

Date: 13 February 1566

REF: GD112/39/6/2 (SHS ed. No. 79)

Place:

From: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

To: Gossip (John Campbell Captain of Carrick)

Address:

Goschep efter commendatioun. Ze sal wit yat I ame cumon hame owt of Edinbrocht and sa lang as I wess yair I had bot letle credence bot it yat I maid with hard wyre¹ and yat wess nocht anelye for my awyn cawss as ze may consider. I wes callit affor ye Cunsall and billis of complent gewin in vpone me be my Lord of Awthell, my Lord Drummond and ye Lard of Twllebardin allegene with ane woce yat all ye skaith that thay sustenit be my Lord of Argyll yat it was downe be my adwyss and assistance. Quhylk God knawis [are] contreit and my Lord of Argyll hyme self quhen ewir his Lordship hes [pliesit] to speik for hyme self quhylk I hop in God he sall haif swa yat he serwe his God and seik his help with ane penitent hart. My answer wes to ye Lordis of ye Cunsall yat I maid na falis to [ye forsaidis] personis and gyf I did ony yat I had landis and herit[age and wald] suffer ye lawis of ye realme. And as to ony off[ence] yat I maid to my Prences I wes contentit yat Hir Maieste and ye Secretit Cunsall swld tak my tryakill² and gyf I haif offendit in ony sort to suffer pwnishment at Hir Maiesteis wyll and cunsall. And vpoun zat heid efter ye conswltatioun of ye lordis thay fyndand me [yat I] offendit nocht to ze Quenis Maiestie. Thay thocht gwd to send fowr of ye Cunsall to speik ze Quenis Maiestie and to schawe my innosence that is to say my Lord of Hwntlye, my Lord Boydwell, my Lord Eskyn, my Lord Methven and ye Secretar³ for his awin hand and schew to ye Quenis Maiestie that thay cwld nocht persawe yat I offendit in ony [sort] toward Hir Maieste bot as to ony cewell actiounis yat ony mycht [contemplate] to call be ressoune yat I wes responsible. Ye Quenis Maiesteis answer wes yat thay bragit or my cummyng affor Hir Maiestie, and gif [ye compleneris] had na thing to say yat Hir Maieste had nathing to lay to my charge bot to

be ane gwd serwand and hir swbiect in tymes [cuming quhilk I promis-] sed to Hir Maieste at my departing. My Lord of Argylls wyf is in Edinbrocht and I assur zow sa far as cwld persawe sche is weill myndit to set forward my lordis honour and [frlie so into resonable] credit. And had sche geir to beir hir fwrth I belewe sche sall do well anewche conforme to hir hwsbandis honour. It is belewit yat sche sall get ye rowmes yat ar adjacent to Campbell⁴ bot wteris yat ... nivyaris stoppis yat and biddis bot gyf hir awin sustentatioun at ye Quenis awin bwrde quhilk I belewe sche wyll with [...trats accept]. Thar is na apoyntment to be had to my Lord of Argyll and be yis ressoun yat ye Quenis Maieste apoyntit with my Lord Duk⁵ at hir awin hand and now ye King and wtheris [hes] gottin ane promise yat Hir Maieste do nocht ye lyk to nay wtheris and in speciall to my Lord of Argyll and yis made sayis of ye Fysch merkat.⁶ Johne Stewart and ye capitane of Clanchamrone and MacRynold ar in Edinbrocht and MacLanis imbassadour⁷ quha is cum wyth credence to ye Quenis Maieste and with ane propyne⁸ to my Lord of Awtholl (wiz. ane hacbut, ane sword and ane dager of ye Erland fassioun). Johnn Stewart belewis gyf he beis rewardit at yis tyme and gettis recumpace of ye skaith yat is downe to hyme he will gar ye Quene onsterstand(sic) yat ye Quene wyll get all ye men [of ye] Ylis to tak part with hir in contrar my Lord of Argyll. Bot I wat yat my Lord is nocht yat onwyss bot he is makand all ye freindis yat he may for his awin releif. The brwt is heir yat he is makand mony heland gaylais quhylk is weray neces[sar to saif] his awin lyf quhill God send better. As for nowellis [I wat ye] hard tell of ye schip yat come out of Spaine and perisshit in Ingland thair wess mekl mony in hir to haif bein send to Scotland to erect wp ye Mess agane bot God of his gwdness [hes] spairit ws at yis present. The imbassidour of France hes [brocht in ane ordor] of ze Cokle⁹ and ye Kingis Maiestie hes re[savit] with ane gret solempnite at ze hye Mess (quhylk he [mom...] and stanerris at).¹⁰ Thare is ane Mylis imbassidour¹¹ to cum in schortlye quhylk it is belewit yat he cummes in for to

se [quhat] gwd wayis yat ye bannist may haif yat ar in
England ... borderaris one bayth ye sydis wald haif war
bot ... [skaith] yat is downe zit owr Scottis borderaris hes
[gottin] na war and na recumpance to be maid yairfore. Yar is ane
[inhibition put to] me that I send na fwrnisching to Argyll¹² nor
na ... traist yat may do yaim gwd bot always I haif powar
to fech [my awin] sustentatioun owt of Argyll sa far as perte-
[nis to me] quhilk is weray hard to me to get withowt yat my
Lord of Argyll wer favorable to me. And I schew ye sammyn to
ye Quenis Maiestie and hir answer wess yat gyf I keppit
ony skaith yat Hir Maiestie wald recumpance me. I lamentit my
... lordis perticularye be yame selfis quhow Johnn Stewart
keipit ye landis apartenyng to me in Lessmor¹³ bot I can persawe
[na recumpence] of yat quhyll God send better efterward. My Lord
of Argyll hes mony gwd wyllaris bot yair is fewe yat dar
[to tak] ye enterpryss in hand to common far in ye cawss. Bot ye
[lowing] God may help it quhen he pless. I wyll nocht writ fordar
to zow at yis present bot desyris zow to adverteis my servand
Gregor MacEne¹⁴ of ony besnes ze haif ado with me or with ony
[uther] nowellis yat is in thay partis and swa fare ze weill
[wiyh God at¹⁵ ye xiii of Februar 1565 zeris.

Be zowris goschep

¹ Effort.

² Trial.

³ The earls of Huntly and Bothwell, Lords Erskine and Methven and Maitland of Lethington.

⁴ Castle Campbell by Dollar. These lands went to Jean Stewart, Countess of Argyll, when her husband was put to the horn on 12 February 1566. The Countess had been estranged from the 5th earl for several years, preferring life at the Court as one of the Queen's (her half-sister) companions. This gave her the privilege of eating at the Queen's table, as she was doing the night Rizzio was murdered.

⁵ James Hamilton, Duke of Châtelherault.

⁶ Presumably a phrase indicating that it was common knowledge.

⁷ John Stewart of Appin, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, John MacDonald, Captain of Clanranald and the ambassador of Hector MacLean of Duart.

⁸ Gift.

⁹ The French Order of St Michael had a cockle shell as its badge.

¹⁰ Probably Darnley mumbling and stammering his way through the Mass.

¹¹ Possibly Thomas Milles, who was ambassador in Scotland in 1586 and may have been on an earlier mission.

¹² Order made 30 January 1566, RPC I, 424.

¹³ John Stewart of Appin holding Grey Colin's lands in Lismore.

¹⁴ Gregor MacAne.

¹⁵ Space left in manuscript for place.