Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 31: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

Source Booklet

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Source for use with Section A.

From a letter written by Marin Cavalli, the Venetian Ambassador in France, to the government of Venice, 10 November 1601. Here he is reporting information on the landing of Spanish troops in Ireland, which he had learned at the court of the King of France.

The landing in Ireland of about five thousand Spanish troops took place early last month. They landed at Kinsale, where they seized the small town of that name. It is reported that the Bishop of Cork is supporting them. The King of Spain's aim is to secure a foothold in Ireland, then to push forward gradually. The distance from Spain to Ireland is not great, and navigation in the open sea is easier than in the English Channel, where the last Armada* went.

There are other reasons for the invasion. The Queen of England is sixty-eight years old, and, in the natural course of events, she cannot continue much longer. Should she die soon, this foothold would allow the King of Spain either to acquire Ireland or to assist the Catholics there. The King could also use his position to make England dependent on himself.

Queen Elizabeth either did not believe the warnings she was given about this invasion, or her troops failed to locate the enemy, for the Spanish landed without meeting any of the armed opposition they were expecting. However, on hearing the news, Lord Deputy Mountjoy, who resides at Dublin, withdrew six thousand of the sixteen thousand infantry that he had positioned in the north against the Earl of Tyrone. These soldiers were sent to combat the Spanish at Kinsale. In addition, the Queen has sent Mountjoy some reinforcements and has given orders to raise six thousand more men for his service. She has already sent some of her ships, which, as a rule, are admirably equipped. They are ordered to blockade the port of Kinsale, also to patrol the seas and stop any further support that may be sent from Spain.

The opinion here in France is that all the troops sent from Spain will be of little use. They are not used to the climate, and lack supplies. Also, it will be hard for them to make contact with the Earl of Tyrone. He is at the opposite end of the island, while the Lord Deputy holds all the country between them with well-provisioned forts. The strength of the Earl of Tyrone depends on one or two very important strongholds in Ulster. If he abandons these to join up with the Spanish, he will expose himself to the obvious chance of ruin.

*last Armada – a failed attempt by Spain in 1597 to seize ports in England or Wales as bases for a possible conquest of England; the fleet was scattered by a storm

Acknowledgement:

Source from: *Venice: November 1601', in Calendar of State Papers Relating To English Affairs in the Archives of Venice, Volume 9, 1592–1603,* ed. Horatio F Brown (London, 1897), pp. 477–481.