

Date: 16 March 1565

REF: GD112/39/5/2 (SHS ed. No. 36)

Place: Balloch Castle

From: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy (draft)

To: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

Address:

My Lord efter mayst hartlie commendatioun of service. I haif resavit tua writingis of zour Lordshipis¹ makand mentioun yat yair wes seruantis of myn in cumpany with
John

McAlesteris soine at ye slauchter of ye Lard of Bawquannandis seruant.² As to yat I assure zour Lordship yair wes nane of myn at it nor never salbe at siclik with my will and gif ye Lard of Boquhannan will gif me ye namis of ony of my seruantis yat wes at ye said slauchter I sall put yame to ye lawis. As to ye assurans yat zour Lordship hes sufferitt ye Lardis of Auchinbrek and Ardkinglas to gif ye Clangregor I think yat zour Lordship hes done weill yairintill sua ye promessis maid vnto zour Lordship be kept. Bot gif it be onlie yat yai may tak meitt in zour Lordshipis boundis during ye assurance I think it is neyir zour Lordshipis honour nor my weill. I send writings aucht dayis syne to ye Lard of Auchinbrek and hes resavit na ansure yairof as yit.³ And quhair zour Lordship writis yat my seruantis hes brocht away certane gudis and geyr of ye Lard of Boquhennan in place of Duncane MacCoull Keir geir and desyris me to restor ye samen againe be resoun yat ye said Lard dependis onlie vpoun zour Lordship and hes tynt⁴ and ... my Lord of Lennox for yat cause. Zour Lordship sall wit yat I send my seruantis to haif apprehendit ye said Duncan and to haif brocht him to justice and seing yai culd nocht gett him brocht away part of his gere and nay vther manis geir as I sall sufficientlie preiff and yat with zour Lordshipis awin seruantis and diverss vyeris quha wer present for ye tyme. For yair wes restorit all geyr yat wes clamitt be ye Boquhennanis and the Clanferlane and cautioun fund yairfor quhilk drew to xl heyd of ky and better. And Duncane MacCoullis gere wes offerit siclik vpoun catioun and nay man wald be gude for it and ye nychtbouris grantit yat yair wes na geyr yair brocht away bot the said Duncane. Therifore I beseik zour Lordship to consider the matter according

to your Lordshipis honour and myn for I haif done na thing bot according to ye commissioun yat I haif of ye Quene Majeste⁵ and can nocht restore the gere quhill ye man be fyrst purgit be ye law. For vthervyse pervse my commissioun quhilk I will nocht do to mak ane oppin way to vtheris to desyre siclik. Bot quhen ye Lard of Boquhennan presentit the man to the law and beis pergit of sic thingis as I will persew him according to the Quene Majestie ordinans yan I sall restor ye geyr and mak the Lard of Boquhanan ane mendis at your Lordshipis sycht bot in ye mayntyne your Lordship mai haif me excusit.

For gif ye Lard of Boquhennan haid respect to his awin honour he wald nocht insist sa far in ane common theiff actioun repugnant ye lawis of the realm. I am glaid yat your Lordship be servit be Boquhennan and siclik honest men, nocht-theles

it is na caus to your Lordship to lychlie⁶ your awin quhilk man be your best quhen it cummis to ye vpwith.⁷ For my forbearis servit your Lordshipis predecessouris quhen the

Boquhennanis wer to seik⁸ and speciallie quhen yair wes mayst ado. I wrete nocht to your Lordship for MacCoule Keir gere for with ye help of God I sall neuer tak gere bot with gude zeles bot I wald your Lordship desyrit na thing of me bot according to your Lordshipis honour and myn. I resavit ane lytill tykat of your Lordshipis sayand yat your Lordship knew nocht ye ground of ye mater anent ye Clangregor yairfore

sen ye Lard of Ardkinglas is passit to your Lordship I pray your Lordship aduerteis me as your Lordship thinkis gude. Ye rest committis to your Lordshipis wisdom and ye Lord God preserue your Lordship. From Balloch ye xvj day of Merche 1564.

¹ One letter was 11 March 1565 GD112/39/3/24 - not printed, the other has been lost.

² See MacGregor, thesis, 342.

³ Auchinbreck's letter of 14 March 1565 [35] had not reached Grey Colin.

⁴ Tyne, in the sense of to draw away from Lennox and his affinity.

⁵ Grey Colin pleaded his royal commission of 22 September 1563 which explains why there were complaints against his over-vigorous use of it, 22 March 1564, RPC, I, 271-2.

⁶ To deal lightly or contemptuously.

⁷ In the sense of when it comes to the crunch.

⁸ Unwilling or reluctant rather than ill.