

Date: n.d. [c. 3-7 August 1570]¹

REF: GD112/39/12/13 (SHS ed. No. 128)

Place:

From: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy (draft)

To: Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll

Address:

My Lord efter commendatiounis of service. I hawe resawit ane mask of writtingis² yis
last

Waddnisday in ye morving(sic) tobe directit to zour Lordship fra ye Secretar ye quhilk is
waray

difficill to me to send for feir of ye mortour of pur servandis be ye way. The quhilk God
knewis yat zour Lordship hes ye temperale swird in zour Lordshipis hand and will nocht
wiss ye saming according to zouris honour and conscience yat ye pur anes mycht

haif aquietnes. Nochtwithstanding I sall tak God to witnes yat zour Lordship

hes ye haill wyte of all ye skayth yat I gat.³ Bot or I seik ane vyer refug

or ane fortiefier in my just actioun agains ye Clangregor bot zour Lordship I sall

lat ye warld kennit yat zour Lordship is in ye wyte and sall nocht laif zour

Lordshipis apoynzeoun into zour honest afferis becaus ye matter is wychty and

rynys to zour Lordshipis gret honour. I hoip in God zour Lordship sall know efterwart

quhen evir zour Lordship wantis my service yat zour Lordship will haif inlaik of

it and it is able to be a memorie efter yat I am departit. And in ye meyntyme

I sall seik freindis efter yat I haif spokin with zour Lordship the quhilk I dout nocht

bot I will get. Haid zour Lordship acausit ze Lard of Otter to hawe delyverit

ye Kottar Doweand als ye Lard of Ardkynglass freindis to hawe delyve-

rit Makilleverchane⁴ and samony as yat hous haid vnder thame yat tuik

part with ye Clangregor yir cummeris wald nocht haif cum vpoun me laitlie.

And zour Lordship mycht haif haid honour yairof and zour Lordshipis cuntre to haif

haid quietness quhilk wald haif beyne nay wychty matter to zour(sic) to hawe

done it gif God wald haif plesit it and zour Lordship willingly yairto.

I pray zour Lordship be nocht discontentit for I assuir zour Lordship I salbe ane

man of estimatioun yat is cumin of zour Lordshipis hous yat sall byde at zour

merk⁵ quhen wyeris will laif zour Lordship yat hes less to tyne nor I hawe

the quhilkis hes cauld ewill of unto zour Lordship and ar no able to byd at zour
Lordshipis mark

say stedfast as zour Lordship beleiffis gif yai war put at. The quhilk I pray Go[d]
yat zour Lordship mycht knaw ye faynzeitnes of menis hartis yat ze trust vn[to]
over mekill. I pray zour Lordship to apardone me for writting to zour Lordship sa
scharply⁶ for of trewthe I tell bot ye werety⁷ and lat nocht zour Lordship th[ink]
yat I will apply my self till ony vyer but unto zour Lordship for it is nay...
now considering zour(sic) hes mekill ado and it be weill handlit in y[e]
meyntyne.

¹ Grey Colin refers to the packet of letters which he had received on Wednesday last (probably 2 August) for forwarding. A previous packet from Maitland had been received by the 5th earl on Thursday, 27 July GD112/39/8/20 - not printed. Despite the dangers to the messengers, Grey Colin sent this packet and it was received on 8 August 1570, GD112/39/9/9 - not printed, and was also mentioned [134]. This dates Grey Colin's letter between 3-7 August 1570.

² Packet of letters.

³ It is not clear whether this was the raid on Grey Colin's horses of 21 July or another raid, but Colin's anger in this letter is immense and he blamed the 5th earl for not supporting him as a good chief should have done.

⁴ Colin Campbell of Otter who had not brought to justice the Cottar Dowe (or Dubh) and the friends of James Campbell of Ardkinglass who had also failed to deliver Makilleverchane, both of whom had assisted the MacGregors.

⁵ Purpose.

⁶ This apology seems a little inadequate for the outpouring of criticism in the rest of the letter and it is not clear if Grey Colin actually sent the full text, of which this is a draft.

⁷ Truth.