

Date: 28 August 1565

REF: GD112/39/4/18 (SHS ed. No. 47)

Place: Lochgoilhead (Cowal)

From: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To our traist cousing ye Lard of Glenvrquhaye delyver yis

Traist cousing eftir our maist hartlie commendatiounis. It will pleis zow to wit yat eftir our commonyng with me Lord of Mwrraye at lencht in all materis and in respek of sik inconvenientis as apperit schortle to cum behand qwhilkis ar nocht vnknawin to zour self. And me Lord of Mwrraye schow to me yat he trawellilt witht zowe at lentht yairintill. And efter lang cunsultatioun his Lordship schewe to me yat he trawellit witht zow anentis ye taking vp of ye mater betwix zow and MacGregor gif it mycht haif beine done be ony maner of waye.¹ And ye Lard of Ardkinglass schew ws zour mynd at lyntht yairintill. And tweiching ye desyris of MacGregor in his last messaige quhilk we thocht never yat cowld be agreable to zour honour throwe ye eirneist desyir of me Lord of Mwrraye and the rest of ye nobilite beand present mowit ws trewlie {fardar to travell}² in yat matter nor we thocht necessar eftir resett of MacGregoris importioun desyris as ye Lard of Ardkinglass {schew to zow. And} ye sadis nobiletie haifand in mynd ye greit gwid that {zour beand} at libertie mycht do to zour haill breyren gif ze war {nocht at cumm-} ris witht zour awine.³ And als me Lord of Mwrraye {schew to me} sindrie heiddis concernyng ye Erle of Athoill zour {nychtbour as ye} commonit at lentht with him I thocht guid to seik {an wtter an-} swer of MacGregor qwhairthrowe he is becum {mair easye and is} presentlie witht ws heir and ondir na appoint{uament yat} qwhill ye resett of zour ansuer with yis berar vpon ye heidis quhilkis differris na thing almaist fra zour awine lettir and last heidis.⁴ That is to saye MacGregoris lyif and his haill cumpanie to be free and in lik maner all skayethes, sclaychtorres or qwhatsumeuer awaye taking of gheir hes beine betwex zow in tymes bypast to be remittit and {forgiffin and}

MacGregoris heretaige to be giffin to him at our sycht as zour {last} writting specifies for ye vj^c merkis of compositioun. And yat we and {ye sall put him} and his haill freindis in yair kyndlie rowmes and possessiounnis {as yai} war at ye begynnyng of ye cummer yai beyng trewe and {faythfull} to zowe. And gif it salhappin him or ony of his {freindis to get ony} rowmes fra ony vyeris yai serwyng ws and zow vpon ye samyn rowmes we and ze baytht to fortifie and manteyine yame yairintill for yair gwid service as said is. Mairowir ze sall wit yat yair is swm of ye principallis of MacGregoris kin yat is abill to depend vpon ye Erlle of Athoill. In yat kaiss MacGregor sall tak ane schort daye to get yair myndis and gif yat yai will nocht be content to cum with him in zour serwyss and owris in yat kaiss he wilbe content to persewe yame as ze and I will command him quhair euer yai be. Ze and we defendand him yairintill and mentenyng ye maist speciall of his kin or breyer to brwik yair rowmes yat will nocht cum and he to pwt na man in yair said rowmes bot witht zour awyiss and owiris. {And as} to yat heid trewlie we think it rycht guid ffor we wald yat tharselffes war be neckis als lang.⁵ And now last of all yai haif proponit ane matter to ws quhilk we think ze will nocht denye to ws quhilk is seyng we are passand of ye countreye instantlie as ye berar will schawe zowe. We pray zow yat ze wald send Gregor MacCundoche {Ladosynchtis} sone⁶ quhilk ze haif in captivite to ws to ye Carik to remayne quhill our meitting and zouris. And we promiseis faythfullie to zow {to} keip him yair in our place quhill ye said tyme and yis will bring on ye mennis myndis mekle and als yai say yat yair is ane boye of yairis taine ye last daye be zowe quhilk boye we pray zow in lyik manner keip vn-pwt downe⁷ quhill our said meitting. And gif ze think it gwid we vald {zour mynd} war haistit heirintill and als gif ze think it best to pwt ane asswance betwix zowe quhill our haymecuming. And fardar MacGregor promiseis faythfullie to ws to do in tymes cumyng ye haill thing yat lysis in his powar to zour contentment and owres and to abyid our will and Campbellis in yair partis for zour contentment excepan ye heidis above writtin. And now last of all we praye zow affectuouslie yat ze will schawe zour self willing and glaid in yir premisses. And God wil-

ling we sall find ye waye yat ze sall lawicht zour tyme
about at zour nyctbouris schortlie nochtwithstanding yat yai think
yame selffis afoir ye hand.⁸ As to ye asswrance ze sall
wrett to ws zour mynd yairintill and we sall do yaireftir in zour
nayme and ze sall resaif ane lettir fra ye Dwik and
me Lord of Mwraye tweiching ye samyn pwrposs.⁹ Fardar
it will pleiss zowe gif credeit to ye berar. Off Lochgoi-
lisheid ye xxviiij of August 1565.

Zouris [asswritly],
Archibald Eryll

[PS] Eftir ye depesche¹⁰ of yis bill we resaiffit ane writt... of
zouris ane vyer of ye awld Ladye Twllebuidyinis¹¹ and als
of Abyrkarnyis¹² anentis ye avaye taking of ... of ...
gwidis we dowbt nocht bot ze may knawe ye ...
dewydit or ever yai come in our cwntre and is ...
-tent yat yai sowld want enye of yair gheir and sall do
our wttir diligenss to cawss yame be restitut yairof ...
maye be enye maner of waye. And as we a... inst... ...
dewydit al scaphillance¹³ and past in syndre ...

[Zouris ...],
[Archibald Eryll]

¹ This suggests that Moray had an active role mediating in the MacGregor settlement, particularly in persuading Grey Colin and the 5th earl to make the necessary concessions.

² Readings from GD50/116/192-5.

³ The Lords involved in the Chase-about Raid were very keen to free Campbell forces from the MacGregor feud so that they could help their cause. Atholl had been made Lieutenant of the north and Argyll declared a rebel on 23 August 1565, RPC, I, 357-8.

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- ⁴ The points of the proposed agreement with Gregor MacGregor, who was with the earl in Lochgoilhead at that point, were listed, see MacGregor, thesis, 352-4.
- ⁵ A curious phrase which presumably refers to stretching necks in the sense of the gallows.
- ⁶ Gregor, the son of Duncan Laideus, who had been taken prisoner by Grey Colin, was to be sent to Carrick Castle to help concentrate MacGregor minds!
- ⁷ Presumably a callous and inelegant way of asking Grey Colin not to execute the MacGregor 'boy'.
- ⁸ The 5th earl assuring Grey Colin that he will get the last laugh despite the fact that his enemies think they are ahead of him.
- ⁹ See 24 August 1565 [45-6].
- ¹⁰ Dispatch.
- ¹¹ Katherine Campbell, Grey Colin' s aunt, who was the dowager Lady Tullibardine, see Appendix C.
- ¹² Robert Murray held Abercairney.
- ¹³ Probably 'scaffery', extortion.