

Date: 26 July 1572

REF: GD112/39/14/3 (SHS ed. 195)

Place: Perth

From: George Johnson

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To his veilbelovit natyf maister and gossaip Collyn Campbell of Glenwrquhay

Rycht honorabyll Sir and belovit gossaip efter hartly commendatioun of service. I hayf seyn zour vryting and quhar ze beleyf yat MacGregor letter of tak beras nocht to wt put and in bring tenandis.¹ Ye contre is trew for ondwtis he hes powar to wt put and in bring ane or many as he plesis in durand ye twa zeir conteinyt in ye letter of tak. And ye caus ves yat ze Lardvald nocht gif foryer yat in caice enimies vald purcess² MacGregor at ye horn quharhow his haill vij zeris nicht cum in ashes. It vas toycht gud for MacGregoris veill and ye Lardis bayth yat ye takis swld be schort etc. Bot I ves ordenit be ye Lard of Veym gyf onny(sic) man raquirat me to gyf ane copy in ye maist scleddor veis³ I mycht to ye affet yat ilk man sculd nocht knaw ye sefety of yair besenes.⁴ Bot I put zour Mastership wt of dwt yat ye tak [las]⁵ no less nor full powar to wt put and in bring tenandis and yat may at MacGregor plesa[re] dwrand ye twa zeris tak etc. Bot I hayf na commission to part wyth ye said letter on till ye tyme yat MacGregoris promissis be fulfillit. Yat is to say ze man get my Lord Regent raquest [on daites]⁶ to ye Lard in MacGregoris faworis be rasoun yat last Regentis departit. Secundly ye grassum man be payit thirdly yair is ane exs[ept in] ye letter of tak callis Johen in pay releif yat stais ye ...eir bot I beleif sober traite⁷ vill get hym ye Lardis faworis and [quhen zour Master wrytis] yat albeit ze gyf ye MacGregor nayn of zour awyn landis yat ze vill help yaim to all yair just titill I beleyf it is zour Masteris part so to do for I am scwr ze may command MacGregor to quhatsumever purpois ze pleiss. And I pray God yat lang mae ze be at sic unite quhow evir [ye] warld beis for I knaw non yat yai ar so meit for as for [zour Master.]⁸ And zet I knaw gyf yai hed nocht beyn bandit wyth zow yair is [none] yat vald hayf tane mor tankfull with yaim yit tingis. And wtheris I man

rafer to meting etc. A man yat is veill twnit hes oft tym ...

Nocht ellis bot God keip zour Mastership eternaly. At Pertht ye xxvi of July.

Be zour Masteris servant and goissaip,

George Jonsoun Burges of Pertht

[PS] Credence to ye berer etc.

¹ James Menzies of Weem and the tack of the lands of Rannoch given to Ewin MacGregor on 23 April 1572, GD50/187/1; see [194].

² Purchase, in the sense of obtain.

³ 'Slender wise'.

⁴ It appears as if Johnson was acting as an unofficial notary and had been told by Weem that, if asked for copies of the tack by 'enemies', he was to provide as brief versions as possible so that the full details would not become known.

⁵ Possibly 'lase' for lease.

⁶ The meaning is unclear.

⁷ A small negotiation.

⁸ An interesting echo of the view that the MacGregors were the most suitable servants for Grey Colin, see [25].