

Date: 12 February 1563

REF: GD112/39/2/12 (SHS ed. No. 9)

Place: Kilmartin (Mid-Argyll)

From: Donald Campbell of Larg

To: Duncan Campbell of Glenlyon

Address: To ye honorable and his lovit eme Duncan Campbell of Glenlyoun deliver yis

Honorable Sir and eme eftir my maist hartlie recommendatiouns. This present salbe to advertis zow yat I hef sene and considerit zour dowble writtingis to lenth. And as for ane confirmacion of ye Lard of Glenurquhais vpoun zour promiss I nevir supponit bot att ze suld be ane honorable faithfull man nor zit I did nocht desire sic confirmatioun to prese zou vyerwiss bot at ze schawe me at our first commonyng. And zour promiss at ye said Lard of Glenurquhay was desirar of me yairand at he was als weill gevin to yat purposs as ze. And quhy gif say hed bene think ze merwall yat I wald desire his writting for ane witnessing at he war desirar of me yair to approbat zour sayingis yat he desirit me to ye quhilkis I gef credens in ye begynning. Bot ze sall hef me apardonit¹ I cann schaw ye said Lardis writtingis to preif ye contrar viz yat he nevir bald nor desirit me nor my cumpany to cum yair nor wist nocht of yat dracht.² Yis is dissonant with zour informatioun quhairfor my counselloris³ hes forbiddin me to cum yair to yat I hef ane sekir probatioun⁴ of ye said Lard yat he desiris me yair or nocht. And gif he desiris me yair I wat he will nocht stwdy to shaw me ye samyn for I trestit to yis present yat ze hed bene bayth coniunctlie sett for yat purposs. And als it war necesser yat I knawe gif he desirit me yair als weill as ze sua yat I and my cumpany mycht ye mair esy vss in hes cuntrie quhen mister⁵ requiritis. And attour quhair ze write yat ye skath of zour vnfreindis quhilk ze hef gottin⁶ in ane part sall redound to me and my freindis schame without we *be set* to revenge ye samyn and gif plesit me and freindis to cum and tak my part of ye remied. As for yat plesis zou to desire ye rest of zouris freindis to serve zou say lang as I hef done and of sic ane fassioun zit sall I be als redy as yai to ye samyn. Bot it is sene expedient to my counsell (howbeit it be lychtlifull to zow) yat I gang nocht fuillaiglie⁷ yair agane as I did afoir. And sua gif ze get nocht ye said Lard of Glenurquhais writting

with your awne to me at he is desirar of me yair like as ze ar hef me
apardonit at I cum nocht. For I will nocht get men to pass to sic ane purpos
(without costis and expens) bot zit I and freindis salbe als weill gevin
for ye revenge of yai inimeis as ze be. Gif we gett nocht ye said
Lardis writtingis yat he is desirar of ws yair and your awne writting
at ze ar debtor to pay ye costis at I sall mak over my cumpany. For gif ze
do nocht send yir writtingis I can nocht hef ferm assurans yat ze
and ye said Lard wald desire ws to cum yair. Bot alwiss we salbe
sett for revenge *as* vyeris sall quhen tyme and place requiris howbeit we
thoill⁸ for ane tyme. Ferdar referis to your awne wisdom and nixt
anser in yis behalf. Sua committis zow to ye Lord God. Of Kilmartin
ye xij day of Februar 1562.

Zouris eme at powar,
Donald Campbell of ye Larg

[PS] Pless mak my commendatiounis
to ye Lady your bedfallo⁹
David Torscheach and Neill Campbell.
For my broder ye Lard¹⁰ commendis
him hertlie to zou and yaim.

¹ Forgiven.

² Scheme.

³ The reference to his counsellors and later to his council suggest that Donald was still a minor, though he refers later in the letter to having served Glenlyon for a long time. There had been a considerable mix-up between Larg, Glenlyon and Grey Colin over Larg bringing his troops for service against the MacGregors. Larg now insisted upon having written instructions before he would come with his men and wanted Glenlyon to underwrite the cost of the operation.

⁴ Dependable proof.

⁵ Need.

⁶ This probably refers to the MacGregor raid of 7 December 1562 on the inn at the Brae of Atholl, after which Duncan Campbell of Glenlyon and Patrick, his brother, took out signet letters against the MacGregors, 13 December 1562, GD112/1/124-5; 141-2.

⁷ Foolishly.

⁸ Suffer.

⁹ Janet Robertson, Glenlyon's wife.

¹⁰ This could refer to Archibald, Donald's eldest brother, though he did not succeed their father John Campbell of Lochnell until 1568, or his elder brother, John of Cabrachan, or possibly his brother-in-law, a Cadogan.