

Date: 1 June 1567

REF: GD112/39/6/20 (SHS ed. No. 89)

Place: Edinburgh

From: [Atholl¹] William Stewart of Grandtully

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To ye rycht honorabill Lard off Glenwrquhay

Rycht traist freind and cousing efter hartliest commendatioun. I resavit zour writyng and quhair

ze merwell I maid nocht my Lord of Ardgylle participant of yat last procedyngis be assurit gif I hed knawyn of yame afoir my cumyng to Stirling last ze suld hef bene maid participant of yame bot yan it com say suddanly and onfreindis manifestly pretendand our wrak yat yair culd nay advertisement be maid.² Quhair ze writ yat vyeris ar nocht slepand on ye vest hand and yat my Lord off Ardgylle hes resavit nay vourd fra vs heir afoir ye dait off zour writ. Trew it is yat sen my cumyng to Stirling last yair wes fyf syndry lettres drectit to my Lord of Ardgylle be ws heir present. And quhair ze writ yat ze salbe willing to set fordwarttis sic as salbe ye comoun weill of yis realme I dout nocht ye same trewly. Yairfor I wald wyss zow heir to wesye ye fwyrd and gif ze find ye grund guid ze may ryid ye watr(sic) uyerwayis nocht.³ I wald nocht my Lord of Ardgylle nor ze twyk it in nay ewil part yat ze ver nocht advertisit affoir becauss ye same culd nocht be for schortnes of tyme and yat is nay occasioun to my Lord to byid abak for we advertesit hym diverst tymis to hef cum down lang affoir yat consultatioun mycht be tane and he cam nocht. As for zour ky I wil writ zyt as of befoir yat yairwes nor salbe nay [wyte] in me yairintil. And dwtis nocht as zour slef writtis bot ze regard zour awyn honour or myne althocht I wer ongrait mair nor ane gret part of geir besidis yat yis causs ryindis⁴ unto zow asto me. Inspeccer [he yat] is past wes nerer of blwyd to zow for yis is only our intention to punyss ye merthur of ye King (quhairoff we hef manifest and suir tryall to schaw) and to presereff ye Prince and comowun welth of yis realm we sal never meyne nay vyerwayis God willing.⁵ And dwtis nocht bot first God and syne al guid Scottis man vil set fordwarttis and assist ye saim

causs and ze inspecial for zour part we sal do at my Lordship [yat may]
be done. Always I wil lyppyn assuritly for zour guid will and mynd
now lyik as it wes at ye begyning of yis causs. Gif ze [cum to]
Belloch schortly as ze writ I sal causs speik zow at lenth
bot is maist desyrus of ony thying yat ze vald cum heir zour slef. And
say committis zow to ye protectioun of ye eternal God. From Edin[burgh]
yis Tyisday ye first of Iunii 1567 be

Zouris vray luffing and guid freind,
Athoill

¹ This signature is unlike any other of John, 4th earl of Atholl. William Stewart of Grandtully acted as a 'man of business' for Atholl and this letter contains his characteristic 'slef' for 'self' so it was almost certainly written, and probably signed, by Grandtully on Atholl's behalf.

² Darnley was murdered 10 February 1567 and Mary, Queen of Scots, married Bothwell on 15 May. Atholl and Argyll and others had made a bond at Stirling, 1 May 1567, AT VI, 102; Wormald, Lords and Men, 406. Atholl is explaining how difficult it had been to keep Argyll informed of developments.

³ A metaphor relating to the political situation about coming to the ford and testing the water's depth.

⁴ Pertains to.

⁵ The 'manifesto' of the confederate Lords who opposed Mary and Bothwell at Carberry on 15 June 1567, concerning Darnley's murder. Grey Colin was a second cousin of Darnley: see Appendix C.