbecoming secretary hand (not Spenser's). The signatures are all copies in a uniform italic hand, afterwards annotated in the same secretary hand as that used in the body of the letter. Spenser's certification, including 'copia vera' and signature, is in his customary form. That the annotations on the signatures include the certification added by Spenser suggests that the under-secretary who copied the letter handled it both before and after it was certified, before dispatching it to London; this is consistent with the usual process noted in letters prepared by Spenser for Grey, where annotations in the text of the letter in Grey's own hand seem to have been inserted between Spenser's composition and Spenser's endorsement.

* 7 **carefully**] 'carefully' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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