

Date: 12 September 1565

REF: GD112/39/4/22 (SHS ed. No. 50)

Place: Dumfries

From: James Hamilton, Duke of Châtelherault; James Stewart, Earl of Moray;¹

Alexander Cunningham, 4th Earl of Glencairn; Andrew Leslie, 5th Earl of Rothes²

To: General circular addressed to Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To our rycht traist freynd the Lard of Glenvrquha

Traist freynd eftir oure hartlie commendatiouns. It is not unknowin to zow how for ye defence of oure brethren and oure avne livis we wer of lait compellit to put our selvis togidder and also how for lack of concurrence of oure brethren we with sa gude a caus wer put in owir gret a hazard. Quhill now we haif retyred oure selvis in yir rowmes to repair oure forces quhairin we are earnistlie occupyit at this present. Willing zou to vnderstand

yat God hes sa mercifullie delt with ws yat he hes fund ws grett freyndschip and abundance

of forces apperandlie to releve oure oppressed brethren and to put oure caus to sum gude poynt

quhilk we are deliberat to do and yat schortlie God willing. Craving yairfore of zow as we assure oure selffis ze tendir the caus sa ze wilbe sa gude as to find zour self in reddyne

to joyne with ws and ye rest of oure brethren at sik tyme and place as salbe appointed and

as ze salbe advertist of xxiiij houris befoir. Lett zour forces be sik as the wechtynes of the caus requiris and zour lonyng for the weill yairof for xx dayis. We traist we neid not to disco-

ver the procedingis of oure adversariis quhairof we suppose ze haif bettir experience nor we wald desire. Bot referris the samin with ye circumstances of all thingis to zoure avne wisdom. Praying God to be zour confort(sic) quhill meting. Fra Drumfreis yis xij of September 1565.

Zouris assured freyndis,

James Hammylton

James Stewart

Glencairn

Roths

¹ In his absence Lord James Stewart's houses in the priory and the castle at St. Andrews were seized on 9 September, D. Hay Fleming, The Reformation in Scotland, (London, 1910), 608-10. I am grateful to Linda Dunbar for this reference.

² Assuming that English help was on its way, these Lords had hopes that they could muster support to oppose the King and Queen. Argyll was in the Menteith area so was not one of the signatories. Not surprisingly, the language of this proclamation by the 'rebels' echoed the proclamations issued by the Lords of the Congregation in 1559-60, but was far less successful in eliciting support.