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 after my most heartlie commendatioun of service. I haif resavit tua writingis of zour Lordshipis makand mentioun yat yair wes servantis of myn in cumpany with John McAlesteris soine at ye slauchter of ye Lard of Bawquannandis servaut. 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 Boquhannon will gif me ye namis of ony of my servautis 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 kepit. Bot gif it be onlie yat yai may tak meitt in zour Lordshipis boundis during ye assurence 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 assure yairof as yit. And quhair zour Lordship writis yat my servautis 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 same againe be resoun yat ye said Lard dependis onlie vpoun zour Lordship and hes tynt and ... my Lord of Lennox for yat cause. Zour Lordship sall wit yat I send my servautis 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 sufficentlie preiff and yat with zour Lordshipis awin servautis 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 cautiou fund yairfor quhilk drew to xl heyd of ky and better. And Duncane MacCoullis gere wes offerit siclik vpoun cattioun 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 zour Lordshipis honour and myn for I haif done na thing bot according to ye commissioun yat I haif of ye Quene Majeste 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 zour Lordshipis sycht bot in ye mayntyme zour 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 zour Lordship be servit be Boquhennan and siclik honest men, nocht-theles it is na caus to zour Lordship to lychlie\textsuperscript{6} zour awin quhilk man be zour best quhen it cummis to ye vpwith.\textsuperscript{7} For my forbearis servit zour Lordshipis predecessouris quhen the Boquhennanis wer to seik\textsuperscript{8} and speciallie quhen yair wes mayst ado. I wrete nocht to zour Lordship for MacCoule Keir gere for with ye help of God I sall neuer tak gere bot with gude zele bot I wald zour Lordship desyrit na thing of me bot according to zour Lordshipis honour and myn. I resavit ane lytill tykat of zour Lordshipis sayand yat zour Lordship knew nocht ye ground of ye mater anent ye Clangregor yairfore sen ye Lard of Ardkinglas is passit to zour Lordship I pray zour Lordship aduerteis me as zour Lordship thinkis gude. Ye rest committis to zour Lordshipis wisdome and ye Lord God preserue zour Lordship. From Ballocht ye xvj day of Merche 1564.

\textsuperscript{1} One letter was 11 March 1565 GD112/39/3/24 - not printed, the other has been lost.
\textsuperscript{2} See MacGregor, thesis, 342.
\textsuperscript{3} Auchinbreck’s letter of 14 March 1565 [35] had not reached Grey Colin.
\textsuperscript{4} Tyne, in the sense of to draw away from Lennox and his affinity.
\textsuperscript{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, \textit{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.