

**Date:** [2-4] February 1567<sup>1</sup>

**REF:** GD112/39/6/19 (SHS ed. No. 88)

**Place:** Callander

**From:** William Maitland of Lethington

**To:** Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

**Address:** To the rycht honorabill and his assurit freind ye Lady Glenwrquhaid

Eftir my hartlie commendatioun. I ressavit ane writting of  
zouris and ane uyer of ye Lairdis be ye quhilkis I persawe ze  
desyre me to employ zow. Ze may be assurit yat yair is  
nane sib nor freindis in Scotland yat I will cherge mair  
hamelie nor zow. Quhidder I depart zitt or nocht I am  
nocht resolute. My Lorde of Athiole is cumit heir yis last Wodnesday  
and I am rydand yis day with him to Cumirnal<sup>2</sup> to pas our tyme.  
Gif I gang nocht away as it may weill chance I  
sall nocht fail to vesie zow and tare quhill ze be tyrit. For  
I intend nocht schortlie quhatsumevir purpois I tak to pas sone  
to ye courte for ze may schaw ye Laird yat I lyke nathing  
ye sair of ye men of weiris luntis that kepis ye castell hill.<sup>3</sup>  
Ze desyrit me to feill my Lorde of Athioles mynde in ye  
besines ze knaw.<sup>4</sup> I have felt his mynde and assuris zow  
yat ze ar na better myndit zour self nor he is willing yat  
purpoiss. I traist yat tyme yat(sic) dryve all thingis to a gude end.  
I will nocht cummer zow with langer writting at yis present and  
sua committis zow to God. Off Calendar yis ...ij of Februar  
1566.

Zour cousing ... command

W[illiam Maitland]

[PS] Mak my hartlie comendatioun to  
ye Laird of(sic) zour bedfallow.

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- <sup>1</sup> The number of the date on this letter is obscured by fading but includes 'ij'. Maitland was in Edinburgh on 8 February 1567, CSPSc, II, 312, and remained there at least until Darnley's murder on 10 February. He was at Seton House, East Lothian, on 23 February and back in Edinburgh on 8 March, CSPSc, II, 315, 317. The light tone of the letter with no mention of Darnley's murder suggest that the letter was written on 2-4 February.
- <sup>2</sup> 'Last Wednesday' was probably 29 January. Cumbernald was the seat of John, 5th Lord Fleming who was the brother-in-law of both Maitland and Atholl. On 6 January 1567, Maitland had married Fleming's sister, Mary, one of the Queen's four Maries.
- <sup>3</sup> Obviously a derogatory remark about Court and its political complexion, possibly meaning that Maitland did not like the smell ('sair') of the men of war camps ('luntis') which occupied the Castle Hill in Edinburgh.
- <sup>4</sup> This is probably the proposal for a marriage alliance between the Houses of Atholl and Glenorchy, see Introduction.