

Date: 5 July 1565

REF: GD112/39/4/9 (SHS ed. No. 41)

Place: Inveraray Castle

From: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To our traist cousyng ye Laird off Glenvrquhaye gif yis

Traist cousyng efter maist hairtliche commendatiounis. We haif rasa-
vit zour letter and wnderstandis be ye saymin ye proceidyngis
ze haif bein in till schoirtlie with ye Clangregor¹ and persaisis siklyk be
zour wryittyng yat ye Clangregor are nocht zour haill partie yat vald
wraik zou onlie bot oderis of zour nychtbouris siklyk as my Lord off
Atholl quhom we thynk better dettouris on to zou ffor ye skaycht ze haif
gottin nor ze Clangregor. Quairfoir gif ze will pleiss to
be off yat mynd as to revenge zour actioun on yame ze salbe assurit off
ye best fortificatioun as we maye mak on to zou to be revengit on
yame yat hes tain ye actioun in hand. For howsone ze pleiss we
sall nocht fail God willyng to send on to zou ane thousand off our men²
or mayr as ze pleiss to ye saymin effect to be revengit [upoun yaim]
yat makis to be zour partie. And ze till wse yame as ze pleiss zour
self yairintill. For ze maye be assurit yat we will... .. and
to defend zour houss fra ony vraik as our awin and yairfoir we
wald yat ye best ware done yairintill schoirtlie. For yis sa man...
of fortificatioun we maye mak on to zou bot ye saymin salbe maid to
ye vttermest of our pover. And ffardare as [to ye Clangregor]
seyng now quhat cumir we our self are in till and [ye bayth we vald]
be rycht glaid yat ze wald lait wit over cum will in zat matter
quhilkis yat ze wald submit zour self to ze jugement off us and
our freindis anenttis ye saidis actioun. For we thynk gif ze wald be
contenttit to do ye saymin yat we mycht zit fynd ane vaye yat the
Clangregor mycht becum guid servanttis to wair yame selfis aganeis oderis
with us and zou bayth. And yis we thynk wer ze best to be done for and
yai ware ouris we mycht causs yaim till wair yaime selfis fardare nor oderis.³
And we haif wryittin on to zou in ane oder bill ye heidis yat wilbe thought

guid be us and our freindis to be done betuix zou and yame. [Ze quhilk]
gif ze will do ze saymin and byid yairat yat ze send on to us with thir
berrareis zour hand wryit yairanenttis yat ze matter may be dressit
ye better. And ffardare gif ze wilbe of [ze mynd that ze will]
nocht in na vayis haif ye Clangregor to be our servan[ttis and zouris bayth]
as we haid rathare yat yai ware ouris. Ze salbe assurit hoveuer it
be of our fortificatioun to ye vttermest of our povare and viss⁴ sayvin
as zour visdom will thynk best and alvayis advertiiss us w...
is zour mynd in all ye heidis yat salbe in ye oder tikat.⁵ And as
to ye supportit ze desyir presentlie we haif nocht with us bot ...
-las⁶ onlie bot within four dayis heirefter we haif apponynttit ...
of Achynbrek and MacCoull⁷ and certaine oderis freindis to be heir con...
saidis daye yat we haif appaynt quhilkis within thrie or four dayis.
For we beleif yat quhein yai conveyin yat yai sall thynk guid till ...
send wp on to zou sik fortificatioun as maye nocht weill be resistit be
ony yat wilbe in ye contrare. Bot alvayiss haist yir beirrareis with zour
zour(sic) mynd. And yairefter we sall send wp als sone as is possibill
ane thousand off our men or mayr. And as tovairttis ye Clangregor
and we knew zour mynd we mycht do yairefter in ye mein tym yat
men wilbe ryissand. Yairfoir haist ye beirrare with all delegece
to quhom ze sall gif credence. And yis we refer all
thyngis to ye returnyng off ye beirrare. And sa we commit zou
to God. Off Inveraraye ye fyft daye off Julij 1565.

Zouris,
Archibald Eryll

[PS] And ffardare we praye zou to wryit to Maknaichtaneis tennenttis
yat was in Teirarthuir⁸ till pas in ye land againe in to Maknaichtaneis
name. For we sall causse him and his be willyng to do zou guid service.
For his part maye be weill knawin be zour self for his part is guid
and nawe guid and gif he keipis nocht ye saymin guid part in tymeis
cumyng we sall requeist als earnestlie to put him out off ye saymin again
for it maye be done or tym off fermes be to tak wpe.⁹ And send vord

with yis beirrare againe heir anenttis.

Archibald Eryll

Memorandum.¹⁰ Yir are ye heidis yat we thynk ye Clangregor suld be exceptit be us and be ye Laird off Glenvrquhaye in consideratioun off matteris as yai stand in ye realme presentlye.

Item. In ye first yat ye Laird sall send me his hand vryit to stand at yir articlis yat salbe wnder wryittin.

Item. Yat MacGregor and samonye as wsis his consa[ll] off his kin and dependerris on and samonye as he vill put in bill to offer him and yame in our willis and ye Lairdis provyiding yat I and ye Laird mak yame suir off yair lyiffis and MacGregouris heretaige and his kyndlie rovmeis. Exceptit providit yat ye Laird be satisfait at our sycht and our freindis [sycht be] ye saidis Makgregor for his entres and mare-aige of his heretaige and kyndlie rovmeis allanerlie.

And at ye Laird be guid and kyndlie maister to him and his dependerris on accordyng to yair guid service. And gif ze will nocht be contenttit with yis saymin advertiis us in haist and all wayiss we sall send ye men promisit in my oder wryittyng. And gif ye Laird beis contenttit with ye saymin yat he send his assurance to us to be maid on to Makgregor and his dependerris ffor we will send na assurance of ouris to yame quhill zour ansuer cum againe. And we nor nane of ouris knawis nocht zit quhidder ye men be bundin to nane oderris or now bot we haif haird off ye saymin and sall haif intellegence off ye saymin or ye berrare returne againe.

Archibald Eryll

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- ¹ This letter was probably carried by Gregor MacAne, 6 July 1565 [42]. Letters of fire and sword had been issued by the 5th earl against the MacGregors from Dunstaffnage Castle in Lorn, 16 June 1565, GD112/1/159; BBT, 211-2.
- ² For the military arrangements and the background to the Chase-about Raid, see Introduction.
- ³ Argyll was suggesting the ploy that a settlement should be made with the MacGregors who would then be employed against Campbell enemies and deliberately ‘sent into the front line’ (cf King David’s orders concerning Uriah the Hititte!), MacGregor, thesis, 347-50.
- ⁴ Possibly ‘vyse’ or ‘vysing’: to bethink oneself or advice.
- ⁵ See Memo below.
- ⁶ Probably Ardkinglass, see 6 July 1565 [42].
- ⁷ Auchinbreck and MacDougall of Dunollie.
- ⁸ MacNaughton of Dunderarve’s tenants in Teirarthur, which is just north-east of Finlarig at the west end of Loch Tay.
- ⁹ If MacNaughton did not co-operate in the future, the 5th earl would not grant him the leases which were coming up for renewal.
- ¹⁰ On a separate sheet. Proposal for a settlement with the MacGregors, see Grey Colin’s reply 9 July 1565 [43]; MacGregor, thesis, 350-1.