

Date: 4 October 1563

REF: GD112/39/2/21 (SHS ed. No. 12)

Place: Balloch Castle

From: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy (draft)

To: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

Endorsement: My Lord Argylls writingis anant MacGregor [?!later hand]

My Lord eftir maist hartlie commendatiounis service. I haif resavit
zour Lordshipis writing makand mentioun yat MacGregor had birnt ane
part of Glenvrquhay or zour Lordship gat his anser.¹ I knaw ye
birning is of verite and albeit I haif ye scayth ye dishonor
is zour Lordshipis quhilk I regard maist be resoun zour Lordship tuke
Glenvrquhay on hand afor ye Secreit Cunsale in Streuiling² quhilk
causit me to be mair slouthfull nor I wald haif bene.

And quhair zour Lordship writis yat MacGregor anser wes sen he
saw nay releif at zour Lordshipis hand nor myne yat he wald
be doand ye best he mycht. As to yat zour Lordship may do to
hym as ze pleis bot he sall nevir haif ye gud yat I
may hald fir hym or nane of his surname and I hope
in God to se ye tyme yat yai quha culzeiss sik ribales
and cruell tyrantis³ salbe eschamit yairof. And quhair zour Lordship
desires me to adverteis zour Lordship gif ze sall send men to
Glenvrquhay I can do nay thing bot refer yat vnto zour Lordshipis

plesure *according unto zour Lordshipis promis maid afor ye Cunsale quhilk I hope zour
Lordship will perform and better be resoun ye men of Glenvrquhay mon seref⁴ zour
Lordship als sone as ony vyer within zour Lordshipis bundis for quhair yai mycht haif
haid support of ye cuntre*

afoir yai man now tak yair furnesing⁵ with yame gif yai
pas yair be resoun ye cuntre is neir waistit. And quhair zour Lordship writis
yat MacDoulkere and his bruyer ar efferd for me and yat yai
being vnder zour Lordshipis menteinans and gettand scayth yat it can
nocht stand with zour Lordshipis honour. As to yat I knew nocht yat yai had
siclik of zour Lordship bot assuritlie I haif yair bandis vij zeris
syne with all securiteis yat yai culd gif and nay man exceptit bot

ye Quene Majestie⁶ gif yair had bene ony fayth with yame. And mervalis
to quhat effect yai sutit zour Lordshipis menteinans *wythout yai knaw yamselfis giltie or
ellis wald gif yair ger to saw ewill seyde betuix zour Lordship and me quhilk I think
suld nocht ly in yair power considering I falit nevyr*
to yame yat I promisit kindnes. And sen yai haif begin it
lat yame be assurit yai sall haif nay gud of me nor nane
vytheris of yair surname. And had I vsit yame and ye rest of
MacGregoris cunsaloris as my pwir tenentis hes bene handillit my
sobir⁷ bundis had nocht gottin say gret scayth as it hes bot I
feir it will cum to yat at ye last gif God providis nocht bott
haistellie. Bot yer is naything mair intollerabill vnto me nor se...
Lordship regard sik commoun theiffis as MacDoulkeiris mair nor [me and]
ye waisting of my cuntre quhilk I knaw zour Lordshipis fader [wald nevyr]
haif estemit alik. And supponit zour Lordship wald nocht sufferit ye samen
on revengit albeit I had been deyd and specialie [ye landis]
yat I hald of zour Lordshipis self. Bot wald zour Lordship [gif me yame yat I]
haldin of ye Quene Majestie I wald gif zour Lordship zit for all ye
scayth I haif sustenit mair silver nor all ye Clan Gregor may gif
and nevyr cummer zour Lordship with yame in tymes cuming.⁸ Bot to keip
ye auld kindnes yat wes betuix zour Lordshipis hous and myne I beseik
zour Lordship to call vnto zour rememberans yat I mycht haif bene at
quietnes als weill as vyer nybouris war nocht zour Lordship desirit me
to be participant of ye revenging of ye cruell murther of zour
Lordshipis kinismen and servantis and promisit yat nay deligens suld be omittit
on zour Lordshipis syde albeit zour Lordship be sumpart satillit.⁹ Bot ye
eternall God will steir wp zour Lordshipis mynd agane or ellis sum
vyeris to revenge ye gret effusioun of blude sched within
zour Lordshipis bundis and myne by all ye rest of yis realme.
And I tak God to witnes yat I wes nocht ye occasioun yairof and
swa committis zour Lordship to ye Lord God from Balloch ye fird¹⁰
of October 1563.

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- ¹ This was the letter from the 5th earl to Grey Colin, 1 October 1563 [11]. For Gregor MacGregor's raid on Glen Orchy, MacGregor, thesis, 315; 325-6.
- ² Precisely what the 5th earl had promised to the Privy Council at Stirling concerning Glen Orchy was a matter of dispute between Grey Colin and him, 22 September 1563, RPC, I, 248-50.
- ³ Those who entertain kindly such rebels and cruel tyrants.
- ⁴ Serve.
- ⁵ Supplies.
- ⁶ According to Grey Colin the bond with MacDouker was made 7 years before (i.e. 1556) but the extant bond with him was dated 11 March 1560, GD112/24/1/2, fo. 17, and those from his Balquhidder kin were 9 March 1560; 17 April 1561, GD112/24/1/2 fos. 16-17; 20; MacGregor, thesis, 304; 326.
- ⁷ Either humble or weak.
- ⁸ Grey Colin was offering to buy out the 5th earl so that he could hold Glen Orchy direct from the Crown, an offer which the earl vehemently rejected, 11 October 1563 [13].
- ⁹ Settle, in the sense of yielding a little. Grey Colin suggested that he had entered the feud with the MacGregors in the first place at the earl's request to revenge the murder of the 5th earl's kinsmen, the sons of Campbell of Oib and Campbell of Barbreck, GD112/1/126/141-2; MacGregor, thesis, 315; 327.
- ¹⁰ Fourth.