

Date: 23 December 1565

REF: GD112/39/5/12 (SHS ed. No. 74)

Place: Edinburgh

From: Patrick Ruthven, 3rd Lord Ruthven

To: Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

Address: To hes syster ye Lady Glenwrquhay

Syster efter maist hartly commendationis. Yis salbe to certifye zow I haif resavit zour wrettyn and hes thankyt my Lord Athoill and my Lord Bodweill of ye gudness yai writ to zow in zour affairis.¹ I haif nocht spokkyn with ye Quenis Majesteie as zit bot how schone I se Hir Majestie I sall thank Hir Grace in zour name for I haif bying ay sen my cuming heir. And quhar ze wret yat I haif nocht sendis zow ye ansuer of sic heidis as ze wret to me ze sal understand I culd nocht quhill now yat I spak with my Lord Athoill. Quhom I find of gud mynd towart ye Lard zour hwsband quha hes wrettyn to John Stewart of Appyne yat he ... molest nor truble nan of ye Lardis bwndis of Lorn and Glenwrchy ... [un]condissonaly swa yat nan of ye Lardis servandis in yai boundis was at ye herschipe of ye said John² quhilk we... sall resaif and send it as ye Lardis thinkis caus. And als ye sall wyt yat my Lord of Athoill declaryt ... yis day yat sen I and my bedfallow³ spaik to hym in faweris of ye Lard yat he hes stand his gud ... will do with out ye fell be in hyme self. And counsallis hyme yat quhen he cumis in yir partiss yat he cum... hym self quhill he be heir and efter his cuming ordor salbe tain sufficiand for his weile. And gyf he suld nocht perf... lef to hym he wald nocht gyf hym his counsall. He desyris zow to bring ye wrettyn with zow yat ze per... hym and forbyd ye Lard to haf ony melynge with ye Erle of Argillis affaris in cowrt for gyf ... his awn besynes will speid ye wer.⁴ As I haif

ordand Androw Quhyt to wret zow and hym I haif
ben ewill at eiss yis lang quhill⁵ lik as I [am] zit.
Notwithstanding gyf I conwoless and beis better I intend to
be in Pertht or yat day quhar we sall commoun on all
thingis at lentht. And quhar ze desyr ane charge of
ye Kynge and Quenis Majesties to Jhone Stewart I thoucht
it nocht nesysar for mony cawsis quhilk nocht I will [na]
wret as ze sall ken efterwert. As to my Lord Gracis
gudnes and ye Lady Tullybarnes⁶ towart ye Lard
it is werry welcum gyf it cumis. Bot as ane honest
man said to me yis day ye wrettyn wald helpe mekell.
Bot alweyss I haif said gyf I get zour ... in yis
stoun⁷ I welbe leyck yat ony rakkyng salbe amang
zow yat ar frindis.⁸ Forder ze sall vndirstand yat ye
Erll of Argill will get na pwntment⁹ sa sen as
I can parseff. Yairfor ze sall resaif hes wrytting
agayn. I think best ze cum to Sanctionstoun to yis end
quhen he cumis quhat we sall cont... of an [ald]
thing. Refarand ye rest to yat tyme ...
zow with ye Lard zour hwsband and zour barnis.
Wrettyn at Edinburgh ye xxij of Desember ...

Zo[ur brother at power],

Ruthwen

¹ This is the first indication that Katherine had enlisted the help of James Hepburn, 4th earl of Bothwell, as well as that of Atholl.

² Atholl was trying to stop John Stewart of Appin from raiding in the west in revenge for the raids he had suffered, see [65].

³ Jean Stewart, Atholl's aunt.

⁴ This suggests that Katherine would be returning to Court with Grey Colin and that she was to help to ensure that Grey Colin kept clear of any involvement in affairs relating to the 5th earl.

⁵ Ruthven had been ill since he had reached Edinburgh.

⁶ Ruthven is sceptical about the value of the goodwill of the dowager Lady Tullibardine, Katherine Campbell, Grey Colin's aunt, and the Duke of Châtelherault, who had just made his own settlement with the Queen.

⁷ Possibly as in 'stown someone down' or ruin by secret means.

⁸ He would be loath that any vengeance should be taken among friends.

⁹ An appointment or settlement with the King and Queen.