

Date: 29 January 1565

REF: GD112/39/3/15 (SHS ed. No. 28)

Place: Carrick Castle (Cowal)

From: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

To: Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

Address: To our ant¹ ye Ladie Glenwrqhaye delyver yis

Ant efter maist hairtlie commendatiounis. We rasavit zour letter and wnderstandis ye contenttis of ye saymin quhilkis we thnk rasonabill and as for Maister Archibald Campbell ze sall wit yat he is werie ewill at eiss throw ane fall he gait on ye yiss and maye nocht ryiss out of ane bed.² Bot nochtwithstandyng quhen our freindis cumis to us we sall geit ane man yat maye be sufficient for ye saymin to serve ye Laird. Bot we beleif yat yairis na gentill man yat wilbe contenttit to pas yair so quyaitlie as ze desyir be rasoune yai cann nocht lippin to wnknawin men so well as to yair awyin men.³ And yis we wryit off our awyn heid for we knawe nocht ye contraire as zit bot alwayis ze sall knawe ye saymin incontenent herefter. And yis we commit zou to God. Off ye Carrik the xxix daye off Ianuare 1564.

Zouris,

Archibald Eryll

¹ The 5th earl addressed Katherine as 'aunt' in the general sense of a respected elder female relation, see Introduction.

² It is not clear what Katherine wanted Archibald Campbell to do nor precisely who he was. Archibald's fall upon the ice ensured that he could not perform the necessary tasks for Katherine and Colin, 29 January 1565, [29].

³ This sentence and the fact that sending troops had been discussed at the clan council of the Campbells held a few days earlier suggest that a military role against the MacGregors was what was intended.