Ryght honerabill Sir erfet maist hertlye commendatiationoue. Sen my cuming to yis toun I haif spokin
my Lord Regent and ye Erll of Mortoun in zour effaris according to zour awin infor-
mationoun giffin me be my sister zour bedfallow quhome I find werry desyrus to haif
zour presens heir sa shortlye as ze may to confer with zow baithe in ye common effaris
as also in zour awin particularis. Quharin my Lord Regent is als
weill myndit as ze wald wyss and assurit me yat nochtwithstanding
he hes gottin monye persuisiounis to shawe favour to zour enemis yai sall haiff
nain of him mair nor yai hed of ye Regentis Grace yat is with God. And att
zour cuming ze satesfiing His Grace ressonable towart ye advancement of ye
Kingis authorytie and zour dew obedience *to His Maiestie* he sall nocht onyley persew
ye Clangre-
gor as ze desyr bott alsua with his awin persoun will defend zow
aganis ye grettest within yis realm giff yai suld pres to anoy zow or z[our]
rewmis. As to ye punisment of sic of ye Clanfarlan as wes att ye
slawchter of zour men ze wilbe satisfieth in yat matter. And ordour wilbe
tain for ye resett of ye Clangregor in lyk wys within ye boundis off Len-
nox. My Lordis Grace thocht nocht necessar to wrett to zow att yis tyme be-
caus it is sa short quhyl sen he wrett of befor *to ye sam effec* bot desyrit me
to latt zow test of his gud mynd quhairoff ze suld knaw forder att
metting. He fand sum falt yat he hed wrettin twyss to zow and yat ze
wrett nocht again. I excusat ye matter yat ze thocht to be sa shortlye
att His Grace yat ze deleyit to wrett quhill be zour awin presence ze gaiff
ansuer quhilk he wes weill applesit with. Ze sall resaiff ane
letter of my Lord of Mortonis quhom I find contenew his freindschip
towart zow on ye auld maner of bye I trust ze will persave
als mekle in effect as I wrett. The Laird of Drumquhassill
shawis him werrey freindlie to me in zour effaris and sayis ze sall
find his guid will in zat he may do and hes giffin me many
namis of ye Clanfarlain yat wes in cumpany with ye Clangregor
nor wes contenit in ye ticket I gatt fray zour bedfallow. And for
the men yat dwellis vpoun his landis *giff onie off yaim be guiltie yai* salbe ye first yat
salbe presentit
to punisment. Seing ye tyme servis weill for zow to gett
zour hand beyound zour enemies I wald ze maid ze gretter
hest to cum heir becaus ye Erll of Mortoun passis schortlye to
ye bordor. And sua refarring ze rest to zour awin wysdoum committis
zow in ye protectioun of ye eternall. At Edinburgh yis Tysday lett
ye xix of September 1570.

Zouris rycht assurit att power,
Ruthven

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1 Matthew Stewart, 4th earl of Lennox and James Douglas, 4th earl of Morton.
2 See [155].
3 Lord James Stewart, Regent Moray.
4 Probably a reference to possible reprisals by the 5th earl if Grey Colin joined the King’s Party, see Introduction.
5 These were the two charges that Grey Colin had against the MacFarlanes, see Introduction.
6 See [157].
7 John Cunningham of Drumquhassill had provided names of MacFarlanes resetting the MacGregors and so made it easier to obtain signet letters against them, GD112/1/193. He also put pressure on George Buchanan of that Ilk, [163].