My Lord efter commendatiounis of service. I hawe resawit ane mask of writtingis yis last Waddnisdain yis 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 puir servandis be ye way. The quhilk God knawis yat zour Lordship hes ye temperale swird in zour Lordships hand and will nocht wiss ye saming according to zouris honour and conscience yat ye puir anes mycht haif aqiuetnes. Nochtwithstanding I sall tak God to witnes yat zour Lordship hes ye haill wyte of all ye skayth yat I gat. Bot or I seik ane vyer refug or ane fortefier 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 affeis becaus ye matter is wychtay and rynis to zour Lordships gret honour. I hoip in God zour Lordship sall knaw efterwart quhen evir zour Lordship wantsis 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 meyntyyme I sall seik freindis efter yat I haif spokin with zour Lordship the quhilk I douht nocht bot I will get. Haid zour Lordship acausit ze Lard of Otter to hawe delyverit ye Kottar Dowean als ye Lard of Ardkynglass freindis to hawe delyverit Makilleverchane and samony as yat hous haid vnnder thame yat tuik part with ye Clangregor yir cummeris wald nocht haif cum vpoun me latlie. And zour Lordship mycht haif haid honour yairof and zour Lordships cuntre to haif haid quietness quhilk wald haif beyne nay wychtay 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 miscontentit for I assuir zour Lordship I salbe ane man of estamatioun yat is cumin of zour Lordships hous yat sall byde at zour merk quhen wyeris will laif zowr 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 fainzeitnes of menis hartis yat ze trust vn[to]
over mekill. I pray zour Lordship to apardone me for writting to zour Lordship sa scharply\(^6\) for of trewthe I tell bot ye werety\(^7\) 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]
meyntyme.

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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 messangers, 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.