

Date: 15 July 1583

REF: GD112/39/15/9 (SHS ed. No. 202)

Place: Edinburgh

From: John Fentoun

To: Katherine Ruthven, Lady Glenorchy

Address: To ye rycht honorable Ladie Glenvrquhay

Madame eftir maist hairtlie commendatioun of service. I resavit zour lettir and hes considerit the effect thair of concerning the mailis of Descher and that of ze last Witsounda(sic) terme quhairwith ze allege the Laird wald intromet be resait yairof fra ye tenenntis of ye ground and nocht fra zow as principal propretar during zour lyf tyme.¹ Gif swa be he dois zou wrang in respect ze ar content to pay to him as quhat in lawe the few mail aucht be zow for samekill as ze ar infest in. And to ye effect that ze be na vther wyis visit nor as principal fewar during zour lyf tyme *I haif wrettin ... leit.* Thairfor ze sal ansure him thankfullie of that quhilk ze ar adettit ffor. Like as I gif ye Lard zour sone my counsal as he wald thryif and be honorit of his awin bairnis quhen he sall cum to aige. Evin sa lat him honour zow as ane obedient sone to ane honorabil moyer and I will counsal zou in likemaner to intrait him lovinglie as a natural moyer suld trait ye chyld. And be ane ithand² intercessour for peace quietnes and broyerlie luif betuix him and his breyair³ swa that be thair freindlie behaviour ze and the rest of yair freindis ma haif confort and thair inemeis terour and dreid. And for my awin pairt thair sall na man in Scotland be glaidar to vnderstand of zour and thair prosperiteis nor I salbe and mair reddie in my sobir rank and degree to sarve zow of all guid offices as ye deid sall schaw quhen occasioun salbe offerit. And swa laifing to truble zow with langar leter committis zow to ye protectioun of God. At Edinburgh ye xv day of July 1583 be

Zour Ladyshipis awin assurit to command
with service,

Johnne Fentoun, Comptrollar

¹ There was a family quarrel between Katherine and Black Duncan who had just succeeded his father as Laird. It concerned the royal lands of Discher and Toyer, the two sides of Loch Tay, which Katherine held in life-rent, but from which Black Duncan had collected the rents. Fenton, having previously served as Comptroller Clerk, had been made Comptroller on 29 November 1582. He was providing legal advice and seeking to mediate in the dispute.

² A version of 'eident', assiduous or persistent.

³ Black Duncan also had quarrels over land with his brothers.