

Date: Sunday [22 October 1570]¹

REF: GD112/39/11/18 (SHS ed. No. 181)

Place: Combre (possibly Comrie Castle at foot of Glen Lyon)

From: John MacCorcadill² (draft)

To: Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

Address:

Efter mest hovmeill commendations and service. This to advertis
zour Ladyship zat I have spokyn vyth Evoyn Makgregour be for
his frendis and his ansuer is at³ he vas nocht at ye makeyn
of this last beyll⁴ at ... ye Lard and he sayis at
he vill nocht deysseyr na thying at vill do onaye hourth or
slaycht⁵ to ye Lardis honour. Of proffeyt be tayin at tak
ye contrayk to my Lord of Ergill his all⁶ ye heill
vrytte of yat beill at cum to ye Lard as I sall schaw zow
at mayer leyncht. As for parttakaris he sayis yat thayr
is monaye of taym⁷ yat he voll never speyk for bot
for poiyr servandis at vass ever kyndlye to heym self
and his MacGregors.⁸ I beleyf on God all salbe veyll enevcht.
He send for Gregour Nelston⁹ to be at heym on Sondaye that is
ane test¹⁰ betuixt Velzeim Stevart and Eveyn Makgregor on
this Sondaye¹¹ and thayr efter I sall advertis zow of all porpass.
And ye rest refaris to zowr veillfayer ye quhelk I praye
God at sa belaing. Of Combre this last Sondaye be
zowr poiyr servand at all power of service,

Ze vayt quhaye

¹ This letter precedes [177-8]

² The enigmatic signature 'Ze vayt quhaye' means the author was well-known to Katherine and deeply involved with the negotiations for the MacGregor settlement. John MacCorcadill acted as notary and attested the signatures of the MacGregors in their bond with Atholl, c. 10 December 1570, GD112/1/192a. He had carried letters

and messages for the Campbells, see [142-3; 146]. This same hand wrote the letters for Ewin MacGregor, [186; 191].

³ In this letter the word 'at' frequently stands for 'yat'.

⁴ One of the sets of articles in these final stages of the negotiations for a settlement, see MacGregor, thesis, 389-90.

⁵ Hurt or slight.

⁶ The meaning of the first part of the sentence is obscure.

⁷ Them.

⁸ The vexed question of precisely which of MacGregor's partakers should be included in the settlement.

⁹ Gregor Neilston in Glen Finglas brought the articles for agreement and negotiated with Grey Colin, 26 October 1570, GD112/1/191.

¹⁰ Test, in the sense of evidence being given.

¹¹ This might refer to a meeting between Ewin MacGregor and William Stewart of Grandtully who was involved in the negotiations, see [180].