

Date: c. 3 August 1564¹

REF: GD112/39/2/5 (SHS ed. No. 21)

Place:

From: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy (draft)

To: James Menzies of Weem

Address:

Nychtbor eftir hartlie commendatiounis. I haif sayne zour wretin makand mentioun yat certane of zour servantis mett iijj or v ky of myn in ye brays of zour cuntrey passand to ye Clanrandis² boundis and yat ze haiff comprehendit ye samen and desyris to wit quhat salbe done with yaim. As to yat ze sall wit yat MacRannald and my servantis ye last tym yat yai wer in Rannoch haid yair spyis afor yaim and ye said spyis saw Gregor closby to MacWilliam VicOlcallum³ and ane uvyer natyve man of Lochaber callit Johnn Our MacAnedoy⁴ VicCouil Abrych with vj heyd of ky quhilk yai take to Glen Nevis with sundre vyer inspreth⁵ and as I am informit yat ye saidis personis ar ressett in Lochaber as zit into quhais boundis I will sklender na man. And quhar ze wret yat ze will keip zour awin boundis clene as to yat ze do yat service to zour God and to zour princes and of gude nychtboret towart my part quhilk as I belewe offendit never to zou nor zit to zour surname. And quhowbeit yat ze think Williame MacOlcallum and his sonis mayr stadabill⁶ to zow nor I to be zour gude nychtbor and ze to haiff ye Quenis Magisteis favouris I man tak yat in patienis. Bot ze salbe assurit yat I will nocht do to zow bot ye duwete of ane nychtbor. Bot I adverties zow gif ze cum befor ye Quenis Magiste and my Lord of Murray quha become catioun⁷ for zow yat I will complaine on zow for ye ressait of ye forsaidis personis quhilk I wor layth to do gif I mycht haiff my intent vyeryse. And quhar ze wret yat yairis ewill rehersand⁸ betuix zow and me as to yat ze sall wit yat I will tak na ewill reherse on zow nor zit of na vyer honest man bot I sall adverteis zour selff to se gif ze will mend ye samen. And quhar ze reffar ye rest to our awin meteyne as to yat I belewe ze fand me never bot ane trew man and quhen ever ze lyk ze salbe weilcum to meit me in my

awin place as I did of befor in ye auld manner. And God
preserve zou.

¹ Whilst staying at Castle Menzies, Mary, Queen of Scots, sent a sharp reprimand to Grey Colin following a complaint from James Menzies of Weem, 3 August 1564, HMC, VI, I, 706. The full summons before the Council mentioned in the letter was made on 29 September 1564, RPC, I, 289-90. Alexander Menzies had died on 7 March 1564 and been succeeded by his son James. The case came before the Privy Council 3 November 1564, RPC, I, 292-3.

² John MacDonald, Captain of Clan Ranald.

³ Malcolm MacWilliam VicOlchallum of Rannoch made a bond of manrent with Grey Colin, 3 August 1552, GD112/24/1/2 fo. 9; BBT, 194-5; MacGregor, thesis, 295-7.

⁴ For the problems of the name MacAne Doy, see MacGregor, thesis, 310, n. 90.

⁵ Household furnishings.

⁶ Serviceable.

⁷ Stand surety.

⁸ Malicious talk.