

Date: 29 January 1581

REF: GD112/39/15/5 (SHS ed. No. 199)

Place: Holyrood House

From: Colin Campbell, 6th Earl of Argyll

To: Colin Campbell of Glenorchy

Address: To our traist cusing the Lard of Glenvrquhay

Cusing eftier oure hartlie commendatioun. We resavit zour twa letteris ane ffrome our servand Colene Leitch¹ and ane vyer frome Dowgall MacGregoure. We vnderstand be zour letteris that ze haif grantet vnto ye ossurence betuix zow and ze Lard of Weyme to contenev vnto ye xv of Marche and hes appoyntet ane day of meitting the tent of Februar. Bot now sen my Lord of Ruthvenis cuming to yis toun we haif conferrit with him at lenth toward yir changes and trewlie we persaif that on nawayis can we leif ye Kinges Maiestie ffor sic effares as ar to do quhilk ar nocht neidfull to wreit and yairfoir can nocht keip that day quhilk ze haif appoyntett.² Bot sen swa is to oure opynioun gif ze wald yat maiteris touke effect schortlie it wer best gif ze mycht taik that travell to maik ye tryst in yis toun ather vpoun ye said tent day of Februar or schortlie thairefter or ellis yat ze nominat sum man for zow to keip ye said tryst in our plaice. Vyerwayis gif ze think our presence be necessair and yat ze may nocht travell to yis toun it is best ze prolong yir assurance vnto Maii and lat ye day of meitting be vpoun ten or tuelf dayis warnyng swa that God willing or ye assurance ryn out we hope to haif yat lasour be ye Kinges service to keip tryst in ony rowme ze appoynt. For now seying that gretair effares is stay vnto ws that we may nocht satisfie zour desyre zit we dout nocht bot [ze] will taik ye same in gude parte. Ze sall lat ye Laird of Lawres knaw quhilk of yir purposes ze will taik swa that he [may] certefie ye Laird of Weyme yairof and get his mynd thairintill.³ F[or] we assure zow albeit ze baith refuis the chairges will pas vpoun zow as yai ar direct yairfor I think best vnto oure opynioun that ze grant thairto willinglie. As vnto ze purpos ze [wreit] vnto ws yat ze Lard of Weyme will nocht set his land to ye

[Clan]gregor but ane lycence. It is bot ane schift ffor I haif spokin
[to] sum of ye Counsall towart sic thing and it is nocht to be grantet bot
is ane playne abuse zit at zour request quhat I can do vyerwayis
we will nocht spair our labour. As vnto ye Bishope of Dunkeld yair
is nocht sic ane thing as ze alledge vpoun him as we haif schawin
vnto zour sone Collene⁴ and gif it wer we suld provyd remeid.
We remit all vyer thinges to zour ansur and to foidare occatioun and
[s]wa for ye present committis zow to God. At Hallerudhous the xxix
[of] Januar 1580.

Zour assuret cusing,
Colin Argyll

¹ Colin MacLachlan of Craiginterve.

² Grey Colin's long-running feud with James Menzies of Weem could not interfere with the delicate political situation after the 'Ruthven Raid'.

³ John Campbell, 3rd of Lawers, Grey Colin's son-in-law, was to act as the go-between with Menzies of Weem. The memo of Grey Colin's negotiating points probably dates from this time, GD112/1/226a.

⁴ Colin of Ardbeich, Grey Colin and Katherine's second son. This business concerned James Paton, the disgraced Bishop of Dunkeld, who was closely linked to the earls of Argyll.