

Date: 15 September 1565

REF: GD112/39/4/23 (SHS ed. No. 51)

Place: Inveraray Castle

From: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To our traist cousing the Laird of Glenvrchay

Cousing efter hartlie commendatiounis. We wret to zow zesterday¹ with zour awin serwant concerning Makgregor quhome we find weill willing to serve zow with ye rest yat will in ony wayis depend vpoun him. Nochtwithstanding yairis gret and earnest perswasiounis maid wnto him be ye Erle of Athollis conwoy² for we assuir zow yat we haif gottin intelligens yat ye revocatioun of zour few of ye Kingis landis of Braidalbane togidder with all the Chartres landis in yat cuntre ar promisit wnto him be ye Quene to cum and depend vpoun ye Erle of Atholl at hir command. Bot yat will in na wayis move him for we knaw yat ye erledom of Ergyll wald be promisit to zow or sum vyer of our freindis in lik maner for ye lyk service gif it wald be acceptit. Quhairfoir ze sall haif na dowl of Makgregoris guid service as we wrett to zow sindry tymes befor.³ Meirour we pray zow weray effecteousle to caus deliuer ws ye man yat is in ye castall and ye boy for we knaw weill that yair deliverand will be ane way to draw in ye rest of ye Clangregor as we dowl nocht zour awin wisdome will consider. For we assuir zow it nocht for na vyer caus we desyre yame bot to ye said effect. And so committis zow to God. Frome Inveraray ye xv day of September 1565.

Zouris,

Archibald Ergyll

[PS] Send sum serwand of zour awin to ye castall to deliuer the man and keip yis vyer point concerning Makgregor secret becaus weray few knawis ye same.

¹ This letter has not survived.

² Escort.

³ The bribe offered to MacGregor to change sides and join Atholl and the Queen was the transference of Grey Colin's tack of Discher and Toyer, the royal lands on the north and south of Loch Tay, and the Breadalbane lands belonging to the Perth Charterhouse. Together they comprised most of Grey Colin's holdings in Breadalbane, so Gregor MacGregor was being given the chance to replace Campbell power in that area with his own. The 5th earl's great confidence that MacGregor would not accept the Queen's offers was vindicated, MacGregor, thesis, 354-5.