

Date: 28 July 1570

REF: GD112/39/8/19 (SHS ed. No. 123)

Place: Grandtully Castle (near Aberfeldy)

From: William Stewart of Grandtully

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address:

Rycht honorable Sir eftir hartlie commendatioun. I resavit zour writting heir this Fryday
the xxviiij

of Julii be ten houris affeir none. And immediatlie resavit ane writting from my Lord
of Atholl desyring me maist ernistlie to meit his Lordship yis nycht in Dunkell to pass
withe him to Tullibarne or fordwarttis to Stirling as occasioun wald serwe. I suppone
it be to speik my Lord Regent or ellis my Lordis of Mar and Lyndesay quhay
hes send waray ernistlie for yat effect.¹ And wald hef cumyne to him quhair he
is gif he wald nocht hef trawellit fordwart wnto yame. The Regent hes writtin
to us all heirawayis barronis to meit him the secund day of August in Lythquhow in
maist substantyowis and wyralyk maneir withe ane lamentable narratywe and
proclamatiounis ar past yairvpone. I heir the Maistir of Erroll and sundry
utheris ar past to him all redy. Mony barronis ar able till obey the proclamatioun
uthervayis yayis yat lyis laiche wilbe wrachrit.² As to my Lord of Huntleis
owir cummyng I can nocht assure zow trewly of ye tyme yairof but I
heir yair is certaine horssmen and hagbuttaris of his cummyne to Breichin. And for
yat effect my Lord Ruthwen is past to Dundy and Arbrouthe withe his freindis
quhair my Lord of Bwichquhane Glames and ye Prowest of Dundy³ with all yair
freindis ar and siclyk hes sax scoir hagbutteris of ye Regentis and ane
certane horssmen. I beleif yay think to sey my Lord of Huntleis men and put yaim
abak gif yay may. The brwit is siclyk yat ye Regent suld be yis nycht
in Perth. And yat Mortowin is cummyne owir the wattir and thinkis to mak ane
suddane reid in Auguss affoir the Parliament. As we heir for swir yair is ane
thowsand Inglissmen to keip the day in Lythquhow for it hes bene at ye
Quene of Englandis ardent desyre yat my Lord of Lennox hes accepit say
weichty ane chairg and upone hir fortificatioun and m[aintynance] besyd ye help
yat his awin freindis may do to him. The watteris ar varay gryt heir instantly
yairfoir ze knaw quhow defissill and cumirsum it is to my Lord of Huntly

to bring ane army fordwarttis as all standis. Bot I beleif trewly he sall do his diligence quhill force put him abak. And yis proclamatioun siclyk will stop mony barronis quhow weill yat ewir thay loviff him. Quho farther of yir procedingis fallis out ze salbe adverteissit. We heiff haid heir quhow the Clanchamroun hes tane up the Laird of Lawaris geir withe sum of his serwandis and slane ane in Straythfillanen.⁴ I wat nocht gif my Lord of Atholl will accept zou for guid services or zit gif landis for ye doing yairof except mekle bettir service nour zou be done. And the Laird of La[waris reparit] according to his skaith and honour as becumis ... Farther I am swir ze hest hard of yis maist unhappy chance⁵ betuix my Lord of Atthollis ?muster and zour serwandis quhow yay ar all maist mischewit stepand be wn-hap and mysyding⁶ for I ame swir yay war fowrty as able as ony hieland men in Scotland. Besyd MacWalchallum Glassis yair wer sevin ... extra ordaner. Bot yay yat gais to yair turnes racleislie hefving owir meikle pryd in yair awin ability will fall as God plesis to lait yamme knaw yair awin strenthe. And now within yir aucht dayis my Lord of Attholl send for yame and spak yame say ernistly and despytewslly⁷ yat yay promesit or yay suld sie him agane yat yay suld owther do him plesand service or yame resaiff gryt skaithe. And upon this he gaif every ane of yame out of his awin bag xxx shilling pecis and xx shilling pecis as he thoucht yam worthe. Yit it hes p[leisit] God to be uthervayis. My Lord of Attholl hes hard nay word yairof att y[is] present. Bot quhat can be yairof bot ye nixt best to becaus and [the] caris of yis wariand warld to be handelit ye best yat men may with the g[race] of God. I think best ze heist zow eist at ye leist to ye west end o[f] ye loche⁸ and convoy zour sleff varay swirly for I am swir onfreindis wilbe the mair bald of yis mischance. We salbe als walcryff⁹ heir as we ... And in my absens sall leif my brother¹⁰ to await heir for I hef ewin neid as ony uther hes accepp zow. Say refeiris all uther to zour nixt adverteisand and God conserve zow. From Grantully yis xxviiij of Julii 1570 be

Zour awyn,

W S

[PS] I thynk God willyng to be heir at hame agayne
on Vednesday or Thuresday nixt¹¹ at ye forrest.
I hef wrytin to Johne MacDois to be waray walkryf
now in yir dayis.

¹ For the suggested conference at Tullibardine (Perthshire) to negotiate between the King's and Queen's Parties in the Civil War, see [116].

² Those lying low will be destroyed.

³ Probably Robert Douglas, earl of Buchan, John, 8th Lord Glamis, and James Haliburton of Pitcur, Provost of Dundee.

⁴ This was probably the group led by Duncan MacEwin Cameron, see [110]

⁵ For details of the 'unhappy chance' between Atholl's and Grey Colin's men see Introduction.

⁶ Mischievously or injuriously prevented by misfortune and mismanagement.

⁷ Contemptuously.

⁸ Grey Colin was probably at Ilanran and was being advised to come east at least as far as Balloch Castle.

⁹ Watchful or vigilant.

¹⁰ Grandtully's brother Alexander Stewart, see [124].

¹¹ 2-3 August.