

Date: n.d. Wednesday [c. May 1563¹]

REF: GD112/39/12/3 (SHS ed. No. 10)

Place: Annat, just south of Kilchrenan (north-west end of Loch Awe)²

From: Neil Malcolm, Parson of Lochawe (Kilchrenan)

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To my lufving maister Collin Campbell off Glenurquhay delyver yis

The grace of God omnipotent the comfortt of his son Jesus
Christ wit ye assistance of ye Hally Gaist to be wit zou for
salutatiounis. Yis is to adverteis zour Mastership yat I am occupyit wit
zour Mastershipis bessenes and my awin and ware nocht yat I haid syk nessessar besse-
nes I would nocht be salang absentt fra zour Mastership bot I am inspecialle
bydand wpoun ane servand yat I directit to Lorne to spy sporttis. For
I wes infformit yat Johne Campbell zour eme send fra hym Mak-
gregoris soun³ wit his complexis and gif yat be trew I sall haif fair
advertesiment or evin of yair sepperatioun and diate⁴ quhilk ze salbe adverteist
quhow soun I may be suir. And hest ye boy to me sua yat I may be
at zow eftir as ze will haif ado with me quhilk sall nocht be dilayitt
saffar as may. Wit my hertle commendatioun of service to my hussie⁵
ye Lady and God preseryf zow bayth. Of ye Annand yis Wednis-
day be zour ondoutitt servitor reddy to command as

N M Peirson Lochaw

[PS] And quhen ze haif red yis braik
it sua yai it be nocht patent⁶ to mony.

¹ Neil Malcolm signing himself Parson of Lochawe, made a bond of manrent with Grey Colin, c. May 1563 (the bond itself is undated but placed with documents dated April and May 1563), GD112/1/132. The contents of the letter seem to be linked to the events described in Donald Campbell of Larg's letter to Glenlyon, 12 February 1563 [9].

² Neil Malcolm, now styled Rector of Lochawe, received a feu charter from the 5th earl for the lands of Annat in Lochawe, 22 October 1569, AT VI, 137.

³ John Campbell, probably of Lochnell, who annoyed Grey Colin by entertaining the MacGregors on other occasions. The reference to MacGregor's son probably means

Gregor MacGregor, who was still young, having just come of age, MacGregor, thesis, 270; 306f.

⁴ Meeting.

⁵ Mistress or housewife.

⁶ Accessible. Despite its secret content Grey Colin obviously ignored the instruction to destroy the letter.