

Date: 7 August 1570

REF: GD112/39/9/8 (SHS ed. No. 129)

Place: Blair Atholl

From: William Maitland of Lethington

To: Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

Address: ...the Lady Glenwrquhy

Efter maist hartlie commendatioun. I ressavit zour writting with the tua halkis quhilk ze send to me quhair of I thank zow verray hartlie.¹ As towart zis other bisneses anentis the myschance quhilk chanceit betuix my Lord of Athollis servandis and the Lardis zour husbandis.² I find my Lord als heiglie commovit³ at his awin servandis as ... at the Lardis, sua yat he can nocht patentlie speik ony of yame ... nor wald suffar yame zisterday to enter in his houss bot detenit yame at the zett at the begynning. Now it is verray hard to ... bring himoure stayis he is sua in anger, bot I beleve God w[illing] efterwart to bring him to yat point yat sall satisfie his w[rath] and renew agane the freindship betuix him and the Lard. [Ye] Lard of Garntillie and I trawellit verry ernistlie with my L[ord] heirin all zesterday as he will schaw zow at meting to quhome [I] referre the rest heirof. Farther as towart the allyance betuix the tua housses⁴ quhilk ze spak to me lang syne of [I] wald [to] God yat wer completit. For yair is mony yat by all [meanis] dalie sekis to put yat mater faryar bak yat zairby yai may [fardir] the inametrie⁵ betuix the tua houses. Sua yat I think [quhill] yat mater be put to point yair sall evir sik occasiounis as yis be maid to hald yame sundry⁶ quhilk gif it had bene lang sy[ne] howbeit sik occasiounis as yis had fallin zet it wald haif bene na hinder to the freindschip. Yairfore I wald wische with all my har[t] ... same wer done. And as towart the gentill woman⁷ quhilk [ze] [persavit cume] to spy and gett intellegence of I haif be my wyff ... and sundry uyer meanes speirrit and inquiret at divers ... upoun my honour and credite. I think in deid by the report ... maid to me of hir yat sche is abill to be the best bar... yat [evir] my

Lord had ather with the first wyff or with yis ... hir
eldest sister in all good behavingis. And persavis ... be my Lady
Atholl her self yat scho favouris her in sik sort as scho wer her
awin borne dochter and willing to do to her yairefter. Sua yat upoun
my honour and afoir God I think her sufficient in ... behalffis
quhilk gif scho be nocht as efterwart ze will haif experience ze
sall wyte me and say yat I haif nocht bene the trew spekar
to zow. I have at lenth [communicat] my mynd and conferrit with the
said Lard of Garttely⁸ heirin quha will schaw zow at grytt
lenth my mynd and opynionis yairof. Desyring and praying zow
in the meanetyme to forder the same for mony good occasionis.
And sua referring the rest to zour wisdomme committis zow to
the protectioun of God. Frome Blair in Atholl the vij of August
1570.

Zouris always to be commandit,
William Maitland

[PS] I pray zow commend me hartlie to the Lard zour husband.

¹ See [126] where Maitland asked for a falcon and a goshawk.

² For the 'mischance' see Introduction.

³ Moved to anger.

⁴ The marriage alliance between Black Duncan and Atholl's daughter, see Introduction.

⁵ Enmity.

⁶ Apart.

⁷ Maitland's report on the prospective bride, see Introduction.

⁸ Grandtully.