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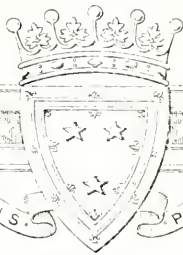


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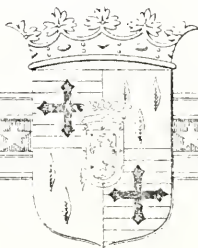
BY
SIR WILLIAM FRASER, K.C.B., LL.D.

IN THREE VOLUMES:

2. 1. 2

VOL. II—CORRESPONDENCE.

EDINBURGH 1892.



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CORRESPONDENCE
OF
THE EARLS OF SUTHERLAND.

ARRANGED UNDER ROYAL, STATE, AND DOMESTIC.

I. ROYAL LETTERS, WARRANTS, ETC.

1304—1844.

- I. KING EDWARD THE FIRST OF ENGLAND to WILLIAM, SECOND EARL OF SUTHERLAND, thanking him for his goodwill, 4th April [1304].

REX.—A nostre foial et loial Willame, conte de Sutherland, salut. Nous vous savons bon gre, e vous mercioms mult de la bone fay e de la bone volunte qe vous avez totefoiz porte devers nous, e vous fesoms assavoir qe nous avoms bone volunte de faire pur vous ceo qe nous purroms en bone manere.—Donne etc., Seint Andreu le iij iour de Averil.¹

TRANSLATION.

The King to our faithful and loyal William, Earl of Sutherland, greeting. We take it well of you, and we thank you much for the good faith and the good will which you have still borne towards us: and we assure you that we have good will to do for you that which we can in good manner.—Given at St. Andrews the fourth day of April (1304).

¹ Original in the Public Record Office, London, Tower Miscellaneous Rolls, No. $\frac{459}{22}$.

2. RECEIPT by MARY OF GUISE, Queen Dowager of Scotland, to JOHN, TENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, for £300 Scots, 30th September 1553.

WE, MARIE, Quene drowriar of Scotland, be the tenour heirof grantis ws to haif ressauit be the handis of Stevin Kincaid, in name and behalf of ane nobill and mychti lord, Johnne, erle of Sowthirland, the sovme of thre hundreth pundis gude and vsuall money of Scotland, and that in part of payment of ane gretar sovme quhilk the said erle band and oblist himself with Gilbert, erle of Cassillis, and Henry, Lord Methven, counnetlie and seueralie, in the bakis of oure derrest dochteris counsall, to pay to Timothi Cagnioli, bankour, merchand of Florence, for ws; and forthir, geif he or thai failyeit in payment, to pay ilk thre moneth or ilk moneth ane certane sovme of money as for the profit and change of the hail sovme, or samekill thairof as happynnis nocht to be payit; thatfore we oblistis ws that geif the said Timothi be nocht payit in oure name of the saidis sovmes stand to him be ws and the said erle in the partis of France, that we sall releif the said erle and his cautionaris forsaidis of the forsaid sovme of thre hundreth pundis at the handis of the said Timothi, Lis anis, executouris, or assignais, and of all profit he or thai may craif, ask, or recover vpoun the said erle and cautionaris forsaidis fra the day of the daif of this wryting forward as for thre hundreth pundis and quantite thairof; becaus we haif ressauit the samyn sovme of thre hundreth pundis to [toin], and dischargeis the said erle and his cautionaris forsaidis of the [samyn], and oblistis ws to releiff him and thame thairof and of change and profit of the samyn fra this forward, as said is, be this oure wryting of discharge and oblisting, subscriuit with oure hand and vnder oure signete at Elinburgh, the last day of September, the yeir of God j^m v^c fifty-thre yeris.

MARIE R.

3. LETTER OF PENSION by MARY OF GUISE, Queen Dowager of Scotland, to JOHN, TENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, of one thousand merks Scots yearly during her lifetime. 7th July 1555.

REGINA.

WE MARIE, Quene Dowarier and regent of the realme of Scotland, for the guid, trew, and thankfull service done to ws be oure louitt cousing, Johnne, erle of Sathirland, in tymes bigane, and to be done be him to ws in tyne cuning, be

the tennour heirof gevis, grantis, and disponis to oure said cousing the sowme of ane thousand merkis, vsuale money of the realme of Scotland, to be payit to him yeirlie during oure lyfetyme at twa termes in the yeir, Witsunday and Martimes in wynter, be evin portiones, of the reddiest of the mailles, fermes, and dewteis of oure dowarie, or of oure derrest dochteris propertie, be oure comptrollaris, chalmerlanis, and factouris thairof: chargeing heirfoir oure saidis comptrollaris, chalmerlanis, and factouris, to thankfullie ansuer, obey, and mak payment to oure said cousing of the said sowme yeirlie, at the termes abone specifeit, of the reddiest of the mailles, fermes, and vthiris dewteis of the landis abone expremitt; and the samyn sall be thankfullie allowit to thame in thair comptis yeirlie, thai takand oure said cousingis acquittance to schew vpon compt for thair warrant: Provyding alwayis that quhat tyme, or how sone it sall pleis ws to gif and dispone to oure said cousing wardes, marreages, or ony vthir casualtie, or to provyde ane of his freindis, or vthiris quhilkis he sall name, to ane benefice worth the said yeirlie pensioun of ane thousand merkis foirsaid, and thai to be maid sure thairof be ws, in that cas this oure obligatioun, gift, and dispositioun of the said pensioun to be fra thynefurth null and of nane avale, and onre said cousing to clame na rycht thairto nor payment of the samyn pensioun ony tyme thaireftir. In wites of the quhilk, to thir presentis, subscriuit with oure hand, oure signett is affixit, at Edinburgh, the sevint day of Julii, the yeir of God ane thousand fyve hundreth fyfte and fyve yeris.

MARIE R.

4. COMMISSION by MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, to JOHN, TENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to apprehend Neil McKay. Banff, 12th September 1556.

MARIE, be the grace of God, Quene of Scottis, to oure louittis

messengeris, our schireffis in that parte, coniunctlie and seueralie, specialie constitute, greting: Forsamekle as it is vnderstand to oure derrest moder and lordis of oure secrete counsale that Neill McKy and his complices hes maid grete misordour and slauchter in the partis of Straithnaverne, alswele sen the last iustice air of Inuernes as of before, in hie contemptioun of ws and oure auctorite; oure will is heirfoir, and we charge you straitlie, and commandis that incontinent thir oure letteris sene ye pas, and in oure name and auctorite command and charge oure richt traist cousing, Johnne, erle of Suthirlaud, to serche, seik, tak, and apprehend with all possible diligence, the said Nele and his complices, makaris of the said

misordour, quhair euir he may apprehend thame, alswele within the boundis of Strathlawerne as Suthirlaud and vtheris partis, and bring thame to oure lawis to be punist for thair demeritis; and to that effect that he rais and conuene all fensable men within the boundis of Suthirlaud, als wele duelland vpoun spirituall mennis landis as temporale; and gife neid be to assege houssis quhairin thair salhappin to be, rais fyre, committ slauchter and mutilatioun vpoun thame, quhilk sall neuir be imputt to oure said cousing nor his assistaris as falt or cryme in tyme cuming; and in likwyse that ye pas, and in our name and auctorite command and charge all and sindrie oure liegis within the saidis boundis of Suthirlaud, be oppin proclamatioun at all places neidfull, to ryis, concur, and pas with oure said cousing in the executioun of his charge foirsaid as he sall require thame, vnder the pauie of deid; and siclike command and charge oure said cousing, gife ony persoun or personis within Suthirlaud happinnis to help, supple, fortife, furneis, or ressett the said Neill McKy, or ony his complices, thair assistaris and parttakaris, that he tak and apprehend all sic personis and present thame to oure iustice to be punist thairfore; and forthir that he himself compeir before oure said derrest moder and secrete counsle one Sanct Androis day nixt tocum, gife the said Nele beis nocht apprehendit betwix and the said day, to ansuer vpoun his diligence in thir behalfis, as ye will ansuer to ws thairpoun: The quhilk to do we committ to you coniuictlie and seueralie oure full power be thir oure letteris, deliuering thame be you deulie execute and indorsate agane to the berare, gevin vnder our signete at Banffe the xij day of September, and of oure rigune the xiiij yeir.

PER DOMINAM REGENTEM.

5. LETTER by MARY OF GUISE, Queen Regent of Scotland, to JOHN, TENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to apprehend Thomas Robertson, a pirate. 12th March 1557.

RYCHT TRAIST COUSING, eftir hartlie commendatioun; ye sall vnderstand that we directit our commissioun to yow and to our traist cousing, the erle of Cathnes, to tak and apprehend Thomas Robertsonsone, pyrat, and his complices, quhair euir ye may apprehend thame, for sic crymes committit be thame as is contenit in the said commissioun quhilk ye pleis ressaue; and prayis yow to accept and sett fordwartis the samyne at the vtermaist of your power: And ye doand this we will esteme yow to haue done to ws acceptable seruice, of the quhilk we sal

nocht tyme remembrance, and God haue [yow] in keping. Of Edinburgh the xij day of Marche 1557.

To our rycht traist cousing, Erle of Suythirland, etc.

6. ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ENGLAND, to THOMAS RANDOLPH, English Resident in Scotland, regarding the application of John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, for protection to live in England. 2d September [1563].¹

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd, we greete yow well; and let yow wite that the Earle of Lyneux hath shewid vs a letter which his brother, the Earle of Sotherland, hath written vnto him from Andwerp, to which place he is gone out of Scotland for such cawsees as yow know. By which letter he desyrethe the Earle of Leneux to

¹ Harleian MSS., No. 6986, fol. 31.

procure of vs our protection to lyve in our realme vnder our salvegard; which thing being of importance we haue forborne to answer till we maye upon furder knowledge resolve therein. And therefore being lothe aswell to do any thing herein to the mislyking of the Queene, our good suster there, as also vnwilling to betray or refuse to healepe the said gentleman, we haue thought good in respect of bothe, and for our honor, and so do will yow to devise by your best meanes to learne and feele indirectly how our said suster cold be content we shulde deale heerin, if such a request shulde be made to vs. And lykewise, as of your selfe, without seeming to do it by our direction or of any from hence, to vnderstand the lyking and devotion of thearle of Marre and of the [Larde] of [Le]thington heerin. Vpon knowledge wherof from yow (which we wolde gladly wer speedye) we will do as our honor, the common amytie and their lyking may beare.

Herwith yow shall receyve our letter to our said good suster in the behalfe of Segnor Megliorino, wherin we pray yow to deale as ye ar by him instructid, recommending his case vnto her, as one whome we esteeme and thinke meete to be regardid by them there, where he hath so well deservid. Geven vnder our signet at our Castel of Wyndesore, the second day of September, the fift yere of our reign.

To our trusty and welbilouid servaunt, Thomas Randall, Esquier.

7. MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, to THOMAS RANDOLPH, English Resident in Scotland, requiring that John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, be set at liberty. 8th September [1565]. Copy.¹

TRUSTIE and welbeloved, we grete you well. Whereas the Earle of Sutherlande, a borne subyect of this our realme, eomyng fro beyonde sea and reparinge towards this his native countrie, is taken, staied and deteyned prysoner at Barwicke, we mervalle of it in deede, seinge it a thinge tendinge so manyfestlie to the breeche of the good intelligenee betwixt vs and our good sistere, the Queen, your Souaryne; prainge you therefore that ye will write to the Erle of Bedforde with the berer hereof that by your letter the said Erle of Sutherlande may be put at libertie and suffred to departe frelie towards this our realme without stope or inqyuetacion, as you will doe vs good pleasure. Subseryuied with our hande at Glaseoe the viij of September.

The Queen of Scotts to Thomas Randolphe.

¹ Lansdowne MSS., No. 8, fol. 121.

S. MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, to ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ENGLAND, complaining that the Earl of Sutherland has been made prisoner at Berwick. 24th November 1565.¹

RICHT excellent, richt heich and nichtie Princesse, our richt deare suster and cousyn, we commend unto you in our maist hartly maner. Quhairas the Erll of Sutherland, a borne subject of this oure realme, cuming from beyond sey, and reparing towartis his native cuntre, is takin, stayed, and detenit as presoner at Barwick, we have thoct gude to signify the same unto you, and in respect of the gude amytie and peax standing betuix ws and our realmes, hartely to desire you that it may pleas you to gif strait commandment to your lieutenant officiaris on the Bordouris, or utheris your subjectis in quhais handes he is, that immediatlie thay put him to libertie, and suffer him frelie to depart towartis this realme. Praying you to caus spedy ordour to be takin heirin, that a thing tending sa manifestlie to the brek of the gude intelligence betuix ws, as taking of presoners in tyme of peax, be not permitted, as we salbe willing not onlie to do the like, bot alsua to omit na gude offices quhairby it may appeare quhat affectioun we beare to manteane amytie and gude nychbourheid with you and all youris, as the effectis sall declair. And thus abyding your ansuer with the berair heirof, richt excellent, richt heich, and nichtie Princesse, oure dearest suster and cousing, we commit you to the tuitioun of Almichtie God. Gevin under oure signet, at oure palace of Halyrudhous, the 24 day of November, and of oure regne the 23th zeir, 1565.
—Your richt gud sister and cusignes, MARIE R.

To the richt excellent, richt heich, and nichtye Princesse, oure dearest suster and cousin, the Queene of England.

9. ORDER FOR A PENSION by MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, to Mr. JOHN GORDON, one of her attendants. Sheffield, 18th September 1571.

LA ROYNE D'ESCOSSE, DOUAIRIERE DE FRANCE.

TRESORIER et receueur general de noz finances, Monsieur Rene Dolu, payez, baillez et deliurez comptant a Monsieur Jean Gordon, vng de noz gentilzhommes seruans,

¹ Labanoff's Letters of Mary Stuart, vol. i. p. 307. Original in Public Record Office, London.

la somme de deux cens liures tournoises, et ce pour ses gages et pension que luy auons ordonnee pour vne annee entiere, commenceant le premier jour du moys de Juillet dernier passé; laquelle pension entendons luy estre cy apres continuée a ladite raison de deux cens liures tournoises par an, attendant quil soit couche en nostre estat: Et rapportant la presente signee de nostre main avec quietance dudit Gordon de ladite somme de ij^e liures souleuer. Nous voulons icelle estre passee et allouee en la despence de voz comptes et rabatue de vostre recepte par noz amez et feaux les auditeurs commis ou a commettre alaudition diceux, ausquils mandons aus le faire sans difficulte. Donne au Chasteau de Cheefeild en Angleterre le xvij^{me} jour de Septembre l'an mil cinq cens soixante et l'onze.



H. PAULET.

Indorsed: Mandement pour la pension de Monsieur de Gordon.

TRANSLATION.

THE QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, Dowager of France.

TREASURER and Receiver-General of our rents, Mr. Rene Dolu, pay, give, and deliver, in ready money, to Mr. John Gordon, one of our gentlemen in waiting, the sum of two hundred livres tournois, and that for his wages and pension appointed to him by us, for one whole year, commencing the first day of the month of July last past; which pension we intend to be continued to him hereafter to the said amount of two hundred livres tournois yearly until he receive an appointment in our establishment: Returning these presents, signed with our hand, together with the acquittance of the said Gordon, to uplift the said sum of two hundred livres. Moreover, it is our will that this be passed and allowed in your accounting, and rebated from your receipts by our loved and faithful the auditors commissioners to whom is committed the auditing thereof; whom we command so to do without

objection. Given at the castle of Sheffield in England, the 18th day of September in the year one thousand five hundred and seventy-one.

MARIE R.

H. PAULET.

Iudorsed : Order for the pension of Mr. Gordon.

10. WARRANT by KING JAMES THE SIXTH for a Remission to Lady Jane Gordon, Countess of Sutherland, for intercommuning with George, Earl of Huntly. 1594.

OURE SOUERANE LORD of his speciall grace and fauouris ordanis ane remissioun to be maid vnder the greit seill in dew forme to Dame Jehane Gordoun, Countesse of Sutherland, for hir tressonabill ressett and intercommoning with George, sumtyme erll of Huntlie, and vtheris his Maiesteis declarit tratouris, jesuittis, excommunicat personis, and vtheris rebellious and vnnaturall subiectis, at diuers tymes, aganis sindry his Hienes actis, lawis, and proclamationis maid in the contrair; and for all actioun and cryme that may follow thairupoun, or be imput to the said Dame Jehane thairthrow; and that preceptis be direct ordourlie heirupoun, with extensioun of all claussis necessar. Subscriuit be oure said sonerane lord at the day of the yeir of God j^m x^c four seoir fourtene yeiris.

JAMES R.

11. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to LADY JANE GORDON, Countess of Sutherland, to depart from Edinburgh. c. 1595.

WE, be the tennour heiroy, gevis and grantis oure licence to Dame Jeane Gordoun, Countesse of Suthirland, to depairt and pas furth of oure burgh of Edinburgh and the Cannogait to quhatsomeuir partis sho pleissis without ony pane, cryme, skaith, or dangeir, to be incurrit be hir thairthrou in hir persone or guidis, nochtwithstanding of the charge gevin to hir for hir remaning within our said burgh and the Cannogait, quhill sho wer fred be ws; anent the quhilk and pane of hoirning contenit thairintill we disp[ens] be thir presentis, subscriuit with our hand [torn] the day of [torn]

JAMES R.

12. LICENCE by KING JAMES the SIXTH to JOHN, TWELFTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to go abroad. 29th October 1597.

REX.

We be the tennour heirof gevis and grantis licence to oure traist cousing, erll of Sutherland, and thre landit men with him in cumpany to depart and pas furth of oure realme to France, Flandirs, or ony vther partes beyond sey, thair to remane and do thair lefull erandis and bissynes at thair pleasour during the space of fyve yeris nixt efter the dait heirof, without ony pane, cryme, danger or skaith to be incurrit be oure said cousing or ony of the thre landit men foirsaid, being with him in cumpany, in thair personis, landis, possessionis, offices, guidis nor geir: And will and grantis that nane of thame sallit [salbe] callit nor acusit thairfore criminalie nor ciuillie be ony maner of way in tyme cuning, notwithstanding ony actis, statutis, letteris, proclamationis, speciall or generall, maid in the contrar or ony panis contenit thairin, anent the quhilkis we dispens be this present; discharging oure justice, justice clerk, thesaurar, advocatt, and thair deputis, and all vtheris our officers and ministers of oure lawis, of all calling, accusing, vnlawing or onywyse proceeding aganis oure said cousing and landit men in his cumpany as said is, pouding, troubling or ony wyse intrometting with thame thairfore, and of thair offices in that part: Prouiding alwyse that during thair remaning furth of oure realme thay behave thame selfis as dewtyfull subiectis to ws, and do nor attempt nathing tending to the preiudice of ws and oure estate, the religioun professit within oure realme nor oure subiectis thairof, vtherwyse this oure licence to be null and of nane avale, force nor effect. Gevin vnder our signet and subseriuit with oure hand at Lynlythgw the xxix day of October and of oure reigne the xxxj yeir, 1597.

LEIVINGESTONE.	BLANTYRE.	JAMES R.
VRQHART.	M. J. ELPHINSTOUN.	LENEX.

13. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to MR. JOHN GORDON,—about a monument in memory of the Gowrie Conspiracy. 8th July 1601.

RIGHT TRUSTIE and weilbeloued, we giue yow maist hairtie thankes for your vertuous and learnt discours and advyse, sa kyndlie set doune anent the remem-

berance of sa vyle a conspiracy, quhairin as we allow your lerning, conioyned with ane inture affection, sa we haue deliberat to cause the memorie of it be consecrat to the posterity be a monument answerable to your inuention. And hauing occasion be this bearer, our maister of wark, quhome we haue directed expresslie to provide sic thingis as sould be necessar for the same, we haue willed him to conferre with yow thairament that ye may agrie vpon the forme, deuysel and supercriptionis, that as the turpitude of the fact is in itselfe detestable, sa the memorie of it may be transmitted to the posterity in sic forme as may detterre others from attempting the like. So committing the rest to the sufficiency of the bearer we bid yow right hartely farewell, from our pallace of Halyrudhous this viij of Julie 1601.

Mr. John Gordon.



To our right trustie and weilbeloued Mr. John Gordoun.

14. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to ROBERT and ALEXANDER GORDON, brothers of John, twelfth Earl of Sutherland, to go abroad. 25th May 1602.

REX.

WE be the tennour heirop gevis and grantis to our louittis Robert and Alexander Gordounes, brethreine germane to Gordoun, erle of Sudderland, scolleris, our special licence to pas furth of our realme to the pairtis of France, Germanie, and vtheris beyond sey, for doing thair lefull effairis, and to remane furth thairfor for the space of sevin yeiris; and willis and grantis that thai nor nane of thame sall incur onie danger, hurt or skaith in thair persoun, landis or guidis for thair passing and remaning furth of our realme during the said space: discharging be thir presentis our iustices, iustice clarkis and thair deputtes, coronellis, schireffis, and all vtheris our officearis or ministeris of our lawis within our realme present and being for the . . . [torn] [a]tteiching, areisting, molesting or trubling of the . . . of thame thairfoir in tyme cuming, and of thair offic[es]

. . . provyding that the saidis personnes do nor attem[pt na]thing contrair the religioun as it is in our realme professit, nor p[reiu]diciall to our present estait, or hurtfull to our crown; or vtherways this present licence to be of nane effect. Subscriyuit with our hand and gevin vnder our signet at Drumfermling the tventie fyve day of Maii, the yeir of God I⁶¹ vj^o and twa yeiris, and of our regne the xxxv yeir.

JAMES R.
J. SECRETAR.

This lettre presentit and registrat the day within writtin.

MR. ROBERT YOUNG.

15. LICENCE by KING JAMES THE SIXTH and the PRIVY COUNCIL to JOHN, TWELFTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to go abroad for three years. 22d January 1611.

JAMES R.

We, vnderstanding that oure right traist cosine, Erll of Sutherland, is subiect to diuerse diseassis and infirmitis of body, and that for the recoverie of his helth he is advisit to repair to foreyne countreys, thairfoir we haif gevin and grantit, and be the tennour heirof gevis and grantis, oure licence to oure said cosine, the Erll of Sutherland, to repair and pas furth of oure realmes and dominionis to whatsoever pairtis beyond sea he pleissis, and to remane furth thairof for seiking of ordinarie remeidis for his helth, and doing of his vther affairis, the space of three yeiris nixto come eftir the dait heirof, without pane, cryme, skaith, or danger to be incurrit be him thairthrou in his persone, landis, or goodis, notwithstanding whatsomevir oure actis, statutis, or proclamationis maid in the countrair, whair- anent, and all panes contenit thairintill, we dispense be thir presentis; dischairgeing heirby oure justice, justice clerk, thesaurer, aduocat, and all vtheris oure judgeis, officiaris, and ministeris of oure lawis, off all calling, accusing, or onyways proceeding aganis oure said cosine, or intrometting with him, his goodis or geir, for the premissis, and of thair offices in that pairt: Provyding alwise that oure said cosine, during his absence furth of oure realmis, behave himself as ane dewtifull and obedient subiect to ws, and do nor attempt no thing in hurte nor prejudice of ws, oure realme and estait, nor the trew religioun presentlie professit within this oure realme, vtherways this oure licence to be of nane avail. Gevin vnder

oure signet at Edinburgh the xxij day of Januar, and of oure regnn the aught and fourty four yeiris, 1611.

AL. CANCELL^s. PERTHE.
GLASGOW.
LOTHIANE.
S. R. COKBURNE.
J. COKBURNE.
M. G. YOUNG.

Dorso—Apud Edinburgh xxij Januarij 1611: Red, past, and allowit in counsell. J. PRYMIROIS.

This letter presentit and registrat the day withiu writtin.

MR. ROBERT YOUNG.

16. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to the PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND,—instructing them to inquire into the right of Sir Robert Gordon to the abbacy of Glenluce. 29th April 1621.¹

JAMES R.

RIGHTE REUERENDE father in God, righte trustie and welbeloued counsellour, and righte trustie and righte welbeloued cosens and counsellours, wee greete yow well: [Our servant]² Sir Roberte Gordon, vnkle to the Earle of Sutherlande, hath humble shewed vnto vs that he hath heretable righte to the liuing of the abbcacie of Glenluce:—Wee haue therefor thoughte good by these presentts to require yow to peruse his euidentes and consider of his title to the said liuing, and according as yee shall finde him to haue righte, to aduirtyse vs, that wee may giue such furder order in that mater as shalbe moste agreable to reason. Farewell. Giuen at our pallace of Whitehalle, the 29th of April 1621.

To the righte reuerende father in God, our righte trustie and welbeloued counsellour, the Archbishoppe of Saint Andrewes, and to our righte trustie and righte welbeloued cosens and counsellours, the Earle of Dumfermline, our chancellour, and the Earle of Melros, our principall secretarie of our kingdome of Scotlande.

¹ Original letter in volume of Royal Letters, 1617-1624, in H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh.

² Defaced in the original.

17. KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—promising £2000 sterling for the abbacy of Glenluce. 27th October 1622. [Contemporary copy.]

JAMES R.

TRUSTIE and weilbelowed, we greette yow weell. Our knowlege of the small worth and rent of the bishoprick of Galloway, not able to manteyne a bishope in a qualitie ansuerable to his place, and that respect which we hawe ewer caried to prowylde and establishe mentenance for the church, hawing mowed ws to deale and transact with yow for your right of the abbacie off Glenluce, of intention to vnite the same to the said bishoprick, we hawe thocht fit, alsweell for the better remembrance of the conditions condescended wpon betwene ws, as also for your better assurance of our part of the same, heirby to declair, that for your right of the said abbacie we hawe promesed vnto yow two thowsand pounds stirling, and that we ar content that yee reteyne and keip still the right theroff in your persone, til we pay or cause securitie be maid to yow for the said somme; wher-vpon yee ar then laughfullie to resigne and dispone your full right of the said abbacie in fawours of the said bishope and his successours in the bishoprick of Galloway. So we bid yow fareweell, from our court at Henclinbrook the 27 of October 1622.

To our right trustie and weilbelowed Sir Robert Gordone of Kinmonowie, knight, gentleman of our priwic chalmer, etc.

18. WARRANT by KING CHARLES THE FIRST for the payment of two thousand pounds sterling, to SIR ROBERT GORDON. 24th June 1632.¹

CHARLES R.

OUR PLEASURE is that out of the readiest of our present rents or casualties whatsoever of that our kingdome, or which shall accresse vnto vs hereafter by whatsoever maner of way, yow pay with all diligence vnto Sir Robert Gordon, knight, gentleman of our priuic chamber in ordinarie, the sowme of *Two thousand pounds Sterlin,*² and for your so doing these presents shalbe vnto yow and all others

¹ Original letter in volume of Royal Letters, 1625-1632, in H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh.

² These four words in italics are holograph of the king.

whom it may concerne, a sufficient warrant and discharge. Given at our manour of Greenwich, the 21 of June 1632.

To our right trustie and right welbeloued cousin and counsellour, the Earle of Morton, our thesaurer of Scotland, and to our righte trustie and welbeloued counsellour the Lord of Traquhair, our deputie thesaurer of that our kingdome.

Apud Halyrudhouse—

The Lords orlaynes ane act and this precept to be registrat with this provision that the samyn be takin furth of the copper money allennerly, and no vther wayis according to his Majesties letter heirwith produced to that effect.

J. ARSKINE.	MAERSCHALL.	MORTON, THR.
SR. THOMAS HOP.	LINLITHGOW.	STRATHERNE.

19. WARRANT by KING CHARLES THE FIRST for securing to SIR ROBERT GORDON the benefit of the fourth part of the copper money towards the payment of the two thousand pounds lately granted to him. 27th June 1632.¹

CHARLES R.

RIGHT TRUSTIE and right welbeloued cousin and counsellour, right trustie and welbeloued cousins and counsellours, and right trusty and welbeloued counsellours, wee greete yow well: Whereas wee haue [been] pleased to grant vnto our right trusty and welbeloued counsellour, the Viscount of Sterlin, the benefite arising of the copper money to be coyned in that our kingdome, according to his patent therevpon, for his satisfaction for moneyes due vnto him by vs, after deduction whereof with the charges of the work he is to be accomptable vnto vs for the superplus; and wee being pleased, vpon good considerations, and with consent of the said Viscount for his interest, that our servant, Sir Robert Gordon, haue the fourth part of the free benefite of those copper moneyes till he be payed of two thousand pounds sterling lately granted to him by our precept, our pleasure is that yow giue your best assistance herein to the said Sir Robert, and tak such course as may be sufficient to enable him, by himself or his assignes, to receaue the said fourth

¹ Original letter in volume of Royal Letters, 1625-1632, in H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh.

pairt till he be payed of the sail sowme, allowing to the said viscount in his accompts the deduction of the same for that vse; and for your so doing these shalbe sufficient warrant. Wee bid yow farewell from our manour of Greenwich, the 27 of June 1632.

To our right trustie and right welbeloued cousin and counsellour, to our right trustie and welbeloued cousins and counsellours, and to our right trustie and welbeloued counsellours, the Viscount of Duplin, our chanceler, the Earle of Morton, our thesaurer, and remanent noblemen and others, the Comissioners of Exchequer of our kingdome of Scotland.

Apud Halyrud house, 7 September 1632: Read them, and ordayned to be registrat.

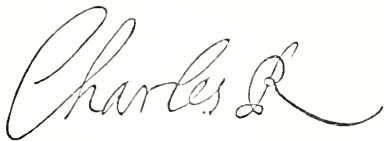
20. KING CHARLES THE FIRST to JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, about the repairing of the cathedral church of Caithness. 22d June 1634.



RIGHT TRUSTIE and welbeloued cousin, wee greete yow well: Whereas wee are informed that of late a beginning was made in repairing the cathedrall church of the diocie of Caitnesse, wherein wee do commend the endeauours of such as did contribute to that purpose; but hearing that the bodie of that church is as yet to sett vp, which will require the assistance of the most able and eminent persones in that diocie, wee haue hereby thought fitt speciallie to recommend vnto yow to assist so pious a work by vsing the aduise and direction herein of the reuerend father in God, the bishop of Caithnesse, and by helping to mak vp such a generall contribution amongst all the inhabitantis of that diocie as wilbe sufficient to finish that work, wherein as yow will show a zeale to Gods seruice so wee will tak it in verry good pairt at your handes. Wee bid yow fairewell from our manour of Greenwich the 22 of June 1634.

To our right trustie and welbeloued cousin, the Earle of Southerland.

21. KING CHARLES THE SECOND to JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—desiring him to concur with the Committee of Estates. 28th July 1651.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles R". The letters are fluid and connected, with a long, sweeping tail on the final "R".

RIGHT TRUSTIE and right welbeloved cossen, wee greete yow well. Notwithstanding of the ordouris and letteris sent to yow by the advice of our Committee of Estates, wee have thought fitt to add this in particular from our self, to desire and comiure yow seriously by your owne particular power and interest in the shyre to concur with the Committee that quhat is apoynted may speedily and effectually be put in execution. All is now at the stake, religion, the liberty of this antient kingdome, our honour and person, your owne particular fortune, and all that can be deare to a man of honour. Wee expect at this tyme that yow will bestir your self, and that yow will consider nothing but quhat may sett vp the army againe, and make it in condition to protect the partes of the kingdome that are yett free from the enemy, and with the blessing of God to recover the rest from the slaverie they ly vnder. Wee are confident yow have so much sense of the credite of the kingdome and of your owne, and wilbe so worthie of the honour of your family, and what yow have inherited from your predicessouris, that wee shall sie the effects of your dilligence and forwardnes at this tyme, which wee will allwayes remember very gratioously: And so wee bid yow hartily farewell. Given at our campe at Sterline this 28 of Julii 1651, and in the third yeare of our raigne.

For the Earle off Sutherland. Thes.

22. KING WILLIAM THE THIRD to the PRIVY COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND, appointing two regiments of foot to be raised, of which John, Lord Strathnaver, and Sir James Moncreiff are to be colonels. 21st February 1692-3.¹



RIGHT TRUSTY and right welbeloved cousin and councillor, right trusty and entirely beloved cousins and councillors, right trusty and right welbeloved cousins and councillors, right trusty and welbeloved cousins and councillors, right trusty and right welbeloved councillors, right trusty and welbeloved councillors, and trusty and welbeloved councillors, wee greet you well. Whereas wee have given commission to our right trusty and welbeloved councillor, John, Lord Strathnaver, and to our right trusty and welbeloved Sir James Moncreife, to be colonells of our new regiments of ffoot, which wee do appoint to be raised and leavied in our ancient kingdom of Scotland, and to be transported thence, for our service, to our kingdom of Ireland, whereby, in the meantime, our subjects in Scotland will be in the greater security: It is our will and pleasure, and wee do require you to allow drums to be beat for raising the foresaid regiments, and that you give all the encouragement and assistance to those officers in the prosecution of this our service: and so wee bid you heartily ffarewell. Given at our court at Kensingtoun the 21st day of February 169 $\frac{2}{3}$, and of our reign the 4th year.—By his Majesties command.

JO. DALRYMPLE.

To our right trusty and right welbeloved cousin and councillor, our right trusty and entirely beloved cousins and councillors, our right trusty and right welbeloved cousins and councillors, our right trusty and welbeloved cousins and councillors, our right trusty and right welbeloved councillors, our right trusty and welbeloved councillors, and our trusty and welbeloved councillors,

¹ Original letter in volume of Royal Letters in H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh.

John, Earle of Tweeddale, our chancellor, and the rest of the lords of our privy counsell of our ancient kingdom of Scotland.

25 February 1693: Read and ordered to be recorded.

23. ORDERS by KING WILLIAM THE THIRD to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—to obey the orders of Count Tyan. Roosbeeck, 19th June 1694.

SYNE MAJESTEIJT last ende beveelt hiermede den Coronel Strathnever offe den officier commanderende't regiment althans in Gent, te achtervolgen en naer te komen de ordres die den H^{es} Grave Tijan aen hem sal komen te geven. Gedaen in't leger bij Roosbeeck den 19^e Junii 1694.

WILLIAM R.

Ter ordre van sijne Majesteijt.

J. HUIJGENS.

TRANSLATION.

HIS MAJESTY allows and commands by these presents Colonel Strathnaver, or the officer commanding the regiment presently in Ghent, to be guided by and obey the orders which his highness Count Tyan shall give him. Given at the camp of Roosbeeck the 19th June 1694.

WILLIAM R.

By command of His Majesty.

J. HUIJGENS.

24. FERDINAND WILLIAM, DUKE OF WIRTEMBERG, to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—to march at the orders of the Count de Thian. 23d August 1694.

MYLORD,—Sa Mayesté m'a ordonné de vous advertir de marcher aux ordres de Comte de Thian, aussy tot qu'il vous l'ordonnera, en luy obeissant en tout. J'espere d'avoir bientot¹ l'honneur de vous voir, étant, my lord, votre très humble serviteur,

FERDINAND GVILLAUME,

Duc de Wirttemberg.

Ligne près d'Ath, le 23 Aovst 1694.

A my Lord Strenever, colonel d'infanterie de sa Mayesté Brittanique au camp de Mariekerque.

¹ This word is partly deleted.

TRANSLATION.

MY LORD,—His Majesty has commanded me to inform you that you are to march at the orders of Count of Thian, as soon as he shall communicate the same to you, giving obedience to him in all things. I hope soon to have the honour of seeing you, being, my lord, your very humble servant,

FERDINAND WILLIAM,
Duke of Wirtemberg.

Ligne near Ath, the 23d of August 1694.

To my Lord Strathnaver, colonel of infantry of his Brittanic Majesty at the camp of Marykirk.

25. THE SAME to THE SAME,—giving him leave to return home.

4th December 1694.

MYLORD,—Ayant reçu réponse sur la lettre que j'avois écrite au Roy, touchant la permission qu'il vous a plu demander pour aller au pais, et sa Majesté l'ayant agréé, vous pourrez vous disposer pour votre voyage, pour partir quand bon vous semblera. Je suis d'ailleurs très sincèrement, monsieur, votre très humble serviteur,

FERDINAND GVILLAUME,
Duc de Wirtemberg.

A Gand, ce 4^e Decembre 1694.

Pour mylord Strathnaver.

TRANSLATION.

Ghent, the 4th of December 1694.

MY LORD,—Having received a reply to the letter which I wrote to the king respecting the permission which you were pleased to ask to return to your country, and his Majesty having agreed thereto, you are at liberty to arrange for your journey, and to set out whenever it seems good to you. I am always very sincerely, sir, your very humble servant,

FERDINAND WILLIAM,
Duke of Wirtemberg.

For my Lord Strathnaver.

26. PASS by FERDINAND WILLIAM, DUKE OF WIRTEMBERG AND TECK, to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, to go to England. 13th December 1694.

PAR LA grace de Dieu, nous, Ferdinand Gvillavme, Duc de Wirtemberg et Teck, Prince de l'Empire, Comte de Mombeliard, Seigneur de Heydenheim, général de l'infanterie, et colonel aux gardes de leur Majestez, etc.

Laissez seurement et librement passer my Lord Strathnever, qui avec permission de sa Majesté, s'en va en Angleterre avec huit valets ou domestiques, sans lui faire ou donner aucun empêchement. Fait à Gand ce 13 Decembris 1694.

*Ferdinand Guillaume
Duc de Wirtemberg*

TRANSLATION.

BY the grace of God, we, Ferdinand William, Duke of Wirtemberg and Teck, Prince of the Empire, Count of Montbeliard, Lord of Heydenheim, general of infantry, and colonel of their Majesties' guards, etc.

Permit safely and freely to pass my Lord Strathnaver, who has the permission of his Majesty to go to England with eight valets or domestics, without making or giving him any hindrance. Given at Ghent the 13th December 1694.

FERDINAND WILLIAM,
Duke of Wirtemberg.

27. THE SAME to THE SAME,—his charge as Brigadier and about his passport.

A Gand, le 5 Janvier 1696.

MYLORD,—L'honneur de la vôtre m'a été bien rendue, et en réponse je vous dois assurer que je ne manqueray point de représenter à sa Majesté le droit que vous avez à la charge de Brigadier. Le passeport demandé sera expédié incessamment.

Et vous prie d'ailleurs de continuer à me communiquer de temps en temps ce qui se passe dans vos quartiers, et d'estre persuadé de la passion sincère avec laquelle je suis, mylord, votre très humble serviteur,

FERDINAND GVILLAUME,
Duc de Wirtemberg.

TRANSLATION.

Ghent, the 5th January 1696.

MY LORD,—The honour of yours has been duly delivered to me, and in reply I must assure you that I shall not fail to represent to his Majesty the claim which you have to the post of brigadier. The passport requested will be expedited forthwith. Also be pleased always to continue informing me from time to time of what takes place in your quarters, and be persuaded of the sincere esteem with which I am, my lord, your very humble servant,

FERDINAND WILLIAM,
Duke of Wirtemberg.

28. THE SAME to THE SAME,—about Cantonments for his regiment.
16th March 1696.

MY LORD,—Je viens de recevoir l'honneur de la vôtre par les mains de l'express qu'il vous a plu m'envoyer, et suis très fâché de ne pouvoir remédier à present à ce qu'il vous plait me demander, à cause de ce que les régiments de Hannover, qui sont ordonnés pour le Cammerlingh, ne peuvent pas être mis en aucune garnison de ville en Flandres, en vertu de leur capitulation. Outre que le Brigadier St. Paul viendra lui même en personne avec le régiment. Pour ce qui est de quartiers dans la ville, vous pourrez faire prendre les logements qu'ont eû les 900 hommes commandés d'autant que le régiment de Zoutelande ne pourra venir sitôt. Au reste j'espère d'avoir d'autres occasions plus favorables pour vous pouvoir témoigner la passion que j'ay d'être, mylord, votre très humble et très-obéissant serviteur.

FERDINAND GVILLAUME,
Duc de Wirtemberg.

A Middelbourg le 16^e de Mars 1696.

TRANSLATION.

MY LORD,—I have just received the honour of yours by the hands of the express whom you were pleased to send to me, and much regret that it is not in my power at present to remedy what it has pleased you to ask of me, as the Hanoverian regiments appointed for the Cammerlingh cannot be garrisoned in any of the towns of Flanders in respect of their capitulation. Besides that, the Brigadier St. Paul will come himself in person with the regiment. In regard to quarters in the town, you can cause take the lodgings which have been bespoken for the nine hundred men, as the regiment of Zouteland cannot come so soon. For the rest I hope to have other occasions more favourable when I shall be able to manifest the desire I have to be, my lord, your very humble and very obedient servant,

FERDINAND WILLIAM,

Duke of Wirtemberg.

From Middelbourg, the 16th of March 1696.

29. KING GEORGE THE FIRST to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—to attend the King's Coronation. 6th October 1714.



RIGHT TRUSTY and right welbeloved cousin, we greet you well. Whereas the 20th day of this instant October is appointed for the royal solemnity of our coronation; these are to will and command you (all excuses set apart) to make your personal attendance on us, at the time above mentioned, furnished and appointed as to your rank and quality appertaineth, there to do and perform all such services as shall be required and belong unto you; whereof you are not to fail: and so we bid you most heartily farewell. Given at our Court at St. James's, the 6th day of October 1714, in the first year of our reign.

By his Majestie's command,

SUFFOLK M.

Earl of Sutherland.

30. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to KING GEORGE THE FIRST—
excusing himself for not being present in Parliament. 7th April 1715.

QUOIQUE J'avois le bonheur d'avoir part au sensible plaisir des tous veritables Bretons de voir votre Majesté agréer la couronne, j'ai à regret de force de me dispenser jusqu'ici de l'honneur d'aussi voir votre Majesté au milieu de votre parlement, assis sur le trône des vos ancêtres ; ayant par un accès de goutte et une multiplicité des affaires, causée par la mort de ma mère depuis peu, et mon long absence de ce pais, été obligé malgré mes inclinations de retarder mon voiage si long tems.

Les épreuves qui j'ai toujours taché de donner du mon zèle pour votre serenissime famille, sont des telles marques du mon attachement inviolable au service de votre Majesté, que j'espère personne n'attribueroit mon absence à present au manque du devoir. Mais comme chacun a ses ennemis, je me crois obligé d'en communiquer à votre Majesté les veritables causes, espérant que votre bonté pardonnera cette hardiesse, comme je sais que les calomnies ne font point la moindre impression sur le cœur de votre Majesté au préjudice des vos fidèles sujets, dont j'ose dire, qu'il n'y a pas un plus sincère et respectueux que

Indorsed : A double of my letter to the king about the 7th of February 1715.

Another copy. Indorsed : A copy of my letter to the king on the 7th Aprile 1715.

TRANSLATION.

ALTHOUGH I had the happiness to participate in the sensible joy of all true Britons at seeing your Majesty accept the crown, I regret having been obliged to exempt myself hitherto from the honour of also seeing your Majesty, in the midst of your Parliament, seated upon the throne of your ancestors, as by a fit of the gout, and a multiplicity of business, caused by the recent death of my mother, and my long absence from this country, I have been obliged, in spite of my inclinations, to postpone my journey so long.

The proofs which I have always endeavoured to give of my zeal for your exalted family, are such marks of my inviolable attachment to the service of your Majesty that I trust no one will attribute my absence at present to any failure in duty. But as every one has his enemies, I have thought it incumbent on me to

communicate to your Majesty the true reasons, hoping that your goodness will pardon this boldness, as I know that calumnies do not make the least impression upon the heart of your Majesty to the prejudice of your faithful subjects, of whom I venture to say there is no one more sincere and respectful than

31. INSTRUCTIONS by KING GEORGE THE FIRST to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, as Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland, etc. 25th August 1715.

GEORGE R.

INSTRUCTIONS for our right trusty and right well beloved cousin, John, Earl of Sutherland, whom we have appointed lord-lieutenant of the shires of Caithnes, Sutherland, Morray, Nairn, Ross and Cromartie. Given at our court at St. James's the 25th day of August 1715, in the second year of our reign.

1. YOU are forthwith to name and constitute proper persons to be your deputy-lieutenants, taking care that the number of the said deputy-lieutenants for each shire be from six to twelve (and no more), in proportion to the extent of the respective shires whereof you are lieutenant.

2. You are not to appoint any officer to be a deputy-lieutenant who is under the degree of a major, or captain of a troop.

3. You are likewise forthwith to name and constitute such a number of officers, in their respective ranks, as is proportionable to the fensible men within the said shires whereof you are lieutenant, which can with ease and without great interruption from their ordinary occupations be assembled; and in order to this you may have some regard to the numbers of the militia of Scotland, but not such as to restrain you from making such deviations from it as from the circumstances of the shires whereof you are lieutenant may appear to you to be proper and useful to the government, in regard that all the fensible men are bound by law to obey you as their lieutenant in defence of the kingdom.

4. You are to observe the utmost precaution and impartiality in the naming your deputy-lieutenants and officers, so that they may not only be the most capable, but likewise those who are and have been of the greatest and most

known zeal, before our accession to the crown, for the Protestant succession as established by law, such only being fit to be trusted with the defence of our person and government who have been always ready to maintain the Protestant religion and their own liberties.

5. You are likewise to take a peculiar care in the naming your deputy-lieutenants and officers, so as to avoid and prevent any differences and competitions between the heritors, which might not only produce many difficulties in the execution of this trust reposed in you, but may be very prejudicial and disadvantageous to our service.

6. You are at all times to avoid the summoning, calling out, assembling, disciplining, or arming any of the fensible men or heritors, concerning whom there can be any doubt as to their affection to our government.

7. You are to take care that each battallion consist of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major (who shall have no companies), ten captains, ten lieutenants, ten ensigns, twenty sergeants, twenty corporals, ten drums, an adjutant, and a quarter master, and about four hundred private men; and if you shall find it expedient to form any body of horse, each troop is to consist of a captain, lieutenant, cornet, quarter master, two corporals, and about forty private men.

8. So soon as you have appointed your deputy-lieutenants and officers, you are to transmit a list of the same to our principal Secretary of State.

9. You are to take care to form all the fensible men whom you shall be fully convinced are well affectioned to our government into battallions and squadrons, according to the methods above mentioned; and in case of any rebellion or foreign invasion you are immediately to assemble them, and you are also in this case to observe such directions as you shall receive from the commander-in-chief for the time being in Scotland.

10. In case of the junction of the fensible men or militia of more shires or stewardries than one, the lieutenants shall have the command by the day alternatively, and the lieutenant of the shire or stewardry which stood first in the Rolls of Parliament of Scotland shall have the first dayes command, and so on in that order so long as the lieutenancies shall continue in conjunction.

11. You are upon all occasions to execute this trust reposed in you with as little expence to our subjects as is possible.

By his Majesty's command,

JAMES STANHOPE.

A B Wyld
Comte de Sutherland.
à
Inverness.

St. James le 11^e Janvier 1718.

Mylord Comte de Sutherland. Ayant
appris des divers endroits les bons Services que vous
me rendez, et les Sages dispositions que vous avez
faites pour maintenir le Poste important d'Inverness
Je n'ay pas voulu manquer à me servir de l'Occa-
sion qui se presente de vous assurer, que je suis
fort sensible à des services si utiles, et que
vous pouvez compter, que je ne les oublieray point.
J'espere que vous les continuerez avec plus d'at-
tention que jamais à present que mon Armée
est sur le point de marcher contre les Rebelles,
Je ne doute pas, que le Vaisseau qui vous
porte des Armes, ^{et de l'argent} ne soit arrivé auprès de
vous. Sur quoy je prie Dieu Mylord
Comte de Sutherland, qu'il vous tienne
en sa Sainte et digne garde

George R

32. KING GEORGE THE FIRST to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
 thanking him for his defence of Inverness, etc.

St. James, le 17^e Janvier 1716.

MYLORD COMTE DE SUTHERLAND.—Ayant appris de divers endroits les bons services que vous me rendez et les sages dispositions que vous avez faites pour maintenir le poste important d' Inverness, je n'ay pas voulu manquer à me servir de l'occasion qui se présente de vous assurer, que je suis fort sensible à des services si utiles, et que vous pouvez compter, que je ne les oublieray point. J'espère que vous les continuerez avec plus d'attention que jamais à present que mon armée est sur le point de marcher contre les rebelles. Je ne doute pas, que le vaisseau qui vous porte des armes et de l'argent ne soit arrivé auprès de vous. Sur quoy je prie Dieu, mylord Comte de Sutherland, qu'il vous tienne en sa sainte et digne garde.

GEORGE R.

A my lord Comte de Sutherland, à Inverness.

TRANSLATION.

St. James's, 17th January 1716.

MY LORD EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—Having been informed from several quarters of the good services which you are rendering me, and of the skilful dispositions you have made to defend the important post of Inverness, I did not wish to fail in taking advantage of an opportunity that presents itself to assure you that I am very sensible of services so useful, and you may depend upon it I shall never forget them. I hope you will continue them with more attention than ever, now when my army is upon the point of marching against the rebels. I do not doubt but the ship which carries arms and money for you will have arrived near you. Whereupon, my lord Earl of Sutherland, I pray God to have you in his holy and gracious keeping.

GEORGE R.

To my lord Earl of Sutherland, at Inverness.

33. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to KING GEORGE THE FIRST,—
 in answer to the previous letter; and expressing his loyalty to the
 King's person. 7th February 1716.

SIRE,—L'attachement que j'ay toujours eu pour la religion et les libertés de mon pays, ne m'engage pas plus inviolablement, par mon devoir, aux interest[s] de votre

Majesté, qui est le seul soutien, que la bonté avec la quelle votre Majesté me fait l'honneur de prendre garde à mes petits services, m'oblige pour jamais d'exercer toutes les facultés de mon âme, pour le service de mon souverain.

Si mon zèle pouvoit être plus animé et ardent qu'il n'est, vous en avez, sire, trouver le secret. Votre Majesté l'approuve et cela en est assez. Personne ne peut promettre du succès, mais je puis franchement m'engager que les mêmes principes de fidélité et d'affection qui m'ont toujours conduit dans mon devoir envers la personne sacrée et l'auguste maison de votre Majesté ne me permettront jamais de relentir dans l'ouvrage glorieux de porter l'heureuse épée de votre Majesté contre les ennemis de Dieu et mon roy, jusqu'à ce que je voy nos parricides] dénaturés mis en confusion, ou que je périsse dans l'entreprise. Que le Dieu tout puissant bénisse et conserve le défenseur des ses interests.

Indorsed: A copy of my answer to the king's letter of the 7th of February 1716, from London, dated the 17th of January 1716. From Invernes.

TRANSLATION.

SIRE,—The attachment that I have always had to the religion and liberties of my country do not engage me more inviolably by my duty to the interests of your Majesty, who is their only support, than the goodness with which your Majesty has done me the honour to take notice of my little services, obliges me for ever to exert all the powers of my mind for the service of my sovereign.

If my zeal could be made more animated and ardent than it is, you, sire, have found the secret of doing so. Your Majesty approves of it, and that is enough. No person can promise success; but I can frankly engage that the same principles of fidelity and affection which have always guided me in my duty towards the sacred person and the august house of your Majesty will never permit me to slacken in the glorious work of bearing the fortunate sword of your Majesty against the enemies of God and my king, until the time that I see our unnatural parricides put into confusion, or that I perish in the attempt. May God Almighty bless and protect the defender of his cause.

34. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to KING GEORGE THE FIRST,—that disaffected persons should be dismissed from the army. 19th March 1716-17.

SIRE,—La goute ne me tourment plus que la chagriu d'être hors d'état de rendre à votre Majesté mes devoirs comme la conjuoncture presente demande de toutes vos fidelles sujetes; mais j'espère que Dieu, qui m'empêcheoit d'avoir aucune maladie quant je étoit dans les montagnes d'Ecosse contre les rebelles, me remettera dans une état à¹ contribuer à vous faire, sire, triompher sur toutes vos ennemis.

Il y a deux années que je pris la liberté de dire à votre Majesté qu'il étoit pour votre service de congédier tout ceux qui n'étoit bien intentioné a votre service hors de l'armée. Je trouve que trope de cette sort encors, et asture il n'e[s]t pas le temps d'avoir les indifférentes, beaucoup moins de mal affectioné à votre gouvernement et person royal; et ceux qui remplusse leurs postes, avec tout submission, doive être de gens de resolution et d'expérience aussi bien que très affectioné au service de votre Majesté. Car une seigneur peut mériter bien d'être le chef d'une bal qui sera nulment propre pour prendre une Suedois par la barbe.

Sire, les pairs de la Grand Bretaign sont fait ou nais conseillers du leur roys, et ainsi il[s] ont pas seulment le privilège, mais il e[s]t leur devoir, de donner leurs sentiments au leur souverain quant ont le trouve necessaire. Si j'ay excodé mes bornes, votre Majesté auroit la bonté de l'attribuer, comme effectivement il e[s]t, de ma zèle et affection pour votre sacrée person, étant tout ma vie avec tout le respect, tout le devoir, et tout la devotion possible, sire, de votre Majesté le très humble, très obeissant, et très fidelle sujet et serviteur.

Marlborough Street, 19 of March 1716-7.

Indorsed: Copy of my letter to the king, 19th of March 171 $\frac{6}{7}$.

TRANSLATION.

SIRE,—The gout does not torment me more than the regret I feel at not being in a condition to discharge my duty to your Majesty, as the present crisis demands of all your faithful subjects; but I trust that God, who kept me from having any

¹ "Redonnera bientot dans mes forces pour" is interlined here as an alternative phrase.

sickness when I was in the mountains of Scotland against the rebels, will restore me to a condition to assist you, sire, in triumphing over all your enemies.

Two years ago I took the liberty of saying to your Majesty that it would be for your interest to dismiss from the army such as are not well inclined to your service. I find there are too many of that kind still, and this is not the time to have indifferent, much less disaffected, persons to your government and royal person there; while those who fill their posts should, with all submission, be men of resolution and experience, and also well-affected to your Majesty. For a lord may deserve to be the chief of a ball who will be no way proper to take a Swede by the beard.

Sire, the peers of Great Britain are made or born councillors of their kings, and so they have not only the privilege, but it is their duty to state their opinions to their sovereign when they find it necessary. If I have exceeded my bounds, your Majesty will have the goodness to ascribe it, as indeed it is due, to my zeal and affection for your sacred person, being all my life with all respect, all duty, and all devotion possible, sire, your Majesty's most humble, most obedient, and most faithful subject and servant.

Marlborough Street, 19th of March 1716.

35. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to KING GEORGE THE FIRST,—
that the gout had prevented him from congratulating the King on the anniversary of his coronation. 21st October 1717.

SIRE,—Il y a pas un au monde qu'auroit felicité votre Majesté sur le jour anniversaire de votre couronnement avec plus de plaisir et satisfaction que moy, si la goute ne m'auroit pas empesche. Je a raison entre ces autres bien faites, de rendre grace au bon Dieu, que dans les occassions plus périlleux pour votre service il a toujours eu le bonté de me soutenir en bon santé. Comme j'avois le honneur porter l'épée de la justice devant votre Majesté le jour de votre couronnement, je suis toujours prêt, l'épée a la main, de risquer la vie contre tous vos ennemis, tant secrete que avouéz; éttant par les liens d'inclination et d'affection aussi bien que devoir, avec une attachment inviolable, sire, du votre Majesté, le très fidèle, très humble et très obeissant sujet et serviteur.

Londors, 21^{me} d'Octobre 1717.

Indorsed: My letter to the king the 21st of October 1717.

TRANSLATION.

SIRE,—There is no one in the world who would have congratulated your Majesty on the anniversary of the day of your coronation with more pleasure and satisfaction than I, if the gout had not prevented me. I have cause, among these other benefits, to give thanks to the good God, that in occasions of greater peril for your service he has always had the goodness to sustain me in good health. As I had the honour to bear the sword of justice before your Majesty on the day of your coronation, I am always ready, sword in hand, to venture my life against all your enemies, both secret and avowed, being by the bonds of inclination and of affection, as well as of duty, with an inviolable attachment, sire, your Majesty's most faithful, most humble, and most obedient subject and servant.

London, the 21st of October 1717.

36. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to GEORGE, PRINCE OF WALES, afterwards KING GEORGE THE SECOND,—his devotion to the Royal family. 10th November 1717. Draft.

MAY IT please your Royall Highnes, I dont regrait my sicknes upon any account soe much as that it has deprived me of the pleasure of congratulating his Majesty upon the anniversary of his coronation, your royall highnes upon that of your birth, and since then that of wishing your highnes joy of the princesses safe and happy delivery of a prince, soe much to the satisfaction of all true Brittaines. I take the liberty of writing (because I cannot)¹ because the gout hinders me in person from assuring your royall highnes that as I firmly espoused the interest of your most serene family befor wee were soe happy as to have it upon the throne, and which I have made my bussines still since to support with (all possible)¹ undaunted zeal, which none can call in question, but such as att bottom your highnes shall find as much your eninys as min^{er}, soe, I resolve, to persist and goe on in venturing my life and all that is dear to man, in his Majestys service and your royall highneses, ther being none with greater dnty or a profounder respect then I, may it please your highnes, your royall highnesses most devoted, most faithfull, and most obedient humble servant.

Marlborough Street, 10 November 1717.

Indorsed: My letter to the Prince the 10th November 1717.

¹ Interlined.

37. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to FREDERICK-LEWIS, PRINCE OF WALES,—that he had been much gratified to receive the Prince's letter. 26th May 1727, o.s. Draft.

MAY it please your royall highnes, besides the honour your highnes did me by your letter of the 27th N.S., it afforded me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction imaginable, having read in the newes papers of your royall highnesses being indisposed, and by your letter I was satisfied you were recovered, if ill. I hope my grandson has payed his duty to your royall highnes by this time, not having heard from him since he left Paris. I am, with the profoundest respect possible, may it please your highnes, your royall highnesses most faithfull and most obleidged humble servant.

London, 26 of May, o.s., 1727.

38. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to FREDERICK-LEWIS, PRINCE OF WALES,—asking his influence for his election as a representative peer. 28th July, o.s., 1727. Draft.

MAY IT please your royall highnes, the honour I had of a letter from your royall highnes by my grandson I tooke as a great favor, and ane addition to the many obligations I lye under to your highnes; and the account you are pleased to give me of his conduct, as approven of by your royall highnes, affordes me a great deal of satisfaction. My family was still devoted to your illustrious house.¹ My father came over with King William, when Prince of Orange, att the Revolution in 1698 [1688], and my son was along with me in 171 $\frac{5}{6}$ to suppress the unnaturall rebellion, and I hope your highnes doubts not but my grandson will follow our footsteps. Soe much zeal and affection in a family I hope will not be forgotten. Ther is ane appearance of a great struggle in electing the sixteen peers for North Brittain, ther number being soe great, and the elected soe few. This makes me presume to entreat the favor of your royall highnes to be soe good as to recomend to the queen (after what manner your highnes shall think most proper) the supporting of my interest; for what noise wold it make in the

¹ A duplicate copy of this draft has a few reads, "It is natural for us to be devoted to unimportant variations. This sentence in it your illustrious house."

world, should I be dropt to please others, who never did any thing for the service of thier king and country, and who are not more capable then I and mine are.¹ I most humbly beg your royall highnes pardon for the liberty I take, and entreat that you will have the goodnes to forgive me, since my being neglected att this time wold be fatal to, may it please your royall highnes, etc.

Please to accept of my grandson's most devoted service and respects.

London, 28 July, o.s., 1727.

Indorsed : A copy of my letter to Prince Frederick.

39. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to FREDERICK-LEWIS, PRINCE OF WALES,—requesting the Prince to make his grandson one of his bed-chamber. *Post 1727. Draft.*

MAY IT please your royall highnes, I had not been wanting in my duty of waiting of your royall highnes, but that I have been confined this mounth by the gout. My grandson has had ane ague and feaver, which detained him in Scotland, and made him very uneasie that he could not be able [to] wait of your royall highnes sooner. When he went to Hannover to pay his duty to you ther, I begged the favor of your royall highnes to honour him with making him one of your family (bed-chamber *interlined*). Your royall highnes was soe good, as by yours of the 27th of May 1727, to say that you should be glad to doe for him, but that the making your family was not yett come. Now in consideration of mine and familys zeal for and service to your royall highnes most august house, I hope you will be pleased to make him one of your bed-chamber, which will be ane inducement for others to follow our example, and soe increase the number of your freinds.

¹ In the duplicate this sentence reads, "Neither are they so capable as I and my family are." Then the following sentence is interjected, "I never differed in one vote in parliament from what might seem agreeable

to the king, your grandfather, but in being against the late Viscount Bollingbrooke's return to England, esteeming him still as great ane enemy to king and government as ever."

40. KING GEORGE THE SECOND to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—dispensing with his attendance at the Coronation. 9th October 1727.

RIGHT TRUSTY and right well beloved cousin, we greet you well. It having been represented unto us that you cannot without great prejudice attend at the royal solemnity of our and the queen's coronation, on the eleventh of October instant, we have therefore thought fit, and accordingly do hereby, dispence with your attendance upon that occasion; and so we bid you most heartily farewell. Given at our Court at St. James's, the ninth day of October 1727, in the first year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

SUSSEX M.

To the Earl of Sutherland.

41. WILLIAM, DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—instructing him to take measures to capture Lord Lovat.

Inverness, the 23d April 1746.

MY LORD SUTHERLAND,—I have received your letter of the 19th from Dunrobin Castle, and desire you would place your self with your men at the head of Lord Lovat's and the Chishulm's country, and trie if Lord Lovat is to be catch'd that way, and likewise that in your passage you would take proper notice of such of the M^rKenzies as have been in the rebellion.

Inverness the 23. April 1746

My Lord Sutherland. I have received your Letter
... the ... & ... & desire

Yours &c.

34
Inverness the 23. April 1746

My Lord Sutherland. I have received your Letter
of the 19.th from Dunrobin Castle & desire
you would place your Self with your Men
at the head of Lord Lovats & the Chisholms
Country, & try if Lord Lovat is to be
catch'd that way, & likewise that in
your passage you would take proper
notice of such of the M. Kerries as
have been in the Rebellion.

Mr. Dundas has the
the necessary orders from me, to
assist your Country with Corn as
far as it may be in his Power, so
you will explain your Self to them
as to particulars. I am your affec-
tionate friend.

William

Leicester - It^{se} Jan^y the
26th - 1748.

My Lord, I'm glad to see by Your Letter,
You are well; Your Sentiments to me
and Your Country are senown, and
You'll always find in me, the same
affectionate,

Fredrick P

Mr. Dundas has the necessary orders from me to assist your country with corn as far as it may be in his power, so you will explain your self to him as to particulars.

I am, your affectionate friend,

WILLIAM.

42. THE SAME to THE SAME,—in reference to the pursuit of Lord Lovat.

Inverness, April the 24, 1746.

MY LORD SUTHERLAND,—I have had information that Lord Lovat and his son are lurking in and about the woods of *Glenmorison*. I therefore desire you would put your people upon the search in the most carefull and diligent manner, and that you would give the directions in what methods this pursuit may be carried on with the greatest prospects of success, towards which I am sure you will not be wanting in your own person to give all possible fartherance. I have sent Major Caulfield to assist you, who will obey you in all things.

I am, your affectionate friend,

WILLIAM.

43. FREDERICK, PRINCE OF WALES, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—assuring him of his affection.

Leicester House, January the 26th, 1748.

MY LORD,—I am glad to see by your letter you are well; your sentiments to me and your country are known, and you'll always find in me the same affectionate

FREDERICK P.

44. ORDERS BY KING GEORGE THE SECOND to WILLIAM, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, for raising a battalion of Highlanders. 11th August 1759. Copy.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS we have thought fit to order a battalion of highlanders to be forthwith raised under your command—which is to consist of nine companies, of four ser-

jeants, four corporals, two drummers, and one hundred private men in each, besides commission officers, with two pipers to the grenadier company, which men are not to be sent out of Great Britain, and to be entitled to their discharge in three years, or at the end of the war;—these are to authorize you by beat of drum, or otherwise, to raise so many volunteers (being highlanders) in the counties of Sutherland and Caithness, and in places adjacent, known to be well affected, as shall be wanting to compleat the said battalion to the above mentioned numbers. And all magistrates, justices of the peace, constables, and other our civil officers, whom it may concern, are hereby required to be assisting unto you in providing quarters, in pressing carriages, and otherwise as there shall be occasion.

Given at our court at Kensington this 11th day of August 1759, in the thirty-third year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

BARRINGTON.

(A true copy)

THOS. TYRWHITT.

To our right trusty and right well beloved cousin William, Earl of Sutherland, lieutenant-colonel, commandant of a battalion of highlanders, or to the officer appointed to raise men for our said battalion.

45. AUGUSTUS-FREDERICK, DUKE OF SUSSEX, to GEORGÉ, FIRST DUKE OF SUTHERLAND,—congratulating him upon his being promoted to the dignity of a duke.

Kensington Palace, January 16, 1833.

MY LORD DUKE,—By last night's gazette I find the confirmation of your being raised to the dukedom of Southerland, and I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to congratulate you and the duchess upon this mark of royal favour so properly recommended to the king's consideration by Earl Grey. Accustomed as I have been for many years to support the same liberal principles which your lordship has sanetioned by your votes, it is a source of great happiness to me to find them triumph, and that those who have forwarded them by their weight and consequence, like your lordship, should receive a public and royal testimonial from their sovereign for their patriotic exertions.

Allow me, my lord duke, to return you and the duchess my best thanks for your kind enquiries after my health, which, thank God, although slowly, is now gradually recovering, and to sign myself, with every sentiment of esteem, as your lordship's obliged and devoted,

AUGUSTUS-FREDERICK.

46. ADOLPHUS-FREDERICK, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, to GEORGE, SECOND DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, about his recent visit to Trentham, Staffordshire.

Cambridge Cottage, Kew, August 29, 1844.

MY DEAR DUKE,—I hasten to thank you for your very kind letter of the 24th instant, which I received yesterday, and to assure you that all my family regretted very much your absence from Trentham, when we had the pleasure of paying a visit to your duchess at that beautiful place. We were indeed very fortunate to have fine weather during the time we were there, for the day of our arrival at Alton Towers, and the day after we had been at Trentham, it rained so bad that we could hardly get out at all. The duchess was looking remarkably well, I am happy to say, as well as Lady Caroline, and her brother, who is a magnificent stout boy. Having understood from the duchess that she is to meet you in Scotland, and that you are all going to Inverary, I hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you there. It is at least my intention to announce myself to the Duke of Argyll as soon as I can fix the day that I shall be in his neighbourhood. I mean to leave this on the 12th of September, and to go to the west, first to Drumlandrig, and from thence make my tour, and finish it at Edinburgh.

Unfortunately I cannot stay above three weeks away, for my son-in-law, who accompanies me, will return to Strelitz at the end of October, and therefore I must give up the plan I had to pay you a visit to Dunrobbin, which I must put off to another year.

I cannot conclude without saying to you how delighted I was with Lady Caroline, who, I think, is a very pleasing young lady, and assisted her mama admirably in doing the honours of her house.

Now, my dear duke, I will not detain you any longer than to assure you that you will ever find me, yours most sincerely,



II.—STATE AND OFFICIAL LETTERS.

47. JAMES, THIRD MARQUIS OF HAMILTON, to [JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND],—as to levies for his expedition to Germany.

Halierrudhous, 13 Majj 1631.

MY LORD,—As it is not wnknowin to your lordschip how I being bund by my vndertakin and signed articles to the King of Suedden to goe over with a strong armie into Germanie for assisting him in his present warre vndertakin thair for the libertie of the trew religione and recoverie of the lands and possessionis of the professouris thairof vnjustlie vsurpit and deteynned by the Empreour and wthers enameis of that commoun caus, so I assure my self frome the former proufs I haue had of your lordschips trew favour and freindschip that ye will gif me all the assistance ye cau to further in a bissinis that is so just, of so great consequence, and wherin both my fortoun and honour ar so deiplic ingadged; as without all my freinds best help for leving of guid and able men to accomanie me in this expeditione, it sould not bot suffer beyond all masoure, which or it sould receave the least tash, I had rather suffer a thousand deathes. Bot as I doe not doubt of your lordschips cair and assistance heirin, so I live all further persuasione as neidles and superfluous to be vsed to your lordship, who knowis how nierly it concernes me, that haue ever bein and sall still continew, your lordschips most affectioned cowsing and servant,

Beacaus I am to inbark my men about the fyft of Julij I wald thairfor intreat your lordschip that so many as conveniently ye may send be at Leith againe the first of the said moneth.

48. THE COMMITTEE OF ESTATES to JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
requesting his assistance.

Edinburgh, 24 January 1640.

NOBLE LORD,—Howbeit the meiting at this tyme lies bene frequent, alsweill of noble men as of commissioneris of schyris and borrowes, yit we find that the lettres direct for adverteisment thairof have bene miscarryed, and not cairfullie delyvered to many noble men and commissioneris, who hes not keiped this dyet in default of tyuous adverteisment, which is heavyllie regraited be all who ar heir, sieing the bussynes in hand ar of suche weight and importance, that we may affirme trewlie never wes thair greater neide of deliberat and serious counsall and advyce to this poore natione then now, quhen the enymeis of trewth and hateris of this cuntry have so prevailed that (as we ar credibillie enformed) his Majestie,oure dreade soveraigne, is possess with suche ane hard opinione of ws that he goes on in all warlyke preparatiouns. And howbeit the frequent and daylie encreasing repoirtis of thir leveyis does strick a dreadour and fear in the myndis of manye, yit we ar hopefull that his Majestie schall be pleased to think better of ws when he schall be ryghtlie enformed of the treuth. We have gevin instructiouns and reasones ofoure proceedingis in parliament to the Earle of Dumfermeling, Lord Lowdown, and some vtheris, whome we have sent with thame to his Majestie for cleiring of these imputatiounes layed to the chaarge of the whole kingdome. We have lykwyse takin the best cours we cowlid think vpon for releif of the common burthenes, and hes sent instructiounes thairanent to everie presbiterie within this kingdome, whilk we hope schall be acceptable to everie good Scottisman who loves religioun and the liberties of his cuntry. Wee find all meanes vsed to terrifie ws, alsweill at home by multiplieing of men in the Castell of Edinburgh, and preparatiouns maid by many who ar of a contrarye mynd to ws, as by augmenting the garresones on oure borderis, which schowld mak everie man quho hes interest in this kingdome to awake and considder weill what may be the event of thir thingis, and rather to vse all lauffull ordinarie meanes to preveene danger then to suffer oureselfis and oure posteritie to become miserable by oure negligence and divisione, which is the cheifest way quhairby oure adversaries thinkes to overcome ws. For doeing quhairof lat ws first studdye to have that testimoyne within ws that we have no other endis bot Godis glorie, the kingis honour, and oure awin saiftie; and, nixt, lat ws keip that heartye vnione amongst

oureselvs whiche becomes these who ar knit togidder by all the bondis that God and nature hath ordayned ; and than we may be assured that the end schall be happie whatever be the midis. Bot iff divisione fall amongst ws wee may expect rwine and slaverie to ws and oures. Wee ar thairfore bold earnestlie to entreat your lordship to take this mater to heart, and to desyre your coneurraunce and assistance for performeance of what is requisite to be done be good Christianes, dewtiefull subjectis, and trew hearted patriotis in a warrandable way, alsweill for vindicating oure selfis frome vnjust accusatious, as for defending this kingdome, oure lyfes and liberties, frome injurie and invasione. And for that effect your lordship wold be pleased to give your best advyce and assistance with the rest of your schyre as occasioun and necessitie schall requyre ; as we schall be

Your affectioned freindis,



ROTHES. EGLINTOUN. LOTHIAN. NAPER. BURGHLY.

To our honorable good lord the Earle of Sutherland.¹

49. MILITARY ORDER by MAJOR-GENERAL MIDDLETON, Commander of the Forces in the North of Scotland, to LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CAMPBELL,—regarding rebels in Lord Reay's lands. 28th January 1648.

BY GENERALL MAIOR MIDDLETONE,—In regard ther be dyvers yit in rebellious in the Lord Reays lands who trvble the Earle of Svtherland and his freindis in thir possessions in Strathnever, yow are therfor at sight heiroyf, or when the Earle of Svtherland shall requyre, to command sex score, weill armed, with the compleit officers of a companie, and as manie above sex score as can be spard from your garrison convenientlie, who are to receive orders and derections from the Earle of

¹ The armorial seal which closed this letter bears a shield charged with a demi-lion issuing from a fess chequed, with a fleur-de-lis in base.

Above the shield are the letters J.C. The initials and arms indicate that the seal belonged to James Chalmers of Gadgirth.

Sutherland from tyme to tyme, and to be disposed off be him in garrisons or otherwayes as the necessitie of the service shall requyre. Of this faile not. Giwen at Gordonstovne the 28 of January 1648.

JO. MIDDLESTONE.

For Levtenent Collonell Campbell or anie commanding in his absence.

50. THE PRIVY COUNCIL to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER,—warning him of Argyll's intended invasion, and desiring him to muster his forces.

Halyrudhouse, 17th Majj 1685.

MY LORD,—His Majesties high commissioner and the lords of privy council, being certainly informed that the late Earle of Argyle (with severall other desperat rebells) hes appeared on some of the Western Islelands, and is about to land and raise some commotion there; therefor, they hereby require yow to call together three hundred of your oune, and of your vassalls and followers men, on foot, well armed and appointed, and furnished with twenty dayes provision, and with them to march and be at the head of Lochnesse against the niuth day of June nixt, peremptorly. And yow are to certifie such as comes not furth with yow as said is, that they shall be repute as disaffected to his Majesties government, and proceeded against and punished accordingly, and as absents from the kings hoast. This being ane affaire requireing expedition, and so much importeing his Majesties service and the security of the government, your care and diligence therein is earnestly desyred and expected by his grace and the Council, in whose name and at whose command, this is signified to yow by

Your humble servant,

PERTH, Cance^{rs},

I.P.D.

For the Lord Strathnaver, for his Majesties service.

51. THE PRIVY COUNCIL to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER,—the king's thanks for his services; he is to dismiss his regiment. 23d June 1685.

MY LORD,—These are warranting yow to march home with your regiment of foot and disband them. And we in his Majesties name give yow thanks for your

really and hearty concurrence in his service at this time. So we desyre yow will thank all the inferiour officers and people, and assure them of his Majesties protection, and desyre them to be ready to serve his Majesty if he call them for his service and their oune safety. Given at Edinburgh the 23d June 1685.

PERTH, Cancell^r,

I.F.D.

For my Lord Strathnaver.

52. JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, to JOHN GRAHAM, VISCOUNT DUNDEE,—urging him to follow the example of the Duke of Gordon. [Draft.]

Invernes, 3d of July 1689.

THE concern that many equally interested in us both hes for your lordship, abstracting from that respect which your own merite made me have, cannot but occasion regrait in me to see that the courses you take tend inevitably to the ruin of you and yours if persisted in. I cannot, therfor, but wish that you would follow the Duke of Gordons exampile, and I am persuaded it will be found the best course. Neither shall your friends, who at the time are not nor will not medle, be wanting to show ther affection to you and interest in the standing of your family; and I hope you will doe me the justice to belive that none wishes it better or will more effectually lay himself out in it then,

The 3 of Julij.

The contens of this letter wher written by my Lord Strathnaver opou my desyer and bij my orders.

T. LEVINGSTONE.

This is the double of a letter to the Viscount of Doudij, written bij mij desyer the 3 of Julij.

T. LEVINGSTONE.

53. JOHN, VISCOUNT DUNDEE, to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER,—in reply to the immediately preceding letter. [Copy.]

Stronan, July 15, 1689.

MY LORD,—Your lordships dated the 3 I received on the 13, and would have returned answer befor nou had I not been called sudenly to Enverlochie to give orders anent the forces, armes, and ammunition sent from Yrland.

My lord, I am extremely sensible of the obligation I have to you for offering your endeavors for me, and giving me advice in the desperate estate you thought our affaires wer in. I am perswaded it flosse from your sincer goodness and concern for me and myn; and in return I assure your lordship I have had no less concern for you, and was thinking of making the lyk adress to you, but delayed it till things should appear mor clear to you. I am sorry your lordship should be so far abused as to think that there is any shadou of appearance of stability in this newe structure of government these meu have framed to themselves. They made you, I dont not, believe that Darie was relieved 3 weeks agoe, by printed accounts, and I can assure you it never was, and nou is taken. They told you the English fleet and Dutch wer mesters at sea. I knou for certain the French is, and in the Chanel, in testimony wherof they have defeated our Scots fleet; for as they came alongst they fell on the tuo frigats, killed the captains, and seized the ships, and brought the men prisoners to Mull. They tell you Shomberg is going to Yrland to carry the war thither. I assure you the king has landed a considerable body of forces here, and will land himself amongst our friends in the west, whom I am sorry for, very soon. So, my lord, having given you a clear and treu prospect of affaires, which I am feared amongst your folks you ar not used with, I leave you to judge if I or you, your family or myn, be most in denger. Hou ever, I aknowledge frankly I am no less obliged to your lordship, seing you made me offer of your assistance in a time you thought I needed it. Wherin I can serve your lordship or family at any time you think convenient you may freely employ me, for as far as mey deuty will allow me in the circumstances we stand I will study your well, as becoms, my lord, your most humble servant,

Dundie

For my Lord Stranaver.

Annexed: This is one ansuer to a letter written bij mij Lord Stranever to the Vicount of Dundie at mij desijer, deatet the 3 of July, wicks ij saw and approved of.

T. LEVINGSTONE,

1689.

Envernes, 19 Julij 1689.

54. JOHN ERSKINE, SIXTH EARL OF MAR, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—not to assemble for hunting.

Whitehall, August 31, 1714.

MY LORD,—I am directed by the lords justices to acquaint your lordship and others in the Highlands that it is their lordships pleasure that you do not assemble together any numbers of people upon the account of hunting, or under any other pretence whatsoever; which I make no doubt but your lordship will punctually observe.—I am, with very great respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

Earl of Sutherland.

55. HENRY, SIXTH EARL OF SUFFOLK, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—that the King has appointed him to bear the third sword at his Coronation. [Copy.]

Suffolk Street, 18th October 1714.

MY LORD,—The king having appointed your lordship to bear the third sword in the proceeding at the royal solemnity of his Majesties coronacion, these are to desire your lordship to meet in the House of Peers at his Majesties palace in Westminster on Wednesday the 20th of this instant October by eight of the clock in the morning in your velvet robes, and with your coronet.—I am, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant, (Signed) SUFFOLK. M.

Earl of Sutherland to bear the third sword.

56. JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—congratulating him upon his signal services.

London, February 20th, 1715.¹

MY LORD,—I have receiv'd the honour of your lordships letter of the 29th of the last month. The two letters you mention of having favoured me with never came to my hands, or I shou'd not have omitted returning you my humble thanks. I doe with all my heart congratulate and rejoyce with you for the signal services your lordship has done his Majesty and the kingdome of Great Britain. I hope it will not be long before I shall have the happyness of embracing you here, at which time I shall take the liberty of asuring you that you have in me a most faithful friend and servant.—I am, with much truth and respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,



To the Right Honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

57. JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ATHOLE, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—to come to Perthshire with his men.²

Blair Castle, October 9th, 1715.

MY LORD,—I have been longing extremely to hear that your lordship was in the north, which, till this day, I have had no accountes of. The Earl of Marr is still at Perth, and master of all the countrys hereabouts benorth Forth, except this house and my country about it; and he and Lord Tullibardine have got a great many of my men to joine them, which it was impracticable to prevent, since ther is not on wel affected to our king on this side of Forth that could give me any assistance. I am convinced your lordship is perswaded that it will be of the

¹ The year 1715 should be read as 1716. [*Vide* Nos. 69 and 71, *infra*.]

² Draft Letter in Athole Charter-chest.

greatest service to his Majesty and the protestant interest that you come with what men you can raise to Perthshyre with the utmost expedition, and I shal joyne your lordship with what men I can raise in Athole. If your lordship bring betwixt two and three thousand men, with what you can have of the laird of Grants, wee will soon recover the northside of Forth, and dissipate the rebells if they continue so long on this side, but I hear they designe to pass the Forth in a few dayes. I shal add no more, but all depends on the quickness of your march, and I shal continue in this place untill your lordship come, or that I hear from your lordship, who am, my lord, your lordships most humble servant,

ATHOLE.

I do not write to my Lord Rae, not knowing where he is at present, but I know your lordship will communicate this letter to him, and I hope I shal have the satisfaction to see him here soon with your lordship.

To the Earl of Sutherland.

I never had any answer to this letter, tho' I was certainly informed his lordship received it, neither did he ever write or send any message to me, tho' there was no other lieutenant on the north side of the Forth.

ATHOLE.

Huntingtower, March 2, 1716.

58. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to the LAIRDS OF KILRAVOCK, elder and younger, and to COLONEL and CAPTAIN GRANT,—Measures for protecting Dunrobin.¹

Dunrobin, 11th of October 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I received last night your letter of the 8th from Colloden, and rejoyce very much to find you are all weel. I wrote a letter to Kilraike by Mr. Thomson from Kindan, of the ninth, giving ane account that, being informed of the superiority of the enimys forces by Young Foulis, Newmore, Culraime and Culkanse, who see them in full march, a retreat was agreed upon as the only proper methode to secure the north, and by Gods blessing we made it without the loss of a baggage horse. Ther are but two passes in this country for five and

¹ Original Letter in Athole Charter-chest.

twentie miles from the sea. My men are in ane readines from all corners to fall upon them. The Munros and Rosses are soe to. If you send some men hither, if they attack this place, and march with the rest to joyn the weel affected Frasers, and soe goe about upon them, they will in a manner be in a hose nett. If they retire back I shall endeavor to be upon them. I leave to yourselves to judge what is most proper. You may easily consider that, if they master this house, all the north is ther own. Ther is noe time to be lost; soe I shall add noe more but that I am, most worthy friend, your most affectionat humble servant,

SUTHERLAND.

My Lord Reay is going to bring down his posse. If quick despatch be made to attack Seaforth upon his own quarters, lett the number be what they please, it will contribute to make them leave this country if they were in it. I leave all to your own judgements: consider the criticalness of the juncture. Mr. Gordon the bearer can tell you many more particulars, though he was not att the retreat; as also concerning their numbers. Adieu.

Indorsed: Letter from the Earle of Sutherland, daited at Dunrobin, Oetober 11th, 1715, directed to Ross of Kilaick, elder and younger, and Collonel and Captain Grants, which was enclosed in a letter from them to his [grace, the Duke of Athole], dated at Killraick, Oetober 13th, 1715.

59. HUGH ROSE OF KILRAVOCK, MR. WILLIAM ROSE, GEORGE GRANT AND WILLIAM GRANT, to JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ATHOLE.¹

Kilravock, October 13th, 1715.

MY LORD,—Severalls of us mett here last night in order to transport our men be sea, and assist the Earle of Sutherland, who hase been some dayes bygone very much distressed by a numerous enemy of M'Donells and M'Kenzies. I hadd luekely ocaasione to converse with a gentleman just come from Blair with your graces letter to the earle. He was pleased at your graces desyre to give us the import of it, and we are overjoyed to have, in conjunctione with your grace, ane oportunity for doing all we can to serve the government and extricate ourselves if possible from the hardships and opressions we are like to meet with if [in] this country rebels are allowed to proceed, in the course they seem to intend at present.

¹ Original Letter in Athole Charter chest.

Your grace will see by the inclosed, which came late last night to our hands, how the Earle of Sutherland is circumstanced, and is now lying at such a distance that it will be utterly impossible to transport such a number of men as were necessary to make head against our enemys, who grow stronger dayly, and are apt to represent any attempts we make (if not successful) in a manner that may discourage the generality of those who are otherwayes well affected, and might be of great use had they any tollerable power, to execute ther good intentione. We take leave a[iso to] aquent your grace that if the Earle [of Suther]land fynds it within his safty practicab[le to] quite his own country and joyue your gra[ce as] is proposed by your letter, we are hear [ready] to assist so good a cause with our people,—make a party as strong as possible.—We are, with very great respect, may it please your grace, your graces most obedient, most humble, and most faithfull servants,

MR. WM. ROSE.

H. ROSE.

WILL GRANT.

GEORGE GRANT.

60. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, his son,—to exert himself in behalf of his king and country.

Dunrobin, 14th November 1715.

BEING obleidged, dear son, to make what haist possible toward's Invernes, with what men I can carry along with me; our religion, laws, and libertys ly at stake; God, our king and country, require us to exert our selves, which every body will doe, who ouns a duty to the last, or a value for the first. If people will be such brutes as to have noe regard for all these, punishment here to the highest degree shall be inflicted, besides what they may expect hereafter. Communicate this to persons of all degrees; make what haist you can. I doubt not my Lord Reay and all the other gentlemen will doe the same, being all inspired with a just zeal for soe good a king and soe good a cause. Take ane exact list of such as stay behind or desert, and order the ferrys to be secured to prevent it. I am, dear son, your most affectionat father,



For the Lord Strathnaver.

61. JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ATHOLE, to [THE ROSES OF KILRAVOCK, father and son, and others],—the defeat of the rebels at Sheriffmuir, etc.¹

Blair Castle, November 15, 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I received the favour of your letter, daited at Killraick, Ocetober 13th, which came not to my hands till the 4th of this instant. I immediately transmitted the letters yow sent by that bearer to the Duke of Argyle and Brigadier Grant, and was waiting the return, that I might write with them to you, but not haveing yett received them, I can delay no longer to acquaint you of the good news that the Duke of Argyle attack the Earl of Mar and the rebells in conjunction with him upon Sunday last on the Shirrifuir, about six myles this side of Stirling, and has given them an intire defeat. I have yett no particular account of this action, but by some deceeters who came to this country last night, who say that the Earl of Mars horse fled at the beginning of the action, and that there left wing were intirely routed and fled, of which there were about 300 Atholl men, with Seaforth men, Strathmores, Strouan Robertsons, and Fascalies, and the cannon were with them were taken. There are severals taken prisoners, but the particulars are nott known. They also say that Earle of Marshall and Lord Drummond are kill'd, and that Marquis of Tullibardine made his escape that night to Perth with some few horse.

I designe as soon as I can gett what men I have together to march to Perth, and recover that toun from the rebells. I intreat that as soon as this comes to your hands you will march with what number of Grant's men you think proper towards this place to joine me in dispersing any of the rebells may gether together, and if I be gone farther doun the country befor you can come, I shall leave a letter for you what place to come to. I need not tell you how much this will be for our kings service, and for establishing the peace in the north. I depend upon the assurances you gave me in your last, and expect you will make all posible heast, who am,

If the Earl of Sutherland be join'd you, I doubt not but he will also come, tho' I never had ane return to a letter I wrote his lordship; tho' his lordship be not yett joind you I expect you will not waite, but come with what men you have.

¹ Old copy of letter in Athole Charter-chest.

62. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, his son,—that the forces were to march to Elgin.

Burgie, $\frac{1}{2}$ ane hour past 6 a'clock,
5 December 1715.

I HOPE, dear son, you are all ready to march by the time this comes to your hands, it being proper that wee should march in some order into Elgin. The mure of the kairn of Kilbuiack will be the best place for us to draw up upon, which I told Captain George Grant yesterday. My humble service [to] my Lord Reay, Captain Grant, and the rest of the gentlemen. I doubt not but every one will attend his post, and march as dilligently as possible without confusion, soe as to be very early in quarters.—I am, dear son, your most affectionat father,

SUTHERLAND.

Leave the inclosed for my Lord Lovat with some carefull person.

For the Lord Strathnaver commanding his Majestys forces in and about Forres.

63. RESOLUTIONS of a COUNCIL OF WAR at Inverness,—as to the movement of troops.

Munday, 26 December 1715.

1. RESOLVED that Brigadier Grants men, with a detachment of 200 from Strathnaverns battalion, 150 from Reays, 150 from Munros, 50 from Culloden, shall march to-morrow forenoon to joyn Lord Lovats men at Castle Downy, or the neighborhood.

2. Resolved that Wednesday morning, if the river is passable, that body shall march against the M'Kenzies.

3. Resolved that if it is not, Brigadier Grants men shall march into Urquhart to bring that place and Glennoriston to obedience, and Lord Lovat shall send a detachment to reduce the Chisholm.

4. Resolved that Kilraik with Sir Ardehbald Campbell, and what men comes allongst with them, shall follow.

Resolved that 3 days' provision shall, before the march, be distributed to the men.

JO. FORBES.

SUTHERLAND.

ROBERT MUNRO.

STRATHNAVER.

LOVAT.

GEORGE GRANT.

REAY.

Dorso: Resolution of a Councell of War held at Invernes, 26th December 1715.

64. JAMES FARQUHARSON, aide-de-camp to John Erskine, sixth Earl of Mar, to WILLIAM SUTHERLAND of Geese,—announcing the arrival of the Pretender in Scotland.

Wick, January 14th, 1716.

SIR,—I am ordered by the king to acquaint you of his safe arrivall in Scotland, which I am satisfied will be very agreeable news to the honest gentlemen in Caithness. I am further commanded to signifie to you that his Majestie does positively expect from all of you that you will take such measures immediately as tends most to his Majesties service. For this end I have appointed a generall meeting att Wick on next Tuesday, and I shall be obliged to look on those that absent themselves as enemys to his Majesties person and government, which, with my humble duty to yourself and family, is all att present from, sir, your humble servant,

JAMES FARQUHARSON,

Aid-de-camp to the Duke of Mar.

Dorso: Coppy of Farquharsons letter to Wm. Sutherland of Geese, January 14.

65. Lieutenant-General WILLIAM CADOGAN, afterwards EARL OF CADOGAN, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating his intention to besiege Perth, etc.

Sterling, 14 January 1715.

MY LORD,—This will be delivered your lordship by Colonell Read, who I send on purpose to acquaint you with what wee are doeing in these parts, and that wee intend, God willing, to march the 22d or 23d of this month to besiege Perth. The greatest service your lordship can therefore doe his Majesty att present is to make such a diversion on your side as may hinder Huntly and Seaforth from returning to joyn Mar. I doubt not but your lordship will act with your usual zeal and vigour on this most important occasion, and I beg leave to reffer to Colonell Read for a farther account of our proceedings. I send by this frigate to your lordship twenty barrells of powder, and ball in proportion; and I profit with great pleasure of the occasion to assure your lordship, I have the honour to be, with the truest respect and esteem, your lordships most obedient and most obliged humble servant,

WM. CADOGAN.

The bearer is to return as soon as possible.

Postscript: After I had ended my letter I received the honour of your lordships of the first of this instant, which I shall forthwith send by an express to London, and I heartily congratulate your lordship on your good success, and the great and signal services you have done your king and country. And now that the Earl of Seaforth has submitted to mercy, I doubt not but your lordship will easily be able to keep Huntly and his friends employed at home to defend themselves. Nothing can contribute more to facilitate our operations on this side, nor be of greater service to his Majesty, and therefore I cannot forbear recommending it to your lordship in the most earnest manner.

To the right honourable the Earl of Southerland, Inverness.

66. JAMES STANHOPE, Secretary of State, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—the king's thanks for his good service; surrender of the Earl of Seaforth; Lord Lovat's pardon, etc.

Whitehall, January 23d, 1715⁵/₈.

MY LORD,—I had yesterday, by a flying packet, a letter from Lieutenant-Generall Cadogan, with one from your lordship to him of the 1st instant, and I had by the preceeding post seen one of your lordships to Brigadier Grant of the same date. As in this last your lordship takes notice of your having writt severall letters to my Lord Townsend and myself, I can assure you neither of us have any of your lordships since those to which wee gave a return to Mr. Gordon, who, I hope, is with your lordship before now, and that you have receiv'd the money, arras, and ammunition were sent with him to enable you to cary on his Majesties service in those parts as your lordship has done so succesfully hitherto.

It is, my lord, with great pleasure I obey his Majesties orders to return your lordship his thanks for the good service you have done him; and it is his Majesties pleasure your lordship should do the same in his name to the Lord Lovat and the other gentlemen you mention in your letter to Lieutenant-Generall Cadogan, who have on this occasion been so assistant to you, and as his Majesty approves of your transaction with the Earle of Seaforth, so he accepts of that earles submission on condition that he surrender himself to your lordship at Inverness within such a time as you shall judge reasonable, and that he remain there on his parole.

maner of share in it, as yow will easely judge of when yow peruse the following information, which yow may depend upon is true in fact, as I remember it, and in as few words as I can give it, is as follows:—

Upon the 13th day of September last, at 5 in the morning, as I think, the laird of M'Intosh and Borlum came into this town with about 400 of the best of their men, and as soon as they entered the town, seized Captain Sutherland of Kinminitie, Campbell of Carrick, and two other of his Majesties officers, and in a few hours therafter Borlum did from our Cross, bareheaded, proclaime the Pretender, and therafter marched out of town with their men towards Culloden. But the lady, upon their approach, called in some of their tenants and servants and barricadoed her doors and gates, as they came befor the house. They sent her a message in their kings name, desiring her to deliver any arms or ammunition was within the house for their kings service. To which that lady returned answer that she knew no king but King George, and that she look't on them as rebels against the government. If they would dare to approach within gun shott of her house (tho' she was but a woman) she would soon let them know that she had both arms and ammunition to assert his Majesty King Georges right and title to the crown against their rebellious endeavours. Upon which they marched a litle off from the house and cantoned their men for some days in Collodens and the neighbouring lands.

When Captain Munro of Fowlis had notice that they still continued in our neighbourhood, he convened about 200 men and was upon his march to joyn the Laird of Kilravock, who had about 200 men more in his house waiting till Fowlis had come near to the rebels on this syde. Then he was to fall upon them, and if Fowlis had not been stop't, Kilravock and he had knock't that insurrection on the head. But my Lord Seafort (who at that tyme we thought would not have medled), to our great surprise, had convened 200 or 300 men, and sent Fowlis word (as he was upon his march to this place) that if he offered to cross or go furdur with his men, he was to meet him with a greater body, upon which Fowlis retired, and M'Intosh and Borlum came in that night to our town (hearing that Kilravock and Fowlis were to attack them that night where they lay), and next day they were reinforced with 200 men of my Lord Seafort's. That lord came in with them, and after he had settled Sir John M'Kenzie governor in our castle, he returned next day to Brahan, and the M'Intoshes marched for Perth. The Laird of Fowlis convened all the men he could, and

incamped them at the bridge of Alnes, and wrote circular letters to the Lords Strathnaver and Reay and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood requiring them to convene their men and joyn him for his Majesty King Georges service at Alnes. And in a few days thereafter my Lord Sutherland arrived from London in the Queenburrow, and in eight days after his arriveall at Dunrobin he gote about 300 men together, unarmed as they were, and joynd Fowlis at Alnes. My Lord Reay likewise joynd him with about 300 very good men, and above 200 of General Ross's men, who were likewise very good men, joynd Fowlis. When all these were gote together, I am told, they made about 1500 men. But by this tyme Sir Donald McDonald came down and joynd Seafort, as did the Chisolme, so that that lord had ane army near to double their number, and lay encamped within five or six myles of each other for a whole week together; and then my Lord Seafort and his people marched towards Alnes and incamped within less than a myle of them, where he lay Fryday and Saturday, dureing which tyme there were several messages past betwixt them. Seafort demanded of them to give him hostages for a security that they would not trouble his country in his absence, and the kings party desired him to lay down his arms, and dismiss his men, and in that case they would not trouble his country in his absence; and my Lord Seafort sent them word Saturdays afternoon, that he would give them no surder tyme to deliberate upon his demands than Sundays afternoon, and that on Monday he designed to attack them. Upon which I am told ane council of warr was held, in which, it's said, Fowlis and his friends were for fighting. The lords, who at that time became heal men in the camp, did not see it convenient, because the enemy was so far supernumerary. To which I am told your freind, George Munro of Newmore, answered that, tho' they were supernumerary, yet it was their business to fight them, because they might have a chance for beating them, and tho' they did not they would not fail so to skatter them, as would effectually dissable them from conveneing in haste again, and some people say that Newmore protested against the lords for not agreeing to his proposeall. Sunday at night my Lord Sutherland and Reay marched off with their men the way of Bona-ness, and the rest of that army went to their respective dwelling-houses, and Monday morning my Lord Seafort took possession of their camp, where he lay some days untill my Lord Duffus went in with some of Sir Donalds men to Taine and proclaimed the pretender, and thereafter came to this place with his whole army, where he lay two nights. He sent Davachmaluach with a trumpet

to Culloden, desiring Mr. Duncan Forbes (who sometye befor had come home) to surrender the house and arms that were in it, or come in and capitulate with him about it. But Mr. Dunnean refused to do either, I mean to come to town or surrender his arms, but trysted with my Lord Duffus next day within a myle of the town and repeated his refuseall. That lord sent likeways to Kilravock, desiring him to surrender his arms, who likewise refused to do it, and told the messenger that came to him that he would fall by the walls of his house befor he parted with any of his arms. Upon which that lord sent out a party to take in the cowes and the sheep of their tennents. But my Lord Duffus, knowing that Kilravock had about 200 men in his house, discharged the party that was sent out from going near any part of Kilravocks lands, untill he gote the return of a letter he was to send him that morning. His lordship wrote to Kilravock intreating him or his son to come and speak with him but for half ane hour, and that if his proposcall did not please him he should return in safety. Upon which the Laird of Kilravock, younger, came in, and after rejecting all that lords proposcalls took leave and returned home. Next day, Seafort, Sir Donald M'Donald, and the Chisolme marched off with all their men for Pearth. They were not above four or five days gone, when Kilravock wrote in to Sir John M'Kenzie, who was then governour of the castle and town, desiring him to abandon the town, or he might expect within a few days such ane attack as would make it too warm for him. Upon which Sir John sent ane express after my Lord Seafort acquainting him with Kilravocks designe against him, and at the same tyme returned answer to Kilravock that he would not abandon the town, upon which Kilravock had ordered all his men to be gote together in order to diss lodge him; and while he was getting his men together, my Lord Lovat and Culloden arrived, who stopt him some days till they had gote their men together. My Lord Lovat had gote in three or four days thereafter 200 men together. Kilravock had writ to Captain George Grant, who came down with 300 men. When Lord Lovat, Kilravock, and Captain George Grant had gote these men together, it was agreed that the Lord Lovat should attack the town upon the west syde, Kilravock, Culloden, and Captain Grant upon the south and east. By this tyme Sir John had got a reinforcement, and expected more dayly, which made them push on their affair without loss of tyme. Kilravock sent in about 100 men of his own commanded by his brother Arthure, and Mr. Duncan Forbes commanded about 40 or 50 of his brothers men, with about 30 of Dunphalls men (about two

nights before they intended a general storm). That nights expedition was intended only for cutting off the rebells communication by sea by taking away the boats from the shoar, etc., which accordingly they did. But as they came to the shoar they found two of Sir Johns centries, who fired at them. One of the centries got off, and the other Arthure Ross apprehended, and after he had gote him, he told him he would spare his life provideing he would lead him a safe way out of veiw of the steeple to the gaurd hous door (which was kept in the tolbooth) which accordingly the fellow did all along the water syde, and when he came to the tolbooth door he knockt at it, and the centrie calling who was there, he answereing a freind, the fellows within who knew it was their comorade that was on centrie, opened the door to let him in. Arthure Ross and some of his men that were at his back were ready to jump in too; but the fellow getting in befor him cryed out, 'The enemy,' so that the whole gaurd gote to the door. But Arthure Rose pushing up the door upon them gote himself half in, but they pressed him so betwix the doors that he could not get in, and in that pickle in order to dissengage himself, he fired both his pistolls upoun the gaurd. But unfortunately, and before he gote furdur, they shott him in the belly, of which he dyed in a few hours, which discouraged his people so, that they would make no further attack that night. The next day Sir John M'Kenzie wrote to Kilravock that he was sorry for the missfortune of the last night, and the more for the loss of such a brave man as his brother was. He invited Kilravock and any of his freinds he pleased to come in to Mr. Roses buriall and that they should be noways molested. The laird of Kilravock, younger, Sir Archibald Campbell and some other freinds, came in the next day and buried Mr. Rose; and Sir John, finding that Kilravock, elder, was so much out of humour as not to return answer to his letter, nor comeing himself to the burial, he wrote out again to him, intreating him to offer no further austerities against him, since he was willing to surrender on such terms as he might adjust with him, and for that effect he desired Kilravock to meet him within a myle of the town. They met accordingly next morning, and Sir John agreed to abandon the castle and town upon condition he would be allowed to cary off his men and arms, and have safe passage to go for Pearth. Kilravock told them that he would not of himself agree to allow him to go to Pearth, nor cary off his arms without adviseing with the rest of the leivtenants, but told Sir John that for his own part he would never agree to his going for Pearth, but would return their and his answer once that night, with which if he

was not satisfied, he might assure himself of being attack't next day. Upon which Kilravock repaired to Culloden, where the rest of the lieutenants of this county were, and after he told them what past, they all agreed that the life of one of their men was of greater value than the few rusty arms Sir John was master of; so agreed that Sir John might go home with his men and arms, but not go to Perth. Of which agreement Sir John accepted, and marched out with his men in the forenoon on Saturday the 12th of November; and in the afternoon of that day Kilravock and Culloden marched in their men, and in the evening Captain George Grant came in with 300 of his men and took possession of the town and castle, and Sabbath morning Captain George Grant came in with 400 men more, in all 700 men, as well cled and armed as ever was seen. Upon the Wednesday night thereafter the Earl of Sutherland and Lord Reay came to town to congratulate those gentlemen upon taking the town, promising that as soon as possible, they would reinforce them with their men, and thereafter those lords returned to Sutherland. And about ten days thereafter they came and brought up 300 men each, which were joynd by Fowlis and General Ross's men in their way, making in all about 1000 men. And in a few days after his lordships arriveall here, he marched down to Elgin with near to 1000 men, being detachments of all the men lying here, where he stayed two days himself and returned back with his own, the Lord Reay and Fowlis his men, and left the Lord Lovat and Kilravock with their people to finish what he intended there. And upon the 27 of December the Earl of Sutherland ordered the Lord Lovat to go with his men, the Earle of Sutherlands own men, the Lord Reay, Grants, Fowlis, Cullodens, etc., to attack Seafort, who at that tyme was convening his men again. Kilravocks men and some of General Rosses men were employed about other matters to the eastward. My Lord Seafort brought on a communcing with my Lord Lovat, and the same day my Lord Lovat marched out of town. My Lord Sutherland sent me that night about 11 a'clock to Castle Downie with a letter to my Lord Lovat bearing that I might be a fitt man to be employed in the communcing with Seafort, and accordingly my Lord Lovat sent me by 1 of the clock next morning with a letter to the countess, who came herself with me to Bewlie, about 12 a'clock that day to meet with my Lord Lovat. We had not been there above one hour when Lovat came with the army with which he was to fight the M'Kenzies. My lady, who had full powers from her son, communed with his lordship some hours, and then agreed that my Lord Seafort should disperse his men and promise not to take

up arms against his Majesty King George, but lye peaceably at home untill the return of ane express from London. My Lady Seafort returned to Brahan that night to have this agreement signed by her son, and my Lord Lovat sent me into town that night to acquaint the Earl of Sutherland, Lord Strathnaver and Lord Reay (who stayed here to keep the town), with the terms on which he had agreed with Seafort.

Those Lords made me welcome and seemed not a little pleased with the news I brought them, but the next day being Thursday, at 10 a'clock, my Lord Lovat sent in another express giving account that the papers were not returned from Brahan, and that same night another express came in telling that my Lord Seafort stood upon some ceremonial parts of the paper which he would by no means pass from; and my Lord Lovat, desirous to end all matters for his Majesties interest, acquainted my Lord Sutherland of his resolution of attacking Seafort next morning. At this tyme young Kilravock came in to town with about 100 of his father's men, and about 11 of the clock at night, my Lord Sutherland, being resolved to see matters ended one way or other, took horse and went out to Castle Downie, and the laird of Kilravock, younger (who had come into town but about ane hour befor), hearing that his lordship was gone, and all appearance of ane accomodation over, took horse in order to volunteer it, and left orders with his people to follow him next morning by break of day, which accordingly they did. But befor they could come up, matters were adjusted. My Lord Lovat returned his people back to the Aird; Kilravock, Captain George Grant, Fowlis, Culloden, Mr. Duncan Forbes, and the rest of the gentlemen returned to town that night with their men, and the next day my Lord Sutherland came in. Then my Lord Reay set a treaty on foot with my Lord Huntly, and went himself to Elgine to end it. I am intirely unacquainted with it, save by hearsay, therfor I forbear to say anything about it, since I intend to write nothing but what consists with my knowledge to be really matter of fact. And a day or two after my Lord Reays return from Elgine he returned home with all his men, as did my Lord Strathnaver with his, leaving no men here but Fowlis, and 200 men of my Lord Lovat's and Kilravocks were ordered to garisons at the east. Captain George Grant went home with his men, and next day after, his Majesties ship the 'Lark' arrived at Cromertie with some arms and ammunition, and I am told, some money too. Mr. Gordon, who was sent to London by my Lord Sutherland, returned with her and brought us a great many prints, which some of my Lord Sutherlands freinds were

so just to his lordship as to take away from the coffee house befor half the town could see them. I hear his lordship is very angry at the representations made in these prints, because not so much as any circumstance in them was full.

We have now this moneth bygone been in perfect peace here, and we continue so still, but I cannot say how long, for those who pretend to know my Lord Reays negotiations at Elgin do say that it was only ane cessation of arms for a few weeks and that now it is out. And I have really very good grounds to beleive so, for Captain George Grant, notwithstanding of the prodigious storm that now lyes on the ground, returned here again with 300 of the best appointed men that ever I saw, and I am told he has appointed 400 more to be in readines upon 24 hours advertisement. But I hear nothing of my Lord Strathnaver or my Lord Reay, nor no appearance of their returning. And that which appears to be a greater loss to us, our general, the Earl of Sutherland, is gone himself aboard of the 'Lark' in order to go for London, which is indeed a warmer quarters. But yesternight I hear that Colonell Reid is arrived in a man-of-warr at Cromertie, express from the Duke of Argyll, to my Lord Sutherland. His lordship was to sail as the next day after Colonell Reids arriveall; whether that will stop his lordship or not, a few days will discover.

It is very sure that both Seafort and Huntly are making all preparations, and our danger appears now to be greater than ever; and tho these lords have left us, I hope those worthy gentlemen who have so zealously and early appeared for our releif (as they still continue to do) will be able to defeat the designes of their and our enemies. Your freind, Colonell William Grant, has had a rare post of fatigue all this tyme at the house of Balvenie, in the heart of my Lord Huntlys people. We hear they have made severall attacks upon him, but he has still defeat them, and, we hear, has taken some of them prisoners. Indeed I would not undertake his post for a great deall of money, but I reckon yow will say it is because I want his courage. Thus we stand at present, and what I have said, depend upon it, is matter of fact. If yow think there is anything considerable done here, I hope yow will think the retakeing of our town not the least. I assure yow, and upon just grounds, since I can avouch it by 1000 witnesses, it is intirely oweing to my Lord Lovat, the lairds of Kilravock, elder and younger, Culloden, Captain George Grant, Mr. Duncan Forbes, and Colonell William Grant; and I cannot help thinking that it were injustice done our country, as well as these worthy patriots of it, not to have the rest of the nation acquainted with

their firm and zealous behaviour upon this occasion, the doing whereof I refer to your good self in any manner you think fit, and believe me to be without reserve, dear sir, your most humble servant, (Sic subscribitur) THO. ROBERTSON.

Invernes, 30 January 1716.

68. JOHN, SECOND DUKE OF ARGYLL, to [JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND].—informing him of movements of the King's troops.

Aberdeen, 10th February 1716.

MY LORD,—I am to acknowledge the favour of your lordships, and at the same time to inform you that I am come to this place. The rebels, that is, those of them who are in a body, are marched towards Castle Gordon by the way of Old Meldrum; and, by the best information that I can have, design to separate, and we are here all of opinion to dispose his Majesties troops in different quarters. Four battalions and two squadrons are destined for Inverness and Murray, and will march so soon as the money arrives from Edinburgh, and that we have more certain advices of the motions of the rebels.

I am informed by Lord Haddo that the Marquis of Huntley was to have an interview with your lordship in order to his submission to his Majesty. I should be glad to know the state of affairs, and am, with the greatest respect, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,



69. JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—congratulating him on his successful campaign.

London, February the 13th, 17 $\frac{15}{16}$.

MY LORD,—I was honour'd some days ago with your lordships of the 29th from on board the "Lark" friggot, and do from my heart congratulate you upon your glorious and successfull campaign. As your lordship has done your king and country great service, you have at the same time done your self and your family great

honour. Blest be God that things are now in so good a posture, and that the wicked designs of the enemies of our religion and happy constitution have been so remarkably baffled, and that the Pretender has only been able to disappoint and deceive his own friends. His sneaking off in such a manner, I hope, will soon put an end to your lordships trouble, and indeed it is the earnest desire of all your friends here that you would come to London as soon as the kings affairs and your own conveniency can allow you; and before your lordship leaves Inverness I hope you will put his Majestys officers in a right method of disarming the rebels, so as that they may never be able to give your self and the government any more trouble. I do assure your lordship that your presence will not only be very agreeable to your friends but is truly necessary, and as your conduct is universally applauded, so I wish from my heart you may reap the just fruits of it.—I am, with the greatest truth, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most affectionate, humble servant,

Roxburgh

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland,—thes.

70. JOHN, SECOND DUKE OF ARGYLL, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—instructing him to disarm the rebels.

Aberdeen, the 20th February 1716.

MY LORD,—It being absolutely necessary for his Majesties service and the future quiet of the government, altho the chiefs of the rebels were all apprehended, that no arms should be left in the hands of any of the common people, who have been in rebellion, or who, there is reason to suspect, are ill-enclind to his Majesties government, I desire you will use your utmost endeavours to disarm all such persons and put their arms in places where they may be secure till there are opportunities of transporting them to his Majesties magasins. His Majesties standing forces have orders to be assisting to you in the performance of this service.—I am, with great respect, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

ARGYLL

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

71. J. ROBETHON to [JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND].—with congratulations on the honour the Earl had acquired. 21st February 1716.

MY LORD,—J'ay bien reçu dan son tems la lettre du 30 de Janvier dont il vous a plû de m'honorer. Je n'ay rien fait pour vostre service qui mérite des remerciements si obligeants, et a quoy je ne fusse obligé par mon attachement pour le service de sa Majesté. Sir William Gordon pourra me rendre témoignage que j'aurois voulu faire davantage, mais que mon credit n'a pas este assez grand. Jamais personne ne verra avec plus de plaisir que moy, que le Roy recompence les éminents services que vous luy avez rendus; et c'est à quoy je serois ravy de pouvoir contribuer.

J'ay pris beaucoup de part à la gloire que vous avez acquise. Il n'éstoit pas possible d'agir avec plus de prudence et de vigueur que vous avez fait. Chacun rend justice à vos grandes actions, mais personne ne le fait avec plus de sincérité et de plaisir que celuy qui est, avec beaucoup de respect, mylord, vostre très humble et très obeissant serviteur,

J. ROBETHON.

St. James, le 21 Febvrier 1716.

Messeigneurs de Bernstorff et de Bothmer m'ordonnent de vous assurer de leurs très humbles services, et de la part qu'ils ont prise à vos heureux succez.

Je vous félicite de tout mon cœur du depart du Pretendant et du bon succez de nos affaires en Ecosse.

Voicy une lettre pour le frère de Sir William Gordon.

TRANSLATION.

My Lord,—I have duly received the letter of the 30th of January, with which you have been pleased to honour me. I have done nothing on your behalf which merits such abundant acknowledgments, and to which I was not obliged by my attachment to the interests of his Majesty. Sir William Gordon can bear me witness that I wished to do more, but that my influence was not sufficiently powerful. No one will see with more pleasure than I the king rewarding those eminent services that you have rendered him, and to that I would be overjoyed to be able to contribute.

I have taken much interest in the renown which you have won. No one could possibly have acted with greater prudence and vigour than you did.

Everybody does justice to your great deeds, but none do so with more sincerity and pleasure than he who is, with much respect, my lord, your very humble and very obedient servant,

J. ROBETHON.

St. James's, the 21st February 1716.

My lords of Bernstorff and Bothmer command me to assure you of their very humble services, and of the interest which they have taken in your happy success.

I congratulate you with all my heart on the departure of the Pretender, and on the good success of our affairs in Scotland.

Inclosed is a letter for the brother of Sir William Gordon.

72. Lieutenant-General WILLIAM CADOGAN, afterwards Earl CADOGAN, to [JOHN FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,]—stating the measures against the rebels.

Aberdeen, 26 February 1716.

MY LORD,—My having been indisposed ever since I came to this place hindred me from acknowledging any sooner your lordships letter by Mr. Macneile; but as I am now, God be thanked, pretty well recovered, I would not fail assuring your lordship of my respects by the first opportunity. The conduct of my Lord Huntly and Lord Seaforth is very surprising; and since they have not thought fit to accept the terms your lordship was authorised to offer them, in my opinion they have freed you from any engagements you were under to them, but of this your lordship can best judge. The Duke of Argyle went from hence on Fryday towards Edenburgh, and will proceed on his journey from thence to London, Thursday next. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint me to command the army, and has given orders for pursuing the rebels very closely till the rebellion is entirely plucked up by the roots. I have directed Major-General Whiteman to take post with a detachment att Reven [Ruthven] in Badenoch, and to put garrisons into all other places it shall be necessary to posses in order to disarm such of Huntlys and Seaforths men, and others of the rebels who doe not immediately give up their arms and submit to mercy. I sent a small detachment from hence to the Breys of Mar, and upon their arrival all the rebels in those parts brought in their arms and surrendered att discretion. The gentlemen and heritors run away to the Western Highlands. I design to set out to-day for

Edenburgh, where I shall continue about a week, and then goe to Perth. I should be extremely glad to have the honour of meeting your lordship on the road when you intend for Edenburgh, which I therefore beg your lordship would give me notice of. I must likewise desire your lordship will be so kind to let me know what passes on your side. And I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect and esteem, your lordship's most obedient and most faithful humble servant,

WM. CADOGAN.

I must entreat your lordship to communicate to me in your next the methods you shall think most proper to be taken for putting speedily and effectually an end to the rebellion.

73. MEMORANDUM regarding a letter sent by JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ATHOLE, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND.¹

Blair Castle, March 30th 1716.

HIS GRACE wrote a letter, 9th October 1715, to the Earl of Sutherland, and gave the same to Grant of Dalrachnie, who was going north, and promised the said letter should be deliver'd safely to his lordship. And accordingly, when he came to the laird of Grants country, he shew'd the letter to Ross of Killraick, who, having allowance from the Earl of Sutherland to break open his letters, did break open the same, and found it was for his Majestys service, and sent the same to the Earl of Sutherland, who afterwards own'd to them that he had received it. Some time after the Duke of Athole, having occasion to write to Captain George Grant, brother to Brigadier Grant, and one of his deputy lieutenants, and being informed that the Earle of Sutherland was at Innverness, desired him to give his service to the earl, and since he had received his graces letter, to know the reason why his lordship did not give an answer to it.

The above Captain George Grant being come to this place this day, his grace askt him if he did acquaint the Earl of Sutherland of what his grace did mention in his letter to him, and the said Captain George Grant does acknowledge that he did, according to his graces desire, ask the Earle of Sutherland why he did not return an answer to his graces letter, but that the Earle of Sutherland would give him no satisfaction about it, yett acknowledged he had received his graces letter.

¹ In Athole Charter-chest.

74. J. ROBETHON to [JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND],—about the earl's visit to Hanover.

Au Göhre, le 24 Octobre 1716.

MY LORD,—J'ay reçu vos 2 lettres, et ayant parlé à sa majesté pour la presser de vous permettre de venir, elle m'a ordonné de vous remercier du zele que vous continuez à luy montrer par cet empressement, mais de vous dire qu'elle ne peut pas vous loger icy, car tout y est plein; et on y attend encore le Duc et la Duchesse de Blankenbourg, le Prince Döttingen, et la Duchesse de Cell avec leur suite. Et pour ce qui est de venir quand nous retournerons à Hanover (ce qui ne sera que dans 5 ou 6 semaines), sa majesté ne vous le conseille pas, car la saison sera alors trop avancée, et il sera tems de songer a se rendre au parlement, ou sa majesté aura besoin de vos services; et desire que vous y soyer de bonne heure. Outre que si sa majesté prend la resolution d'aller tenir le parlement elle seroit preste à en partir. J'espère donc, mylord, que ce sera a Londres, que nous nous verrons et bientost, et que j'auray l'honneur de vous y assurer de bouche du respect avec lequel je suis, mylord, vostre très humble et très obeissant serviteur,

J. ROBETHON.

Mr. Stanhope m'a dit qu'ayant aussy parlé au roy de vous permettre de venir, il a eu la mesme réponse.

TRANSLATION.

Göhre, 24th October 1716.

MY LORD,—I have received your two letters, and having spoken to his majesty to solicit him to permit you to come, he has commanded me to thank you for the zeal which you continue to manifest for him with so much heartiness, but to tell you that he cannot lodge you here, as every place is full, and we still wait the coming of the Duke and Duchess of Blankenbourg, the Prince Döttingen, and the Duchess of Cell, with their suite. And as for coming when we return to Hanover, which will be in five or six weeks, his majesty would not advise it, for the season will then be too far advanced, and it will be time to think of returning to Parliament, where his majesty will require your services, and he desires that you be there early. Moreover, if his majesty resolves to attend the parliament

in-person, as will be expected, you would reach Hanover when he will be ready to set out on his journey. I hope, therefore, my lord, that it will be at London that we shall see each other, and that shortly, and that I will have the honour of assuring you there personally of the respect with which I am, my lord, your very humble and very obedient servant,

J. ROBETHON.

Mr. Stanhope tells me, that, having also spoken to the king for permission to you to come, he has received the same reply.

75. *EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF MONSIEUR ROBETHON*,—that the King would be pleased to see Lord Sutherland at Hanover, 5 November 1716.

*Extrait de la lettre de Monsieur de Robethon à my Lord Cadogan,
le 5^e Novembre 1716, nouveau style.*

JE VOUS prie, my lord, de dire à my Lord Sutherland, à qui je n'écris pas faute de tems, que je viens de lire au Roy la lettre qu'il m'a écrite, et que sa Majesté a marqué pour luy beaucoup d'estime et d'affection; et m'a dit qu'elle seroit fort aise de le voir à Hannover, étant fort fâchée de n'avoir pas icy de quoy le loger.

Au Göhre, le 5 Novembre 1716.

P.S.—Je ne fais pas réponse à my Lord Southerland. Je vous prie de luy dire, que je viens de lire la lettre au Roy, qu'il m'a écrite, et que sa Majesté a marqué beaucoup d'affection pour luy, et m'a dit qu' elle seroit fort aise de le voir à Hannover, étant fâché de n'avoir point de logement pour luy au Göhre.

Indorsed: *Extrait de la lettre de Monsieur Robethon à Monsieur Clyngraff, 5 Novembre 1716, nouveau style.*

TRANSLATION.

Extract from the letter of M. de Robethon to my Lord Cadogan, the
5th November 1716, new style.

I BEG, my lord, that you will tell my Lord Sutherland, to whom I have not written for want of time, that I have just read to the king the letter which he wrote me, and that his Majesty showed much esteem and affection for him. He

told me that he would be very pleased to see him at Hanover, being much troubled at not having any accommodation for him here.

Göhre, the 5th November 1716, new style.

P.S.—I made no reply to my Lord Sutherland. I beg you to tell him that I have just read to the king his letter which he wrote to me, and that his Majesty has evinced much affection for him, and bade me say that he would be very pleased to see him at Hanover, being disappointed at not having a lodging for him at Göhre.

Indorsed: Extract from the letter of M. de Robethon to M. Clyngraff, 5 November 1716, new style.

76. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND to MR. ROBETHON,—Success of the King's arms against the rebels, 19 June 1719.

SIR,—I most heartily congratulate you upon the success of the kings arms against the rebels upon the Pretenders birthday. There were no highlanders with the kings forces, but some of mine and the Munroes, a few of them. They behaved, as I could have wished, to the approbation of the generall and every body else. As I was still so happy as to have a share in your frindship, I must entreate it at this juncture. Mr. Addison is dead, and his post of teller in the exchequer wold make me easie. There is a year and an halfe due of the small sallary I have, which does not amount to the interest of what I have laid out for the sake of the protestant succession, and this addition would help me to live and to get out of debt by degrees. My humble and hearty respects to Monsieur Barroastorf, and tell him my pretensions are so just I depend upon his favour and interest. I have wreten to Earle Stanhope, and will speake to the Earle of Sunderland tomorrow. I am sure the Duke of Roxburgh will do the same. —I am, with all respect and esteem possible, dear sir, your most oblidged, humble servant.

Marlborough Streett, 19th of June 1719.

Inscribed: Copy of my letter to Mr. Robethon.

77. JAMES, FIRST DUKE OF MONTROSE [to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND],—congratulations on the victory at Glenshiel.

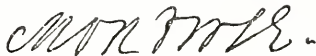
Hanover, the 11th July 1719.

MY LORD,—I cant but take the first oportunety of congratulating with your lordship upon the gallant behaviour of your men in conjunction with his Majesties troops against the rebels.

On Fryday morning last, a messenger brought the agreeable news of the defeat. I need not tell yow of the pleasure I had when I heard of the share your lordships men had in the honour of the day, since I flatter my self yow will allways do me the justice to belive that I cant be indifferent in any thing that concerns yow.

His Majestie, God be thanked, is in perfect good health. All your friends here are well, and I assure yow, my Lord Sutherland is not forgot amongst them.

I am allways with the greatest respect and truth, my dear lord, your lordships most humble and obedient servant,



78. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND to JAMES, EARL OF STANHOPE,—thanking the Earl for favours bestowed on the family for their services.

Marlborough Street, 1st of August 1720.

MY LORD,—I was soe loaded with affliction for the loss of my sou, when I wrote to your lordship upon the 26 of July, that I am affraied I was wanting in representing to your lordship the true sense I had of the kings great favor and goodnes in continuing to the family what he had been graciously pleased to bestow upon my son in consideration of his services. His eldest son is fourteen years of age, and I have all of them rivetted in the respect and devotión they owe to his Majestie, soe as to abhor the Pretender and all the kings enemys. I have not words to express how much I am obleidged to your lordship for this last favor in disapointing the designs of my enimys, and supporting of a family that wold not have been in soe low circumstances as to want it, if it had not been my zeal for the Revolution and to support King William upon the throne, as weel as my indefatigable application to promote the protestant succession, to the detriment of my fortune above thirtie thousand pounds. The pleasure I have this day to see

King George, for whom I have soe long struggled, happily established upon the British throne, makes me forgett all the losses and expenses I have been att. Yett, my dear lord, I should not be soe forgott as to lett a thousand pounds yearly to myself, and half as much for the education of my grandchildren, be all the consideration I have for the great sommes due to me and for my services. Your lordship was pleased to tell me that you thought it very hard that som thing further was not done for me, and that your lordship and my Lord Sunderland wold speak to the king, to gett me some further mark of his Majestys favor. I was soe near deaths door when your lordship went over with the king, that I could know nothing of what was done. Your lordship was pleased also to say that I should be added to the privey counsell. I here nothing in relation to either. I am persuaded, as I have had many markes of your lordships favor, if you wold pleas to lay befor his Majesty my pretensions and services, his Majestys justice and goodnes is such, that I don't doubt of success. I can give your lordship the instance of a gentleman, who is one of the comissioners of the custons, and is also a comissioner of the board of police, and has four sones who have employments in the government. I also know a marquiss of my country who has three thousand pounds yearly. Were the government in those circumstances as to bestow noe more then what I have upon any, I should be satisfied, or that those upon whom such favors are confered had done more for it then I, then to complain were wrong, but — I am with the greatest respect and esteem possible.

My lord, I wrote to your lordship concerning the sheriveship of Invernes now vacant by my sones death.

Indorsed: A copy of a letter to Earl Stanhope, 1st August 1720.

79. JOHN, FIRST DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—the King had confered on him the Chamberlainry of Ross.

Broxmouth, August the 2d 1720.

MY LORD,—I was honour'd with your lordships of the 26th of July last post, and that same day had a letter from my Lord Stanhope acquainting me that the king had been pleas'd to give your lordship the place of collector of the chamberlanry of the crown lands in Ross, with the yearly pension of five hundred

pounds, which your son, the late Lord Strathnaver, enjoyed, and signifying to me at the same time that it was his Majesty's pleasure that the proper instruments should be prepared accordingly.

I do assure your lordship I do most heartily condole with you upon the death of my Lord Strathnaver, and sincerely wish that his children may live to be a comfort to you; and I hope I need not tell your lordship that it is great pleasure to me that his Majesty has been pleased to give you the chamerlaury of Ross. I have transmitted my Lord Stanhope's letter to Mr. Delafaye, and doubt not but the proper instruments will be prepared without loss of time, so shall trouble your lordship no further at present, only beg leave to assure you that I am, with the greatest respect, my lord, your lordships most humble and most obedient servant,

ROXBURGHE.

80. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to Sir ROBERT WALPOLE,—regretting his inability to be present at the coronation, 27th September 1727. Draft.

To Sir Robert Walpole.

SIR,—I flattered my self with the hopes that, when the election of the peers was over here, I should have the satisfaction of walking att the coronation, but, to my inexpressable sorrow, the gout has seized me soe as to deprive me of that happiness, soe that I must entirly depend upon your freindship as to what relates to me, and ther being a new establishment to be made, I trust you will be soe good as to take care that I, who have spent a great part of my substance for the government and ventured my person whenever occasion offered, shall be putt upon an equal footing with such as have done noe more. I never was absent one session of parliament or one day, but when the gout or other sicknes hindred me. What you doe for me shall still be most gratefully acknowledged, being, with all sincerity and respect possible,

Edinburgh, September 27, 1727.

Sir,—You may please to remember that, when I told you that I thought I was not considered as I ought to have been, your answer was that you were not att the making of the establishment, but, when it was in your power, you wold doe for me.

81. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN, SECOND DUKE OF ARGYLL,—to speak to Sir Robert Walpole in his behalf, 23d November 1727. Draft.

To the Duke of Argyll.

MY LORD,—I called severall times for your grace befor I left London, and went once to your house near Richmond, but had the misfortune to miss of you. The election of the peers having gone a souhaite, I was designing to have the happines to walk att the coronation, when my old enemie the gout disapointed me of that happines. If my wifes health will permitte her, she will. My grandson being chosen for to represent the shire of Sutherland, I entreat your graces favor and freindship in supporting him, he not being in the tearmes of the last resolution of the house, it being only mentioned ther peers eldest sones, and his case may not happen in ane age. Since I cannot possibly be att London soe soon, I most earnestly beg the favor of your grace to speak to the secretarys of state and Sir Robert Walpole, that, in framing the establishment, I may be particularly taken care of, and that others, who neither ever ventured either ther substance or persons more, be not putt upon a better footing then my self. The dependance I have upon your graces goodnes emboldnes me to take this freedome. What you are pleased to doe for me or mine shall never but meet with a gratefull return from,

Edinburgh, 23d November 1727.

My Lord,—I had the honour of your graces from Sudbrook of the 13th, and return you my unfeigned thanks for the assurances you are pleased to give me and my grandson of your favor and freindship. I am not yet able to goe from one room to another without the help of a cane. Soe soon as I recover the least strenth soe as to be able to bear a coach, I, God willing, design for London, being, with sincere respect, my lord,

Duke of Argyll.

82. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to THOMAS HOLLES, DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, SECRETARY OF STATE,—offers made to the Earl by the Earl of Oxford, 23 November 1727. Draft.

MY LORD,—I was designing, after the election of the peers here, to have been att the coronation, when I was most unseasonably seased by the gout, and that in soe violent a maner that it swelled all my right arm and hand soe as to incapacitate me from writting, or else I had given your grace the trouble of a letter long ere now, the affaires of this part of the kingdome being in your graces province. I think it my duty to apply to you, and had done sooner, but your grace was not att London when I left it, att which time I gave in a short memoriall to the king, and whieh your grace can vouch for the truth of, being eye witnes to the zeal with which I acted for our present happy establishment. I doubt not but such as behaved themselves weel then will meet with some markes of distinction now. When the Earl of Oxford, in the late queens time, invited me to come in, and that he wold gett me a post suitable to my rank and quality, and that he wold take care that I should be payed the arrears of the regiments I had raised about the time of the Revolution, notwithstanding all these kind proffers, I neither went near him nor accepted of them, not approving of ther measures. Not being able to attend my own affaires att London now, I hope your grace will be soe good as to take care of my concerns according to the enclosed memoriall which I presented to the king; that of the admiralty of Orkney and Zetland is the only thing past, and it yeelds very litle what I had befor in the late king[s] time. Begging your graces pardon for this trouble, I am, with all sincerity and respect possible,
Edinburgh, 23d November 1727.¹

To the Duke of Newcastle.

83. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to—Address wanting [DUKE OF NEWCASTLE],—recommending his grandson, circa 1727. Draft.

MY LORD, my illnes preventing my going to London, I hope your grace, whose freindship I depend upon, will not be unmindfull of my concerns. I shall lett

¹ On the same day a letter in similar terms to this was written by the Earl of Sutherland; but no address is given in the draft.

noe time slip when I recover any strenth to begin my journey. This comes by my grandson, who goes from hence to-morrow. I recomend him to your graces favor and protection, and hope you will countenance him and assist him against such as may oppose him att this time, which will be a favor not to be forgott either by him or by, my lord, your graces

84. MR. GEORGE MUNRO, NEWTON, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about measures for protecting the county of Sutherland from theft. 11th July 1737.

MY LORD,—Saturdays night I had the honour of your lordships of the 9th, and then wrote to Lieutenant M'Pherson of Lord Lovats company, and to Lieutenant M'Farlane of Captain Grants company, who commands the detachment attending the custom-house at Inverness, to which I got the inclosed return from Lieutenant M'Farlane, and I think your lordship should wryte by this post to Brigadier Guest to know if he received these directions from Generall Wade, and sent his orders accordingly to Lord Lovats and Captain Grants company's, and that your lordship think that 36 men or thereby would be a sufficient number to take care of your countrey and the passes leading thereto. Just now I am informed, by ane express from my company at Lochaber, that upon Fryday last, when some of Lord Lovats men came to Glengarry, in order to go to Lochaber to search for the last parcell of catle taken out of Corrykeanloch, as your lordship wrote to Lieutenant M'Pherson; then the detachments of my company, who were in Glengarry and Lochairkaig, joynd these men, and went to examine who were then absent from that countrey, and if any strange catle could be found in that countrey, etc. Upon Fryday last the men I sent to Gleniach and Achnashiellach to gaurd the passes in the heighths of the parishes of Contan and Lochcarron, returned after they were credibly informed that the catle they went to stop were returned in Lochbroom paroch. We, the justices of the peace, have ordered a pairty of 12 men of the countrey men to go to the Breas of this countrey to preserve it from theft, and we have given them a moneth's subsistance in the beginning, and will continow them longer, as we shall see occasion. I think your lordship should do the like till the detachments you expect come.

My most humble duty to the Countess of Sutherland, and to the Lady Assint

and Miss Clapane; and I am, with much esteem and respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient, faithfull, humble servant,

GEO. MUNRO.

Newtowne, 11th July 1737.

85. JOHN, FOURTH MARQUIS OF TWEEDDALE, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—intimating his appointment to be first Lord of the Police in Scotland.

Whitehall, 1 December 1744.

MY LORD,—His majesty having been pleased to name you to be the first Lord of the Police in Scotland, has thought proper at the same time to give the government of the castle of Blackness to Charles Hope Weir, Esq., and the new commission of police goes by this post to Mr. Thomas Hay, keeper of the signet at Edinburgh.

Give me leave on this occasion to wish your lordship joy, and to assure you that I am, with great regard, my lord, your lordship's most humble servant,

TWEEDDALE.

P.S.—I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here soon.

Earl of Sutherland.

86. ROBERT CRAIGIE OF GLENDOICK, LORD ADVOCATE, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, intimating Report as to the Pretender's eldest son.

Edinburgh, 5th August 1745.

MY LORD,—The lords justices having received intelligence that a report is current at Paris that on the 15th of July the Pretender's eldest son embarked near to Nantz on board of a privateer (formerly a French man-of-war) of 64 guns, attended with another privateer of 25 guns, having on board 70 gentlemen guards and 300 volunteers with arms and amunition, with an intention to land in Scotland, where he expects to be joined by the Highlanders, I think it my duty to inform your lordship of this intelligence, that you may not be surprized with various rumours that possibly may be spread, grafted on this French report; and, at the same time, that in case such rumours should be attended with any consequences in the Highlands the disturbance of the publick peace, that your lordship may be prepared to exert yourself and to

use your power in the Highlands in such manner as your known zeal to his Majestys service will dispose you to act upon all occasions.

As your lordship will no doubt have the best intelligence of any motions that may be in the Highlands at this juncture, it wou'd be of great use to his Majestys servants that act in this place, if your lordship wou'd be so good as to communicate the same to us that we may inform the lords justices, and that we may take such measures as may be most proper from time to time for the safety of the government, and for the preservation of the public peace.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, my lord, your lordships most faithfull, most obedient servant,

ROB. CRAIGIE.

Indorsed: Letter, Lord Advocate to Lord Sutherland, 5th August 1745.

87. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to MR. ROBERT CRAIGIE OF GLENDOICK, LORD ADVOCATE, with proposals for the defence of the Highlands in view of the expected invasion.¹

Dunrobin, 11th August [1745.]

MY LORD,—Your favour is now before me, by which you inform me that the Lords justices had intelligence that a report was current at Paris that the Pretenders eldest son had embarked with an intention to land in Scotland, where he expected to be joined by the Highlanders. This intelligence, I have many reasons to apprehend, is but too well founded. I have had private intelligence to the same purpose within these two days, and have sent to acquaint the Duke of Argyll of it; and I have several reasons to think that the Pretenders son expects to be joined by too many in the Lowlands as well as in the Highlands, and that a general insurrection is designed of the disaffected party, both south and north. It happens greatly amiss in such an emergency that his Majestys firmest friends in the Highlands are destitute of arms and ammunition for their own defence and his Majestys service, when his most inveterate enemies are too well provided, and threaten, as I am certainly informed; in less than a fortnights time to do all the mischief that their malice, armed with fire and sword, can effect, to such of their neighbours as are most attached to his Majestys

¹ Letter printed in "The Critic," 2 August 1845, in a review of "Memoirs of the Pretenders and their adherents," by John Heneage Jesse, 1845.

person and government. I and Lord Reay, with our vassals, could raise eighteen hundred or two thousand men, and with these could effectually bridle all the public enemies north of us, and do considerable service also against the more numerous enemies on the other hand of us. But what can we do without arms or ammunition? I made early application to Sir John Cope for a proper supply, on the surmises we had of a French invasion near two years ago, but my applications have unhappily been neglected, till now there is danger that a supply will come too late. I am causing to be gathered in and brushed up all the arms in this country, which, between me and Lord Reay, I doubt not will make above two hundred stand, and we shall need at least sixteen hundred more of swords and guns, with proportional ammunition. I pray, by all the regard you and others of his Majestys ministers have for his Majestys service and interest, that you will instantly order a sloop here with arms and ammunition as above, to be delivered to me on my receipt. It will be further necessary, my lord, that a proper person have a commission directly sent to him, to act as lord lieutenant of the northern shires. If I am honoured with that commission I shall take the utmost care to fulfil it with equal zeal and fidelity as my grandfather did in the time of the former rebellion. You have inclosed, my lord, a true copy of a contract of mutual friendship I entered into with Lord Reay, in prospect of the invasion and rebellion that seems to be on the point of breaking out. I again entreat, in the most earnest manner, that a proper supply may be sent me of arms and ammunition, as above, without any loss of time. If that supply does not come within twenty days at farthest, it may cost his Majesty abundance of men and money to recover the loss his interest may sustain in the north, which the supply mentioned coming timeously, might enable me, with Lord Reays assistance, to prevent. I shall take care from time to time to communicate to you and others of his Majestys servants any motions that may be in the Highlands at this juncture, and take proper measures to get the best intelligence I can for that purpose. I am, with great respect, etc.,

SUTHERLAND.

88. GEORGE, THIRD LORD REAY, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—as to arrangements for sending men to Sir John Cope. [September 1745.]

MY DEAR LORD,—I have just now the honour of your lordships of the 31st, and Major Mackays message from Sir John Cope, to whom I shall immediately run

an express to acquaint him that I shall send along with these you are to send first to him about 140 men without arms, and I shall see to have them named and fixed as soon as the situation of the country can allow, for your lordship knows there's a great distance betwixt Edderachiles, Durness, and Halladale. Your lordship will give me at least five dayes warning to convene my men, and I judge you mean by the march of these of the parish of Farr, that they allwise joine these of this country in proportion to the numbers to be sent out, as none of a clan, or of the same name and country, will ever do so good service as when joined together in one body, and I judge none has the interest of the cause and the honour of the good behaviour of the men of the county more at heart than your lordship. This was the case at Argyls Host, and in 1715 by express orders from your father and grandfather. How to get provisions to our men when they meet in Dornoch is, to me, a great strait. As I can't say we're quite safe in certain events, so your lordship should insist still on more arms than what the men goes out requires. I am, with great respect, my dear lord, your lordships most obedient, affectionate, humble servant,

REAY.

Your lordship is to depend that, with God's assistance, I'll never faile in my duty to the government, or in my agreement with your lordship.

89. GEORGE, THIRD LORD REAY, TO WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—referring to their joining in strict friendship, 9 September 1745.

MY DEAR LORD,—I have the honour of your lordships of the 3d, and am glad that Sir John Cope, Lord President, and I am sure the Duke of Argyle, yea all the kings friends, have a different opinion of our joining in strick friendship than the authors of the letters your lordship sent me, and which I return. Lady S—r is certainly imposed on by the cunning of others, and will be easily undeceived, which every step of my behaviour will contribute to. Want of arms was the only reason why Sir John Cope did not call for any of our men. But plenty will be sent to Inverness. I send you the last letter I had from him, which please return. I wrote him when I got the message by Major Mackay; but it could not overtake him, nor is the express yet returned. But, as he marched last Wednesday he'll call for no men at this time.

I have not yet heard that the king has named any lord lieutenant, and till

then knowes not whom to apply to. Any is named will be fond to give deputations to any your lordship desires. But three deput lieutenants must sign every warrant, for a fewèr number can't act. I shall concur with your lordship in naming any you think most proper. Their should be three in this corner of the shire, and as many below as your lordship pleases, but still such as will be directed by you. I will concur with you in every step, and did allready all was needfull in what you recomend to me, and will inforce it by an express I'm to send to-morrow to Inverness. I wish my lord president was lord lieutenant, as he is a worthy, good man, brave, and stench to the cause.

I beg you'l acquaint me in your next of the state of your heal[t]h, and if Lady Sutherland is any better of her lameness.

If none of our troops are landed at south Sir John Cope will not get easily to Stirling, if the rebels, as reported, are at Perth and 5000 strong. And I pray God the report of a foreign landing at Peterhead may be false. The ly of the day will be current on such occasions. But let us trust in God, and do our duty in the best manner we can.

My son was last Saturday at Inverness with his company, being a parcell of pretty fellows, wherof one will not desert him. He was in a bad state of health, which detained him some dayes, but has followed the generall. My runner tells me that the only bags the rebels allowed to come north were these for Thurso, Wick, and Kirkwall. If your lordship was told this as the Caithness post pas'd by, you should have oppened these bags under pretence of seeing the newspapers and seen any suspected persons letters, or, if you did not care to be seen in it yourself, could cause it be done by others. But was I shirrief I would make no scruple to open any bag or letters the rebels past, when they seized others, and you should mind this next occasion. Your lordship needs make no excuse to me for imploying Mr. Anderson to write paper or any such. The more easy for you and the less of ceremony the more agreeable to me. I may be obliged to use the same freedom with your lordship, but still shall be sure of the person writes for me. On the main I have not the least fear of the success of our cause, and I have the honour to be, with great truth and respect my dear lord, your lordships most affectionate, most faithfull humble servant,

REAY.

Tongue, 9 September 1745.

Indorsed: Letter, Lord Reay to Lord Sutherland, 9th September 1745.

90. DUNCAN FORBES OF CULLODEN, lord president of the court of session, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—intimating the arrival of arms at Leith from the Tower, 12th September 1745.

MY LORD,—Last night the letter, which your lordship did me the honour to write to me of the 11th, was delivered. It expresses properly your lordships zeal for the support of the government, which must give satisfaction to every one that wishes well to it, and your readiness to defend it.

Your lordships reflexion, that nothing can be done for that end to purpose without arms, is very just, and it is to supply that want that 6000 stand of arms are sent from the Tower. These arms are actually arrived at Leith, and a good number of them would have been here before this time had Sir John Cope been at Edinburgh. So soon as he arrives there he has promised to send them, and the moment that happens your lordship shall have notice. We are at present in a sort of tranquillity in this country, as the rebels are gone to the southward. How long that quiet may last is uncertain; and therefore, what the kings dutifull subjects in this country have to do, as it appears to me, is to keep their men in readyness to act on the shortest warning for the security of the government and for their own protection, untill the expected arms arrive and a proper occasion offer of doing more effectual service. The orders for giving out the arms are with the governor of Inverness, who shall have my advice when they come; and when anything to the purpose may be done with them, to put as many of them as may be necessary in your lordships hands, whose affection to the government is on the best grounds so unquestionable.

As for your neighbours to the northward, if I do not mistake the men, they are too wise, even were they ill-disposed, to venture to force a passage whilst your lordship is in the way. If they send droves to the southward in the circumstances in which things now are, they must have armed men attending them. But then, should the numbers of these men be so great beyond the occasion as to give just reason to think that the driving the catle is intended only as a pretence to colour the sending to the southward a body of armed men, your lordship will be justify[ed] for hindering them to pass. But I am hopefull no such thing will be attempted.

With respect to intelligence, I know litle more than what the prints will inform your lordship of. Only five battallions have actually sailed from the

Dutch coast, and the rest are embarking. The dispositions for their reception were actually made at Leith last Friday, and it's more than probable some of them are there before this time. General Cope arrived at Aberdeen, as I have reason to think from a letter dated at Turref, which I received from him as last night. H[e] has found shipping enough at that port to transport his troops to the southwards, should that be his choice. But whether that will be his course, or if he will wait at Aberdeen for the Highlanders, or if he will follow them by land, must depend very much on their numbers and situation, which I at present know nothing particular about. Lord George Murray has, much contrary to expectation, put himself at the head of the Atholl men and joined the rebels, which probably will encrease their numbers, but will not add much to their fighting men. Captain Mackay, hearing of Glenbuckets being in his way with 2 or 300 armed men, struck off from Elgin to the Brugh sea, and from thence followed Sir John Cope by sea. I am, with perfect respect, my lord, your lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

DUN. FORBES.

Culloden, 12th September 1745, 11 before noone.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland att Dunrobin.

SIXTEEN LETTERS from JOHN, FOURTH EARL OF LOUDOUN, commander-in-chief of the King's forces in the north of Scotland, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND.

91. (1.) Arrangements for the forces under his command.

Inverness, October 24th, 1745.

MY LORD,—I have not done myself the honour to writ to your lordship since my arrival hear, becaus, as I was sent to comand the forses in this part of the country, that is, the troopes in the garisons and the independant companyes now to be raised, I did not find myself in a condesion to act, therefore thought it was proper for me to lie quiet till I had got a body of people together; and your lordship very well knowes, if I had begun to writ to your lordship, whoes friendship I relie on, it would have been cause of fewed with other people, who [are] not so conversent in busines and the affairs of the world as you are.

I have had the pleasure to see Major Mackay hear, who has given me a full account of your lordships zeal for our masters service and for the good of our country. He telles me he has seen the company embarqued in order to come hear; but as they are not yet arived, I am afraid they have been drove back by contrary winds. And in case Captain Gun should be short of money, I have beged the favour of the major to cary him some to enable him to bear the expence of bringing his company hear, where I shall e[n]devour to make everything as agreeable to them as I can, as I am sure every body that wishes well to this country must relay on people sent from your lordship.

I would willingly have sent arms for them, but as there are some people in this country who might thinke it worth there while to have intersepted them, I should not have been able to answer hearafter for having put thos folkes in the power of arming so many of his Majestyes enemyes against him. I believe they will not venture to attack men who they are sure will not join with them, and I shall order boats to meet them at Cromerty as soon as I have your directions; and if your lordship will be so good as spair them some few of those arms you have for there protection, I will take the best care I can to return them.

I beg your lordship will be so good as make my compliments acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, for whom I have the greatest regard.

I am, with great esteem and friendship, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

P.S.—Some dayes hance I shall have an opportunity of sending letters by a man of war, who brought some arms hear. If your lordship has any to send I shall take particular care of them.

We are still but spairingly supplied with arms, but I hope we shall soon have more, and then I shall be extraully glade to contribut all in my power to accomodat with what you may think nessesary. Once more, my dear lord, adiew.

92. (2.) Commending Captain Gun's company. .

Inverness, October 27, 1745.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of your lordships of the 22d by the bearer, who came along with Captain Guns company, who are very fine men. I have not yett review'd them in form, having been obliged yesterday to go to Colloden about

business ; but by what I saw of them when they came up to the castle for there arms they and there officers will do credit to the country they come from.

I have returned the arms your lordship was so good as to send with them. As to newes from the south we have non certain, but that our army must probably by this time have mett with the Highlanders, and we expect good newes from thence to-morow or nixt day. We have great comotion among our neighbours hear, but I believe that will soon be over. As soon as I have any intelligence worth troubling your lordship with I shall send an express with it.

I beg your lordship will make my compliments to my Lady Sutherland, and that your lordship will believe me to be, with great esteem and regard, my lord,
your lordships most obedient humble servant,
LOUDOUN.

93. (3.) The course he is adopting with those who have given their oath to the enemy.

Inverness, November 24, 1745.

MY LORD,—I have little newes to writ at presant, but that there are four regiments arived in Edinburgh, Prices and Legoneers regiments of foot, and Gardeners and Hamiltons dragoons. We have no certain account where the rebels are. The sloop of war in which your lordships letters are is put back into Cromerty by contrary winds. As to our situation hear we are now become strong enough to begine to curb our irregular neightbours, which I shall begine to immediatly if they will not grow wise enough to quite there desparat scames.

This goes by two men I have sent to Dornich market to pick up some of Captain Alexander Mackay's company who are still in that part of the country. They, that is part of them, took what was called an oath never to serve against the Pretender or his airs, directly contrary to the oath they had taken tother day when they were attested, and which must bind them against all subsequent oathes. Besides it would have a very pernicious consequence to allow privat men to imagine they of themselves without there comanding officer could come under any sepat engadgments with an enemy. I have already got a great many of them back from Lord Reas country, who are now perfectly satisfied. I send those men to perswade them, and dont meen to punish any that return to there duty now, tho' by our lawes there crime is desertion and the punishment death. If your lordship will be so good as give orders to your people to say it

will be agreeable to you that such of them as live in your bounds should return to their duty, it will be of great use to his Majestyes service and a particular favour to me. I beg your lordship will be so good as to make my compliments acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, and that you will believe me to be, with great truth and real friendship, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

94. (4.) The desertion of many of the soldiers.

Inverness, December 19th, 1745.

MY LORD,—I have this minut an account of a very great number of Captain Guns company having deserted, and of a great many of Captain Sutherlands being in danger of doing the same at a time when they are wanted very much; for I have but just now got a body of people collected to enable me to be of service to our master and our country, which will be greatly hindered by this unforeseen accident and, as every man has enimies, I am afraid may be layed hold of to your disadvantage; and I hope your lordship will fall on some method to remedy this without loss of time. I beg you will make my compliments to my Lady Sutherland, and believe me to be, with great truth and esteem, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

95. (5.) With military news.

Inverness, January 13, 1745^e.

MY LORD,—I had this minut the honour of your lordships by the bearer, and as to intelligence I can give your lordship very little that is certain, for tho we had a Kingorn boat tother day, which was dispatched by the admirality to Lord Findlater, with orders to lay on an embargo on ships loaded with black catle, beef, or pork, I got no letters by her but one from the Duke of Cumberland, of an old date, from London, and about a privat affair. My other letters were given to a sargent of mine, who, with Lieutenant Grant of Lord John Murrays regiment and the other passangers, were taken by the people at Fraserburgh. The sargent burnt mine when he found he could not save them. They report that the Highlanders to between 3 and 4000 were at Glasgow and Hamilton,

and in all probability are marcht to crosse the head of Forth to join the people at Perth, who are moved south to meet them. The duke took Carlisle this day fortnight, and on Thursday was senight the first division of Lieutenant-General Haules troopes were at Musselburgh. He came down with 8 old regiments of foot and some dragoons, and there are 6000 Hessians ordered to Lieth. By our last accounts the transports were at Williamston, and they ready to embarque.

I return your lordship a thousand thanks for your present, and beg you will make my complements acceptable to my Lady Sutherland. I ever am, most faithfully, my dear lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

96. (6.) The rebels march upon Inverness.

Inverness, February 7th, 1745.

MY LORD,—I think it my duty to acquaint your lordship with what intelligence comes to me of consequence; and I this day from different quarters have got accounts that the rebels begun firing on Stirling Castle on Thursday the 30th of last month, and continued all that day and part of the next; that they lost a good many men, and had the muskets of one of there 3 canon brock; that on an account of the Duke of Cumberlands being arived at Edinburgh on Thursday with 7 battalions, or as some say, 7 thousand men, and the king's army being in motion towards them, they abandoned the siege with presipitation, and crossed the Forth that night. The next night they lay at Drumond Castle, and on Sunday at Lord John Drumonds above Crieff, from whence they detached the Mackintoshes, the Ferquarsons, Lord Lewis Gordons, and all the low country people to Aberdeen. They call them 2000, and the rest they give out are to come the Highland road to attack us hear. We are making all the preparation we can to give them a warm reseption in whatever shape they come. At presant I believe they have not numbers to attack us after the great desartion they have had. But as they come throw the country where many of the people are that left them, they may increas; but that will take time.

Now what I would beg of your lordship is that you would have your people in readines to march to join the kings troopes and friends as soon as we have arms to put in there hands. And since I begun this letter there are two ships

appearing in the Firth, which I hope bring them. We are gitting all our friends in readynes. I beg your lordship would make my compliments acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, and believe me to be most faithfully, my dear lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

97. (7.) The rebels take Inverness.

Dunskethness, February 20, 1745⁵.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of your lordships letter bear at diner, and now, as soon as I have drunk your lordships health in a bumper, I sitt down to answer it. The reason I did not writ to your lordship from Kessack, after I had retired from Inverness, was because there was no maner of danger; and I would have remaind there, but that I found I could be of more use to the comon cause hear thane there, and do not propose to retire any furdur axcept nessesity oblige me, of which at presant I see no maner of apperance. Your lordship will easily believe I had not much time for writting when I kept the one end of Inverness till the rebells took possession of the other; and as I pased the toure with the last of the tropes I past it under the fier of there canon.

I have orderd the man of war round from the road of Inverness with the money and arms for your lordships people, who will be hear as soon as the wind will permit. I will aquaint your lordship as soon as the ship arives, and shall then expect that your lordship will than aquaint me when you will march into this neighbourhood, that I may provide quarters for your people when they come to receive there arms, for I have no way of sending them. I am, with great esteem and respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient, humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

98. (8.) To order all the boats from Sutherland to the ferry near Tain.

Balnegowen, February 21th, 1745⁵.

MY LORD,—This comes in the first place to inquer after your lordships health, for as you have latly been out of order I cannot help being uneasy till I hear for

fear. you should catch more coald by being out so late in the evening; and in the next place to beg that your lordship will be so good as order over immediatly all the boats from Sutherland to the ferre near Tain, and put a guard of your people over them: and to beg your lordship will equier if the people of Tain have, as they were desired, brought up the boats between them and Tarbotness, and if 'tis not already done, that your lordship would be so good as order it. I ever am, with great esteem and regard, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Tain.

99. (9.) The arrival of arms.

Balnagowen, February 22d, 1745.

MY LORD,—I have the honour of your lordships of this morning. The boats certainly ought to be at the Mickle Ferre, but I see no use of crossing at present. The shipes are this morning arived at Cromarty, and I have sent orders to put some of the arms on shore, and I hope your lordship will be so good as to order three hundered of your men to march down this day to the boat house to receive them from my quartermaster. This is all I can do just now out of the small number I have. As soon as I can I will endeavour to put more into your lordships peoples hands. I ever am, with great regard, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

22 February 1746.—Deliver to the bearer three hundred stand of arms.—
SUTHERLAND.

100. (10.) The forces about to leave Balnagowan.

Balnagowan, February 22d, 1745.

MY LORD,—I propose to march from hance to-morrow morning at five a clock, and to pass at the Meikle Ferry, for which reason I would have your lordship have all your people past before we come up, that there may be no stope from your people delaying in the morning, which might prove unlucke for the rear if the enemy should advance quick. I expect to hear presantly in return to my

last what number of boats there are that I may take my messurs accordingly, or I shall sattel the quarters as soon as I come up for to-morrowes night, that we may be so posted as to support one another. I ever am, most faithfully, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Tain.

101. (11.) To issue instructions for the defence of the passes on the Shin.

Dornich, February 24th, 1745^g.

MY LORD,—I find this morning that part of the arms which should have been for the men that were to have marcht this day to the hight of the country with all the amonition are by mistake caryed to Dunrobin, for which reason I have delivered the ten chistes of arms I had hear to your officers, with a chist of carriages, that there may be no delay, and I must now beg that your lordship, as you agreed last night, will give orders to that forth company at Golspe to march immediatly to the passes on the Shin with their arms and amonition, that we may have it defended past a possibility of the enemyes forsing it, and that it may appear on this, as it has done on all occasions, that your lordship has taken arms for the publick service, and that every one of them are employed that way. My complements to my lady. I ever am, my dear lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

102. (12.) About the four companies on the Shin.

Dornich, February 28th, 1745^g.

MY LORD,—I met with Captain Gray hear last night, and showed him your lordships letter, and he immediatly despatched an express to the four companies on the Shin with orders to march. I have mett since with Gavesane, and aquainted him with your lordships orders, and he has agreed very readily to deliver over as many men as he has, in order to compleat the four companies so far; and as they are now march [marched] 'tis impossible for the officers to make them up. But if your lordship will be so good as order any of your people to send them after us, I shall take care that they have credit for them accordingly as they join there companies.

I beg your lordship will be so good as make my complements acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, and my love to my wife, and my complements to the major. I ever am, with great esteem and regard, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

103. (13.) That the Duke of Cumberland and his army were on their way to Inverness.

Dornoch, 10 March 1746.

MY LORD,—I was honour'd with a letter from the Duke of Cumberland, dated at Aberdeen the 7th instant, informing me that he would be as this night at Bamf with his army in his way to Inverness; and as he has given no particular orders I can onlie acquaint your lordship that his armie consists of seventeen battalions and four regiments of cavalry; that there are three more regiments of foot following, and all in top spirits. As I'm inform'd a body of the rebels not very considerable are soon to be at Tain, I must beg and insist that your lordship would order all the boats that are upon the Sutherland coast forthwith to repair to the Mickle Ferrie, that so I may be able at once to transport a force strong enough to put a check to their depredations; and if any partie be requisite to carry your orders into execution, I beg you'll immediately let me know, and they shall be forthwith sent. Please make offer of my compliments to my Lady Sutherland, to my little wife, and to Major M'Kay. I am, with great esteem, my lord, your lordships most obedient most humble servantt,

LOUDOUN.

I ask pardon for using an other hand. I have had so much writing today that I am almost blind.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

104. (14.) Offering thanks for the boats ordered to the ferry.

Dornick, March 11th, 1745.

MY LORD,—I had this day the honour of your lordships along with Bain, whom I have examined and kept prisoner. I have had several informations against

him. I am very much obliged to your lordship for the boats you have ordered to the ferry. They are absolutely necessary for the publick service. If there are any more of any size beyond your lordships house I should be glade to have them, as I have certain accounts that the rebels advanced last night as far as Alnus. I must fall on methods to be provided with such a number of boats as will transport a body at once as may be able to land in spite of them; and as soon as I am master of those, I hope to make them very sick of there project on East Ross; for they must either abandon there scame of fighting the duke in Murray, or they cannot spare men enough to deal with the troopes hear.

I beg your lordship will make my compliments acceptable to my Lady Sutherland and the major, and give my love to my little wife, and tell her I beg she will remember that a man that neglects his duty never yet was prized by the women, and that when I went farder to see others the enemy were a hundered milles from me, and now they are at my noss ready to take every advantage of my negligence, and layable to give me an opportunity of paying them my compliments. I am, with great regard and esteem, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

105. (15.) Giving warning of an intended surprise on the part of the enemy.

Dornick, March 15th, 1746.

MY LORD,—As the weather has hitherto prevented the boats your lordship was so good as to order for me to come to the Mickel Ferry, I find it necessary to give your lordship this trouble to acquaint you that I have certain intelligence last night that Lord Cromarty has formed a scame to surprise them in the night with a party to be sent in some boats, which the man of war ordered round to me from Cromarty, and have remained between that and Tarbatness. There are but two or three of those boats at most; but if your lordships should fall into there hands it will put them into a condission to be very troublesom both to your lordship and us. Therefore I beg no time may be lost in sending them round to me, as 'tis of the outmost consequence for his Majestyes service.

I can give your lordship no certain accounts of the rebels numbers, as they come to me so very different from different places, where I can have no suspicion

of the intensions of the people who send the intelligence, they march and counter-march so, and intermix there people to such a degree that 'tis very difficult to count them. But I hope I have now falln on a method which will bring me a certainty of there numbers. I shall now take up no more of your lordships time, but to beg that you will make my compliments to my Lady Sutherland, and my dear unfaithfull wife, and to the major. I ever am, with great truth and friendship, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

106. (16.) Regarding arms and ammunition to defend the house of the Earl of Sutherland.

Dornich, March 19th, 1745.

MY LORD,—I had yesterday the honour of a letter from your lordship, which was delivered to me near Lairg, with a sight of some intelligence your lordship had had from Caitness, which I think deserves particular attention, and I shall have it in my thoughts, as soon as my hands are a littel loss, with your lordships advise to put a stope to it. I expect, as soon as the wind will permit, a man of war in the Firth, with whom I shall consult what can be done by them, and acquaint Comodar Smith with the situation of that part of the country.

I have just now the honour of an other letter from your lordship, which surpris'd me very much, in relation to arms and amonition to defend your house, which your lordship sayes you have frequently applied for without success. I dont know by what accident those letters have miscaried; for I do declare, from all those I have had the honour to receive I never understood the least application of that sort, and that I might not be mistaken I have lookt them over again just now. Your lordship indeed, in the first of yours of the 15th, mentions armes wanted by the new companyes, which I am ready to answer now, as I yesterday took there numbers, and the demand will be very small, as till now I alwayes reconed on those arms you acquainted me you had taken from the deserters. But as for the defence of your own house, my lord, till now I never knew your lordship wanted; and as soon as you will acquaint me with what number of armes and what quantity of amonition will be sufficient for your lordships use (but that particular demand is nessesary for my voitcher and justifica-

sion for disposing of his Majestyes stores put into my hands); and I do assure your lordship I will with pleasure do all my powers will allow me; and now must beg that your lordship will make my compliments acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, and the young lady and the major, and that your lordship will believe me to be, with great esteem and regard, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

LOUDOUN.

107. The PRESEYTERY OF DORNOCH to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, stating their satisfaction with his steady adherence to the Protestant cause. [Copy.]

Golspie, November 14, 1745.

MY LORD,—At our last meeting wee appointed a committee of our number to wait of your lordship, and in our name to testifie our satisfaction with, and to make our hearty gratefull acknowledgments for, your lordships early appearance in favour of our happy constitution and government, and against the present unnatural and wicked rebellion calculated to subvert both. And as your lordship still continues your laudable and vigorous diligence for these good purposes, and have since our former meeting sent a good number of your countrymen (the fittest for that service) to be employ'd in the publick service, we judge it our duty to make this repeated acknowledgment of our satisfaction with your lordships conduct. We are, my lord, extreemly well pleas'd to see your lordships hitherto known steady adherence to the Protestant and Revolution interest continued and further testified in a time of danger, and your noble family shining, and like to shine still, as it has always done, for its fidelity to that interest. That it may ever shine that way, that your lordship's appearance and that of all the friends of the government in defence of it may be crown'd with speedy and glorious success, that our lawfull and rightfull sovereign, King George, may long live a blessing to these nations, that God may establish the throne in his royal house, and that the present unnatural rebellion against his person and government be soon and happily suppress'd, and the hopes of a popish pretender and his adherents extinguish'd, is the constant and earnest prayer of the presbytery of Dornoch.

This, in name and by appointment of said presbytery, is signified and subscribed by your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

(Sign'd)

ROSE, modr.

108. WILLIAM MACKAY, Inverness, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—capture of Simon, Lord Lovat, 12th December 1745.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of your lordships letter with M^rPherson, the deserter, when I was at the head of my platoun, begining our march to Fort Augustus, so for my life cou'd not be in my duty so farr as to make your lordship a return. The historie of our march to Fort Augustus your lordship has from Major M^rKay. Tuesday last Lord Loudon marched with your lordship's two company's, two of Seaforts, Grants, Culcairns, Lord Reays, and 100 of his own regiment, to Castle Dunie, where we arrived betwixt 3 and 4 in the afternoon. The Lyon (who was in our company) and Culcairn went in to capitulate with Lovatt, and upon telling Loudon's resolutions, he assur'd them under the strongest ties of honour that be 10 o'clock next day he would peaceablie surrender himself to Loudon, and cause all his people come in with their armes and deliver them also, upon which we all gott billets upon the tennents of the neighbourhood. But in the glooming the master of Lovatt appeared to us with 120 men, as we than judged, at a disstance, which served us all for sleep and beds that night. Next morning we all conveened, and depended so farr upon Lovatt's promise that we all thought there was no stop. But, as we was marching by the house, the Lyon and Culcairn came out and told Loudon that Lovatt was not that day in good hea[1]th, and consequently could not march. Lord Loudon returned them, with a message that he cou'd accept of no appoliges; but in the event he wou'd not come out immediatly he wou'd use all his force to oblige him. Upon which we all formed in a clap about the house, and a couple of cowhorns leavelled to the broadside of it. Upon which Lovatt beged a commoning with Loudon, and only insissted for three days to settle his affairs, and desired Lord Loudon to leave a detachment of his troops with him, to enable him to force his people to lay down their arms, because they were all past his management. Lord Loudon replied that he hoped to dispose of his Majisties troops to better purpose, and that, as he very well understood he had his people under as good management as any, he first wou'd carrie him, and afterwards consider how to manage the people in the event they woud give any trouble for the future. Lovatt still insissted to be left, tho' but for one day. Att last Loudon told him to pack immediatly, otherways he woud beginn the work, for that he did not choose to

loose any mans neck out of the helter att the expence of his own. Att last the coach was desired to be ready. But the servantts was as leasie as the master, till Lord Loudon was obliged to call for one of his serjeantts to yoak the horses, and his lordship stood by and saw the thing done. At last the old d——l was tackled out, and we cleverlie drove him before us to this place. I am sure your lordship will have this detaile from severalls. I have no other newes, but what I am sure the last post carried your lordship, so shall presume no further, only to acquaintt your lordship that all your men are very well, except a few of them that has colds, and Lord Loudon told us that he never saw troops so young form so quick and so orderly. I yett presume to make so bold as to offer my most humble duty to my Lady Sutherland, your lordship, and dear Lady Betty, and I ever am, with gratitude and much esteem, my lord, your lordships most faithfull and obedientt servantt,

WILLIAM MACKAY.

Inverness, 12 December 1745.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland att Dunrobin.

109. ANDREW FLETCHER OF MILTON, Lord Justice-Clerk, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—the King's commands to assist the Duke of Cumberland.

Edinburgh, 8th March 1746.

MY LORD,—The army of the rebels being now in the northern parts of this country, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland being on his march to disperse them, I have the honour of his Majestys commands signified to me by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, one of the principal secretaries of state, to acquaint your lordship that it is his Majestys pleasure that your lordship and all other civil officers assist his Royal Highness in the best manner that may be in your power; and his Majesty has commanded me to transmit accounts of the behaviour of the several civil officers in this respect.

These offices were not created to be of use only in times of peace; they were intended for the support of the government in times of war also, and you cannot but foresee what pernicious consequences a failzure of duty in matters of this importance may produce; and therefore it seems unnecessary that I shou'd warn you of the danger of every officer who shall be guilty of the smallest neglect

where so much may depend upon an exact performance of his duty. But as you know it is the indispensable duty of your office, so I cannot doubt that it is no less your lordships inclination, as a loyall subject of his Majesty and a sincere friend of our present happy constitution, to give chearfull and ready obedience to so just and necessary a command.

I need not mention to your lordship the particulars wherein you may be assisting to his royal highness. It is sufficient in the generall to tell you that you ought, in your station, to do all that is in your lordships power for accomodating and supplying the army in everything necessary, and for distressing and weak'ning the rebels; and your lordship ought also to send to or bring his royall highness, or the proper officers commanding under him, the earliest and best intelligence that you can procure of the rebels, their numbers, their motions or designs; and for that end you ought to use your outmost diligence to procure such intelligence.

Your lordship must likewise, with all dispatch, communicate these his Majestys commands to the several baillies of regality, magistrates of brughs, and justices of peace within your shire, at least to such of them as have continued in their duty and loyalty to his Majesty, and transmitt to them copies of this letter, and your lordship is to send me, from time to time, accounts of your proceedings in pursuance of these orders, and give notice to these other civil officers within your shires that they, in like manner, send me accounts of their proceedings that I may be thereby enabled, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, to transmitt accounts of the behaviour of the several civil officers. And it must be a satisfaction to all such as shall faithfully perform their duty to know, that full accounts of their conduct will be laid before his Majesty.—I am, my lord, your lordships most obedient humble servant,
AND. FLETCHER.

Indorsed: "Letter, Lord Justice-Clerk to Lord Sutherland. 8 March 1746."

110. HUGH MONRO to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—narrating the doings of the rebels at Dunrobin. 27th March 1746.

MY LORD,—In less as half an houre after your lordship took boat, the rebels, 300 of them, came to Dunrobine that night. Some of them came to the place in less as half an houre where your lordship took boat, commanded by M'Donald of Clanronald. They were that night in your lordships castle and the tennents

houses therabouts. I had 40 of them under command of two officers. My wife intertained them, but my brother and I went to the hills. Nixt morning the rebels went back to Dornoch, they being alarm'd that Lord Laudon were to attact them. They took away all your lordships ryding horses and Sir Harry Innesses, only my Lady Sutherlands Irish Galloway, and at there commanders sight, put into the house of Dunrobine to prevent there rabbles taking him away. They entered all the rooms in the castle, took away all the arms and amonition there, and the arms your lordship gote from the government, tho put under ground; they instantly, upon their arrivall, went to the very place as if themselves had put the arms, etc., there. The rabble took out of Dunrobine only small things from the servants there, which, nixt day, the Duke of Pearth ordered to be left at Ferryoon's till his furdur orders. One of their officers had a durk to my Lady Sutherlands brest, to get accounnt where your lordship was, and arms, to which he gote noe satisfactory answer. Some other officer, seeing the durk drawn as above, with his hand pushed it by my ladys brest, the edge touchted her skin as if done by a small pin, not in the least the worst of it; and tho her ladyship prepared all good intertainment for them, they made a stable of your dyning-room, stole one of the silver snuffers, but took none more of the pleat away. My brother and I, by accident, gote a boat Sunday last, and forced to land in Helmsdale, and Munday night gote aboard Captain Fawckners sloop of warr then opposite to Spye. Nixt day the Hound sloop of warr came there, who gave orders to Captain Fawckner to goe to the Firth of Forth. My brother went with him to get his ship at liberty by the letter he gote from Lord Laudon to the duke's secretary, and I came aboard this sloop, commanded by Captain Dove, who gives a full information, and sent by the bearer, Mr. Tolmie, who instantly returns to the duke with all the information could be had since I came aboard to this minute, that severall gentlemen are come aboard; and I was to be landed with it by one of the sloops of warr this night, or to-morrow, be-south Spye, had not Mr. Tolmie, by meer accident, com'd aboard this sloop of warr, as she entered Cromarty Road, be eight this morning. If any intelligence of consequence, I will be the nixt to land after the bearer to give your lordship for the governments service, to inform the duke of it. Lord Cromarty and Barisdale went last Munday to ryse all Caithness.

This sloop of warr came up here about ten this morning, being informed that the rebels were crossing here, etc., and this day all the gentlemen in Ross shyre

were commanded to attend at Tayne, to pay £5 sterling out of every £100 Scots of valuation, besides cess, crown rent, and bishop rents. This shyre and your lordships country is ruined. I most remain here if I get noe commands to goe to land safely for the gouernment's service, which I am here ready to doe for that purpose on a minuts warning. May God send the Duke of Cumberland and his army, your lordship, forward with great success to relive us from these hellish enemys of our happy constitution. The captain here salute your lordship, as does, with great submission, my lord, your lordships most obliged, most faithful, humble servant, while

HUGH MONRO.

Invergordonness, aboard the
Hound sloop of warr, 27th March 1746.

111. CAPTAIN THOMAS DOVE to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—stating that the Rebels are in possession of the Earl's house.

Hound Sloop, Cromertie Bay, 27th March 1746.

MY LORD,—I take the liberty to acquaint your lordship that the 20th past M'Donall of Clanronald, with 300 men, took possession of your lordships house, and the ships at Ferry Oven. They took all your lordships horses except your lads. They put a durk to her ladyships breast, which scratch't her breast by one of them shuffing the rebels hand away. They have not touch't your lordships plate nor anything else, but some tridles which were stopt at Ferry Oven by the Duke of Perth's orders. I have not time to write any news, having dispatcht an express to Sir Everard Fawkener, who, I suppose, will inform your lordship of the news.—I am, my lord, with great truth, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

THO. DOVE.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

112. MR. ANDREW MONRO to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
relating the actions of the Rebels in Sutherland. Edinburgh, 29th March 1746.

MY LORD,—I was very glade to hear that your lordship arived safely in Aberdeen. I stayed in Sutherland till the 24 current, that was four dayes after your lordship did sett out from Dunrobin. I gote a Muray boat that laye at

Brora, and with much difficulty I got on board the Vulture sloop, and arrived here yesterday. The moment that I came to this place I waited of my Lord Justice Clerk, and give his lordship a full account as far as it was consistent with my knowledge of the transactions of the rebels in Sutherland. Two hours after your lordship did sett out Clanronald came to Dunrobin with about 300 or 400 men. There was 200 of them that night in the Castle of Dunrobin. They found out all the arms and ammunition that your lordship caused buried. The next day they were all ordered to Dornoch, and the whole of them that landed in Sutherland commanded by the Duke of Perth and Lord Cromertie, marchd towards the passes on the alarm that they were to be attackd by Lord Loudon. I seed Captains Gordon of Carell and Clunes, and they told me that they had orders from Lord Loudon to march northwards, and to take care of the kings arms, and I can assure your lordship that every man of your militia are gone home to their houses, and I believe so are the Mackays, for as the rebels are in possession of all Sutherland, they cou'd not subsist in a body for want of provision. Lord Loudon marchd to the west with the companys he had with him, and, I was told, had cross'd the passes into Lord Scaforth's countrey, if not the Isle of Skye. I mention what I was told.

On Sunday the 23 Baristill came to Dunrobin. I spoke with severalls who seed him, and informed me that he had 500 men with him and was to march to Caithness, where he expected to be joined by severals in that countrey, and by Sir James Stuart of Burray from Orkney.

The rebels on their march to Dunrobin took the four ships at Feryoons, and sent out of Captain Ingliss ship all the arms, ammunition, etc., in 15 boates to Tain. Happily the money was savd, for Captain Inglis went off with it in a boat, and Provost Fraser, Provost Hossack, and Baillie James Fraser alongs. But 3 or 4 casque of half-pence were left on board, which might be in value about £70. The[y] caried away all your lordships riding-horses. They also caried of the arms and ammunition that was buried, and the blunderbussus that were in the dining-rooms.

I am come here in order to get my ship releas'd, which I have not got done yet. I have aplyd to my Lord Justice Clerk, and I am to petition the Comissioners. But it so it was that the ship was disabled at sea with bad weather, and the captain of the man-of-warr took out all the crew except the skiper and made, and did put some of his own crew on board, and one of his own Livtenants and

eight of his crew. No law can hinder my getting the ship and cargoe, as by chart-r-partie the ship was bound for Noroway. Yet the captain of the man-of-warr, because he knowes no beter, woud insist that hel make prize of her. Sure I am what I have in that ship woud be serviceable to the dukes army. I woud not give the captain of the man-of-war not a groat for his pretensions.—I am, with much esteem, my lord, your lordships obedient servant,

ANDREW MONRO.

If your lordship hase any comands for me here send it per bearer.
Edinburgh, 29th March 1746.

113. HUGH MONRO to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
Destruction of the country by the Rebels. 2d April 1746.

MY LORD,—My last to your lordship from aboard the Hound sloop of warr, by Mr. Tolmie. I came here this day in order to waite of you at Aberdeen, but I cannot get horses to hyre; so sends this expresse to acquaint your lordship that your country is totally ruined. The enemys have called all the arm's in your country what they had from the goverment, if not, they are to burn and destroy all the country 'twixt Ross and Sutherland; the rebels are 'twixt two and three thousand, and are doing all the harme in their power. Carroll and Baillie Kenneth Sutherland are aboard Captain Midletown. I waite here to have your lordships orders, to goe forward or to return aboard any of the sloops of warr, with any orders to them; for I am fully determined not to go home till I see your lordship. I am informed that a thousand men from Caithness have joyned the Pretender. If I can be bold to say that if Dukes army went forward, there are five thousand of them now be north Inverness, and the easier for his army to cross Spye.

Lord Laudon is certainly gone to Ardgyleshyre with the Precedent, and McLeod, etc., in all about eight hunder men.

What were taken of Lord Laudon's men intyrelly there own faults, but more of this hereafter; and so concludes with all due respect and sincere regard.—I am to remain, my lord, your lordships most oblidged most obedient humble servant, while

HUGH MONRO.

Monwhither, 2d April 1746.

I give this expresse two shillings sterling.

114. SIR EVERARD FAWKENER to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, about discoveries made in the correspondence of a certain person.

Spaymouth, the 12 April 1746, 8 in the evening.

MY LORD,—His royal highness has commanded me to acquaint your lordship that he would have answerd your letter himself, but that he is busy; and, with regard to the person in question, there have been discoveries made in his corres[pondence] which it is necessary to have cleared up by all the enquirys that can be made.

I am, my lord, your most obedient humble servant,

EVERARD FAWKENER.

115. WARRANT by WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN GUN of Braemow, and DUGALD GILCHRIST, factor to the Earl, to make investigation regarding arms and effects belonging to George, third Earl of Cromartie, and the proceedings following thereon.

Dunrobin, 21 Aprile 1746.

BEING informed that there are effects belonging to the rebells lodged within this house, these are empowering yow to make a narrow search and swear for the same of whatever kind to be secured in your hands till our return, which is your warrand from your friend

SUTHERLAND.

To John Gun of Braemow and Dugald Gilchrist, our factor.

Queries :

Whether any money, arms, or other effects belonging to Lord Cromarty, or those in his companie, or any other of the rebells, is lodged with or in her keeping; or if they had any, and how disposed off; or whether they know of any such lodged in the hands of any others in this country; or have any suspicions that there is.

Dunrobin, 24th April 1746.

In presence of Hugh Gordon of Carroll, sherriff-depute of the shire of Sutherland, compeared Mrs. Barbara Sutherland, who being solemnly sworn and interrogate whether any money, arms, or other effects belonging to lord or servants, or any other of the rebells, were lodged with her or in her keeping, or if

she had any such and how disposed off, or whether she knows of any such lodgd in the hands of any other in this country, or has any suspicion that there is; depones negatively, only heard the money and some arms were lodgd with the Countess of Sutherland.

BARBARA SUTHERLAND.

HUGH GORDON.

Mrs. Butler, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones cum precedente in omnibus.

SARAH BUTTLER.

HUGH GORDON.

Mrs. Dott, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones negatively that she [has] no money, arms, or other effects belonging to the rebels in her keeping. That she had a silver-hilted broad sword which she got from the Countess and delivered to my Lord Sutherland. That she got a pistoll from George M'Kenzie, Lord Cromartie's servant, which she delivered to William Murray. That she also got from the Countess a silver watch and a guinea, which she delivered to the owner, Lord Cromartie's servant, and further depones that she heard the Countess own that she had a five hundred pound which she believes was not delivered up, and suspects that there is some money and arms still in her ladyship's custody, but is not certain. Causa scientiae patet.

JANNET DOTT.

HUGH GORDON.

Mrs. Jean Sutherland, being called upon, refuses to swear.

HUGH GORDON.

Anne Fraser, being solemnly sworn and interrogate as above, depones negatively, and this is truth as she shall answer to God, and depones she cannot write.

HUGH GORDON.

Christian Mackay, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones negatively, and that she cannot write.

HUGH GORDON.

Margaret Bellie, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones that she has nothing in her custody except some cloaths, which she was desired by John M'Kay, ensign, to keep.

MARGARET BELLIE.

HUGH GORDON.

Anne Grant, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones negative, only that she got the lock of a gun from John Sutherland, brewar, to keep, which she afterwards delivered to him, and saw a pistoll with a boy, Willie More, which he has in keeping, and cannot write.

HUGH GORDON.

Anne Dawson, being sworn and interrogate, depones negatively, only that she saw a day or two after the engagement at Golspy one or two pistolls and a gun under Adam Black's bed in the lodge, and a pistoll with John Lamb, on which the pretended Prince's name was engraven, which is truth, and depones she cannot write.

HUGH GORDON.

Robert Collie, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones negatively.

ROBERT COLLIE.

HUGH GORDON.

William Ross, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones negatively, only that he has a broad sword which he got from John M'Culloch, which is truth, and depones he cannot write; further depones that Arthur Ross, cunniger, had two guns.

HUGH GORDON.

Adam Black, being sworn and interrogate as above, depones that he got one of Lord Lowdon's fuseses from Daniell Watson at Morvich, for which he paid three shillings, and got two holsters with a broad sword from Lord M'Leod's servant, and has a powder horn and two targes, which is all he has or knows of.

ADAM SUTHERLAND.

HUGH GORDON.

116. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Brodie, Lyon King of Arms, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—asking him to protect the Countess of Cromartie's house and family.

Inverness, Aprile 21st, 1746.

MY DEAR LORD,—As you march thro' Ross I hope your humanity will induce your lordship not to show any revenge to my Lady Cromartys house or family, since we should show the world we act upon different principles with rebels. Besides, if the estate is to be forfeited, the forfeiture will be more valuable that

the house is not plunder'd. You may recollect some thing that I said to you on this subject before, which I hope will convince you of the sincerity of my meaning, and in the meantime an innocent lady and family protected for some time, tho' the familys ruin seems to be inevitable. I am, my dear lord, yours faithfully,

ALEXR. BRODIE.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

117. WILLIAM MACKAY to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating that two French men of war have landed money and arms on the west coast, etc.

Inverness, 14th May 1746.

MY LORD,—I came here this morning from Fort Augustus with two prisoners, the one a brother of Glenmoristown's, and the other a sergeantt of Lord John Drumond's regimentt, who was formerly a corporall in Lord Loudouns company of guards, and deserted from it to the French service. This fellow Sunday last, perceiving ane express disspatched of from the rebells with three great packetts pursued him, knocked him down, carried away his disspatches, and came directly to Lord Loudoun att Fort Augustus yesterday's morning, which packetts I delivered this day to the duke. For whom they were directed I doe not know, as I hade the charge of them and the prisoners. I asket him no questions thereanent, because that, in the event of any discoveries, I cannot be suspected. He was personally present when two French men of warr landed on the west coast and put a shoar 36,000 luidors and 7000 stand of armes; the boxes with the gold and the armes he actualy saw with his eyes, and recived some of the coin which I saw with him. They have 2000 men yett together, and is very fast getting more. This body they have within 16 miles of Fort Augustus, in Glenarkaik, a place unaccessable almost for any troops, especially for the regular. Lord John Drumond and his brother, the Duke of Perth, have embarked on board of these ships for France, and as they sett out they were attacked by two of our ships of warr, who drove them back to the harbour, killed aboutt 50 of their men, and damaged their ships much. However, they could not come to the harbour, because such a body of the rebells were upon the shoar. Unlucklie they gott sally out since, and its thought that the above gentlemen went as imbassadores for men to the French king. I deliverd my

commands betwixt eight and nine this morning, was kept waiting his royall heighnes's commands for Lord Loudoun untill after twelve, and than desired to attend again at four in the afternoon, which gives me grounds to belive these packetts have made some discoveries worth their notice, the nature of which I have no reason to expect to understand so soon. But it is the generall opinion the rebels will give a good dale of trouble yet. I have nothing else worth your lordship's notice. I wish this 30,000 luidores were betwixt Dunrobin and the Little Ferrie, if there was no more than the 2000 to escort it. This town is so throng that it is with difficulty I cou'd gett room to write your lordship this undisstinet letter. I humbly beg your lordship may pardon me for it, and I am, with great regard and esteem, my lord, your lordship's most faithfull humble servantt,

WILLIAM MACKAY.

118. SIR EVERARD FAWKENER to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—as to the Duke of Cumberland and the Earl's going to England.

Inverness, the 16th May 1746.

MY LORD,—I have had the honor of your lordships remembrance by your two letters of the 8th and 13th, and I have his royal highness's commands to acknowledge that to his royal highness, who has been pleased to command me to assure you that no suggestions or representations to your lordships prejudice have come to his knowledge, or would have the least effect if any body should have the rashness to make them, as your lordships conduct has all along been a most irreproachable testimony of the firm attachment of your lordship to his Majestys person and government, and of your zeal for the religion and libertys of your country.

His royal highness is very much concern'd to hear of your lordships indisposition, and will be always pleas'd to be any ways instrumental towards the removal of it, to which end he will very readily consent to your removal to England. But as things are not yet so well composed in this country as his royal highness thinks they soon will be, he hopes it will not be prejudicial to your health, especially as the season is now so favorable, to put off your removal from this country for a little time; and when it is to be, his royal highness will endeavour to accommodate your lordship as to your passage by sea.

His royal highness doubts not but your lordship will continue your

accustomed diligence to defeat and disappoint all the designs and attempts of the rebels and their abettors, and to preserve the peace and tranquility of the country. His royal highness likewise thanks you for the papers you have sent him.

I shall not trouble your lordship further than to assure you of my unalterable respect, and that I most truly am, my lord, your most obedient humble servant,
EVERARD FAWKENER.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobbin Castle.

119. JOHN HUSKE, afterwards Lieutenant-General, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—with the thanks of the Duke of Cumberland for his present to the army.

Inverness, May the 16th, 1746.

MY LORD,—I have his royal highnesses commands to thank your lordship for your generous present of 200 guineas to the army, which he has disposed of yesterday in publick orders, from your lordship to the soldiers.

I likewise acquainted his royal highness of your request about arms, which at present he could not give any answer about.—I am, my lord, with the greatest respect, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN HUSKE.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

120. JOHN FRIGGE to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—regarding the rebels and their country.

Inverness, 16th May 1746.

RIGHT HONOURABLE,—Having the opportunity of the bearer, Mr. Anderson, shall give you the dayes newes. Last week, Lovat, Lochell, etc., met, when Lovat was declared generalissimo, but thers not above 50 men with them, tho they can bring 2 or 300 in 4 hours together. The Pretender, Duke of Pearth, Lord George Murray, and Lord Elcho, are embarked for France in the two men of war. 12 rebels sailed from Borrowstoness Sunday after the batle for Holland. I send Ardoch this morning from Fort Augustus; about 60 of Glengeries people surrendered their arms and themselves set at liberty. A great maney more were to

surrender this day, but as their is an express from the duke to Loudoun with new instructions, cant tell whither they are to part with the men hereafter or not. 260 men went out to distroy the Aird, etc., yeasterday, and 3 regiments goes this day to Stratlerick to distroy every house, etc., their, and this is to be the fate of all the rebels country. Berriesdales house is burned, 700 stand arms and 30 cask powder, 2000 lb. shott taken. You see now how miserable these wretches most be soon.

As I'm pinched for money beyond expression I begg your lordship will order me payment of £55 bill on John Mackays accountt, as I'll be here sometime. I begg your lordship will remember me now that you have the money of the rebels in your custody, of which John Mackay most have a good share. I'll expect your lordships answer in course. The Lyon and Grant are gon for London. Major Grants sentence will be known this day; its said it will be severe. I make offer of my compliments to you, Lady Sutherland, and Lady Betty, and am, right honourable, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

JOHN FRIGGE.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

121. DAVID BRUCE to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating that the Earl's generosity was ordered to be mentioned in public orders.

Inverness, 17th May 1746.

MY LORD,—The bearer, Mr. Anderson, delivered your present to the dukes army of £200 guineas, which General Husk reported to the duke, and immediately he ordered it to be given out in publick orders your lordships generosity.

I doe assure your lordship I would not have taken upon me to have mentioned it to Mr. Anderson if I had not thought it a right and laudable thing, and what your lordship will never miss.

If there is anything in my way wherein I can be of use to your lordship you may freely command me.

Mr. Anderson has only gott his dispatches just now.—I am, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

DAVID BRUCE.

General Husk drunk your health yesterday at dinner, and applauds your generosity much.

I return your lordship many thanks for your compliment.

To the right honourable my Lord Sutherland att Dunrobin.

122. LORD CHANCELLOR HARDWICKE to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to attend the trial of the Earl of Kilmarnock and others.

House of Lords, 30th June 1746.

MY LORD,—I am commanded by the House of Lords to acquaint your lordship that they have appointed William, Earl of Kilmarnock, to be tryed on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July next, at nine of the clock in the morning, upon the bill of indictment for high treason found against him; and George, Earl of Cromertie, to be tryed on the same day, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, upon the bill of indictment for high treason found against him; and Arthur, Lord Bahnerino, to be tryed on the same day, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon, upon the bill of indictment for high treason found against him; and that your lordship's appearance and attendance at the said trials is requir'd upon pain of incurring the utmost displeasure of the house; and that in case your lordship shall be incapable of attending by reason of sickness or other disability you are to send two witnesses to attest the same upon oath; and I am also directed to acquaint your lordship that the lords are summon'd pursuant to an Act of the 7th and 8th year of King William the Third, intituled an Act for regulating Trials in Cases of Treason and Misprision of Treason.—I am, my lord, your lordship's humble servant,

HARDWICKE C.

123. SIR EVERARD FAWKENER to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, —stating that the Earl's letter will be shown to the Duke of Cumberland.

London, the 27th June 1749.

MY LORD,—I have the honor of your lordships letter, which I shall lay before his royal highness the duke as soon as he comes to town.

As I remember when the report General Eland and I drew up in vertue of his royal highness's commands was deliver'd to your lordship, all the accounts were likewise return'd to your lordship, or put into General St. Claire's hands, so that no determination could be given or be expected from him upon that subject. For the rest, whenever his [royal highness] may think fit to let me know when it may be convenient for him to see your lordship, I shall immediately give you notice of it.—I am, with great truth and respect, my lord, your most obedient, humble servant,

EVERARD FAWKENER.

The Earl of Sutherland.

124. ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN FRASER, ESQ., Dunrobin,
regarding volunteer commissions.

London, January fifteen, 1795.

HOWEVER the arrangements may be made so as to get the men recruited for Lord Elgin I shall be satisfied. I think the arrangement mentioned in your letter a very good one. With respect to the officers, we approve perfectly of your son being ensign. As to Hutton's, the gardiner's son, I certainly cannot forbid him to accept of a commission, but as he cannot be allowed to take men from us you had better, in answer to him, tell him from me that I cannot advise him to do it, thinking such an ensigny a very bad thing for a young man in his circumstances, as he will be reduced at the end of the war without half-pay. In short, I shall not interfere by sending any message to Colonel Baillie. At the same time take some opportunity of letting Colonel Baillie know that Lord Gower and I are sensible of his polite attention, and will certainly in no way interfere with the fair recruiting of his regiment, but wish him all possible success. I am just going to write in answer to an application from Sir R. Dunbar, which must be a refusal. In short you will understand that I wish Lord Elgin to have all our assistance, and as many men as can be spared.—Adieu, yours, etc.,

SUTHERLAND.

Lord Gower says Mr. Boog ought to be allowed the timber, taking proper care that he does not exceed the bounds of necessity.

You may explain to Hutton that I by no means *forbid* his taking the commission, only that I cannot assist him in it.

John Fraser, Esq., Dunrobin Castle, Dornoch, N.B.

125. GEORGE GRANVILLE, EARL GOWER, husband of ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN FRASER, Esq., regarding an offer to raise a corps of volunteers for the defence of Strathnaver.

Wimbledon, October 13th, 1796.

DEAR SIR,—I have received a letter from the Duke of Portland, informing me that he is commanded by his Majesty to acquaint me that his Majesty is now pleased to accept the offer, which was made in the beginning of this year, from some of the inhabitants of Strathnaver to raise a corps of volunteers for the

defence of that district. As I have not at present about me Mr. Gordon's letter to me upon that subject, I wish you to write to him, for I have forgot his direction, in order that he may know that he may again come forward with his proposals.—I am, dear sir, yours sincerely,
GOWER SUTHERLAND.

John Fraser, Esq., Dunrobin Castle, Dornoch, N.B.

Answer to the foregoing.

Dunrobin Castle, 22 October 1796.

MY LORD,—By last post I had the honor of your lordship's letter of the 13th. I yesterday wrote Captain William Gordon of Strathnaver, and when I get his answer shall lose no time in forwarding it to your lordship. Meantime I know he is ready to raise his company on the shortest notice, on the same terms in every respect on which the other Sutherland volunteer companies have been raised. I only mention this in case your lordship may see a propriety in applying for a letter of service to raise the company without waiting his answer. His designation is W. Gordon of Clerkhill, Esq.

In the event it may be the wish of his Majesty to make an addition to the volunteers in North Britain, and that your lordship and Lady Sutherland may see a propriety in making an offer to government, I'm sure I could either raise another company in this neighbourhood on the shortest notice, or complete the Golspy and Dornoch companies to 100 men each, as might be thought most advisable. I have the honor to be, most respectfully, my lord, your lordship's,
etc., etc.,
J. F.

126. ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to [JOHN FRASER, Esq.],—about the Skibo and Dunrobin volunteers.

Petersham, August the 30th, 1799.

DEAR SIR,—Lord Gower received this morning a letter from Major Maculloch, which he desires me to enclose to you. He has no doubt of the propriety of the recommendations mentioned in it. But from the manner of their being stated, he cannot send them to the Duke of Portland, the companies being named Skibo and Dunrobin companies, by which names they certainly were not gazetted, and therefore cannot be known at the office. When such recommendations are sent by the commanding officers they ought to be put in a regular list, first the

name of the batalion, then the company and name of the person, and in whose place, which enables Lord Gower to write out the list with more certainty of correctness than can be done from a vague statement in the letter. If there are any more promotions or changes pray send them at the same time, that all may go at once to the Duke of Portland, which saves trouble at the office. Pray explain this to Major Maculloch in case of future correspondance of the same nature.

Is not Captain Taylor to be gazetted also? Lord Gower has no objection to his succeeding Captain Ramsay.

I received your letter this morning, and shall let you know in what condition the moor game arrives. Talking of the housekeeper reminds me that last year at Duurobin she applied for leave to have a pony to ride occasionally, which appeared to be a reasonable request, considering how many horses are going about there unemployed. Lord Gower gave orders to Bookles to have one fit for the purpose, and she informs me that nothing has yet been done about it. I therefore beg you to enquire into this, and give some directions accordingly.

I sent Mr. Anderson's letter to Mr. Mackenzie, and recommended to him to endeavour to procure a divinity burse at Aberdeen for the young man you mention, which will be very proper. . . .—I am, sir, yours, etc., S.

127. The Right Hon. WILLIAM HUSKISSON, colonial and war secretary, to GEORGE, SECOND MARQUIS OF STAFFORD, afterwards FIRST DUKE OF SUTHERLAND,—about the purchase of York House by the Duke.

Somerset Place, 14 December 1827.

DEAR LORD STAFFORD,—I made to the King yesterday all suitable acknowledgments on your part for his having permitted you to become the purchaser of York House. The King said that he had greatly disliked its being built at all, but since it was there he was very glad (not being able to keep it himself) to see it in your hands. You were one of his very old friends. He added, I think it is also a good thing for the administration; it will save them a great deal of trouble. In this I most cordially concur.

I have written to Loch to expedite as much as possible what is necessary to put you in possession. I have sent a similar message to the treasury.—Yours ever truly,
W. HUSKISSON.

Illustrissimo Viri
G. C. Calio, equiti atheni
S

120
Folii. 258
Petr. 1/2 annis. 1/2
L. G. G. G.

112
Scrupsi ad te Illustrissime Cardi, proximis superioribus diebus
de peregrinatione mea, et hoc tempore cum Jamno Gordonius
fuitus in Britanniam revertetur, perferantur per postum, quin
aliquid ad te liberam daron, tibi praefectum tabellario atq
hinc inde. Et cum adolefcentis hinc magis et lib
tam magis, tam libenter sapienter, ut me non
fastidium putarem, si spem melius magis indulens tibi
Andres ex eo (si quid forte profici casus occupatissimas auget
tas afficiat), quid praedictum, quid extenuat, qua spe videri
sustentemur, longam donec a patris epistulam ab hinc conficiat.
Et propter eam Gordonius a Kamu tuo salutem tibi dicitur
pore te gratia et humanitate (qua dotes omnes solus)
proceptum. Vale: 2. M. de quibus: In gymnasio
Pralsum in Carb. Augusti, anno 1568.

M. de quibus

3.—FAMILY AND DOMESTIC LETTERS.

128. PETER RAMUS¹ to SIR WILLIAM CECIL, Knight,—introducing John Gordon, afterwards Dean of Salisbury. 21st July 1568.

SCRIPSI ad te, illustrissime Cecili, proximis superioribus diebus de peregrinatione nostra, et hoc tempore cum Joannes Gordonius, Scotus, in Britanniam revertetur, prætermittere non potui quin aliquid ad te literarum darem, tali præsertim tabellario atque internuntio. Est enim adolescens literis ingenuis et liberalibus tam ingenue tamque liberaliter institutus, ut me rem pergratam facturum putarem si spem nobilis ingenii indolemque tibi commendarem. Audies ex eo (si quid forte nostri casus occupatissimas aures tuas afficient) quid meditemur, quid optemus, qua spe rerum sustentemur, longam denique a nobis epistolam absque charta conficiet. Quapropter cum Gordonius a Ramo tuo salutem tibi dixerit spero te gratia et humanitate (qua doctos omnes soles) excepturum. Vale. Lutetie Parisiorum in Gymnasio Prætorum; 12 Calendas Augusti anno 1568.—

TUUS RAMUS.

Illustrissimo viro G[ulielmo] Cecilio, equiti aurato.

Indorsed "12 Julij 1568. Petr. Ramus by Mr. Gordoun."

TRANSLATION.

I WROTE to you, most illustrious Cecil, a few days ago, of our journey, and now, when John Gordon, a Scotsman, is returning to Britain, I cannot omit sending you somewhat of a letter, especially by such a messenger and intermediary. For he is a young man, so nobly and liberally instructed in noble and liberal letters, that I thought it would be doing a welcome thing to commend to thee

¹ Peter Ramus or La Rammée, the celebrated mathematician, was present on the Protestant side at the battle of St. Denys in 1567, and, on the conclusion of peace, was restored to his professorship in the University

of Paris, but, dreading the renewal of hostilities, obtained the King's permission to visit the Universities of Germany. He returned to France in 1571, and lost his life in the massacre of St. Bartholomew in 1572.

the hope and inclination of a noble mind. You will hear from him (if perchance anything that concerns us may reach thy already over-occupied ears), what we think, what we desire, with what hope of success we are sustained—in short, he will supply a long letter from us without paper. Wherefore when Gordon shall salute thee from thy Ramus, I trust that you will welcome him with the favour and courtesy with which you are wont to receive all men of learning. Farewell. From Lutetia of the Parisians, in *Gymnasio Prætorum*, 21 July 1568.

THY RAMUS.

To the most illustrious William Cecil, knight.

129. LADY JANE GORDON, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, formerly Countess of Bothwell, to LADY AGNES KEITH, COUNTESS OF ARGYLL, formerly Countess of Murray. 5th May 1576.¹

MADAME,—Efter my maist hartlie commendationis, pleiss your ladischip my lord and husband hes derect this berar vnto your ladischip wyth ane precept of clare constat to be scilit and subscriwit be your ladischip, and my lord, your husband, for his entres, off the landis of Kyntessoch, conform to his retour and seruice maid befor the schereffis of Elgin and Fores, as the said berar will schaw your ladischip at mair lynth. And sen my lordis desyir is ressonable, doutis nocht bot your ladischip will seill and subscriwe the said precept of clare constat wyth plessour and gude will, and siklyke will causs my lord, your husband, do the sammyn, the rather of my requiste. And gif we may acqwite my lord and your ladischip wyth sik steid, plessour or kyndnes, ye salbe assurit thair of at our power. Referring the rest to your ladischippis gude mynd and ansuer wyth the berar, and sua committis your ladischip in the protection of the eternal God. From Elgin, the v. of Maij 1576.

I haue bene the mair hammelle to put your ladischip to this charge that I haue evir found your ladischippis gud favor in all my turnis; lukiug it sal be na var nov nor of befor, seing my lord, my husband, and I is villing to deserue the same.—Your ladischippis cusinges at vtir power, JEANE SUTHIRLAND.

To my verray gude ladie, my Ladie Comptas off Argill and Murray.

¹ From the Earl of Moray's Collections. Sixth Report of Historical MSS. Commission, Appendix, p. 639.

130. JOHN, TWELFTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his brother, SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown,—complaining of hard usage from the High Commission, etc.

Holyroodhous, the 23 of February 1615.

LOUEING BROTHER,—I resaved tua lettres of youris laitlie, one daitted from Newmarket in the end of Januarij, whairby I persauce your cairfulness to attend the Erll of Caithnes cuming to court, whairof I fear salbe neid. Your vther letter I haue resaved from your man, Robin, the aughtent of this instaut. That same day he cam, M^cKy, our sistersonne, cam to Leith, whair your man met with ws boith, and your last letter this day is cum in my handis, daitted from Newmarket the first of this instaut, whairof I am most sorie that ye wer absent from your lady in hir greatestt distres; nather will I be glaid wntill I hear of hir recoverie, which hath moved me to haist this berair with all diligens wnto yow. Bot we must thank God of all. Ye ar boith young aneuch, so if your selfis be in health, I hoip in God yow will haue chylden anew; thairfore be of gude courage, for I knaw your melancolious humoris haue neid to be expelled. Bot I hoip all sall go weill if yowr selfis be in health.

It will be no lytill vantage to our enemie that ye ar absent at this tyme. I wreit wnto yow the last day with one George Muirhead, servitour to the ducke; so quhen ye wreit to court caus demand of the ducks servantis if thai resaved my letter. Ye wreit wnto me in your first letter sent from Newmarket that it is suspected his Maiestie wald mowe ane agreement betuix Cathness and ws. I knaw your absens wilbe ane great hinder to all our affaires. Bot I beseik yow haue ane cair of your avin health, and think with your self that God hath cassin yow iu thais pairtis not onlie for your self, bot also for the weall of our hous, for what moyen wald we haif at court if ye wer not thair. Alway if the king haid moved of any agreement betuix Caithness and ws, whatsoever ye haid done sould haue bene ratified be ws. Now, brother, I sall mak ansuer to everie head of your letter sent with your man, Robein. I may not with reason wrge yow to cum to court againe, bot if it pleas God your lady recover health and your avin leasour could serue to tak ane start to Londone, albeit your stay wer bott for tua dayis only to try what Caithness haue done, for so far as we hear his reward will not be so great as he lipned for, so I fear, if he can sie no better, he will do what he can to cros ws, and except ye be besyd the king, it

may be that the same may be granted that the king may be quyt of his cumber and importunat sutes. I hoip this berair salbe at yow before the erll returne. Ye ar wyis aneuche, do herein as ye think good. This visitatione that God heath sent yow, and your retering from court hes given vs suche ane dasche that ar your freindis, that we will daylie languishe for word from yourself and your bed-fellow. I will intreat yow (brother) to haist back this berair, for I am to give in my supplicatione in this weik wnto thais of the lie commissione, and hoipes to gett libertie till go home, wiche if I obtene, the berair mon cum to Sutherland; bot if I stay heir, I think me not weill wsed, for I daylie haunt the preachings, and haue subseryved sindrie articles at the ministeris desyres. I am content to do all thingis they desyir at home. Bot since Lambes last I am confyned. My hail affairs at home ar lost. I spend my money heir in great. I am assured if the king wnderstood how I am wsed by all thais in Scotland, it wald be hardly thought of. Now to mak ansuer wnto the first pairt of your letter desyring me to haue yow excused that ye did not go to court efter the resett of my letter. Treulie (brother) I will tak your excuis in verie good pairt, seing I knaw ye ar more troubled in my affaires then in your avin. And whair ye desyir me not to wreit so mony dyvers motiones wnto yow anent my estate, as our Scottisch by-word is, necessitie hath no law, for thair wes nane in Scotland wsed [as] I wes; for I wes not ten dayis in Santandrous quhen I wes charged ather to subseryue and communicat, or ellis to go wnto ye castell of Edinbruch, so persaving suche rigour I yeilded to go wnto the churche. And efter, as they saw me yeeld in one poynt, they wold haue me to communicat, so persaving that I spendit my money in gryit in Santandrous I thoct it fittest to cum to this toun whair I wald haue acces to my freindis. Bot being cum heir, and hauing haunted the preachings daylie as occasione offred, and haueing lyikwayis subseryved suche articles as wes desyred of me, I now insist to obtene libertie till go home, and ather I sall satisfie the ministrie at hame, or ellis I sall abyid the censure of the lie commissione. So now, in one word, all that I wold haue yow to do is to schaw the kings Maiestie of my dewtifull behaviour in all thingis the ministrie hath put to my charge, and wse your moyen, and sie if ye can obtene the kingis missiue to my Lord Santandrous, that I be not troubled nor brocht from my affaires so long as I haunt the churche at home; and that I be not wrged to resauue the comunione wntill this deadly fead be satled betuix Cathnes and me, at wich tyme I sall ather giue the ministrie satisfacione thairin, or ellis

sall abyid thair censure. I belieu this can not be gudly refused if ye be earnest with the king in this, seing I haue done beyond all those of my professione in Scotland. I stik longest wpon this poynt becaus it concernis me most. We diligens heirin, as ye loue the weill of our hous, for ye may schaw the king of the great workis I haue interprysed laity before I wer confyned, quhill I am assured, if I yet liue to stay at hame, sall be tyme both profeit the contrey and myself. Bot my stay heir since Lambes hath hindred me more then I will wreit wnto yow. So I will rest in this poynt, remitting this to your avin wisdome and cairfulness.

As to the assignatione wnto the liveing of Chrichtoun, when it sall pleas God ye eum in the contrey ordour salbe tane with thais turnes. It wer also now time ye wer satisfied of that money I am awand yow. Bot God willing, at your cuming in the contrey, all thais matteris salbe satled. Glaidlie wold I haue yow to eum in the contrey this nixt summer for monie respectis, and specially for satling of thir mairches betuix McKy and me. Yett when I consider what ye haue till do whair ye ar, as also what extraordinar expensis ye wilbe in your heircuming, I am leath to wrge yow for this yeir except necessitie compell ws. I haue continued all my actiones against Cathues whill the nixt cession, seing he hath gottin ane continuacione of all his actiones whill his returne from court. I am informed both be Robert Munro of Assint him self, as also be Jhone Froster, that himself and his wyiff haue renuned ther haill right of the landis of Grindes since my euming from Sutherland.

Whair ye desyr me to wreit wnto yow suche occurrentis as falleth furth be packet quhen as I wreit I knaw ye will not get thame, ye being in Salisberrie, bot when as ye ar at court ye will resaeue thame. As concerning suche thingis as ye wreit wnto me to send yow anent our genelogie, ye knaw I can do lytill in that matter, being still heir. I sent all your informationes to our brother Alexander, and mervellis he hath not send me ansuer bak again. Ye knaw it wilbe hard to try the particular dayis and yeiris of suche affaires, and if I wer at home I knaw thair is amangst the wreittis that wer in Kynnairdis custodie that wald do yow goode. Bot ye must haue paciencie whill my hamegoing, which salbe the first turne I sall do. I am now wpon sick haist that I can get nothing from Alexander Duff that may be sent wnto yow at this tyme. Bot all I can get salbe in redines again Robins back euming, whom I will lippen for daylie.

Now, brother, I am assured ye haue hard of our extraordinarie knychtis

that wer created efter Christmes, viz., the Laird of Ratter and Young Mey; and since they ar the first that wer maid in that contrey to our knowledge I wald not haue ws inferiours to thame in that; so my avin opinione is that ye vse your moyen to sie if ye can get Jhone McKy maid knycht before his hamecuming. I remitt the particulares anent him to his brother McKysis avin letter, not douting bot ye will haue ane cair of him and haist him hame, seing all his freindis in the north thinkis that he is dead. And whair ye wreit that ye may not be leasoured to cum north this yeir except we haue sum weightie matter ado. I salbe leath to wreit for yow, bot if any necessitie intervene ye must yeeld to cum. Alexander Lintoun hes wreittin to yow the dait of our guildscheris service. Bot all your freindis heir ar offendit that ye sould haif put your self out of possessioun of Glenluce until ye haid bene mair certane of your satisfaction. Alway ye ar wyis aneuch, bot the langer ye be continued it wilbe the wors for yow. So I pray yow tak tyme. And whair ye wreit desyring to knaw anent our salt, efter as our warkis beis put to sum satling this summer, in the nixt, God willing, we think to allure sum Englische men be your advyis to cum to the contrey.

Whair ye desyir to knaw of my younest dochteris name, it wes Marie. My Lady Mar wes hir godmother. Scho died tuentie daxis since. If any lynning haid bene gettable in this contrey my wyiff haid bene glaid to haue obeyed your letter. That is not gettable heir, for the lining is maid in the north, and how sone scho goeth north Robin sall not returne emptie. Now I haue maid ansuer to all the heads of your letter, except anent my tobaco I wreit for. Ye sall not fear that ever I mynd to vse the same. I assuir yow it is to giue away, for good tobaco is in more estimatione heir away then ane better gift. So, except ye send me of the fynest sort, and of the best that can be haid, I will haue nane, for I haue promised it to a freind. I doubt not bot ye haue hard of the Erll off Orknayis executione. It is ane pitie to sie his lady, wha gettis no thing of that rent, seing it is cum in the kingis handis. So I will request yow to moue the duck to speik in hir favouris, that scho may haue sum moyen for hir tyme. As to our Scottische occurrentis they ar few in number and lytill worth the wreitting.

I haue presentlie resaued ane letter from Mr. Jhone Gray, out of Sutherland, making mentione of the abuses of witchcraft in that contrey, quhillk they haue tryed laitlie in Dornach. Thairfoir I bescek yow, brother, sie if ye can get ane commissioun from his Maiestie to put ane number of witches to ane assise.

Ather this iniquitie must be tane ordour with, or ellis honest peopill can not live in that contrey. I remitt the particularis of thais contreyis to Mackyis letter. This is all I haue to writ wnto yow at this tyme, onlie remember vpon my hard estate for the present and vse your moyen to get ane warrand from the king to my Lord Santandrous, that I may haue libertie to stay at hame so long as I hant the church and satisfies the presbiterie at hame. For if I haid stayed at hame the church of Dornach haid bene weill repaired or now, and monie good turnes done that never wilbe done in my absens. The least missiue from the king wilbe ane sufficient warrand to my Lord Santandrous, for he is so envyed be thais of his avin professione that he dar not schaw favour as he wald. Schir James Stewart is till go wp to court in Apryll nixt. I pray yow, if ye can, fail not to be thoroughly acquent with him. He is my great freind in all my affaires. So he will moue my lord chalmerland to be our gude freind. Schir James is ane wyis man and of ane gude spreit. He will informe yow sufficientlie of the Erl of Cathnes proceedingis in Orknay.

I did writ wnto yow in summer last how the hous of Cadell, Maynis, Parke, with tuentie chalderis victuall thairabout is to be sauld. Treulie, brother, it is ane commodious pairt for yow to duell into. It hath both libertie of the hillis and sea. Sick ocasiones will not be found at all tymes. So albeit ye wer in debt it is for ane honest caus. Advyis heiron and think vpon itt, for thair is mony in sute of it, viz., our cheiff, the tutor of Kyntaill, with dyvers vtheris. I knaw not whair the lyk occasione wilbe found again. This is all I haue to writ for the present, onlie haue cair to get me libertie till go hame. Adverteis me what ye wald haue done, and haist the berair bak with your mynd in all thingis. Luik that ye send me ane fyne spying glas with my tobaco if ye wald haue onything sent bak. Foryett not my loueing commendationes to your goodfather and to your bedfellow, for whais health I long to hear, whom with your self I committ to Godis protectione, and sall euer rest your loueing brother euer to his pouar,

Sutherland

I haue [given] the berair tuentie poundis Scottis.

131. JOHN, TWELFTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother,—wishing a warrant from the King to stay at home. 22 May 1615.

LOVEING BROTHER,—I resaved your letteris from your man, Robin, the second day of this instant, daitted from Salisbery the nynt of Apryll, and am glaid to hear of your avin weifair, your goodfatheris and your bedfellowes, which I longed for sence I hard not from yow from the tyme ye departed from his Maiestie to visitt your lady. I sie that when ye directed this berair from yow ye haid no certantie of my homecuming; and now (brother) since I haue obtene libertie to cum and visitt the contrey, haueing sett catione wnder paine off fyue thousand merkis ather to subscriue and suear or ellis to entir in waired again at Mertimes nixt. I wald not haue gottin releif without I haid sett this catione. Alway the occasione that moved me so till do wes that I hoiped that ye sould obtene of his Maiestie ane warrand to the archibishop that I sall stay at home before Mertimes; for quhen I get the said warrand, I think to enter and to tak instrumentis that my cationaris ar relived; thairefter I will deall with the bischopes wpon my warrand, if [I] gett it. If it haid pleased God the [that] the bischop of Santandrows haid lived, I wald not haue put yow to this panis; bot now ye mon ather deall with the king for my stay at home, and that so long as I haunt the church and dwelleth in Dornach, or ellis I wilbe bot ane wraked man; for my last being in the south hath done me great harme. I wes forced to sell my haill fermes at my being in Edinburch, to the number of four scoir chalderis, bot I haue not resaued tuentie chalderis of the haill. Such ane yeir wes never sein with ws. Mony will parish in thir contreys through fami[n]e and neur more ley land for falt of seid. The berair can sufficientlie instruct yow heir of. This is the onlie sute I haue to crawe for the present; to sie if ye can get me liue to stay at home, whiche I mon lippen to your avin moyen and diligens; and if this be not obtene, the nixt cours ye mon deal with his Maiestie, and lat me haue ane liens to pas aff the contrey. For except this my doing satisfie his Hienes will, I sall be glaid content to quit my pairt of Seotland, induring his Maiesties will. Ane of thir headis ye mon purches wnto me, or ellis I wilbe forced to entir in ward. If so be, my estate is wndone for ever. I will not regrait farder thair of at this tyme. Alway ye must ather purches ane warrand that I stay

at home, or ellis libertie to leaue the contrey, which never wes refused to any man ; bot if I enter in waired again, ye will never sie me relived again, for they think to excommunicat me, thinking thairby to get my lyifrent. This is the onlie schott thai haue at me, and not for my religion. I neid not to lippen for favour as the world goeth ; thairfore haue ye ane cair to saiff me from entrie to ward, and suche ansuer as ye obtene from his Maiestie I lippen for adverteisment from yow about the end off September.

As to my affaires in law, if I go south in winter, which I must do, I wald haue yow to obtene ane letter of his Maiestie to the chancellor, ane vther to the secretar and the third to the advocatt, anent my infetment ; bot I pray yow deall with my lord chalmerland for ane particular letter to the secretar in my favouris, and luik that your self wreit ane earnest letter wnto him also. I am leath to insist in that actione so long as the erll is duelling in Edinburgh, for I knaw he bath great moyen in the cessione. And whair ye wreit that ye ar informed the counsell wes to bardene me with ane new submissione, I neuer hard such ane matter propened. We salbe war thairof.

As concerning Akinheadis turne, I knaw not what to wreit of it, that is deir aneuch wnto me, and I did mak sindrie advysmentes with my advocattis anent that actione. Bot I am resolved it will not availl me, yett I will insist thairin. So the difficultie that is found in this actione is, the gift of bastardie, quhilk is the ground of our gift of nonentrie, it [is] not worth, seing that bastardie wes disponed in the quenes minoritie, and wes revoked be act of parliament in hir maioritie. So ye must be cairfull to find remeid heirof, viz., ye must obtene of the kingis Maiestie ane gift of the said bastardie, or ellis ane ratificatioun of his Hines motheris deid ; but this our nonentrie will availl nothing, so ye must haue ane cair heirof.

Whair ye wreit that ye may not be leasored to cum this yeir in Scotland, I belue that weill, seing ye can not await upon the king this progres and cum to Scotland in one simmer. I knaw (brother) thair ar sindrie that wilbe desyrous, wissing yow to cum in the contrey rather for their avin particular and vther menis also, then for your [and] my weill. Bot few consideris what extraordinar expensis ye bestow on such vayages. If I saw any necessitie of your cuming, I think I haid more for me then any vther to wis yow to cum, bot I will not counsell yow cum this yeir, first, becaus ye must attend his Maiestie for our motheris releif and myne ; nixt, becaus the merches betuix Macky and me is continwed whill simmer nixt,

inrespect of this evill and stormie simmer that men may not stay in the hillis for storme, and lastly, inrespect I know your bedfellow will be leath to want your presens in hir motheris absens, and your goodfather seikly as he is. But yow must resolute to cum the nixt simmer to sattle all thingis, and cum in tyme that ye may haue the haill simmer before yowr hand to do your turnes and ours also.

I persauve ye wer adverteised be sum weil disposed persone that I wes to pas ane contract queatlie with my Lord Elphinstoun. Thais who haue so wreittin hath not schawin yow of the trouble and dett I haue contracted boith for thame and the contrey; bot I believe they haue not wreittin wnto yow my estate might be recovered. I wald wis to God I haid never bene more begyled be my avin contrey people then I think to be with him. Aneuch for this purpos.

Whair ye writt anent Innirboll, that ye will continew the same in your avin hand whill your avin cuming in the contrey, I mervell quhat sould moue yow to be so suddenly altered, that writt wnto me to caus tak ane crop out of it, and to do with it quhat I pleased; whairwpon I coft baith hors and oxen of my avin to plenisch the same, and now ye writt again to behald it whill ye cum. Alway I am content it ly ley, as it hath done this yeir bygane, and lysis presentlie ley. Bot if ye think it will do yow suche profeit, I lippin ye will not hinder me, seing I sould yeirlie haue out of that toun better then thrie hundreth markis, and hes not resaved ane pennie as yit. Bot I fear quhen ye cum to ane compt with your greiff, ye salbe beyond ane hundreth crownes be yeir out of purs. So adverteise me of your resolutione heirin with the first commoditie. As to your memorandum ye haue sent of suche thinges as concernes the contrey, it is not possible for me to get the same tryit at ane instant; so I think that will not be weil done whill your avin cuming in the contrey, bot I sall try all that I can agane the nixt occasione. This is all I haue to writt for the present; only intreating yow to be cairfull for your motheris releif and myne.

Giff the bisshop of Santandrous haid lived I wald haue maid moyen for my releif, bot now we ar only lipned wnto yow. Macky and I duelleth this winter in Dornach, if I get liue to stay at home. The haill gentilmen of the contrey will duell thair also, so be tyme we think to mak the toun better. I mervell also how ye wer so slouthfull that ye tuik not ordour with ane merchant in Edinburgh called Alexander Telfournd, wha heth your band wpon sex scoir poundis Scottis, quhilk I am presentlie forced to tak wp and pay annuall thairfore for releif of your band. I writt wnto yow before to send me ane spying glas, quhilk I lippin

ye will send with this berair again that be good. So my loueing commendationes being remembered to my lord, your goodfather, and to your bedfellow, whom with your self I committ to Godis eternall protectione, and ever sall remain, your loueing brother at all pouar,

J. E. SUTHERLAND.

Dunrobin, the xxii of Maii 1615.

I will intreat yow (brother) to send me ane pair of the fynest dowle virginallis ye can get for money, seing ye knaw I can not want the lyik out of my hous in Dornach. I lippin ye will not fail to do this, as ye wald haue me cairfull to do your turnes heirefter, seing my bearnis ar learning to play and sing. Luik that ye caus sum skilfull weall thame, and to send thame in sum suir crear that cumis to Scotland, and caus delyver thame to Alexander Watsone or Lambes. Alexander Watsone will haue ane crear with salt of myne in Londoun, so ye may appoynt.

To my loueing brother, Sir Robert Gordone, of Kinmonowy, knycht.

132. GEORGE GRAY of Soirdaul to SIR ROBERT GORDON, tutor of Sutherland,—requesting the latter to defend his letter of tack, etc. 21st September 1616.

RYCHT WOIRSCHIFFULL,—My hummill dwetie of service being remembrit, I wreit to yowr woirschipe in my last lettir at lenthe anentis the prowde, presunteows and miskurtis forme of deling the larde Duffus hes wsit aganis yowr worscipe. I haue haldin back the first brwnt, for I haue suspendit Mr. Alexander Dwf his chargeis till yowr worschipe haid bein informit of their intendit purposis. I suppose the hail gentillmen of the perrochin of Creyche sall gif ane competent stipeud to their minister, being qualefeit and hawing the Irryss langed. Now yowir woirschipe hes to prowid for the defens of yowir awin taik, quhilk is giffin be me, I being chantour to yowir nobill faterir of guid memorie. The taik wes presentit to Lintowne, yowr ajent, and wes suspendit one the groundis of beithe our taikis. Itt salbe weill down that yowir worschipe haue ane cair of this mater, seing for my awin part I will do as the rest of the gentillmen of the perrochin will do for satling with ane resident minister, quhilk of conscience we ar mowit to do. And as for the teindis of Pronsie, I sall delywer to my lady, or to the schirref, ane sufficient lettir of taik, weill swbscrywit and seallit be guid

bischoip Robert, and the hail channownis. Lat yowir woirscip caws defend the sam, and extend yowr moyan to gett the suspention faworable disewssit, for Duffus hopis to maik the archebischoip and the rest of the bischoipis in yowr contrair; so that gif yowr worschipe ganestand them nocht in tyne, and that with exact diligence, itt will pas aganis yow. This far I thoct guild to informe yowr worschipe of and to lett yowr wirschip wnderstand that, albeit I keipit my lordis lettir of taik in plege of the lettir of taik promesit be yowr nobill fatheir, yit, seing the necessitie of the mater for defending yowr wndowtit rycht, I thoct metest to direct the said lettir of taik to yowr worschips agent. Gif the suspentioun be disewssit in yowr wirschipsis fawouris, I dowt nocht bot yowr worschip will deill with me faworable according to promeis, to the quhilk I will ewer rely as my plicht ankir. My ladie, the schiref, and M^cKy is maist willing, gif the moyan mycht be hail, to gett Mr. Johne Gray to the bischoiprie of Caithnes. We that ar yowr maisterschipsis puir freindis wald wiss yowr worschipe to extend yowr moyan to forder that mater for yowr awin weill. Gif itt will stand for geir, we sall extend our moyan to the wteimost for to gett that mater down.

I dowt nocht bot ye hawe harde of the misfortunat trwb[1]e renewit and fallin furthe againe betuix M^cKy and his wyf, quha wes delywerit of ane soun, the quhilk M^cKy refusiss to be his awin. Owir hail freindis heir hawalie regratis this wnbaiippie interpris that M^cKy hes tain one him in bringing with him to Stranawir the Erle of Crawford his sistir, in doing quahair of he hes lost many freindis, and in speciall the kirk of Skotland cryis out terrable one him. The chansler, quha wes his lowing and professit freind, is his professit onefreind, as we ar informit. My lorde of Kintail and all that will do for him will do quhat thei may aganis M^cKy. My lorde of Caithnes is nocht iydill, gif he culd gett men to assist him. He hes employit the Cadellis of Caithnes to slea Allistir Dewi Donald Robsoun, bot wes refusit be them. He will nocht gett ane boy to do service to him. We wondir that we heir nocht my lorde of Caithness put att, for his lordschip attendis the worst, and hes his bark in redines to slip to the sie quhen ewir ony occatioun is to be offerit. Now, I wilbe this hemlie to say gif their be ony actioun in yow, itt will kythe now or newir. We wndirstand yowr worschipe hes gottin the ball at yowr fwit, and gif ye hail nocht the doill, I wiss ye fell in the myir.

The larde of Fowlis is to be mareit one Willame Murray, the thesawrer, his brwthier dochtir, and suld gett, as Fowlis schew me, fowrtein thowsand markis

with his interteinment till he be owt of dett. Gif so be I supone he salbe a long bwirder. M^oKy and the larde of Fowlis ar fallin in exceding gryit. God gyid them boithe in the feir of God to their ewerlesting weillis. Owir heill freindis and cuntry men ar in gwid helthe, prasit be God. Their wes newir in Sutherland a bettir croipe one the grownd, gif we geit guid weddir to win the sam. Owr nibowr cuntry of Cathnes wes newir wer. Owr hummill comendationis of service being remembrit to yowr woirschipe and to yowr sweit lady till I be acquent with hir, I maist hartlie taik my leif, and restis yowr woirschipsis maist hwmill and obedient serwant,

G. GRAY of Soirdaul.

Skibo, the xxj of September, [1616].

To the rycht woirschipfull the tutour of Sutherland.

133. JANE, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, her son,—of the desirability of appointing Mr. John Gray to be Bishop of Caithness. 24th September 1616.

SONNE,—Sen George Grayis hame cuning I haue resauit na aduerteisment frome yov. I think the occatioun is ve resauie not sic lettiris as ye derec, nathir cumis ouris to your hand, becaus sic as var acustomit to resauie and taik ourdour vitht our turnis in the south ar becum our onfreindis. For your gudstistir hes insencit hir fathir sva aganist your brothir and me that he declaris him self our onfreind. The particuleris heirof I remit to your brothiris declaratioun. I pat your brothir sonne to Mr. Jhone Gray to lerne sum mair vertes nor he culd sie athir vitht hir or me. I vas aduertesit that scho myndit to haue sent him to hir fathir, and thair effir to haue purchast your gud vill. Gif ye be burthenit thairvitht aduyis quha sall furneis him, for my moyen is not meit for sic vayagis, and I belue thay sall be sueir to vair on him thameselvis. Ve heir that our bischep is to be maid bischep of Abirdin. Gif sva be, ye haue caus to taik attendance that ane onfreind cum not in this cuntray, for gif thai do it salbe na small hurt to your brothiris hous. Freindis hes travaill vitht Mr. Jhone Gray quha is varay sueir to acep sic offece, albeit it var in his offir, for he thinkis that vitht suir contience he can not taik that offece, seing that leving is not abill to plant the kirkis. Thairfor gif his Maiestie vald taik sic ordour vitht Chatnes that the bischepis landis thair mycht be restorit to the kirk, I think freindis suld moue Mr. Jhone

to acep of it, othirvayis gif his Hines vald alov the thovsant pundis pentioun this bischep of Chatnes hes to the nyxt, and that to be liftid out of the erlklome of Ross (the silvir to be convertit in vittuell), Mr. Jhone vald be presit to deill thairfor. Vithtout ane of this tva na honest man vill taik it, and ane cum thair that sekis it rather for gain nor gud contience. Remembir that I aduerteis yov that your houss vill repent it for sic resouns as I vill not vreit. It salbe veill done that ye aduerteis George Gray quhat may be lukit for heirin for dyuers respectis. I am not veill in helth presentlie, quhilk makis me that I can not vreit many thingis to yov that I vald. Ane thing I vreit vitht greif of hart, your sistir sonne M^eY, his hame bringing ane sistir of the erll of Crawfordis to his greit disgrace, lois of the chausler and his alya, and (that quhilk is varst). hurt of contience. Gif he mycht haue provin any caus of partesing aganist his vyif (as I am in dont of it), this bestlie cours hes takin that away, and I heir hir freindis thinkis to intend partesing aganist him, and sva to caus hir bruk hir lyurent. He hes not cum to this cuntray sen his cuming frome Ingland, nathir resauit your brothir nor I any aduerteisment frome him exsep at his first landing that he vas cum hame. I pray God send him ane bettir advyisment nor I heir be is of. I can vreit na farthir for the present, bot laking ye will advertteis as occatioun offiris, I rest

*Your loving mother
Jane of this Land*

Dunrobin, the tuantie fourt of September, 1616.

To my loving sonne, Sir Robert Gordoun of Kinmonvy, tutour of Suthirland.

134. JANE, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, her son,—that it was impossible to send more linen cloth. 22d November 1616.

SONNE,—The xv of this instant November, I resauit ane lettir of youris, daitit at Salisberie the xvij of June, quhairin ye desyir mair of the small lining cleith. Trevlie gif I had gottin aduerteisment in tyme, I vald not haue slipit sic ane turne, bot this tyme of yeir it is not in my pouer to get it. Ye vreit that your lettir is derec vytht Adam Sitharris sonne. I marvell quhov he hes ovirsein him-

self sa far that nathir brocht it vytht himself, not (nor) aduertesit that he had left it in Edinburgh. McYis boy that brocht the lettir hame schew that he gat it fra Alexander Vatsouns vyif. Aftir Barrisday your brothir schew me ane lettir of youris schavand that dalie ye expectit sic ane thing. I culd gif na ausur thairto, becaus I had nathir sein vreit fra yov nor your vyif. Heirfor blame me not, for I vald bein vara leith to haue dissapontit hir fathir dochtir (albeit the mater had bein greter), altho scho var not your vyif. I haue sein na lettir of your hand sen Lambes. I pray as occatioun of berris offiris lat me knav of your helth. Be not sa sueir, for ye knav not quhov lang ye vill haue me to vreit to, and perhapis may viss to haue me quhen ye vill not get me. The cuntray effaris I leue to your brothiris lettir. I leue to trobill yov forthir, and restis, your loving mothir,

JANE C. SUTHIRLAND.

Dunrobin, the xxii of November 1616.

Your brothir dochtir Annes hes her servece recommendit to yov.

To my loving sonne, tutour of Suthirland.

135. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON of Navidale to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother, —regarding the teinds of Pronsie, and the Laird of Duffus. 22d November 1616.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL AND LOWEING BROTHER,—I wryt to yow dywers tymeis at gryt lenthe anent the cuntrey perticuleris, bot hes resaweit na ansuer as yit; only ye wryt in your last letter to me, deattit in September last, that ye receaweit thea lettres, and wald make ansuer thairto with the Erl off Enzie, quhais cuming we heir not off as yit, quhilk makis me daylie to exspect your ansuer. I resaweit this last letter off yowris from my Lord Elphinstowne, withe ane letter of his awin thryss worss than the former, quhairoff I sent yow ane coppie. Allways I will newer make ansuer to sik daft lettres till his lordschip and I meitt; at quhilk tyme, quhen he heiris and onderstandis the weritie, I think his lordschipis selff will say he hes not done weill. He wrytis to me that ye have wryttin to him, that it is altogidder by your directioun that I have done any thing to my lady anent hir teindis and wicaradgeis. Giwe sa be, ye have done your selff and me bathe wrang, seing I will qualifie bathe be wryt and witnes sik directions as ye gawe me. My lady and I ar onder guid termis at this tyme, and hir ladyschip schaweis ane letter of youris direct out off Edinburgh, quhair

ye wryt that hir father and ye ar agreit in termeis, and schoo suld have hir awin teindis this yeir, and ye to get the fishing off Brora this yeir, quhilk we gat sa far as was to, and the kaner dettour for the rest, and that na alteratioun suld be maid on hir ladyshipis this yeir. In this ye have owersein your sellf far, and maid hir ladyship to have the radge schoo haid againis me. For giwe thair war no alteratioun, to quhat effect war inhibitions serwit; for sa far as schoo haid your former letter for hir warrand ye wald newer get spuilzie, quhilk hes moweit hir father and hir to be in sik radge against me. Allwayis I think ye suld do weill to wryt to my Lord Elphinstowne heiranent to suspend his lordschipis judgement heirin till we all meitt, at quhilk tyme all materis salbe tryit and sattlit to his lordschipis contentment, for I am leithe we suld be hard at this tyme, seing we have grytter turnis ado. Wtherwayis I wald not suffer his lettres onansuerit; bot seing we ar liklie to be trublit be Duffus, we will do weill to rin ane cowrss for the Erl of Sutherlandis weill.

The actioun anent the discussing of the richtis of the chantorie is in doing now, and I have wryttin to Allexander Lintoun to be cairfull to sie giwe he mey get it continowit (giwe thair be ony danger thairin) to your awin hame cuming; and ye sall do weill to wryt to my Lord Elphinstowne to be cairfull that the Laird Duffus get na advantage against the Erl off Sutherland, for it is schame he suld be outshot be his awin wassall. I serwit inhibitiouns and arrestment against thea teindis off Pronsseis, bot befoir they war schorne the Laird Duffus purchassit lettres to lowsss the arrestment, sa that in tua dayis they leid all thair beir to thair cornyardis, quhilk I thoct werie hard, and ane gryt lichtlie, nocht onlie to the Erl off Sutherland (quha is bot ane barne) bot lykways to ws, quha hes ane cair off his adois for the tyme; for the leiding off thair cornis was war than the talking off the richt of the teindis. For pretending ane richt and putting thame sellfis in possessioun by leiding thair corns, they left nothing to the Erl off Sutherland bot ane actioun, quhilk I thoct hard. Sa I couweinitt the gentillmen off the cuntrey befoir M^cKy (quha was heir for the tyme), and schew thame the esteit off the mater, and that I haid resolwit to cast thae teindis; for I thoct it was fitter that the Erl off Sutherlandis wassall suld suit his supperiour than his superiour to suitt him, quhilk M^cKy and sindrie wtheris thoct fit, yit thair was sum that grudgeit at it, as kythit in end. Allwayis I directit William Innes and Robert Aikin and Robert Bailzie withe my ladyis tennentis off the parischin off Culmalie to

the turn; and befor my cuming out of Dornoch I spake Gollspitour to forder that caus with maen and horsss, quhilk he promist me to do. Bot efter my cuming out off the towne, quhen William Innes socht helpe, he absolutely refusit, alledgeing he was onder lawborrowis to the Laird Duffus. Sa that efter they enterit to cast the teinds they culd get nather horss to leid nor handis to helpe, quhilk moweit me to burding our hail name with horss and men; bot I was haillily refusit be thame all in ane woce, except the guidman off Bakeis, quha send his sone Allexander with sewintein or auchtein horss. As to the rest, they seimit naire to grudge at the turn doing than wtherways. In end I was forcit to imploy my lady, my guidsister, for support of horss, quha willingly send all hir ladyschipsis tennentis horss for tua dayis thair, sa that the hail burding lichtit wpoun the puir tennentis off the paroschin off Culmalie and Costsyid. I pray God the Erll off Suthirlendis guid turn be never lippinit to manie in this cuntrey, for I think giwe they sawe his bake at the wall in ane gryt mater they wald stres thame sellffis littill to releiff him quhen they maid scruppill in sik ane trifill.

Bot to return to the purpois; the teindis war all castin and led to Achindean quhilk Duffus thinkis the gryttest oppressioun that ewer was done to anie. He is riddin sowthe to complein to the Cunsall and to rais lettres to charge me and the hail puir men that war at the leiding to compeir befor the Cunsall; for he will newer get spuizie off it, seing his freindis and tennentis hes intromettit withe thair awin cornis again, quhilk cuttis away the spuizie, quhairwpoun instrument is tain. Sa I think giwe this turne be weill meinit to the Cunsall, it will be thoct littill wrang. Bot my opiniou to yow is to wryt earnestlie to the chansler aent this turn, meining bathe quhow the Erll off Suthirlendis richt was taikin ower his head, and quhow they preassit to disposes him in his minoritie, and that ye direct this letter to Allexander Lintoun to be giwein my Lord Elphinstoun, giwe neid beis thairoff, and that ye wryt earnestly to my Lord Elphinstoun to be cairfull that Duffus get na advantadge in that turn, seing it is the Erll of Suthirlendis turn, and he can suit na man for the samen except the chalmerlane and puir tennents quhais deidis ye man defend. Allways in your letter to the chansler ye sall wryt in my favouris and take the burding wpoun yow, quhilk will putt off the mater to your cuming, at quhilk tyme I think maters will take wpe or at leist be warss for Duffus. I can wryt no moir to yow off this purpois bot refer it to your awin judgement.

We heir off his Maiesteis cuning to Scotland in Merche, quhilk I pray God it mey prove trew, at quhilk tyme I think ye sall cum to Scotland. I assuir yow your adois heir requiris your cuning in tyme. Allwayis I lippin ye will adverteis me withe the first occasioun, perticularerly off all thingis, and in speciall off your dyet, for I hoipe to meit yow in Ediuburgh; and giwe ye cum with his Maiesteie your ludgeing vald be tain in tyme, for all the best ludgeingis in the toun ar taikin already. As to cuntrey newis heir we hawe nane, bot thair is ane wniwersall fiwer in thir partis quhairon gryt deathe followis. We hawe loissit tua guid fellowis in that siknes, Alexander McWilliam McAin McKenuiche and Iwer McConchie, quhairoff I am sorie, yit the will of God man be done.

I am persuadit dywers will suitt delay at yow, bot I request yow promeis it to nane till ye and I meit; for I will get yow als thankfull peyment and service for it as any man. I feir we will get na mair than fywe libis. for the boll off our wictuall this yeir, for it is werie guid schaipe. We can get na monie for the streathe off Dunrobin and Innerbo, sa we will be forcit to lat the possessouris keipe thame this yeir. Thair is na monie gettabill in this cuntrey. I nather hawe gottin your silver from Balnagowin or Jhone Murray, sa adverteis me quhat to do. McKy hes gottin nane except thrie hundrethe libis., quhilk I cawsit William Innes giwe him.

I dowt not bot ye have hard or now quhow McKy tuik away withe him ane sister off the Erll of Crawffordis. I am sorie he suld have lost sa guid ane fame as he haid for sa wyld ane caus. Advertteis me quhow he is thocht off thair for it, or giwe his Maiesteie hes hard off it. He thinkis to put hir away schortly. Scho is gryt with chyl and remainis as yit in the Iyll off Lochtyoll. He repairs nawayis to his married wyffe, nor thinkis not to do. My Lord off Kintail and his freindis thinkis hard off the miswsage of his sister. McKy thinkis to get deworsment, and they think to pay him withe recompensatioun. They ar onder trysting efter Andersmes.

I tuik occasioun to burding my freindis and gentillmen off the cuntrey with sum helpe be reassone off the dett I hawe contractit by biging off the howss I bigit; bot I hawe gottin ane *volumus*. Bot I am glaid of the excuis they pretend, alledgeing that ye ar to sik ane support off thame at your hame cuning. Thairfoir I pray yow lat thame nocht be desaweit in thair opinions, and sie that ye and I bathe be not disapointit; for in consciens it is weill gottin, and can be tain off manie of thame, and ye mey weill get it for your awe; ye will

get littill for your lowe. Bot I pray God ye or I ather be littill in thair rewerens. I wische George Gray haid ane guid turn ado quhairiu I mey pleasour him; for in my consciens I can newer find ane fail in him in any thing he is imployit appertaining any offris or our houss.

Thair is ane John Crawford in Inuerness takeing ordour with the adultereris, and hes summond dywers off this cuntrey men thair to the xxvij off this monethe; quhair thair is gryt missing off yow, for I think giwe ye war heir ye wald nocht be out of guid companie. I lippin daylie for ane ansuer off my lettres from yow, and in speciall quhat ye will have tain from the pair tennentis for thair bow, for giwe ye suit xij merkis for your bow the land will go ley; sa, as I wryt befor, my opinion is to take ather ten merkis or fywe firlatis as mey be gottin, quhilk I will caus take to compt and rekining. I have na forder to new occasioun, bot my humbill dewtie remembred to my lord, your guidfather, and his lady, with my service to your awin lady, I rest and sall still remain, youris loweing brother to be commandit to death,

A. GORDOUNE.

Dunrobin, the xxij of November 1616.

I spake my lady, our mother, anent the lining ye wryt for, and hir ladyschip hes wryttin hir awin ansuer, quhilk ye sall resawe heirwithe. Fail not to get ane gift off nonentrie off my lordis landis sens our brotheris diseas till efter this Mertimes, wtherways it will cost yow deir, as I wryt to yow in my former lettres.

136. SIR DONALD MACKAY to JANE, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, his grandmother,—wishing to have disputes settled. 5th May 1617.

MY WERIE HONORABIL GOOD LADY AND LOWINGE MOTHER,—My service remem-beritt. Plais your ladyschip thatt itt is no littill greiff to me to heir the reportis thatt youris ladyschipsis sune, Sir Robertt, hes lettin abrod in ewery plais at his last beinge in Morray, off my onnaturall deilinge to the Erl off Sutherland. The world sall knaw the contrair; in testimony quhairoff I am most willinge thatt all alegitt perticouleris be settlitt be the frindis and owersman alrely schoisin be Sir Robert and me, and to that affect I have derecitt the bearer with this letter to your ladyschip to requyst your ladyschip to spek Sir Robertt and to send me ane ansour gewe he will byd be the compermitt alrely superyffit, or gew he will lett the

same desartt. So I pray your ladyship nott to be cairles off this perticouler to sie itt settill in tyme; or wtherwayes I tak thir presandis to witnes thatt I am wetles off any thinge thatt may lapin heirefter in theis matteris. As lykwayes I tak God to be my witnes gewe I be forsitt to tak ane cours by the hous off Sutherland thatt may hinder the same in this erll his minoritye thatt the same is sar wrged off me, and thatt the blame theroff sall nocht be laied on me bott on the wrgeris off me therto. I pray your ladyship to remember quhatt trawell, trowbillis, and crossis your ladyship hed to bringe my hous to the obligatioun off dowie and bloud, thatt the Erll of Sutherland, your ladyshipis grandchylde, hes me at this day. Lykwayis your ladyship could be als carfoull to sie the same continow, as your ladyship was than to bind ws in frindschep. We have all the honour as to be desenditt off your ladyship, therfor nan could be so cairfoull to sie the same settill as your ladyship; bott the wrange way it is to settill be bostinge me; for the world knawis thatt I am ane imp off thatt same stok thatt him self is off; and itt may be thatt my will is moir than my witt. So, madame, itt is best thatt itt settill in tyme, befor we boithe repent too leaitt, and our fois to laiche and frindis to lament our folly. This far I thoctt good to mak your ladyship forsine boithe to discharge my consience to God and my dowtie to the Erll off Sutherland and your ladyship, to quhom I pray God to prosper longe and good lyff in this world and salwaytioun in the lyff to come. Gewe I hed interceptt letteris of my wnkillis it hed bein thoctt evill maneris, therfor itt is best not to mak ane ws off it. Your ladyship knawis thatt I wald be lathe to sitt with sik ane wrange off ane wther. I requyst your ladyship gewe thair be ony partt off this letter thatt will not content your ladyship thatt your ladyship will censour the same with ane motherly affectioun, and consider thatt my mininge is sikinge pace and concord with all your ladyshipis barnis be ane frindly dres; so hoipinge thatt your ladyship will adwertis me gewe the tryst will hald, or quhair itt sall hald, or quhat day, I rest and sall ewer remane, youris ladyshipis loweing soun to serff yow,

S. DONALD MACKIE.

Chanantry off Ross, the fyft off Maye 1617 yeris.

To my wery honorabill good lady and loweing mother, my Lady Countes of Sutherland, this.

137. JANE, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, her son,
—regarding his gift of Golspietower, etc. 16th May 1617.

Sonne, havand the comodatie be this berer I haue vretin this lettir, albeit this lang tyme past I haue hard na vord fra yov. I mynd not to trobill yov vith the cuntra affaris, for I sucep ye sall find facherie at lenth quhen God sends yov veill hame. Sumthing of your avin particuler I think gud to lat yov knav. Young Golspetour hes recallit the gift vas maid to yov of Golspetour, and maid intimation thairof at the kirk of Dornoch the xx day of Apryll. Gif ye think ye ar damnefeit thairbe, it is thocht that ye may mend yourself gif ye taik tyme. Ye ar informit that at the last parlement thair vas ane act maid that quha revischid ane damisell without hir parentis consent (albeit scho vald say it var vith hir avin vill), it suld be trasone. I knav not gif this act vill stik on the complexis of the prencipall actour: bot it is of trouth that the third of Fabruer last young Golspetour, acompasait vith Villyam Our in Inverbo, Adam Pypirsonne in Crakok, Alester, George Govis sonne in Golspemoir, Gilbert, Alester Pyperis sonne, Alester Gordoun, Donald McKynich McOnill McThomas, greif to the said Jhone, the vthir tva his servandis, vith dyvers othiris, inspetiell Jhone Bovy, sonne to Alester Pyper, thay come to Culmaliemoir about x houris at evin to Alester Chesonis hous and forsabillie tuik away his doctir, Janet, had hir to Golspetour, quhair scho vas keptit tva nichtis and revischit be Jhone Bovy, Alester Pyperis sonne. Your brothir vas in the south. I vas not knavin nor obeyit ontill my Lord of Chatnes come to Skelbo, at quhat tyme I thretned gif thai vald not put the damisell to libertie I suld taik him be the haud to reveing it. Then vas scho brocht to me, quhen scho declarit that quhat vas done vas aganist her vill; and to gif pruif thairof scho remanis sensyne vith hir fathir and mothir, and vill nevir heif to marie that man albeit thair hes bein fair offris maid to hir.

Gif ye think this actionne may mend yov, deill in tyme vith the treasurer, and be suir, for it is ferit, and he menis to deill for it. Ye may knav varay veill quhais opinnioun ye seik heirin. Your gudsistir is altogethir gydid be his fathir, and that at hir fathiris desyir. Scho hes set the half of Badinloch to young Golspetour, and four penne land in Lochbeg to his brothir Huchune. The act of parlement I vreit of thay say vas maid for the dochtir of Villyem Tr[u]mbill in Edinburgh, that vas takin away be ane Moscrop, aud eftirvart mareit to the last president, Maistir Jhon Prestoune, his sonne. As to othir cuntra affaris, it is

not neidfull to trobill yov vith thame at this tyme. Nathir vald I haue vith this gif I had not thecht it for your veill. Taik quhat cours ye pleis heirin; bot I sic na cours takin heir be thir men bot that quhilk is lytill for the Erll of Suthirlandis profeit or youris. My guddochtir is dissapontit of cleis scho promesit to hir soune, thairfor my barne vautis, and I haue na radie silvir; thairfor I vill desyir yov to caus bring hame ane stand of haliedayis cleis to him vith the furnising, cloik, dovbillet, coit, brekis. and schankis. Al my avin partecularis I remit to meting. Ane thing I may not omit quhilk is ve heir his Maiestie is to reduce all fev landis to the kirk. Quhen my lord, your fathir, sauld the fev landis of Chatnes it vas in maner of excambioun, and the landis of Stralze gifin in varandice. Thairfor ye man taik cair quhov the barne may be sauid fra the varrandice. It vilbe ane comond cavs, thairfor vill get many to aduyse vith. At your brothiris suthcuming I sall writ mair parteculerlie heirin; to quhilk tyme or farthir oecatitioun I rest.—Your loving mothir,

JANE C. SUTHIRLAND.

Dunrobin, the xvj of May 1617.

To the richt worschipfull and lowing maister, Schir Robert Gordoun of Kynmonwe, knycht, tutour of Suthirland.

138. GEORGE, FIRST MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, to Sir ROBERT GORDON of Kinmonowie, knight, afterwarls of Gordounstoun,—regarding a witch, etc.¹

Huntlye, the xvij of August 1617.

RIGHT SPECIALL COUSINGE,—Efter my werraye heartlie comendatione, according to the desyir of your letter, I hawe sent to the guidman of Buckie, my cousinge, and hes willit him to doe justice on the witche, quhilk ye wryt to me hes bevitchit Golspitoures sone; thairfore ye maye adverteise Buckie quhensoever he comes to Inuernes for that effect. As for the quhyt hound ye wryt for, he can nocht be sent to yowe at this tyme, becaus the morn aucht dayis I haw apoyntit ane wolffe huntis in Marr, and am to hunt my selfe thair ten or tualf dayis thairefter, and we ar skarser of houndis heir nor ye ar thair. So my luifing comendations rememberit to my ladye, my ant, your mother, I will commit yowe most heartlie to God.—Your most louing cousing,

HUNTLYE.

To my ryght speciall cousinge, Sir Robert Gordon of Kinmonowie, knight.

¹ Original letter in Laing mss., in Edinburgh University. Historical Letters, No. 497.

139. ARTHUR, LORD FORBES, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, of Gordonstown, tutor of Sutherland,—as to the proceedings of the Earl of Caithness with his creditors. 2d September 1617.

RIGHT HONORABLE SCHIR AND TREST FREIND,—Pleis hauing occationne off the berar, ane boy off McKys, your sister sons, I thoet guid to vryt thir feu lyins only to knau off your guid estait, and your ladeys, and of all freindis quhair ye ar quhilk I long to heir off. Ye sall vit my Lord of Cathnes hes gottin ane suppedere from his merchautis and creditouris till Mertimes nixt, and ane off tua is his intentionne, as I heir. He is first to employ the gentillmen and laudit men in Cathnes to be surty for him to his creditouris, quhilk thai do it vill mak him to duell in Cathnes, bot it vill be on thair perrell. The second cours I heir he is to tak (giue the first feilis him) is to transport his plenising out off Cathnes, and to tak payment off byrune restis from his teumentis, and to remaine seuinteiu yeiris out off Cathnes, him selff, his vyff and eldest sone, and to giue the marchantis the handling off his rent for that space. Mony beleuis he sall nocht keip to his merchautis, and thai beleue he dar nocht brak, because he hes promesit sua to the kings majesty; and I am off opinione he sall tak the thrid cours to leue the countrey and dissapoynt his merchautis, quhill he sei sum alterationne or change, and than he vill get ane act off obliuione. I heir he is nocht veill myndit to Makky, your sister sone, thairfor vryt to him to be circumspect off him selff. I lyk nocht the out latting off thir threi lymmeris that brunt my cornis, and ather it is done off polesei be my Lord off Cathnes to caus vtheris slay them vnder pretence off ane vther quarrall, or than he hes putt them out to doo sum euill turne. Quhairfor, hauing aduysit vith freindis, I haue send for letteris off captiounne agens them, for ane commissiounne vald be reweilit. Sua giue thai cum in the boundis off Sutherland ye may caus your brother, Schir Alexander, apprehend them, or ony messinger of arms. Ther is onley the differ betuix letteris off captiounne and ane commissiounne. Be the commissiounne, ye may slay all that is containit vithin it, bot be vertu off the captiounn, ye may onley tak them alyffe. Bot I think in this sua odius ane cryme, I think the captiounn sall serue for ane commissiounn, for thai ar resit veyr generally and npone ane criminall horning. The letteris I haue send them inclosit vithin Makky his letter, and he vill send them bak to you, quhilk I pray you keip veill, and be secret therin; for it var ane gryt credit to you, to Makky, and to my

self to get them presentit alyff befor the justice. Sua I vill request you agen vse diligence and secesci in this erand, for he is both diligent and ma[l]i[tius], that is agens vs. Giue the Eirll off Maris huntis hed nocht bein presently I suld haue send you ane leicsh off guid greuhoundis; bot ye sall expect them vith the nixt berar, or at my cuming north, quhilk I houp, God uilling, sall be schortly, giue this litill truble off my cusing, Blaktouns, var satlit. Sua my hartly commendatiounis off seruice remembrit to my ladey your mother, my ladey your guid sister, and to your auin lady, quhom all vith your self I commit to the loue and fauour off God, vith your brother Schir Alexander, and all honest men in Sutherland, and restis, your assurit guid freind to his vtermost,

ARTHUR L. FORBES.

Driminoir, this 2 off September 1617.

Be nocht sueir in vryting to me as ye find occatioune, and I sall vryt vith enerey berar. I heir my Lord Elphingstoune is nocht to cum north this vinter, but is duelling in the place of Arthe, and to be this vinter in Stirling.

To the richt honorable and his assurit guid freind, Schir Robert Gordoune, tutor off Sutherland. Delyuer theis vith diligence.

140. SIR ROBERT GORDON, tutor of Sutherland (address wanting), probably to his agent in Edinburgh, respecting the state of affairs in Sutherland, and legal proceedings.

Dunrobin, the 22 of February [1618].¹

TRAIST FREIND,—I haue hard no word from yow since Mr. John Grays south-going, to whom I refer dywers particulars. I haue sent this berar south to adverteis my Lord Elphingstone that Macky hes gone quyetlie to Cathnesse, and hes spoken and agreid finalie with the Earle of Cathnesse vnknowen to my Lord Forbes or any of the house of Sutherland. What effect this agreement may produce is vncertane. But I pray yow to remember my Lord Elphingstone or my Lord Kildrummie to speak my Lord Chancelar or the Clark of the Counsell that thir be na commissions granted to Macky, Murkle, or any other within Cathnesse, Sutherland, or Strathnawer aganst any man till we sie what this agreement drawes to. And if thir be any man within Sutherland or Strathnawer that the Counsell wold haue, lat them charge me or the Earle of Suther-

¹ From the Elphinstone Collection. Ninth Report of the Historical mss. Commission, Appendix, Part II. p. 199.

land for them, and we shall produce them, either Sutherland men or Strathnawer men, seeing the Earle of Sutherland is thir superiour. For we ar affrayed that Macky hes promesed the Earle of Cathness the lyffs of some Strathnawer men or Sutherland men whom they may get lawles for old maters vnkowen to ws; and getting a commission aganst them, being in Strathnawer, Macky may easilie dispatche them; for we ar most affrayed for such as hawe been trustiest to this house. Gif thir will be anie commissions graunted, and that blood flow therevpon, it will sheake the countreys loose agane. Do heirin as yow think expedient. Ther is a countrey man of mine called Donald MacDonald MacEan in Moy, that is at the horne for not finding of lawborrowis. I hawe wryten to young Sidderay, if he be in Edinburgh, to giue yow money to get the gift of his esheat. The hornings and all ar sent to young Sidderay with this berar. Gif he be not in Edinburgh yow shall receawe them and passe the gift, and whatsoever it costs yow, I shall send it to yow with the first commoditie. Let the donatour be George Murray in Laydie, and if yee get the gift past, send home the gift with the summons of declaratour with this berar. I intreat yow do your diligence heirin, and giue it be requisite, let my lord speak the thesaurer heirin. Let no man knowe but your self and my lord that young Sidderay knowes of the mater. I long to heir what effect the comission takis. We heir all gois be transaction with the partie, and that such as giue good augmentations get heritable taks. If this be true I doubt not but the Earle of Sutherland will get heritable taks. I expect daylie for word from Mr. Jhon Gray, and that yee vryt at lenth with him of all things. I hawe wryten to my Lord Elphinstone to adwyse if ane taksman during his taks may cut and sell or destroy the woods of the land that he hes in taks of the beritour by the heritour his owne consent, whereof yee shall adwyse and adwertis me thereof. I knowe he may cut to his owne vse and bigging. Put in the gift of escheat ane thowsand merkis that Donald M^cDonald M^cEan hes in wedset vpon the toun of Moy from the Earle of Sutherland, togidder with fywe hundereth merkis which he hes in Jhon Gordone of Backies hands on the lands of Craygie; quihlk thousand pounds shall be specialie nominat, and his goods and geir in general. I lippen for my Lord Elphinstones comming north in Merch. Gif Sidderay be not in Edinbrugh delywer thir letters as they ar directed and send Sidderays letters home agane, and Mr. Jhon Grays also, if he be returned home. Thus I end, resting always.—Your assured freind,

S. ROBERT GORDONE.

Ask ane answer of MacLoyde his letter bak agane vith this berar.

If Mc'Donald Mc'Ean in Moy hes. sent south to Walter Hay to get the gift of his owne esheat, and that yee sie Walter Hay or any other dealing for it, yee shall cause my Lord Elphinstone be the more earnest with the thesaurer to get it. Do your diligence heirin as yee wold do the Earle of Sutherland a good turn.

I have sent yow heirwith the contract betuix Duffus and me ; yee shall cause registrar it, and send me the extract back agane.

Ther ar some of this countrey men that ar charged for the money that they promised to Jhon Craford for adulterie wherypon they gawe thir bands, and they receaved Crafords tickets for remissions. They ar at the horne, and ar willing to pay the money provyding they get remissions. Therefore I pray yow cause my Lord Elphinstone speak the thesaurer that they may get remissions, and the money shall be payed when I go to Edinbrugh at Witsunday.

141. SIR DONALD MACKAY to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—that he is to sell Edderachillis, and wishing him to purchase it. 1st April 1618.

RYCHT WORSCHIPFULL and loweing wukill : Plais yowr worschip, thatt the oca-tione off my lang stay is endinge ane bargane with Meny anentt my blok, for I ame byinge my blok fre him agane. I most furnis hime ten thousand poundis att this terme ; the rest I will gett lang conteinowatioune for, payand the anvoll. I haiff gaderitt all my deatis to ane, and efter resollowtione with the towtour off Kentaill, Meny and vther frindis, I ame resollit to sell the landis off Adrachillis bewast Laxford, with this yeiris salmond, quhilik will pay all my daittis. The towtour off Kentaill and I is in spekinge for the landis, so that I haiff giffine promis to heme or Witsunday ether to sell the landis to heme be your advyis, or els to caus your worschip to releiff hem off his catinorry. Therfor I will request your worschip to provyd the ten thousand poundis againis Witsunday, and to by the land your self. For the rest off the mony that will be ower yow sall gett tow or thrie yeiris conteinowatioun theroff for anvoll and sourytie. As for this silver off Jolin Bochenanis, I assur your worschip that it will be conteinowitt for anvoll. I will lett your worschip wnderstand att mitinge very good resounis that mouffis me heirto. Therfor I pray your worschip to provyd this soume in all hest, boithe for your avine weil and myne ; vtherways I will be forsit to sell that land to the towtour. It is best to hald out or pout owtt, bott nessessitie mouffis

resoune. I may nocht be at them this aucht dayes yitt, nor yitt I may wrett to your worschip at lanthe becaus this beaar is in hest. My Lord Elphinstoune will nocht meitt you in Mar, bott he hes send word to Corral and to Thomas Espline to delyver yow ony wrettis that yow plais. Yow mane be heir befor the terme for your keirkis and vther affairs. I dout nocht bott Aleester Lintoune hes wrettine to your worschip as your keirkis was in handlinge at the plaett. I haiff enditt for my keirkis. I will nocht hesard to tak John Robsoune his ascheitt on yon horninge till I spek your self. So to miting I rest,—Youris worschips loweing nephue to daithe,

S. DONALD MACKY.

I pray your worschip to gett the band fre my Lady or I go home, for all matteris will go the better; and I pray yow to consider this letter weill.

Edinburgh, the frist off Apryll 1618 yeris.

To the rycht worschipfull and my loweing wnkil, Schir Robertt Gordoune, towtour off Sutherland.

Halde all materis quyett till miting.

142. ALEXANDER, FOURTH LORD ELPHINSTONE, to SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown, tutor of Sutherland,—about a decreet pronounced by the Sheriff of Cromarty, and as to Sir Donald Mackay, etc. 8th February 1619.

RYCHT HONOURABIL AND LUIFFING EME,—I ressaut your letter yesternycht be Alexander Lyntoun, quho with my eldest sone com boythe to this toun, and hes considerit the contentis thairoff. I ressaut also ane long letter from the Schirray Cromartie, my gudesone, purgeing him self weray far in that decreit he pronouneit, that he did nothing thairin to the preiudice off the Sutherland men, and that in caise he had not pronouneit that his decreit, the men off Sutherland had bein in ane worss kaice. It war longsome to me to wreit all the contentis off his letter concernyng that mater. I haiff conferrit at lenthe with Alexander Lyntoun thairanent and anentis the suspentioun reissit off that his decreit, quho maikis me to beleiff that nochtwithstanding that he hes reissit ane suspentioun, the ressonis ar frewolous, simpill and nocht abill to be sustenit, and he seis men kyithe them selfis in that erand that he feiris thair moyane and credeit sall preuwait; yit all salbe doun that can be doun thairin, and it salbe weray weill doun that ye yit caus deill with the schirray, my gudesone, to se giff that turne

may be mare freindle and kaluele taikin away, as sunthing thairanent my self hes writtin to him with this your avin poist.

And as to your sister sone, Schir Donald, quhat sall I writ to yow off him, bott sen boyth ye and I do knaw him, and haiff sein quhat we haiff sein off him, I beseik yow be the mare war and circumspeek with him, and karie your self the mare wysle, and knaw and knaw nocht, bot be ever vpon your avin gard with him; for off treuth I feir him mare nor I do any man leiffing that he salbe the gretest enemie that the hous of Sutherland sall haiff, quhilik is onnatural to him, and be that menis seik his avin wraik. Bot I beseik yow to be wyse, and lait no ocasionu justle be offerit to him, but keip him als far as ye can, that the haill world may se your part, and maik him inexcusable. Ye ar wyse aneuch, and men warneit ar half arneit, according to the auld prowerb, and knaw and knaw nocht, and be ever vpon your avin gard. This [is] all I can writ concernyng your sisters sone, and quhat I haiff wreittin to Golspitour, my Lord Forbes, and the Schirray Cromartie ye may reid, thairefter cloise, and send to everie ane off them as ye think meitt. And I am glaid off the purpois betuix your broder dochter, my oy, and young Fren-draycht. God len yow mony yeris to your broder sone may be abill to acquyt your gudewill and to do his avin erandis, nocht douting nor God will help yow and him boyth.

And as to my northe cuming to Elgin in June, giff my helthe and abiletie may serue [I] salbe leithe to be fra any turne or erand the hous of Sutherland, your self, or menest freind pertenis yow sall haif ado, quhairin my presence and help can serue them for any vse. Bot ye will lait me be tymele aduertist, and apoynt your meting als far furthe as ye can, and nather in July or begynnyng off August, nor in Junij. Bot that I remeit to your avin discretioun, for giff possible ye may, it war metest about the middest off August, quhen the cessioun is vp, that I mycht bring our my eldest sone with me. Bot this I remeit to your avin discretioun and nixt aduerteisment. I sall drect my sone to speik with the B[ischop] anentis the productioun off the evedentis, and Alexander Lyntoun to talk ane day, bot ye man haiff them radde in caise he be straitt. And I am sore that my writ is so iwyll that I feir ye sall haiff difficile to reid it; bot ye man acquent yow thairwith and talk panis, for I can nocht drect any vther to writ theis purpoiss I writ to yow, and thairfuir talk yow tyme and lesour to reid itt. And I will now end with my luiffing service to my

lord, your broder sone, your self, your bedfellow, my lady your moder, and broder dochteris, and remanent his sones. The Lord preserue yow in long lyff and gud helthe, and them all, now and ever, restis, youris luiffing eme to serue yow,
ELPHINSTON.

Sterling, this 8 Februar 1619.

To the rycht honourable my luiffing eme, the tutour off Sutherland.

143. SIR DONALD MACKAY to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—regarding the commission against the Earl of Caithness. 10th August [1619].

RYCHT HONORABILLL Schir and loweing wnkil, I resawed your honouris letter this day, the Lard of Foullis being in company with me. I hawe considerit the contentis off your letter; quhair your worschip desyrit me to mit your honour in Sutherland the sext off this instant, this is the tent day, so blame the caryeris off your honouris letter. As conserninge the commission quhilk the Counsell hes desyrit yow to tak aganst the Erll off Cathenes, the Erll off Cathenes did knaw therof long syne and is on his gard, and hes prowdyt for his awin saiffetie: so that in my opinyon it will be ane longsom bissines, evill and hourtfoull for the countrys and without profit to your self; and as ther is nocht wantage to be win at the ould maneis handis, yow may expect als littill thankis off his sone, my Lord Berydell; so that I will requyst your worschip to think off this perticouler aricht. Gew it be a perticouler that his Maestic will haw done, and that yow be employed therin, your worschip salbe assuritt off my pour assistance. In my opinyon that yow most lait the hervest go by or yow go to Cathenes, for wittuall was never so skant; yit on your worschips nixt dow adwertisment I sall be rady to go to Cathenes and mit your honour, or to Sutherland; so I pray your honour to adwertis me off your worschips nowes. I rest your worschips lowing nephue,
S. DONALD MACKIE.

Dirymoir, the 10 of Agust.

To the richt worschippfull and my lowinge wnkil, Schir Robert Gordoun, towtour off Sutherland.

144. SIR DONALD MACKAY to GEORGE, FIFTH EARL OF CAITHNESS,—that he will attend the meeting with Sir Robert Gordon. 27th August 1619.

MY VERY HONORABIL good lord, I receawed your lordschipis letter, and renders your lordschip many thankes for your lordschipis paines taken with my vncle for setling vs. I was ewer and shall be to my death bleamles with my vncles; and no mau knowes better then your lordschip what dewtic I reserwed to them, and specialie to the house that we hawe all the honour to be come off. Befoir I receawed your lordschipis letter I gat ane letter fra my Lord Forbes wryten at Sir Roberts desyre as I think, desyring ane frie comuning with me at Elgin the 22 of the nixt moneth, quibilk I will keip, for I rather hawe ane frie comuning first, that I may knowe what Sir Robert wold be att. Your lordschip shall wryt that I shall keip the 22 of Agust in Elgin precislie according to my Lord Forbes his letter and as my Lady his mother wryt to me. So I rest to death, youris lordschipis lowing cousing to serwe yow,

S. DONALD MACKY.

Loghstalk, the 27 of Agust 1619.

To my very honorabill good lord, my lord Earle of Cathnes, this.

145. JOHN ABERNETHY, BISHOP OF CAITHNESS, to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—to provide the vicarage of Culmanie to Mr. Alexander Duff. 29th August 1621.

RIGHT HONOURABIL, yee remember at our last meeting we condiscended, as I think, that Mr. Alexander Duffe should haue this yeirs vicarage of Culmanie for the service he hath done at that kirk; and seing he informeth me that he doubts of [his] obtaining of it, these are therefore to entreate yow that, as we agreed therevpon, so he may haue it; and that yee may geue a solide and reall direction that he may get it, or else the just worth thereof, that he haue no further occasion to complane; otherways I will be forced to tak some other course with him which perhaps will not so well please yow. I desire yow to dresse that mater so that he haue no occasion to think that he is not dealt too rigorouslie by ws. Yee shall excuse me that I could not vpon such suddain advertisement visit yow

in Edinburgh at this time; and I wish yee may haue a happie journey and as happy and safe returne. I rest, your assured friend,

J. B. of Cathnes.

Jedburgh, August 29, 1621.

To the right honorabill, Sir Robert Gordoun, tutor of Sutherland, etc.

146. ANDREW LAMB, Bishop of Galloway, to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—his unsuccessful efforts to obtain an audience of the King. 21st April 1623.

RIGHT HONORABIL SIR, my heartiest salutations rememberit. I thank yow verie heartily for your horse, and sal be readie to acqyrt that your kyndnes and courtesie the best I may. The day befor his Maiestie parted fra Whitlhall, I saw his Hienes dynne, and took occasion to speak him, and shaw him my languor to stay longer heir, craving that in the afternoone it micht please his Hienes to dismisse me: bot hardly would he grant thairto, for his many vther businesses. In the afternoone I moued Jhone Livingston to remember him againe, bot he fand him no vtherwayes disposed for the said reasons. The morne after I meaned myself to my lord Duke, whose Grace desired me to dynne with him, and thairefter made me to follow him to the back staires thair to attend til his Grace had gotten the opportunitie to gett me a word of his Maiestie in his adience, as I hade willed his Grace of befor to doe. Bot his Maiestie being importuned with a number of bussinesse, specially about his dispatches to Spaine, refused to giue any man adience that day: alwayes did assure my lord Duke that he was most willing to giue yow satisfaction, if he knew whou to doe it, or could find out any thing fitt for that purpose. My lord Duke thought not fitt that I sould fash his Maiestie more at this tyme, bot that his Grace would hold him in mynd of it. So hes the Deane of Winchester promised to me that he sall slippe no good occasion to remember his Maiestie of it, and I haue left him ane letter containing the evil that I haue sustained in that sute, and that sal follow both to the churches hurt and myne, if it succeed not. I was not able to follow his Maiestie to Winshore, for since your parting this vyld humour aboundes againe, and now is turned over vpon my best eye, with great paine and dolour, so that I am in feare of the lyk inconvenient vpon it, as I haue already felt on the other, except God Almichtie in his mercy prevent it. Would to God I hade neuer cum hither, and that ye had hade your desire, altho I sould haue queat al the benefice and liued a priuat

lyf at home, enjoying the benefit of my health and sight; for this voyage and fashious attending is almost bereft me altogether of my sight, and wil doe no doubt of my life also.—Welcome be the Lords send, to whose safgard I recommend yow and rests, your assured good friend at power,

A. B. of Galloway.

From London, the 21 of Apryll 1623.

To the richt honorabill my verie assured friend, Sir Robert Gordon, knight, tutor of Sutherland, these.

147. JANE, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, her son,—
to bring Anne with him from Strathbogie. 25th May 1623.

LOVING SONNE, your brothir hes schavin me that ye ar myndit to cum to this countray, quhairof I am maist glaid. Quhen ye cum I pray yov to bring Any vith yov. Elspet Lesle vilbe in Straboge at your returing, quhome I haue villit to stay ontill ye cum. Horses meit is varay schars in thir partis; thairfor ye sall do veil to cum frome Myrray be sie, and bring Any vith yov, quhilk vilbe maist esy and last chargabill. I haue vretiu dyvers tymis to hir gudbrothir for hir, bot he vald nevir grant to lat hir cum to your hame cuming. Nov he hes na excuis. Gif he vill lat his eldest sonne cum vith bir I vald be glaid of it, that I micht schav sum thankfulnes to him. He nedis not feir materis of religioun, quhairof he hes evir maid his excuis to me, for the barne is not capabill of that, and quhen he is, he salbe at his avin command as resone vald. I vill not trobill yov farthir at this [tyme] seing ye [haue] sa mone afaris to trobill yov; bot vissis to God that I may sie yov in gud helth, and restis, your loving mothir,

JANE C. SUTHIRLAND.

Dounrobin, the 25 of May 1623.

Quhen ye cum to Frendrach send to Robert Rindis and he vill [let] Elspet Lesle speik vith yov.

To my loving sonne, Sir Robert Gordoun of Kinmonvy.

148. KATHARINE, DUCHESS OF LENNOX,¹ to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—desiring his presence at the hearing of her cause. 14th October 1624.

GOOD SIR ROBERT GORDON, the daye appoynted for the hearinge of my cause before the (torn) is put of, as you wished it myght be till Thursday, which sha[ll be] the 21 of this October or till the next daye followinge a[t the] farthest. I praye you therefore, good Sir Robert, fayle not to [meit] with me on Tuisdaye or Wednesdaye next at the farthest. [so] that I may not want your presence at the daye of hearinge, for which porpose I haue also written to Mr. Deane of Winches[ter] and to Sir George Keire, whoe I dout not but will be here accordi[ng]e to my desier, that vpon the hearinge thereof I may knowe w[home] to trust to. I vnderstand Sir George Elveston is com to the courte. What his plott or proiect may be I knowe not, but my hope and desier to you all is, that you wolde haue a watchfull eye ouer him to prevent any newe designe he shall goe about.—So longinge to heare from you, I will ever remaine,

*Your most lovinge and
ever assured freinde
Katharine*

Synce the writinge of these lynes I receyved your letters for which I thanke you, and I doe beleive all touching your selfe, but for Sir George Elveston, the divell a bitt.

From my house in Drurie Lane, October 14, 1624.

To my worthie freind Sir Robert Gordon, knight, at the courte.

¹ Her Grace was the daughter and heiress of Gervase, Lord Clifton of Leighton Bromeswold.

149. ALEXANDER STEWART to FRANCES, DUCHESS DOWAGER OF LENNOX AND RICHMOND,—requesting money to help him in levying a company of soldiers. 12th February [1626].

MAIE it pleas your Grace, it hath pleased my Lord of Nithisdalle to giue me a companie in his regiment that he is to carie out of Scotland to the king of Denmark, only out of the respect he hath of my lord your Graces husbandes memorie. And being that I am to receaue my money in Scotland for my lewie, wich will hardly doo it, and that I am altogether wnprowided both of money to carrie me thither and of frendes to doo for me, I haue taken the boldnes humbly to entreat your Grace to put this last mark of your fawor w poue me in helping me with some money; and althocht I must confes ther hath not bein in me that merit that I could wish to deserue this fawor at your Graces hands, I kno the remembrance of him whose seruant I was once will be ane sufficeint mediator with your Grace. I must confes I was newer in a way of liwing lik his and your seruant till now, and without your Graces help I schall absolutly loose this ocaetion of my fortunes. So I must humbly kis your Graces hands, and schall euer be, your Graces most humble seruant,

AL. STEWART.

Westminster, the 12 of Febrwary.

To the Duches of Richmond and Lenox hir Grace, theis.

[Postscript in the handwriting of the Duchess' letter, No. 148 above.]

Both theis letters you may shewe to Houston, and lett Alexander Stewart see myne.

150. FRANCES, DUCHESS DOWAGER OF RICHMOND AND LENNOX,¹ to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—regarding some demands by A. Haitly. 12th February 1626.

COSEN GOURDON,—At your farewell you promised to visitt Elvetham Parke once a weeke with your lines, but perchance you reserue all vntill you come to Newmarkett.

Heere is a letter from Alexander Steward, which I send you to reade, and soe to deliver my answere, for to Haytlyes demands I gaue not a worde. My former

¹ Her Grace was the daughter of Thomas, Viscount Bindon. Her third husband was Ludovick, second Duke of Lennox and first Duke of Richmond.

deedes, ever since I was first soe happie to bee the wife of my lord, besides the hundred pound I gaue him presentlie after the funerall, the paying his debte after, and taking him out of pryson, and my favour, care and desert, that I had of him in all kinds I leaue to the worlds censure, not to his vngratefull selfe; nor will I add any accuser saue his owne conscience.

I did imagine that hee had made profit inough of the strange sute hee made of the p'late which was stolen from mee, which by his meanes yeilded wrongfull gaine to him and losse to mee.

God send mee meanes to performe my lords tombe, to pay such wages as in honour and conscience I am tyed to doe, and at my death to giue some leagacies and tokens to such of my lords kindred and creatures which I knowe hee valued. And because Alexander is a Steward, I shall wish hee may prosper and deserue well in time to come; indeede I thinke it is happie for him to bee gone out of England. I shall ever bee your inuolable freind and coson, and the saddest and vnfortunatest of all widdowes.



The image shows a highly decorative and cursive handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads 'FRICHMOND & LENOX' in a stylized, flowing script. The letters are interconnected, with elaborate flourishes and loops, particularly around the 'F' and the 'X'. The ink is dark and the background is plain white.

Elvetham this xijth of February 1626.

To my much esteemed coson, Sir Roberte Gourdon, this.

151. A. HAITLY to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—about a request by Mr. Stewart.
13th February 1626.

SIR,—According to your desire I deliuered Mr. Stewarts letter to my lady, and vsed all the best reasones I could to perswade the furtherance of his request, and among other arguments I told her that your self and John Houston had earnestly written in his behalf. So all I could obtaine was that she wold writ her miud

vnto yow. What it is I know not. If it do not succeed well, I protest to God I cannot help it, for I did what lay in my power to perswade her. So with my service remembered to yow, I remaine, your seruaut,
A. HAITLY.

Eluetham, the 13 February 1626.

To my much honored frende, Sir Robert Gordon, knight, gentleman of his Majesties priuy chamber, Richmond, these.

152. SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown, to FRANCES, DUCHESS DOWAGER OF RICHMOND AND LENNOX,—about the Duke of Buckingham's farewell entertainment to the King and Queen. 14th May, c. 1627. [Draft.]

MADAME,—I haue presumed to embrace your Graces faworable and gracious offer made vnto me at my parting from Elwertoun, which was that I might detein the half of my debt vntill the nixt terme. I haue not receeued such moneys as I did expect, neither haue I yet gotten any out of the exchecker; so that I haue payed Maister Langford but the half of my band. The rest I do intend (God willing) to pay the nixt terme, if I do receeawe any out of the exchecker, or at Michelmes at furthest. I am sorie (considering your Graces vrgent affairs for the present) that I could not discharge all at this tyme. I was loth to leawe my self destitute seeing the exchecker pay commes on so slow. I hope that amongst all your Graces other fawours towards me yow will pardoun this my boldnes. Ther occurres nothing heir worthie the wryting. This day the Duke of Buckinghame doth feast the king and the quein at York House, wher he doth intend to entertheyne them with a maske for his feareweell. Nothing talked off heir but off his jurnay which (for any thing I sie) is yet vncertane, although thay giwe out that he will be gone the nixt weik. Great preparations made and many voluntaires do go. Ther is some speech heir of a blowe that the King of Denmarke hath gotten lately. I pray God it prowre not to be so.—Thus I rest, and so wishing your Grace all happines, I remeane always, your Graces seruant whilst I breath,
S. ROBERT GORDON.

14 May.

To the worthe and wertheous princesse, my Lady Dutchesse of Richmond and Lennox hir Grace.

153. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother,—for instructions about the Earl's charter-chest at Kildrummie, and about the feud between Frendraught and Rothimay. 21st June 1628.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL and loweing brother, I wryt to yow schort sens out off Aberdein, sens quhilck tyme I tuik occasion to cum to St. Androis to wisitt the Earll off Suthirland and his brethrein, our nephewis, quha ar all (praisit be God) in goode healtie. And now haweing cum bake heir I thoctt goode to wryt these few lynis to yow, quhilckis I hawe sent to Edinburgh with William Gun, quha was in St. Androis also, and eam heir with me, to schawe yow that I merwell that I newer receaweit anie woord from yow sens that letter, quhilck ye wryt to me out off Salisberrie, quhilck was deattit the 17 off March last, quhairroff I wunder; quhairby I perceawe (as I think) that dywers off our letters ar miscaried; quhilck will make me to slip no occasion in tyme cuming, hoiping still that sum off my letters will sumtyme cum to your handis. I do not remember giwe I wryt to yow out off Aberdein that the Laird of Barnis was dead, and thairafter that I wryt out off the Boig with Hew Gordoune off Coltts to the Master of Elphingstoune (quha was than in Potachie) to take ordour with my lordis chartour-kist, quhilck is yet in Kildrummie; quhilck be his letter he promisit to me to be ansuerabill for wntill your cuming, or at least your adverteisment; thairfoir adwyss yow quhatt best cows to take thairwith, seing it is ane mater off so gryt importans. I think befoir the resett off this letter our meach, Frendracht, and the Laird off Bamff wilbe at cowrt; for they red to Edinburgh agetward thair out off this towne on Thuirsday last tymelie. Thair was ane gryt bissines betuix Frendracht and Rothimey, quhilck was liklie to cum to ane hicht, war nocht the Marquis directit me to Frendracht, and tuik wp the mater to his lordschips sicht; quhairin I dowt not bot Frendracht will schawe yow my part. Allwayis we satlit them in end and maid them to drink and schake handis, and gawe Frendracht (as I think) contentment, for the Marquis was his freind and weill-willer. I request yow, giwe ye sie Frendracht at cowrt, do him all the fawour yow can, quhilck I neid not to wrge yow withall seing ye ar werie weill willit to all your freindis off your self. I wryt to yow befoir that I was boistit be Issobell Buchannan anent that acht hundrethe merkis quhilckis I restit hir, and Walter Strachoun as cationer for me, quhilck ye knawe I hawe satisfied, and ye bund to reliwe me thairoff. Newertheles I receaweit ane letter from hir yisternicht, being in St. Androis, assuring me giwe I sent hir

nocht hir annualis, that schoo suld caus registrat my band and charge me; quhilk annual in consciens I haid nocht to giwe hir at this presentt. Allways I have wryttin to hir that I sall send it to hir at Mertimes, althocht I acht nocht to pey it. Sua I will besik your worschip to wryt to Alexander Lintoun to or onie wther ye pleass, to take ordour thairwith, that I or my cationer be nocht registrat for that quhilk I have already peyit. As to my self, I cair littill for it, bot honest Walter Strachoun is so boistit be hir letters that he thinkis it will do him harme, for he expectis no curtessie at hir handis, quhairof I will wryt no moir bot remit the samen to your awin wisdome and discretioun.—Sua hoiping to heir schortlie from yow, I rest and sall ewer remain (nocht omitting my humbill service and lowe to your lady and childring) as youris affectionat and loweing brother to serw yow to deathe,

SR. A. GORDOUNE.

Dundie, the xxi Juni 1628.

My lord, our nephew, hes takin my chastan naig from me, for he haid werie iwill pennieworthe off the blake naig ye bocht to him.

To the richt worschipfull and my loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoune of that ilk, knight baronat, and gentillman of his Maiesties privie chalmer, these.

154. J. CUNNINGHAM to SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstoun, tutor of Sutherland,—reporting the progress made by John, thirteenth Earl of Sutherland, and his brothers, at St. Andrews University. 10th July 1628.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL SIR,—I have reseawed twa of your worschipsis letteris since your worschipsis goinge from Scotland,—one from William Gun, the vther from George Ker in Edinburgh. I know your worschip longis to hear from my lord, bot my lord and his lordschipsis bretheren being in good healthe, and we being furnished in moneyes as your worschip appointed, and all matteris goinge weill, maid me the moir slow to weratt to your worschip. Now haveing the occasioun of this bearer (Mr. Charles Geddes), I culd not choose bott aquent your worschip with my lord, his lordschip, and his lordschipsis bretheren, ther good healthes, quhilk is as your worschip wald wisse (praysd be God). Sir Alexander hes beine heir att St. Androus, and hes beine werie earnest with my lord to go northe, quhilk his lordschip hes refused to do,

knowing it was your worschipis will his lordschip sould not go northe this yeare ; for his lordschip myndis not to stirre from St. Androus except my Lord Elphinston send for his lordschip. His worschip hes given my lord his chesnutt naige quihilk his worschip coft two yearis since in Edinburgh, and hes desyred me to sell the black your worschip coft to his lordschip, and give the moneyes to my lord ; quihilk gif it please your worschip I will do, for he serves for no vse to my lord ; for he rydes so hottlie that no man is able to sitt him. My lord, his lordschipis footmanis shoulder bone and choller bone ar broken with ane fall he gatt off him. All the meatt I give him will nott mak him goodlyk, he is so thin, and I fear I gett nott halfe the moneyes your worschip gave for him, for none that knowes him will buy him, and he is nott for ane marktett, he is so old and his teeth so evill, he will not suffer ane speare to com towardis him. I have reseawed since your worschipis depairtour from Alexander Lyntoun seavin hundrethe pundis, and from M^cKay, in Mr. Robert Farquare his name, fyve hundrethe merkis, so that we ar almost furnished quhill Lambas ; quhairfor I intreatte your worschip cause provyd my lord somquher, for befor August his lordschip will fail in moneyes. As for my lord his lordschipis progresse in letteris, gife his lordschip wald tak paines his lordschip wald do reasonable, bot alwayes I hope his lordschip sall nott think his tyme eweill spent heir, for his lordschip will be very ydle gif he do nott some good. Adam is to come to the colledge att Ahallowmes althought not sufficient, bot he can nott stay behind his condisciples. George (God willing) will be the scholler. Lett it please your worschip advertyse ws of your worschipis dyett to Scotland, or gif we may exspecte your worschip comming this yeir. Lett it please your worschip to give me your worschipis best advyse in all thingis, and (God willing) I sall do my best indeaworis. So expecting your worschipis answeres, I humblie tak my leiwe and restis ewer, your worschipis obedient servitour,

J. CUNYNGHAME.

St. Androus, 10 Julij 1628.

To the right worschipfull Sir Robert Gordoun of that ilk, knyecht barronett, tutour of Southhirland, ane of the gentlemen of his Majesties privie chamber, this.

155. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother,—about estate matters, and that their mother, the Countess of Sutherland, was on her deathbed. 21st July 1628.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL AND LOWEING BROTHER,—I receaweit twa letteris from yow the last olk, the ane daittit at Lunden the 28 day of Maij, the wther therof the 20 day of Juni, quhairby I perceawe that ye have receaweit none of my letteris sens Februari last, quhairof I merwell, for I wryt to yow bothe in Marche and in the beginning of Apryll befor I went to Inuernes; and at my departing with my Lord Gordoune he was not fullie resollwitt to have gone sowthe, and far les to have riddin to cowrt, wtherways I haid wryttin with his lordschip. Sens Witsonday I wryt twess to yow, aneis from Aberdein and aneis from Dundie, quhairin I wryt off all perticuleris and I daylie expect the ansuer thairoff. Your last twa letteris consists in twa perticuleris, the ane concerning the Rossis bissines anent Balnagownis moneis, and the wther anent the erectioun off Dornoch in a brugh. As concerning Balnagownis moneis, Pitealnie offerit the moneis to your chalmerland at Witsonday last, bot Mr. Dawid Ross (as the chalmerland schaweis me) wald not consent to subsyrywe the discharge, quhilk is said to be the occasion of the not payment of these moneis. Always I remit the perticuler informatioun thairoff to the chalmerland him self, seing I was not in the cuntrey. Your last letter quhilk I receaweit to be sent to Mr. Dawid Ross, I sent to him with the comissar, quhairby they nicht reasson that mater betuix them selfis, and thairefter that I sull report bake ansuer to yow, conform to the comissaris ansuer, quhilk I expect to get the morn (will God) in Dornoch; and thairfrea wryt to yow moir perticulerlie thairoff.

As concerning the bissines of Dornoch, immediatlie efter the resett of your last letter I wryt for the goodeman of Skibo and his brother, Mr. Johne, for yowng Inebo and the comissar, to quhom I impartit the bissines wppoun thair aithis of secrecie, quaha all war werie glaid thairoff. And efter adwyssment I have wryttin sowthe to Alexander Lintoun with our bischop (quaha was in Skibo wppoun his returning hame sex dayis sens), and hes conferrit our marcat dayis with the rest of the marcat fairis in this north partis, and accordinglie hes appointit the first marcat to be the twentie day of Juni, being Stt. Margrats day, and the nixt the twentie day off Agust, being Stt. Bernardis day; quhilk is ar befor and efter Tainis marcatt, and the most commodious tymes for ws in the

yeir, except Barsday, quihilk is the third and our ordiner marcat; and the olkie marcat to be on Setterday. This I wryt to Sanderis Lintoun, and desyirit him to fill wpe the signatour conform. The goodeman of Skibo and Mr. John did communicat that mater to our bischope, quha hes promisit to be bothe secreit thairin, as also ane forderer thairoff, and withall hes admonischt ws of ane thing quhairroff ye sall be war, to wit, that the said brughe be not subiect to taxationis or commissioners for the space off sewin yieris wntill it hawe sum beginning of abilitie; quihilk I hoip ye will get susspendit for the said space in respect of the earllis minoritie, and sik wther reasonabill cawsis as ye think fitt. I can wryt no moir of this purpos. I receaweit all things from William Gun, quihilk yow directit, and causit delywer to Alexander Monro that quihilk ye sent him.

My Lady, our mother, hes bein heavilie diseassit, and werie weak continuallie thir sex olkis bygain, and nothing expectit of hir ladschip daylie bot death. I pray God send hir ane happie ending. It hes bein propoind to me by sum, that it war necessar, quhenewer God callis hir, to giwe hir ane honorabill buriall, and hawe sum of hir ladschips most honorabill freindis thairat. I knaw not giwe this cam of hir self, nather did hir ladschip impart the lyke to me; bot I ansuerit that it vas hard to do, bothe inrespect that it wald nocht be done without gryt expensis, as also seing it vas against the custome off our howss, and for onie of hir ladschips awin meinis thair is aneweche ado with it to sustein hir hows, and the necessiteis of hir ladschips diseas, quihilk daylie drawis moneis from the chalmerland. Thairfoir, for my awin part, I will do nothing by your directioun, except it be hir ladschips speciall commandement on hir dead bed, quihilk I think schoo will nocht wrge; quhowsoever, lat me hawe your will thairin in wryt with the first ocatioun, for it mey be schoo drywe aff quhill the fall off the leaff; and if God callis hir ladschip befor that, I will do my best to giwe hir ladschips buriall all the honour I can within the cuntrey, conform to our awin accustomit form, and not els. Schoo hes desyirit me to remember hir ladschips blissing to your worschip, your lady and childring, to whom ye sall remember my service and loweing dewtie. All wther perticularis I remit to my nixt letter the morn in Dornoch, to quihilk aud ewer I rest youris worschips most loweing brother to serw yow to deathe,

SIR. A. GORDONE.

Dunrobin, the xxj Julj 1628.

Adwerteis me of my Lord Gordons prociodings and interpryiss. I intreat

yow caus satisfie Issobell Buchanan at Mertimes, and make me quyt of hir, for I am daylie trublit with hir; at least caus satisfie hir bygan annuallis, quhilk wilbe four ^{xx} libis at Mertimes.

Adverteis me quhatt is cum of Robert Gordoun, Craightous sone, and his companie, for John Oliferis sone his man is cum hame, and is ane fied serwand in this parisin; quhow he cam away I knaw nocht. On Setterday last Alexander John Robson cam to his cuntrey, quhow he is cum away I knaw nocht; bot I fear he wilbe ane scurdge to this cuntrey, thairfoir adverteis me off your will concerning him.

To the richt worschipfull and my loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoun of that ilk, knicht barronat, tutour of Suthirland, these.

156. DONALD, LORD REAY, to SIR ALEXANDER GORDON,—in reference to assistance, and alleged plots by Sir Robert Gordon. No date, but *circa* 1630. Copy.

WERIE HONORAEILL and loweing wnckill, youris I receawit from Torris the 12. It cam to my hand on Fryday last at nicht hier, with ane letter from your sone John from Tongg, that day I cam from the forrest from a tryst; and my graith not being cum, I haid not paper nor ink to wryt to your sone, bot sent the boy presentlie backe to him all nicht, to desyr him to cum and speak me hier for a nicht; and till this nicht that the bearar cam to me, I hard no woord from your sone, which mead me think the other boy was drowned. As for men to your sone, I haid aues sum 30 in roll that we nicht want, and wold do any companie goode, and I thoct to hawe sent my sone Hew with them. Efter meiting with my freindis, they all in ane voice absolutlie hes refusit to suffer any men go out of this cuntrey, till they sie the ewent of thir ploitts hatched be your brother, Sir Robert, for all our rwings (as is alledgeit); and I am sorie ther is too mutch ewidencie therof. I am bot ane, and lett newer the earth bear me, bot I wold do for your sone as for my owin; bot I pray yow, wnckill, excuis me that I most now follow pairt of the adwyyce of them that thinks to die for my defens, and in defens of ther fathers landis. I am sorie that I know not in whom to trust, my owin wnckill betrasing me. The world wold not make me beliwe it, iff I haid not sein his hand. The particulars war this. I was adverteisit that the

letters I sent to the cunsell and to suna cunsellouris, being my freindis, pairt war wpholdin and pairt wryttin ower, and my hand cunterfitt, and cloisit with my owin seall which I sent with William Innes, yit I did not accuis Sir Robert theroff at Dornoch, becaus I sent the letters with William Innes, and not with him; yit in Toung I causit Sir John Gordoun and Robert Mouro of Assint to accuis Sansyde. He first fred Sir Robert, bot in end confessit Sir Robert maid him do it, and produceit a dracht or coppie of a letter wryttin all be Sir Roberts hands, which letter Sir Robert, as he alledged, maid him wryt ower and cunterfitt my name to it. Then they cloisit wp and delywerit it to the cunsall as from me, a letter that confessit moir than Maistres Herison hir self alledgeit. What noir he confessit than Sir John will show yow, and tyme will try and show the rest. O miserabl world! quher ther is no faith, trust nor credit, to take a man his meinis, and then betrey him. The Lord forgiwe them. What culd the cunsall do bot as they did, haweing my letter as thair warrand. I know yow nor no honest hartt will newer belive ther is so mutch falshead in man.

This is the trew coppie of my Lord off Reay his letter to me so far as concerns your worschip, quhilk I thoct nocht nowayis pleasant as will appear by my ansuer to him giwe it pleas him to produce it.

Indorsed: The coppie of my Lord of Reay his letter to Sir Alexander Gordoun.

157. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—regretting the redemption of his lands by the Earl, and that he was going to Ireland. 21st July 1632.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL AND LOWEING BROTHER,—I receaweit ane letter of youris heir at my bakecuming from the north, daittit the xj of June, the morn efter my arryvell heir. J. Ettien, my Lord Gordons man, went to Ingland onknowin to me, wtherwayis I haid wryttin with him. He is returnit, bot brocht no woord from yow to me. I spoke my Lord Gordoune anent the French bissines, who assuiris me it will go on, and dowts not bot my bissines also will succeed; yit I sie all is oncertain, so we must abyid tymes in sik bissines. As to your fyftein libis. stirling, ye wryt ye payed to Mr. Dunbar, I shall caus pay them; bot as I

wryt befoir, giwe I receawe no benefitte, giwe ye can with Mr. Dunbaris adwysis mowe any other that gets benefite to pay the samon, I dowt not bot ye will do your best. Giwe not, as I wryt first, it is no reasone ye shuld pay them, nather did I ewer think so mutch as to use yow so for your goodwill. My going north hes hinderit me mutch, and I have done no goode, bot spent my meinis and my tyme iyedillie, for I culd get nothing done with my brother sone, the earl. He cam heir acht dayis befoir me, and efter long hard dealing, the nicht befoir he cam away, he promisit me befoir the chalmmerland to sussespend the redemptioun of my landis in Strathwlzie for fywe yeiris, bot that he behuiffit to redeim Achindean to be ane mainis for him self, quhairof I socht bot one yeiris sussespendioun, seing I haid sold that yeiris crop befoir hand, and than his lordschip suld have all my landis about Dornoch on goode conditions; quhilk his lordschip said he wold adwysis on, and giwe rae his ansuer heir in the south, quhairon we both condiscendit and restit. At my heircuming (quhair I have now bein thir achtein dayis bygain) he held me still in hoip and postpoint me, till Tyisday last I cuming out of Seton socht his lordschips wter ansuer befoir my lady, quhair I gat ane *nolumus*. Than I beggit that mutch curtessie of his lordschip and my lady, to continow me all for one yeir only from Witsonday nixt, that I micht prowyd ane pairt for my moneis, and schew his lordschip your letter, and whow materis war going on, yit wold nowayis grant me that mutch favour. So that now I find it to be trewth that I wryt to yow befoir, for Craighton was redeimit at Witsonday last, and his lordschip hes payed me my hail monies, and takin my richt in his owin handis. And seing my burding is gryt I will lat his lordschip go on as he pleassis, and let the littill stok I haid on his landis go to pay my detts, and shift for myself as God will giwe me grace; for Nawidell is not abill to sustein ane honest man thair, so it shall pas with the rest quhen William Dick is payed. But I think I mey say it without offence that thair was never any man so onnaturallie delt withall for goode service. Allwayis I thank God for all, and dowts not bot he will have respect to my wsadge. And ye know this was the thing I ewer fearit, albeit ye was still angrie at me that I suld think it, bot now I find it. God grant me patiens, seing I have no recowrs now bot only to God, for I sie it is not to man to lean to mortall men, bot as he seis; and I know if ye war als far in [his] lordschips reverens ye wold find no better quarters, bot it is anewch that I am so far in his reverens. God giwe him grace to do his owin weill. I shall cair the les, for I am not the

first cadent off ane hous that hes bein put to his shift, albeit the first so ongraitfullie wsit. And I am persuadit never twa hed les benefit and moir trubill and hinder. God luik to all. I can wryt no moir of this mater, bot am sorie I hawe sik occatioun to trubill yow with sik ane subiect. As to that bissines of my Lord of Ormonthis I cau wryt nothing of it wntill I go to Iyrland and try maters as they go. Nather can I end any thing wntill my Lord of Thirles be in Iyrland. When ewer ye wryt to me, send the letters ather to Monnichan or to Clunas, quhair Sir John Wishart will inform yow quhair to direct them, for I dwell now in Cluincalge, quhilk was Sir John Wisharts land of ald, and he was styillit thairof, as I dowt not bot he will show yow. This is all I hawe for the presentt, so my lowe and service remembred to your lady and childring.—I rest and shall ewer remain, youris loweing brother to serw yow to death,

SR. A. GORDOUNE.

The chalmerland hes bein the onlie man that hes bein ane freind in my absens to all my men and serwandis. Thairfoir wryt to him aud thank him for it, and desyir him to contiouw so.

Edinburgh, the 21 of Juli 1632.

I mak away to Iyrland, God willing, on Monnoday nixt.

Sir, iff yow think it fit, yow mey wryt to my lord and my lady to continow this bissines of myin for ane yeir, wntill I prowyid sum pairt for my monies; so do thairin as yow shall think best. Bot if yow wryt and receawe bake ansuer, failt not to adwerteis me thairoff with all the diligens yow can.

To the richt worschipfull and my werie loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoune of that ilk, knight barronat, and gentillman of his Maiesteis priwie chalmer, at cowrt in England, these.

158. COLONEL JOHN MONRO of Obsdell to SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordons-town,—giving accounts of the war in Germany. 3d August 1632.

WORSCHIPFULL SCHIR,—I recewit twa letteris of youris, ane dyrect to Seotland befor my waycuming, the wther the nynt of June fra Grenewiche, schawing of the resett of ane packet of myne. I dout befor now bot your honour hes resawit ane

wther pakket of myne with ane letter of my sones with ane bill of exchange of auehtene hundreth and fourtie rex dolouris, quhilk ane Euglis merchant, callit Anthone Bedingfeld, in Hambrueche, resawit and asignit ane merchant in Lundone callit Mr. Robert Lowther, merchant, to pay the samyn, quhilk I refer to my former letteris, and to my sones letter. I am glaid of the Lady Stewart marage with the tressawrer sone, gif it will helpe your honour in atteineing your priwie seales. I am sorie of my Lord Raes miscarage; God draw him to ane trew sence of his bygane miscarage. Thair is no good heir for him nor for no st[r]anger, for we wilbe compellit to leiw this serwice; for our masteres fortunes drawes haile Germany to serwe him almaist for noicht that we ar noicht able to subsist. Your nephew is weile quha wilbe ane sogour, but can noicht gett him to learne any langage, nor will newer learne amongst the Scottes. Quhairfor my opinione war that he sould be derect to France for to learne the Frensche townge, quhairbe he nicht schone cum to preferment; and without the langage he will noicht cum to preferment, quhilk particular I refer to your honouris consideration and aduertisement. As to my regiment thair was thre companes of thame takin prisoneris with Captan Sinclair, quha is now releiwit. As to Robert Gordowne he cam noicht with ws, bot ane Johne Gordowne, ane brother of his, quha was takin be the enemye, quha is now releiwit and is with ws. Thair is twa liftenantis, George Monro and William Monro, and thre handseynies, Hew Monro and Androw Monro, and Thomas Liddell, prisoneris as yit, quhowm I hoipe schoirtly to gett releiwit. Papehames airmie is merchit ower the Weser, since the quhilk tyme we have takin it, thre castellis, to wit, Stewrwalt, Marinburge, and Kalenberge, and the towne of Duderstat, quhair Captane Beatoune, Doctor Beatounes sone, was killit, ane hoipfull brawe gentleman. Papehame and we is thoicht to meitt schoirtly quhair the ewent will try. The Kinges airmie vpoun the Ryne remanes victoriously. The King himself hes re'ceit out of Bairenland, and hes leift all his garisounes weile prowdyt, and is cum to Newrenberge, quhair he hes belegert him self. The Dwik of Fredland, Walstene, is at Bambriche and thairabout, within thre or four myle to the King, gadering all his forces from all corneres, ane gryt airmie. Bot the King will behoild him, and will permitt tyme and wether and wittuales fecht first with him, and thairefter try him as he findis tyme. Quhilk airmie if it be defeitt, the Emperiour hes losit his part of Germany, for thay find excep thay defeitt the King anes thay can noicht prewaile in respect the King hes the haile townes and passes vpoun all the riweres. Bot I hoipe with the nixt

ocasioun or the last of October to gif your honour moir particular account of thir effairis, for now is our herwest. Wissing to wnderstand of all yowr particular newes, and sall do goodwill to mend ray fawlt as occasioun sall serve.—Committing yowr honour, lady, and childerin to the protectioun of the Almightie, I rest, excusing me at the Erle of Sutherlandis handis in noicht wryting for feir of big packetis, quhilk will noicht be resavit, youris honouris ewer assuret to pour,

J. MONRO of Obsdell.

Duderstat, the 3 of Agust 1632.

Lat me heir of the Erle Seafoirt health and releasment, and qualat appeurance of Nowa Scotia or of Ocheltre and of wther occurantis.

To the rycht worschipfull Schir Robert Gordowne, knicht baronat.

159. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—
arrival of goods at Prestonpans. 23d September 1632.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL and loving vncle,—I receavid your last, which was deated from Salisbury the 3 of this instant, the 20, wherbe I perceave that myne was not then come to your hands, which was deated in August and sent vp in my Lord Gordoun his companie, in which I did wryt to yow of all my affaires in particular as yow desyred. Yow wryt to me lykwayes that yow haue sent doune the rest of our grathe to Prestoune Panes in on Greirsonne his sheipe. I haue receaved with your letter four severall nots all concerning our grathe, one of debursments, one of parcells, the vpholsters bill, and a particular note of the furnitour of the great bed. The boy who broght me your letter shoves me that the schipe goods and all ar saiffie come home, wherof I am glaid, seing shortlie ther is a craire of David Murrayes going to Southerland, so that I hope all my grath shall be as shone at home as myself. Yow wryt that yow wold wish to be with me when I settell with my Lord Reay. Trewlie I sould be glaid of it, if it wold not be troublesone to yow. If yow had anie bussines of your owen about that tyme to drawe yow doune I sould be glaid of it. If not, I wold rather that yow sould wryt be some sure berar, if ther be anie misterie in the bussines, which will be a great deall esier for yow then to enterpryse such a great journey in the winter. Since I sent my last with my Lord Gordoune I have mead William Dick con-

tent to tak this yeirs wictull and salmond in satisfacione of the seaven thowsant mërks I did owe him, so that my eationers wer content, to which I hope they will not be awerse. We ar com this far on our journey to Southerland, and haue bene here this fortnight, onlie attending our horses that ar to come from the north, which we expect daylie. I thank yow most hartlie for the paines and caire yow haue taken in our bussines, and if ther be anie thing wherin I can doe yow pleasur in thir pairts, advertise me, and yow shall find me ever radie to remaine, yow most affectionat nephew to serwe yow,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

Drummond, the 22 of September 1632.

Let this remember my lowe and service to my ladie, your bed-fellow, and showe hir that we longe till we haue hir to be our neighbour in Ros, or in some other pairt of Scotland.

To the right worschipfull my loving uncle, Sir Robert Gordonne of that ilk, knight baronet, these.

For the delywerie and reset off all the graith.

160. COLONEL ROBERT MONRO to SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown,—
giving an account of the war in Germany. 31st October 1635.

RIGHT HONOURABLE,—I resavit youris and acordinge to your desyr I directit your lettere to Colonell Goun, from quhom I haue no word this four mounth. The armie now come from Spruse I think he be com with. And haweing laittlie haid a victorie in our armie I wald not owersee my dewtie in makinge your worschip participant of our gude fortun aganis that perfidious man, the Duck of Saxone, quha hes prowene vngraitt to his countrie, the croune of Sweddane, and to our religione in Germanie, excludeing thame out of his dishonorable paece maid at Prague. I hope, as the Lord hes begune to punisch his ingratitude, he will continowe till he in ende mak him see his errouris. I doubt not bot your worschip hes seine the tratteise and conditiones of peace he offerit to the croune of Sweddane, wiche wer so dishonorable that thai wer not worthie to be hard of, mutche les to be abraect, tendinge to 2 pointes,—to give ower all places within the empyre they haid wine with the sworde; secundo, to retere ther armie out of Deutchland, vtherwys he wald convoy them away perforce; and on thir

conditiones he wald give some content to the Deutches that serwit the crowne of Sweddane, excludeinge the Sweddanes and our natione from any contentement. Their propositionis wer so detaistet that thai could not be ueill hard; yet his policie was so greatt that in the tym of the treattie he debauschet the maist pairt of the colonellis of horss and foutt of our armie that thai said thai wald not fecht against him, nether wald thay queyit ther schairges. The directour persaveing ther treacherous meininge, by adwyse of our countricmen, retereit in the night from our armie to Uismair on the sea syd convoyet by Generall Maiour Leslie and vther officieris of our natione, and that cunninglie escapeing the Saxones ambusches led for him. Your worschip may judge in quhatt estait the crowne of Sweddane haid stouid wnto if they haid gottin him. Our Deutch colonellis persawing the directour to be gone, being frustrat of ther intentiones, wer so commowet that nothings wald content thame accept the Felt-marschall Banneir wald lay tham in quarteris to such tym as thay might treatt with the duck for contentement to thame selfis, wich the felt-marschall yeeldit into to put tham in quarteris. Being in doubt of ther fidelitie he sent thois he mistrustit farrest from him in quarteris, and thois he reposit maist wnto as the Lowetennent-General Riwane and our natione and the Sweddanes and Finnes, thes he quarterit neir him self and the few Deutches that he thoucht trewest. The Saxone persaweing this divydit his armie in 3, of intentione to fall on Riwane to cutt him of and his folks, bot Riwane preweinet him and breack vp be tym, and mairtchet to the Elff syd, quhair he was in saiffie till Banneir joynett with him. The Saxone, disapointit of this intentione, maid a schippe bridge ower the Elff at Damittis, being a strong pass, and a castell quhairin was one Captane Jonstoune, a Scottisman that behawit him self weill. Banneir, finding the Saxone had crossit the Elff, feiringe he sould come betuixt him and the Spruse armie, commandit out Generall Riwane with 1200 horss and 700 foutt to reecognosce his designe, not giweing him schairge to fecht at his comeinge to Damittis. He fand the Felt-Marschall Bauttisch haid with him bot 7000 foutt without hors to secound his foutt, haweing lefft the duik with the quholl cawallerie on the vther syd of the Elff. Riwane, with gude command and fortunat conduct, resolvit ones to try quhidder thai wald fecht or not. The enemees musqueteires being ill commandit, gawe a full salve of musquettes on Riwane, being standing ferme in battell, resolvit to abyd the first persuit, and seing tham have no reserwe of schoatt, he schairgit ther foutt in flack, wane and reire, puttinge tham in disorder. The

ranckes broken, the victorie was certane, for thai haid no peickmen to mak a stand to recollect ther musquetteires, nether haid thai a reserwe of schoatt, and tym thai gatt not to schairge againe. A thousand wer taken that wer hurt, a 1000 killit, 500 drounet for feir, and 3000 taken prisoner. Ther Felt-Marschall, Banttsich, being seasit on by a reut-maister, haweing killit the reut-maisteris horse, he lefft his belt and sword, and so escappet. This all was done in sight of the duck, being on the vther syd, quha immediatlie reteirit. Therefter a pairtie of 300 horse of onres forgathering with 1500 horse of the Saxones, the weaker pairtie was forcit to fecht or droune, and focht so weill that the 1500 wer put to flicht, 3 reut-maisteris takene of theris, and 4 standardis. Thus far of the Saxones misfortune; the Lord continow it, and the Lord oppene ther eyes that aucht to concurre to see him punischet for his treacherie to the Prince Electour and his famile. For my part I wald willinglie sacrifice my bluide to be awendgit on him, haweinge prowene so vngratt to him of worthie memorie that lost his lyff for his freedome. As occasione offeris I will acquaint your worschip of our gude fortunes, wiche I intrcatt your honour to participatt to our gude frendis, especiallie to gude Schir Roiard Pammerne, my noble freind, and patrone to the gude cause, for we haid newer a better quarrell as we hawe against the Saxone that wald rouine our religione in Germanic by his perfidious maid peace for his awin aimes; our God, I hope, will plauge him, althoucht man sould owersie him. My nephewe, Mr. George, haid a greatt mynd to hawe quatt his buick and to hawe followit warres, bot his freindis being against it, I have sent him to Leidene to pass his course in the lawes, and to be acquaintit with the queenes schildreine. —So wischeinge the God of gudnes to perpetuat your honouris happines, I rest,
 your^serwant to power,

ROBERT MONRO, Colonell.

Hambourge, the last of October 1635.

Thai say the Bischope of St. Andrews is weack. I wisch your honour wer at home and haid his temporall place, for it is almost tym to leiwe the courte. I will entreatt your worschip to acquaint me quhat the Electour Palatteine effectuattes, and if ther be any employment thatt way, your worschip wald mynd my Lord of Carleill that I sould not be forgottene.

To his noble and worthie freind Schir Robert Gordone, gentleman of his Majesties priwie schalmar, thais.

Indorsed: Colonell Monro; General Riffen, received Februar 1636.
 Answered.

161. CAPTAIN ADAM GORDON of Kilcolmkill to SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown,—acknowledging assistance from the Earl and Countess of Sutherland in levying men for service in Sweden. 11th November 1635. Copy.

I THANK God the Earle of Southerland and his lady schew me all kyndnes and countessies that I myght requyre at this tyme from them. For haid not the earle wrytin to the Chanceler off Scotland, and to the Earle of Winton, and to the Earle of Traquhair, and to the Cleirk Register, and to all the rest of his lordships friends that are in the counsell, I would not be sufferd to taik any men from Scotland this yeir be reasone off the proclamacione that was last against levying off men. His lordship has prevailed so with them that I gat a permissione subscreyvit with fyve counseleris hands for myself, wyfe, children and familie to pass where we pleased, and a warrand for any skipper to trausport us without incurring any danger thereby. His lordship was gude to me in all uther my desyris, and if I pleased to accept thereof his lordship offered me sum prest men, bot (I thank God) men was so willinge to go with me that I neided not preass any, yit nevertheles I prais him for his gudewill. I hope in God his lordship sall haif no causs to regret for any gudenes he will doe me, for, God willing, ye sall hear off my death befor ye sall heir off my shaminge my name. All my freindis in generall was very kynd to me, yit none helped me with so much as one souldyour. I thank my freinds for their kyndnes, and my money is for my souldyours. But God I thank for all. Under God I accompt my lord and your worship my patrones. My lord hes wrytten to Sir David Drummond, General-Major to General Baneir his army, to Colonell Gordoun and to Colonell Gryme in my favor. Therfor I pray you would wryt to Colonell Gordoun, to Colonell Gryme, and to Colonel Kar, giving them thanks for their kyndnes bygone, and hartilie commending me to them in tyme cominge, bot in speciall wryt to Colonell Gordoun very lovinglie and earnestlie, since it is under his regimint I am bestowed for the present. I pray your worship remember me to your lady and children, and lat not your worship think bot I wryt many tymes, although ye resaided none since I went first from Sutherland. So, wissing God to bless your worship and all yours, I rest ever

and sall remayne your worships ever trew and constant servant to the death to serve you.

CA. ADAM GORDOUN of Kilcolmkill.

Gottenburg, the levint November 1635.

Iff your worship wryt to me, direct your letters to Mr. Warne, agent for England in Hambourghe, and desyre him to direct the same [to] Colonel Gryme, who hes gret correspondence with him.

I pray your worship wryt thanks to Mr. Warne for his kyndnes shewn to me.¹

162. LADY HENRIETTA STUART, MARCHIONESS OF HUNTLY,² to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—as to the wrongs suffered by her husband, and the home-bringing of her son. 12th February 1636.

RIGHT WORSHIPFULL and loving cousing,—Being informed be Mr. Robert Adam-sonne of your love and affectione towards my lord, my husband, and his childrein, I could not choose bot rander yow thankis for the same, hoiping for the continuance therof. God knawis what wrongs my lord, my husband, hes susteained be the malicious attempts of his enimeys, which war tedious to wreat. So I will remitt thame to the declarationioun of the berar wha hes receawit ane letter of exchange of twantie tua thowsand pundis for to bring honie my sonne to court, yit I know it will not be anuche to defraye his wther debtis in France. Wherfor

¹ Memorandum on another paper :—Adam Gordon of Kilcomkill, having gone into Germanie, the yeir of God 1634, with Sir Heector Monro of Fowles, and after the death of Fowles, serving in the Swedish army under the command of Colonell Alexander Gordoun, he was advanced this yeir (1635) to be a captane in the said Colonell Gordoun's regiment; and thereupon he returned into Scotland, and having levied a companie of able and lustie men in Southerland, he shipped with them at Cromartie, and arryved

saifly with his men at Gottenburg, in the kingdome of Sweden, the sext day of November 1635. This Colonell Alexander Gordoun is sonne of on Jhon Gordoun, who was the sonne of William Gordoun, bishope of Aberdeen. Colonell Alexander Gordoun is in service with the Swedes.

² This lady was the eldest daughter of Esme, first Duke of Lennox. She left Scotland on account of her religion, and died in France in 1642.

I will intrate yow to sollicite our noble freinds, specialle the Duck of Lenox and the Duches of Richmout, for to interceed at his Majesties hands for to obtene speedie payment of thease moneyes dew to him be his Majestic. So not doubting of your cair heirin as ye shall haue me to remain,

*Vostre tresaffionee
Cousine
Henriette Stuart*

Cannoget, 12 Februar 1636.

For the right worshipfull my loving cousing, Sir Robert Gordone, knight barronet, gentleman of his Majesties privie chalmers.

163. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON of Navidale to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother,
—to speak with William Dick about his debts, etc. 23d May 1636.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL AND LOWEING BROTHER,—I hoip be now yow ar in Scotland, or werie nier wnto it; so finding the occatioun of Mr. James Cuninghame his south going, I thoct goode to send this letter to Edinburgh to attend your worschipsis thaircuming. I can hier no woord off my sone his bissines, quhilk will be to my gryt preiudice iff it goe baek; quhairfoir I earnestly request yow to be earnest with Mr. Adame Heapbrownne-thairanent, that I may be suir what may be expectit thairin, and that ye adwerteis me thairoff with the first occatioun. Ye will know best your sellff what is liklie to cum off the marquis, our cheiff, his bissines, and I hoip we sall be moir fullie resollwit thairoff when it pleassis God we sie yow. I will intreat yow to heast yow north for the Laird off Assint his bissines. I have bein at tuo trysts of his with Seaffort and his freindis within thir ten dayis, and thair is no remeid but he must sell at this Witsunday cum ane yeir, and Seaffort will show no curtessie except he be securit of his moneis

befoir Lambes nixt, quhilk is conform to our condescending. I will wryt no moir of this bissines seing *verbum sapienti sat est*. Assint lippins when your worschip cums that ye will do for him als far as ye can without your owin prejudicc. I intreat your worschip to speak William Dick and show him he salbe compleittle payit off me, principall and interest, at Lambes when I go to Iyrland. The way I intend to pay him is to sattill with my lord, our ac[p]hew, for my lyffrent off Ruiffs, wheroff we have spokin sumthing already; bot I continow the mater wutill it pleass God that your worschip cum to this cuntrey. Allways your worschip sall show William Dick that I only stey hier attending the ewent of my sone his bissines, and that when we go sowth at anie tyme betuix this and Lambes (seing langer I can not stey) that he salbe contentit both in principall and annuall. The annuall is but sens Mertimes last, quhilk than I directit sowth to him and he refusit it. I dout not bot one woord of your mouth will giwe him content for that space. Your worschip sall speak the lyke to John Rind for that I rest him, and, will God, they sall all be contentit befoir I leawe them, altho I have no moir behind; for when an honest man hes creditt he hes anewch and will not want. I am sorie that nottheles of my painis betuix Frenndracht and his lady that maters is liklie again to fall wors betuix them. Allways I have wryttin to Frenndracht, be the earll our nephewis adwysis, that when your worschip cums we will take all sum cowrss betuix them, for shoo is ather ane werie iwill woman, or els shoo is nichtilie wrongit and abusit. So ye sall try all ye can wutill it pleass God we all meitt, that than we mey adwysis on the best cours we can to satill maters. I will wryt no moir off this purpois. I besik yow, schir, heast yow north als shoone as ye can, for ye will find anewch to do both that concerns your sellf and ws your freindis.

I have wryttin to William Dick and to John Rind anent my owin bissines, quhilk I request your worschip to backe. Remember my service to my lady marquis, and show hir ladyship that I will have one at hir ladyship shortt efter the terme, giwe I go not sowth than my sellf, and that the deley of my sone his bissines was the caus I did not sie my lord and hir ladyship long or now. I can wryt no moir at this tyme. So expecting your heastie heir cuming, or short adwerteisment, I rest, as I sall ewer remain, youris worschipsis most affectionat and loweing brother to serw yow to death,

SR. A. GORDOUNE.

The Earll of Suthirland, my Lord of Reay, and I, with other freindis, con-

weinit at Tain the tent of this month for satling of the Laird of Fowllis his ésteat, wherin the government of the ésteat was in question betuix Obstell and Limalair; quhilk all the freindis in one woce offerrit to Obstell with Limalairs consent, yit Obstell refusit the samen. So we all in one woice fand Limalair so reasonabill in all things that we have layed the burding of all wppoun Limalair wntill it pleas God the chyld be fortein yeiris of adge. So I besik yow, whatewer ye heir of Limalair to the contrar do not belive it, seing Limalair hes giwein contentment to all the freindis for the weall of the hous of Fowllis.

Dornoch, this 23 of Maii, 1636.

To the richt worschippfull and my loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoun of that ilk, knight and barronat, one of his Maiesteis priwie causall of Scotland, these.

164. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—
as to the chaplaincy of Kinaldy, etc. 14th June 1636.

RIGHT WORSCHIPPFULL and loving vnclé,—I receawit your last deatted from Edinburgh the 28 of Maii, showing of your saiffe arywell ther, wherof I am most glaid. I did wryt particularly to yow with Mr. James. I intreat yow to sie, if the Bishope of Cathnes be in the toune, that he may subscriuwe ane blancke presentatioune of the cheaplandrie of Kinauldy, which I think is all one to him, seing he must confirme some mau, so that I may advyse at your heir comming whose name to insecart therin, for it is als lawfull to insert ane laicke as ane churchemans name therin in the presenter his optioun. I hope also, if yow stay anie tyme in the toune, yow will cause have ane caire that Alexander Chisolmes suspentiones be discussed, as I did wryt to yow before. We in this countrey ar mightily wrongit for laick of ane suttung commisshar, wherfor if yow can find the meines to make him receid heir at the cathed[r]all churtche, I assure yow it wold doe the countrey great good. I intreat yow also make William Dick his bargan, accoumpts, annuall-rents, and all other things cleir betuixt ws, for he threttens me alwayes with paying of falizes for the last yeir, albeit I did pay waist fraught' to his schippers thankfully heir, which I am confident I ought not to pay, thinking that alwayes the best of my bargane was that I was freie of falzies. Alexander Lintoune hes William Gray his tickets vpon the receipt of 28 barralls of salmond and grilses.

This is all that is to be deduced since your owen fitting of accoumpts with him in my name, as for this yeirs wictuall, seing I have not yeit receavit his schippers dischairges from my chalmersland. I think yow must continowe that till your bakgoing seing ther is nothing to be diducit till Mertimes. I hope George, my brother, will come home in your owen companie. I shall have ane cair to keipe grasse and some eates for your horses, bot laick of raine and thir winds makes the grasse bracke out exceiding sloyly, and as it bouds out it withers. So till meitting and ever I shall always remaine, your most affectionat nephewe to serwe yow,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

Dounrobin, the 14 of Junii, 1636.

To the right worschippfull and my loving vncle, Sir Robert Gordoune of that ilk, knyght baronet, and one of his Majesties privie chalmer in ordiner, these.

165. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his brother,—as to Lord Reay, the Earl of Seaforth, the sale of Assynt, etc. 5th July 1636.

RIGHT WORSCHIPPFULL and loweing brother,—I receavit ane short letter of youris out of Edinburgh efter your arrywell thair, and be that letter I understand that ye did not receive my letter quhillk I send befor Witsunday with Mr. James Cuninggham to attend your arrywell thair; and I merwell I newer receavit any woord from yow sens than. I have sein your letter sent to my Lord of Reay, and I wish ye follow your best freindis adwyce befor ye end your bargan. I wold have yow to expeid your affairis thair with expeditioun, and to heast yow heir in tyme, for fear ye cum too leatte for that bissines was in handis betuix yow and my Lord off Reay; yit iff ye cum within tuentie dayis all may be in tyme adwysit wppoun and accordingly resollwitt. I remit this to your owin goode consideratioun seing yow know my meining. My Lord off Seaffortt hes bein dealling hard with the Laird off Assint thir sex or aucht olkis bygain wherwith I have bein gryttumlie trublit, and can mend my sellff littill. I grant Assint hes playit the foolle to him sellff, and albeit the Earl off Seaffortt haid intendit no action against him, he must sell Assint befor he pay him his real debttis, quhillkis can not be refusit. I know he hes intendit improbatoun and reductioun of his infetment and ane declaratour wppoun the gift of his lyffrent and escheatt,

and nullitie for not payment of the few dewteis; bot I think these will not woork for sik reasons [as] or wryttin to Walter Hay. So giwe ye receawe this letter in Edinburgh befor your north cuming I request yow to take the painis to speak Walter Hay heirant, seing I hawe wryttin to him to adwyis with yow, and to show yow of all things we hawe wryttin to him thairant. The Earll of Seaforth is riddin south, and wryt to me he wold continow any legall procedour against Assint till his lordschips return, quhilk letter is sent to Walter Hay with the rest. I can wryt no moir of this bissines, but remitis it to Walter Hay his declaratioun thair, and to our owin meitting heir. I request yow to speak to William Dick and John Rind, and desyir them to hawe patiens, untill yow and I return, and, will God, they salbe contentit and will not be loisseris in aue pennie. I am sorie for the Marquis of Huntlie his death. God send his sone weill home. Gett woord when the buriall will be, that iff it be befor yow and I leave Scotland, we mey prowid for our murning clois. I besik yow be at sum point with Mr. Adam Heabroun concerning my sone his bissines, for I am aschameit it cam to sik ane point, and than to cast aff in thair owin defallts; for now the yeir is passing by, and I hawe steyt long anewch uppoun that bissines already, and longer I can not stey, and giwe I go away it will not be so shoone done as it acht to be. So I desyir nothing but ane ansuer, that if that misgiwe, my sone mey luik for sum other way. So remitting all things to your wisdome and diligens, and intreatting yow to heast yow hear, I rest, and sall remain, youris affectionat and loweing brother to serw yow to death,

SR. A. GORDOUNE.

Dornoch, the 5 of Julj, 1636.

Sir, efter the wrytting of this letter, Mr. John Gray and the chalmerland cam to me and desyir me for to adwertis your worschip that all Murray men ar chardgeit for conceillit moneis, and that thir cuntrey men ar to be chardgeit to that samen effect: Thairfor intreatts your worschip to gett ane commissioun to take all our cuntrey mens aithis heir in this cuntrey; otherways it will be ane gryt cross to this cuntrey men if they be forcit to ryid south for that bissines; so hoips your worschip will be cairfull thairoff as ye lowe the weill of the cuntrey.

I intreat yow, sir, caus bring me or send me with this bearar als mutch gray fyin Ingliss cloith as wilbe me ane ryidding coitt, with sillwer leas and buttons, and beasse to serw conform to the fasioun, and I sall satisfie your man at his

heir euming; for I am altogidder desolat and can get nane to by in the north, and am loith to begin new compts with John Rind.

To the richt worschipfull and my loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoun of that ilk, knicht barronet, one of his Maiesteis priwie cunsall of Scotland, and one of the priwie chalmer in England, these.

166. SIR ALEXANDER GORDON of Navidale, to his brother, SIR ROBERT GORDON of Gordonstown,—about his son's affairs, and clothes in which to attend his nephew's marriage. 8th July 1636.

RIGHT WORSHIPFULL and loweing brother,—I wryt to yow thrie or four dayis sens, yit finding the ocatioun of this gentillman, John Sinclar, his sowthgoing, I thoctt goode again heirby to intreat yow to adwerteis me with the first ocatioun what I mey expect concerning my sone his bissines, and giwe ye sie no appeirans off ane heastie dispatch that ye get the warrand quhilk the cunsall gawe to my sone his behuiff and send it me; and I hoip thairby to prowiyd for sum other cowrss for my sone against it pleas ye cum hier, quhilk I wish for monie respectis mey be shortly. Allways I remit all to your owin wisdome and goode considera-tioun, not douting bot ye will wse the best cours ye can thairin.

Our nephew, the Master of Reay, is contractit on our antt, the Earl off Cathnes his dochter, Lady Isbell Sinclar, quhilk I pray God mey be to Godis glorie and thair weillis. They ar to marie befor Lambes, and I think I must be thair; and seing I haiwe no clois heir I hawe thoctt goode heirby to request yow to caus ask for one Johue Turnour, tealzedür in Edinburgh, who is sone-in-lawe to George Ker, who was our old man, with whom I left ane suit of black figurit silk and ane taffatie cloik, quhilk I request yow to caus gett, and send it to me with the boy I sent with my last letters to yow. And failt not send me ather als mutch skarlet or fyin gray Lunden cloith with beas to lyn it, and sillwer leas and buttons to serw it, conform to the best and newest fasion, as wilbe me ane ryidding coitt; and send all with the boy I sent to yow last, and whatewer it cost yow I sall delywer it at your arrywell heir, or els take it of the best frem John Rind, and, will God, he shall be honestly contentit off all I rest him befor I leawe Edinburgh, quhilk ye sall assuir him off. This is all I hawe for the presentt.

So expecting your answer in all things, and wishing yow all happines, I rest,
youris worschipe most affectionat brother to serw yow to death,

Dunrobin, this 8 of Julj, 1636.

Caus delywer this other to John Turnur.

The earll, our nephew, is now in the hillis at hunting.

To the richt worschippfull and my loweing brother, Sir Robert Gordoun of that
ilk, knight and barronat, one off his Maiesteis priuie cunsall off Scotland,
these.

167. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, and others, to the LAIRD OF
FINDRASSIE,—calling a meeting at Forres in regard to the Service
Book.¹

Invernes, 26 April 1638.

WERY HONERABIL,—We have receiuit letters from the rest of the nobilitie,
daitit at Edinburgh the 26 of March, desyring ws to meit heir at Invernes on
the 25 of this moneth, which we have obeyit, to the effect that their commis-
sioneris might informe ws trewlie of their proceedingis concerning the novationes
of the service books and vthers abussis, so much threaitting the overthrow of
religion, lawis, and liberties of this kingdome. Quharin we find our selfis
sufficiëntlie satisfieit, and that they have done nothing in all their proceedingis
bot quhat is legall, to the glorie of God, the honour of our dreid soveragne the
king our maister, which is and salbe warrandit be the lawis of the kingdome.
And following their good example, wee have communicat the samen with the

¹ From the Pitcalnie Collection, Sixth Report of the Historical mss. Commission,
Appendix, p. 718.

whole gentrie, ministers, and borrowis of the schyris of Caithnes, Sutherland, Invernes, Cromertie. We have find all kynd of people weill satisfeit, and for your better satisfiounne we have resolveit to be at Forres on Saturday nixt be aught hours, the 28 of this instant, quhair ye will be pleased to meit ws and to receive the lyk satisfiounn, or gif your oppinioun in a matter so neirlie concerneing ws all. So expecting to sie you there, as we sall ever remayne, your affectionat good freinds,

[Signed by JOHN, EARL OF SUTHERLAND, LORDS LOVAT, REAY, and SINCLAIR, and the Lairds of BALNAGOWAN and STRICHEN.]

To our werie honorable and luffing friend and cussing the Laird Fin-ressie, thess.

168. GEORGE GORDON, brother of John, Earl of Sutherland, to SIR ROBERT GORDON, his uncle,—that Sir Robert had been charged to compare before the parliament. 30th November 1640.

RIGHT WORSHIPFULL and loving wncle,—If the way of wrytting had been saiff this yeare bygone, yee should have heard oftner from me of our proceedings. I take the same to have been the reasone of your so seldome wrytting to ws, whiche I expect your worship will now help, seing ther is ane ordiner intercouris and daylie exchange of letters betwixt our armie and our commissioners now at Loundone. Seing it hes been my fortowne to be heer these eight days bygone for some of my lordis affaires, I thought fitt to acquaint your worship by these that yee ar chaired by the Estaits (amongis others of our countrey men who ar for the presentt abroade from ther countrey), to compare before our parliament at the nixt sessione theroff to ansuer to suche things as shalbe layed to your worships chairge, wnder the pain of forfaultrie. What the particulars of your accusatione wilbe I cannot learne. If I could have gotten anye ocasionne I hade acquainted yow sooner heerwithe; bot my opinione to yow is that yee stryve by all meanes possible to keep the dyet. This muche I thought wes incumbent to me to lett yow knowe, it comming to my eares, least yee should be surprysed on a worse. I doubt not bot by the relatione of our commissioners and ther informatione to the parliament of England, your worship will learne what our

behaviour hathe been this last yeare in Scotland, and how wee have been vrged by necessitie to doe what we have done. As for our owne bussines in the northe I cannot commit to paper the particulars theroff till it please God wee meet. Onlye Sleight Toine Vaighe is become our competitouris of late, who, withiu these fewe adges, thought it no discredit to be servants to our ancestouris. My lord cann get nather principall nor annwell from Donald Dowe, who intendis, so far [as] I cann learue, to vse yow in the lyke qualitie. He hopes his wncle will lett him have the annwell of his sowines free during his lyftyme for his good behaviour towardis him and his in tymes bygone. Your band to the Dutche merchant is not as yett retired. The moneys yee ordained John Bruce to giwe to the chamberland at Wittsonnday last is not as yett giwen. Al our freindis in the northe ar well, praised be God, only Janet Gordone in Golspietowir is deade. Mr. Gilbert Gray is maryed to the chamberlandis daughter. The Lord Sinclair hes been in Catteynes this whyle, and hes brought Francis, Catteynes his sone, alongs with him for some ryot he offered to one of his servants ther. So remitting all other particulars till meeting, whiche I wishe may be shortlie, I rest, your worships most affectionat nephue and servant,

G. GORDONE.

Newecastle, the last of November 1640.

The cornes hes not been well winn in Scotland this year, nather is the crope so good as in former years it hes been, therfore be not so rashe in selling of your cornes in Murray this yeare as yee wes the last. Our parliament is prorogat to the fourteenth of Januarii, which is the dyet of your compearance with the rest who ar cited.

To the right worshipfull my most affectionatt and loving wncle, Sir Robert Gordone of Dreyne, and one of his Maiesties privie chamber in England, these.

169. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to DAVID, LORD ELCHIO, afterwards SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS,—affairs in Sutherland and Caithness.¹

Tayne, the 14 off August 1644.

MY WERIE HONORABILL GOOD LORD,—Your ordours we haue receawit from this berar, and as I haue formerly wrytten, ther neids nothing be expectit from ws heir

¹ Original letter at Wemyss.

till the slowness off Cathnes and malignancie off Strauawer and Assint, which ar within our diuisione, be taken course with. I hope it will suffice ws to goe on according to the last Parliaments ordours sent with me heir, seing our diuisione nowe is imparit and elipt by taking such off the name off M^rKenzie from ws as wer appoyntit to joyne with ws by the first act; wher we wer to lewie 16 houndreth foott; as for horses, the parliament did consider we wer vnable to furnishe anie, and therfor did dispenche with them. The Laird off Murkell in Cathnes, who is conwiner off ther committie off war, doth alwayes forslowe them in that shyre, and not only hinder them, bot by his reports off [in]wasione off my Lord off Reay and others by sea, and throghe the fears off the Clane Donald from the west, puts all others in such feares, as ther will hardly be anie men at all gotten to be leiwed out off thir feilds, except such be taken course with for the ewell re-po[r]ts, and all our nightbours about ws march before ws, and then, God willing, we shall call vp ther reire. My coussing, Francis Sinclaire, is gone to yow with Drumme; we haue saifly delywerit him to the Shireff [off] Inverness, and to Torbet in my Lord Seaforts behalf. Murkell did make ws wait for him all Satterday, Sounday, and Monday, till tuelf a clock, and Francis can showe your lordship, which hath not prejudgit the lidges a littell in all places. I hope your lordship will assist Francis, that none be shairers with him in the prissoners fynes, for others off the committie who wer present with him at the apprehending off them, altho he was cheiff man, wold wishe to be shairers also, notwithstanding he hath noble intertinied them since ther taking; so I hope your lordship will doe your best for him, and deall with him as I did formerly wryt to accept to be my liw-tenent collonell, and iff he accept off it, that your lordship mowe the committie to wryt in his favors, both to ws and Cathnes for that end, and that ane threaten- ing letter be wrytten with him also to Cathnes, for the spidie dispatch off ther lewies. Ther is ane ge[n]telman off my acquaintance, who, being bread with young Drumme, being his coussing, was foolishly led on by them against the pub- lick, bot did neuer drawe sourd nor shoot a shoott to the prejudice off anie off the lidges, as he seuars and assewers by ane letter of his to me. Nowe he repents him self off his follie, and doth promise amendment in tymes comming. The gentell- mans name is Wrquart, the tutor off Crommertis sone, Craighouse; therfor, iff your lordship thinks he may expect anie favor, he will gett severalls will be suirties for his good behaiour in tymes comming, and I hope your lordship will adwer- tise me what may be expectit, seing he was at Monross also, and that your lord-

ship will doe all for him yow can, seing only throghe ignorance, folly, and youuth, lie was drawn on with the multitude; which favor I wold esteim, iff ther be anie possibilitie in obtaining off it, as done to my selff, and shall ewer [prof]ess that I am,

Your lordships affectionat coussing and servant,

Your coussing, my bedfellow, is in the old maner, and hath hir humble service presentit to your lordship, whom shoe longs extreamly to sie.

It is no wonder that the Master off Reay doth give no obedience to the Estests ordours, when in despyt of them he doth keipe ane open table to the Marquess of Huntly in his feilds, and, as they report, doth goe openly to ther churches, which I admeir the Estests sould so longe suffer.

For the right honorabill my werie good lord and most affectionat coussing, my Lord Elcho, these.

170. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR LUDOVIC GORDON, younger, of Gordonstown,—sending him his plate to convert into cash and to obtain for him a pass to Strathnaver. 18th April 1655.

RIGHT HONORABILL and loveing cusine,—I haue sent the bearer heirotf, my serwant, with my siluer plate to Inuernes, and hes desyreit him to go by you, hopinge that you will take the paynes as to go that length to sie it sold, and iff Mr. Cuper will take it to pay himselff with the first end therof. And if he will not buy it, whosoeuer will, you may caus pay him his money furth of the first end therof; and quhat superplus beis over Mr. Cupers money, he may bring it home that I may pay Mr. Johne Baynes money (which I sould pay once this week)

which you know extendis to ane thousand merkis. I desire quhen you go to Inuernes, to get ane pas for me and my convoy to Straithnaver from the Colonell, that I may go about my affairis with the Lord Rhey and my tenandrie thair. For I haue gottin ane letter yeisternight from William Monro, my serwant thair, showeing me that iff I did not go thier once in the moneth off Maii that much of my landis thier would be ley; and he wreits also that vnles I giue downe of the rent he will not get it sett. Bot I haue desyrit him to sett the landis in the best way he cane; and quhat freindis sall allowe, I sall also. I am gone this day to Helmsdall to sie ane boat that is come for my victuall fraughtit thier which (being in heast) makes me make vse of ane borrowit hand. So this all, bot hopes you will be myndfull of quhat I wrote to you in my last, and of my memorandum, but that I am, your most affectionat cusine to serue you,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

Dunrobin, 18 Apryle 1655.

For the right honorabill and my loveing cusine, Sir Lodowick Gordoun off Gordounstowne, young, thais.

[On the back of the letter, and in another hand, probably as a draft of an answer, is written as follows.] Arbol is come from South, as I beleue you haue heard; he called here, but I was from home. I heare the generall hath refused to subscribe your losses, but hath signed some others that you would not take along with yours. I am sorry you are so ill aduised as to lose enery man that can be vsefull to you. This was not vntold very plainly, but consell is no command. I haue as I perceaue in my former letters [been] more plaine then pleasant, but I could doe no lesse in discharge of my conscience and dutie to your lordship and family, resolueing hereafter to forbear.

171. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR ROBERT GORDON,—
about the difficulty of raising money. 29th October 1655.

RIGHT WORSCHIPFULL and lowing wnele,—I haue receawit yours from this berar, together with two letters from Collonell Barkley, on to your self and ane other to your sone, which I haue sent back by this berar, together with Jhoseph Brodies letter. As for Collonell Barkleys desyre, it is so resonable if I wer in power to obtemper it, that in reasone it could not be refusit, and I might esteim it a favor that he sould continow his owen moneyes for a tyme rather then think it anie

ways strick dealling. Bot to speak trewly I doe not sie wher ther can be so much moneyes haid in thir feilds as two houndreth pounds sterling, for our salmone doth ws no good this yeir. For my Strathmawer rent, Captain Campbell hath gotten off it alradie above 700 merkes; so I can hardly expect on houndreth pounds from that, considering how ewell payers they ar, and the ley land is ther; and for the silwer rent in the countrey it is all foruailit alradie. I haue giwen ordour to pay Jhone Gunne 400 merkes according to your letter, and annuellrents in mens owen hands will exhaust much; besyds intrests resting ower yeir, ther being nothing to pay them with the last, which much (must) be first payit this yeir, otherways they must haue ther principell soumes. Such as the Brodies, the Monros in Caithness, both Mr. Alexander and Mr. Dawid, ar exceeding pressing for ther principell soumes, and its fair if we can get them postponit, or get them to continowe the principell soumes by paying them ther intrest. I know also your self must haue moneyes, so this will exhaust more then I expect to get in, and no word off my self for my servants fies and moneyes. I behowit both to borrow for my owen wsse, and other things for the wsse of the house which must be payit, els I will get non againe to borrowe in a necessitie, nather can I my self be still in this kynd without geting anie thing of that is allotted for my owen mantinance. I shall requyre no mor then is allotted, which must be haid altho all sould soure; for I think it a sinne to withhold servants fees, some abowe two yeirs resting, and ther is none I think that makes conscience off ther wayes bot will think it a veight on ther spirits, and its on of the crying sinnes, so that I can not sie howe it can be haid. Iff William Downie hath taken the pleat for his share of that money its weill. I sould endewor to get the other half iff possibly it can be haid. Ther can littell be expectit out of the parische of Kildonnand in regaird much off the land ther is blastit with the water in the summer speats. Ther cornes haue not taken meal, and yow knowe except som mairt and mutton in the cost syd, what can be expectit, Strathbrora now being wedset. So yow may conjector what moneyes is to be haid in to doe ane considerable bussiness. However, ther shalbe nothing left vndone that can be done. And for wictuall rest ther nids none expect moneyes theroff. Iff the Lord bless them with a good crope, boll for boll is all can be expectit, altho ther be abowe 400 bolles resting the werie last yeir. This popell haue gotten such a custome off rest, befor I enterit with them, that the world can not make them good payers, trusting ewer what is resting will be still forgiwen,

as it was at my entrie, or otherways we maust cast our lands leye iff we exact them. I did send the returne off Collonell Barkley letter to Inuerness by Thomas Mansone. I knowe iff it mist the Collonell it was delywerit to Mr. Robert.

Nowe for that misfortunat woman my daughter, shoe wryts to my wyff that shoe can not helpe it. Hir freinds will put at me for hir. I knowe howe that commeth, bot who ewer doth so it will be found they shall nather haue conscience nor credit in it, altho they regairdit not me bot him that is to succeid, and to wronge ane old family, for that I will not (altho I might without sinne) call hir. Let the world be judge, nather shoe nor they will haue credit in it, and I will abyd the wtmost in it. I haid Mr. Jhone Duglas moneys readie to give him, bot when the man was gone I haue giuen this berar ane houndreth and sex merkes to pay Mr. Alexander Symmer, and haue giuen him the other fyftie merkes to bring vnto yow to deburse for hir in such small iotes as shoe stands in neid off. I haue desyrit this berar to buy hir als much linning as wilbe hir 6 smookees. If I could haue commandit more money I sould haue sent it. I haid not a groat off my estate, bot 10 pounds sterling at the markat. So that with this houndreth pounds I haue giuen 23*li*. Seots more out then I haue gottin in, for I haue giuen 45*li*. for the schoolmasters pentione, vntill I can get itt in againe. I haue wryten to Jhoseph Brodie, and to Frances also, for a continuatioun off ther moneys. I haue sent yow Jhoseps letter open that yow may reid it, and thereafter close it and send it to him, which is all I can say for the present, bot that I shall continowo your worshipis most affectionat nephew to serve yow.

J. E. SUTHERLAND.

Dounrobin, the 29 off October 1655.

For the right worshipfull and my most affectionat wncle, Sir Robert Gordoune off that ilk, knight and barronet, at Gordonstoune, these.

172. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to SIR LUDOVIC GORDON of Gordonstown,—the difficulty of raising money. 28th February 1656.

RIGHT WORSHIPFULL and lowing coussing,—Yours of the 26 come to my handis this day be tuelff a clock. This being our sessione day I could not dispatch the berar til this night. Androw Cunnyngame did nothing at Inuernes in

relacione off the maine thing he went for, which was to sell some victuall to buy salt, which nowe Captain Cambell hath sent from Leith, with [a] weshell I haue fraughtit and dispatchit this morning, and Androw Cunnyngame in hir, to sie the victuall delywerit. As for the scheats I did wryt off formerly vnto yow, I haue sent this berar, Adame Gordonne, to goe alonges with auie of your serwants who haue bespoken the scheats to buy them. As for moneys, I haue none, for trewly Captain Cambell left me als bair as the birke at Crismess when he went last south, and I haue gotten in none since, nather doe I expect much in heast, except a littell from Strathnawer, and Captain Campbell shewit me that Mr. Couper must haue that to be done [first] in pairt off payment off 4 or 500 pounds sterling [my sones] hath taken from him at Loundone. If I wer als exorbitant in my spending as they ar I wold be called a destroyer of the housse. They haue exceedit tussse that is allowit for them. Yow knowe ther was 4000 merkis a yeir allowit for them. It is not 2 yeis since they went for Loundone till Lambes nixt, and they haue spent (iff it be trewe that Captain Campbell wryteth) above 16,000 merkes. Wher shall all this moneys be haid? However, I will say no more off this vntill Captain Campbells returne, that I may knowe the certantie theroff. Therfor, seing I haue no moneys, and that Robert Innes will not take these moneys till Witsunday, that the Lady Breay promises to pay hir pairt also, I think it not amisse to giwe this berar ane houndreth and fyftie pounds to pay for the scheats, and appoynt Thomas Lundesay to send horsis with the berar to Tayne or Portincolter, and we shall send to meit him there to carie them home. I think yow sould pay the Brodies ther intrests, and Mr. Jhone Douglas also. As concerning our coussing Patrick, he pressit me to let him goe ower to vissit your father, and trevlie I haid not bot on doller, and I was necessitat to borrowe als much from the old chalmerland as maid it out ten pounds for to make his chairges ower. He went from this yeister-night to Kirktoune, and I think he hath gone ower this day to yow, yeit I am not squire. However, you will seie him shortlie, therfor, receawe back his letter heirwith. I haid [on] of my owen a prettie whyll agoe from James Farquhar, much to on purposse with this off yours, bot without [I] wadset land I sie no way howe he can be payit. Jhone Graye, Creichs brother, is sicking my lands about Dornoch [in] wedset, and offers only ane thowsand pounds the chaldier, which I think too lowe a rait. Ther is ane other gentellman off the name off Ross that offers me his money at Witsunday—some 4000 merkes. He

will take Brora and keipe ane inne ther, and only desyres the superplus of his intrest at 8 merkes the boll, out off the bolle to be giwen him yeirly, which, iff it could be effectuat for some yeirs wntill ~~we lookie about wa,~~ I think it wer no ewell bargane. Bot iff I set anie takes off Brora, if we can doe anie thing in coll workes, and drawe anie popell in to that end, they can not leiwe without Brora. Acquaint me what yow think off these particulars, and what yow will adwysses me to doe in them, which is all I haue to say for the present vntill I heir from yow againe (only that according to your desyre I shall giue the berar 2s. sterling), bot that I shall still continowe, right worshipfull, your most affectionat coussing to serue yow,

J. E. SUTHERLAND.

Donnrobin, the 28 off Februarii 1656.

Yow challenge me for neglecting to returne answer to Thomas Lindesay. Let him remember to whom he delywerit his letter that he may call for it, for I haue neuer seen it. It is not my coustome not to returne ansuers iff opportunity offer; and the rather I wold not haue faillit, iff I had receawed it, being my owen concernment, to haue returne him ansuer to you off my owen, and thankit him also hartly for his paines. Bot I could not mak a returne vnto a letter which I haue neuer receawit nor seine. As for the commission that Culloden hath gotten to take our oathes, for my owen part I am cleir; altho it was commoned, it was newer condescendit by me, for I knewe ewer I was not able to pay intrest, and iff he haid insistit in it I wold haue casten the bargan befor I haid granted it.

For the right worshipfull and my most affectionat coussing, Sir Lodowick Gordoune, aspirant of Gordonstoune, these.

173. SIR ROBERT GORDON of Embo, to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FOURTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—respecting the affairs of the estate of Sutherland. 18th August 1660.

MY NOBLE LORD,—Tho I haue litell to ade to what I wrytt to your lordship with your brother and Sir Georg Monro in relation to your affairs, yet haueing sent this berar expreslye your lordships lenth to know of your lordships and

ladies wellfear, I judgit it my dewtie to giue yow ane accompt of what past sine we haue complitd our bargone of kous with Captain Penat, which hes, with this sex month ces which we ar just now paying, exhaustit all the monys thatt we can be in expectation of till Mertimes; and if wther thing be payit out then that off necessitie most be, ther vill be litell or nothings had then. So that your lordship wold doe veill to think how your self and your father may be swpylit in monys for this winter, for hier yow may expect non. What furdur your lordships father hes wryten to you in ansner to your lordships to him from Londone the fourth off this instant your lordship vill consider, and let ws be tymlye and particularly aquentd with your lordships resolowtione therin. Your lordship shall resawe heirwith the compt fited with Colloden, which vill aquent yow with whatts resting him. We judge your lordships fishing this year will be about 18 last. What agriement we mak with him for whatts out ower the bargone your lordship shall know with the neixt ocaetione. If I had nott bein pressit to it by my lord I had nott wryten any to your lordship at this tyme, hauing nott so much as resawed a lyne from your lordship sine your going to London bot on off the sexteinth of Junij. My lord, your lordships frinds heir is so secure by your lordships silene, that if your lordship mynd them nott in the transaction off affears, thatt they may misse of that which wtherways they might atteyne to, if we wer more frequently aquentd by your lordship, the amendment wherof for the future is werie humblye begit for by, my noble lord, your lordships most humble and obedient serwant,

S. R. GORDONE.

Dunrobin, the 18 Agust 1660.

For the rightt honourabill my Lord Strathnaver, thes.

174. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his daughter-in-law, LADY JEAN WEMYSS, LADY STRATHNAVER,—stating that his journey south will not be so early as he expected. 20th September 1660.

MADAME AND DEAR DAUGHTER,—Yours off the 3d instant, as also that yow wryt on the margen off your husbands off the 10th by my sone Robert, ar both come to my hands. For anie thing I can sie as yeit for the indictione off a parliament, it is not werie probable (els these nowe vpon the Committee off Esteats doe not walke by the old rewles) it shall sitt so shone as was giwen out, wheroff I hawe

wryten at gryter lenth to my sone. So that I think your ladyship neids not expect to sie me till it be neir Mertiness, that we may get all things the better done; and (God willing) I shall not be forgetfull of anie thing yow have recommended vnto me. This gentelman, a trustie servant off your husbands, is gone south to obwiat others in these things wherin he may be servicible vnto ws and for the good off our popell; and I trust your ladyship will put your husband out to doe all that lys in your powers for him, and the good theroff will redound vnto your selffs. I will adde no more least I sould be trowblsome, bot that I longe excidingly to sie yow, which shall be indewored (with neglecting als littell off our business as can be) by, madam, your most affectionat father and humble servant,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

Dounrobin, the 20 off September 1660.

I am exciding sorie to heir that Lord Archibalds horse sould be so cwell wsse by the way. I resolue to bring ane other littell horsse south with me, and if he please him better then the other he shall have his choysse. But I begge your ladyship may present my humble service to him and to Lady Margaret lykways.

For the right honourabill my Lady Strathnaver, these.

175. JOHN, THIRTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his son, GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—regarding the choice of commissioners for the shire to Parliament, and commissioners for the assessment, etc. 21st September 1660.

DEAR SONE,—Both yours off the 3d instant, as also yours off the 10th by your brother, ar come to my hands; notwithstanding off all these we ar not the wysser when the parliament will sit, seing the Committie off Esteats have isiwed fourth no ordours for choysing commissioners nather from bruch nor shyre. Nather is ther anie formall indictione, so that I can not think the parliament will sitt so shone as is talkit off, which was the 23 off the nixt mounth; for off old

ther was 40 freie days intimatione giwen to all the bruches and shyres off this natione for choysing ther commissioners, and for giwing them compitent tyme for repairing and preparing them selifs for it. So that indeid I sould be content that our Barsmarkat wer past befor I took journey, that we might haue the bak (off the Martimess bussiness) broken. I perceawe Sir Robert is werie vnwilling to goe south, he says, without running him self in gryt debt (which his conditione calls not for), which wold be it vtter ruine he could not goe; and he says he knowes the shyre off old, which as yeit stickes to him that he can newer get anie thing off them. Yea, altho he laid his dyet off me, yeit what clothes he did take off then is as yeit vnsatisfied, so as I haue said, he seimeth altogether vnwilling. Yeit iff ther be others choysen they will mak the shyre doe dewtie to them; and it may be it wilbe littell to our adwantadge, who in anie thing we ar consenrit may crosse ws. He wishes your brother may be commissioner, and seing the ordour is ther be two from ewerie shyr, your brother may be on lykwaie, for it will inable him heirafter to heir, and Sir Robert may haue the chaarges. You may wryt som thing positively to this purposse to them both and to your other friends, seing I knowe the shire is werie vnable to find chaarges for on much less for two, and presse it vpon Sir Robert els he will not undertak it. I will remitt this to the berars suffitiencie to show yow what necessitie and neid ther is for it. Nowe this berar is adwyssit by ws to goe south in tyme, least others prevent him who we heir is making south. Yow wold indewor (as sherreff) by all your moeyn, both with the clark register and such others as may be helpfull in it, to get him established shireff clarke. Yow know what preiudice it may be to your tenentrie and popell to hawe in anie aweritious vnjust man, or him who was formerly in that place. Nixt, yow knowe what an aweband it will be on the popell to hawe ane stranger commissar of this shyre, which also yow may prewent als much as yow can, and wsse yowr wholl indewor for him. Thridly, if cess be continowed, or iff ther sould be neid off ane collector, the berar can showe yow what indewors hawe beine maid, and ar as yeit on foot, to get James Crawfoord out that they might hawe in on off ther owen. Iff James can not bruke it him self ye wold indewor also for the berar. Iff it be objectit, howe can he hawe all the places and trust off the shyre put on him or on one man, it may shone be anserit the ablest man is always most fitting for plaees of trust in that kynd, and that he will find anewe to be surtie for his honestie and integritie in anie trust shalbe laid vpon him; and nixt, it is no strainge

thing, for Thomas Mansone had all these places in his persone formerly, and the berar is nothing inferiour to him in anie qualificatione that ewer he had, and the other nowe is far short off what he hath beine formerly. The fourth thing which I wold wishe yow to animadwert is iff ther be comissioners for the assesment chossen off newe or continowed, that yow may get some put off, such as Arbo and Creich, and adde for them Kilernane and Captain Robert, and Robert Calder off Terrische, and Jhone Gordoune in Garthie. For these on the other syd strywes always to bear ws doune by woycing in anie thing that comes in hands, as ther berar can informe yow what worke leatly we hawe had by Arbo and his freinds on the other syd, and what sweit expressions that famouss man Arbo hath wryten off me both to Collonel Man and to Liwtennent Collonel Hill, who did me the favour as to send me his letters, which receawe heiriuclosit, and keipe them as ane ewident, for I am informit Creich says all his brother hathe wryten ar justifiable. Bot indeid Skibo disowenes them in it; and since he did sie these letters he hath shutt his geats off Skibo vpon ther nosse, both Creich and Arbos, and wold not meit with them at all nor countinace them, for which yow may giue him thanks in my behalff. And yow may be confident all he sayes ar leys, wheroff yow knowe his facultie. Now, as consarning your salmond, considering howe all your Mertimess dewties ar alradie for the most pairt spent for the two last cesses, so that we will not get so much off them as will carie ws south and pay our servants feis, who must get ther leiwes, ther being alradie two houndreth and ten pounds sterling payit al off this Mertimess alradie; and considering howe long it is a comming in, we must be necessitat to sell your salmond to Duncan Forbes vpon his brothers accompt, seing ther is not a merchant will offer twentie merkes for the barrell. And altho we could hawe ceres, which can not be had bot by them selfs (who wold be leath to ther owen prejudice to giue them), as to pack them they wold be taken the nixt yeir bot for grayfishe, as lykways Jhone Forbes wold presently press payment for all the former salt yow owe him. And iff we can hawe 14 or 15 pounds from them adwancit, contiowing the old salt vntill your new or nixt yeirs fishe can satisfie them, and ane houndreth bolls off new salt layd in at Strathnawer for ten merkes the boll, and salmone taken for it the nixt yeir as we can agreie, I think we mak no ewell bargane, which we intend to prosecut. We intend lykways to hyre Huchone Angus boat for our prowisione, or some other, als cheape as can be, which is all at present I can wryt. Bot wishing the Lord, who is the only wyssse counsellor and director off

all these who depends vpon him, to be always your God, your gyd, and your gaird, I only adde that I am, dear sone, your most affectionat father till death,

J. E. SOUTHERLAND.

Dunrobin, the 21 off September 1660.

I trust yow will speak to William Downie concerning his moneys, and give him als fair words as yow can, wntill we may both speake him at gryter lenth.

For my deare sonne, my Lord Strathnawer, these.

176. LADY JEAN GORDON, wife of Captain Robert Stewart of Ethay in Orkney, to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—requesting him to offer her excuse for non-compearance to the Presbytery of Sutherland. 1st June 1661.

DEIR BROTHER,—Ye shall know that the last sinod that was in Caithnes causid this presbitry to sumons me to compir to the presbitry of Sutherland, which I cannot doe att present by reson of my unability of body by my being with child. Therfor I intret you to doe me the fauour as to wret in your owne neame my excuse to Mr. George Gray and Mr. John Makulach, by reson of my being with child; and this I entret you to doe with the first okcation that goes, in hope wherof I ame, your sister and seruauant,

JEAN GORDON.

Ethay, the first of June 1661.

Lett thes present my seruis to your lady and young sone.

Thes for the right honnourable my Lord Strathnauer att Edinbrough.

177. ALEXANDER, FIRST LORD DUFFUS, to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—concerning certain tacks of teinds and the mussell scalps of the Ferryovens.

Elgine, the 4 November 1662.

MY NOBELL LORD,—I dide wreitt to your lordship befor nowe desyreing thatt peapers was drawein upe att Edinbruch, and which your lordship, with the tackeis off the teindes, promised to send heir, thatt ane dispositione off so manie as your

lordship hade selde might be drainein upe; butt I perceave by Cambusavie that your lordship sayeis itt forgotte att Edinbruch, and as for the tackeis off the teindes, your lordship are to send them south. My lord, withowt the tackeis ther cane be noething dine, so thatt I shall entreatt your lordship would, and itt weir butt for never so shorte ane tyme, send them heir, and I shall cause draue upe the dispositione, and send them to your lordship, ore south, as your lordship shall think fitting. Hade itt nott bein my indispositione off health by the colde I hade waitted one you my selfe. Butt if ther be aniething your lordship would hawe my owein presence, upon advertisementt I shalbe readie to waitt one you. So lett me entreatt your lordship thatt sume close maye be putt to it. My lord, I perceave that your lordship caused your servantt tacke my fishers rudders for tackeing mussell one this syde off the Ferrie. Trulie, tho itt hade bein one the other syde, I would hawe louicked your lordship would not hawe stode with me for suche a bussines. I would nott refuse your lordship for a bussines off greatter consequense. Butt, my lord, being one this syde, I hope your lordship will nott questione my right, being withoutt controwerssie as is nottarlie knouein; so, my lord, I desyre and entreatt thatt your lordship will cause delyuer the men ther rudders, they being nightelie prejudged for wantt off them. If itt hade bein anie othir hade dine itt I would nott demande them after this maner. Butt I desyre nott to hawe the least heiring with your lordship, as I hawe shunned itt all my tyme, so I shall followe awyse for preventingt off itt, ther being noething so muche desyrreid by me then thatt I maye approue my selfe,

Your lordships affectionatt cousing and most faithfull servantt,

ALR. L. DUFFUS.

My wyffe and I presents our service to your lordship, your nobell ladye, and to my nobell lord, your father. I entreatt for your lordships answeir by the bearer.

For the right honorabell the Lord Strathnaver, thes.

178. PATRICK, BISHOP OF CAITHNESS, to the HERITORS OF THE PARISH OF FAR,—appointing Mr. John Munro to serve the parish temporarily. 14th May 1663.

RIGHT HONOURABIL and much respected freinds,—In regard that all the churches of this presbytrie are supplied excepting your congregacione onelie, I did expect that at our last synodical meeting I suld have heard some deserer from yow in reference to your supplie, and seeing I heard none, I thocht it convenient (wntill providence offer a way for your full settlement) to send yow Mr. John Munro to keep up publict dueties among yow. And tho he be infirme in bodie, yet I hope yee will have satisfacione of him, and therfor I doe desire yee may see to his accommodacione in manse and gleib, quhairbe he may be encouraged to lay out himselfe the more for your good; and be helpfull to him in his necessities, quich I hope will nocht want its reward in due time. I adde no more at present, bot that I am, your well wishing and assured freind,

PA. B. CATHNES.

Thurso, the 14 May, 1663.

For the right honourabil and his much respected freinds, the heretours of the paroch of Farre, these.

179. ALEXANDER, FIRST LORD DUFFUS, to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—further concerning the dispute as to the mussel scalp. 14th December 1663.

MY LORD,—I haue receaved your lordships, and I acknowledge itt was my misfortune I should a bein from home as your lordship returned from the south. Butt as to thatt particulare anentt the teind I shalbe readie to waitt one your lordship att anie plice your lordship pleaseis to acquantt me; butt itt weir necessarrie your lordship weir ended with the bisshope. As for thatt your lordship wreitts anentt whatt right I haue to the mussel scape, I was newer questioned butt of leatt. Whatt cane be [the] ground off itt I knoue nott, especialle wher nowe my men tacked mussells being one this syde off the watter. Wee haue bein in vse off tacking all kynd off fiseis butt the least questione, and to questione this thatt is so clire, and wheiroff we haue bein in possessione so long,

I think the land maye be als weil questioned. My lord, ther is noething will makee me neglect all deutie to your lordship, and I hope your lordship will nott desyre off me butt whatt is just, and in thatt none shalbe more willing to satisfie you then he who shall remaine, your lordships most humbell servantt,

ALR. L. DUFFUS.

Elgine, the 14 December 1663.

By these presentt my humbell service to my lord, your father, and to Mester Robert, your brother.

For the right honorabell my Lord Strathnaver, thes.

180. DAVID, SECOND EARL OF WEMYSS, to his daughter, LADY JEAN WEMYSS, LADY STRATHNAVER,—informing her about her son John.

Wemyss, 16 May [16]66.

DEIR DOUGHTER,—I am glead that you thinck your daughters ar in the uay of recouery. I uish itt hartly. For your horsse, I haue putt them to the grisse alrady att East Wemyss; I hop or September they shall be fatte. My uife hes sore eies and can not uritte to you. But shee says that shee uill not peart with Bille John to be killed with eiuell hotte aire of Edinbrugh. Ue meit sea to him. Uhen Earle of Neubrugh eomme heir ue shall speack him. But he tould me himself att Seatoune that the duke hes recalled his gift. So itt is nought he can doe. My uife is your seruant. Bille is uell, and wishes you all so. But he is pleased with his ships in the stanks and his vnkells eumpane.—I am euir, your louing father,

WEMYSS.

181. JOHN MURRAY OF ABIRSCORS, and DAVID MURRAY, to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—requesting him to proceed against certain rebels. 10th April 1667.

RIGHT HONNOURAELL,—Our most humble serviee being rememberit wnto your lordship; it was not wknnowine vnto your lordship quhow miserabile and wncristianlie our mother and we haue beine oppressit be Hughe Murray and Johne Murray in Blarochie, and Johne Neilsoune and the rest of those fugitive rebellis that followis thame, moir then these twell monethis bygoun; and what

miseris and stressis we sufferit since, not getting ane groat of our awine to maintaine ws either in meate or in cloath, and our hous to be thryse plunderit, our mother cast out and lyke to starve for laike of mantinence, our selflvis talkine prissoneris to wilderuessis, and bound lyke theives and winditt in our bodies, some of ws having beine lying in on bedd, not being able to sturr for the space of thrie monethis, and yitt not able to travell ane quarter of ane myle on foott; and which was worst of all, our sister, with twinnis in hir bellie, to be murdered and killed by thame; and yitt the doeris thairoff, notwithstanding of being longe agoe declaired fugitives and rebellis, and ane commissioun and lettres of intercomuning having beine published against thame, yitt that they should be harbered and quartered quhair ever they pleis in everie corner in the cuntrey, not regarding the danger of the intercomuning no moir then if they war the kings frie liegis, so that such barbaritie and inhumanitie was not vsit in Lochaber, or the most barbarous pairt in Scotland, these hundreth yeires bygoun, which alltoghther is weill knowine to your lordship and to the nighbour cuntreies about. And notwithstanding that our commissioun against those robereris is to the Earle of Seaforth, (and his freindis) a noble man to quhom we ar muche ingaidgit for his lowe in doing for ws, and being content and willing to goe on against those rebellis conforme to the commissioun quhen ever we pleased, for which we haue good reasoun to be thankfull to his lordship and to remaine his lordships servantis whill we leive, yitt notwithstanding of all this we, heiring these fyve or sex weikis bypast that your lordship was coming home, haue resolved nowayes to truble the cuntrey with strangeris till your lordship hom-co[m]eing, quhilk, blissed be God, is now effectuat, that we might sie quhat your lordship wouuld doe thairine. Thairfoir now we earnestlie desyre to know quhat cours your lordship intendis to doe for suppressing and talking those fugitive rebellis, and for restoring our mother and ws to the peacable possession of our estaitis and meins, sieing we can not subsist anny longer as we ar, being a Christiann dewtye; besydis that we haue the lawe on our sydis, which we hope your lordship wilbe pleased to taik ane speidie cours thairin, befoir my Lord Seaforth and his freindis be necessitat to goe on in the bussines, which will be a greater trubill to the cuntrey then they ar awarr of, besydis the haizard of being persued for the intercomuning. Thairfoir againe and againe we humblie and earnestlie desyre to know in wrytt with the berar what your lordship intendis to doe thairin, or if your lordship will taik the bussines in hand or not for suppressing of those

robereris, which is a Cristian dewtie. Hoping your lordship will not fail to obey suche ane just desyr, as your lordship wold wishe the Lord of heavine to bliss your lordship and your posteritie, and ty ws forder to pray for your lordship, and to remaine, quhill we leive, expecting your lordships answer in wrytt with the berar, my lord, your lordships most humble and obediēt servantis till deathe,

JOHNE MURRAY of Abirscors.

DA. MURRAY.

Balloun, the 10 of Appryll 1667.

For the right honnourabill and noble lord my Lord Straithnaver, thes.

182. MARGARET BAYNE to GEORGE, LORD STRATHNAVER,—complaining of the violent usage which she and her tenants received from Donald Bayne and others.

Abirscors, the 7 of September 1671.

RIGHT HONNOURABLE,—I haue severall tymes befor complainit to your lordship annent our vsage, bot cannot gett anny redress; for George Gordoun in Sallache, the widdo in Baillwair, Donald Prontach in Craigtowne, and severall vtheris thair, hes this yeir and severall vther yeires befor castine thair truff and peattis vpon the boundis of Abirscors verie neir our tennentis houssis. Lykvyse they cutt and peill our woodis, and severall of the people of Craigton cam the last twa Sabathis to our woodis and braik and did ryve ane number of tries, pulling nuttis, and tramped much of mye cornis, and my tennentis: and the people of Wester Abirscors also hes dovne the lyke the last twa Lord dayes, and did rugge and stealle away greate burdines of our peas, as if thair war no order or justice in the cuntrey, and as all war thair awine. As also Donald Bayne, of quhom thair war former complaints maide to your lordschip, came on Tysday last, about middneight, with twelf or threattine persounis with him, to this towne, and did schear and leade away vpon hors back fowr threavis of beare extending at least to sex firlattis which grew vpon land, which he tooke with his awine hand with-out leive, after he was inhibited severall tymes, and carried the same throw our feildis of beare and tooke away everie ane of thame ane burdine of peas. And vpon the morrow in the evining efter the cornis war treade and found neir Donald Roy, his hous, I sent both my sonniss and some of my tennentis and servantis with horssis to carrie back the cornes, the said Donald Bayne and his

brother haid the number of fowr and twentie or thairby of men, wooman and Boyes gaithered togither to resist the taiking back of the cornes, quhairof some war beattung vpoun keattillis to chasse away the horssis, and the said Donnald Bayne and his brother and severall vtheris, with great batounis beattung and chassing away my horssis and servantis, and throwing stonnis both at thame and my sonniss, so that such barbarus vsage and opine bangisterie was not vsit formerlie to anny in this cuntrey or els quhair except to our selvis; and the said Donnald Bayne alledgis that he hes your lordships overseight wnto it, and Robert Gordoun, your lordships officer. And if wee gett no mendis for all these barbarities wee neide not complaine anny moire to your lordship, for wee cannot gett anny man to lye in our cornis for feare they be smooored all neight in thair beddis; so that thrie or fowr of my men was verie evill hurt, and on of my horssis being not lyke to leive for throwing of stonnis and beattung with rounngis; and except your lordship taike some speidie cowrse with this vsage your lordship will hold ws excused to maikie our redress elsquhair, which is all at presentt, bot expectis your lordships answer in wrytte with the berar, and continowis, my lord, your lordships most humble servant,

MARGAT BAYNE.

For the right honourabill and verie noble and potent lord, my Lord Straithnaver, thais.

183. GEORGE, FOURTH MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, to [JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND],—about the Militia, etc.
14 May 1683.

MY LORD,—As yett I can give your lordship no considerdable account off your melitia, only yow may consider that when one a person is in favor with our ministers of Scotland they mack them fitt for evrey employ, or att lest would have the vourld believe them so. The chancelor vill shortly bee in this cuntrey. He has gott the estatt of Duddopp from his Majestie, and Claverlus has the castell att Dundee. You have heard off a stopp putt to the devydding of Argylls estatt, for which sum personnes may be nottissed. The Doucthes off Yorcke has been thought with chylid sum tim agon. When I shall see sum frinds whom shortly I expect from Edeuboro, your lordship shall hear from mee. No person is mor desyrus to serve yow then I am, for I am really your lordships most affectionat cusing and most humble servant,

HUNTLY.

14 Maii, 1683.

184. GEORGE, FOURTH MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, to [JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND].—with congratulations on the birth of the Master of Strathnaver. 19th December 1683. Excerpt.

I RECEIVED with extraordinary joy your letter with the bearer, and the newes off my Ladday Strathnavers saff delivrey. I wish this Master of Strathnaver all imaginable happines, and the lyk to his father and mother. On Saturday last your servant cam to this place. I have keppe him untill this day, that the news which I expected from Edinboro might goe to your lordship, but the storm having hindred my paquett from Edinboro last week . . . Vee ar hear in snows over the ears, which hinders all commerc, so that I caout give your lordship such relations off bussines as I could wish.

185. GEORGE, FIRST DUKE OF GORDON, to [JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER, afterwards FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND].—events following the death of King Charles the Second. 24th February 1685.

MY DEAR LORD,—Severall day agon I did send accounts to your lordship off severall particulars off his leat Majestys death, vith the proclamation of this king. As to your lordships behavior I think yow need nott caus maack annay proclamation until yow hear from Adam Gordon, who beeing now att Edenboro vill certainly send north whatt may bee nesesar att this ocaation. A parlement is indyted att Vestmaister to the tenth of Meay. I belive vee may have on in Scotland aboutt that tim. Itt is nott known who may be commissioner, butt I fancy hee may bee sent us from Ingland. Ther ar severall alterations att the courtt. Itts thought vee may have sum amoiingst us. The Doucthes off Portsmouth is arested att Greenvieth for forte thousand lib. she oues att London. The king declairs he'll tack nothing from hir, butt yitt that shi most peay her debts. A se[r]vant of Monmuths is leattly tacken, and letters going to his Grac ar intercepted. Landerdails affair against Abberdon goes not so veill vith him as vas expected. Drumlenrick is sent to his Majesty by our concell. All loocks veell and calm; I wish itt continow long so. I am intyryly, your lordships affectionat cussing and humble servant,
GORDON.

Gordon Castell, 24 Februar, [16]85.

186. GEORGE, FOURTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his son, JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER,—complaining that he sends no answer to his letters. [November 1685.]

DEAR SONE,—Tho I have not heard from yow of a long tyme—and that I am a wanderer and could not have opportunity for to ureat often, and when I doe ureat to yow I get no returne—yet I am glad for to hear by your mothers to me that she hade a lyne from your good lady showing hir that she, yourself and the children uere in good health, the knowledge of which did uery much refresh me; for as unkynd as yow are, yow are lyke to make the proverb true that love doth descend and doth not ascend. I shall pray to the Lord he may help yow for to walk in his wayes, and that yow and your seed may be blist and helped to be his, and to praise him for his many mer[c]yes to us and our family, for he hath continued us for to be a family when many great families are cutt of. Thankfullnes for mercyes receaved and a sutable cariadge vnder mercyes is the way for to get mercyes intailed on us. The Lord help us for to be humbled under the sense of our shortcomeings in this and other commanded duties. I came heer from Germany some days agoe for to bring some of my goods I left heer with me thither, where I intend, if the Lord will, for to winter. And heer I have gott a letter from your mother puting me in hopes that she is comeing over heer in a yaucht, which will make me hover heer a litle longer to sie if I may get hir along with me; and with all I exspect for to hear from John Watson that yow have payed into him the former years duty, for indeed I am straitned for the want of it, and yow may think that being necessitat to be abroad on the account of my health and other occassions will requyre money; for ue can get nothing, being strangers in a strange land and still travelling (which puts us to a great charge) without hand money. Yow have made us live pereure this wheyll, but I feed my self with the hopes that yow will help it heerafter. I blisse the Lord I have mett with much of Gods goodnes and kyndnes to me in my wandring. The Lord help me for to be observeing the loveing kyndnes of the Lord; and I pray yow for to blisse the Lord with me and for me that he hath of his infinit goodnes preserved me in health in the midst of all my wandering and sojourneing and pilgrimadge. I pray the Lord for to blisse yow and your suet lady to yow, to be a blisseing unto our family, and for to traine up hir children

in the fear of the Lord, and that yow and your seed may be the Lords, and may be kept in his paths, shall be the earnest wish and prayer of, dear sone, your most affectionat father,

G. S. G.

My blissing to my daughter and the sweet children, whom I long to sie.

187. LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER,—acquainting him with her voyage to Rotterdam.

Rotterdam, 10 November 1685.

DEAR SONE,—Finding this letter of my lords¹ not gone I opened it to let you know that God has brought me safely hither in two days from the river of Thams. The king and queen was pleased to favour me with the use of a yacht, else I had not adventured in a merchant's ship, least my heart had failed me as formerly. But their Majesties was so good to me that they granted me a yacht at my first motion, in which I was so well accommodated that I wanted for nothing more than I had been in Dunrobin. Yet the first night I was very sick with the boisterousness of the sea; but next day I recovered when I entered the river of Maize, and when I found your dear father better than I expected, it cured much of my illness at sea. No sooner did we drop anchor above the Briell than there arose ane high and contrary wind, so that if we had not been within land over the flats of the drye, we durst not have attempted the shoar, but behaved to have gone to the sea againe to be tossed on those stormy waves. O bliss God with me for so great a deliverance as God wrought for me. I have undertaken to your father that you will be more carefull of performing your duty to him in time coming than before, and that you will own his interests and your sisters as your own, not suffering either of them to be abused by that ungrate foolish man Arb^t (Arbuthnot). If you do this, I hope to prevail for what you desire in your letter from Kinmonoway, notwithstanding of my lords craving that thousand marks. But labour ye to walk closely, humbly, and thankfully with God, and then I trust all things will goe well with you as my heart desires. I

¹ The letter preceding this one. The letters of the Earl and Countess are both on the same sheet of paper.

send my service to your good lady, whos unckle and cousine I saw weil in health on the 4th instant. I give my blissing to the dear children, and rests (dear sone), your most affectionatt mother,

J. S.

When yow come to Edinburgh bee kynd to your sister Meg,¹ and if she will goe to Dunrobin with yow I pray yow take her.

For the Lord Strathnaver in Southerland, Scotland.

188. *LADY HELEN COCHRANE, LADY STRATHNAVER*, to her husband, *JOHN LORD STRATHNAVER*,—family news.

Dunrobin, September 9, 1687.

DEAREST HEART,—I recved yours detted the 7 of this instant, and I am refreshed to know by it that it heth plesed God to preserve you in health. Since you went from this our two letel ones is as ye left them. As for my self my health is pretey good at present, but for the spece of two days after ye went from this it was varey uncertan by reson of a coleck that troubled me. I have had no leters for you, nether do I hear aney news but a report that Goerg Gordon heth writen hom to his feather that the Imperialeses heth defeet the Turks. All the there drofers that went out of this cuntray heth goon to the border. I have sent the half bole of meal acording to your command to the ofeecer of Strathlilit that from thence it may be convoyed to Muedel. I geave wax for the sealing the seek to prevent its being stolen. So wishing the Lord to gaude you so as no iniquatey may have dom[in]ion over you, I rest, dearest heart, your most affectionnat and obedient wife tell death,

Hellen Strathnaver

For my Lord Strathnaver.

¹ "The 'sister Meg' was Lady Margaret Kingston; no issue."—[Note by the Second Duke of Sutherland on the original letter]

189. LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to [LADY KATHARINE HAMILTON, LADY MURRAY].—search for winter quarters at Falkland.¹

Claupom, 25 March 1692.

MADAM,—I hope your goodnes will pardon thee trouble I now give you. Many things are fallen out very contrary to my expectasion since I saw your ladyship, yet I hope God will order all things for his own glory and his peopls good in thee end. I have thoughts of coming home in May nixt, and tho I purpose to resyde at thee Abaye in thee sumer tyme, yet thee rooms are so high rooft and cold that they are very inconvenient for winter, therfor I am seeking for some warmer habitation. If I can find one amongst my friends in Fyfe, I wold gladly resyde ther from September till March were over; and for this end I wrote to one in Falkland, to trye if that house that is caled my Lord Stormonts were in repaire, having thee rooffe, floors and windows tight, with coach house and stables to it. I wold be content to take it for a year or 2, and paye rent for it, and if it was not fit, I desyrd to try if thee lodgings over against thee palace were to bee let, and I wold take one of them. Thee an-[wer] I have gotin is, that Stormonts lodgings are faulty in thee roof, floors and windows, and that thee lodgings oposite to thee palace are all full, only that I may have a house for my friend that is in a maner out of town, which I doe not like; for I let not any know that it is for my self, save your ladyship, and I request your ladyship to let non know my inclination in this, least I bee not able to perform it. For if all this lodgings bee as that gentleman says they are, then I shall not find a lodging in Falkland, unles your lord and you can spare us ane apartment in thee palace without incomadating your self, which I wilbe loath to desyre to give your ladyship the least of trouble by it, tho to enjoie your desyrable converss, and my good Lady Rothes, my sister, my aunt Ruthven, and thee rest of my friends in Fyfe, is thee chiefe indicement that draws my inclinations ther. But if I cannot obtaine it, I will reverence providence in it. Thee bearer of this, Mr. Gedy, knows not for whom I am seeking lodgings in Fyfe, only that it is for a friend and relation of your ladyships. I shall add no more at present but my lords humble service and my own to your ladyship and your nobl lord. I rest, dear madam, your ladyships faithfull, affectionat and most humble servant,

J. W. SUTHERLAND.

I give my blissing to your dear babies.

¹ Original letter in the Athole Charter-chest.

Dear madam, let mee have your answere as soon as is possible, and send it to Mr. Geddy or Mr. Hutchison that keeps my lords lodgings in thee Abaye, and they will send it in thee black box to mee; for I should begin my journey homward about 3 weeks hence.

190. *LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND*, to [*LADY KATHARINE HAMILTON, LADY MURRAY*],—requesting the use of her coach-house at Holyrood Abbey.¹

London, 12 May 1692.

DEAR MADAM,—I received the honour of yours, and returns your ladyship my hearty thanks for your kyndnes exprest therein. I am sorie that the house is down and ruin'd that I intended to have been your tenent in. Some of my acquaintance there gives mee hop's yet. There is a house in thee other end of that town that may bee able to accomadate my litle family in thee winter tyme; for thee most parte of sumer I may lodge in thee Abaye. If your ladyship can allowe mee some place in your coach house to put my coateh in, its all thee favour I woldd request for; for that house which is recomended to mee hath non, tho it hath a stable and ane hay loft. I think I am near a period of my days, and therfor I wold gladly bee amongst my friends and relations, and near the buriall place of my ancestors; for if I were at Falkland, I wold bee near your ladyship, my good Lady Rothes, and my sister, as also my friends and relations in Buryls and Freeland and other places in Fyfe where severalls of my cousine germans are, and its but a short way to carie my bodie from thence to thee Wemyss, wher I desyre to bee interr'd. Your brother, Lord George, took leave of thee Queen 12 days agoe, intending over to Flanders, wher his new regiment lys. Hee visite mee the night befor hee went. I indeavourd to perswade him to resyde heer till hee gote som more flesh upon him, but hee said that his doctors advis'd him to goe abroad, as a mean to put away his cholicks. I wish it may prove so, for hee is one of thee bravest men wee have, which hee hath given great proofs off in Irland, and if God spare him hee wilbee a great man and ane honour to his nation. As for news I hear the French that was intending to invade England are driven back to France, and are gone ashoar againe since they heard thee English fleet was out, and thee Dutch join'd with them. They make up a navie of eighty-

¹ Original letter in the Athole Charter-chest.

fyve ships of wair; and thee French navie is out also, and are much about thee same number. If thee Lord bee with us, wee need not fear what man can doe against us; but sin is thee procuring cause of all thee evils wee groan under. I fear it will yet bee 3 weeks or a month or I can leave this place, so if your ladyship will let mee hear of your own health and your lord and childrin's, it will contribute much to the satisfaction off, dear madam, your ladyships most affectionatt humble servant,

J. W. SOUTHERLAND.

I had almost forget to tell you that ther are many put up for a late discovered plott, and ther are warrands out for more. My Lord Southerland gives his humble service to your ladyship and your lord, whose humble servant I am.

191. LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to ANNE, DUCHESS OF HAMILTON,—condolences with her on the death of William, Duke of Hamilton, her husband.¹

Abbey, 24 Apryle 1694.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE to pardon this trouble I now give yow, since it is only to express some part of thee simparchie I have with your grace in your present too great cause of grife, and to indeavour to comfort yow with the comforts wherewith God comforted my soull when I was under thee lyke deplorable lose of one of the best of husbands and a most gracious man, who did exhort mee quhen dyeing not to mourn as thos that had no hope, but to comfort myself with the faith of the resurrection, quhen wee should meet againe never to part any more, and bad mee consider that it was the hand and decree of the great Sovereaine of heaven and earth, against whom if I murmured ther was nothing to bee expected but another blow either upon my persoue or thos poor orphans that hee left behind him. Dear madam, reflect upon the words of that gracious man who walked closely with God in his life, yet had a sad conflict with Satuu at his death, and obtain'd a comfortable and gracious ishew. Thee perswasion I had that it was well with him eternally was that which first dried up my tears, together with the consideration of thos excellent counsels hee gave me; and thee belief I had that God wold make up all to mee in himself stopt the curreant of

¹ Original letter in Hamilton Charter-chest.

my sorrows. And by experience I may say that a quiet submission to the will of God under thee sadist of tryals is that which is the duety and will prove the advantage of evry gracious soull. If it could console your Grace to know that I and many thousands besyds mee hath sorrowfull hearts for the lose of that excellent persone whom God hath taken from yow to himself, sure yow might bee comforted; for ther is no gracious persone in this 3 kingdoms but will lament for him as a publick lose to his king, his countrys, and his friends, and non will rejoyce at it but thos that are enmys to all those. Consider, I beseech your Grace, that hee is gone to bed but a litle befor yow, and that yow cannot stay long behind him. Yet it may bee very necessary for the good of your illistrowss family that yow stay a litle whyle behynd him, and to help to put on the capeston on that noble structure that hee did so courageously begine, in carieing on the work of reformation and casting out that accursed prelatie that was the bane of this nation for 30 years befor the late happie revolution came, which will perpetuat his fame to all posteritye. It may bee some will count mee officious for thos lyn's, yet since I wryte them out of the profound respect I have to your Graces welfaire and his memorie, which shall ever live in my heart, I have sent thos. I was denyed the favour to see him, and tho' I waited long at his chamber dore, and was not acquainted as others were to waite on him that night as others did, yet I can say I continued to pray for him ever till I heard hee was removed, so that I watched for him tho' not with him that night, which was thee last duety could bee performed by, madam, your Graces most humble and obedient servant,

J. W. SOUTHERLAND.

For her Grace the Dutches of Hamilton, thes.

192. JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER [address wanting],—that a court-martial had acquitted him.¹

Bridges, 22 October 1696.

STR,—I gave yow the trouble of a line informing yow how one, Captain Key, in my regiment, had brought me befor a counsel of war, befor whom I justified

¹ This and the following letter are contained in an envelope on which is written by the second Duke of Sutherland: "Two

letters of Lord Strathnaver, afterwards Earl John, given to me by Mr. David Dundas. December 1840. S."

my self and made out such things against him as convinced them that he was not fitt to serve the king. The sentence is sent to his Majestie, and I hope he will doe me the justice to confirm it. As I wrote to yow before, I recomend to the company Arthur Steuart, a near kinsman of my own, Hugh Boyd to be ensign collonel, and Gilbert Young to be ensign to Captain Home. I hear that none are suffered to goe over without liberty from court. My affaires doe extremely require my presence at home. I hope yow will be soe kind as to purchase me my liberty over. I hope yow will be pleased to remember what I wrote to yow in my former letters, and belive me to be sincerely, sir, your most affectionat humble servant,



Direct to me at Bridges.

193. JOHN, LORD STRATHNAVER [address wanting],—proceedings of the court-martial. 24 October 1697.

SIR,—I have received the honour of yours of the 16 from Dieren, and cannot enough acknowledge my sense of your favor and freindship. Yow wold oblige me if yow wold lett me know wher my affair stopes. Did the king ever read the proceedings of the court martiall? My lieutenant-collonell accuses me of having the regiments money, and soe the occasion of the mutiny. I prove that the time of the mutiny he was overpayed 2800 gilders, and I underpayed 3732 gilders. I also made out against him that he had of the regiments money in his hands, the time the mutiny hapned, more then wold pay the sojers, and wold not doe it, nor yett speake to them to prevent it, notwithstanding that the officers sent the adjutant to him desiring him to doe it. Having made out all thir things soe clearly that all against me is found false and malicious and he broke, yett to see the sentence not confirmed, is but small incouragement to serve, and but ane indifferent requittall for my fathers services and mine to see a litle fellow put in the ballance with me and the opinion of thirteen honest gentlemen vpon ther honour and oath. Captain Swintoun, whom I have sent to Loo, can informe

yow more particularly then it is proper for me to trouble yow here. I beg pardon for what I have done already, which I had not done did not my honour ly at stake. I recomend Captain Swintoun to your favour, and am with a great deal of respect and esteem, sir, your most oblcided and most humble servant,

STRATHNAVER.

Ghent, 24 October 1697.

194. *LADY JEAN WEMYSS, COUNTESS DOWAGER OF SUTHERLAND, to GEORGE, FIRST EARL OF CROMARTIE.* Alimint of her grandchildren.¹

Abbey, July 5th, 1704.

MY LORD,—I am constrain'd to forbear my addressing to the Counsell aient the poor orphans, my grandchildren, their additionall alimint, hoping that when my sone, Southerland, comes here, and some other freinds that I expect, your lordship may find the busieness more easie to obtain then at present it would be. I think my adversa[r]ies are affraid of your lordship, for since I was with yow they have pay'd me the ordinary alimint that the Counsell modified to the children severall years ago, tho' it has not afforded poor John a farthing to buy cloaths, or any necessary for him this year and a halfe bygone, so that I have bein forced to furnish him my selfe with all necessarys during that tyme. But I hope the Counsell will ordain Arbuthnott to doe better things, so that his only brother may have meatt, cloathing, and education, which is all I petition for in his behalfe. When my sone, Southerland, comes, I hope your lordship will give him that freindly counsell to give me my own in peace and without delay, which will be his own advantage and his children's. I had not tyme to tell your lordship that, wpon what your lady, my dear sister, wrot to me of your lordships being active for the good of the Church of Scotland, I made many glad, for I told it to as many as came to visit me, and they were well pleas'd to hear of it; so I hope your lordship will act so as to convince all that what I told them was truth. I beseech your lordship to haue a speciall care of your health now, when my sister is farr from yow. Give my humble and affectionate service to her, and believe me that I am, in all sincerity, my lord, your lordships most affectionate humble servant,

J. W. SOUTHERLAND.

¹ Original letter in the Cromartie Charter-chest.

195. [JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to JOHN, SECOND DUKE OF ARGYLL],—that he intended to retire from public life. Draft.

Dunrobin, 18th June 1705.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—I have had the honour of your Graces letter of the 6th, and as I still valued my self upon the proofes your Grace was pleased to give me of your favor and freindship, I shall allwayes esteem it my happiness to waite the continuance of them. As to what Mr. Martin of Harwood wrote to me, your Grace were pleased to give him a hint of a discourse that passed concerning my sones regiment. Your Grace may assure yourself that I but looked vpon it, as I still doe, a storie calculated for the meridian of the insueing parliament and to create your Grace enimies. Be upon your guard, and expect a great many such squibs. True freinds were still valuable, and never more then in this age and at this juncture, and the precariousnes of our ministry does not a litle contribute to it. For my part I envy none of ther plaices, being most of them such as I could not with a safe conscience accept of, in (sens of my own unfittnes)¹ being able to discharge the duty of the post, and I am (was still) under a firm resolution never to receive a pension. In shoit, my late inexpressably great loss hes made me very indifferent of the world. I have (I thank God) a competency to live a retired life vpon, though the soldier trade by not being justly payed (the publicks not paying me), and being to much at court (London) hes impaired my fortune not a litle. Soe that now, unless to serve my queen, country, or freind, I resolve never to stur out of Sutherland. I hope your Grace will impute my disorderly way of writting to the right cause, and belive me to be, with all respect and sincerity.

I think it my duty to acquaint your Grace that ther is ane affair to be in befor the Counsell the 25 instant, in which the laird of Bishopmiln, sherrive principall of Murray, appears against one Baillie Stuart, late of Elgin, for his fiscall, who was illegally imprissoned by the said baillie, who is ane enimie both to the government of church and state. The commissioners of Murray, Nairn, and Invernes shire (several other members of parliament) write in Bishopmilns behalf, and he carried it in Counsell. If now, under your Graces administration, that matter goes otherwayes than it did, it will not be weel looked upon by a great many of your Graces freinds and servants. Since what I have written proceeds from my sincer affection to your Grace, yow'l please to excuse me.

¹ The words placed within parentheses are interlined in the original.

196. [JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to LADY ELIZABETH TALMASIE, DUCHESS DOWAGER OF ARGYLL],—regarding his son's regiment. [18th June] 1705. Draft.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—Your Graces letter, with my Lord Commissioners inclosed, gave me, with the account I had of your healths from others, as much satisfaction as the desconsulatnes of my circumstances could admitte of, which I hope will plead my excuse with the Commissioner and your Grace for what escapes and faultes my letters may be stuffed with. I was not wanting, as I came north, to press Grant and his lady as much as possible to wait upon your Grace att Edinburgh upon this occassion, but could not observe any great influence my arguments had; yett shall not give over to doe what I can still to persuade. Your Grace may remember that I was resolved to have Strichen and his two brothers under my own inspection and tuition here; yett since the Earl of Morray desired to have Sandie, and that your Grace and his mother when I spoke to her did both approve of it, I shall submitt my own inclinations to what may be for the benefite of the youth. I thank God Tommie and he are both very hopefull, but of tempers vastly different, he being as sedate as Tommie is joviall, but both the quietest children that ever were in a family. If Grant and I cannot agree as to Strichen I shall willingly make your Grace umpire. I send the Commissioners letter open to your Grace to peruse and seal. The story that was putt about was that in the juncto att the Abby it was proposed that my sones regiment should be given to my Lord Tullibarden, and that his Grace the Commissioner went alongst with it. Your Grace will find what credite I gave to it by the inclosed. I have troubled the Commissioner, your Grace, yea myself, more with the affair then it does deserve; but I shall indeavor to gett to the fountain; for abstracting from the Commissioners being your Graces sone, and that I had once the happines to be married to his aunt, ther is none for whom ever I had a greater personall value, and he shall be ill advised, and not follow the dictates of his own sense and reason which God hes plentifully endued him with, and your Grace shall think soe to if I dont stand by him. God direct him in the great post he is in. Wee have the misfortune in this poor kingdome to have few places and many pretenders, soe that of course the greatest part who aim att preferments must be desobleidged. The thing I most regrait is that to to many cover ther Jacobitish

and self interested designs with the some much desirable name of country. I hope to pay my duty to your Grace in ten dayes time if it please God, and shall till then delay apologizing for my letter. Your Graces nephews are weel, and I am sincerely, madam,

I must intreat your Grace to indeavor that till I come up your son doe nothing in the affair of Bishopmiln and Baillie Stuart, nor yett in that of the Conservator; and I hope by your Graces advice matters may goe for his Graces honour and reputation.

197. JOHN, LORD SOMERS, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
regarding certain articles of the Treaty of Union.

London, November 25, 1706.

MY LORD,—I acknowledge with great thankfulnes the honour of your lordships letter of the 16th instant, and I congratulate your lordship vpon the succeſſe mentiond in it, and vpon that which has since followd in passing the third article. I hope, my lord, there will be all possible care used to prevent alterations in the articles. The fishing, if I may say so, is the interest of England as well as of Scotland, and therefore I hope you will not distrust vs in it. The drawbacks desired are so directly founded vpon the reason of our own laws that nothing reasonable can be said against it while that is allowd here; but surely matters of trade, which are always to change vpon circumstances, should not be part of a treaty which is always to remain. While a præmium is allowd to any corn exported, it must be allowd to the great product of one part of the United Kingdom as well as of the other. But than if it be to be made a part of the treaty it must necessarily make an alteration in the Equivalent, the præmium being paid out of the customs, and the customs on the part of England being computed on the neat proceed, after deduction of the allowances of those præmiums and all other outgoings. I beg your lordship to consider how this Equivalent can be stated anew, and to help vs all you can. I have obeyd your lordships commands in the matter you mentiond, and had an answer as full of respect to your lordship as could be expected, but withall it was said that nothing of that kind could be don at present. I am with all truth and respect, my lord, your lordships most humble and most obedient servant,

SOMERS.

198. SIR WILLIAM ASHURST, a commissioner of excise, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—the Treaty of Union.

London, 6 March 1706-7.

MY LORD,—I was honoured with yours of 16th January, which brought me the acceptable news of the articles of union being ratifyd in your Parliament. I hope your lordship will pardon my not owning its receipt sooner, being desirous to deferr it till I could returne your lordship an account that the same thing was done here. This day the queen came to the House of Lords and gave the royall assent to the bill for confirming the articles of union, upon which all the guns round the Tower were immediatly discharged. This bill has been carried in our house by a great majority, 277 against 118, besides the speaker, which would have been on our side, and in the House of Lords the negatives were only 19 upon the last division upon the debates about the bill, by which your lordship will easily perceive how well affected the honestest and wisest part of the kingdome are to an union of the two kingdomes. Give me leave now, my lord, to call your lordship my countryman and to congratulate myself of being a Brittain, and, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

WM. ASHURST.

The queen was pleased to make a speech at the passing of the bill, recommending an union of affection between the two kingdomes, and recommended it to our House to make provision for the money to be paid, which upon our returne to the House and the report of the queens speech by the speaker, the House resolved to go to-morrow morning upon considering of ways to answer that sum.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland, Edinburgh.

199. JOHN, LORD SOMERS, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—expressing regret that his lordship had not been returned as a representative peer.

London, 22 July 1708.

MY LORD,—Having lately bin ill of a fever, I have recovered so slowly that I have not till this time bin capable of answering the letter which I had the honour to receive from you. It is not easy for mee to expresse how much I was

concern'd when I came to vnderstand your lordship was not of the number of the peers return'd, and I am sure many of your lordships humble servants here were very sensibly touch'd at it. But wee think, your lordships numbers considered, and the weight of several of the protestations which were made at the time of the election, wee shall not fail of having the honour of your company in the House. The protestations as to the proxies of the Earl of Aberdene and the Lord Salton, as likewise those against the Lord Forrester and the Earl of Bredalbin, wee think will hold (not to mention others), which must be more than sufficient to let in your lordship. Some of vs who have met in this town have bin talking together vpon the subject of the election of the peers, and have transmitted our present thoughts therevpon more largely to the Earl of Marchmont, from whom wee receivd an account of the grounds vpon which several of the protestations were founded. I would most willingly have sent the same to your lordship, but that I was not able to transcribe them, and would not trust anybody else to make a copy. But I depend vpon it he will readily communicate the whole to your lordship. I have given your salutations to the several lords named in your letter, who desired mee to assure you they are your most humble servants. I assure your lordship I am, with all true respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

SOMERS.

200. LADY JEAN SUTHERLAND, wife of JAMES, LORD MAITLAND, (address wanting, but probably to KATHARINE, LADY STRATHNAVER),—family news. 8th March 1711.

DEAR MADAM,—I think my self oblidg'd to acquaint your ladyship that my Lord Arbnthnott is to goe out of toun to morowe. He hes taken leave of us, but my Lady Southerland is so mouch incens'd that she wold not see him. She and I both are much out of countenance at this unluckie business, but ther is nothing the occasion of it, but his fathers relations pretends they ar slighted in offering less mony to my Lord Arbnthnott then what Prestongrange gave my Lord Boill, and likewise Prestongrange slight[ed] them in going out of tonn. This is what they say, but I shall be far from offering to justify them, for I think they have done most unworthily. They propose that if Prestongrang wold condishend to give the fifty thousand marks at on payment, they wold be

satisfy'd with it. My Lady Southerland says she will not take it upon her to desire Prestongrang and your ladyship to doe this, but she wold be very glad to have the match goe on, and hes realy ben very undisposd with the grife and vexation she hes got in this affaire. I hop you will forgive this trouble, and belive it is my concern for your family as well as for my cousin which maks me doe it, for I am, dear madam, your affectionat humble servant,

J. MAITLAND.

Madam, I belive you will not get this confus'd ill writ letter read. My humble serviss to Mr. Jean.

Abby, March 8th, 1711.

201. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
expressing his resolution to spend his life for the royal family of Hanover.
2d December 1714.

MY LORD,—The honour I have of being related to your lordship and the constant friendship that hes allwayes been betwixt your lordships family and mine, makes me presum to ashure your lordship of my most humble and dutyfull respect, and humbly beg of your lordship to grant me your protection and friendship at the court, for which I have suffered in Francee thir twelve yeares bypast all that the malice of hell and wiked men could invent; and sinc, I bless God, I am hapily out of their power, and fully resolv'd to expose my life for the royalle family of Hanover, I hope their is none who wish the king and government well but should wish to see me at the head of my clan, where your lordship knows I may be of good use to the government, sinc by all apearance its there the pretender will make his first attempt. I know that if your lordship would be so good as to represent the usefullness of my being in Inverness^e shire to the Duke of Argyle and to my Lord Isla, sinc your lordship knows that country better than any nobleman at court, I doubt not but they would concur with your lordship in getting my remission, that I may be of use to the government before the pretender does come, which may be sooner than the court thinks of; and your lordship knows that if he is once master of the north he will destroy all those who will not join him, or are known well affected to the present government, and may march with a powerfull army to the south, sinc their are no standing forces to

oppose him, and that they cannot march nor be transported to that country in such a short time as can hinder him to be master of that country, so that the court should strengthen their friends in that part to resist him at his landing, for the danger is much greater than they seem to think of.

The laird of Fowls, to whose generous friendship I am mightily oblig'd, will do me the honour to tell your lordship the nature of ane address that is to be presented to the king to implore his Majestyes clemency for me. I fear it will come too late, and that my enemys will prevent the effect of it; and its very hard, sine my personal enemys are known enemys to the house of Hanover. I beg your lordship's concurrence and your friends and relations to that adresse, and your lordship will ever find me with all dutyfull respect, affection, and acknowledgment, my lord, your lordships most fathfull and most obedient humble servant,



The 2 of Decembre 1714.

202. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—begging him to use his influence with Sir David Dalrymple. No date, *circa* 1714.

MY MOST DEAR AND NOBLE LORD,—My kinsman having rushd in to see me, I beg leave to tell your lordship that I am most sensible that if my life or family are saved, it is to your lordship as my main protector I owe it. Both life and family shall be yours while they exist, sine all depends on Sir David Dalrymple's report. I beg your lordship may prevail with him to be favourable. He should do it if he loves the king and government, and his family has no obligations to the family of Athol or to the Mackenzies. My life, my lord, is in your hands, and my other good friends. I pray God reward and preserve you. I am in duty and respect, tho in confusion, your lordships forever,

LOVAT.

I beg your lordship may ask me out on beal, if nothing els do for me.

I thank your lordship for your protection to the bearer.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland.

203. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—that his life and fortune depended on the Earl's favour. 30th April 1715.

MY LORD,—I presume to assure your lordship of my most humble duty and respects, and send you my cusing, the bearer, to let your lordship know how glad I am of your safe arival at London. Tho the addresses in my favours are come up a month ago, and that most of my friends are here sine the latter end of March, yet they did not think it fit to push anything for me till they should have your lordship at their head as the most leading man in the north; and since the king and his ministers should give intire trust to your lordship, and rely more on your knowledge and advice as to what belongs to the north, than to the knowledge of the ministers of state themselves, who canot have it but by information, while your lordship knows all by your self. So my friends would not put my busines on the tapis without your lordships presence; and now, my lord, not only my life, but the standing or fall of the name of Fraser is at your lordships mercy, and I am convinc'd that you will be so good as to save the one and the other, sine it is a most essential service to the present constitution, and that your lordship will to eternity find me and my clan ready to ventur our lives for you and yours, and that nothing will ever diminish in me the love and dutyfull respect with which I am, my lord, your lordships most affectionat cusing and most obedient humble servant,

LOVAT.

At London, the 30th of Apryle 1715.

204. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—expressing his entire trust in the Earl's protection. 7th September 1715.

RIGHT HONORABLE and my dearest lord,—I am truly ashamed of the continual trouble I give your lordship, but sine you are my chief support, I hope, my lord, that you will pardon my importunityes. I am told that your lordship is to be with the ministers off state this morning. I therefore humbly beg, my dear lord, you may be pleas'd to get some positive answer of me from them; for if your lordship goes away before their is anything done for me I will look on myself as in a desperat condition. I trust intirly to your lordships generous heart for the good of the government and for the standing of my poor kindred

and family, and if ever they have a being they, as well as I, are bound to be your lordships most fathfull and zealous servants, as those who are at the gates of Dounrobin. I beg your lordship may be intirly perswaded that my life will sooner end than my dutyfull acknowledgment for your lordships goodness towards me, and that you will find me while I breath, with zeal and ane infinit respect, my dearest lord, your lordships most obliged, most fathfull, and most obedient cusing and humble servant,

LOVAT.

London, the 7 of Septembre 1715.

205. Letter without Signature or Address, probably an intercepted letter—
Proceedings at Blair on the passage of Mar's army. 1715. Draft.

MADAM,—I hade yours of Frydayes date, more particullar in neus then what I can returne. The history of the Duke of Athole is as folloues. His Grace conveend eight hunderd men to Blair to opose my Lord Marr on Fryday last. He hade them in three lynes befor his gate with there officers on there head, and went to dinner and left his men in rank and fyle under arms. In the mean tyme they obsverd the Marquess of Tullibardin passing, wherat they gave a loud husa, and 300 deserted in the companys towards the marquess, and the rest droopt off by dozens and scors, wherat the gentlemen, being as it seemed surprysd att the revolt of there men, presently told his Grace there men would not obey orders, but brok off in wholl companies. His Grace, being just sett to dinner, rose in passion and run out, mounted his horse and made up to the diserters, who plainly denyd to serve him on any tearms, if he did not joyne to restor the king and the kingdome to its antient independant liberty. His Grace in passion took a gun from on standing by him and fyrd att them and broek a poor fidders bou hand. His French page fyrd his pistolls but did noe great hurt. A sturdy fellou turning on his Grace begd he might returne and take care of his life presently or els—, quhairat his Grace returnd and cryd lik a chylde, his men still dropping of to the marquess, who putt himself att the head of the diserters. All the landed vasells waitid of his Grace without there men to receaue his commands. He orderd Lood to be secured and Fincastle, because there men went off in a body, judgeing they winkd att the revolt. In short its expected his Grace hes noe more company to attend him but her Grace and some feu of no use upon the Georgian lay.

The marquess hes joynd the kings army. Strouan marches off this day. The two companyes that his Grace sent to Perth to gaurd that place are brought to the camp, and there officers, Urrard and Gay, made prisoners. Inness is taken by M'Intosh, who enterd the town on syde with 600 men, and Mr. Campbell, Sir Archibald Campbells some, with 300 of Caddells men, on the other syde, and hes secured a great deall of arms and amonition for the kings use. The Earle of Mar with the army encamped att Pittlochery in Atholl yesterday about tuo acloak. The army is suposed to be att least 4000 foot and 800 horse. Seaforth, M'Intosh, Glengary, the Frazers, and the Oglivies, the Roesses, and severall northern clans, are all on there march, and the Highlands to the northwest are all ready and some of them moveing. The neus papers are sent to [a] freind by my lord, but theyl be returdn when I gett them with what more neus occurs from the camp; and be sure to send what neus ye gett by this boy with the printis if they be come. I doe not doubt if yee was Dutches of Marlborrou besydes being Duke ye would act your parte. If wishes hade done it, as you would have, George never hade gott the croun, and you hade been a lady of a plentyfull fortoun; but tyme and Providence determinis all, and all must wait it, and soe must you. Adué, Madam, your very oblidged servant.

Birne this.

206. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to KATHARINE, LADY STRATHNAVER,—health of William, Lord Strathnaver, her husbaud. 6th March 1716.

DEAR MADAM,—I have given all the good advice I can to my son. If God Almighty enable him to perform as weel as he undertakes, it will be a blessing and a great satisfaction to me, and I am sure great contentment to you. I have discharged him of two hundred and fiftie poundes of the tack duty, in consideration of the great zeal he has shoven att this juncture for the service of his king and country and the expenses he has been att. He has promised me to take a diet drink for cleansing his blood. It did me a great deal of good and cures the scurvy. He may drink a pint of it in the day, three mutchkins is enough, and he may drink half a mutchkin of cherry, att most a mutchkin, and noe malt liquor, brandie, or clarett for three weekes constantly, and rise early in the morn-

ing and walk about. Moderate exercise is good. He is to bring the ingredients from Invernes, and Mrs. Broun can make it. They take att the apothecarys two shillings or half a croun the chopin, and you can make for less than the fifth part. I intreat you may keep him to the drinking of it. I dont know when I may see your ladyship, therfor I must tell you it was a great greif to me to [see] the nestie pickle in which the house of Du[n]robin was by keeping servants that minded nothing, and knows not what belongs to cleanlines, so that your best furniture goes to nought, which is more worth than many years wages to a good servant. I wold have you keep none but good dilligent servants, lett ther fee be what it pleases. I shall say more by my next. I am very vexed to be keped here thir two dayes by gone expecting the hogshead of ale and the other things my son write for; if the boat be not already come off lett it immediately be dispatched, and I will come of off Dunrobin to receave it aboard. I pray God, to preserve you and the hopeful children. I am, with sincere respect, dear daughter, your affectionat father and most humble servant,

SUTHERLAND.

Queenbrough in Cromartie Road, 6th March 1716.

The boat will see the ship att sea and may come towards us.

207. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
disarming the Mackenzies; Fraserdale's remission, etc. 21st March 1716.

MY DEAR LORD,—I hope by this tyme your lordship is safly arrived at London. I wish with all my soul it may be in good health, and that your lordship may injoy with pleasure the reward that your zeal and services deserve; and sinc their was no body under your lordships commands that did more assiduously obey your orders than my self and kindred I am fully perswaded that your lordship will do us justice both with the king, prince, the Duke of Malbrough, and the ministers, and particularly to General Stanhope, who is the minister I look on as my patron and friend.

I went out the last week with Major General Wightman to oblidge all Seaforts people this side of the high hills to bring in ther arms, and by a litle chasse we had on the hill of Torahilie above Contine, where my men took some of the rebels and their arms, Major General Wightman hes seen the necessity of having loyal highlanders to reduce the rebels.

I have wrot a detail of this to Sir William Gordon, so that I will not trouble your lordship with it. I have taken the Earl of Cromarty and McKenzie of Incheouter prisoners by Major General Wightmans orders, and that frighteus all the low countrey McKenzies. I will send to your lordship by the next post a list of all the McKenzies and Frasers who have been rebels and how have lands to loose. I hope your lordship will be so good to me and to my kindred, who all love and respect your lordship infinitely, that you will use your indeavour to stop Fraserdales remission or possession of my forefathers estate, which would again expose both me and my people to ruin, and as we may be usefull to the king, so we shall be fathfull servants to your lordships person and illustrious posterity. I have such experience of your lordships goodness and friendship that I will never doubt of it, let people say what they will to perswad me otherwayes, and if your lordship will now improve my services to establish my family as you have done me the honor to promise many tymes, your lordship will find me and mine as ready to serve you, l'épee a la main, as those at the gates of Duurobin, and I will remain, while I breath, with my ordinary zeal and a profound respect, my dear lord, your lordships most affectionat cusing and most obedient and most humble servant,

LOVAT.

Inverness, the 21 of March 1716.

My poor brother assures your lordship of his last respects for he is so dangerously ill with a fever, flux, and stiches that their is litle or no hopes of his recovery. He was a good natured and brave young fellow, and a zealous servant of your lordships. His fatigue and drinking this vinter and suden quitting of it hes kill'd him. I wish with my soul that my dear Lord Stranaver may give over his drinking in some measure, otherwayes he canot live, and it were a thusand thusand pityes for a man of honor and good sense; and I am sure his lordship is as dear to me as my own only brother. I have been ill too sine I saw your lordship, and I am affraid my constant fatigue will make ane end of me. But I hope I will receive some marks of the kings favour before I dy, and that his Majesty will take care of my family, for General Stanhope hes done me the honor to writ me a most gracious letter by his Majestyes direction.

I hope your lordship will do all you can for poor Tanahy Tulloh, the first who did submitt himself. He is caryd south and hes not how to subsist.

My Lord Rollo and Bethune of Balfour recommends themselves to your lordships protection.

If your lordship could, without much trouble, save the lives of Hugh Fraser of Buchrubine, who was truly forced out, and Robert Shaw of Tordarah, a vassal of mine, it would be a lasting obligation on their friends who are loyal to our Sovereign. But I plead for no rebels further than your lordship shall think fit and charitable, and for the good of the government. For I would not plead to save my brother from hanging if I thought it would be prejudicial to the present government and happy constitution for which I am still ready to venture my life.

Sir John McLean, my full cusing germain, who rendered himself prisoner to your lordship at Castle Gordon, is dead eight dayes ago. The officer has taken his purse of about forty gineas, his gold watch, his pistols, sword, and horses. If your lordship would be so kind as send me ane order from General Stanhope that I might receive those things from the officer or commander-in-chief here I would take it as a singular favour, especially his arms and watch, tho truly no body but your lordship has right to either his gold or any thing els he had. His trunks, and all that was in them are kept by Major-General Wightmans order.

208. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER,—that his remission as Lord Lovat had passed the great seal. 3d April 1716.

MY DEAR LORD,—I presume to assure your lordship, my Lady Stranaver, and all the noble of[f]spring, of my most humble duty. I congratulate your lordship of the glorious and great reception the Earl of Sutherland had at London. The Duke of Malborow, 2 secretaries of state, all the squadron and many English nobility, came to visit him to his own house, and he is to have great rewards for his services, and what I have done is only to be rewarded according as his lordship represents my services, which gives me good hopes. I am sure if my dear Lord Stranaver were with his father that he would push him to do for Lovat, and I am sure my dear earle will do for me without any solicitation.

I am sure my dear Lord Stranaver will not be ill pleas'd that my remission as Lord Lovat is pass'd the great seal of Scotland, and Johnathan Tomson carries it this week north. I have likewise receav'd a letter in the kings name and his

order from Secretary Stanhope, and another by the princes order from his secretary, thanking me for my services, and promising me marks of the king and the princes favour.

I am come this lenth to meet General Cadogan, who is incamp'd at Riven in Badinoh. He is to come to Inverness. The clans are gathering, and swears they will fight, but I hardly belive it. Sinc General Cadogan is the earles friend, and that he will be Thursday at Inverness, I most humbly think and intreat your lordship should come and see him, tho' you did not stay but a few dayes. I hope my dear Lord Stranaver is convine'd that none alive is more devoted to him than myself, and that while I breath, the world will know how much I am, with zeal and respect, my most dear lord, your lordships most affectionat cusing, and most fathfull and most humble servant, LOVAT.

Dullmagary, near the Ile of Moy, the 3d of Apryle 1716.

209. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his son, WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER,—chiding him for shewing leniency to the rebels.

London, 18th of July [1716].

THOUGH my sones not taking that care of his own health he ought to doe did most sensibly concern me, yet to hear that I have a son that wold either countenance or protect rebells makes me think those that want children less to be pittied, for it is better to have none then such as bring a reproach and scandall upon a family. For to take money for giving protections to Auchterdonald and others, and ordoring back the rebells goods when taken by authority, are things eriminal and not to be answered for. Soe, son, I conjure you in Gods name lett not your good nature be abused and yourself imposed upon by showing any favor to rebells and the Jacobite magistrats of any place whatsoever. But if any can be thought to give money to any to influence you (I thank God I know you are proof of bribes), lett the rigor and height of justice be executed upon such in an exemplary maner, and such villanous indeavors will be noe more used, and your disconsolate father have reason to bless God when he hears it. Adieu.¹

¹ Note by the second Duke of Sutherland E. of Sutherland, to his son, Lord Strathnaver, on the original letter: "Letter from John, naver, about 1716."

210. ROBERT, LORD BALFOUR OF BURLFIGH, to JOHN, SEVENTH EARL OF ROTHES, enclosed in the succeeding letter,—excusing himself for joining the rebels. [July 1716.]

MY LORD,—The favour your lordship hath shewn even to those who præsum'd always to oppose yow encourages me to aske your lordships assistance, together with your friends, who to my knowledge never disoblighd yow.

My lord, ther is ane bill of attainder agenst me and many others, for not surrendering to the government for the late unnatureall rebellion. My lord, had it not been for my former misfourtonnes I woud have been so far from standing out that I should not ingag'd in't at all.

My lord, the sad misfortounes I fell into in my younger days, made it imposibel for me to live publictly, and the rebelione breaking out of ane sudden, and I not having mony ever to live upon abroad, and at that time not so much as carry me off the country, obliged me to join thos rebels, far contrair to my education and principl's. I belive your lordship may enow that I offerd to join the Duke of Argyll at first, but that was not thought proper; this I can instruct: afterward to join the Earle of Sutherland, and that was not thought safe neather. Now, my lord, altho I went seemingly along with the rebels in their villanous and rebellious practices, yet your lordship both seel and heard what services I did to the shires of Fife and Cinross, as all the country besedes. What services I did to the ministrs of the establish'd church I belive they will acknowledge them selves. This, and sume things of the like nature, made me abhorr'd by them, insomuch that they obraid me for giving intelligance, so that they never trusted me with any command, altho evry one knows they wanted officers, and that I was one severall years in the forringe service. My lord, I never gave my advice in anie thing save (on ask'd) agenst that barbarous burning of thos villages. Now, upon the wholl, my lord, your lordship sees that it was plain force that made me join the rebels, so I hope your lordship with your friends will give ane just representatione of my case to his Majestie and the government; and if his Majestie King George wold be gratusly pleased to pardon me I shoud ever be his Majesties most dewtifull and fathfull subject, and your lordships most obedient, most greatfull, and most humbl servant,

BURLIEGH.

211. JOHN, SEVENTH EARL OF ROTUES, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—asking the King's pardon for Lord Balfour of Burleigh. 2d August 1716.

MY DEAR LORD,—I had the inclos'd t'other day. This poor unluckie lad writes realy what is true, for his former misfortunes were the only occasion of his joining himself in the late wicked rebellion. I know he would many times gladly been off, and that he did more good services to the country in protecting them, especially the Presbyterian ministers, then any who was concern'd in the rebellion; yea I must doe him the justice to say that I gott from him severall times intelligence of the rebbell's motions when they were in this part of the country. He's a poor unfortunate man, and I am told is very penitent for the faults of his youth. He has the honour to be your lordships relation, as well as he is mine, and I should be very ready to join with your lordship in recommending him to his Majesties mercy. I know he would haue surrendered but that he lyes already under sentence of death for his former unluckie accident. I could not refuse at the desire of some of his friends to give you this trouble, which I hope you'll haue the goodnesse to pardon, and believe me ever to be with the greatest truth and respect, my dear lord, your most faithfull and obedient humble servant,

ROTUES.

Leslie, August 2d, 1716.

212. ROBERT, FOURTH LORD ROLLO, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—complaining that the prisoners were to be transported to Carlisle. 27th August 1716.

MY LORD,—Som tyme agoe I trubled your lordship with a leter and a pition inclosed to his royall higness the prins. I haue got no return from your lordship since, and Mr. Pringall, who I derected my letters to, told me he had caused deliver it to your lordship. And now, my lord, ther is com orders for ws all to be transported to Carlyle, and no exeption made of wss who wolintirly soredred, which giue me grounds to belive my life and forton to be in hasord, which I never expected.

And I who most be trayed by my pears am supraised why I should be caried along with the gentilmen when no parliment is as yit sitting, as I writ befor to

your lordship. I having soredrend to you I might have expected your asistance, which I knou my lord is in your pour to caus me to be kipt hear till the parliment be siting. The Duke of Montross hes preveld for the Laird of Methvens continuing in the castill of Edinburgh, who is but his ladys cusrn, and will not your lordship for your oun relations doe as much. But still I will continow in good thoughts of your lordship wntill the return of this expres which we haue sent wp apurpos to sie nou who shall apire to be our frinds, and I am, my lord, your lordships oblidged humble servant,

ROLLO.

Edinburgh Castill, 27 Agust 1716.

213. ALEXANDER ROSS, Solicitor, Edinburgh, holograph but unsigned, to [WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER],—giving an account of Lord Lovat's proceedings and of a duel between Major James Cathcart and Mr. Gordon of Ardoch. *Circa* 1716.

MY LORD,—I am heartily sorry for having occasion by this to give your lordship account of a very melancholly and tragical affair, which I will account for from the begining, and beg your lordships patience to read it. There being a paragraph insert in the *Flying Post* of Saturday the 9th instant mentioning that his Majestie, in consideration of my Lord Lovats services in reducing of Invernes, had named his lordship governour of that place, and gave him the independent company, both vacant by Colonell Monros demission, the earl was justly offended at his assumeing the sole merit to him self in that affair, and sent to his lordship to know if that paragraph had been insert by his orders; which he absolutely disowning upon oath, it was, however, found upon enquiry to have been given in by one Alexander Fraser, a freind and dependent of his lordships here. Hereupon my Lord Lovat is desired to set that matter in a true light, and consequently contradict the above account by a letter under his hand; and this the earl thought he might with the more reason ask, seeing it was what his lordship and severall other gentlemen had already acknowledged by their letter to the earl from Invernes it self, and that this royal favour done my lord might be said to proceed from the recommendation made of him to his Majesty by the earl, when either there was none other that would have done it, or when the application of such as would might probably have proved unsuccessfull. But my

Lord Lovat made some demurr in this matter on Saturday, and Mr. Gordon of Ardoch mett his lordship occasionally next day at Doctor Welwoods, where, upon his incomeing, he understood my lord and the doctor had been in some warm debate, and being made acquainted with the occasion by the doctor, whom he called aside for that purpose, took the opportunity of reasoning the matter with his lordship, and insisted to haue the aforesaid letter signed by him, and produced it for that purpose, of the earls own writeing, mentioning that the rebell governour and garison of Inverness had abandoned the same upon the earls approach with his men and 12 peice of cannon, a fact which he and every body else had so often owned. But his lordship most civilly saying that the letter was stuffed with lyes and falsehoods, Mr. Gordon told him that he durst not have said so of it had the earl been present. That he understood his lordship had in the hearing of all the company that day at the doctors threatned to cutt Sir William Gordons throat, which made the doctor (as he himself says) send for ane officer of the gaurd to secure him, of which he was glade, seeing therby he apprehended his brother to be in no danger, it being uncommon to make oppen threatnings untill first the party concerned is made acquainted with the quarrell. Much more pass'd needles to mention, of all which Sir William, getting notice next day, made it his business to search and find out my Lord Lovat at the Smyrna coffee-house, where, haueing called him in to a closet, he expostulate with his lordship anent the threatning language he had the day befor said publicly of him, and his lordship making some bustle, Sir William desired there might be no noyse in the coffee-house, for that next morning he would beat up my lords quarters and adjust the matter betwixt them; and next day be 4 he called and against 6 they tuo, attended by Kilravock as my lords freind, and by Ardoch as Sir Williams, went away in a coach from his lordships lodgeings in Piccadilly, where my lord had endeavoured to draw in Sir William to a discourse of the quarrell in presence of James and Alexander Frasers, two of his lordships freinds. But if his lordship had any designe by that against Sir William 'twas miscaried, for Sir William avoided, in their company, to speak of the subject. In their out going 'twas proposed to go to some feild in the road to Barnet, but his lordship declined going any where else than to Marybone feilds, where they all no sooner arrived but a fellow who followed their coach came up with a gun and swore he would shoot the first man that drew. After him at some distance appear three or four on horseback, and James and Alexander Frasers on foot. Some, and no doubt all

of them, appeared surpris'd, and Kilravock and Mr. Gordon discoursing with the fellow, he told them plainly he was injoyn'd to this by a gentleman in Piccadilly that morning, from whom he got the gun, but was sworn to conceal his name, but told his own and his place of abode frankly, of which Mr. Gordon took a note in his pocket book. Finding themselves thus discovered and attended, they made a pretence of taking the air, and thereafter returned home. My lord, in his return, said that what happened proceeded from his apprehension that Sir William had misrepresented him, and his lordship and Mr. Gordon going one way when they came in to town, and Sir William and Kilraick another, his lordship intreated of Mr. Gordon to endeavour a reconciliation with the earl, and make up what difference happened betwixt them. This is the account as near as I can remember, which I could learn of this matter, and by it appears what returns the earl has for his kindnes to my Lord Lovat, which indeed he has shoven him contrary to the advice of the earls own best freinds, which the secretaries of state so farr disowned as to lodge it intirely on the earl, who, they say, asked it of the king, who they likewise said can refuse nothing to his lordship; and, indeed, was more than what my Lord Lovat himself demanded at first, his desire to the earl being only to ask the governourship, to which the earl of his own accord joyn'd the company, and immediatly gote my lord to kiss the kings hand for both. But I heartily wish the matter had ended here, but unluckily it did not; for on Wednesday thereafter, being the 13, in the evening, Major James Cathcart and Mr. Gordon, happening to be at Old Mans Coffee-house, Mr. Cathcart took occasion in his discourse to throw very injurious insinuations and reflections on Sir William and him, asking a gentleman that sate near Mr. Gordon if ever he knew four gentlemen to go out to fight and come home with whole fleshy wounds, of whom two werc such cullions or cowards (or some word to that purpose) as to hyer a gaurd for their preservation, and asking a surgeon, that also sate near, if he could tell what the cureing of such wounds would cost, and a great deall to this purpose, of which Mr. Gordon took no notice since he spoke of no name. But soon after Mr. Cathcart went up and down the coffee-house boasting to several people how he had insulted Mr. Gordon, who durst not resent it, and they say insisted much on that strain, upon which Mr. Gordon came up to him, asking what ground he had for such language and who werc his authors, but the other said he was not obliged to give him any authors, and bid him go immediatly out of his sight, at the same

time offering to strike him with his cane. Mr. Gordon telling him he took the offer of a cane in the same way as the laying on, and whispered him to follow him, and away both went in a coach to Kensington, from whence they went on foot by several fields to a very remote and private place, where they fought, and Mr. Cathcart had the misfortune to be killed on the spot. Mr. Gordon received five wounds ere the other was touched, and both of them thereafter very eager in their thrusts by a countertang run each other thorow the body. Mr. Cathcart's sword entered Mr. Gordons right breast betwixt the nipple and the hollow, and went out at his back seven inches, and with the weight of his body in the lounge broke it, leaving 13 inches behind. Mr. Gordons entered Mr. Cathcart's right breast and went out at his left side, and he endeavouring thereafter to recover his sword, Mr. Cathcart, who then threw away what remained of his own, took hold of Mr. Gordons in both his hands, which were cutt when Mr. Gordon drew it back. Hereupon Mr. Cathcart fell back saying he had got it, but as it was his own fault so he deserved it, and forgave him very heartily. Mr. Gordon said he hoped it was not mortall, but, if it was, he doubted not but in few hours to follow him. Mr. Gordon, in the case he was in, run above a quarter of a mile to get help to Mr. Cathcart, crying out, and at length found a man who was mowing hay, with whom he returned, and they both helped up Mr. Cathcart, who by that time was speechless, but had some life remaining. The man says that Mr. Gordon was in the outmost concern for him, and kissed him frequently, and chargeing the man to take care of him untill he brought or sent a coach. He walked away above a mile befor he came hither to a house, where being refused access he walked further to another, where he got access, and immediately directed people to go and look after Mr. Cathcart, thereafter sent for a surgeon to himself, and calling for pen, ink, and paper, wrote a line to his brother, his sex wounds bleeding all this while, and the broken part of the sword remaining in his body, which continued so for above two hours after he had received it. He has two wounds in the left arm (that being the hand he fought with), one of them thorow, a third in the same arm near his shoulder, which enters a litle from behind, a fourth on his left side which slanted on his rib, a fifth in his left breast a litle under his shoulder, which goes also pretty farr, and the other, the most dangerous of all, thorow his whole body and his lungs. His wounds were dressed that night by Mr. Bouchier, in presence of Doctor Welwood, who loth declared they feared the worst. He was also befor next morning

thrice bled, after which, and not till then, he had some ease. His wounds were again dressed yesterday, and as they do not bleed inwardly, and that there is no extravasated blood in his body, they begin to have good hopes of him. He got a glister yesternight, which had very good effects, but today he seems a little feverish, which in all appearance, from the good symptoms that attend him, is the only danger that now threatens him. This is the account he himself gave of the whole affair, some hours after his wounds were dressed, when there was no hopes of his recovery, and which he declared as a dying man, at the same time owning that 'twas with the greatest reluctancy he was engaged in this unlucky quarrell till he was provoked with such treatment as no man could bear; in which he is vindicated by all the company that was in the coffee-house, which certainly must be some satisfaction to his friends whatever becomes of him.

I take this opportunity also of acquainting your lordship that yesterday I got out your warrant of pension from the treasury for £500, which commences at Martimas last, and if I can see the earl to-day, will send it and the gift of chamberlainry down this night in order to be expedited. In my last to my lady from this place I urged the absolute necessity there was of sending the Master and Mr. William hither for their education. Your lordship is sensible how absolutely necessary it is for them, and how disadvantageous to them it must be now to lose any time. Sir William has boarded his two sons at a school, resolved to spare no expence in their education, and I beg of your lordship to follow the same example with all conveniency.

214. WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, [address wanting¹], intimating the birth of his daughter, Lady Helen Sutherland.

Dunrobin, Aprile 17th, 1717.

SIR,—I wrote to you some posts ago about a suit of cloaths for my self, and an upper coat of good drab cloath, as likeways upper coats for my two eldest sons, with a short perwig for each of them, and one for Charles. I desire you would buy a good well goeing nag. If that cannot be well had, a good strong one which may bring north the things recommended to you. The two dozen spades

¹ Apparently to Alexander Ross, solicitor, Edinburgh, as the letter is indorsed in his handwriting.

I have receiv'd. You may order William Miller, gardner, to send at the same time two of the best pruning knives and three dozen best setts of clove gilly flowers. The eight of this month my wife was brought to bed of a daughter, which I named Helen after my mother. I am, sir, your most humble servant,

STRATHNAVER.

215. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—asking his personal influence with the members of the Court of Requests. 19 June 1717.

MY DEAR LORD,—The experience I have of your lordships goodness to me and to my kindred makes me believe that tho I were not in the world your lordship would be a friend to the name of Fraser that loves and respects you. The standing or ruin of the family of Lovat and of the Frasers depends on tomorows vote in the House of Comons. The gift which your lordship did contribut to obtean me of Fraserdales escheat, that I might possess the lands of my forefathers, is like to be taken from me by a clause put in by the Commissioners of Inquiry, and all I have for it is to petition the house to get myself excepted out of that clause. I most humbly beg your lordship may give me your interest with the members of the house, and I do assure your lordship that not only I, but my whole kindred, shall ever have a most gratfull resentment of it, and your lordship shall find us as ready to serve you as any whatsoever. I therefore most humbly beg your lordship may do me the honour to come to the Court of Requests about the tyme the members goes in, to speak to those your lordship pleases in my favours, and if your lordship will be so good as to give me to-morows harvest day, ther shall not be a day of my life but your lordship shall find me with zeal and great respect, my dear lord, your lordships most obedient and most fathfull humble servant,

LOVAT.

London, at ten at night on Wednesday, the 19 of June 1717.

216. SIMON, LORD LOVAT, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—reminding the earl that he had acted with much zeal during the rebellion. 23 September 1717.

MY LORD,—I hope your lordship will pardon the trouble of this letter, since I cannot have the honour to see your lordship at your house, where I call'd several tymes, but could get no access, a misfortune I once thought would never hapen me. But my comfort is that I have nothing to reproach myself with that could deserve it. For I never fail'd in the respect I owe your person, nor in the gratitude I owed for your lordships kind services to me while I was in my greatest distress; and if your lordship will but impartially reflect on all that pass'd in the north during the late unnatural rebellion, your lordship will find that in return of those services your lordship was pleas'd to do me that I acted with as much zeal and affection for your lordships person and interest as if I had had the honour to be born your lordships only son. And your lordship cannot but remember that my zeal and attaché to your person were not of small use to your lordship, considering how you was situated, not only with the kings enemys but also with severals of the kings friends; and tho your lordship had no manner of value for my person, I humbly think that your lordship should have some regard for my kindred, not only for their past services but for what may hereafter hapen. For its most certain that their is at least for this generation a stated hatred betwixt the Mackenzies and your lordships family, which some tyme or other may come to blows, and if ever that hapens, I am convinc'd that those who influence your lordship to abandon and maltrait your essential friends will not fill their place, but on the conterary will be of very litle use to your lordship and family, and your lordships cold behaviour towards me hindred me to represent this to your lordship as your near relation and real friend. Nay, I was concern'd to sie such ane alteration in your lordships friendship towards me, that I had not assurance enough to speak to your lordship of my poor cusing Struys busines, tho their was not a week but I was pressd to it by letters from the north. But since he now charges me with the ruin of his family by ingadging him to give your lordship those cows, I hope you will pardon the freedom I take to beg of your lordship most humbly to pay that litle money. Struy and his nearest friends are perswaded, if he had given your lordships note to any other than me,

that he would have had his money long ore now, for the want of which his litle credit is broke, and he canot keep the streets for captions. Your lordships note is but of sixty pounds; but your lordship knows that our poor gentilmens may have their credit and their familys raisd or broke for sixty pounds. And sine your lordship got 2000 pounds, which are given in account to the Parlement for your lordships expences at Inverness, and that your lordship receavd a 1000 of it sine this note was given by your lordship, I hope you will be so good as to order the payment of thir sixty pounds to a poor gentilmans, who often ventur'd his life to serve your lordship, and who, out of meer affection to your lordship, gave you those cows for which he had given his personal bonds, that your lordships men and those under your comand might not want subsistance. I flatter myself that your lordship will put ane end to his trouble or to any noise or clamour he may hereafter make for such a trifle; and by whatever means malicious persons have indeavour'd to make your lordship my enemy, I never did nor never will deserve it, and no behaviour of your lordships will ever make me forget the former services you was pleasd to do for me, nor the honour I have of being, with a sincere respect, my lord, your lordships most affectionat cusing and most obedient humble servant,

LOVAT.

London, the 23d of Septembre 1717.

217. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to CHARLES, EARL OF SUNDERLAND,—success of the royal forces at Glenshiel. Copy.

Marlborough Street, 19 of June 1719.

MY LORD,—I congratulate your lordship upon the success of the kings forces against the rebels, upon the Pretenders birthlay, and the share that the small number of my men who were there had in it. They could not belong to me if they did not act their parts with zeal. My last letter was upon the kings birthlay, and to congratulate your lordship upon that happy occasion, and to desyre your interest for the tellers post vacant by the death of the Lord Toringtounne, which your lordship was pleasd to satisfie me was promised. I was perswaded that Mr. Addison could not live long by what I heard, but as I cannot desire the post of one diserved to live, and whom I wished to live, I could not ask it; now being dead, I must entreat your lordships friendship in it. There is now due to me in a few

days a year and a halfe sallary in the pollice, which, if payed, dont amount to the interest of the money I have laid out since the Revolution for carying on that good work, and securing to us the protestant succession which wee do happily enjoy. I think I may the rather expect your lordships favour in this affair to put me in a way to pay my debts contracted upon that account, and to wa[1]k through the world the best I can with my wonted zeal and affection to the King.

Indorsed: Copy of my letter to the Earl of Sunderland.

218. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to JAMES, EARL OF STANHOPE,—asking for the post in Exchequer vacant by the death of Mr. Addison.¹ 19th June 1719. Copy.

MY LORD,—I congratulate your lordship upon the 28 of May as being the auspicious day upon which our glorious King was born, and at the same time entreated your lordships favour to interceed with the King for my haveing the tellers place in the exchequer vacant by the Lord Torringtons death; I now congratulate your lordship upon the defeat of the rebels upon the Pretenders birthday. There were no highlanders with the regular troops, but some of myn and son of the Munroes. My folks were upon the right of the regular forces and behaved themselves as if I had inspired them. My son was at Inverness, where he is shirive, to keep matters in order there, and to have the troops supplied with necessaryes from thence. Considering, my dear lord, the part I have still acted, and the zeal that such of myn as were show'd, I hope the king will please to bestow upon me the post in the exchequer now vacant by the decease of Mr. Addison. I knew he was so ill he could not subsist long, but as I wished him to live, and barring Gods pleasure, thought he deserved to live, I could not ask it. I hope there is no engadgmt as in the last, for my Lord Chancellors son, which could not be helped. If your lordship please to exert yourselfe now for me at this juncture you cannot do it for on who has suffered or endeavoured to do more for the service, and who must be undone if nothing be done. It is needless to tell you that there is non with greater sincerity, truth, and respect, then I, my lord, your lordships most fathfull aud most obedient, humble servant,

Marlborough Streett, 19 of June 1719.

¹ The Right Hon. Joseph Addison, the famous writer in *The Spectator*.

I am doing what I can to have Mr. Douglass chose member of parliament for Walingford, knowing him to be at your lordships disposall. Your lordships lady and children are, I thank God, weell.

Indorsed: Copy of my letter to Earl Stanhope.

219. JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to CHARLES, EARL OF SUNDERLAND,—requesting the office vacant by the death of his son, Lord Strathnaver. 25th July 1720. Copy.

MY LORD,—After having been some tyme in the country for the recovery of my health I came this night to toun with a design to wait on your lordship, when you should please to appoint, and mett with letters givinge me ane account of my son Strathnavers death, which afflicting news deprives me of that happines, and makes me trouble your lordship with this letter. I regrate my sons loss the more that he was zealous and steady in the kings service, who, in consideration of it, gave him the collection of the crown rents in the shyre of Ross, allowing him to detain five hundred pounds yearly in his own hands. He enjoyed it but two years, and laid out of his own money dureing the two rebellions above twelwe hundred pounds for maintaining men and keeping garisons. He havinge now left four sons, the eldest of which is fourteine years of age, I expect your lordships favour and interest with the king to have it bestowed upon me, who am tutor to the children, in the same terms my son had it, who shall apply it to contribute to their education. It is with tears in my eyes I make this application to your lordship, and to prevent others who are ready to catch at everything. The confusion and grieffe I am in, will, I hope, attone with your lordship for any escape in my writing, there beinge none alive with greater respect and esteem then I, my lord, your lordships most faithfull and most obedient, humble servant.

Marlborough Streett, 25 July 1720.

Indorsed: Copy of my letter to the Earl of Sunderland. 25th of July 1720.

220. JAMES, EARL OF STANHOPE, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—the death of Lord Strathnaver.

Hanover, July 18th, 1720 o.s.

MY LORD,—I heartily condole with your lordship for the loss of your son, poor Lord Strathnaver, and, having acquainted the king therewith, his Majesty is pleased to consent that you should have the collection of the chamberlany of the crown lands in Ross, and the allowance of five hundred pounds yearly pension out of it which your son enjoyed, and I have writ by his Majesty's command to the Duke of Roxburgh to prepare the proper instruments accordingly for his Majesty's royal signature. I hope this will find your lordship in a better state of health, being very truly, my lord, your lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

STANHOPE.

221. WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, to his grandfather, JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—expressing his satisfaction that he is to go to Hanover. 9th February 1727.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of your lordship's commands by your letter from London, 13th of January, and I am very glad that it is your desire I should go to Hanover before I come home. I leave this place the end of this month, and hope to see you a few months hence. Your letter to Prince Fredrick will certainly be of great use to me, since it is absolutely necessary that I have some recommendation. I believe none can be more effectual than your lordship's. I am sorry to hear that your affairs in Scotland have been so long ill managed. When it pleases God that I come home I shall not be so far wanting in my duty as not to do all that lies in my power towards retrieving what has been mismanaged since my father's death.—I am, my lord, your most dutiful and most obedient grandson,

Strathnaver

Angers, February 9th, N.S., 1727.

222. WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, to his grandfather, JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating his desire to remain in Paris some time before going to Hanover.

Paris, March 20th, o.s., 1727.

MY LORD,—I have received your lordships of the 14th and 20th of Marche, by both which I understand you have been pleas'd to write to Prince Frederik about me. Tho' I desire nothing so much as to have the pleasure of seeing your lordship as soon as possible, yet I hope you will not at all be against my staying here some short time. I propose to leave this place about the beginning of May, o.s., so that I reckon I may be at the Hague against the middle of the said month. Some people tell me that the shortest way from this to Hanover is by Strassbourg; but if your lordship has any particular reasons why I should rather go by Holland I am ready to obey, being always, my lord, your lordship's most dutiful and obedient grandson,

STRATHNAVER.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland, London.

NINE LETTERS from FRANCES, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND,¹ third wife of JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to her husband.

223. (1) Regretting his absence.

August the 26, [1727].

I THOUGHT I was armed against all uneaseness, but find my dear lord foursaw more of me then I did of myself, for can't expres my consarn for the loss of you, which, without flattery, woud bee to much, only am in hopes, by God blessing, to see you againe next month, which for my sake take all the care that is posable of your self, and my prayers shall bee constantly for your helth and prosperaty. And I must beg you will settle your affaires with your famile, that wee may bee all hewnighted and loueing, which I shall make it my study to bee so, for you

¹ This lady was the third wife of John, earl on 11th August 1727. She died at fiteceuth Earl of Sutherland. She was the Chelsea about 20th December 1732, without widow of Sir John Travell, and married the issue.

very well know I can have no other intrest in few. I shall take care to deliver the collonel your letters as you directed, and every thing els that I think can be of service to my dear lord, and am sinceraly, your affectionat wife,

Excuse this scrol, for have not recouered the surprize of your going. My service to them you thing proper. Pray let me hear ofens. Adiev.

224. (2) About her affectionate concern for him.

August the 31st, [1727].

I RECEIVED my dear lords two letters, which was the greatest pleasure I can now haue. But it has been a very great consarn to me your being so long at Sheerness; but I waching the wind found it turned for my dear lord of Tuesday evening, so hope bye God blessing this will meet you safe at Edinburgh, which I shall rejoice to hear. I sent Collonel Purcell word to come to me, so I delivered your letters and he aproued of that to my lord, so sent me word of Munday night that every thing woud bee don, therefore you may be ease on that score, and I hope one every thing els, which is my constant prayers and indevers to make you so, and belive you will doe the same to me. There has been but one letter for you, which I thought not proper to send; but if any comes I think is, I will send them as you directed. Mrs. Sidney is with me, and wee can drink no helth but my dear lords. Mrs. Grimstons goes from me this daye, and both give there sincear service to you. I have had a letter from Lord Strathnaver, and shall answer it very soon. I desire you will order me sume Scoch cole, not forgiting my wine. My service to all friends you think proper. I haue not playd at cards nor maid any visitt since you went, but thank I am very well of my illness, and shall obsarue your directions, and in hearing from you every post, tho' but two lines, will be a satisfaction to your affectionat wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

225. (3) Warning him not to allow others to impose upon him.

September the 14, [1727].

I DON'T know how to expres my joye to hear my dear lord is safe and well at Edenbrugh, for I was resolved nither to visitt nor play at cards till I heard you was out of all danger. Mrs. Sidne will tell you my uneaseness, she haueing been with me ever since the Munday you left me, or I shoud a been perfectly maloncole, but will now goe and see ouer friends. I am glad you remark Lord Fairfax. I beleive you have more of them friends; but my dayly prayers is that God Almighty will open your eyes that you may no longer be imposed upon, so that wee may be sincerely hewnighted, and consult with one another in every perticuler. You very well know my intrest will be for you and famile, I haueing no neare relations of my one; but you must be sure to be very good. I shoud a wret offener, but thought it not proper, you being not in Scotland. I heard of my Lord Strathnaver being chose, which was no smal pleasure to me. Non of your gentleman friend has been to see me. I beleive thay are well informed I shall find them out. I think you haue been put upon enuff by all hand, which is a great trouble to me to see you suffer so much by your good nater. Your offering me that trifle when you left me gaue me no smale imprestion. Don't trust Morroson, for reasons I will tell you; so I intend to git another gardener. I haue sold my sick hors, and intend to git another as soon as possible; but if you have a pair in Scotland pray send them, because one pair will not doe. I beg you will come to me as soon as your affaires will permit, and that will contribet much to my helth. The janters I am quite well of, and want nothing now but my dear lord. My Lady Hindford lets me know that her lord has had a summons to come and bring his lady to walk at the coronation, which she intends. But them that does not must send an excuse to the queen, so I beg by the first post you will let me know whether you have got a summons, and in what manner and by who I must send my excuse, and let me know whether you can haue the tickets without walkin. My service where you think proper. Mrs. Sidne is your humble servant, and so is your affectionat wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

226. (4) Explaining why she had not written him sooner.

September the 20, [1727].

I AM extreainly consarned my dear lord shoud take it ill my not writing offener, but I thought it very improper because I did not know what hands my letters might fall into, your not being there. For you may depend in your absence I haue not a greater pleasure then writing to my dear lord, and which you ought to take for a great kindness, because it this a thing I alwaye haited, and that makes me write in this ill maner. But I know your good understanding will not remark falts, but corect them. As I wret in my last I remind you again to send me word in what maner I must excuse my self to the queen; and I shoud be glad you coud walk. Some of your friends has asked me for tickets, so lett me know whether I shall haue any. I have don all you have ordered me but bleeding, and now drink the asses milk and am very well in helth, tho' unease for want of you. But since you haue taken so long a voage, I beg you will fix your affaires in so regular a maner that wee may be ease the remaner of our life; for there is nothing that makes the world goe easely on but takeing care of these affaires. Yow are to seusable this is true. Pray be carefull of who you trust, for if you suffer, depend I shall pertake in everything with you. Therefor for my sake you ought to be more upon your gard then you haue been, and then I don't questen but be as happy as posable, which is the dayly prayers of your affectionat wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

My love to your children and grandchildren, and am glad to hear there are all well. Mrs. Sidne giues her sarvice.

227. (5) Expressing her anxiety about her settlements.

September the 26, [1727].

I REJOCE my dear lord is in perfect helth, for that is the only thing that makes me ease; for you will find by my letter I wret to you last Satterday that I haue reason to be under a grate consarn, tho depend holy upon your honer, you asureing me you had paid all judgments of, so that there was nothing to affect my settlements. You know very well my intrest is yours, and if you neglect the law, it will fale heave on us as well as candelus, which I am sure I shoud never hold up my head after if you let it come to a publick matter. I thinke

my dear lord shoud remember what you haue suffered by ill peple and neglect of buissness, and now to remark and not trust any person, but mind your affaires, for nobody is more capeable then your self; so I beg, for my sake as well as your one, to mind your affaires, and send me word the perticuler of this matter. Collonel Windrom is very frendly to me, for I consult only with him. Bilinglee you will find no friend. I am sorry you doe not know me better then to think I shoud walk at the coronation and you not with me, which I knew you had not time to come back, so neuer had a thought of it. I haue enuff to doe with my money without that expence, for I haue lade out a great deel for workman, and nessesary for the house, and all new pewter. But the forst floer I haue stopt apou the noies. I beg you will settle your affaires in a regler maner, so that wee may not part any more till God Almigh cales us, for I haue not been less unease then you can a been, which your friend here will tell you, for I haue been but three times owt to viset since you went, which I could not hansomly avoid. The Duches of Rutland and Lord Harberrow was with me last night, and stayed with me three houers, who giues there service, and hope you will be up at the coronation, it being now put of till the 11th, and which will be a great pleare to your affectionat wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

I beg you will excuse my not writing to Lady Maitland, for I am in so much trouble I can't compose myself, which you may see bye my scrol. I hope you will abraid me no more for want of writing, for I neuer a faild every post since I know where you was, nor neuer will. Send me two frank. The money Mr. Bilinglee had he has paid nobody, so I beg you will put all money in Collonel Windromes hand, and we will see and make it up without law, for els you will continue to be cheted prodigesly, so we shall suffer by it.

228. (6) Her continued concern for the want of him, etc.

September the 28th, [1727].

I AM glad you are conches in abraiding me rongfully of my neckglect to you in not writing offener, for I know my self so well that you shall have no reason on any score, and I hope I shall not haue from my dear lord. I will not repeat the consarn I am in for the want of you, and the other affair is very terrible to me; but that I haue said enuff of in my last, and I think I shoud despies all them

peple and branches of them that accation it, for it will be sume time before caracter and fortaine can be retrieved. You may depend I will industerevsly indever to doe both, and my dear lord must doe the same. I wish Lord Stra[th-naver] was hear, it this but tryin (*sic*). Don't forgit tickets. I paid three and 6 pence for the packet, and have sent yours to Lord Sussex, as you ordered. I intend to advise with Collonel Windrom in your affair, and I sopoes you had a letter from him last post. If I doe not write in it let me know, for nobody is a better judg in most matters then my dear lord. I haue wret to Lady Maitland this post. I must beg againe you will aply your self to buisness, because in a grate measure yours and my happyness depends on it. I haue sent for Lady Hindford to consult of the hansomest method to excuse my self to the queen. I haue not been at court since you went, nor no where els, but sume visets I coul not avoid. I have don all you ordered me but bleeding, which I did before ; and rejoice to hear you keep your helth so well, which is the harty prayers it may continue, from your affectionat wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

I don't lone the word adiev. You remember you told me you had no executions, so I depend you haue not. I desire you will send me sum pickel herrins, and pickel pork and beeff, and Scoach cole. I beg you will always tell me the worst of any affair, who am, my dear lord, your sincearly. The Duches of Athens and Lady Hindford is just gon from me, and giues there service to you, and thinks me mighty rong I doe not walk, for thay think it woud be to your intrest if I did.

229. (7) That she had excused herself to the King and Queen for not attending at the coronation.

September the 30, [1727].

MY DEAR LORD is very kind in wateing for a letter from me, but you may depend I have not, nor shall, miss one post, being all the pleasure I haue in your absence. The first letter I had from you was isterday fortnight, which was September the 14, and received every post one since, which I answerd the 15, and so never faild answering them, and I thank you for your promising to continue being so good. I haue wret you seven letter since you let me know you was at Edenbrugh, and two I sent before, so hope non as miscaried. I haue excused my self to the king and queen, and haue don it in the best maner I

coud, which I hope you will approve of, because I would do every thing you should be pleased with. I beg my dear lord will come to me as soon as possible your affairs will let you, for I had no notion I could be so uneasy as I am without you, and I have other great troubles upon me. I am all a lone and desire to be so till you come, and have never been out of my one doores this fortnight. I am so maloncole I scarcely know what I writ, so hope you will excuse this sad scrols. Collonel Windrom is with me, who is the only person I can speak to in your affairs. If you have not sent me the perticuler of them in relating to the judgment, I beg you will as soon as you get this, and what money Mr. Bilinslee has of yours, for he has paid nothing, and you know the consequence if they are not paid. It will, in sum measure, be the rewine of us both. I beg, for God Almighty sake, to let me know the worst, and not to be torn in peeces here, but to let me goe to my one house into Lincolnshire, for one such caudelevs matter would be my death, who am, my dear lords affected but loueing wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

I sent your letter to Lord Sussex. The packet I paid three and sixpence for.

230. (8) Sending him general news.

October the 14, [1727].

I AM extremely glad to heare Lady Strathnaver is come to Edenburgh. But it is a great comsarn to me that I am obliged to find falt with her son, for he does not wright to be from the place he knew you must be, so can have no excuse for neglectin so kind a granfather to resine all to his famile. Only so smal a trifel, and that not to be paid, itt must be greatly to all there disadvantages. But I beg my dear lord will be very cautievs who he intrust, and make all the hast that is possible to me. Next Munday I intend to have a meating at Mr. Bridgens chambers as you directed, and what is don in the affair I will let you know. I went in my coach isterday, and took Collonel Windrom with me, to St. James's, and I sent him up the back staires to give my duty to the queen, and to know how she did after her feteage, which she received very gracevsly and said she was very well, but had hurt her foot by a stick that a man let fall from the cannapee that was caried ouer her Majestie at the coronation, which solemnety was extremely fine; but that perticuler you will have in the publick papers. I was at home all that daye, and drunk there majesties helth and my dears lord, which

I neuer omit. I haue several letters for you, but I opened them to se whether thay wanted an answer. But as thay was of no consequence I woud not put you to the charge to send you them. But the incloesed I thought you shoud haue. It came to my hands this daye by a clark as he said he was to the offee, and woud a had me giuen him money. But not knowing any thing of the affaire, I did not; if you think it proper to giue him any thing lett me know and I will. Mr. Wynn was to see me isterlay, who tolk me a bundence of things to your praise. I thanked him and said I knew them all and much more, for I was never happy till now, which is very true, when thies little rubs is ouer. He gaue his humble service to you, and so does Lady Windom and spouses, and Mr. and Mrs. Cardenel, and Mrs. Sidne, and almost every one I see; and very body very kind to me but two of your croneys. Mrs. Morrow was at the coronation. My service to him, and let him know all his famile is well: and my love and service where you think proper, who am, your sinccar loueing wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

The butter is so bad it cant be eves'd.

231. (9) Telling of her reception at Court.

January the 6, [1728].

I RECEIVED my dear lord[s] of the 28, but it was affter I had wret to you. I am extreemly pleased I can doe any thing to oblige my dear, and you may depend I doe every thing to the best of my knowlidg for your intrest, but must beg you will asist me. I was so well last night that I went to court with the Duches of Domet, who I thought the properest person, being a lady of the bed chamber. So was so good to present me to the Princes Royel, who received me very gracevsly and talked a great deel to me. From thence wee paid ouer duty to there Majesties, where the queen was vastly gracesvs and kind to me, and inquired vastly after my dear lord, and I asured her Majestie you woud be in town the sitting of the parlement, which I beg you will. Lord Grantom and I had a grate deel of chatt, which is not proper to write. I beg you will send some perticular friend to Lord Strathnaver, for when it is don it is to late to advice, and he is so young it is inpoable to know the world, and am, your affectionate wife,

F. SUTHERLAND.

My love to all your children.

232. COSMO GEORGE, MARQUIS OF HUNTLY, to JOHN, FIFTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—informing him of the death of his father, Alexander, second Duke of Gordon. 28th May 1728. Copy.

MY LORD,—It is with great concern I am to acquaint your lordship of (the Duke of Gordon) my father's death, which happened last Friday, after an indisposition of (only) six days.

My nonage and relation to your lordship give me ground to desire and expect your friendship, which shall be carefully cultivated and justly valued by, my lord, your lordships most affectionate cousine and most humble servant,

HUNTLY.

Gordon Castle, 28th May 1728.

233. LADY CATHARINE HYDE, DUCHESS OF QUEENSBERRY,—on being forbidden to go to Court; *circa* 1728. Contemporary copy.

THE Duchess of Queensberry is surpriz'd and well pleas'd that the king should send her so agreeable a command as to stay from court, where she never went for diversion, but to bestow a great civility on the king and queen. She hopes for this unprecedented order the king will soon see as few as he wishes at his court, particularly such as dare to think or speak truth. For my part I dare not do otherwise, and ought not nor cou'd have imagin'd that it wou'd not have been the very highest compliment I cou'd have paid the king to endeavour to support truth and innocence in his house,

C. QUEENSBERRY.

Particularly when the king and queen had both told me that they had not read Mr. Gay's play, I certainly did right to stand by my own word rather than his Grace of Graftons, who has neither made use of truth, judgement, or honour thro' this whole affair either for himselfe or his friends.

Indorsed : Dutchess of Quensburys letter.

234. LADY MARGARET WEMYSS, to her brother-in-law, WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating her intention to visit Dunrobin. *c.* 1735.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—I was surpris'd at your letter to day, but it was only at your goodness in takeing so kind a way to show me how far I was in the wrong

to you, but I asure twas not want of inclination but want of something to entertain you that hinderd my begining a corespondence that I have so much reason to be fond of. As for entring into the bonds of matrimony thats what I am in no hurry about, but I resolve to be ready to atnd you and Betty when ever you want my company, and to shew you how little tired I was of the last jaunt I made to your part of the world, I am already speaking of another next sumer which will be much the more agreable with the thought of your being better diverted next winter then you posibly could be hear. I was at a play this night where there was a great many company, and inspite of all that, poor ma was wishing herself in the big chair at Dunrobine kissing Catogg, who I am glad to hear is turning stronger. I send you twa bottles of snuf. If you think it good you shall have more, or any thing else in my powr to serve you. All your friends hear remembers you in the kindest maner. I beg to be rememberd to all with you, and believe me always to be, my dear lord, your most affectionat sister and obedieint, humble servant,

MARG. WEMYSS.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobine.

235. GENERAL JAMES ST. CLAIR, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, and LADY ELIZABETH WEMYSS, his Countess,—birth of Lord Strathnaver.

Mahon, July 13, o.s. [1735].

MY DEAREST LORD AND LADY,—From the bottom of my heart and soul I rejoyce at the birth of Lord Strathnaver, and felicitate yow both upon it. May he prove ane ornament to the family, and a source of continuall joy to his father and mother while they live, and that that may be longe I most heartily pray. Lady Bairds letter of the 31st of May, which brought me the good tydings three days agoe, was longe looked for, and although she says in it that hir nice was in a good way of recovery, I shall continue verey anxious until I heare further about hir. I make no doubt of your goeing home as soone as possibly yow can, and when there, that each of yow will exert your selves in the provinces that more particularly belongs to yow. Your lordship has a prodigious dale to do to bring your estate and rents to a right bearing, and your ladyship will find that the household affairs will not be got into a right forme without ane active and closs application. I shall pretend to judge of your affections for Catouge not from your kissing and

dandling of him, but from the progress that each of yow shall make in the respective affairs that falls under your care, and these I propose to pry and inquire into upon the spott, as soone as I possibly can, and that with such zeal as becomes one, whom both of yow have incourag'd to reckon himself a parent when he is in Dunrobin Castle. Without exadgeration my concerne for the wellfare of the family cou'd not be greater wer I grand father instead of grand uncle to my dear Catouge, and depend on it if either of yow is slack or remiss in doeing your duty with regard to one another, or the family, yow shall not escape without being told of it. Haveing now almost finished what I came about here I propose leaveing this the begining of nixt moneth, and its verey probable that Collonel Anstrwther will bear me company in returning through France by Bourdeaux, his intention as well as mine being to get to London before the winter comes on, where I have your concernes to take care of as well as my owne.

Your lordship is concerned both in interest and honour to support Mr. Gilchrist. Pray don't omitt then to humble those reverend rascalls that have dared to attacque him, and to let them feell how inconvenient it will be for any man that lives in Sutherland to meddle in any degree with your affairs. I shall expecte to heare from yow by the conveyance of Tom Wilson, who allways knows wher I am to be found. I beg that my compliments may be made to my brother lairds and all my other frinds and aquaintances in Sutherland. My blissing to Lordey, Lady Ma, and whatever more of my nephews or nices yow may have carryed north with [yow]. That God may for ever bliss, prossper, and protect yow both is the most earnest prayer of, my dearest lord and lady, your most affectionat and fond uncle,

JAS. ST. CLAIR.

To the Earl and Countess of Sutherland.

236. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to MR. JOHN BAILLIE, W.S.,—
about the riot in Assynt. [11th April 1737.] Copy.

SIR,—You have inclosed copies transmitted of two petitions with the deliverances thereon. The first at Ardloch's instance and the other at his and Robert Mackay, one of our officers, instance against the several persons therein named, to both which we referr, together with the copy of a journal made by Baillie Kenneth

Sutherland, who had the direction of seeing the first warrant put in execution. From which you'll observe the insults given by those people to the law, and which occasioned the issuing the second warrant, for the executing whereof we have resolved to do everything that can be legally supported. We are not unknown to the incitements given by some of our neighbours (whom you may pretty surely guess of) to these people, not only to disturb us in our private right and interest in that corner, but also to defeat and insult us in our public capacity as sheriff. And as we are determined not to bear with such abuses, either in the one shape or other, have therefore, as we have confidence in your conduct, and of your good wishes to us and our family's interest, given you the charge of this affair, that you may advise such able lawyers as you think proper thereunto, and report to us their opinion of what we have already ordered to be done, and how and in what manner we are to cause proceed against the offenders, whether before our sheriff or regularity court, and how far the offence may carry, whether beyond that of simple deforcement or not, with such other directions as they shall think proper in the conduct of the prosecution. As we may have occasion to give you the management of further matters we expect your diligence in this; and what expences you are put to you'll send an account of and your payment shall be ordered from Mr. Arbuthnot and Company. The preparing proper memorials and queries for the lawyers we leave to your self to make up from the writes inclosed, and you'll keep the express till all is ended and acquaint me whether I may not have a party of the regular forces to assist at executing the warrant and how I am to apply for them.

You know that by my right to the estate of Assint my entry to the possession commences at Whitsunday next; and as I expect all the disturbance in my attaining the possession that Lord Seaforth and his friends can give, of which what now happens is a part and a begging only, and as you know the whole import and nature of my right, you'll represent the same to the lawyers and have their opinion anent what I am to do at taking possession, and the method how I am to proceed in it; for I will not do anything rashly while I can purchase advice in any affair, but especially in this, where I'm sure of having clamour against me and my people, let us act or do never so securely and legally.

Indorsed: Copy letter by the Earl of Sutherland to John Baillie, Writer to the Signet, anent the riot in Assint. Sent by express, 11 April 1737.

237. JOHN GORDON, Edinburgh, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—proposing rearrangements in the new church of Golspie. 14th July 1737.

MY LORD,—As I am inform'd that the church of Golspie is now pretty far advanc'd in the building, and that your lordship has chose to have your own seat opposite to the pulpit, I would incline to have the place allotted to us in the east end of the church, as I'm inform'd there are no heretors of any larger extent in the parish, or coming to the said church; and if we are allow'd to run a vent up that gavel 'twill be oblidging, as also to have the door in the east end, for both which, for our own conveniency, I am willing to pay over and above our proportion of the church, which your lordship is now enabl'd to retain out of the money due upon the comprising of Golspietour. I shall expect the favor of an answer with your lordship's sentiments on this in course of post, and am, my lord, your lordship's very obedient humble servant,

JOHN GORDON.

Edinburgh, 14th July 1737.

238. JOHN SUTHERLAND of Forse (†), to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about accounts of the earl's factor. 8th August 1739.

MY DEAR LORD,—It gives me great joy to know that the countess, your lordship, Lord Strathnaver, and my little darling, Lady Betty, are all in good health. I pray for the long continuance of the same with all my heart. It's impossible to express the condition I am in when evry body tells that dear Lady Betts still remembers me. Whoever contributes to keep up that remembrance (till I have the pleasure to see the little angel) shall have my blessing. Enclos'd I send your lordship the copy of a discharge granted by Captain Ross to Brody, who was minister of Kildonan two years after he left Sutherland. The reason why I send it is because I observed ane arrear carry'd on in the books against Brody, tho' its certain he has pay'd all he was due the family. Send it to Cairnfield that he may notice it to the arbiters 'twixt Alexander Ross and your lordship; for otherwise Ross will get credit for the arrear standing on the books (which, by the bye, I don't know the extent of), and your lordship can never recover it of Brody's heirs because of the discharge. Robert M'Allaster is writer of the discharge, and should have minded it. I took the enclos'd copy from the principall, which I saw and compared in Brody's hands, who is minister of Latheron at present. I wish your

lordship joy of your new purchase. It must thrive, for your lordship has pay'd a full price for it. If your lordship can spare me 80 bolls lime or thereby, I'll pay readdy money. I can't be otherwise provided in haste or would not trouble your lordship. I shall take special care of your pistols and return them safe, meantime I thank your lordship for the use of them. The only news here is the Earl of Morton's story with Sir James, with which I know Morton has acquainted your lordship.

I offer my most respectfull compliments to the countess, and my blessings hearty to Lordy and Lady Betty, and am unalterably, my dear lord, your affectionate cousine and faithfull humble servant,

JOHN SUTHERLAND.

Nottingham, 8th August 1739.

239. HUGH ROSE, Nairn, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about the purchase of the estate of Siddera. 10th August 1739.

MY LORD,—Your geting Siddera, and your being so well pleas'd with the purchase too, gives me more joy than I believe any thing of the kind will till I can make such a purchase myself. I did not imagine, indeed, when I advis'd the buying it, that it had all the conveniencies your lordship mentions to me now. But I thought it a right thing to secure the reversion of it to your family, even if you was oblig'd to wadset it again, and your lordship shou'd neglect no purchase of this kind that offers in Sutherland. You are in better condition to make them than your neighbours. You have the most *natural right*; besides that if a man neglects these things when they offer 'twill very often happen that he'll wish for them when he can't get them. I recommended Mr. Clerk as a chirurgeon to your lordship merely for your service and the country's, but as you have provided yourself otherwise to your satisfaction, I am very well pleas'd that he remain here. My Lady Sutherland did not acquaint my wife if Mr. Smith was to come here to draw her picture. I am sorry I cannot before hand promise him any custom out of this family, but I wou'd fain hope that his own work will procure him more.

I am, my lord, your lordships most obliged and most obedient humble servant,

HUGH ROSE.

Nairn, August 10th, 1739.

240. JAMES, LORD DOUNE, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—
about the earl's sister at St. Cæcilia's concert. 28th November 1739.

MY LORD,—Tho' this town at present affords me very little to say, yet I cannot help giving your lordship the trouble of this epistle to assure you that you have not, neither in this place nor any where else, a more sincere freind than the writter. From London, as your lordships corospondance there is better then mine, I shall say nothing, only every thing goes on swimmingly before the parliament, and it is said the patriots will give the ministry no disturbance this session. I have been some days in this town, which is dull enough. I got one glisk of our sister, West kirk, at St. Cæcilias concert, who was not amongst the ugliest there, for there were a great number of debts. She and I are like too buckets. She left the town on Saturday last and is to be in to-morrow, and I am obliged to leave it to-morrow, so that I cannot give the countess the satisfaction to tell her whither her sister is well or ill. The town is pleased to say that your sister is to preferr Lord Dare to C. Calquehoun. I sate by them both at St. Cæcilias, and cou'd hardly beleive my own eyes (I mean your sisters), there is so very great a change upon Lady Gennet for the bettir since she was last at Dunrobin. They will marry me here whither I will or not; and indeed they give me all the fine ladys in town. I wish I were able for them all. But alas! I am not for any one of them, so I rest all their humble servant. Duke Hamilton, whom I had the honour to take tother night by the fore finger, is like to get seuenty thousand pounds sterling of Selkerks money, a shilling of which was never intended him. His Grace, I am told, is to protect a set of players in the Cannongate this winter, to the no small satisfaction of the ladys. The Lyon is this moment gone from me. We are to meet in the market this night, I mean the assembly, tho' I cou'd be happier with one I cou'd name upon the Breas of Birridale then with all the fine ones that will be there.

I am the countesses most devoted servant, not forgetting my son-in-law and Lady Betts. May you be all as happie as I wish you, for I am, my dear lord, with great sincerity and truth, your lordship's most affectionate freind and devoted humble servant,

DOUNE.

Edinburgh, November 28th, 1739.

241. MR. ANDREW MONRO, London, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—inquiring about a lead mine on the Sutherland estate, etc. 1st December 1739.

MY LORD,—It gave me great pleasure to know by a letter from my brother Hugh, dated 1st November, that your lordship, the countess, and the young plants were in good health. My brother wrote me that Baillie Arburthnot had write to your lordship anent your bear. I had once, indeed, thoughts of bueing large quantities for this mercat, but now I have given over that resolution, because the prices here are falln verie much by reason that there is no export to Portugal or Spain, so that at present the most I could offer your lordship is 8 shillings per boll for what could be deliverd in February.

My servant has write me that your lordship wrote him that my brother owed you about £50 or £60 sterling, and that till he pay'd, your lordship wou'd not pay me. Its not in my power to pay my brother's debts at present, and as the one has no conection with the other, I hope your lordship will be so good as to cause remit to my servant the contents of your two bills due at Mertinas and £32 due since April 1738 for the 2 hogshheads sherie. The last necessars I sent your lordship is not to be demanded at this time.

I was the other day with a company of merchants here who deals only in lead mines. If I remember weel I seed once with your lordship some lead ore. If that ore is one your own estate, or if it can serve your lordship, let me know your conditions, where the mine lyes, and if near the sea, and I will do all in my power to engage these gentlemen, who are rich men, to work the mine; and by first ship send me a sample of the oare. Your lordship has heard ere now that the 6 Highland companis are regiemented, and four companys more are to be aded, that Earle Crawford is colonel and my chief livenant-colonel. Poor Earle Crawford lyes ill near Breda of his wounds. Fifteen splinters are come out of his thigh bone, and its certain his life is in danger, which indeed is a great pity, as he is ane honour to his country. It is thought when he comes home that the king will give him a more lucrative post as a regiement. In that event my cheif will be prefer'd to be colonel of that regiment.

Wee have a report here which is told by a Jew, who had a ship arived to him the other day from Giberalter, that Admiral Hadock had taken 2 Spanish men of war and a Genoese ship, with 20 chests of silver, going to Cadix, and

4000 dollars in each chest. Its certain Spain will be soon humbled, as France hitherto declines to be concerned in the war.

I beg leave to ofer your lordship, the countess, brother Far, and our young sister my dutiefull respects. I'll do myself the honour to write to the countess how soon I can pick up any news to entertain her with.—I am, with great esteem, my lord, your lordship's most obedient, most humble servant,

ANDREW MONRO.

London, 1st December 1759.

242. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Brodie, Lyon King of Arms, to [WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND],—sending him pamphlets. 29th December 1739.

MY GOOD LORD,—As you desired me to send you pamphletts, and furnished me with a sum of money to defray the expence of them, I have not neglected a post since I came to town without sending some, and, if I cannot pick up any better, I beg you may not lay the blame on me.

The skimmer which I send you to-day I read some years ago when it did divert me, and hope it will do so to your lordship, which is all the use of them I know. The other pamphlet is too scurrilous upon the ladies, else I had sent it as an answer to the last to the countess; however, as there [is] humour in some places, I hope it won't be offensive to your lordship, since you have the happyness to reflect that one of those despicable creatures has not fallen to your lot, and tho' you have not found one so learned as Sappho, that you have found one so agreeable as Angelica; and while you think so, join'd with content, you must be completely happy, which is the sincere wish of your faithfull slave. For, as I have no news to write in this vacation, I must conclude with assuring your lordship once more of my being most sincerely, your faithfull slave,

ALEXR. BRODIE.

London, December 29th, 1739.

243. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Brodie, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—with advice about business in London. 15th December [1742].

GOOD MY LORD,—I hope this will find your lordship, my lady, and family, met with some of your friends makeing merry over some Christnass fare; and for

your entertainment I send such fare as this place affords at present. And if both the Caithness and the Murray gentry attend your lordship upon this occasion, as they intended, I believe they must be lodged in the hospital, and as they may be most numerous, the first dish I send your lordship is for them, not that I think them fools for choosing such a good quarter upon such an occasion, but to save your claret, since this dish may help to raise a laugh without the other bumper. And my next recipe for this use is Mr. Millers jests, where you will find some good, some bad, and many of them indifferent. And for the countesses entertainment I send something more serious, and tho' the female author lyes a litle, yet she does it with a very good grace, and so I forgive her.

But in the next place, to be more serious with your lordship, I have talkd a good deal of you to the Earl of Hlay, after conversing both with Sinclair and Munro, and, upon the whole, shall only observe,—First, Sir R[obert] W[alpole] delegates his power in Scotch affairs to my Lord of I[lly] almost entirely. So your lordship must address him accordingly. Secondly, if you ask a general, its asking nothing at all. You must condescend and say what it is you would be at, either for yourself or your friends. And when you have determined that with yourself, write a letter to the Peer yourself and ask what you want, and inclose that to your nearest friend here, the Brigadeer, and instruct him to say plainly you won't be pleased if such and such a thing is not done for you; and when your friends has this under your hand it enables them to speak for you the more freely. And if they don't succeed this winter your lordship ought to come up the next; nay, in all events, your lordship should come up the next to secure your own seat in parliament, and to adjust other Election matters which you will negotiate better personally than att second hand, and in case you find yourself neglected to go yourself both to Sir R[obert] and the king. But I dare say you'll have no occasion for anything of this kind, since I heard my Lord of Hlay speak very kindly of you, and declare how strong he had an inclination to serve you, altho' it was not in his power to get such a thing as a company for your friend Forse at first. However, if you had been here to have push'd it yourself with the king I believe it might have done. But upon this subject I have wrote particularly to Forse himself to which I referr. We are like to have a very peaceable session of it, so there is no occasion for your lordship comeing up this winter, tho', as I have already said, it may be absolutely necessary to do it the next. And now upon this subject I have only to add that, as your lordship was pleased

to speak to me upon these subjects at Dunrobin, and to desire me to write to you upon them from thence. so I have obey'd your lordships commaunds most faithfully, since I have given you my sincere opinion, and such advice as I would take to myself, if I was so happy as to be in your scituation. And as this my freedom proceeds from an entire regard to your lordships person and family, I hope I may be pardoned if I have said anything amiss, with which I conclude, after assuring your lordship that nobody is or can be more faithfully and sincerely, my good lord, your lordships most obedient, most obliged, and entirely devoted servant than

ALEXR. BRODIE.

London, December 15th.

Indorsed: Letter from Alexander Brodie, London, to Earl Sutherland, 15th December 1742.

244. GEORGE, THIRD EARL OF CROMARTIE, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—requesting the use of his horse, Punch. 3d June 1743.

MY LORD,—The reason of my giving your lordship the trouble of this is to ask the use of your ston'd horse Punch for two coach mares of mine. They never were boated, so that they cannot cross ferries; and I know Punch of old to be so polite a horse that he wou'd not have the ladys come to him. I therefore beg your lordship will send him here for a day or two, and he shall be very well cared for till he's returned. My wife and I make offer of our compliments to Lady Sutherland. I am, my lord, your lordship's most obedient, most humble servant,

CROMERTIE.

Tarbat House, 3d June 1743.

245. LADY HELEN SUTHERLAND or COLQUHOUN, address wanting, but probably to CAPTAIN NOBLE of Farm,—about the Maigregors.¹

Rosedoe House, January 5, 1745.

SIR,—I received yours this moment. We had an alarm last night that the Maigregors had crossed Lochlomonnd and were at Inverbeg, but the thing touned out to be intirely groundless, otherways you may deppend upon it I had been att

¹ Original letter in the Charter-chest of Captain Andrew Noble.

Dumbarton Castle ere now. I verey much approve of General Campbells orders to secure all the boats, and for an exemple to all the country, I sent to Dumbarton some days ago two of ours. I can command as mane men as the Generall can need for the above purposss, but for armes they have nixt to none. I shall derectly gave orders to our folkes to gave all the assistance thay can to your party. I shall make the commanding officer verey wellcom hear; and I am, sir, your humble servant,

P.S.—Please see that Mr. Colquhoun's trunk that came with Generall Campbell's be in the castle.

246. JOHN McDONELL of Glengarry to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—asking him to stay proceedings which the earl's factor had taken against him. 18th April 1745.

MY LORD,—I have the honour of writting your lordship this line. I am brought to stand pannall by your factor, Master Gray, which is so disagreeable and dishonourable, tho' he favours me with the most of the gentlemen of this country to stand with me, is most displeasing to me. I am convinced this is unknown to one of your lordships honour and character, and I am so selfish to think the litle acquaintance I had the honour of you did not intitle me to, and I dare assure your lordship it is my oppinion the innocence of the rest my friends pannalled will more attribute to their honour than any trifling expence it can give them; your lordship is best judge how to allow such proceedings to go on. As I am tender and in a bad way of health, your lordship's ordering your factor to disclaim me will be a singular obligation put upon me. I shall always be sensible of and make all the just returns to shall happen to be in my weak power. This scrape that my friends and I are charged for I hope in God will appear in the eyes of the world to have been villainous and mallicious. I never was informed of any concern my Lord

Sutherland had with what I and my friends are loaded with, either by the honour of a letter from himself or any other in his behalf. All I have to say is to beg pardon of your lordship in giving you the trouble to make offer of my most humble duty to the Lady Sutherland and your family, and to assure your lordship of my friendship, which I dare pledge my honour will be true and right. My wife, who has had the honour of seeing you, and was delighted with your clanship to the family of Gordon, when merry att Moy, begs her compliments be acceptable to the Lady Sutherland, your lordship, and family. I am unfeignedly and without reserve as wee parted.—Your most obedient and most oblidged humble servant,
 JOHN McDONELL off Glengary.

Invergary, Aprile 18th, 1745.

P.S.—I beg your lordship will excuse my making use of a nigh friends hand, as it was with difficulty I was able to sign my name. If any villains, whither tennants to me, or vagabonds sometimes residing in this countrey, tho' I knew no concern your lordship had, I promised to one, Sanders Mackintosh, who was driver of the catle part was taken of, to oblidge any tennant payed me to the value of a crown or ten shillings, they should compear before the sherrive or any competent judge in the count[r]y to be tryed according to law. This, I believe, is what one and all the wittnesses charged against me can attest, and what I declared previously to Major Tallbott, Governour Caufield, and Captain Black. All them gentlemen of honour, if your lordship requires it, will write you this.

JOHN McDONELL of Glengary.

247. JOHN McDONELL of Glengarry to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, consenting to the earl's proposal to have the complaint against him submitted to arbitration. 28th April 1745.

MY LORD,—I had the honour off your lordship's of date the 22nd curreant, which was so oblidging and kind to me in particular that I can never acquitt myself of the honour and warm expressions you honour me with in your letter, and the simparchie you haue with my friends in generall. I dare venture to assure your lordship we are very sensible off it, and shall doe all in our power to serue your lordship in this or any other thing shall happen as far as in us lys, being timously advertised, tho at the same time I thank God the disgrace of being

classed with a parcell of cannaile to stand pannall'd with them for such a dishonourable crime, being art and part by counsell or otherways, was all gave us trouble, which your lordship will find by the decreet arbitrar will be fact. I return your lordship hearty thanks for the friendly proposall you made in yours of the affair being submitted, which I heartily come into, as does all the gentlemen cited, who goe to-morrow within ten miles of Inverness to wait of your lordship's factor. I assure your lordship it is as representing you, not on his own account, as we think we owe him little respect for the manner of his procedure against us, without so much as advising me in time that your lordship had any concern. My wife joins me in begging our most humble duty be acceptable to my Lady Sutherland, your lordship, and family. I humbly beg pardon for making use of another hand, as I still continue in a bad way confin'd to bed. I beg leave to assure your lordship that I am, with great regard and esteem, your lordship's most obliged humble servant,

JOHN McDONELL off Glengary.

Invergarie, April 28th, 1745.

P.S.—I will subscriue the submission in terms of your lordship's letter, and shall send the same to Glenbucket to accept theroff, and shall cause my friends, attend any day the arbiters shall appoint.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland.

248. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Brodie, Lyon King of Arms, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about the Duke of Gordon and the office of President of the Police. 4th May 1745.

MY LORD,—I have heard from more hands than one that your lordship has been told that I brought up the Duke of Gordon to sollicite the place of president of the police, etc., etc., and had solicited for him here accordingly, whereas the fact is, the Duke of Gordon ask'd it only of my Lord Aberdeens friend, Granville, before he resigned, and wrote to him for that purpose long before I left Scotland. It is also true that the duke never ask'd my assistance. But the thing was over before I left Edinburgh, and so the lye does not sound well. Meantime, if it was necessary, I could bring you declarations from the Duke of Gordon, and every body concern'd, of the falsehood of the aspersion. But as I had said so much in

your lordships favours in my letters to the Marquis of Tweedale, Mr. Pelham, and Sir R. Rich, so on my own account, if I had had no respect for your lordship, I would not have given myself the lye. I shall not pretend to guess who was your lordships informer, and, for my own part, I despise all those scoundrells that are capable of making lyes, and I look down with pity on those that, when they do make them, have not art enough to make them appear somewhat probable; and as for your lordships part, I hope it will give you one piece of instruction not to trust, upon another occasion, any man capable of so greatly imposing on your lordship with false aspersions of any gentleman whom you honour with your countenance or friendship.

One thing more I must take notice of, and that is that your anonymous author says I have bragg'd of having the direction of your lordship; to which I answer, If he'll show I have said it to any one of those I eat and drink with, I shall submit to the character of infamous. But I believe I can prove that some other person has said so to all the great men of all denominations, and has reaped the benefit of it. Besides, I have no plot upon your lordship. I can have none. I never ask'd any favour of you except to concur in helping our mutual friends to better bread. This is all that is at present necessary on this subject.

I am next to acquaint your lordship that the king has order'd the raising of another Highland regiment, which is to be given to Earl Loudon, and the companys and subalternships to be given to Highland lairds and their sons, as shall be recomended by the Dukes of Argyll and Atholl and the Earl of Stair; and that I do think you should, without loss of time, write to the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Stair, the Marquis of Tweedale, and Mr. Pelham, in favours of John Sutherland of Forse. And really when so many are already given away, and so many more to be given away, I should think it would be using your family ill if they don't allow you the nomination of one of them, especially a man that has so good a title, and the only one for two northern Highland counties. I have already ask'd it for him, and made use of your lordships name, but am afraid it won't do without your lordship writing the pretensions your family has of being taken notice of upon such an occasion. Nay, I do think it will be affronting you if they don't take notice of you, in the disposal of them. However, if you choose to carry the point, don't write in so high a stile as you did once with a threatening before, which gave great offence.

I am just going to the country, and design to be at home by the 29th, so

your letters may be sent by the post, or to Mr. Baird to deliver as you think most proper; but I think Mr. Baird may have the delivery of all but Pelhams since he knows them.

I offer my most respectfull compliments to the countess, and am, with great regard, my good lord, your lordships most faithfull and most obedient humble servant,

ALEXR. BRODIE.

London, May 4th, 1745.

249. JOHN McDONELL of Glengarry to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—requesting to have the sentence of fugitation against him rescinded. 11th May 1745.

MY LORD,—I haue the honour to write you this by Cousine Loehgarrie, who I haue commanded to goe with it, much contrary to his inclination, having been very ill used as I understand, I very well knowing the strong attachment he had to serue your lordship and family. I am now to tell your lordship, on account of the intyre confidence I had in your lordship's most kind and friendly letter to me, I haue undergone a sentence off fugitation; but to show your lordship I am still inclinable to keep friendship with your lordship and family of Sutherland, and doe your lordship and them all the service in my weak power, as friendship that is not mutuall cannot be off any long standing, I coud heartily wish your lordship would fall on a proper method to get the fugitation reshinded in ane honourable manner, as Mr. Gray has already contradicted your lordship's positiuie orders, particularly as to me. It is necessary he subscrieue anything off friendship your lordship pleases to come into, but, by God, if any such underlane pettie fellow woud have used my honour and character as he has done your lordship's, I would be in no manner of streat how to deall with him, not even by my son were he guilty off such. And notwithstanding I coud not attend at Inverness without hazarding my life, which was attested by a minister and phisitian (doctors and divines, tho not lawyers), had I thought any under your lordship durst refuse or contradict your lordship's positiuie command or will, which I'm certain they have done, I had run the risque of being carried in a cedan or litter, should I have lost my life in the atempt, e'er I had allowed a fugitation against me. And tho our enemys woud wish to keep us at varience and at a distance, and doe blow the coll as much as in their power, yet if your lordship inclines to doe

the just and right thing, as your lordship's character always was to be one of the strictest honour, your lordship, in a little time hereafter, will acknowledge they have not been friends to either our families would advise the contrary. I beg your lordship take the trouble to make offer of my most humble duty to my Lady Sutherland and family, and accept of the same in the sincerest manner from, my lord, your lordship's most obliged and obedient humble servant,

JOHN McDONELL off Gleangary.

Invergarie, May 11th, 1745.

P.S.—I refer to my cousine and the other gentlemen I'm hopefull will wait of your lordship with him to tell you more fully my mind. All I want is a positue answer. Your lordship is first, and probably shall be the last ever I shall pretend to force my friendship on so much, Adue.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland.

250. COLONEL JAMES OGLETHORPE to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—regarding the earl's offer to give assistance to the country at the head of his vassals. 13th June 1745.

MY LORD,—I received the honour of your lordships, and am extreemly glad to hear that your lordship hath with great generosity offered your assistance at the head of your vassals to your country in the present perplexed situation of affairs. Your lordships behaviour upon this occasion is worthy your ancestors, and doubt not but it will meet with the just approbation of his Majestys ministers, as it does with due gratitude from all who wish well to their country and the libertys of Europe.

There is nothing I should be more desirous of than that the gentleman you mention (my worthy friend, Major Mackay) should be advanced; and I know of none more capable of forming a corps than he is, and establishing good discipline.

The Highlanders behaved so well at Tournay that all agree 5000 more such men would have changed the fortune of that day. If I can be of any service here in speaking, acting, or negotiating this matter, I shall be proud of your commands, being, my lord, with profound respect, your lordships most obedient humble servant,

JAMES OGLETHORPE.

If this succeeds, permit me to mention to your lordship one who bears your

name and has done honour to it. I mean Mr. Patrick Sutherland, now a lieutenant in my regiment.

London, 13th June 1745.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland, these.

251. GEORGE, THIRD LORD REAY, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—regarding the questions in dispute between them. 1st July 1745.

MY LORD,—It was one of the principall maximes which I laid down at my first settling in this country, for my conduct in civil life, that I should maintain an inviolable attachment to the honour and interest of the family of Sutherland. Your lordships grandfather and father were so well satisfied of my zeal to serve them that they allwise trusted to my fidelity and friendship, and never was disappointed; I expected in like manner to have shared in your lordships friendship and confidence, and did all in my power to deserve it on every occasion wherin either your lordships honour or interest required it, until I found that some of these, whom your lordship favoured most, persued measures inconsistent with the interest of my family, and in my weak judgement, not altogether calculated for the interest of the family of Sutherland, or your lordships honour or quiet. It was these persons and these measures which I found myself obliged to oppose, and not the Earl of Sutherland nor the true interest of his family. For I allwise looked on myself not only as a relation, but the first friend of the family of Sutherland, as being most capable to serve them in all events; and whenever your lordship is disposed to consider me in that light, you'll find me as firmly attached to your honour and interest, and that of your familys, both at home and abroad, as I have been in your grandfather and father's time. I heartily wish that all our differences were buried in oblivion, and to that end I have made some proposells which I think are equall and honourable, and for the real interest of your lordships family, as well as my own, and which my son George will lay before you whenever your lordship pleases. I have the honour to be, with great respect, my lord, your lordships most obedient, most humble servant,

REAY.

Tongue, 1st July 1745.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland, Dunrobin.

252. ROBERT CRAIGIE of Glendoick, Lord Advocate, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, stating his satisfaction at the reconciliation between his Lordship and Lord Reay.

Edinburgh, 22d August 1745.

MY LORD,—I have the honour of your lordships of the 11th and 15th. They came to my hand much about the same time, the Council post that brought the first having been taken ill upon the road.

I am very sensible of the inconvenience it is to his Majestys friends, and the prejudice that accrues to the government at this juncture from the unequal execution of the Disarming Acts, that they were strictly submitted to by his Majestys loyal subjects, but not so by the enemies to the government. I have stated this matter to the government and to Sir John Cope, and I hope this will be attended to as far as is possible at this juncture, and more fully in time coming. Sir John Cope, with a body of the kings troops, is marched into the Highlands, which I hope will suppress the insolence of the enemies of the government, and enable his Majestys friends to protect themselves on this occasion.

I received with great pleasure the account you send me of the thorow reconciliation between your lordship and the Lord Rae. The natural conuexions between your lordship and Lord Rae, from the situation of your estates, and from your principles being the same, made me regrete the differences that for some time past have subsisted between you, and that have appeared in your political conduct, particularly in the parliamentary elections, and which I always took to be the principal hinge upon which your differences turned and were supported, and for that reason I am very glad that this has been in a particular manner under your consideration. At the same time, I hope you'l forgive me to observe that I do not think it was quite proper that your agreement touching the elections shou'd have been reduced into writing, especially in the way of contract. This may furnish a handle for objections to those that may be enemies to both in future elections, and therefore I hope you'l forgive me to suggest that it might not be improper, at least before any after election, to transcribe your agreement, leaving out the last article touching parliamentary elections, and to settle that article by letters between your lordship and the Lord Rae, which I dare say will be equally binding and less exceptionable than the doing it by way of contract.

With respect to the appointing lord lieutenants in the northern countys, I

think your lordships title is unquestionable to the lieutenancy of your own and of the adjacent countys; but I have some doubt if the Lords Justices will incline to take upon them the nomination or the giving instructions. But I hope that difficulty is by this time removed by his Majestys safe arrival at London, for the yachts were on the other side of the water last week. I have the honour to be, with the greatest truth and respect, my lord, your lordships most faithfull and most obedient humble servant,

ROB. CRAIGIE.

Earl of Sutherland.

253. GEORGE, THIRD LORD REAY, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—his readiness to support the honour and interest of the earl. 24th August 1745.

MY DEAR LORD,—I have the honour of your lordships of the 14 and 21. As the supporting our king with our libertys, civil and sacred, was, as your lordship justly observes, the chief basis of our late agreement; so, instead of being a dishonour, I hope it will be a strong motive to our posterity to follow so laudable an example, the rather as it must of consequence turn out to their interest and advantage. I reckon the many letters your lordship is pleased to acquaint me you get against your joining in friendship with me a double tye on me, to exert myself all in my power on every occasion to make you as easy as I can, to convince you of my sincerity and readiness to support your honour and interest, and thereby to shew others how far they are mistaken, for your lordship will still find me your fast friend. Meantime, I beg leave to say that I wish that in a short time you may not see that some had other views more at heart than the real interest of your lordships family.

I had no accounts by last post. But this morning my son Sandie sent me M^cLeods letter of which you have a copy. His major wrote him that Clan Ranald, Glengarry and Lochiel, were up in arms, all which the Lyon wrote to Langwill. You'l please take care not to name persons names, since it might affect my son. Meantime, by M^cLeods reckoning his son safe in Skye, I judge Sir Alexander M^cDonald will not be rash. I have followed your lordships example as to listing men; but without arms and ammunition we can do but very little. Of this I write to Sir John Cope in your lordships name and my own,¹ as you should

¹ And we need some more, *interlined*.

do, and a double watch should immediately be ordered to Corrie Kean Loch; my share is sent there already. But without a landing of consequence from abroad, all this must soon blow over, to the utter ruine of the infatuate gentlemen that are deluded to concern in it. I shall long for the confirmation of your lordships recovery, and with my humble compliments to the Countess of Sutherland, I am, with great respect, my dear lord, your lordships most affectionate, most humble servant,

REAY.

Tongue, 24 August 1745.

P.S.—I hope your lordship will reserve some powder and lead for me, for which I'll pay the value, and share with me when you get any arms. I'm informed this minute that Major Mackay is called for to London. Your lordship should write to the Duke of Argyle to get him returned to us, as he'll be very usefull as matters goes.

254. THOMAS WEDDERBURN, collector of excise, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—reporting the battle of Prestonpans. 26th September 1745.

MY LORD,—I have no better paper. Your lordships letter I received by my servant at Inverness, August the 26th. In obedience to your request I wrote from Nairn, August 28th, what news I heard handed about at that time. I was then upon my collection going eastward. When I had return'd, and was some days at home, which was the second week of September, I wrote your lordship a long letter, just what I heard then. Since that time I heard nothing worth writing, but what was so late e'er I had it, that 'twas needless then to trouble your lordship with it. I was in Inverness yesterday, when I heard some speaking of a person of distinction in the north of Scotland, who was judged too foreward in writing news; and a friend told me, without giving any other satisfaction, "that I was discreet enough in my way of advising news, but that if I had not, by an instance he knew of, I would have heard of it and had cause to repent it." From this I suppose my last letter to your lordship has been opened, for I have not wrote a scrape on the subject but to your lordship, and one letter to Doctor Wedderburn at Dundee, which was by ane express from Elgin.

. Yesterday it was said at Inverness that upon Saturday last the forces that

were north with Sir John Cope, being join'd with five companys of foot from Berwick and those at Edinburgh, making in all three regiments of foot and two regiments of dragoons, drew up for battle near Cokenie by Prestonpans. The Highland army, consisting of five thousand, and one thousand from Edinburgh, attacked them, first with artillery, wherewith they were better provided than the regular forces, and observing the advantage of the ground against them, Lochail and Kaputh, with a thousand good men, were ordered to turn about towards the south-east and attack them in the rear. This made the other leave their ground and advance. The Highland army, when the dragoons advanced, opened and let them pass forward, then faced about and had great advantage. The Highlanders fired their muskets but once, and then run in sword in hand. In short, its said they gain'd a compleat victory, having killed and wounded 6 or eight hundred, and taken the rest prisoners, excepting three troop of dragoons, who went off with Sir John Cope. He went off in a boat, and was put on board the man of war who brought him from Aberdeen, and they march'd for Berwick. The military chest and all the baggage fell to the Highlanders. One odd piece is that three troops of Hamiltons dragoons took the Highland side, and three troops that were making their way for Berwick were pursued by Bardsdale and one hundred and fifty men, who all stript to their shirts, on foot, who overtook the dragoons, I suppose by turning a hill and gaining ground that way, and made them prisoners, for which Bardsdale was made a knight bannarett. Part of them return'd to Edinburgh that night. Major Cawfield got into the castle of Edinburgh, having come off early. He had no rank there.

It was not said that the president had accounts of this. I belive he had not yesterday at 12 o'clock. 'Twas by express to Lord Lovat, who past thro Inverness yesterday in his coach, going to dine at Culloden, and some people spoke with him a little in the street, and he confirm'd all. I won't say every particular I mention was asked at him, for there was not time; but what I said is allowed by most to be truth, most that I spoke with, and that way I give it your lordship. I doubt there's too much of it true, whether it be all true or not. There's 100 or a hundred and twenty on the Highland side killed or wounded. I got not a right account of officers killed, or taken, but Colonel Gardner is said to be dead. I heard of no troops landed for nor against the government. Every body will take their own reflection what may be the consequence of this both in the north and the south.

I cannot find there has been any difference betwixt the two great men your lordship mentioned.

My wife and I offer our dutyfull respects to your lordship, the countess, and Lady Betty, and I am, most respectfully, my lord, your lordships most humble and most obedient servant,

THOMAS WEDDERBURN.

Fortrose, 26th September 1745.

P.S.—Some say Glenbuket is gone south, some say not. Yesterday morning I found no centinell upon the bridge at Inverness, but much about the time that Lord Lovat came in there was one of one of the Highland companys placed upon the bridge. When I left Inverness all was quiet there, and we continue so here as yet.

255. ANDREW MONRO, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—with news regarding the battle of Prestonpans. 30th September 1745.

MY LORD, . . . As to further news concerning the late batell, the accounts wee have of it hitherto appears more like a romance as any other thing. I seed one Saturday last one of our towns runers, who came from Kinghorn last Tewsday (he was not at all on the Edinburgh side), but certain it is, he could not miss in Kinghorn to have a true account. He sayes that of Sir John Copes army there were 500 killd, 900 wounded, and 1400 taken prisoners. Of the Highland army, only 30 killd and 80 wounded. He sayes he atempted to cross Kinghorn, and that the Fox man of war gave chace to the boat he was in. That he was 3 hours on board the man of warr; that 80 of the red-coats were on board, and that Sir John Cope and Lord Louden was also on board, that the Dutch were not landed; in short, its my humble opinion at the writing of this, if King George do not bring furthwith over to Brittain the army in Flanders, he may bid aden to his crown. Prince Charles is in Edinburgh, and lodges in Holyrood house. If your lordship gets the news papers this waek you will have it all there. In short, such a base, cowardly action is not to be paraleild in history. All the bagage, tents, canon, and military chest are taken. I make no doubt but Prince Charles will soon be 20,000 strong, and I am credibly inform'd Lord Elcho behav'd most galantly in the action. I am, with best respects to your lordship

and the countess, my lord, your lordships most obedient and most humble servant,
 ANDREW MONRO.

Inverness, 30th September 1745.

The Mackintosh's are in motion, as are the Frasers. The President keeps a 100 men in his house, and some pateraroes mounted. Lord Louden and Sir John Cope are at Berwick.

256. ERIC SUTHERLAND, LORD DUFFUS, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—stating that he will wait upon the earl at Dunrobin. 22d April 1746.

MY DEAR LORD,—I heartily congratulate your safe return to your own house, but regret I had not the opportunity of seeing you before I came to Caithness. I was under an absolute necessity of taking the first occasion of bringing my wife from home. I stir'd not a step from my own door from the day you left your country till the day I set out for Caithness, so that I was not near Dunrobin in your absence. The reason whereoff, and of other matters which occur'd, I shall communicate at meeting, which I pray God may be soon in peace and quiet, which is a blissing wee ought always to be sensible and thankfull for. It is reported that you are immediatly to return to Inverness. But the moment I heer you are settled at Dunrobin, I shall have the honneur to waitt on you with all expedition, and ever am, my lord, your lordship's most obliged and faithfull humble servant,
 DUFFUS.

Akergill, April 22d, 1746.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland.

257. LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JAMES ST. CLAIR, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about William, Lord Strathnaver's, progress at school.

London, April 25th, [1746].

MY DEAR LORD,—I was greatly ourjoyed to learn by Lord Bary [Bury], aid-de-camp to his royal highness, that he had left yow in good health after all the fatigues, distress's, and misfortunes that had been brought on yow by the rebels, who I hope are now in a way of receveing conding punishment for the barbarity and insolences committed by them.

On James Bairds application to me to assist him in a sollicitation to the Treasury for payment of what is oweing yow as president of the police, I went with him to Mr. Pelhams house, and also to the Treasury Office, where with difficulty they have at last consented to order yow payment for one year of what is due, and that is instantly to be applied by Mr. Baird as yow directed. Your minister, Gilchrist, has been here some moneths. I have seen him seldom, nor do I know what he has been doing, save that a few days agoe he hinted to me that he had been sent up by yow to sollicite a regiment. I have not heard either from the countess or yow but once since I went last year to Flanders, and that was in the moneth of August, to which I instantly returned yow ane answer which possibly might have been intercepted by the rebels. And since that time to this I had little chance of any letters coming to your hands in safety. My sister I find has been much in the same situation with hir nice.

I am ordered on ane expedition to America, and shall leave England by the 10th day of nixt moneth, but how longe I am to remaine abroad is to me as yet unknown. Your son was with me all the Christmass holy days, and is doing extreamly well at his book, and behaving in every other respecte to the satisfaction of his masters. I shall see him soone either in my way to Portsmouth, or have him brought there to me before I imbarke. Councillor Erskine, in my absence, is to have the direction and inspection into his horsing, and Tom Wilson and James Baird are to have a strict charge that he want for nothing that is necessary for him to have. I offer my blissing and best wishes to the countess, and am, my dear lord, your affectionate uncle and most humble servant,

JAS. ST. CLAIR.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland; to the care of the post master of Inverness, by Edinbrugh.

258. SIR JAMES COLQUHOUN of LUSS, Baronet, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—congratulating him on the victories of Culloden and Golspie.

Rosedoe, 14 May 1746.

MY LORD,—I take this oppertunity of congratulating your lordship upon the two late victorys obtained over the rebels, to witt the battle of Culloden and that of Golspey, which has gained great honour to your lordships people. I hope this

unnatural rebellion is now pritty near a close, and that those poor unhappy deluded people who were the occasion of it will in due time meet with their deserts for being the instruments of so much bloodshed. As the communication twixt your lordships countrey and this I presume is now open, it would be very satisfactory to my wife and me to know from your lordships own hand that your lordship and the Countess of Sutherland enjoy perfect health, as likewise our friends in Caithness, who I find had also the company of those disturbers of our peace with them. If I am not very much mistaken there's a horse or two belonging to your lordship in my neighbourhood, which belonged to the Marquis of Tillibardins cavalcade, who lately surrenderd himself to my neighbour, Mr. Buchanan of Drummiekill; the one I take to be the countesses pounie, and the other the grey horse which shee got from the Lyon; the pounie was in the possession of one Mr. Warren, who made his escape, but owned he had taken him from Dunrobine, and the Marquiss servants confirms it; the grey horse they say was brought from England, but in my oppinion it's the very same the Lyon gave you. If your lordship pleases to write me desiring I may get them, and also send their marks, I shall apply for them, and keep them untill your lordship either sends a servant or desire them to be sent you; but write soon, else they will be disposed of for the behoof of one Michelli, an Italien. There's seven other horses were taken from them, possibly some of them may likewise belong to your lordship, but send me their marks and I shall take care to secure them for you. Lady Strathnaver is soon going for Edinburgh; her ladyship is very uneasie that shee has not heard from your lordship since your leaving Dunrobine. She is in daily expectations of a letter. My wife offers her kindest compliments to your lordship, the Countess of Sutherland, and Lady Betty, in which I beg leave to joyne, who am, my lord, your lordships most affectionate and faithfull humble servant,

JA. COLQUHOUN.

259. DAVID BRUCE, Judge Advocate, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—his willingness to serve the Earl as he has occasion.

Fort Augustus, 7th June 1746.

MY LORD,—Sir Everard Falconer wrote you of yesterdays date, to which I referre your lordship. His Royal Highness expressed himself very anxiously anent your health, but Sir Everard wrote you of that, etc.

As to Captain Gordons petition, they have not time to doe any thing about it at present. But I doe assure your lordship I shall not fail in keeping your lordship and your friends (who have done so much for the government) in remembrance.

I choosed to keep your servant till to-day, thinkeing to hear of some kings ship that might be coming to your cost, and to see and gett an order for your lordships getting your passage in her; but the disposition they are in at present renders that quite inconvenient. You may assure yourself if ever it lyes in my way of serving your lordship or any of your concerns, it shall not be wanting on my part, and as I sincerely wish you well, I advise your setting out for London as soon as possible, that others may not gett the glory of what every body here thinks your lordship has a just tittle to. This I only hint to you. I intend being at Invernes on Tuesday, when [I] should be fond of seeing your lordship.

A confirmation of Lord Lovitts being taken is just now arrived, and that he was seised by the leutennent of the Furnace at the head of a fresh water loch in the iseland of Murra.

Cameron of Dungallon has surrendered himself to Lord George Sackvile.

Young Glengary is taken, and ten of his men came in her yesternight and surrendered themselves. The army will move from this Friday next, it is believed.

General Husk returns you thanks for the present of your sheep, and never faills of drinking your health.

The Duke is well, and the army in high spirits. Captain Scot at Fort William has hung up three rebell Camerons to prevent a tryall off them. About 200 Camerons have delivered up their arms, and sixty Frasers.

If your lordship has not sent back the horse you wrote for to the gomesaras, I shall take him for the chaise at what price you shall judge proper. If so, may order Fraser to give him to my servant. I am, my lord, with esteem and regard, your most obedient and most humble servant,

DAVID BRUCE.

260. MR. JAMES FRASER, Minister of Alness, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—recovery of a Sutherland parchment writ which had been carried off by the rebels. 7th June 1746.

MY LORD,—I take this opportunity to acquaint your lordship that a parchment

has fallen into my hands that is very ill to read; but as I think it is a saisin past in the year 1573 of the Ealdom of Sutherland and manner of Dunrobin, in favours of Alexander, then Earle of Sutherland, I would be fond to deliver it to any having your lordships order to receive it. I doubt not but the vile miscreants who carried off this have carried off others more valuable. I wish more of them had fallen in my hands.

The bearer, Duncan McCowil, a Bewly man, goes to Sutherland to recover some cattle that were taken from him, by the loss of which he's like to be ruined. He has an attestation from his parish minister of his innocence as to the rebellion, and I have a letter from another minister attesting to me the great aversion he shew'd against that wickedness. As the innocence of a man who had so great temptations is more noticeable than that of many who were in different circumstances, so it cannot be a pleasure to any who suffered by the barbarous rebels to have their damage repaired at the expence of a poor man who was not at all guilty. Upon these considerations I presume to recommend the poor man to your lordships equity and friendship.

I pray the lord may bless your lordship and your noble family, and may repair to you all the disadvantages you have sustained in consequence of your steady and noble appearance for the interest of your cuntry during this most wicked rebellion, and I am, with very great regard, my lord, your lordships most obedient, most humble servant,

JAMES FRASER.

Alness, June 7th, 1746.

261. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to MR. GORDON of Cairnfield, his Law Agent,—sending the state of his affairs with General Sinclair. Copy.

Dunrobin, 21st June 1746.

STR,—I had yours of the 11th current, but as the confusion of the times, and the frequent calls I had to wait on the Duke of Cumberland, with the disorder my papers were put into by the rebels after breaking open my charter room, and the hurry I'm in at present in preparing for my journey to London, which I design to undertake, God willing, Munday next, have straitned me so much that all I had time to look for was the state of my affair with General St. Clair, as made up by yourself when here in September 1743, which I take to be what you wanted,

cops whereof you have here inclosed, from which you can make up the proper state, as you are in perfect knowledge of the whole transaction, and as you shal find just, I am willing to comply with. As to Dr. Sinclair's bond, you know my bond of releiff to the Generall is retired, that debt being comprehended in the grand sum for which the last security was granted by me. I am alwayes fond of clearing my credit with every body, and particularly with the General, and recommend it to you to execute the affair accordingly. And notwithstanding the late troubles and confusion by which I have suffered more than any one in the kingdom, yet I hope in some short time to be able to clear off all my debts. As I hear my mother is at Rosedow I don't propose to call at Edinburgh as I have pressing calls to London. I wish you wou'd mind the Admiralty seriously as well as my other affairs, which is all from, sir, your friend,

Indorsed : Copy letter to Cairnfield in answer to his of the 11th current.

262. HUGH MONRO to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—about the crown rent of Ross, etc. 3d July 1746.

MY LORD,—The Countess of Sutherland and Lady Beatty are very well, and I hope in God be this tyme your lordship is so, and safely arrived at London, where you have a great dale to doe; and may Divine Providence direct, assist, and with success help your lordship to discharge the same, for the honour of your antient loyall family and the good of your country, who proved the first and amongst the most faithfull subjects in Brittain in defeating the rebels in Scotland. I dar not presume to give your lordship the least hint of things, only out of my loue and faithfullness for you, pushes me to be so bold, for a memorandum; that you'l have still in vew, to prevent (if you can) any subject from getting the crown rent of Ross, and naming the collector of it; as also what heretage or wattsets may fall into the kings hands, either in Assint or Cathiness, being more reasonable and naturall that your lordship haue the direction of it in whatever sheap under his Majestie.

In the meantyme, that your lordship will be pleased to cause draw out a genuine account of the Battle of Golspie upon the 15th April, to inform the publict of it, that the honour of it (under God) be only due to your lordship and your people; I dar say with what information your lordship gote, and my son and

John Mackay, being with your lordship, that none will dar pretend to controll it, nor ad or deminish from it.

Tho I had noe publick station from your lordship dureing the unnaturall rebellion, I had the honour ever since to waite of your lordships person at home and abroad; and as I am very possitive there is nothing you haue more at heart then the wellfair of your people, when your lordship will haue an opportunity to think of them, I desyre to belive, you'll not forget me to any station your lordship will think me capable to discharge, either in the governments service or under your lordship, which I hope, in any event, will be my case all my days.

All the news here that three independant companys will be this night in Dornoch, as many of the regular forces are to follow in their way to Caithness, and reported they will goe to Orkney.

If your lordship will allow me to write you weekly or otherwise, that shall be my rule. And now hoping forgiueness for my present freedome, with the humble respects of us all here, as we are bound to give, praying to God to bless, preserve, and return your lordship with great honour and success in due tyme safe to Dunrobine, with sincere regaurd, I am, my lord, your lordships most obliged, most obedient, faithfull, humble servant, while

HUGH MONRO.

Clayside, 3d July 1746.

263. KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to her son, WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—regarding his children.

Abbay, 19th (July) 1746.

MY DEAR SON,—I was extremly pleased to heir of your save landing at London, and now I hop as the croun rents is vacont, I am perswaded you may get them if you be activie; as you have bein at grat charges thir is no dubt but you will be rewarded. Now, my dear son, as Lordie is douing so well, I enjoyn you not to call for him from the scoull, but reather to sie him befor you com hom att the scoul, but your staiy I hop att London will be short, and let nothing discourage you. Your daughter now is long anouf at Dunroben, and if the scols at this place wuld dow I wod be glad to take her under my inspeckion, but I am quit aganst her stay wher she is; but we shal convers of this at miting. Now, as my pour brother is now, I am hopfull, better, you ought to get him brought down, or

let me know all about him, for its what I am very anchious about. Mend your falt in not writing to me, for I ashur you I do not take it well when you negleck. I writ to Mr. James Baird, your atturnie, for mony of the quarter that is new due at Michilmas, one thousand seven hundred and forty four—thir is just eight quarters due att Midsummer last. I left Major Colquhoun, and your sister, tender, I belive, with child. I wish the Lord may dereck you in all your ways is the erenest desir and prayer of your loving mother,

K. STRATHNAVER.

To the right honourable the Earll of Sutherland; to be left at the British Cofe Hous, London.

264. LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GUNN to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—enclosing his commission as evidence of the loyalty of the earl's family.

MY LORD,—I had the honour of a comission from your lordships grandfather, in the year 1715, as lieutenant in the regiment raised by him at that time to oppose the rebells; and as it is a testimonie of the familie of Sutherlands loyalty and forwardness at all times to support the present government, I judged it might [be] useful to your lord[ship], and send it here inclosed with this view; and if your lordship can make anything of it, I shall be always fond, by this or anything else in my power, to testifie that I am, with the greatest regard, my lord, your lordships most humble and most obedient and obliged servant,

WM. GUN.

Achintoul, 1st September 1746.

P.S.—I likewise presume humbly to represent to your lordship that I attended the garison that was placed in the height of this parish last year, traveled about the hills with them, and gave them all assistance in my power.

To the right honourable the Earle of Sutherland at his lodgings, London.

[Commission.]

Wee, John, Earle of Sutherland, lord livetennant of the six northern counties, conform to and in terms of our sovereign lord King George's commission, granted by his royall Majestie to us, to the effect underwritten, being fully

convinced of the loyalty, currage and conduct of William Gunne in Badiuteoch, by these presents constitute and appoynt yow, the said William Gun, to be second livetennant in the regiment of foot, commanded by William, Lord Strathnaver, collonell; and herby commands all inferior officers and souldiers to obey you as their livetennant, and yow to obey such ordours as yow shall from tyme to tyme receive from your superior officers, as ye shall answer to the trust wee repose in yow. Given under our hand, at Dunrobin, the fourtent day of October (?) 1715.

Sutherland

265. JOHN MUNRO to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—informing him of the violent deeds perpetrated by the rebels. 7th September 1746.

MY LORD,—I am sorrie to have the occasion of acquainting your lordship of Captain Munro of Cullcainne being murdered by a ruffian who shott him out of a bush. The three bretheren fell the same way, being massacr'd after the sam manner. Its a sure and steddfast saying, that when the neighborhood is in fire a man should take care of his home. Its a wight upon my spirit to find that such three true gentlement should be lost to the gouernment, friends and families; and having the honor of there relation, and withall being educat with them at schools and colleges, and withall that your lordship should want such a sett of neighbours in the verie next shyre, consisting of such a long-standing freindshippe, ansring alwayes your lordships expectation upon the point of loyalltie as to principles and practice, I haue all freedom to say, without offending modestie, your lordship cannot find ther equals in all the circuit countries. But they are gone and fell in a good cause, quich uill giue them a glorious resurrection. I wish the providence of the great God may prevent the like accidents from your lordships noble and loyall person, in case that sade euent should happen, as God forbidde it should. Who can express the loss the gouernment uould sustain, and for my part I uould be buried quick. Therfor your lordship uill pardon the freedom of my penne in the following particulars,—that some of your tenents did nearowlie escape with the risque of ther lives in the paroch of Reddecastle; 2nd, it is usual that the poor of one countrie goes to other

countries, but none of this dares aproch the nighbourhood, nor can not; 3tio, the verie man that caryed the amunition the day of the batle of Golspie, his horses were taken away. According to the best intelligence I have, endeavours are not wanting to crush the government in being awenged of your lordships familie and countrie. I can say I am not a man that startles att shoes, nor was I euer afreyed of shaddowes, yet I was frequentlie, and ame so to be carefull and cauteons, provided I was gripped, they should pull out my tongue and afterwards sacrifice my person to become food for hawkes. My lord, consider my station, quhich is but verie loe and moves in a verie narrow spehare; but quhen such designes are determined against me, quhat may be the hight and the depths of the contrivances of such against the Earle of Sutherland, to uhome they attribut so many misfortunes. The takeing of ther genrall, killing, wounding, drouning, and takeing captives so many, the reteareing of so many for there releife, all putt together, occasioned ther misfortune att Coulloden. Upon the whole, I can say that your lordship cannot be too cautious or carfull of the number one, and in doing so it's a favour to government, friends, and withall, I haue freedom to say, that it shall singularlie contribute to the satisfaction of him who is, my lord, yours unfeignedlie to serve you uhile I am,

JOHN MUNRO.

Rogart, the 7th of September 1746.

266. KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to her sou, WILLIAM; SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—regarding her annuities.

Abbay, September 18th, 1746.

MY DEARST SON,—I am glad to heir from you. It was writ to me you was spending your time at Utreches, and that you have taken en hous for a yeir at London, and its sayed that Lady Sutherland is to pase the winter their, which I am interliey against. I winder to sie you do not mind my payment. Is it thought that you will ineroach upon my goudnes? I shal ashur you I cannot want my payments, as you know the payments to me ous to come out of the police. I am surprised you do not case remit me as ousewall; the disoblidging of me will not tend to your advantadge. You know I have Siderhall which shuld pay me one hundred pound, then my curinontt anuitiay, eight thusand merks, then the anwell rent of the eritable bond, in all the anwel rents of my sumes and the anniouitiy comes

to seven hundred pound and twintyay two pound sterling and one croun. The police is due ten quarters, so if you do not pay me as ouswal I will not delay, so I expeck you will not disoblidg me and prevint furdur truble. I offer you my advise, but you do not take much heid to it. I am your loving and affectionat mother,

L. Stratnawer

I winder that you keip Lordie from his edu[ca]tion. I wish he may be brought up in a relidjous way, and give him goud exempell. And if this be trow that you have recreed the whol two yeirs, etc., of the police, so that will make you a priftey sum which shuld be aplayed for my payment. Let me know the troth of this, for her spending att Dunrobin, which she shuld have bein inhibet; but no answer to that, and you spending att London and living your mother in such a way without payments. Let me know if this be so that you have got in the police. I shal ashur you I am not plised.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland; to be forwarded to Tendring Hall, Suffolk, London.

267. ELIZABETH, LADY DUFFUS, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—anent the Countess's death and Lady Elizabeth, the Earl's daughter.
2d April 1747.

MY LORD,—I tak this oportunity of condoling with your lordship upon the litt melincholy misfurtun in your lordships family. Howiver, I hop reson and prudenc will direct you to bear it with that submision due the great Disposar and Derectar of all things. Carall cumunicatt to me your lordships inclinations as to Lady Betty. You may be sure she is as welcome to me as she ware my own, and accordingly I went directly to Donrobin in order to see the child and bring her heer. Howiver, the wether was bad, and the child insisted on staying till the burryal was over, which I consented to, and went and waitted of her that day myself. After that she shew'd a great aversion to leave Donrobin. Howiver, I

imputed that to idle people who put it in her head, who wanted ther should be a pretence of a family kept up. This subject I will not insist on. Howiver, I made the child easy, and brought her heer with a very fine day, and she has the best room in my hous; her woman, Baby, with her to direct her dyett. Bett's very much att her devotion to devert her; in short, my lord, ivery thing in my powr to acomadate her. But I'm rely sorry to tel your lordship I do not think her in a right state of health, nor by what I can understand has she been sinc she had the meszels. She has a bad cough, briths short, is very thin, and has littel or no apeteett; besaids this, the snal pox is raiging in the contry, and your lordship knows we have no phisition or surgon in the contry. Now, as thos things is best takin in time, I thought it dutty therfor to litt your lordship know them, that you might judge what was proper from time to time to advise me off; I have wrot fully this post to Lady Strathnever, so lives it to your lordship and her to judge whither you think the contry in this situetion proper for her or not. The child still shew anktiety to be att Donrobin, but that I cannot think off, as she can have no asistains ther but what I can give her, and the childring with eompenie is a diversion. She is getting spermacety, hysop watter, siveral other inoocent things; and be asur'd ware she my only child I woud not be more earfull or anktious about her. She begs to be remember'd to your lordship, and it will give me great plesure to be able to give your lordship better accounts of the dear child, as I woud willingly hop the warm wether will recrute her, and a tender turn of this kind is very uswill efter the meszells; but pepel cannot be too foruard in using meens to prevent the worst. Lady Betty woud be fond to have a lin from your lordship, which pleas inclos to me; it will rouse her littel spiritts and incouerge her to be blaiht and settisfyd. She is very fond of me, and it is my great study to make her so. Lord Duffus begs to be rememberd kindly to your lordship. He has attended clos att Donrobin sinc your orders come, and saw the countes interment gon about as near your derection as posible. Fridy last was the day, and he bid Carrol writt your lordship as full as posible, and he woud writt him self nixt post. We should be glade to hear of your lordship having thoughts of returning home. Betts insists on offering her compliments, and I beg your lordship will belive me to be, my lord, your lordships most obideant humble servant,

ELIZ. DUFFUS.

268. HUGH GORDON of Carroll, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,
—with an account of the interment of Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland.
land. 2d April 1747.

MY LORD,—On Fryday last the Countes of Sutherlands corps was interred at Dornoch with the greatest decency and good order that has been seen in this country. The corps was carried in a hearse, attended by thirty gentlemen and 200 commons, and 40 men of the parish of Golspy as a guard. There was not the least high word heard nor any man in disorder. Noe body came but such as were called, and every body called were at the buriall except Sir Robert Gordon, Geddes, Ardoch, elder, and Bighouse, who all made the want of health their excuse. Lord Duffus was princepall mourner, and next him Ulbster, who carried the feet. Thus was performed the last duty to the lady endowed with all the qualifications that could adorn her sex, and to the universal loss of every body that had the honour of her acquaintance, and never enough to be regrated by every individual of this county. It is the duty of every one to submit to the will of God, and blessed be his name that there is hopefull issue behind her. Lady Betty is at Skelbo, but I find she would much rather choose to be here. Lady Strathnaver has as yet sent noe directions about her. Next post I hope to be able to send a full account of the expense of the funeralls, when your lordship will be able to judge of the management and economy that it was gone about in. Forse was not at the burials.

As the term is now at hand, the servants of the family want to know who are or are not to be discharged, particularly Mrs. Dott desires to know what she is to do with her charge of my lady cloaths, etc., that she may deliver all to such person as your lordship shall name, under inventory, and that you may send directions of what is ordinary, and youd allow to be given her on this occasion. I send your lordship a list of the servants names in the family. I understand John Gray of Rogart has shipt off his beef for Leith, and the cargo consigned to Mr. Hog. I think your lordship should give directions to Mr. Hog anent the mony arising from the sale of the beef. I have the honour to be, my lord, your lordships most faithfull and most obedient servant,

HUGH GORDON.

Dunrobin, 2 April 1747.

P.S.—Rob Manderston has been usefull on the late occasion, and desires me

put your lordship in mind of procuring him Arthur Forbes's place if your lordship has noe other in view. Since writing the above I have received a letter from Lady Strathnaver calling for Lady Betty, and she proposes to send a chaise north for her, and that she should go in company with some of the ministers going to the Assembly. I am to write her ladyship an answer to that. I believe it will be twenty days or thereby before Lady Betty goes from this.

269. WILLIAM, LORD STRATHNAVER, to his father, WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—congratulations on his recovery. 30th May 1747.

DEAR PAPPA,—I am glad to hear of your recovery from your late illness, and should be very happy to hear of you from your self. My uncle and aunt are well and offer you their compliments. I am, dear pappa, your affectionate and dutiful son,

Strathnaver

London, May 30th, 1747.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland, Dunrobin.

270. JOHN GRAY to ROBERT GRAY of Creich, ^{or former factor to Esq.} about the elections, and narrating an engagement with a French privateer in the Dornoch Firth. 16th July 1747. Copy.

DEAR COUSINE,—No doubt you 'll be expecting the news of our election. I went with Sir John Gordon to Caithness, and went to the Orkneys. As Sir John asked me to goe I seed no reason I should refuse it. It hes made up a friendship 'twixt him and me which is necessary at the time. Wee made nothing of our jurny into Caithness, and as litle I have made in the Orkneys. I could not convince them that my interest with them was greater then the Earl of Mortouns. After losing chance of the borrows, he then, as you know, proposed to sett up Carroll, and as [he] found Carroll was not so agreeable he proposed Langwall, and so matters stand. Cairnfield, Sir John, and Kepernach wrot for the General, who is expected Sunday night, who, I belive, will cary the elections; but the Makays

are within a man of them, as he made Pronsy by the Masters of Reay's means, who was sent down to that purpose. Lord Reay is to be this night at Skiboll in his way to the election of peers.

I have not the least dubt but your cousine, Sir John Gordon, will act once more the old man, that so in the event the General and the Mackays will not agree; but he will joyne the McKays unless he be very heartly bought by St. Claire. Carroll, with whom I was this day, seems now for the General. So much for elections.

Now I must give you ane account of a sea fight that hapened this day and yesterday in this furth, which for ane houre yesterday was very diverting. Ane English 20 gun ship, Captain Farmer, comander, called the Experiment, ran in here a small French privateer. The 20 gun ship could not follow further then Achinchanter be east Dornoch, and the privateer came up 'twixt Dornoch and Taine. There was a Lieth merchant ship of 10 small guns with the 20 gun ship, which they maned with 40 marains and cam to the privatier. They fought for a whol houre, and wee, who stood on the point of Dornoch, gave it in favours of the Frenchman. However, he made the best of his way up till he cam to Spengoodall, where he now lys, and finding he could not get out he surenedered upon tearms, be . . .¹ 3 pounds and 50 men on board . . .¹ took McKenzie of Inverness 15 days befor.

I need not write you on any of my affairs, as I am sure you have it as much at heart as I have. Lady Duffus desairs me ask you if you had delivered her letter to Mr. Urquhart, as she had no word from him. Sir John Gordon is to examine our accounts after the elections, and there is ane coming from Edinburgh to that purpose. Cairnfield told me this day that [he is to] give up my lords business, and hes intimated so to the earl so as to provide himself. Who shall be the man?

I shall be glad if you was in the country as I counted. Let me know how soon you come. Send me Pronsiess accounts.—I am, dear consine, yours affectionately,

JOHN GRAY.

16 Jully 1747.

Robert Gray of Creich, Writer; to be left at the Weight Coffie House, Edinburgh.

¹ Stated to be "torn out in original."

271. LADY ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND to her father, WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—proposing to leave school in a year. 31st May 1748.

DEAR PAPA,—I receiv'd yours and am glade you are well. I hope you'll excuse me for not writing by the last opportunity that came from Dunrobin, being attending my schools when the servant went away. I am well pleased Mrs. Buttlar is recover'd unto her health again. If it pleased your lordship I'll go home next year and learn to be your lordship's housekeeper and Babie along to learn with me. Dear papa, your most dutifull daughter,

Eliza Sutherland

Edinburgh, May 31st, 1748.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin.

272. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to GENERAL JAMES SINCLAIR,—about his affairs at Court. [18th May 1749.]

Thursday Night.

DEAR SIR,—I was not in good health when I waited on you this morning, and was wery much surprisd of what you told me, as I have no great hopes of getting justice since his Majestie and ministry are displeas'd at me, tho I was assur'd otherwise. I belive it will be unnecessary to draw out any memorial to his Majesty or his ministry.

I designe to goe to Tunbridge next month, for Scotland I will not return to on any account. I hope next winter to lay my affaire before the Parliament to satisfie the world of my behaviour for his Majesties service, tho perhaps to the ruin of my family, and then shal goe to forene parts, where I hope to be better used. I am, sir, your affectionat nephew,

SUTHERLAND.

P.S.—I beg youl return my papers per bearer.

To the honourable General James St. Claire.

273. KATHARINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—wishing him to come and stay at home.

January 25th, 1750.

MY DEARST SON,—I had yours letter and am extremely sorry to find you are so averce from living at home. I can find no tamptation you have to continue in a place where you are so much neglected, for the ministry seem to think you are of small consiquence by giving the preference to the Earl of Marchmont. I am perswaded its in your own power to make Dunroben soe as agreceable as any place ; a man of your rank need not want the best of compnie, and the management of your affairs would be an amusement full as entertining as any you at present enjoy. As to your proposal of giving up the management of your affairs to Lord Kilkerran and me by takeing your self to the annuity your grandfather had is what I can by no means approve of, for I am affraid that your estate can do no more then pay the intrest of your debts and the ministers stipens and publick burdens that effect without affording a sinking fund for the payment of your debts, far liss so considerable an localitiy to your self ; can you think that your creditors who have a mind to adiudg your estate directly you may prevent all this. The best seckhem you can think of is to com home and live upon your pusion, and that of the whole of your estate be fathfully applied for the payment of my annuity and others due me, and the other debts you are due your credeters, and to come hom. This is the only way to expeck favour from, dearst son, your loving and affectionat mother till dath.

K. S.

Your daughter maks offer of her duty to you. Lady Hellen Colquhoun is brought to bed of a boy. His nam is called after you. Wlbster and Lady Janet makes offer of thir compliments to you and all of us to Lordie. Your answer I expeck sone, that I may know when I shall expeck you heir. Thir was a talk in this plas you was disappointed of a mariage you had in veow. I want to know this or any expektation you have. Adoue.

To the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland at his house at Chelsea, London.

274. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his uncle, the Honourable General JAMES ST. CLAIR, ament his visit to Bath.

Bath, February 25th, 1750.

DEAR SIR,—As I thought you would be anxious to know how I ariv'd at Bath, I came here without any accident, and to-morow I take phisik to prepare me for the watters, and am resolvd to continue a moderat diet til my stomak is restord. I beg you'll offer my compliments to your lady and Sir Hary Ereskin, and am, Sir, your affectionat nephew and most humble servant,

Sutherland

To the honourable General James St. Claire at his house in Pal Male, London.

275. KATHARINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND,—advising him not to be rash in choosing a second wife. circa 1750.

MY DEAREST SON,—I just now received yours from Richmond, May 1 dat, but have no account from you of the 4 pacckets that I sind you of en assignation you had ordered to be writ by Carnfilld, your writer, and to be sint up to you in order to be singed and sind down befor the seshion sitt, which, if delayied, will be a grat lose. I am sory that my letter is not as you take so well, but I most allwiyes tell my concerns especheliy you to whom I have such a fondness of beyond any of my children. I am sory if my famlie do not obiye my comands. I have never sine that gentelman, and I do not go offen abroad, and as to your writing to me so short, as yow expeck my favor I think you ought to tack my advise, and not to be so resolat as you wil stand by any against all mortals. You think every person that dos not writ or say as you inclain is your ill wishers; I can have no other veow but for your goud and family. As to my coming up to sie you I think yow are younger to com down, for to have a famlie at London and the north wil not dow, and as I give you kind offers to staiy at the Abbay, which

I do not know how long, as if your gift be taken from you and given to en other, I have losed all my laying out in repairs of windous and others, but that is but the list of the losses of what you wil meit with, but deseining piple may sustjest twintiaj things for thir oun ends, but I can have no other thing in my veow but your advantadge. Let the asignation of the Skelbo affair be sint down signed. I am sory your hous att Richmond that you have taken is so neir London, for that wil bring to many eidel compnie out to you. What shuld a single nobleman like you bnt to live soberliij, and no crouds of compnie com out to them. I am glad to heir of your resolution of matrimony which yow saij your son and daughter yow are maried to. They are both promising, and for Lady Bittie I think she is a very fine child, and maks her humble duty to you to be rembered. I sind ten pound to the north to bring her up, and a man, horses, and chess, who stands me six pound ten shillings, and now I have taken of new morning again for her, and I desin Mr. Lamot to com in to her for dancing, and Mr. Granger for writing, and a French master, and that may dow very well for sum little time. The abbay is a fine eir, and she hath agried very well with the jurnie, and she is a very tracktable weis child. Now, my dear son, as you wod gane my favor do not be rach in your choyes of a seakond lady. Thir is many billis in Eiglained, and you are very rash; that is a stat of life that neids a grat dell of deliberation and consideration, and for a rach think of that wod make you very unhappaij, and for God seake do not go on in any thing without my advise, otherways you neid not expeck my countnance. So you make me much concerned for feir. We have fine ladys in Scotland, and goud forton to, but advise in a mater of that momont, but as you was resolved not to do any thing without my concurance and advise, so notwithstanding this is brock and enimies going to you for thir oun desins. I writ to you that I wod have your brothers in law to get qualifeications which is but resonable, thow your adviser wod saij to the contrarie, which I winder how any can have the confidence to dow, for thir was non oposed your election mor at last election then them now in favour. Now, all I can say is the Lord dreck you in all your ways, and that you wod not show mine to you to strangers, which is very unbecoming a son to dow, and after reiding to burn.—I am, dear son, your loving and affectionat mother. Aduē.

This gos with your servent, William Camble. For your providing Anderson, I wish you wod dow for them that deserves of your oun relations.

Dear son; this bank not as a token from me, and I shal mind you. For God seek tack cair of your health, and belive no misrepresentations; for nothing I want mor then your prosperitiy, and these that says otherwise is for your roum, which I pray God shall neaver get thir desin. Plas let me know if you have received this bank not. I have given out a grat dell of money for Lady Bittie. Plase to sing and sind doun the asignation to me of Skelbo that the proces may not be delaiyd the sumer seeshiou. I will long to heir from you.

276. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to the REV. DR. THACKERAY,—
withdrawing his son, Lord Strathnaver, from his school. 18th June 1750.

SIR,—My son, Lord Strathnaver, acknowledges the great care and concern you have taken in his education during the time he was at your school, for which I thank you, and assure you that if it had not been necessary to teach him (as soon as possible) some academical exercises not instructed by you, his studys should continue under your tuition. I therefor desire you to discharge him from your school and committ him to the charge of Lieutenant General St. Clair.—I am, Sir, your obliged humble servant,
SUTHERLAND.

Chelsea, June 18th, 1750.

To the Reverend Doctor Thackeray, at Harrow on the Hill.

277. WILLIAM, SIXTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his mother, KATHERINE,
LADY STRATHNAVER,—his illness.

Montauban, November 26th, 1750.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sory to tel you you that that my state of heath it has been been my study to obliddge, and I ow and I hope wil doe the same for all. My head turns round mee. Your ladyships wil not be confusd at this this, and if I had got not the least reason at that time to, discouragement would keep keep me under.—I am, hououred dear, your ladyship's most dutiful and obedient son,
SUTHERLAND.

To the right honourable the Lady Strathnaver, at Edinburgh, by London.

278. KATHARINE LADY STRATHNAVER, to GENERAL ST. CLAIR,—acknowledging his kindness to her grandson. 18th December 1750.

SIR,—I return you my hearty thanks for your letter of condolance for the dath of my dearst son, the Earl of Sutherland, which gives me unexpressable grief, tho it is my duty to submit in all cases to the divine will. I dare say his dath will give all his frinds a concern. I most also return my thanks for the care you have hitherto taken of my Lord Strathnaver, your nephew. I hop he will live to shue his gratitude to so goud a freend and near a relation, and have a sence of his obligations to you. It is a grate mark of your goodness to have sint for my grandson for his decent mournings on such a milancholly occasion. But what gives me the greatest sattisfaction at this time, your goodness and kindness about obtaining to my dear grandson the pension his fathar had for the sons education, in which I hop by your own interest you will have success, and all circumstances considered, especially my sons grat loses and disapointment, is what I have reason by your means to expect. The grat concern now is how to manage matters best for my lords affairs, which indead a[re] in disorder. I understand my son has made no nomination of tutors and curators to his children, and thir affairs will need looking after. You are a goud frend and capable to serve them. Engagnents of that sort are very unfite for me. I wod think my grandson happie if so good a relation, I may say parent, wod take my grandson under your protackhion.

I am now turned very tender and is very unfite for busnes, but thir is non fitter then you. I am sory pour Baly Sutherland is not provid in a porshion. Ther is no dubt I shuld think the contract of mariag will, as no dubt you know. The furneter that was in the hous at Chelsiey shuld be looked after, and the familie plat that is in Mr. Drumonds, bankier, as Captain Gordon writs. I hop you will excense this confused letter from, Sir, your much oblidged humble servant,

K. STRATHNAVER.

December 18, 1750.

To the right honorable General Sinclair, at his house in Pall Mall, London.

279. KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to GENERAL ST. CLAIR,—aunt applying for a new grant of the Earl of Sutherland's lodging in the Abbey. 27th December 1750.

SIR,—As it will be necessary to apply for a new grant of this lodging in favours of my grandson the Earl of Sutherland, I therefor thought proper to give you this hint lest others might be making application for a grant of it, and I expect you will please to let me know in time as I may provide myself in a house. Lady Betty Sutherland makes offer of her duty to you and your lady, and my blessing to my grandson.—I am, with all respect, sir, your much obliged humble servant,

K. STRATHNAVER.

December 27th, 1750.

To the right honourable General St. Clair at his house at Pill Mill, London.

280. KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, to [GENERAL ST. CLAIR],—stating that she will not undertake the management of the affairs of her grandson, the Earl of Sutherland.

Abbey, December 29th, 1750.

SIR,—I wrote you two letters the one wherein you acquainted me with the disagreeable news of my son's death, which I hope both mine to you is come safe to your hands. As you know, I had a faculty and commission from my son for managing his estate, which now falls by his death. I presume you and the other friends of my grandson will take care that he choose curitors directly, and thereby enable him to appoint proper persons to manage his affairs, as I am determined not to act any further in the management of his affairs, as I find it absolutely impossible for me to do it; at the same time shall at all times be ready to give my advice in his affairs when asked, and I am, sir, your most humble servant,

K. STRATHNAVER.

My compliments to your lady and blessing to the Earl of Sutherland. Lady Betty makes offer of her duty to you and lady. Sir, my other letter to you was about a gift for this lodging in the Abbey where I stay, that I may be acquainted in time to provide myself a house.

281. SIR JAMES COLQUHOUN of Luss, Baronet, to his mother-in-law, KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER,—intimating his assumption of the title of a baronet.

Rosedoe, 2d Aprile 1751.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been dailey expecting Lachlan Grant since I wrote your ladyship, and what it is that detains him I cant find out, for by his last letter to me he wrote that I need not write him more as he was to set out in a few days for Rosedoe. I therefore beg upon receipt of this that your ladyship may be so good as send your servant to enquier at his sister whats become of him, or, if he is still in town, when he proposes being here. Your ladyship shall be infest in the lands that I have purchased from Mr. Buchanan for your security, and regularly payed your anual rent untill I can raise money of my own in order to repay your ladyship again, and as the term is now fast approaching I wish Laclan would make haste out in order to have all directly done both to your ladyships satisfaction and mine. In case he is not resolved to come out I shall employ another person, but would rather have him as I have some other matters to settle particularly with the Duke of Montrose's manadgers, for I want to take the benefit of the late Act of Parliament, whereby ward holding is changed into a yearly feu duty, and now is the time for ending this affair. I am vastly importuned by my west cuntry friends and namesakes not to allow the title of a barronet to goe out of the family, and as I am strongly advised and sollicite to take upon me the honours in order to prevent others from doing it in prejudice of whoever shall succeed me in this family, I have therefore agreed to doe it; so that from henceforward your ladyship will be pleased to direct for me accordingly. For my own share I dont give a farthing for it. But in order to oblige my name and have justice done those who shall succeed me I have done it. I oun it was pritty bold in my friend, George Colquhoun, to assume either titles or armes of this family when any of my children were alive. But possibly a little time will make him see his error, and in consequence now that he has got preferment and a wife, drop it. For my own part since I have once agreed to take the honours of the family (as indeed I believe I should have done before now) I shall never drop them again in my time, let my son doe as he pleases. But, in short, the whole of my friends in this country insisted strenuously with me and argued that in case I refused doing it my memory would be odious. My wife is to write your ladyship by nixt post. Shee desires her most humble duty to your ladyship,

and both of us joyne in kind compliments to Lady Betty Sutherland. Pray when may wee expect the happiness of your ladyship and Lady Betty at Rosedoe, which, now that the season has turnd more favourable, begins to look delightfull, especially the noble peramid of Benlomoud. The children are all well and thriving. I am, with the utmost respect, dear madam, your ladyships most affectionate and faithful son while

J. A. COLQUHOUN.

P.S.—I shall never make any dispute with my brother. Let him use his honours and I shall doe the same, which unquestionably is my right and that of the family. I doubt not but some people will find fault with me upon this head. But I disregard all or every thing that can be said or advanced upon the matter in comparison with peace and quiet.

282. MRS. SINCLAIR of Ulbster to her mother, KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER,—with congratulations upon the purchase of Assynt. 3d July 1757.

DEAR MADAM,—Ulbster and I we congratulate your ladyship on the purchase of the Assynt estate. Be assured that the purchase is a good one. The Mackenzies offered Lord Seaforth the loan of £14,000 sterling to make that purchase for himself. But as he had not much ambition, he declined accepting so good an offer. You have now a whole country to your self, a command of men, that may make you of consequence to the government, and a valuation that will intitle you to make seven votes; and in the view of profit, a fine salmon fishing, the best cattle and butter in the north of Scotland. My eyes still continue sore, and the chaise is yoked for my making a jaunt to Brawl, which obliges me to conclude with the offer of Ulbsters humble duty and mine to your ladyship. Our kindest compliments to Lord Sutherland, Lady Betty, and Miss Colquoon, in which the children join, and I am in haste, dear madam, your most affectionate obedient daughter,

JANET SINCLAIR.

Thurso Castle, 3 July 1757.

Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair of Friswyck, and Miss Cirstie Dalrymple, were with me for three nights. We want to know the reasons that Lady Betty's marriage is blown up.

To the right honourable the Lady Strathnavar, Edinburgh.

283. HELEN SUTHERLAND, LADY COLQUHOUN of Luss, to her mother,
KATHERINE, LADY STRATHNAVER, complaining about her sister.

Rossdoe House, February 25th, 1760.

MY DEAREST MADAM,—Sir James arrived here a Saturday last, and is not a bit the worse of his journey tho he got very bad waether. He delivered me your ladyships letter. I cant misse being a little surpris'd at your ladyships believeing aney thing that my sister could take amiss in the letter I wrote to her. You know both her temper and inveious despositions, and I had got maney unjouste rubies for this year past, of the great and ritche presents that you was allways sending and gaveing me ever since I was a wife. She never could condescend on perticular presents, being all a fiktion which your ladyship most know as well as me. It is most crouall when I don't gett the vealow of a shillen sent at aney tyme to me or mine. It is very hard to put up both with the skeath and the skorin; and as for inveying Ketty, she has no reason, as you have doon and daly dous very handsom things by them, tho they are but children in respect of Ketty, and has not been in your family nor your nam daughter. I had not a heart that could bear aney of her unjoust abradaines for which I wrote her a letter with some spirite to stop her folie, for I was wore out with vexation and unisenass. God forgive her, she has made me some years older lick, as I can't bear to be in a wicked way with aney body, fare lass with my sister. Oh, madam, it is crouall that all the world belives I gett the greatest of presents from you, and at the same time your ladyship not giving me the vealow of a ribbon or a pair of gloves. As for what Ketty gets all the twon of Edinburgh hears of it and sees it, and what her papa and I gave her are taken in to the bargan. So if I am not well yoused I know my self had I been the undutyfull daughter I could not have been wors yoused at all hands. I thank God I have a kind affectionate husband, and a family of siven as fine children, I thank God, as I could wish. God spair them for an honour and comfort to uss. Poor things, it is hard that they all, poor dears, most come to the world with inviey upon my account, and I to meet with the contruarey youasage. I should not have sade on word on this subject for as much as I have suffred, if your ladyship had not wrote me of the affair. I knew my sister is pationate, but dous she think I am to miend her pation, or is she to pretend to lay down roules to me that is elder then her, and

allways more in the world. I most say she has a pritty good oppinion of her self. Nothing I had once more at heart then being at Edinburgh, but it was much better I did not go, for sisters to scould on another would have exposed uss both. So I see we are better at a destance, if that was intended for me, and I most tall your ladyship that descurigements or slights my spirite cant bear, so I wish I may never meet with them. I know it would brack my heartt, and I know my husband and children would look upon it as the greatest loss thay could meet with. This is a terable time at Greenocke. Thay are affrade the French may make them a visite, however, the troops from Edinburgh and Glasgow was to be there a Saturday. I flater myself theyll gave a good account of them, or at leest prevent there landing. God halp uss if thay land. No doubt we will get a visite, and what may come of uss I cant say, for no doubt the French will look upon uss as grate enimeys aud perhaps take all we are poss[ess]ed of. But God is a ritche provedir, which my only halp and dependance uss upon. I have luckley got six moor foull, which I have sent by the carrier of this letter. Oh make me happy with the prospeck of seeing your ladyship here in summer. I hope we shall have peace and pleantey in our land. Sir James took in a fine young mear to Glasgow to sell and laft her in James Grahams stable. She was with at leest 12 geuines, and some folkes that say her thought her with much more, and she dyed last week. I wish that may be our only loss, for our sheses horses are all had, and one that Sir James boght, a hors to halp to bring him home with his one sick ones. All care shall be taken of them, and no more can be doon. Sir James and the children offers you there humble duty, and, I am, my dearest madam, your most dutyfull and most affectionate daughter,

HELEN COLQUHOUN.

P.S.—Our love to Ketty and compliments to all friends. Adiew, dear madam.

284. MARY MAXWELL, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to MARTHA, COUNTESS OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE,—congratulating her on the birth of her daughter, Lady Janet, and referring to her own experience since her marriage.

Daurobin, Friday, July 17th, 1761.

MY DEAR LADY ELGIN,—I delay'd writing to congratulate you on the addition to your family and your own happy recovery till I got here, as I had no great

conveniencies for writing on the road, and desired my sister to inform you we were all well, which I flatter'd myself would not be indifferent to you. We got here safely on Wednesday night, after a very tedious but agreeable journey. We were three nights at the Duke of Athole's, and as long at Lord Moray's, which detained us so long. The whole family of the latter came here with us, which, with the addition of some of the gentlemen of this country, made a great party and keeps a full house. All this country and this place in particular I like much better than expectation. The roads are very good, and the length of way and the ferries, which are the only disagreeable circumstances, time, patience, and goodwill will get over. Custom, I hope, will make them more agreeable to me, as that alone can make parting with my friends easier. I need not tell you, my dear Lady Elgin, that it made me happy to hear by Wilma, that you and your young lady are doing so well. There are few I am so much interested for from many ties.

From letters I found when I arrived here I find that our expectations with regard to some of our friends are really fulfill'd. After all I am satisfied that I have the greatest reason to be pleas'd and happy, but at the same time my anxiety for her happiness, my sympathy for her present situation, join'd with my being quite unacquainted with one that I have, shall have so much connection with, gives me a good deal of disquiet at present. I shall wait with patience for the time when it will be proper for your ladyship to write me. To you I trust for a great deal of satisfaction. At present so great a variety of ideas crowd upon me relating to myself and *others*, that I am afraid I am unable to perform my part tolerably in so new a situation as this still is to me. I have stole so much time as to write a long letter to my sister, which has left me less time than I could wish to tell you about this place, etc. To her I refer you for my opinion of it, and must now offer my lord's kind compliments and mine to Lord Elgin and your ladyship, with our best wishes for everything that is good and agreeable to attend you; and I am, my dear Lady Elgin, yours most affectionately,

McArthurland

THIRTEEN LETTERS from JEAN WEDDERBURN, wife of Sir Harry Erskine, to MARY, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND.

285. (1) Urging her and Lord Sutherland to be present at the king's marriage. 17th July 1761.

YOUR last letter, my dear Lady Sutherland, was so unmerited on my part that I have no words to express my gratitude; but acts of goodness are so common to you that you don't even expect thanks from those you confer them on.

The prospect I have of the continuance of your friendship is, I do assure you, a most comfortable idea to me, for you must be sensible that I have judgement enough to distinguish you from most of my acquaintance, and the more I study and know you the more my esteem increases. The gratitude of my heart makes me fill my letter with what I feel for you at a time when I should be entirely occupied with this great event of his Majesty's marriage, which gives such general satisfaction; and as it is an event in which you peeresses are more particularly interested, I must beg leave to take the liberty of offering you the substance of a conversation, or rather conversations of Sir Harry and I with regard to your being here. Nobody felt more sensibly than I that you would not be here this winter. But since the coronation is fixed I have again given way to hope. Sir Harry, I believe, writes to Lord Sutherland by this post, and we both agree in thinking (that independant of the pleasure which all ladies have in shows) my lord and your ladyship should grace this country with your presence. It is generally believed that few of the nobility will be absent on this occasion, and I should be sorry if one whose rank is so conspicuous should fail in any attention to a sovereign who is so justly beloved by all his subjects. The death of the princess's mother will delay her coming over for a week or fortnight longer than the time first mention'd, therefore you can be here before the wedding. I won't press this subject too far, as your own good sense will best tell you what should be done; besides I have just heard that you would not be fond of walking tho' you was here. I have but one word more to add, which is, if you have any intention to come, to beg you would send me any commissions by the first post which you have to give about cloaths or coronation robes. The ermine will scarce be got; every mortal is making up fine cloaths for the wedding, and the silks are already risen considerably in their price; I still remain attached to blue, and have accordingly bought a blue and silver.

We took a house here for the summer, and I was in hopes of being a little retired for the summer, but I have found very little of either solitude or tranquillity, as we go to town above thrice a week. The situation is delightfull, and to a romantick mind the water and the gardens would have infinite charms. But alas! your age and mine for romancing is now at an end. No romance is ever carried further than marriage. It has not at least been a tragical conclusion to our history, and I hope it never shall be interspersed with melancholy events. An insipid sameness is far preferable to such a variety. My best compliments attend Lord Sutherland, Mr. Wemyss, and Lady Betty. For you, my dear Lady Sutherland, you may always depend upon the best wishes and sincere affection of your

J. ERSKINE.

Kew Green, July 17th, 1761.

286. (2) The intended visit of Lord and Lady Sutherland to London.
5th August 1761.

I WISH, my dear Lady Sutherland, it was as much in my power as it is in my inclination to be of use to you upon your coming here. However, I shall impart to you such little pieces of knowledge as I have acquired. Sir Harry has been inquiring for a house for you, and I heartily wish it may not be at any distance from ours. No lodging-house ever furnishes plate, china, or linnen. The former articles you will get best here, but I would by all means advise you to send your linnen from Scotland, as you would pay a great deal of money for what is very bad of the kind here. I have not yet received your orders concerning your dress, but when I do you may depend upon my executing them to the best of my skill.

The prospect of seeing you in town gives me infinite pleasure, and it will add greatly to my present happiness. I could have wished you had been here sooner than you propose, as I really think it would have been very proper for my lord and you to have paid your compliments immediately upon the marriage. But there is no making Dunrobbin nearer London than it is. The world says it should congratulate you on Miss Maxwells marriage. I promise you to do it when you come here, if you say it should be done. At present the post allows me no time to add one word more than that I ever am, your affectionate

J. E.

London, August 5th, 1761.

287. (3) Giving the news of London.

Cavendish Square, May 6th, 1762.

MA CHERE ET BELLE COMTESSE,—It is unnecessary to assure you that I have felt and regretted your absence like a fond mother pining after a favourite child, and I almost wish, for my own ease, that I was grown the fine lady you threatened me with who would rejoice in the absence of a rival who robbed her of the unmeaning admiration of the world; but I'm sensible my heart is not made of such materials, and therefore I must ever regret the absence of one who shares my confidence and is worthy of my esteem. Perhaps you are accusing me in your mind for being so long of inquiring after you, and wondering that I was not more curious to know how you liked Edinburgh, and if the squares, etc., appeared as large as usual. But, alas! my dear, we have all been dying here. The plague rages in this city. It has not been mortal, but few have escaped it. I am still an invalid, and only ventured out this morning to take the air. Mrs. St. Clair has been extremely ill, but is now out of danger. Lady Charlotte Johnstone has paid her debt to nature, and tho' she did not seem to be much favour'd by the opinion of the world when alive, yet now she is regretted and greatly praised. Those who knew her intimately say she possess'd a thousand amiable qualities which were totally eclipsed by her immoderate love of the world. The Duke of Portland's death was sudden but not surprising, as he has been very infirm for many years. So much for your dead friends, and now to return to the living. On Tuesday last these miracles of love and constancy, viz. Collonell Johnstone and Lady Cecilia West, were united in wedlocks holy bands. A tragedy groan is all I say upon that subject. By this time your ladyship grows impatient at my neglect or spitefulness in not delivering the thousand compliments and fine speeches I was charged with the first time I had occasion to write to Lady Sutherland. Why truly mam, I was only desired with this proviso, 'When you have nothing else to say,' etc. and, having a great deal more to say at present than I have time for, they must be delayed till another opportunity. My flirtations went on apace, but my late confinement came very mal à propos. Sir Harry desires to be remembered in the kindest manner. If my lord forgets me, he is most ungratefull to his and your affectionate friend,

J. ERSKINE.

288. (4) Relating news about herself.

YOUR letter, my dear countess, gave me the vapours. I am indeed greatly disappointed at your not coming to town, as I must be a sufferer by it. However, I cannot regret the cause nor condemn the measure, only I must beg of you to contrive matters better another time. Your absence is a vast loss to me this winter, but I intend to behave very handsomely towards you by making you acquainted with all my life and conversation. I have always found that you had sense enough to relish nonsense, and not to take things for more than they are mean't, or when a married woman talks of her flirtations you don't look upon her as one who follows wicked courses. But I desire you not to give my private anecdotes up into the hands of censorious people. The town is very empty. If I had been vain I would have told you it was very full, because I mean to inform you that I am very fashionable. You cannot imagine what good scenes you have already lost. I think I could once or twice have made you laugh more than you would have liked in your present condition. I am sorry that the materials were too thin a matter to bear a Scotch journey, otherwise I would have tried how a fine speech or speeches bears to be repeated. I hope if at any time you should hear any hints thrown out against my conduct you will be pleased to give me warning, as I have a great deal upon hauds, and I flatter myself the fine ladies will all abuse me, for I have been able twice to draw, nay, to fix, the attention of the most fashionable man in town. I won't tell you who he is till I have flirted a little more with him. I don't like to have too much upon hand at a time, therefore I have thought it expedient to cut short a noble lord. I am sure I should have had your approbation. You will perfectly understand what I say, but if by chance your husband reads it he will be vastly puzzled, for the men are always more stupid than the women. Nature has given them more advantages in point of situation than [us], but has in revenge allowed us more readiness of apprehension.

289. (5) Jaunting in the country, and general news.

London, June 22d.

I HOPE you don't greatly condemn me for being so long of enquiring after you. But, my dear countess, it is impossible to write to you half so often as I think of you, and I have been jaunting about enjoying the country and the fine weather. I

have seen a number of fine places and magnificent houses, and am return'd to Cavendish Square without the least regret for not being mistress of one of these delightful seats. If the post was not just going away I would make many wise reflections upon the vanity and luxury of the world which would tend to show you that whilst I was pleasing the eye I improved the mind. The ball on the birthday was very thin and very stupid. I danced with Lord Garlies. I must confine myself to an abstract of all thats doing. I have, according to your prophecy, struck up an intimacy with Laly Charlotte Tufton. We are very much together. There is a report in the world that the Countess of Northumberland is pregnant. Lady Francis Greville is to be married this week to Sir Harry Harpur. They talk of Lady Louisa to Lord Dungarvon, son to the Earl of Corke. I report all these report[s] always in the hopes of seeing you here that you may not be ignorant of names and people and their differant connections. I send my love to Lord Sutherland by the hands of his wife. Sir Harry is always yours, and so is your very affectionate

J. E.

290. (6) Excusing herself for delaying to write to the Countess.

London, July 13th, 1762.

I CAN say very little in vindication of my unworthy conduct towards my dear Lady Sutherland, for my late silence most certainly does not proceed from too great a hurry of company, as there is scarce a single acquaintance remaining in this great city. But my excuse is of such a nature that it is impossible for any body in your part of the world to form an idea of it. Can those who live in a climate where the sun has not yet melted the winter snows form any idea of the immense heats we have had here--heats which has reduced me to a state of stupidity beyond what I can describe? Perhaps you think any attempt towards such a description altogether unnecessary, as this epistle proves my assertion beyond contradiction. Cloathed with dulness, may I presume (that you who are at present surrounded with the gay and social companions of the north) will deign to accept of my enquiries. I do most earnestly wish to know how you are, where you are, and what you are doing. I flatter'd myself at parting that our intercourse of letters would have been a little more frequent. But I cannot help observing with regret your exact strictness in keeping to letter for letter. However, I shall always hope that our friendship does not depend entirely upon letters, and

that neither time nor distance will abate it. If you knew how often you are the subject of conversation between Sir Harry and I you would at least be a little grateful. We sometimes take the liberty to stripe you of your titles and call you by the name of Molly.

I have no adventures to inform you of, this place is so empty at present that one would scarce believe it was the seat of a court. Lady Mary Douglas has had a great legacy left her lately, I cannot exactly say to what value; but it is generally believed to be about five hundred a year, and ten thousand pound of money. The Moray family left this on Saturday. Sir Harry begs to be remembered, and I beg leave to assure Lord Sutherland that I retain all my love for him, without abating in the least of the affection with which I am his lady wifes sincere friend,

J. ERSKINE.

291. (7) Informing the Countess of Lord Garlies' intended marriage.

24th July 1762.

YOU are a good soul and I must love you, and thank you for your letter which I received this post. When I consider the vast distance which separates us at present it makes me quite melancholy. However, I must use the old cheat of letters which comes so near to conversation; but it is of the slow kind, like a demure prude in a drawing room that drops a word in an hour. I banish all prudery from my society, and think a good dash of the coquet the better thing of the two. I am in the first place quite sober and in the next place very tired, and not one grain of giddiness in me to-night. Therefore don't conclude me mad, for what I'm going to say, as you may rely on't as much as if you had read it this morning in your Bible, and it appears as incomprehensible to my shallow understanding as some chapters of the Revelations. Lord Garlies is to be married in about a fortnight to Lady Charlotte Greville, third daughter to Lord Warwick. How he got into the nursery still remains a secret. Some say the nursery maid took him for a little master and carried him up stairs to dress the dolls. Others say that he went to visit my lady with Collonel Clark, and that they contrived to send him to see Miss get her lesson for her minuet, being a little bit of a dancing-master himself. For my part I think it of no consequence to the publick how it came about. But I shall tell you his own story which he affirmed to me last night—that he has been in love with her more than two years. Oh love! being little

company and no amusement. This serves for conversation; and I died to tell you of it, though I am but just come from Kew, and the post hurrying round the square. Adieu, my dear, and believe me ever yours,

J. E.

Cavendish Square, July 24, 1762.

292. (8) Declaring her affection for the Countess. 8th August 1762.

MIA CARA,—Will you forgive me for being very foolish, but upon my word I believe I'm in love with you, for I can no more resist the inclination I have to write to you to-night than a lover can resist writing to his mistress, when he says nothing but what he has said a hundred times, and that is exactly my case. I have nothing more to say than that your a most excellent creature, that there are very few such, and that I really do love you, and I hope I have your husband's permission. Strange things have come to pass within this short time,—disposing emperors, etc. Is it not a most surprising event? Let all husbands learn for the future to treat their wives with proper respect. I'm not fond of making my epistles in the stile of newspapers, unless it is a chronique scandaleuse, and therefore I leave it to newspapers to assign causes for the Russian revolution and foreign affairs whilst I return to domestick occurrences. I have had no interesting affairs of my own this summer, which, perhaps, makes me more conversant in other peoples, as you shall judge by the sequel. There has been nobody in town. I have no flirtations, nobody to make love to me. In short it is very dull. Lord Charles Spencer is said to be enamoured of Miss Beauclerk; and if I have any skill in these matters, Miss Beauclerk is not less so with his lordship. It appears to be quite a mutual passion, a pair of candles that burn equally, or what you please to call it. Hang the post. If it was not for the tinkle tinkle of its nasty bell I could make similes by the hour. But it makes such a noise that I must return to a subject which no noise can put [out] of mind, nor no stillness make fall asleep, and that is to assure my dear Lady Sutherland that I ever am, with the greatest sincerity, her affectionate

J. E.

Cavendish Square, August 8th, 1762.

N.B.—Sir Harry does not so much as send his compliments to you. [Another hand, apparently that of Sir Harry, here adds: "I only declined writing a post-script because the lady had not left me room. Pray are all you ladies of the north to dethrone your husbands?"]

293. (9) The illness of General St. Clair, and a visit by Sir Harry Erskine and her to him.

Dysart, September 2d, 1762.

I CAN'T help figuring to myself how astonished you would be at hearing of our arrival here. Our resolutions were sudden and speedily execute, and we had the pleasure to find the General much better than we had any reason to expect. He has not had any violent attack since we came here, and if he continues well, Sir Harry proposes returning again in about ten days hence. I cannot pretend to say that the same strain of vivacity will flow *from my pen* as usual, as we are by no means a pleasant set of companions. However, I have retired to my room to indulge myself in a little bit of a laugh with my lord and you. I'm quite charmed with Mrs. St. Clairs behaviour at present, and if it was not for her I should die of the spleen. Miss Paterson is as meek as any old sinner, and so civil; her and I are mighty good friends. But if you was [to] take the essence of the whole party I believe, pottatoo like, there would be no spirit to extract. I shall be at Edinburgh next week, and as it is the race week, I intend to indulge my curiosity at an assembly. What would I give for to have you there; I must lay by my remarks in store for you. If I was to venture to say a word to any body there I should certainly be assassinate. You can't imagine how strange every place appears to me. I have not seen the face of any creature that I was accustomed to see but Miss St. Clair and Mrs. Fall.

Sir Harry and I received each a letter from Dunrobbin to-day. We were much obliged by them, and in case Sir Harry should not have time to write this post, I take it upon me to thank Lord Sutherland both in his name and my own for the friendly kind intension of his letter. I believe nothing in the world could persuade Sir Harry to mention so delicate a subject as that of the settlements to the General; and I'm much persuaded any alterations he makes will be of no consequence to us, especially as his first settlement was not owing to any prejudice to Sir Harry but from opinion. Sir Harry's conduct ever was and ever will be affectionate and attentive to the General, and our family must provide for themselves, and every thing must take its course in this life. Many thanks for your inquiries after James; he is very well. All the marriages you saw in the newspapers were true except Lord Huntingtons. Lady Harriet Bentincks is likely, but I don't imagine it is yet agreed on. Adieu, my very dear comtesse, yours, J. E.

294. (10) About her own bereavement. 24th September 1765.

IN every situation of life it must be pleasing to me to be remembered by my dear Lady Sutherland. But I should have been very unwilling to have broke in upon your happiness for a moment by calling to your mind a very miserable object, if I had not been induced (by your kind letter to Nannie) to tell you that I am in every respect better than could have been expected. If it was consistent with the principles of a Christian, I should be tempted to say better than I wished. I bless God that under all my trials I have preserved my reason, and I hope to be able to have a proper resignation to the will of God. I am perfectly persuaded that I was very deserving of the chastisements that Heaven has thought proper to inflict, for I was very much attached to life and to the things of this world, but it is difficult, my dear Lady Sutherland, to be otherwise, and be so entirely happy as my life was. You saw more of my domestic happiness than anybody did, and will more easily conceive my present distress. I do assure you I take every proper and possible means to support my spirits from sinking, being perfectly sensible that I have a double duty to do to my infants, particularly to the poor unhappy girl, who I may justly say has been born to misfortunes. I need not tell you how much I long to hear from you. I often think of you, and always wish that the years which has been taken from my happiness may be added to yours by a long continuance of your present state.

Assure Lord Sutherland of my regard for him, and believe me, affectionately
yours,

J. ERSKINE.

London, September 24th, 1765.

295. (11) Her condition consequent upon the death of her husband,
Sir Harry Erskine.

London, November 1st, 1765.

I HAVE been longer of writing to you, my dear Lady Sutherland, than I intended; not from any illness, but from an unwillingness of distressing you, as I cannot with truth say that I am as yet in the least reconciled to my unhappy situation, tho' my outward appearance is very tranquil. I should sometimes be apt to think that I am void of all feeling, from having been able to bear the

misfortunes that have been laid on me, if my unhappiness did not teach me the contrary. My mind for a little time was totally unactive; it is now become restless, and I tire of every place, and wish to change the scene, but I have never attempted to do it. Forgive me for oppressing you. It was not the intention of my letter, for it was meant solely for your use. When for a moment I can draw my thoughts from myself they naturally turn to you, for two reasons, because I really am attached, and because I think you the only person who had as large a share of domestic happiness as I had. I wish anxiously for a longer continuance of it to you, and that leads me often to think that as Lord Sutherland is at a time of life when the constitution may easily be made better, I cannot help feeling a desire to entreat you not to let any motive in the world make you trifle with his disposition to gout. I am now convinced that where it is in the constitution it is a most dangerous thing to let lurk, as it assumes so many different appearances, and that it is always to be wished to have regular fits, and I believe Bath is the properest place. This idea naturally must distress me, as it was the only remedy left untried, and I believe it the only effectual one. However, the decrees of Heaven are not to [be] murmured at. May Heaven of its infinite goodness teach me to submit. I shall remain here all winter. What I am to do afterwards I cannot at present pretend to guess; but I shall always acquaint you from time to time of my resolutions, or of whatever happens to my children. The little folks thrive charmingly.

The death of his royal highness the Duke of C[umberland] is supposed to be a great event. I have not sufficient intercourse with the world to tell you any political news. But if at any time I can inform you of what is for your interest to know, I will not fail, as there is nobody's in whom I am more sincerely interested. Adieu.

J. E.

296. (12) Condoling with the Countess on the death of her daughter,
Lady Catherine. 18th January 1766.

MY DEAR LADY SUTHERLAND,—It is impossible for any heart to feel more sincerely for you in your present affliction than I do. But as I am a living instance of how much it is possible for human nature to bear, I am led to hope that you will, with a proper resignation, submit to the decrees of Providence. This

is perhaps the first thing your heart ever felt that deserves the name of sorrow, (I pray God it may be the last), and you will probably think it of the severest sort. I confess it is bad enough, but I hope you will not think me unfeeling of your misfortune if I say, that whilst it pleases heaven to preserve Lord Sutherland you still have uncommon share of happiness. It is no small satisfaction to me to learn that you are possess'd of so much fortitude. It is a quality that is attended with many advantages, but I know you have what is the greatest support in distress, which is an entire reliance on the goodness of God, and a thorough conviction that afflictions here are necessary towards attaining joy and felicity hereafter. I have often regretted from selfish principles the distance between us this winter. I now regret it entirely on your account. But I pray and intreat you not to pursue your scheme of remaining in the country this winter, as I think a little more society will prove necessary to both you and Lord Sutherland, and the journey will perhaps be of service to his health, and you will receive some satisfaction in being at Edinburgh with Lady Elizabeth. I will not at present trouble you with any more than to assure you that I ever am, yours affectionately,

J. ERSKINE.

London, January 18th, 1766.

To the Countess of Sutherland.

297. (13) Her anxiety about the health of the Countess and her husband.
25th January 1766.

I HAVE delayed writing to you again, my dear Lady Sutherland, for some days, being sensible how unfit a correspondant I am for one in distress, as the natural disposition of my mind at present would rather lead me to gloomy subjects. I have heard it observed that nothing so soon reconciles the mind to its miseries as a comparison with others. I cannot quite say that I have found this to be true, because I find few states so bad and fewer worse than my own. But allow me to say that I think that cannot be said to be your case, and therefore I offer myself as a fit object of contemplation to you; at the same time hoping that your reason and goodness has been of more use to you than any thing. My anxiety about your health and Lord Sutherland's would lead me to be very particular in my enquiries and even in my advices. But if I tease you too much I should disgust

you with my letters, when I would only wish to amuse you. However, there is one thing I must beg to know, whether you adhere to your resolution of remaining in the country, or if you propose going to Edinburgh. I need not tell you what a pleasure it is to me to hear from you, but it would be a double satisfaction to me at present, and perhaps you by degrees find any employment of use to you. I beg to be remembered by Lord Sutherland and Captain Sutherland; and ever am, my dear lady Sutherlands most affectionate

J. ERSKINE.

London, January 25th, 1766.

To the Countess of Sutherland.

298. WILLIAM, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to his Countess, stating that he is proceeding to Rosehall.

Lairg, 6 o'clock.

MY OWN MOLL,—I am just going for Rosehall. Its a fine morning. I had a charming ride yesterday, and I hope the weather will be good. Do you ever think of me as I do of you? You are always uppermost in my thoughts. God bless you. Don't be uneasy if I come not home till Sunday. I always am what I ever shall be, my dear Marys most affectionate slave,

Wm Sutherland

Best compliments to your sister-widow. Is the Doctor busy with the brackans, etc.?

To the Countess of Sutherland, Dunrobin.

299. MARY, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to [no address],—intimating the death of her stepfather, Sir Charles Erskine of Alva.

Milns Square, April 7th, [1763].

BEFORE this will reach you, you will have heard that my good worthy father is no more. I came to town yesterday morning before eight o'clock and found my mother and this family as composed as I could expect after such a misfortune, for which I myself feel a great deal. I had your letter and am glad to find you find

so much time to jaunt about London, and hope they will always turn out agreeable to you. I am pretty well in my health, and am always, with great affection,
yours,
M. SUTH^r.

300. MARGARET, COUNTESS OF MORAY, to MARY, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND,
—giving news about Lady Doune, Lady Erskine, and others.

DEAR MARY,—I know Skelpoh will be half in the pett at his own fatt aunty; but as I heard frequently of you all and had nothing entertaining to say to you I even delayd from day to day till I am half ashamed of myself. For tho I don't trouble myself with writing to such far away folks as you, yet I am pretty well satisfied with a little correspondance I hold some times with good Lady Alva. As to our family here, we are just in the way you left us in. I can not say the earl is either better or worse; but I am afraid the bad weather and confinement may be severe on him. However, he still keeps up his spirits, and gives us our scolds at the cards duely. We have had our house as full as it could hold, and sometimes fuller, for some weeks past—the Aberdours and Selkirk and his family. The girls are pretty, but not so fair as Catherine, who I am glad to hear is turned quit a composed, discreet woman. I hear manny praises of your black beauty over the watter. As I could not see her myself I sent one of my trustie secretaries to pay my compliments to her little ladyship, and to bring me a particuler discription of her, which she did most agreeably to me, and says she is thriveing charminglie. My two young ones here ar delightfull little creatures, and are great part of our amusement. Doune and his wife are in town. She intended being north but some complaint in her stomack confined her for three weeks, and by that time the season for a ladys travailing was over. Doune intends still to be at Darnway, but for so short a time and so much bussiness that I'm afraid he wont have time to go your lenth, which he woud wish to do if he could. I think you have a chance of meeting in summer, as Lady Doune is determind to be north in the spring, and I hope you will both come south for the winter. I rejoice to hear that you both agree so well with your country retirement, and that the earl has had no vissitations of the gout. Poor Jamie Wemyss has been ill of it and is not yet recoverd, but he is better than he was some time ago. Bess and the weans are vastly well, but I never hear a word from her but when I send on purpose,

and then she is forced to give me a little scrawl. She has the familie distemper of dislike to writing as much as I have, and none need have it more.

I have never had the courage yet to writ to Lady Erskine, tho I am conceiv I should do it. Poor soul, she has recoverd vastly well, and her little daughter is very thriving, and the two boys doing well. What a sad loss we made in the death of that worthy man. I dont know yet in what situation her and the children are left, but I am afraid but in a poor one. I had the pleasure to see her brother Sandy here for a day. He says she bears her misfortune with great propriety. He promisd me another visitt before he leaves Scotland. I shall then enquire particulerlie about her and let you know. I have not writ netheir to Mrs. St. Clair, so you may giuss I'll be pretty much at the horn. But, indeed, I writ to nobody. Since writing this far Lady Doune is come home from her scampers, and tells me she begins a new one on Monday, for she setts out with her lord and Lord Gray for Daraway for a fortnight only. I wish I had her safe back again, for its realy to late in the year for such a frolick. But shes willfull and has just fixd her fancy on it. I will not venture to turn this leave, so will bid my dear Mary adieu. Every body here joins me in blissings and good wishes to you, and Skelpoock, and Catherine. Its not a week since I heard from Bessy, but since that I find she has been ill *as usual*, but after it was over she sleepd well last night, and is quit composed, and has no feverishness nor head-ack. So I hope her recoverie will be speedy.

To Countess Mary.

301. MARY, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to MARTHA, COUNTESS OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE,—thanking her for her sympathy, and about Lord Sutherland's illness.

Dunrobin, January 31st, 1766.

MY DEAR LADY ELGIN,—I never doubted of our having yours and Lord Elgins sincere sympathy in the affliction which we lately suffer'd, and nothing have I met with so comfortable as the assistance your good letter gave me to support myself under it. It has pleased God to support me under the first trial I ever met with, and in all its circumstances a sudden and very severe one; and I have the more reason to be thankfull for it that I have since had much to suffer on

my lords account, who, tho very resign'd to the will of God, has found this sudden check very severe upon his delicate constitution. The gout from not fixing gave me a very great alarm, and indeed he himself was under very great apprehension for some days, and the dread of the greatest of all misfortunes has almost reconcil'd me to what was my duty, tho a difficult one to submit to without repining. I bless God he is now pretty well, is just now out in the chais with the doctor. We propos, so soon as he is able to travel, to go to Bath, but when that may be we cannot guess. This is the first time I have attempted writing, except to my mother, which you would readily forgive if you knew the distress we have all been in till within thess very few days, which will likeways excuss to you the confusion and hurry I now write in, as we are now busy settling our affairs here to be able to get away when the weather and my lords health will admit of it. My lord has not been able to answer Lord Elgins very friendly letter. We were much the better for them both. In all situations of my mind I am ever, my dear Lady Elgin, with esteem and affection, yours,

M. SMITH.

302. WILLIAM, SEVENTEENTH EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to the Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss,—life at Bath.¹

Bath, 22d April [1766].

DEAR JAMES,—I now give up all thoughts of seeing you att Bath, which I own is a disapointment to us, but we must be satisfied with our fate.

I drink most regularly the waters. I am very well, and no signs of gout whatever. We shall continue here some weeks, and then go to London. You have all the news, I make no doubt, better than I have here. Sir Lawrence and Masterton are here. Long goes for Scotland soon, and I make no doubt will see you in his way to Clackmannan to gett health for next winter. My sister mentions in her letter that my aunts were more compos'd than formerly. I don't find it. They propose a submission which I had the offer of att the beginning, and wou'd not accept of. Shou'd I give up one thousand when I shou'd have two, besides the shameful way the last settlement was made. I hate lawsuits, particularly with my relations, but shall continue in this unless my friends convince me to the contrary. I don't think we have much good company here att

¹ Original letter at Wemyss Castle.

present, and one week shews the amusements of the next. I beieve their's plenty of thieves, but I don't play to lose any sunn. I have given up that, with many other follis,—at least I hope so. Lord Cassilss, Hopton, and many Scotch are here, nott forgetting Frank Napier, who begs to be remember'd to you. My love to Bess, etc., and I am, dear James, your most obedient and affectionate,

SUTHERLAND.

303. MARY MAXWELL, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to THE SAME,—
Lord Sutherland ill with fever.¹

Bath, May 10th, 1766.

DEAR MR. WEMYSS,—My lord continues to have more favourable symptoms in his disease, but his fever has not had a crisis, so the event must be very uncertain. I this day begin to indulge a little hope, but this with caution. Lord Hopetoun, who, with his family, have shewn great friendship to me, would inform you of the great danger my lord has been in, and I hope you will not be surpris'd at my not writing you, when I tell you that these sixteen nights past I have not had my cloaths off, and have never been able to leave his bedside. He has had a dreadful fever, and I'm afraid his delicate constitution will not stand, tho' the worst symptom begin to leave him. Dr. Sutherland was to write you, but I have great reason to think he would not tell you the worst of it, as he has from the beginning endeavour'd to deceive himself and others. You may believe I have had the best physicians in Bath, and sent to London for Fordyce, who could not stay long with us. I write to you, as I'm afraid poor Lady Betty will be much hurt, and perhaps surpris'd to learn the way her brother is in. He is quite sensible at present; for some days he was quite delirious. He just now gets the bark in great quantities, which is a proof that they think the fever abated. I write by fire light, so hope you will be able to read this from your affectionate humble servant,

M. SUTH^r.

¹ Original letter at Wemyss Castle.

304. JOHN MACKENZIE of Delvine, W.S., Edinburgh, to DUGALD GILCHRIST, factor at Dunrobin,—instructing him as to the arrangements for the funeral of the Countess of Sutherland. 7th June 1766.

DEAR DUGALL,—Sandy McKenzie acquainted you last post in two lines of the first part of this dismal tragedy in the family of Sutherland, the death of the amiable Lady Sutherland on Sunday morning which was brought me by express. She fell a sacrifice to the duty and affection of a devoted wife, for tho' infected with my lords fever she would never leave him till she was too far exhausted to recover.

Her fate is now irrevocable. Her memory must live while any lives who knew her, and respect must be paid to her corpse by a decent interment in the family isle at Dornoch. For this purpose undertakers bring the body here, and I propose ingaging others to carry it to the Meikle Ferry, where you will have proper persons convey'd (as you will be hereafter apprys'd of the day) and attending to carry it to Cyderhall, there to be lodgd for some days till you can have things prepar'd and a proper company of the best friends and gentlemen convey'd for the interment, which may be put over in the forenoon, and the company decently entertain'd afterwards either at Dornoch or Dunrobin as is judgd most convenient and suitable. These are the outlines of the plan as sett'd at a meeting with Mr. George McKay, Sir James Colquhoun, and Ulbster, subject to such amendments as may be judg'd necessary nearer the place of execution.

You will therefore take the aid of Sir John Gordon, Caroll, or any other gentlemen in the country and [se]tle what preliminaries necessary may have escapt us, and step [ov]r one or more of you to Balnagowan and get Captain Ross's opinion on the propriety of any circumstance you doubt of, who is too generous, and has too much regard both for my lord and the memory of the deserving lady, to decline giving his advice, as it is every bodys wish that this ceremony should be gone throw with all proper decency; and if buriall letters are necessary, it cannot be improper that the present worthy representative of a family that liv'd in such neighbourly habites with my lords should subscribe them, especially when Lord Reay and his uncles may be all at a distance. In short we here cannot judge in such a matter half so well as gentlemen on the spot. I shall take care that an eskucheon go along with the hearse. You will have, so far as we can judge, three or four weeks to prepare matters, and the form of interment

and entertainment is most of what you have to concert. You will hear from Alexander McK[enzie] or me as oft as anytling new occurs to us.

On Sunday, when the express came off, my lord was in a good way and pretty free of fever, but he knew nothing of this sad event of which we greatly dread the dismal effect in his present weakly situation.

The whole scene is so moving that I write under very great confusion as well as concern, but your prudence will supply it. I continue, dear Dugald, yours,
etc.,
Jo. MACKENZIE.

Edinburgh, 7 June 1766.

To Mr. Dugall Gilchrist at Dunrobin, by Dornoch.

305. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, W.S., Edinburgh, to DUGALD GILCHRIST, factor on Sutherland,—about the illness and expected death of the Earl of Sutherland. 18th June 1766.

DEAR SIR,—The inclosd is too dismal to need commentary.

In the forenoon I made out the inclosd memorandum by Mr. Mackenzie direction. But now you may suspend your operations, as I suppose next post will bring you the worst news that ever you got; and their coming down in one hearse is the most moving spectacle that ever was seen in this island. I continue ever yours,
ALEXR. MACKENZIE.

Edinburgh, 18th June 1766.

Donald Ross has paid the ballance of Lieutenant Gray's £60 draft.

To Mr. Gilchrist, Dunrobin, Dornoch.

(Enclosure.)

Copy—Colonel Mackay's letter to Mr. Mackenzie, 12 June 1766.

I think I wrote you a few lines last night, after which Lord Sutherland turnd much worse in my opinion, and continues so to-day that I can scarcely now see the least ground to hope for his recovery, and without some wonderful change I don't think he can hold it out till this time to-morrow. Nay, I won't be

surprizd if it is all over with him before night, for which reason I shall keep this open as long as the post hours will allow.

What a moving tragical scene this is altogether? to see such an affectionate couple cut off in the flower of life in the midst of every felicity and happiness that this world can reasonably afford. One is at a loss what to say or think.

Near 8 at night.—Appearances continue worse and worse. At present I don't think he can hold it out beyond this night. God grant I may be mistaken. But I fear I am not. No disorder ever had such various turns. Even this day, for an hour, he seem'd greatly better, which I believe was the last effort of nature.

NINETEEN LETTERS about the Sutherland Peerage Case addressed to the Honourable JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss, M.P., husband of Lady Elizabeth Sutherland, who was aunt of Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, the successful claimant of the Peerage, 1766-1771.¹

366. (1) From Captain JAMES SUTHERLAND of the 38th Regiment of Foot,—
Candidature of Colonel Scot,—Sir Robert Gordon.

Dunrobin, 2d September 1766.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote to you on Saturday last, and I hope the stile of my letter is as moderate as you wish it. In the name of wonder what does the Privy Seal mean? does he think people are fools? or that the unfortunate situation of this family condemns it to serve his? or the purposes of his syfocants? God forbid! The year 1715 and forty-five are still fresh in the memory of the people of this country, and the songs made on those occasions are handed down from father to son with as much care, if not more, than the poems of Fingal; and if you was to propose the son of a family who has been playing a game at cut throats with us for ages past, the people here would think you meant to sell the liberty of your country as well as the interest of this family. Acts of Parliament can take away our dress, etc., but the affections of the people to this family are not easily removed, except an Act is made to make it treason for singing the loyal songs in

¹ The original letters are at Wemyss Castle.

praise of the victorys the family of Sutherland have gain'd over the rebels. If such an Act was proposed, I make no doubt but the gratitude of Colonel Scot to this family would make him second the motion. I hope you will dispute every inch of ground with that gratefull gentleman. He may live to repent the opposition he gives you. I can assure you it will not strenthen his interest in this part of the world, and sorry am I that Lady Janet and he has come to a compromise. You are sure of your seat in Parliament, and I have no idea that the great people will go out of their way to offend a man who is independant of them; therefor, in your situation, you have reason to expect suport, and I make no doubt but you will get it if it is necessary, and you will drive Colonel Scot out of the field. . . .

It is two days since I return'd from the Highlands, and notwithstanding my fatigue, I have ever since been wandering in the charter-room. Sandy Mackenzie returns here in ten days from Caithness. My best wishes to Lady Betty; tell her my mind is very much at ease since yesterday. I found her grandmother's contract of marriage, and Earl John Roy has settled matters so, that was our worthy friend so unnatural as to hurt his children or sister, it was not in his power. There is one thing in that deed, that Earl John conveys the honours with the estate to the heirs-femal, and if the husband of the Countess do not take the name of Sutherland and arms of the family, the estate goes to the next in succession. This, I apprehend, will prove a fatal battery to the pretender. I am only afraid that Sir Robert will not try it, but leave it doubtfull, and watch for what may be lookt on as a more favourable oportunity. . . .

My best wishes to you, Lady Betty, and the lads, and I am, with the greatest esteem, dear Sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

307. (2) From THE SAME,—papers in the charter-room.

Dunrobin, 13th September 1766.

DEAR SIR,—Sandy Maekenzie has finish'd the charter-room, and I flatter myself that his searches will prove very usefull, as we have found papers far beyond our expectations. Lord Afflect [Auchinleck] wanted much that his son should be employed in looking over the family papers. I have a very good opinion of the abilitys of both the father and son, but I sincerely wish that neither of them nor

the Justice Clarke knew as little of the charters as possible, and I this day have given my mind freely to Delven on this subject. If Lord Hales or Sir Adam Ferguson could be prevail'd upon to pass their opinions on the papers we have collected, I should be very happy; therefor I think it is of great consequence to this family to interest any of those two gentlemen, and I think it is very necessary that you should take a trip to Edinburgh to see Delven, but take no notice of my having hinted this to you. I have mention'd to Delven that Sandy Mackenzie or I will bring the papers with us, or if it is necessary they will be sent by an express. Sir Robert has wrote to many people in the North begging to have all the intelligence they can give him about Adam Gordon, Earl of Sutherland, having granted any rights to them, and he complains to the tutors of the Countess puting him to all this trouble.

I offer my best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads, and I am, with the greatest esteem, dear Sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

308. (3) From THE SAME,—Sir Robert Gordon's claim.

Edinburgh, 16 November 1766.

DEAR SIR,—Sir Robert's agent has wrote a letter to Mr. Mackenzie at the desire of his council, demanding a review of our papers. Sandy Mackenzie has been this morning with our council; they are to meet to-morrow evening at Mr. Burnet's, and than to determin whither they will comply with this request. I can perceive by the tenor of Sir Robert's agent's letter to Mr. Mackenzie that they want to get the cry against us. I saw Sir Adam Ferguson, who thinks the enemy is not intitled to see any of our papers. Macqueen is engaged for Sir Robert, so we have retain'd Mr. Burnet and Mr. Weight, who are both very cliver men. I am inform'd that Lord Affieet has made out a short memorial of similar cases to this of the infant Countess, which will be of great service to us. The council for the infant are Sir Adam Ferguson, Messrs. Burnet, Weight, Boswel, Crosbie, William Mackenzie, and Alexander Gordon. My best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads, and I am, dear Sir, yours,

JA^s. SUTH^r.

309. (4) FROM THE SAME,—meeting at Lord Auchinleck's.

Edinburgh, 5th December 1766.

SANDY MACKENZIE told me that he was to acquaint you that last Saturday Lord Affleck had all the tutors to sup with him, and Delven and Sandy was of the party; they met at seven that evening and did not part till past one in the morning, and the conversation the whole time was on the affairs of the Countess. The Lord Justice Clarke and the other two Lords and Sir Adam Ferguson are clearly of opinion that Sir Robert Gordon can never succeed if he should attempt to trye for the titles. They agreed that Sir Robert should have a sight of any of the charters he would condescend upon, but befor that could be granted to him, he most prove his propinquity. They likewise thought it right that all the charters that are favourable for the infant ought to be registrate. Lord Justice Clarke declared the strongest attachment to the child, but as her affairs might come befor them, it would be hurting her interest if he was to accept, as he could not vote in her affairs. Lord Affleck seem'd to approve of that doctrine, but Lord Hales said he would accept, as he looks on it as a matter of conscience to fulfill the intentions of our departed friends. . . . Best wishes to Lady Betty and the lads.

JA^s. SUTH^r.

310. (5) FROM THE SAME,—Charter by King David the Second.

Edinburgh, 29th January 1767.

DEAR SIR,— . . . I suped with Mr. Burnet two nights ago, when he read over his searches into the titles of the family of Sutherland. He has collected with great pains and arraigned them in such a manner that it most appear to every disinterested person that the Countess titles are as certain as her estate, and a charter is discovered which plainly shows that as far back as King David the Second's time, they knew the distinction of heirs-male and heirs whatsoever, for the very same year that that king married his sister to William, Earl of Sutherland, and erected the earldom of Sutherland into a regality, he grants a charter to the said Earl, his brother-in-law, of a thanage in Aberdeenshire, to him and his heirs-male. Such a speciality as this clearly proves Countess Elizabeth's right to be Countess of Sutherland on her brother's death. Sir Robert Gordon is

changing his ground (as it's said), and means to prove that there was no Earl of Sutherland till after Adam Gordon married Countess Elizabeth; in short, he is groping in the dark, and I imagine he expects, either from the chapter of accedents or mismanagement, to make up pretensions. Pray write the letter I mention'd to you, and I am, dear sir, your affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

311. (6) From THE SAME,—meeting of counsel.

London, 20th March 1767.

DEAR SIR,—I would have wrote to you last night after I left Mr. York's chambers, but the infirmation in my eyes, from a sever cold I have had for some days past, was so great that I could not bear to look on paper. I am a good deal better this day, and I hope in a few days I shall be able to go abroad as usual.

The council that met last night were Mr. York, Sir Flecher Norton, Mr. Wederburn, and Mr. Forrester. Mr. Gordon, our soliciter, stated our case both for and against us in as strong a light as could be; and I most do the justice to Mr. Mackenzie that his attention brought them to explanations that was very essential for us to guard against; and the case of Cassells was peticularly pointed at, as that is the ground that Sir Robert has taken up. Was our proof more deficient then it really is, the council all agreed that upon the same principle of Cassells as our charters are to heirs general, that it makes for us.

All of them disaproves of making any stir for the infant till such time as she is attack'd, and all of them agree that it is the clearest case that ever was proposed to be brought befor the house of peers. They are to give a sign'd opinion this day or Munday, a copy of which will be sent to you.

We have got Sir Robert's pedigree of the Gordons, Earls of Sutherland, which is erroneous; and Mr. Davidson, who has been so much hackned in falshood and impertinence in his Hamilton against the Douglas, that he thinks he may say whatever his raskally purposes points out without being taken notice of. I am well informd that Sir Robert is to petition the king, and our petition is preparing to defend ourselves, as Countess of Sutherland, and I am not sorry that we are to be attack'd; but I am informd that it will not get a hearing this session, because it will take many weeks to produce the proper evidences; and I find it is resolved to put the enemy to every expence possible.

I am now to tell you that I divested myself of every sort of partiality when I met those gentlemen last night; and from the arguments they used both for and against the countess' titles, I am perfectly satisfied of the justness of our cause, and the little danger there is of our losing them, if Sir Robert should insist to try it. I am now anxious about Lady Betty. Pray let me hear from you, as many of your friends here enquire dayly at me about her. My best wishes attend you all; and I am, with great esteem, my dear sir, your most obliged and affectionate humble servant,

JAMES SUTHERLAND.

P.S.—The people here pay great compliments to Lord Montbodo for his Incubérations on our affairs. Mr. Mackenzie and I think of speaking to the Duke of Atholl, and if His Grace approves, we intend to buy a peice of plate for Lord Montbodo. I hope this will meet with your approbation.¹

312. (7) From ALEXANDER BOSWELL, LORD AUCHINLECK,—petition for delay.

Edinburgh, 14th March 1770.

DEAR SIR,—I am just now come from a meeting of Lady Sutherland's tutors, who are now in town. We were astonished at the accounts sent us by you and Mr. Gordon, of an intention to have that very interesting cause of the peerage tried without allowing us an opportunity to disprove the many new averments in Sir Robert Gordon's Case. We hope there is some mistake in this matter, for it does not seem possible that any court wou'd proceed to try a cause which is properly a cause in fact, as it depends entirely on the usage of Scotland in antient times, without giving the parties an opportunity to ascertain the facts. We came to the resolution of directly sending up a petition to the House of Lords, praying a delay on these grounds, which appear unanswerable. It is to be subscribed by Lord Hailes, Sir Adam Fergusson, Mr. John Mackenzie, and your humble servant, all the tutors now in town, and goes by express to morrow. Meantime Sir Adam is preparing for his journey, half prepared as he is with materials, altho' I am hopefull the matter will be put off, and, if so, we shall be able to satisfy the House of Lords that Sir Robert's new averments are as palpable misrepresentations as those he threw out in his first Case, which, on seeing our Case,

¹ The piece of silver plate is still at Monboddo.

he was forced to abandon. I have nothing further to add but to beg you may take the trouble to forward the enclosed to Sir John Pringle. I am, with great regard, dear sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ALEXR. BOSWEL.

313. (8) From ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, Writer to the Signet, agent for the Countess of Sutherland,—Lord Hailes to prepare the draft of the Additional Case.

Edinburgh, 7th May 1770.

SIR,—Since Sir Adam Ferguson came from London, Lord Hailes, he, and I have been considering the plan of the Additional Case for the Countess of Sutherland.

Lord Hailes agreed to prepare the first draught of it upon my furnishing him with remarks on the facts set furth in Sir Robert Gordon's Supplemental Case. These remarks I have now completed, being above 100 pages, which I am to lay before Lord Hailes tomorrow. But as Sir Adam desir'd to be furnisht with a copy of my remarks, and to send them to him to Kilkerran, I am to send him them by first post on your returning me the inclos'd covers, address't to him, to inclose them. His address is "To Sir Adam Fergusson of Kilkerran, Bart., by Maybole."

I have no doubt but every man of candor will be satisfied from reading our Additional Case that there was just reason for our application to check the many gross willfull misrepresentations in Sir Robert's Case; and I trust to the justice of our cause for a fair and attentive hearing. . . .

314. (9) From THE SAME,—Lord Hailes preparing the Case.

Edinburgh, 18 June 1770.

. . . Lord Hailes is bussy preparing the Additional Case, and Sir Adam Fergusson writes that he will be in town the end of this week. Yesterday I had the honour of a visit of Lady Alva, who told me that the little countess was in perfect health. She told me also that the Dukes of Buccleugh and Montague have engaged to attend the hearing of the peirage, and have read the Cases for that purpose. . . .

315. (10) From THE SAME,—Additional Case by Lord Hailes.

Edinburgh, 22 August 1770.

SIR,— . . . Meantime I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Lord Hailes has very near finish'd the Additional Case for the countess, which is a work of very great learning and accuracy, and proves the many false assertions in Sir Robert Gordon's last Case. His lordship directs that it shall be printed here under his own eye, and I have already given the printers a specimen of it, agreeable to Lord Hailes's directions. We expect Mr. Solicitor Gordon will come in to town (as he is now in Clydesdale) to assist in revising the Case, and Lord Hailes is to carry it with him to Kilkerran, where he goes (after it's finish'd) and get it revis'd and consider'd by Sir Adam Fergusson.

The countess is in perfect health. I had the honour of dining with her this day at Lady Alva's. . . .

316. (11) From THE SAME,—Mr. Gordon to go to London.

Edinburgh, 23 October 1770.

SIR,—In consequence of a card from Mr. Anderson, I write this to acquaint you that the Countess of Sutherland's new Case is now in very great forwardness. Lord Hailes has finish'd the draught of it to a very few pages, and it is mostly revis'd by Sir Adam Fergusson, after which it is sent to the press, so that there are now upwards of 60 pages of it printed in large 4to, and I hope that next week it will be all printed and ready to be distributed, and, for the sake of dispatch, it is sent to Sir Robert Gordon's agent here by sheets, as it comes thrown off from the press. At first sight it will be thought long, but after reading, I'm persuaded it will not be thought so, as the many misrepresentations of fact and argument contain'd in Sir Robert's Supplemental Case render'd it necessary to explain and state the facts fully, in order to be sufficiently understood. Mr. Gordon, the solicitor, agrees to go to London to attend it, but he desires to know the terms upon which he goes before he sets out. Mr. Mackenzie thinks he should have a certain sum in case we lose, and so much more in case we prevail, so as to be a spur to his attention and diligence. Mr. Gordon has been wrote to to this purpose, and his answer is expected this week. When it comes you shall be acquainted. . . . I very respectfully am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ALEXR. MACKENZIE.

317. (12) From THE SAME,—consultation at New Hailes, etc.

Edinburgh, 6th November 1770.

SIR,—On Thursday last Mr. Gordon, solicitor, came to town to revise the Case, and concert our plan of operation. After revising the whole Case in manuscript (which was completed by Lord Hailes last week), he and I went out to New Hailes and conversed over it with his lordship.

Mr. Gordon is exceedingly well pleased with the Case, and thinks we have brought clear evidence to confute Sir Robert Gordon's Supplemental Case, and has great hopes from it. Tho' long and full, Mr. Gordon thinks it the more proper, as it explains the whole case so clearly that every other Peer, as well as Lord Mansfield, will be able to be master of it and understand it, which they might not do was the Case shorter. Mr. Gordon has wrote Mr. Wedderburn of his having revis'd and approv'd of it, so as Mr. Wedderburn may allow his name to be put to it, without his own revisal, along with Sir Adam Ferguson's. He has also wrote Mr. Spottiswood to attend the Bar, and acquaint Mr. Wedderburn, in case any motion is made by Sir Robert Gordon for the hearing, and that they may get the 20th of January, or any other day the House pleases to fix after the Christmas holydays, so as to give time to the judges and lawiers to consider the case before the hearing. He also desir'd Mr. Spottiswood to wait on Lord Mansfield, and explain to him the cause of the Cases not being lodged on the first of September, viz., that Lord Hailes, who draws it, was one of the judges of the Court of Session, and so cou'd not get it sooner done, and that Sir Robert's agent here got it sheet by sheet as fast as it came from the press. I have this night sent Mr. Spottiswoode (by Colonel Munro) all that's printed of the Case, being about 140 p. in 4to, and told him that I wou'd send him the rest by post as fast as it's printed. On Thursday I'm to send Mr. Wedderburn by post all that's printed. And I gave the Duke of Athol, in his way here to London, all that was then printed, so as that he might be prepar'd. I hope the whole will be finish'd in 4 or 5 days as I keep the printers close working even at by-hours to dispatch it. . . . Mr. Gordon promises to sett out for London as soon as the day for the hearing is fixt.

318. (13) From THE SAME,—the hearing of the cause, etc.

Edinburgh, 20 November 1770.

. . . ON Saturday morning I dispatch per express for London a large cloagbag full of the little countess's new Case, and have since sent about 400 copies more by sea and land. Mr. Spottiswood writes me that, after advising with the Duke of Athol, he and Sir Robert Gordon's solicitor were to fix on the 20th of January or thereabout for the hearing of the cause, in case the house wou'd agree to that time, which it is^d probable they will. . . .

Every person who has seen the Case is highly pleas'd with it. I've given Mr. Anderson a copy to be forwarded to you per first opportunity, and you may have more copies if you desire them. There is a vast demand here for them. Sir Adam Fergusson is come to town, and preparing for his appearance. . . .

319. (14) From THE SAME,—the Case distributed among the Peers.

Edinburgh, 27 November 1770.

MR. SPOTTISWOOD writes me of his having received the copies of the Additional Case per express, and of their being immediately distributed among the Peers most likely to read them, particularly Lords Mansfield, Cambden, Marchmont, Littleton, Dartmouth, and many others. . . . All the lawiers and others who have read it [the Case] here are convinced and delighted with it as a most valuable treatise on the subject. I hope it will have the same effect in London. There are now 700 copies sent thither, and the 300 I kept will scarce answer the vast demand made for it here. . . .

320. (15) From THE SAME,—petition for hearing of the cause.

Edinburgh, 5 December 1770.

. . . IMMEDIATELY on receipt of your letter of 28 November I put up two of Lady Sutherland's Additional Cases and sent them to Mr. Anderson, to be forwarded to you per first opportunity, which it seems did not offer till this day, when I got them back from Mr. Anderson's, and delivered them to your carrier in consequence of your card.

We must be the more sparing of them [copies of the Additional Case] that 120 copies which were sent in Beatson's ship are lost; however, there will be fully sufficient to answer every purpose.

Last week I sent orders to Mr. Spottiswood (after advising with all the tutors here) to present a petition for the countess to appoint a day for the hearing, in case it had not been fixt before receipt of my letter. Sir Robert Gordon's agent here told me that he had sent instructions to Sir Robert's solicitor to apply for the hearing, so that I've no doubt of its coming on in January or the very beginning of February, which the Duke of Athol writes to Delvin. Our new Case has convinced all the readers of it here, so that we have the general voice of our side, if that is of any consequence.

I have a letter this instant from Spottiswood, that by the Duke of Athol's opinion he was to make a motion in behalf of the countess to have a day fixt for the hearing after 20 January, so that in a post or two I'll expect to hear that the day is accordingly fixt. . . .

321. (16) From THE SAME,—meeting of Lady Sutherland's tutors.

Edinburgh, 10 December 1770.

SIR,—This day, on receipt of your letter of the 9th, I waited on Lords Auchinleck and Hailes, and Sir Adam Fergusson, who have all agreed to defer the meeting on Lady Sutherland's affairs till Tuesday the 18th, when you propose being here, however, in your way to London. Sir Adam Fergusson had also engaged company to dine with him on Friday, which made it inconvenient for him to attend, so that I hope Tuesday will answer all concern'd. I have wrote Lord Elgin for the 3d time to acquaint him of the day now fixt.

I look this evening for a letter from London, advising that the day is fixt for the hearing, but the post is not come when I write this. . . .

322. (17) From THE SAME,—petition to fix a day for hearing the cause.

Edinburgh, 11 December 1770.

SIR,—Mr. Spottiswood writes me that, in consequence of what I wrote him by order of the tutors here, and the Duke of Athol's opinion, he was to present a petition in name of the countess praying to have a day fixt for the hearing, and

that he was to notify this to the agents for Sir Robert Gordon and Forss, so as the petition might be mov'd on Monday the 10th (yesterday), the result of which we can't know before Friday or Saturday. Sir Robert's agent said he wou'd agree to the hearing coming on the 4th of February, but its better to have it fixt by an order of the House. Mr. Gordon, our solicitor, is now here, and proposes setting out for London, Saturday or Sunday next. . . .

323. (18) ALEXANDER MACKENZIE to the HON. JAMES WEMYSS,—report of Sir Robert Gordon's death.

Edinburgh, 25 January 1771.

. . . I propose setting out on Sunday. Meantime I inclose a letter which falls as properly to be address'd to you as any other contradicting the report of Sir Robert Gordon's death. His son told me at same time that he did not imagine the hearing wou'd come on upon the day appointed, but that it wou'd be delay'd for a week or two. By his staying here so long he certainly relies upon a delay. . . .

324. (19) ALEXANDER BOSWELL, LORD AUCHINLECK, to THE SAME,—congratulations on the success of the Countess.

Auchinleck, 21 May 1771.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your very obliging letter. I always thought our young pupil's title to be Countess of Sutherland was quite clear, and yet I confess that her prevailing to have it ascertain'd gave me very great joy, for, as different men have different sentiments in matters of law, I was not without fears. God be thanked it is now over. It wou'd [have] been a shocking thing had the honours been separated from the estate, and that part of the estate which was purchased by my good freind, Lady Strathnaver, in the event of the young lady's death without children, go away to a stranger. Every body rejoices in the young lady's success, and, I may say further, in the knight's disappointment. My wife begs me to present her most respectfull compliments to Lady Betty Weemyss, in which I must humbly join mine. We all bemoan the loss of worthy Lord Elgin.—I ever am, my dear sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ALEXR. BOSWELL.

325. The Hon. JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss to WILLIAM SUTHERLAND,—asking his vote for his son, Colonel William Wemyss, in connection with the representation of Sutherlandshire. 23d March 1784.

DEAR SIR,—Parliament is to be dissolved in a few days, when I mean to retire, being heartily tired of the fluctuations attending that bustling life. I beg leave to return you my most grateful thanks for your kind support on all occasions while I had the honour of representing the county, and to solicit the favour of your vote and interest for my son, late colonel of the Fencible regiment. I do it with the approbation and consent of the friends of the family of Sutherland; and my son, whose heart and inclinations you have by your kindness to him fixed amongst you, will be much obliged to you for your good offices, and it will be a lasting obligation to, dear Sir, your most faithfull humble servant,

JAS. WEMYSS.

London, 23 March 1784.

William Sutherland, Esq., Sibbers Cross, Dornoch, N.F.

326. GEORGE GRANVILLE, EARL GOWER, to [JOHN FRASER, Esq.]—intimating the birth of a son.

Arlington Street, June 17th, 1801.

DEAR SIR,—I have great satisfaction in being able to inform you, and through you the rest of our friends in Sutherland, that Lady Sutherland was this morning delivered of a son, and that they are both in good health. The enclosed letter naturally leads one to think of Captain Dempster's situation. By the first accounts his friends were much alarmed for the safety of his ship; but I understand there is reason to hope that she has put back to Bombay.—I am, dear Sir, sincerely yours,

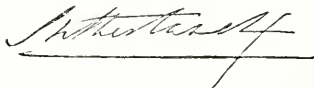


327. ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND, to [no address].—intimating the death of her father-in-law, Granville Leveson, first Marquis of Stafford.

Trentham, October 27, 1803.

DEAR SIR,—We arrived here yesterday, Lord Gower having been sent for by an express, his father being ill. On our arrival we found that the melancholy event of his death had already taken place, after a week's illness, at the age of 83. We shall remain here only a few days, so you will direct to London.

Lord Gower desires me to forward the letter from Mr. Yorke, and the proclamation, which is divided into two covers, and which you will have joined and pasted up upon the door of the church at Dornoch, in case any *aliens* should have had the good sense to take up their residence in your neighbourhood.—Adieu, dear Sir, ever yours,



328. WILLIAM WYNDHAM GRENVILLE, LORD GRENVILLE, to GEORGE, SECOND MARQUIS OF STAFFORD,—about the success of the Marquis at Newcastle.

Dropmore, May 14, 1807.

MY DEAR LORD,—I most sincerely rejoice with you in your success at Newcastle, and I trust that when the delusion of the moment is over (which already, indeed, seems to be dispersing fast), your interest there will again be re-established on that firm and secure basis on which it ought naturally to stand.

We have had but one contest in our county, that for Aylesbury, which has terminated entirely in our favour, and in a manner particularly satisfactory to Lord Buckingham, whose interest there has been shewn to be as predominant as I always thought it would be, when the first anger of the ten-pounds men, who lost their market by throwing the borough into the Hundreds, was over.

There have been some disappointments in the country elections, from the effects of this senseless clamour, but I am now pretty well able to calculate as far as England goes, and if we do equally well in Scotland and Ireland, we shall meet Parliament with a body of 200 decided friends.—Ever, my dear lord, most truly yours,

GRENVILLE.

329. HENRY WEBER to ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD,—acknowledging her gift received from Sir Walter Scott, etc.

Elinburgh, 1 July 1809.

MADAM,—For the very handsome present which I received by the hands of Mr. Walter Scott from your ladyship I beg leave to return my most grateful acknowledgements. Nothing shall be wanting on my part to render the genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland as correct as possible.

Being at present engaged in editing a collection of the principal English metrical romances, I am anxious to shelter these compositions of the old minstrels under the protection of a patroness who will not overlook their scattered beauties, and will judge kindly of their many imperfections. Should I obtain permission to dedicate them to your ladyship I should have a double incitement to render them worthy of your acceptance. I remain, your ladyship's most obliged and humble servant,

HENRY WEBER.

To the most noble the Marchioness of Stafford.

ELEVEN LETTERS from WALTER SCOTT, afterwards SIR WALTER SCOTT of Abbotsford, to ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD.

330. (1) Offering his grateful acknowledgments for her attention to himself and Mrs. Scott. 21st July 1809.

MADAM,—I have too long delay'd sending your ladyship Mr. Webers most respectful acknowledgements for the token of liberality with which I presented him upon your part. It was equally unexpected and acceptable, and I have no doubt will stimulate him to every possible exertion in behalf of the work. I have at length got safe in to this little corner, and begin to look back upon all the gaiety of the spring as a sort of dazzling and confused dream. But what I shall always remember as a pleasing reality is your ladyship's kind and flattering attention to Charlotte and myself, for which all we can offer is our grateful thanks and constant recollection. I have been daily with Colin Mackenzie since my return, and am happy to say I never saw him looking so well, not, at least, for

many years. I have just written a long letter to Lady Hood, whom I suppose Sir Samuel's departure will determine northwards, in which case I hope we may have the honour to see her at these goat-whey quarters as she passes.

Mrs. Scott joins in offering her most respectful compliments to your ladyship and the marquis, and I am ever, dear lady marchioness, your much obliged and truly respectful humble servant,

Ashstiel, Selkirk, 21 July 1809.

The most noble Lady Stafford.



331. (2) Regarding Lady Hood's intended stay in India. 11th September 1811.

My best thanks, my dear lady marchioness, attend your kind grant of my boon. The acorns, with the arrival of which you flatter me, will come most safely by any Leith vessell to the care of Messrs. Ballantyne and Company, booksellers, Edinburgh. I make it a rule to get as much work out of these gentlemen as I possibly can. I hope my little grove will so flourish as to deserve being honoured by the name of the distinguished donor.

I had a letter (a melancholy one) some time ago from dear Lady Hood. She is a real loss to her friends, for we shall hardly find such another mixture of enthusiasm with gaiety and good humour and unaffected simplicity. But it is quite right she should go out with Sir Samuel, and I think she will be better amused with her stay in India than she seems at present to anticipate. If it is not quite the money-making place it once was, our eastern empire is considerably improved in point of society, and I hope Lady Hood will find many (at least among the gentlemen, for I don't anticipate highly of Indian ladies) whose conversation will interest and amuse her. And then there is the novelty of the scene, with the change of manners and the mixture of eastern magnificence with European elegance, and the dignity of the situation which our friend will not dislike. In short, when the long and dull passage is once over, I trust she will find herself well disposed to relish her new and in some degree dreaded situation.

As for Bandello, he is such an entertaining fellow, and shews such an odd picture of life during the feudal ages in Italy, that to quarrel with him for the coarsness and polissonerie of his time would be like shunning a wild and romantic

walk for a few miry sloughs which may be stepped over as lightly as the passenger pleases. I beg your ladyship will not fail to read Webster's old play. If it were not treason to suppose that all that is rare and curious is to be found on the shelves at Cleveland House I would refer you to a late collection of old plays in 3 volumes, double columns, printed by Miller, Albemarle Street, in which it was inserted at my particular request. There is in it an odd and in some degree a terrific mixture of what is wild and extravagant with the simple, pathetic, and even childish turn of other places. I have not, I believe, a very good head for criticism, for it certainly is not *selon les règles* to be more affected by this sort of patch-work, than by regular scenes where every thing mean and trifling is completely excluded, and the mind visited by nothing but what is meant to be in unison with tragic feeling. I do not know whether it is the spirit of contradiction, or whether the very pains taken to render every thing uniform, which never actually occurs in nature, but I feel terribly inclined to be hard hearted in the latter case, whereas I often light upon passages in these old neglected dramatists which, from the very strange and unexpected manner in which they are introduced, make the very blood tingle. I have the first edition of *Bandello*, now a very rare book in 3 volumes quarto and one 12mo. It has a great number of prefaces, and I believe some tales which were abridged in the later editions, excepting one printed at London about 1760, which is complete. These prefaces often contain some thing relative to the tales, and when I go to Edinburgh I will look at that prefixed to the *Duchess of Amalphi*.

I beg your ladyship will have the goodness to make my most respectful compliments to the marquis, and am ever, your ladyship's honour'd and obliged humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Ashistiel, 11 September 1811.

332. (3) About the acorns sent him by her ladyship. 19th November 1811.

I HAVE the honor with many and respectful thanks to acknowledge the safe arrival of the future oaks with which Lady Stafford's goodness has gratified her unworthy friend. They are going today to Abbotsford, but I fear I must commit them to the lap of earth without the previous precaution of a nursery, as the place is but partially in my possession, and I have not had time to build a wall

or otherwise secure a piece of ground against hares, rabbits and vermin. The ground, however, where I am about to put them has been lately repeatedly plowd, so there can be but few mice at present there, and I hope the royal ceremony of anointing, which shall not be neglected, may serve to secure the future monarchs of the forest from injury during their infancy. It must be confessd imagination is a lively prophet, since, though the growth of an oak is so disproportiond to our poor threescore and ten years, it can yet rear a grove of them out of a sack of acorns. But as we dandle future soldiers, judges and prelates in our little mewling children, we must use the same pleasing arts of anticipation in the forest nursery which we do in our own. I could say many very pretty things on this paralell, but as I am not absolutely certain that your ladyship would take the trouble to read them, I will e'en drop it before I have hunted it down.

Lord Gower is, I presume, by this time returnd from Wales, which is, as I understand, a kind of Scotland, but without its inhospitable sterility, and presenting many more splendid remains of feudal antiquity. The people, however, seem to want the steady and shrewd perseverance which distinguishes our countrymen, who, I think, are more apt to exercise a sort of prospective prudence than their brethren of the south. Much of their success may be traced to this cause, which naturally produces the cautious value for character by which they are usually guided. I have very little doubt that your ladyship's patriotic attempts to combine industry with such reliques of ancient manners, as still dignify the highlanders who have the good fortune to be under your protection, will succeed, though perhaps not with the rapidity that your philanthropy may anticipate. It has taken a generation to convert a race of feudal warriors (for such were highlanders previous to 1745) into a quiet and peaceable peasantry, and perhaps it may take as long to introduce the spirit of action and persevering exertion necessary to animate them in their new profession. Man in general is a vile prejudiced animal, and although I think Scotchmen more open to conviction (when she appears with self interest in her hand) than most other folks, yet even with them pride and passion will sometimes turn both visitors out of doors. In the mean time a new race is gradually arising who will be trained to those sentiments and habits which the present state of society requires, and which it is your ladyships wish to introduce, and who will, in the course of twenty years, look back with wonder at the prejudices of their fathers, and with gratitude to their mistress who pursued their welfare in spite of themselves.

I have been looking into the story of the Duchess of Malphi. My edition of *Dandello* is the *first* in three volumes, 4to., Lucca 1553, with a supplement in Svo. printed at Lions, 1573. It contains the prefaces to the tales, omitted I believe, in all subsequent editions excepting that of London, 1750, or thereabouts. In the preface to that in question the author talks of the tragedy on which he founded his novel as a very recent and well known fact, so I suppose there can be little doubt of it. If the marquis's library has not the 1st edition I will copy out the preface for your ladyships satisfaction on this tragic subject.

Mrs. Scott joins in most respectful compliments, and I am ever Lady Staffords much obliged and most respectful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Edinburgh, 19 November 1811.

Colin M'Kenzie looks better this winter than I have seen him for many years.

333. (4) Sending her one of his poems. 6th January.

DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—I have taken my (far too frequent) freedom to address to you a parcel containing a quarto poem. How it will come to Cleveland Place, or when, I am rather uncertain, for I was too much tired of the progress of the work to wait the dénouement, so escaped from the printers when the last proof-sheet was, to use a technical phrase, *out of hand*, and came to visit your ladyships acorns, which are one day to be my oaks. They are already making a very flattering display, as I hoped to have had the pleasure of telling your ladyship in your passage through Edinburgh, but the cross fates prevented my having that satisfaction. I hope next time you honor our northern capital I shall be more fortunate in waiting upon your ladyship, for I have no prospect of being in London for many years.

Everything is as dull as possible in Edinburgh, men, women, children, all excepting Sharpe, who is himself, and extremely comical of course. He was mentioning to me the other day his expedition to the Bow, with Lady Stafford, in quest of Major Weir's house. I have a notion I could have found it if I had been of the party. I remember it a sort of receptacle for half dressd flax, but no person was then bold enough to visit it after sunset.

I had a letter from Lady Hood, with a very flattering token of her remembrance, nothing less than an oriental topaz cut for a seal, with a piece of Persian

talismanic engraving, which I should have as soon construed to mean the Degial as the name I am about to subscribe to this letter, unless our friend had warranted that the last was the correct reading.

Mrs. Scott desires to be most respectfully remembered, and I trust your ladyship will always believe me,—Your much obliged, most respectful, humble servant,
WALTER SCOTT.

Abbotsford, 6 January.

334. (5) About his poem, "The Lord of the Isles," etc. 21st January 1815.

MY DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—I am much honoured by your attaching any value to the Lord of the Isles, which I think will be the last poem I shall attempt upon any scale of length or subject of importance. I have long made up my mind to end with Bannockbourne.

Accept my best wishes and warm congratulations on Lady Charlottes alliance with the house of Howard. It is an event which, independent of the particular interest which I must always take in what concerns so nearly your ladyships family, and Lady Charlotte in particular, is extremely agreeable to my aristocratic prejudices, which are much hurt by the decay of the ancient nobility of Britain. I think the Duke of Norfolk may be interested by the inclosed impression of a seal found upon the field of Flodden, which the farmer sent, along with a fat turkey, to a friend of mine about three days since. My friend eat the turkey, but, hav[ing] no stomach for antiquities, gave me the seal. It is very small and of silver, not a ring, as I would have expected. I have not yet begun a search among our Scottish books of heraldry, but intend to commence one very soon. I think, however, the arms are English, so I shall be at fault. It may be more modern than the battle, but was certainly found on the field.

The last days of poor Caberfae were really heaviness and sorrow—an indistinct perception of the heavy loss he had sustained in his sons death, which was frequently exchanged for an anxiety about his health, and wonder why he did not see him—so it is a mercy that the curtain is dropd. All the Highlands ring with a prophecy that when there should be a deaf Caberfae the clan and chief shall all go to wreck, but these predictions are very apt to be framed after the event. I saw the hearse and coaches pass just now to take his body north.

I believe it goes to Cromarty by sea, for in the snowstorm which seems gathering the roads must become impracticable. I trust Lady Hood will be soon home. She will have hard cards to play from the involved state of the property; but with her excellent sense and noble spirit much may be done, especially if Sir S. has strengthened his purse a little.

I had a delightful voyage this season round Zetland, Orkney, and the northern extremity of Scotland, then through the Hebrides, over to Ireland, as far as to see the Giants Causeway, and so home by the firth of Clyde. The most extraordinary cave I ever saw is in Sutherland, near Loch Eribol. We examined it with great care and some risque, and I sent a sort of account of it to the Edinburgh Register. I grumbled very much to think that half a days sail would have placed our yacht under the cannon of Dunrobin; but our party was too large to be intruders, for I was an humble attendant upon a Committee of the Commissioners for the Northern Lights. We were six weeks at sea, visiting everything that we thought remarkable, and I seldom have spent time more agreeably.

The Staffordshire oaks are making a vigorous show upon Tweedside, and furnish me with a perpetual memorandum—did I want one—of your ladyships goodness.

I hope to be in town in the course of next March, as I wish much to renew my acquaintance with my English friends, whom I have not seen for so long a time. I need not say with what pleasure I look forward to paying my respects at Cleveland House. I beg my most sincere and respectful compliments to Lady Charlotte on the late happy event. Mrs. Scott joins in respects to the Marquis, and I ever am, dear Lady Stafford, your very sincere and respectful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Edinburgh, 21 January 1815.

335. (6) Acknowledging the gift of Sir Robert Gordon's History of the Earls of Sutherland, and also about the picture of "Chevy Chase."

I OUGHT long since to have made my respectful acknowledgements to Lady Stafford for the splendid Sutherland folio. It contains for an old antiquary like me many points of great interest and curiosity. Sir Robert Gordon, no doubt, did not particularly study the picturesque, but he often gives hints which may be

useful to those who do. We gather so much of the manners of old times from these genuine sources that we should not complain of a little labour in getting at them, and we are greatly indebted to those who like your ladyship have had the kindness and liberality to render them publicly accessible. I think our friend Lady Hood will be particularly delighted with Sir Robert's labours, for there is a great deal of the Clan Cheinzie.

I shall be quite delighted to receive Chevy Chase. I have more connection with the picture than your ladyship is aware, for a gentleman, a Mr. Eagle, I think, or some such name, near Bristol, wrote to me when the artist was making his sketch for some information about costume, etc., on which I was very happy to afford him any lights that I possessd, warning him against putting our pleasant men of Tiviotdale into tartan, which would have been the natural idea of an English painter. I took the liberty also of hinting that some of the large deer-dogs might be introduced with effect, and I likewise mentiond some particulars respecting the arms of the Scottish and English. I am delighted to hear that the picture has been found worthy of a place in the marquis's collection, which is the best possible proof of its merit. I never saw either the artist or the person who applied to me on his behalf. But I took the liberty of pointing out a subject of Border history as a pendant to Chevy Chase. It was the battle of Reidswair, which took place on occasion of a meeting between the Scottish and English wardens to settle aggressions which had been committed on each side. They came with their attendants, the principal chieftains and clans on each side attending also, and according to custom on these days of truce they mingled together in the most friendly manner, and began to dance, drink, play at cards, and buy and sell together. In the midst of this jollity a quarrell arose between the wardens, who began (a dangerous topick) *to reckon kin and blood*. At length, says the old song, speaking of Forster, the English warden,

“ He rose and rax'd him where he stood,
 And bade him¹ match him with his narrows;
 Then Tynedale heard them reason rude,
 And they let fly a flight of arrows.
 Then was there nought but bow and spear,
 And every man drew out a brand,” etc.

¹ i.e. the Scotsman.

Now my idea was that the two contending wardens would make the central figures, the Englishman in the picturesque attitude assignd him by the ballad maker drawing himself up to his full height, while he bade the other match himself with his equals, the men of Tynedale drawing their bows, and the immediate attendants of both parties standing to their arms and mounting their horses, while those more remote were represented, some as wondering at the alarm, and others, whom it had not yet reachd, intent upon their business and amusement. Female figures might be thrown in as collecting their children and hurrying from the tumult. The scene, the bare crest of a wild hill, with a long perspective over the desert mountains of Reedsdale and Tynedale. Mr. Eagle (if that be his name) wrote to me saying the young artist was highly delighted with the idea, and proposed to send me the sketch before attempting the picture. But I never heard more of it. I am no judge of painting at all, nor even of what can be painted, but I still think that this subject unites a varied and spirited interest. So if the marquis should wish to have a companion to Chevy Chase I am not unwilling that the idea should be considerd once more, though your ladyship is well entitled and very wellcome to laugh at me for my pains. Mrs. Scott has the honor to offer her respectful remembrances; and I am ever, dear Lady Stafford, your ladyships truly honord and obliged humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

336. (7) About Mr. Lockhart, his son-in-law, and the sheriffship of Sutherland.

11th April 1825.

MY DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—Allow me to express my sincere and most grateful thanks for the kind manner in which your ladyship has condescended to attend to Lockhart's concern under circumstances which is the more particularly flattering, as you could only have done so by overcoming upon our account feelings which it was both natural and proper to your ladyship to entertain. I have heard nothing of the matter myself for several weeks and months. My friend, the Advocate, was so intolerably wise and mysterious on the subject the last time it was mentiond that I vow that to be made Sheriff of all Scotland either in a friends person or my own, I could not have attempted again to penetrate the deep and awful gloom. The game to be played is a sort of gambit at chess. First, old Mr. Ferrier is to be permitted to resign his office of clerk of Session on some

superannuation, the poor gentleman being upwards of eighty years old, and having wasted eyes, years, and understanding to the last dregs in writing the judgements of the Court of Session for thirty or forty [years]. This old horse released from the carriage, James Fergusson, who vacates a place called a commissaryship, where he judges of all the iniquities of marrying and not marrying, and marrying once too often, and getting unmarried again altogether, is to be conferr'd on your present sheriff, Charles Ross. Et puis Charles Ross, having succeeded to all these functions of marrying and putting asunder, I have been led to entertain hopes that Lockhart may succeed in his view. I should be delighted in it, for it is always getting pignon sur la vie, and I think Lord Stafford and your ladyship would be gratified with his acquaintance, as he is perfectly a gentleman, and with a very uncommon share of talent and information. When this happy consummation will take place, or whether it is likely to take place at all, I really do not know. Like the old beggar with the blue cloak and the pike-staff, I can submit to make one bow and hold my hat out once, for what is not worth asking is not worth having. But I am too old and stiff to gird up my loins and run after folks chariot wheels till they give to importunity. But, after all, this is only a petted way of taking the little diplomatic secrecy which great folks observe on great occasions, such as bestowing sheriffdoms; and, I dare say, I am complaining without reason. Only, I cannot forget that I went expressly on purpose to Dalkeith when Lord Advocate wished to be sheriff of Edinburgh, which he got entirely by my interest with the late Duke of Buccleuch, and I never kept him a moment in suspense about the matter.

After all, I am a sad dog to grumble, for the world has all my life gone very well with me. I have had more friends than I deserved, and if like an *enfant gâté* I tire a little of State mysteries, it is because the distinction of such kind friends as Lady Stafford has perhaps made me a little self-conceited. Above all, I should be thankful that the dispositions of my family and their success in life, as far as they have yet commenced its voyage, has more than answered my hopes and expectations. My eldest son was married in February to a young lady of considerable fortune, and to whom he was attached. They are rather a young couple, as he is scarce 24; but long engagements are like long avenues, you tire of the house before you reach it, and though an only child, and an heiress, she gallantly determined to carry the young soldiers portmanteau.

This new cause of interest has induced me to change the purpose about which your ladyship enquires of going to town this season, as I intend instead to go to

Dublin or Corke, if the 15th Hussars, my sons regiment, shall continue there, and see how the young folks are carrying on *menage*. I should like to see Green Erin too, for I am a great admirer of the Irish, if it were not for their ugly propensity to cut throats, the benefit of which, I believe, they chiefly confine to themselves.

I fear, therefore, I will not have an opportunity to express my very sincere and grateful thanks for your ladyship's goodness until you visit Scotland, when it will go hard but I find a time to say what I feel very deeply. With my most respectful compliments to the marquis, I ever am, dear lady marchioness, your truly obliged and grateful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Abbotsford, 11 April 1825.

337. (8) Regarding Mr. Lockhart's prospects of success in obtaining a Sheriffship.
23d June [1825].

MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—If you give a dog a bone he will follow you through half a dozen streets, and so it is with obligations bestowd on the human race, they are no sooner conferrd than they are made the pretence of further teasing. But your ladyships great kindness encourages this species of persecution, and your flattering enquiries about Lockharts probable success as to Sutherland makes it incumbent on me to mention any little progress that has [been] made with respect to that sheriffdom.

I have some reason to think that the principal obstacle in Lockharts way was some engagement, exprest or implied, in which ministers were engaged to give the first sheriffdom vacant to a particular individual. The sheriffdom of Caithness is now about to open by Mr. Trails resignation, who, indeed, most kindly offerd to make that resignation either earlier or later as it might suit Lockharts views, for whom he has a great regard. Now we are advised by those who understand such diplomacy that it is better that Mr. Trail resigns at once, so that this same favourite and preferd expectant (who by the way is one of the ugliest and stupidest fellows at the bar) may get his preferment and be out of the way, in which case, although our great friends are too diplomatic to say anything positive, they give intimation that Lockhart, as seconded by Lord Stafford and your ladyships good wishes, will have every chance of preference. I own I should be

much better pleased with his having Sutherland rather than Caithness for his own sake, and being of a good presence and certainly clever enough, he would become the halls of Dunrobin better than a thing disagreeable to the eye and very tiresome to the ear. But the whole arrangement about Sutherland must lie over until James Ferriar retires from the clerks table to make way for James Fergusson, who vacates a commissariat to make way for Charles Ross, who leaves Sutherland to give place, I would fain hope, to Lockhart—upon the old principle of the cat to the rat, the rat to the halter, the halter to the butcher, the butcher to the ox, and so forth. Now there [is] an impediment to all these parties setting off on the race of preferment with their hands fast clenched on each others skirts, for Mr. Peel will not give Ferriar a superannuation pension equivalent to two thirds of his salary, but wishes to limit him to one half, and the stout old highlandman declares he will die sooner than abate his demand. All this will probably be settled in the course of the next vacation. I thought it right that your ladyship and my lord marquis should be master of all that I know of this business at the risque of writing a very dull letter. My informer seems to have a superstitious fear of all this valuable information transpiring, so it is only designed for your ladyships private ear. Indeed there are so many more amusing subjects of conversation at Cleveland House or the Villa that the arrangements of northern sheriffs has little chance to be selected.

I dined in company with Marechal MacDonald yesterday, and was much interested in his conversation, which was very agreeable and impressive. His appearance was far from military, much like some of these north country clergymen who come down to figure at the General Assembly; but he has a fine eye, and what is usually impressive, grey hair, with dark eye brows. The whole expression is plain and sagacious, and he seems very frank and communicative. He talked a long while to me, notwithstanding the miserable French in which I was obliged to attempt a reply, for he understands no English. He is bound for South Uist, and to South Uist he will go. I have a notion the place is horribly desolate, without grandeur of any kind, even that of sterility. I question whether it will be improved by a parcel of poor smoke-dried relatives who will rush on him to get what they can. I advised Hector Buchanan MacDonald to carry him to his own fine place on Loch Lomond and persuade him that was *South Uist*. I'll venture to say the visit will tire him of the Hebrides and of Scotch cousins for the remainder of his life.

I beg my most respectful compliments to the marquis, and am ever, my dear Lady Stafford, your honour[^d] and obliged humble servant, WALTER SCOTT.

Edinburgh, 23 June [1825].

I think of going to Dublin in the beginning of next month[^h] to see my son Walter, who is there with his regiment.

338. (9) That Mr. Lockhart has accepted the management of the *Quarterly Review*. 5th November 1825.

MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—The very flattering interest which your ladyship was so good as to take in favour of my son-in-law, Mr. Lockhart, in the event of a vacancy in the sheriffdom of Sutherland, induces me to mention to you that he has been tempted to exchange his views in this country for others which are opening to him in London, and which in point of emolument are much more flattering. It is a little point of confidence as yet, but I may mention to your ladyship that he has accepted the management of the *Quarterly Review*, the appointments of which are about £1500 yearly, with the most favourable opening and indeed assurance of professional employment to a very considerable extent. I should be glad of all this, and I *am*, but not with unmix'd gladness, for I must necessarily lose the greatest comfort in my life in my daughters and son-in-laws society. Sophia has been always a ladylike young woman, and accustomed to take a little part in the best society in this country. Her object will be to be very quiet in London, but I should feel it a great addition to the many obligations which I owe your ladyship if you would spare her a little occasional notice, as it is of so much consequence that she should take her ground under good auspices in this new scene of life. I think your ladyship will neither find her ungrateful nor undeserving such kindness.

Another favour I have to ask of your ladyship, if it were not the trouble which it may give you. I am busied with something like a view of the French Revolution, and I wish much to do justice to my distinguished countrywoman Lady Sutherlands gallant efforts in favour of Marie Antoinette. Can your recollection, my dear lady, supply me with any notes of that period and the events connected with it which may be useful to such a sketch as I meditate? I do not mean to involve myself in an actual historical work, but merely to give some

general, and, if I can, striking views of a course of events which I think we have almost lost sight of.

I have had Tom Moore here for three days, singing like a cherubim. I told him (for it was long since we had met) that as the world call'd him a Jacobin and me a Jacobite, it was clear that we agreed to a T, and we proved good friends accordingly. Believe me, dear Lady Stafford, with respectful compliments to lord marquis, ever your ladyships obliged and grateful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Abbotsford, 5 November 1825.

Most noble the Marchioness of Stafford, etc. etc. etc.

339. (10) Accepting her hospitality in London. 11th November 1826.

MY DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—As you have so kindly provoked a clan invasion, and as our stay in London has been and is to be very short, we venture to offer ourselves to your ladyships hospitality for Monday first at seven o'clock, our party being my two daughters and Lockhart. We regret much that an early engagement obliges me to return home in the evening. With much respect and a deep sense of obligation, I ever am, dear lady marchioness, your truly faithful and obedient servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Pall Mall 25, 11 November 1826.

We return'd from France this morning at four o'clock.

340. (11) Sending her one of his poems. 30th June.

YOUR ladyships constant goodness emboldens to beg your acceptance of the enclosed poem, written for a particular purpose and upon a temporary subject, which is all I have to plead in mitigation of criticism. I beg to be most respectfully remuemberd to the marquis and Lord Gower, and am, with great respect, your ladyships obliged and most respectful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT.

Edinburgh, 30 June.

My dear Lady Stafford

As you have so kindly provided
a clean - invasion for our stay in London
has been it to be very short we venture
to offer ourselves to your Ladyships
respectably for Monday first at
seven o' clock our party being very low
dresses & Lockhart. We regret much
that our early engagement obliges me
to return home in the evening

With much respect & a deep sense
of obligation I ever am dear Lady
Stafford's your truly grateful &
obedient Servant
Walkerford

Pall Mall 25

11 Nov^r 1826

We returned from France this morning
at four o' clock.

341. ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD, to CHARLES LONG, LORD FARNBOROUGH,—proposing, on behalf of Lord Stafford, remedies to relieve the increasing discontent in the country.

Westhill, March 3d, 1820.

MY DEAR LORD FARNBOROUGH,—Lord Stafford regretted very much yesterday having been so thoroughly *kidnapped* during the time of your visit, and the more so, as he would have wished for some conversation with you on the subject which we discuss a little, and which at present, and particularly from the recent additional reports he has received from the most correct and well-informed persons concerned in his various and extensive concerns of all kinds in the country, presses much upon his mind as to the necessity that government should adopt some measures to relieve and satisfy the people, who are daily increasing in discontent from their increasing difficulties. He has lately heard so much of this and so strongly stated, that he thinks, in fairness to the Duke of Wellington, his sentiments ought to be represented to him, and he wishes you would in conversation take an opportunity of doing so, and of also conveying his opinion that the remedies that can be applied cannot be brought forward too soon. He agrees perfectly in opinion with those who would propose a property tax as the most efficient mode of reaching not only the landed but also the funded proprietors, and, as it would be laid on the funds in the aggregate, the objection which was formerly made of an exposure as to individual funded property would be removed, and foreigners having money in the funds would be included. This measure, together with the taking off some of the less effective but troublesome and obnoxious taxes which are expensive in collecting almost beyond the profit they produce, would, in his opinion, be not only a most popular measure, but a necessary one to allay the ferment which is so speedily gaining ground, and much preferable to finance committees, or any palliative method.

He desires me to write this to you, and to request that you will communicate his thoughts on this subject to the Duke of Wellington, wishing well, as he does, to his government, and being convinced, as he is, of the necessity of as speedy relief as possible in the present urgent moment. He would have written to you himself, had not writing much at a time been fatiguing to him. Ever, my dear lord F., most truly yours,



312. ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD, to [MARGARET MAXWELL OF Munches].—thanking her for a copy of a letter by Lady Nithsdale.¹

London, August 14th, 1820.

DEAR MADAM,—I received with much satisfaction from Mr. Young the valuable mark of your kind recollection of me in the copy of Lady Nithsdale's letter, which I am happy to possess, and for which I beg you to accept of my best thanks. Though I had seen part of it before, yet this copy is doubly valuable, in coming from so authentick a source; and the account contained in it is deeply interesting, and will be preserved to the lasting honor of the writer, by all who have any feeling of such an example of extraordinary ability and spirit. It is also so simply described, and in so plain a manner, that one sees in reading it that Lady Nithsdale was above the vanity that might have arisen from it, and only felt the satisfaction arising from what she had accomplished in so astonishing a manner, with the assistance of those who partook in the interest such an undertaking must have excited at the time. I have always felt much respect and regard for that family, both for those I have been acquainted with belonging to it, and from the recollection of all I have heard in my youth concerning it in former times, and I partook sincerely in the general regret that so unexpected an event as the death of Mr. Maxwell Constable occasioned. I shall omit no opportunity of cultivating my acquaintance with Mrs. M. Constable, and shall always feel interested in her and her family, who, I trust, will long continue the worthy successors of that great and important inheritance. I could not resist copying the letter you were so good as to send me, for Lady Surrey, to whom I have just sent it, as she will feel the full value of it, and will, as I am, be anxious (or rather curious) to know what sort of person Lady Nithsdale was in appearance and manners, and any other circumstances respecting her and Lord Nithsdale, but those can be only known by tradition, as I see by the peerage he died at Rome in 1744, and she in 1749; and that beside the Lord Nithsdale, father of Lady Winifred Maxwell Constable, they had a daughter married to Lord Bellew. I remember hearing the late Lady Stafford talk of visiting a Lady Nithsdale at Harrowgate, who was very deaf, and who, I suppose, was one of the Traquair family, and who Lady Alva remembered seeing on horseback in the fashion of the times, with a three-cornered hat and flow-

¹ Original letter in Nithsdale Collection.

ing wig, but the writer of the letter must have been almost beyond their memories. I have had a great disappointment in being prevented by different circumstances from being in Scotland this year, at least I fear I shall be so, but I always entertain a hope at some future time to be able to visit Dumfries on some of my journeys there. I beg to thank you, dear madam, for your kind congratulations on Elizabeth's marriage, and to assure you of the regard with which I remain, your obliged and faithful servant,

E. STAFFORD.

343. SIR MICHAEL SHAW-STEWART, Baronet, to ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND,—offering congratulations to her and the duke on their new honour.

Ardgowan, 19 January 1833.

DUCHESS AND COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND,—I have just read the Gazette of the 14th with heartfelt delight and national pride, and Lady Stewart and I beg to offer to your grace and to the Duke of Sutherland our warmest and sincerest congratulations on your just elevation to the highest rank and honor the King of England can bestow. Nothing out of my own family has ever occurred that has given both Lady Stewart and me sincerer pleasure; and most fervently do we pray that the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland may long be spared to enjoy all that this world can bestow. I am so rejoiced and proud of the *title* you have taken, Duchess, and every true Scotsman must feel proud that our *oldest and highest* earldom, and one so interwoven with our annals, should give name and rank to a British dukedom. You are now just where you should be, Duchess. I truly beg your forgiveness for thus addressing you; I fear it is an intrusion. But my only excuse is that every word I have written has come direct from the heart, and I beg pardon for the liberty I have taken.

Everything is doing well here now. No *cholera*, but increasing trade, and demand for operatives of every kind, and wages of all descriptions of trades on the increase. It is impossible for a government to have a better start. I have had to stem and resist the keenest nest of radicals in Scotland, I believe, and because I would not stultify myself by giving a string of arbitrary pledges, I have been opposed by some of those for whom I had laboured hard to get the new privilege. I have carried my election by a great majority, but still at a great expense, which is not pleasant when I am just where I was always sure of being, and when the

expense I have been put to has been caused by reformers and political friends run wild.

I shall have the honor and pleasure of offering my congratulations in person in the course of three weeks, Duchess. I hope you and the duke got a good passage back, and left your ancient and princely dominions in every respect as you could desire.

Lady Stewart begs to offer her sincere respects to your grace and the Duke of Sutherland, and I remain, Duchess and Countess, very faithfully and sincerely, your obliged and obedient,
M. SHAW-STEWART.

To her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, Countess of Sutherland, etc., Stafford House, London.

344. ARTHUR WELLESLEY, FIRST DUKE OF WELLINGTON, to GEORGE GRANVILLE, SECOND DUKE OF SUTHERLAND,—about a picture of a Dutch town.

London, May 25, 1843.

MY DEAR DUKE,—I received yesterday your Grace's letter of the 23d, which I immediately referred to Mr. Scymour, who is so kind as to attend to my pictures; and he has arranged for sending to the B. Institution the picture mentioned by your Grace, viz.—the view of a Dutch town by Vander Heyden.—Ever, my dear Duke, yours most faithfully,



His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, etc., K.G.

345. ARTHUR WELLESLEY, FIRST DUKE OF WELLINGTON, to HARRIET, DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND,—regretting his inability to accept her invitation to dinner.

London, May 6, 1848.

I AM very much concerned that it will not be in my power to attend your Grace and the Duke of Sutherland at dinner on Wednesday, as that is the day fixed on which I am to have the direction of the Antient Concert,¹ and am to have the honor of entertaining to dinner the directors of the Antient Concert.—Your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

WELLINGTON.

Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland.

346. CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE to GEORGE GRANVILLE, SECOND DUKE OF SUTHERLAND,—the signatures of Scottish ladies of rank after marriage. 15th October [1850].

As sure as the devil looks o'er Lincoln—perhaps a little more certain—the letter your Grace enclosed to me is from the 1st Marchioness of H[untly].

I have compared it with my own, which you shall see when I have the honour of meeting you.

I don't know at what time the Scottish ladies began to retain, in writing, their maiden names after marriage—the oldest instance I have is a resignation of that amiable Lady of Lochleven, who showed such tender mercies to Mary, Queen of Scots. Lady Huntley's sister, Lady Mar, in all her letters which I have seen, subscribes herself Marie Steuart, and her daughter, Lady Panmure and Marishall, Marie Areskine. The last instance I can remember of a woman of rank using this fashion is in Lord Dundee's marriage contract, where the bride's grandmother, Lady Dundonald (the famous *miscress*), wrote—"Euphan Scot consents." This custom, I know from many letters, was common among the gentry till Queen Anne's reign.

This letter must have been written after Lord H[untly] was liberated from

¹ See Greville's Journal of the Reign of Queen Victoria, 1837-1852, vol. I., second series, under 1839, p. 195.

the castle, and allowed to reside in the Canongate—see Wood. After reading all the proofs about the Frendraught fire in the Criminal Record here, I am convinced that Lord and Lady Frendraught were perfectly guiltless. There is a picture of her at Dogrie I should like to see, owing to the strange scene of the fire.

I think your Grace will scarcely be able to read this scrawl, as my hand shakes so much to-day I am forced to hold my right wrist while I scribble.—I am, ever your most obliged and faithful servant,
C. K. SHARPE.
Drummond Place, 15 October.

Indorsed : Note by Mr. C. Sharpe, 1850.

LETTER OF ADVICE

BY

SIR ROBERT GORDON.

347. SIR ROBERT GORDONE his Fearweell, conteynyng certane precepts and adwertisments to his nephue Jhon, Earle of Southerland. c. 1620.

THE rysing, decay and continuance of all estates and famelies is in the hand of the Almighty ewerliwing God. He raiseth and exalteth men from the werie dust to be princes, and throwes down principalities ewen belowe the earth, as he in his dewyne wisdometh thinketh expedient. The experience heirof is from tyme to tyme manifested to the wiew of the world in your house, which God hath still preserved from shipwrack beyond the expectation of man, not only in your grandfathers tyme, but in these our dayes.

Fear therefore your God and serwe him truelie, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdometh. Eshew sinne, so far as humane fralitie will permit yow. Advance the religion which you professe and the service of God, so far as lyeth in your power, as you wold have a blessing from God vpon all your actions. Be constant and sincere, without dissimulation in the religion that you professe, and which is now settled by the state of Great Britaigne. Keip God spairinglie in your mouth, but aboundantlie in your heart. Be carefull in reading and heiring the Word of God with great attention and rewerence. Remember ewer once in the four and twentie houres, either in the night, or when yow are at greatest quyete, to call your self to ane aecompt of all your last dayes actions, what you have committed that you should not, or omitted that yee should do, either in your Christian or worldlie calling.

Beware to offend your consciene with the vse of swearing or lying, suppose but in jest, for oithes and lyes come but of vse and enstome. Eshew drunkenes

aboue all things; for swearing and drunkenes are two damnable and pestilent vyces, without profit or pleasour, and the werie spring of all other sines and mischeiffs; vyces more then beastlie, and which do encrease vith age. Flie licherie as a pest, for it breedeth rapt, adulteries and other mischeiffs, which bring a curse to your posteritie and a deadlie heatred among them wher you conuerse, besyds perpetuall damnation in the lyffe to come.

Few noble men in Scotland can frie themselves from robbing of the church in some degrie, which resembleth Seianus his horse, still procuring a curse to the possessours. My adwyce therfore heirin is—Giue vnto Christ that which is his. Red your selfe by any meanes of all church liuings, and restore vnto the churchmen that which apperteyneth them, that so all your other affaires may prosper the better. But because these things are of dywers kynds, and that church fues are the best holding, bearing a duetie to the church, I will speak of them sewerallie.

First, touching the bishopes fue lands, they are deuyded among the thrie countreys, Southerland, Cathnesse and Strathnaver. You are principall fewer of all the bishopes lands in the dyacie of Cathnesse, and all other rights do proced from you. The fue lands in Cathnesse ar dispoed by your predecessours, some by excambion with warrandice, some by alienation without warrandice: Weell faire they. But do your diligence by all meanes to get the warrandice of Strathvly discharged by the Earles of Cathnesse, which lands they have bound in speciall warrandice for some of the fue lands; els if the bishopes at any tyme do ewict ther own lands (as it is lyklye thay will do if ewer thay hawe powar), then will you loise the ten dawich on the east syde of Strathvly; except this renunciation of some fue lands in Cathnesse, which the Earle of Cathnesse hath now latelie made the yeir of God I^mvj^c and sewintein, into the bishop of Cathnesse his fawours, do releiwe yow. For if he hath renuned any lands for the which Strathvly is given in warrandice, he cannot persue yow for warrandice hereafter.

The fue lands of Durines in Strathnaver ar given by your predecessours to Macky for service. Let him enjoy them, hollen of the house of Southerland as a fall, with such conditions as I have bound him to your house, he still paying the fue maills. But do not bind your self to warrand them nor any church land, except from your awin deid. The fue lands in Sutherland ar not many; yet red your self the soonest yow can of them, and of all vther such warrandice as your

predecessours ar bound to for church land: And if at any tyme yow sell or alienat them, do not bind your selfe to warrand them, but from your own deid allennarlie. Exchange them with some of your countriemen with the lands of the earldome.

Now concerning teinds and wicarages, which properlie do belong only to the church, I would thus adwyse yow. So long as it is permitted by the laws of the realme that laic men should possesse teinds, so long wold I wishe yow to retaine all taks of such teinds as yow hawe in possession, if it were but only to keip them from others that do either envy yow or hate yow. With this proviso, that ther be a sufficient and competent meanes provyded for the ministers at ewerie parish church as is alreddie done in all your country. But if ther were a settled course taken by the State for restoring of all teinds to the church perpetuallie or to the heritours, I wish yow not only to quyt them, but also to be a forderer of that interpryse. Whensoever the bishoprick of Cathnesse, or the digneties of that Church ar waiking, do your endewoir to get these places supplied by your freinds, and such that ar worthie preachours.

Be carefull to hawe the churches weell repaired at least within your jurisdiction; for it is werie vnseemlie that you should build a palice for your self, and that the house of the Lord should fall to decay and ly desolate. The churches being once repaired, be carefull to prowde good and sufficient ministers in your country, because God hath appoynted you aue owerseer of his wyneyard in this land. Do not fail to repair and decore the south ile of the church of Dornoch, which is the sepulture of your ancestours. Erect ther a moument and a tombe for them and your selfe, if it be not perferued to your hand, and cause paint about the inner walls of that ile, or vpon the silerine theroff, the portratours and pictours of all the Earles of Southerland, with the somme of ther lyfs from the beginning.

Assist the churchmen in all ther affairs, both with your presence in consultation, being required, and with your powar in the execution of ther sentences. Be your selfe a paterne of pietie and wertue, that others by your exemple may learne to do weill. For the good or bad exemple of your actions will be of great force, and will worke stronglie with the inhabitants of your country. Ther are thrie chaplainries in this country given out by your predecessours, Earles of Sutherland, to wit, Kinnald, St. John his chappell, and Golspie, besyds St. James alter at Dornoch. St. Jhon his chappell hath bein still your own, and is now at

your donation; so have you also the right and tittle of Golspie, which two I have given in your name to ministers therby to keep you in possession. Yow ar lykwyse (to this day) patron of Saint James his alter at Dornoch; and becaus your forebears have bein dispossessed of Kinnald be the iniquitie of tyme and ther own owersight, do your best to get the patronage and gift therof into your hands that it may be at your donation. Not that you should reape any commoditie therby, but becaus it is a seemlie thing to have some benefices at a noble mans gift, that he may therby pleasour such of the churchmen as he thinks worthie. This yee may bring to passe by wertue of your new infestment, by the which the patronage of your chaplainries ar ratified to yow; and cause the present incumbent or possessor to take the same holden of yow, that therby in progresse of tyme it may be thought holden of your self by wertue of your infestment. This far toucheing church affaires.

Execute justice duely without exception of persones or any other circumstance whatsoever. Justice should be blind and freindlesse. It is not ther yee should reward your freinds, or seik to crosse your enemies. Still embrace the quarell of the poore and distressed as your own particular, thinking it your greatest honour to repair the wrongs of the oppressed. Be a father and a protectour of the fatherlesse and widowes, so shall yow procure your self a blissing from the heavins. Above all things exact no penulties nor vnlawes with rigour, if it be not for the second or thrid falt. Enrich not your self by exactions vpon your countrey men, for ther still folowes a course thervpon, and God heirs the clamour of the poore oppressed.

Eshew that damnable wyce of awarice, which bringeth ewer with it heatred, extortiou and oppression. Prease by all meanes to be accompted liberall, for ane awaritious man was newer a good commander. Flie also prodigalitie, for it is the other extremitie, and makes your self in end to be beholding to others. Giwe lytle or nothing by intercession or other mens procurement, for so shall yow loise both your thanks and your goods. Whatsoever you do bestowe vpon any man, give it out of your owne hand, or declare it your self to the partie by word of mouth. Choose rather to seem to be liberall, then to be so in effect. Let no man part discontented from yow, if yow can possible; and when yow do refuse anything let another report your denyall. Give cheiflie and do good to the godlie, and yow shall find a recompence; if not from him, yet from the Most High.

Beware what yow do promise; but what yow promeis by word of mouth, let

it be als sure as your handwryt. Keip preceislie your word and promeis vnto all men, altho to your hurt. Strywe with all your nyghbours in courtesie and thankfulness; and with all men be plain and vpriight. This wertue all your predecesours have hade, wherby ther word was trusted before anothers wryt.

If any servants have bein rewarded by your father or grandfather for loosing of their blood or for hazarding ther lyffs in ther service, yow shall rather augment then deminish ther pensions and rewards, which shall encourage others in tyme coming to hazard themselves, ther fortunes and ther deereest blood in your service. Bestowe your gifts rather for desert then for favour. Keip a wryten scrolle of all your servants and folowers, and still reward them by turnes. If yow please to gratifie some whom yow loue most intirely, do it secretlie; so shall they escape enwy, and yow shall be the more belowed. Reward your servants bountifullie, when they have serwed yow trulie.

Keip rather too few then too many servants. Pay them weell what yow promeis; so may yow laughfullie demand service at ther hands, and boldlie exact it. Preferre especialie to your service such as fear God and have truelie serwed your father and forbears, cheiflie if they be able for it; if not, employ ther posteritie before others, as kyndliest; so shall yow not only be best served, but farther, yow shall shew a thankfull memorie of your father, and procure the blissing of these old servants, in not missing ther old maisters in yow. On the other part care not much for ther service that were not trustie to your forbears. For how can they be true to the sone that were false to the father. Bewarre to take servants preferred by other men to serwe yow, for they will not choose such as ar meetest for your service, but whom they think meetest to serve ther own turne about yow. Choose therefore your servants for your owne vse, and not for the vse of others.

Ther is no power on earth more just then that of the father or parent ower the sone, nor any service more honest and due then that of the sone to the parent. Honour therefore your parents; and as yow wold have God to prosper yow and your affaires, endewoir to obteyne your parents blissing. Be lowing vnto your parents that brought yow vnto the world. Be thankfull to those that have bred yow, for they ar your second parents, and althocht boith your father and your mother be dead, yet I thiuk it not amisse to insert heirin this precept anent parents. Let ewerie man, therefore, honour and reverence ther father and ther mother, as they wold have ther children to vse them afterward. Let not ther

first warre be vpon ther mother, as too many do in this land. O why should they inuert the order of natur! If it were for no more, they should honour ther parents for the lenthning of ther owne dayes. Honour yow also them that be (loco parentum) to yow, such as be your governours, tutours and vpringers. Be thankfull to them and reward them for ther paines and caire, which they have hade of yow and your affaires when yow were vnable yourself to do it. Be never ingrate or vnthankfull to any man that hath done yow pleasour, or that hath shewin your freinds any favour for your caus. Prease to acquyt it as occasion offeres. Ther cannot be a worse thing on earth then ane vngrate and vnthankfull mynd, which yow shall eshew as the plauge.

Now toucheing your marriage, which is the greatest curse or blisse that can happin yow in this world; and the greatest earthlie felicitie or miserie that can come to a man, according as it pleaseth God to blisse or curse the same, I adwyse yow to do nothing rashlie therin; for it is in the chose of a wyffe as in a project of warre, wherin to erre but once is to be vndone for ever. Consult therefore heirin with your grawest and wisest freinds; but seeing the matter concernes yow nearest, have the cheifest voice therin your self. Matrimonie is a matter of great importance which you cannot shake of everie day as yow list. It cannot be disolued but be one of your deaths. It is commanded by God therby to eschew all sinnfull lust, for procreation of children, and that man should have a wyffe for his helper; these be the cheiffe causes of marriage; as for beautie, riches and allyance, these be but accessorie causes.

As yow wishe to have a blissing in your marriage, yow must keip your bodie cleane and vnpolluted vntill yow giue it to your wyffe; and after marriage keip inviolablie your promeis made to God in your marriage, abstaining from the filthie wyce of adulterie, els yow shall expect a curse to your posteritie. Bewarre where you settle your loue, for the first impression worketh most in the heart of man. Place not, therefore, your affection but vpon good consideration, for beeing once settled, yow can hardlie recall it againe. Take heid abone all things that ther be a reciprocally affection betuix you and the partie whom yow do marie. Let your loue be wholie knit to hir, and all hir affections loneinglie bent to folow your will. How many tragedies do wee daylie sie and heir to proceed from enforced marriage. Loue therefore your wyfe as your own self; cheerish hir as your helper. It is your office to command, and hers to obey. Be never both angrie at one tyme; for when yee are both settled, ye are meitest to judge of

errours. Deferr not to marie till your age, for it is ordained for quenching the lust of your youth. Marie not a woman vnable either through age, nature or accident for procreation of children; neither marie one of knowne evil conditions or vitious education, for the woman is ordained to be a helper, not a hinderer to man. Marie one that is fullie of your owne religion; for disagriement in religion bringeth ever with it disagreement in manners, dissention among your famelie, and a perrell of the education of your children. Have a special care to choose your wyfe of a whole and cleane race, not subject to hereditarie seiknesses.

Examine weell your wyf's education and the réport of hir honestie before you marie; and cheitlie that shee hath not settled hir affection els-wher. But being married, let never the rage of jealousy enter into your harte. Let hir be the daughter of a chast and wertneouse mother, and enquiry diligently how hir parents have been affected in ther youth. Let her be comelie, werteous, sober, fit to bear children, for a werteous wyff will help you soone to riches, and an vnthriflie wyff will soone consume both your wealth and hir owne. Consider your owne estate, which if you finde weell settled and good, match neir home, and with deliberation; but if otherwayes crasie and rented, then match farr off, and with quick expedition. Make not choise of a dwarff or foole to be your wyffe, for from the one you may beget a race of pigmeis, and the other will be your daylie greiff and wexation; for it will irk yow so oft as you shall heir hir talk, and you shall find continuallie to your sorrow that ther is nothing so fulsome as a shee foole. I do not lyke the humour of our noble men in Scotland, who do scorne to match with the barones and gentilitie, and do marie ther own equals for the most parte. I confesse it is best to match with the nobilitie, if you can find contentment and riches correspondent thervnto. Yet do not you spair to marie a laird or barrone his daughter, of a good stock and well descended, prowying shee lyke you weell, and that shee be wealthie. You have freindship enough alreddie, if you keip it; and it is not the wyffe that nobilitats the husband, but the husband nobilitats the wyffe.

Let hir not be poor, how noble and generous soever; for generositie without hir support is but a fair shell without a kernell, becaus a man can buy nothing in the markett without money. Let hir be comelie, not caring for hir extraordinary beantie; and as it is the safest walking between too extreams, so choose not a wyffe of such absolute perfection and beantie that everie carnell eye shal bespeak yow injurie; neither so base and deformed that may breid contempt in others,

and bring you to a loathed bed. This far concerning your mariage. Now particularlie to adwyse you toucheing a mariage with the house of Cathnesse, I am not much against it; yea, I would rather adwyse you to do it, if the parties lyke one another; for out of all question that ancient hereditarie hatred long rooted betuix your two famelies cannot be intirly taken away, nor heartelie reconciled without mariage: which if it happen somtyme to be celebrated and concluded, I adwyse you to get the warrandice of the bishopes lands in Cathnesse discharged, wherby you may frie Strathvilly, and lykwyse get the Earle of Cathnesse bound that he shall neuer oppose to the reduction of the decreit obtained against your infetment, if this decreit be not reduced before.

Be carefull of the wertuous education of your children. Cause them to be bred vp in learning and wertue. Learning is the best portion you can give them, for how many meane gentlemen do wee perceawe daylie to aryse by learning. Musick is a fit exercise for any gentleman wherin lykwyse you shall cause instruct them. If you have two or thrie sones, make one of them a courtiour after his trawells abroad in other countreys. Let him be bred in England; for it is requisite that some of our nobilitie be about ther prince. But abowe all things, make him the courteour whose inclination you sie most bent to it, and whose comelines of persone and reddines of witt you shall think fittest for that calling.

Bring vp your children in obedience, yet without too much austeritie. Praise them opiny, reprehend them secretlie. Give them good countenance and conuenient maintenance according to your abilitie; for otherways your lyff will seeme ther bondage, and then you shall be censured as one of those that deferre all good to ther end; so that portion you shall leaue them they may thank death for it and not you. Marie your daughters betynes least they marie them selfs. Stryue not much to marie your daughters with the greatest nobilitie. But abowe all things marie them to men that haue weell to mainteyne them, although they be but gentlemen; for if they be married to your equals, these noble men will expect that you will follow them, and make ther benefite of your allyance; but if you marie your daughters to men of lower degrie then your self, you shall be sure they and ther issue wilbe folowers of you and your house.

Suffer not your sones willinglie to passe the Alpes, for they shall exchange for their forraine travell (vnlesse they goe the better fortified) but others wyces for ther owne wertues, pryde, blasphemie and atheisme, for humilitie, reverence and

religion. And if by chance, out of a more wary industrie, they atteyne to any broke luggages, they will profite them no more then to have one meat served in dywers dishes: and if they will neids travell into Italie, be sure to send a good conductour with them.

Now toucheing the governement of your house, let your hospitalitie be moderat, equaled to the measure of your estate, rather bountifull then nigardlie, yet not prodigall nor ower costlie. For although some, who hawing otherwyse consumed themselves and ther riches with secret wyces, have endowred to colour ther ryots vpon this wertue, yet in my observation I hawe not hard nor knowen any man growe poore by keepinge ane ordinarie, decent and thriftie table.

Banische drunkennes out of your house and countrey, and affect him not that is affected thervnto, for it is a wyce that impaires health, consumes wealth, and transformes a man into a beast, a siunc of no single ranke, that never walks vn-attended with a traine of misdemeanours at the heeles. Besyds, for the credite therof, to induce a man, I never hard other commendation ascrywed to a drunkard more then the weell-bearing of his drink, which is a commendation fitter for a brewer's horse then either for gentlemen or serwiugmen.

Beware thou spend not above 3 of the 4 parts of thy revenue, nor above one thrid part therof in your house; for the other two parts will but defray extraordinaries, which will alwayes surmount your ordinaries by much: otherways yow shall leve lyke a rich begger in continuall wants; and the neidie man can never live happellie nor contented, being broken and distracted with worldlie cares. For then ewerie least disaster makes him reddie to wedsett or sell; and that gentleman who sels ane acre of land, looseth ane vnce of credit, for gentilitie is nothing but ancient riches, so that if the foundation do sink, the building must needs consequentlie fall. And assure your selfe, if yow hawe not wherewith to do your owne bussines without the employment of others, yow will be the lesse accompted off.

Eshew prodigalitie as I noted befoir. Be frugall in spending what God sendeth yow; but spair no charges when a mater concernes your honour or credit. Give your residence shall happen to be at home in Sutherland, reserwe still some possessions and roomes in your owne hands to be laboured. It will both keep your serwants some tymes in exercise and your selfe from being beholden to others for everie small mater which belongeth to house keeping; or els you must buy it with your money, and he that must put his hand to his purse for ewerie expence of

houshold, shall als hardlie keip money therein as it is for one to keip water in a siwe. To remedie this also, buy still your provision at the best season and easiest rate, for sometyne yow shall find it twyse as deir between bying at your neid and when the season most fitly may furnish yow. Faill not lykwyse to keip the most part of your best girsings in your owne hands, for it will yeild yow great profit for your houskeiping. Preasse to make the greatest profit yow can of all your girsings and heeland roomes; which commoditie your predecessours have carelesslie neglected. It will bring yow great profit with small charges. Have still heards of cattle and horse of your owne in ewerie corner of the country, which will bring yow no small profit.

Let your kinred and allyes bee welcome always to your table; grace them with your countenance, and ewer further them in all ther honest actions by word, liberalitie or industrie; for by that meanes yow shall double the bond of nature. Be a neighbour to ther good, as well as to ther blood; by which reasonable deservings yow shall find them so many advocats to plead ane apologie for yow behind your back, and so many witnesses of your vertues, whensoever others shall seik to deprawe yow. If ther be any neir kinsmen or cousins of yours, laughfully descended latelie of your house, give them honest maintenance; for if they lacke of ther owne and be constrained to beg, it shall be a reproche to yow.

Shake off the glow-wormes, I meane parasites and sycophants who will feid and fawne on yow in the summer of your prosperitie, but in any adverse storme they will shelter yow no more then a cloake of taffaty—a dangerous kynd of people—and therefore I beseeke yow beware of them.

If at any tyme yow be able to purchase any lands, buy first all such lands as any other surname but Gordone dothe possesse in Sutherland, prowying they be not church lands. Nixt thervnto buy from the Munrois the lands of Slishechiles, becaus they are of the earldome of Southerland. Nixt thervnto mak your purchase in Rosse, Cathnesse, Strathnaver or Murray. Whatsoever yow purchase in Southerland or Strathnaver, let it still be for your eldest sone, becaus that Sutherland is lytle anugh to manteyne the qualitie of ane earle. Whatsoever yow purchase for the rest of your children let it be in other shyres then Sutherland, and let them hold the most part of ther lands of the eldest, wherby they may acknowledge them selfs descended of that house.

If yow shall happen to buy or purchase any lands in Strathnaver, vse kyndlie the naties yow find vpon the land, that therby yow may purchase ther lowe, and

alienat ther mynds from Macky. And be not too hard-handed to them at first, for by a lytle friendes and liberalitie yow may gain them, which is the nature of all hylanders. Yet by progress of tyme I wishe yow to send some of your owne people to dwell amongst them.

If any other then your self or the succeeding Earles of Sutherland do happen to buy the lands of Skelbo, Pronsie, Kinnald, Drummwy, or any other lands that holds ward and releif of your self, then tak heed that yow do not change the nature of the holding, yea, although it were to your owne brother, or to your second sone, but let these lands be still holden ward. Neither yet change them into task ward. I bought and purchased the lands of Golspitour and Bakies. I was forced to buy Golspitour to put ane enemy to the door. I was compelled to take the Backies for debts oweing me. So I have sold them to your lordship as I bought them as fitter for yow then for me. When your anuels ar payed, relieve your wedsets, and cheiffie the wedsets of Strathfleit, for the lands that Walter Innes of Auchintoullie hes sold to the Gordones in Strathfleit, ar redimable to yow for a thousand marks the dawigh. Redeim also Strathvllie, for yow shall find that profitable for yow.

Let the first lands yow shall buy in Sutherland be either Pulrossie and Speinzedell, or Skelbo, Pronsies, Drummoy or Clyne. When yow find the tyme fit (and cheiffie before the yeir of God I¹⁶²⁰ thretty yeirs) yow shall intend action against Pulrossie, by wertue of a right of his lands, which right lyes among the rest of your wrytts. For doubtlesse the lands of Pulrossie should hold of yow as the rest of the earldome of Sutherland dothe; but it hath been exeimed by some slight conveyance, and by the negligence of your predecessours. Sicklyk whatsoever yow think to mak cleame to hereafter as wmqhyle apperteyning to your predecesours, Earles of Sutherland, yow shall cleame the same before the yeir of God I¹⁶²⁰ thretty yeirs, if I do not the same during the tyme of my government in this country.

If at any tyme yow be able to buy any lands out of Sutherland for your eldest sone, then buy some resting place to him about Edinbrugh, wher he may dwell and remain when any occasion drawes him south, either for himselfe or his freinds.

Now to adwyse yow what course yow shall vse with your nixt neighbours, it is hard, for it is comunly sein that wher ther is necest vicinitie, ther is farthest distance of harts. Neir nyghbours ar seldome frie from jarres and quarralls.

My opinion therefore shall be thus:—To begin with Assint, it hath ewer depended vpon your house; keip the Laird of Assint still your freind. And albeit we haue some affinitie with that countrey at this tyme, yet it will wear out, and perhaps a stricker and greater conjunction with that countrey may yet folowe. Therefore loise them not but in ther own default, and if they haue any bussines at lawe assist them freindlie. The lyke I wish yow to do with all the hielanders that haue depended vpon your predecessours, both in the iles and elswher.

Concerning the Laird of Duffas, he is your countreyman and wassell as Macky is, though he be settled in another countrey; yet he hath a good token from your predecessours, though these many ages he hath alwayes inclined to the Earle of Cathnesse rather then to your forbears. Newertheles strywe to keip him as I haue endewoired to do, though aganst the opinion of your best freinds. Tymes may change, and one may come who will follow you and your house intirelie. But howsoever, whither he be weill or ill or indifferentlie affected to yow, I do especially adwyse yow newer to change the nature of his holding from ward, because if once yow vnty that knot, he may misknowe yow and breid factions in your countrey aganst yow, which will trouble you more then yow ar awar off. But if many of your countreymen will joyne togidder and buy his lands in Sutherland, which I know his predecessours were ewer willing to do, then yow might change the ward into a yeirlie fue rent to dywers men, which is dangerous to do to one.

Be ewer circumspect and attentive to hearken what courses the house of Cathnesse taketh. For, though it be lyklike that by progresse of tyme yow may be good freinds by interchange of mariage, yet they will still strywe to be your equal, beeing so near nighbours. Cæsarve priorem, Pompeiusve parent ferre nequit. And although all things do seem now to be settled and agreed betuix your two houses, yet a lytle mater will kendle a hid spark of malice bred and rooted of long in both your harts. The place in Parliament (which hitherto seemed to breid all jarres among yow) is now out of question, yow being so many degries ranked before him. And although wee should rather strywe to be citizens in heavin then for precedeneie on earth, yet my adwyse to yow is, to seik your due, and that ranck whervnto God hath called yow. And if it shall please God to call me vnto himself before I can haue the commōditie and occasione to question your place with these few earles of this kiugdome that ar now wrongfullie rancked before yow, then yow shall sute for your owne due. I

can sie no reasone either by antiquitie or by ewidents why yow should not have the first place from all the earles of Scotland, yea, from the Earle of Angus himselfe, for anything I have yet sein. All the instructions concerning your prioritie I have separated from the rest of your wryts, and placed them in a boundle by them selfs in your chartour chest in Kildrinnie.

The next thing which bred stryff betuixt your house and Cathnesse was the Earle of Cathnesse his alledged justiciarie within Sutherland and Strathnaver, which now also is of late by them renounced in your favours. Yet one thing I have to adwyse you therenant, that yow tak speciall heed whensoever anie earle of Cathnesse doth enter either by service or by resignation in the kings hands for a new infeftment, that yow take heed (I say) least he slip in quyetlie into his infeftment the justiciarie and shirrefship of Sutherland and Strathnaver with the rest of the priveledges of his infeftment, long ago renounced by this Earle of Cathnesse, which, if he do, yow shall either cause stay the service, or cause stay the infeftment at the scales if yow have so much favour among the officers of estate; or els presentlie cause intend a reduction therof as a mater which his predecessours have before discharged by contract to the Earles of Sutherland, the yeir of God 15^{vj}° sexteine yeirs, which contract was registrat at Edinburgh shortlie after.

Hawe ewer some trustie secret freind both in Cathnesse and Strathnaver, whom yow shall enterteine as your secreit pensioner, that he may still adwertise yow of all things either spoken or dewysed aganst yow or yours. Do not harbour such as shall flie for succour and refuge to yow from Cathnesse and Strathnaver, except ther fathers or themselves hawe bein borne native Sutherland men, for it is a small condition which ther owne lords will offer them, but they will presentlie forsaike yow and returne home againe; vules they do commit such a fact as doth exclude all hoip of retrait, in that caice yow shall receive them. Do your endewoir to be ewer suir of the Clan Gun, for since memorie of man they newer harmed the house of Sutherland, but hawe alwayes folowed the same whersoewer they did dwell. If they be yours yow may cair the lesse either for Cathnesse or Strathnaver, by way of deid.

The next thing I do recommend vnto yow is this, that if the decreit obteyned by the Earle of Cathnesse aganst your infeftment of regalitie be not reduced by me or your vncle, Sir Alexander, before your majoritie, that yow extend all your moyen and meanes at court and session to reduce the samen, seeing Cathnesse

hath bound himself by wryt newer to oppose to that reduction; for by this infetment Strathnaver is annexed to the earledome of Sutherland.

Mak all diligence to settle and establish your shirrefship of Sutherland and Strathnaver, if I do it not to your hand, and cause distinguishe the same from the shirrefdlome of Invernesse, making your owne accompts to the exchecker. And if at anie tyme your prince be earnest to have your shirrefship, let him have it for payment, provyding that his majestie will be pleased to settle your regalitie; els not. For seing all Sutherland (for the most part) doth hold of yow and your regalitie, yow need not care much for the shirrefship. But dispone not to his majestie the shirrefship of Strathnaver without Macky his owne consent seeing yow ar bound to warrant the same vnto him. When yow have setled your shirrefship yow shall prease by all meanes to annex Slishechiles thervnto, by ewicting the same from the Marquis of Huntley; seeing it is a part of the earledome of Sutherland, and payes both teind and wicarage to the parochin of Creich; which yow may prove by the Earle of Rosse his infetment of the lands of Ferrincoskerie. Prease first to obtain from Huntley the heritable gift of the shirrefship of the ten dawighes land of the east syde of Strathvilly, which is excepted in the first gift which the Earle of Huntley gawe your grandfather; and when yow have obtained that, then intend action against Slishechiles.

Ther is ane heritable gift of the admiralltie of the dyacie of Cathnesse granted by my persnasion to my lord, your father, by Lodowick, Duik of Lennox, beeing alwayes countable therfoir to the duik and his heyres. I will (God willing) try if I can get the clause (of being countable) exchanged in a yeirly dewtie; and if I cannot prewail, let it be the first request yow shall make to the duik or his successours, wherby this may be a memorie to posteritie that yow ar descended of his house.

Meynteyn good correspondence with your nighbours in Rosse, such as the Frasers, Monroes and Rosses, cheiflie with the Monroes, who have been still favourers of your house. As for Clancheinzie who (thogh thay were your forbears dependers and baillies in Rosse, as appears by there band of service giwen to your great grandfather, Earle John) now aspyring to be high, will strywe to vndermyne yow, and take all dependance and freindship from yow. Keip fair with them, and stick yow fast to the Frasers and Monroes. The Rosses ar still vnconstant. Do yow strywe to keip the house of Inwercharran be the hand if yow can; for thay ar the best maured of that name.

Entertayne freindship and amitie with Maedonald of Sleat, for ther hath bein ancient kyndnes and allyance betuix your families, and thay hawe ever obserued a true part to the house of Sutherland, which yow shall stryve to continue: and though of late thay hawe contracted allyance with the house [of] Kintayle, yet they will preferr yow if yow deserwe it.

Be ane enemie to these idle robbers that live by stealing of horse and cattle, which sin is too ryff in this dyacie, wherby the poore labourers are oppressed. Keep good correspondencie with your nighbours to punishe such offenders, and when they com vnto your hands, giwe them the tryall of ane assyse. Let them not escape at any man's request, els yow shall be suir to be the first man aganst whom they shall offend in that kynd.

Keep a stedfast and perpetuall anetic with the house of Macky. Use Macky rather as your wassell then as your companion; and because they ar vsuallie proud and arrogant, let them knowe that yow ar their superiour. Let Macky his pincell neuer be displayed wher yours is, whither yow be personallie present or some other hawing your place; let him hawe his pincell folded vp when yours is displayed. Suffer not any clan or famelie in Sutherland to be so bold as to make particuлар conventions and meittings of ther own for any cause whatsoever without your speciall attollerance and command.

Ther be two cheif things that ar lyklike to breed discord betuix yow and Macky which yow shall endewoir in all heast to remedie, if it be not done before your maioritie. The one is, your merches; the other is, the warrandice of Strathnaver, whervnto your father did tye himselfe in the infestment granted by him to Macky, the yeir 1^m vj^e sex yeirs. I doubt not but Macky by wertue of this warrandice will prease to depyrye yow (if he can) of the superioritie of Strathnaver, that he may hold of the king; which to remeid yow shall vrge the minute of Achindore, passed betuix your father (Earle Jhon) and Macky, the yeir of God 1^m vj^e threttein yeirs. This minute lyes in the hands of Arthour, Lord Forbes. It will compell Macky to renunce the warrandice, if he refuse to do it willinglie; which if he do not, then do yow remove him from the lands of Durines, wherof he hes no right as yet, but a lytle ticket of your fathers subscrywed by him vpon his death bed, whill will not awaill much by lawe. I suspect that the Lord Forbes lost this minute. Prease to keep Macky himself rather then his countrey men; if yow hawe Macky yow shall hawe them; if yow want him, they can lytle profite yow. The contrarie heirof yow shall obserwe with Cath-

nesse. If yow may purchaise the lowe of the inhabitants of that countrey, yow shall cair the lesse for the earles freindship or favour.

The cheifest merches in controversie betuix yow ar in the Diriemoir, merching with the bounds of Lairg and Cinesse on the one syde and Durines on the other. And albeit Macky hath gotten ane infestment of the whole Diriemoir from your predecessours, yet failt yow not to cause keip preceislie the old merches betuix Sutherland and Strathnawer in that end of the countrey, which is Knokanchalleghe, Aldnalbanegh and Correchrotter and Rinbisdell at the other syde of the countrey; as I hawe of late obteyned from Macky by ane arbitrall decreit, the yeirs of God 1^m vj^e sewintein and 1^m vj^e aughtein yeirs.

Yow shall vse all meanes possible to preserwe still your old merches in ewerie corner of the countrey, not onlie with the nighbouring provinces, but also within this countrey betuix yow and your wassals: and cause your tenuants lying nixt adiaacent to your borders to eat the girse and pasture yeirle without fail, as far as your merches can retche. And failt not to place the trustiest men yow hawe, and in whom yow confide most, vpon the borders of your countrey. Be diligent also to settle all your merches and the bounds of your lands, either with the nighbouring shyres or within the countrey, that so your countreymen, knowing what is ther own and what is yours, they may bewar to encroch vpon your propertie, which is a dangerous mater for them, if they did consider the same rightlie.

Ther is ane other mater which may breid a jarre betuix yow and Macky, depending of the forenamed warrandice, which is this—

Houcheon Macky of Farr haid a daughter by his first wyffe, the Earle of Cathnesse daughter. Houcheon married also Jeane Gordone, daughter to Alexander, Earle of Sutherland, by whom he haid Sir Donald Macky. Houcheon having serwed himself heyre to his father, Iy Macky, by a precept of clare constat given him by Alexander, Earle of Sutherland, to that effect, he resigned Strathnawer into his superiour, Earle Alexander his hands, for a new infestment to himself and to his sone, Sir Donald. This new infestment was given by Earle Alexander without warrandice. Your father, Earle Jhon, renues this infestment to Houcheon Macky and to his sone, Sir Donald, with warrandice, wherthrow proceids all this controversie. The question is—Whither Houcheon Macky was infest in the lands of Strathnawer before he did renunce the same in his superiours hands. If he was infest or serwed heyre to his predecessours (as I am

assured he was) yow ar saif anugh; and this yow may knowe by Hendrie Fermer his prodigall [protocol], which is among your fathers wryts. If Houcheon Macky was not infest, or that his seasing cannot be found, then yow ar in danger, thus:—

The laughfull heyres of Iy Macky (father to Houcheon) may serve them selfs heyres vnto the said Iy, wherby they may ewict the lands of Strathnawer from the heyres of Sir Donald, who may returne back vpon yow for warrandice; and Sir Donald his heyres agreing with the heyres of Iy Macky, may so cause yow renunce the superioritie of these lands, for to be red of the warrandice. I can perceawe no remedie to prevent this, but either to defend yourself with the minute of Achindore (if it can be found) aganst the heyres of Sir Donald, or els to reduce Sir Donald his last infestment granted by your father; which may be reduced, because (as I think) his seasing and his infestment do not aggrie. For his seasing is vnited and taken in one place, which vniou is not in the infestment. If this cannot help yow, then yow must aggrie for some composition of money with the heyres of Iy Macky if they do appeare; which I wishe yow rather to do then to renunce the superioritie of Strathnawer. The heyre of Iy Macky is either Christian Macky, daughter to the said Houcheon by the Earle of Cathnesse daughter, which Christian dyed without children; or els the heyres of Angus Macky, the grandfather (or the great grandfather) of the said Iy Macky, who can hardlie be found out; and though they were found, ther clame (I hope) is now lost by prescription. Sir Donald Macky hath neither serwed nor doth not intend to serue himself heyre to his father or grandfather.

Ther is ane other remeid which yow may vse to frie your self from Macky his warrandice, and this is it. Bishope Reid of Orknay obteyned a gift of Strathnawer before the Earle of Huntley by reason of Donald Macky his bastardrie, which gift of Huntleys is the ground of Iy Macky his cleame. This former right was bought by your father from Bishope Reids heyr, and the gift was taken in my name. Keip this right quiet vntill yow do sie yourself straited by the other, and then defend your self therby as yow can. If ther be any defect in Bishope Reid his right be lawe, preasse to amend it before yow lawe to do therwith. But I hope (God willing) to end these controwersies with Macky if I can possible.

Ane other thing I adwyse yow to do with Macky, that is, to cause him compeir personallie at all your courts either in Southerland or Strathnawer, as he is bound by his contracts and infestments.

Let no man tyrannise ower your tennents, yea, not your owne brother.

Do your best to get all the coast syde of Southerland into your owne hands from the Craigbeg to the Ord, and plant it all with tennents fit for service. Let the gentlemen or such as think them selfs vnfit to serwe, be removed to the height of the country. And because your ablest tennants ar still most employed in all expeditions, give vnto your ablest and prettiest men the best and schapest lands to liue vpon.

One thing I would wish yow to do, which is, that yow never height nor augment the rental of your land, and cheiflie your teind; wherin your predecessours have bein suawhat carelesse, first, in raking ther lands to greater dewties then they were able to bear, which makes your tennants poor and miserable. How can they pay the dewtie when the ground will not yield it? A poore tennant maks a poore maister, and a rich tennant a rich maister. The next thing your forebears failed in of this kynd was the racking vp of ther teiuds from a silver dewtie to victuall; for that serwes onlie to profit the persone or patrone of your teiuds, which are vncertane. Whatewer augumentation the land is able to pay, let it be cuiled stock.

Let ther be still a strict freindschip and inuiolable vniõ betuix yow and your surname, and mutuallie among them selfs, otherways it may vndo yow all. For your surname is enwyed in this dyacie for ther greatnes and prosperitie, which (doubtlesse) will encrease so long as yow serwe God truelie. And if they be wise they will endewoir with all ther might to vphold your house, without the which they ar but a handfull, exposed to the hatred and rage of there nighbours. Heat that man as the pest who would preasse to sowe dissention betuix yow and your brethren, for by discord great things do perishe, and by concord small things do become great. Your familie had ewer that good propertie to keep a perpetuall lowe and freindschip among themselves.

Do nothing of consequence without the advyse and counsell of your speciall freinds. Have a certane number both of the wealthiest and wysest among them to consult with when any important bussines occurs. But first take ther oathes to be secreit. If yow hear that any of them doth reveall your counsells, first try the matter weill before yow shew your self jealous of your freinds honestie, then after tryell and good advysement debar him both from your favour and secreit affaires, and do your best to lat him feill that he hath done yow wrong.

Before yow enter in freindship with a stranger consider of it; after freindship trust. Tiy long before yow admit any to be your intire freind (I do not meane ewerie comune acquaintance); but once being admitted, intertayne him in your heart; talk with him as with your selfe; leawe him not when he is in adversitie; or when fortune hath forsaken him. If he do forsake yow in any strait then shall yow know that he is not a perfeyt freind.

A freind can not be knowen in prosperitie, and aneemie can not be hidden in adversitie. Be not sudden to contract freindship, but vpon good tryall of the parties natur and inclination; hawing once ingadged yourselfe in the bonds of ametic, be slowe to dissolwe the same. Change not a freind for any good, neither a faithfull brother for the best gold; and forsake not the old freind for the new, saith the wise man.

If yow can compass it, insinuat your self still in favour with some such favourit as is in greatest credit at court for the tyme. Trouble him not for trifles. Complement with him as often as yow can find occasion. Present him with many yet small gifts and of lytle charge; and if yow have cause to bestowe any great gratuitie on him, let it be no kist commoditie or obscure thing, but such a present as may be daylie in sight, the better to be remembred. Being thus careful to have good freinds at court, your prince shall be alwayes rightly enformed of any bussines which doth concerne yow or your freinds.

Be suir also to have some of the ringleaders both in counsell and session to be your assured freinds. Retein still the best men of lawe and advocats in Edinbrugh for your counsell. Hawe a good, diligent, skillfull and faithfull agent still resident at Edinbrugh, who shall be your pensioner, and shall advertise yow from tyme to tyme of all occurrences there. Besyds this, yow shall still have in your owne companie a man expert in the laws and statutes of the kingdome, whom yow shall retaine alwayes with your selfe as your domestjck serwant. Let him be a publick noterie, and a messenger at armes. It is best to have him a borne Southerland man, if it be possible, for so shall he be trustiest to yow.

Trust not too much to your owne witt, but consult with your trustiest freinds in any weightie bussines. Do not committ your secret interpryses vnto any, but vnto him whom yow trust with the execution therof. Be close and secret in all your affaires, for secrecie is a vertue without the which no great interpryse can be brought to passe. Commit no mater of importance but vnto such as yow know to be trustie to yow, and of whose secrecie yow ar assured and confident.

Trust never too much vnto a reconciled enemie, neither shall you follow his adwyse in any mater of importance, except his opinion be seconded by your wysest and trustiest freinds, for he will (perhaps) adwyse yow to abuse your trustiest serwants and such as were faithfullest to yourself aganst him.

Be never so intire or familiar with any man, but if it happen that you discord, yow may retire with safetie, without disclosing your most inward secrets to any flesh breathing, yea, not to the wyffe of your bossome. For it is a meir follie for a man to intrhall himself farther to his freind then that he neids not fear him being his enemie.

Be war vpon freindship to be suirtie for any man, kiest therby yow endanger the estate of your successours when yow least expect the same. For he that payeth another mans debts goeth the reddie way to leaue other men to pay his, and seiketh his own owerthrow. Therefore if he be such a one that yow cannot refuse, choose rather to lend that money from your selfe vpon good band though yow borrow it; so may yow pleasour your freind and happelie secure your self. And in borrowing of money be ewer precious of your word, for he that hath a cuir to keip dayes of payment is lord commander many tymes of another mans purse. If yow will neids be suretie for any man in blockes and barganes (which is verie dangerous) then do it for such as ar responsall, and that can give yow good securitie for your releif; els not.

Vse such affabilitie and convenient complement with your freinds and others as comune civilitie and courtesie requyreth, without making yourself too deire to your freind or your freind to cheape to you. Be courteous towards all men, and cheiflie towards your inferiours, who ar not bound by dewtie to folow yow, wherby yow shall insinuat yourself into ther affections. Be carefull and diligent to preserwe your own place among your equals. Strywe to be truely noble both in your cariage and all your actions. Be of a pleasant and mirrie conversation. Resort most among your equalls, or rather betters if yow can find them. Let your companie be of honest men, not defamed or vicious. Offend no man willinglie. Break no bitter jests vpon any man publicklie as many do who haid rather loise ther freind then ther jest. Be no wilfull maynteyner of strange self-conceated opinions, yet do not suddantlie give ower your argument at the first. But when yow have spoken sufficientlie to let the companie knowe that yow have the better leaue it so. If yow be given to choller, strywe to owercome that passion, for it doth not become a nobleman. Yet above all things be sensitivie of iniurie.

Forbear to be too familiar with the inhabitants of your country, for it breedeth contempt. Let them once knowe that yow ar ther superiour. Neither wold I wish yow to be ower retired; but be oppen and affable in giving accesse to ewery honest persone when they hawe ado that they may mak there owne suits to yow themselves; and not employ others as interecessours, which in some measour will abate the pryde of your proudest countreyemen. But bwarre to lightlie and contemne your gentlemen.

Do few bussines with your countreyemen by the intercession of others, or by the mediation of these that ar in greatest credite with yow; for they will suck the margh and substance of your tennants, and your own reputation shall be therby diminished. It is also requisite that yow learne to speak the vulgar langage of the country that yow may truelie vnderstand and vprightlie judge the complaints of the poor ons.

Be constant and steadfast in a good resolution, and be not easelie perswaded to change or alter what yow hawe once concluded. Deliberat long before yow do interpryse any mater of importance; but when yow hawe resolwed anything, let the execution therof be als suddain as the deliberation was lingring.

Againe I adwyse yow that if at any tyne yow hawe engaged your word, performe it, being lawghfull, though to your loise; so shall your promise be as forceable as anothers band, your word as anothers oath; for it is the man that gives credit to his oath, more then the oath to the man.

Be war to do anything that can bring yow within the compasse of traisione; for (doubtlesse) our king will do what he can to courb the nobilitie of Scotland, and to diminishe ther powar, therby to conforme them to the custome of England. It is not now with our noblemen as when our king was resident in Scotland. Hardlie then could the kings majestie punishe any of our greatest nobilitie when they hade offended, by reason of ther great dependencies and freindship. But now he being absolute king of all Great Britane, the caise is altered. He may when he listeth dantone the proudest and mightiest of yow all. At that tyme he was glaid to restore this yeir such as he haid attainted and forfalted by popular tumult the yeir preceeding. Now, if a nobleman be once forfalted or proscript, ther is small hope of being restored againe.

Be ever reddie to hazard your goods, lyf and lands in the defence of your prince and country. If at any tyme (as God forbid) the succession of the kingdome of Scotland shall happen to come in dispute or question, as yow lowe your

own standing, folow him whom in your conscience yow think to have the best right, without respect either to freindship, to surname, to allyance or kinred; and whose tittle soewer yow shall sie once settled by a parliament, defend him with all your might. So shall yow be suir to escape forfalterie, and the iniurie of ciwill calamities.

Acknowledge the Marquis of Huntley as your cheif, but if he do not respect yow as your place and qualitie deserweth, then desist to folow him, but vse him as another nyghbour; for yow neid not be in any mans reverence but your princes, of whom yow hold immediatlie. Let a Gordones querrell be your own, so far as he hath right and equitie on his syde. Preferre your suruame (though they be not within degrie defendant) to your nearest allyance.

Earle Jhon, your father, hath maid a tailzie of his lands and earldome to Adame Gordone of Achindoun, and his heys mail, inace his own succession (and ours that ar your vncles) shall happen to faille, as God forbid. George, Lord Gordone (the Marquis of Huntley's eldest sone), is heyre apperand to Achindoun. When therefore it shall please God that yow come to perfyte age, yow shall vrge the Marquis of Huntley to mak a mutuall tailzie of his house to yow, which if he do refuse, yow shall do weell to break the first, and to mak a mutuall tailzie of any other of the surname of Gordone that lyks yow best, after your own famelie mentioned already in the tailzie, and this yow may do by renewing agaiue of your infestment.

Whensoeuer yow shall happen to have warres, lead fourth your countreyemen your self in persone; so shall they obey the more willingly, and fight with better courage. But if your affaires or health do not permit yowrself to be present, commit the charge of your men to some gentleman descended of your own famelie that is of greatest reputation among them, or rather to one of your brethren. Keip your men vnder strict discipline and obedience, otherwayes they will prove to be exceeding vnrewlie.

In tyme of warre be extreamlie liberall, for then is no tyme of spairing. Let the justnes of your cause be your greatest strenth. Be cold and foreseeing in devysing, constant in your resolutions of warre, forwart and quick in your excutions. Do neither fear nor lightlie your enemy. Hazard once your own persone fairlie, but hawing so obteyned the fame of courage, expose not your self rashelie to ewerie danger; for in the persone of the commander consisteth the saiftie of the inhabitants.

In tyme of peace prepare your countrey men for warre. When they merche, either at their hoistings or huntings, cause them to merche in order both at their going fourth and their retiring; for they ar giuen and inclined to merche out of order. Appoynt musters and weaponsheues once or twyse ewerie yeir. Set none of your land but vnto such as will promise to arme and cloath them selfs as is fitting, whensoever yow shall haue occasion to charge them. Cherishe your countrey men and train them vp in all kynd of honest exercise, such as hunting, ryding, archerie, shooting with the gun, gofing, jumping, running, swimming and such lyk. Eshew the footeball as a dangerous and viprofitable exercise.

Vse your diligence to take away the reliques of the Irishe barbaritie which as yet remains in your countrey, to wit, the Irishe langage, and the habit. Purge your countrey peice and peice from that vnciwil kynd of clothes, such as plaids, mantels, truses and blew bonnets. Mak sewere acts aganst those that shall weare them. Cause the inhabitants of the countrey to cloith them selfs as the most ciuill prowinees of the kingdome do, with doublet, hoise, cloiks and hats, which they may do with less chargs then the other. It is no excuse which some wold pretend alledgeing that vnciwil habit to be lightest among the montanes. They may cloith them selfs (if they list) with coats and breiches of one colour, as light and handsome as plaid and truses. The Ireishe langage cannot so soone be extinguished. To help this plant schooles in ewerie corner in the countrey to instruct the youth to speak Inglishe. Let your cheif scooles for learning be at Dornoche, and perswade the gentlemen of your countrey to bestowe lairglie vpon ther children to make them schollers, for so shall they be fittest for your seruice. Preece to ciuiliz your countrey and the inhabitants therof, not onlie in this poynt, but lykwyse in all other things which yow shall obserwe abroad in your trawells among other nations.

Strywe to keip the inhabitants of your countrey at home from waxing one another with vnecessary suts in law. Let them choose indifferent arbitratours within the countrey to settle and compone such controversies and debaites as shall happen at any tyme to aryse among them, and whomsoever yow find refractarie heirin, do yow and all the countrey men joyne togidder aganst him, to crosse his affaires at Edinbrugh; for many tedious wayages from Sutherland to Edinbrugh will both vndo yow and your countrey. Suffer no stranger to oppresse your countrey men by lawe, and when they shall happen to be so troubled, defend them with all your meanes, although it should be to your loise at that present,

for so others will be lother in tyme coming to trouble and wex your country in that kynd.

Vndertake no sute in lawe willinglie aganst anie man whatsoewer, but cheiffie aganst a poore man, without receawing of great wrong. Hazard rather to receawe some loise by the arbitrinment of freinds, for he that winneth most at law, loiseth. Be sure that your cause be just which yow go to try by law, and spare no charges to obtain the victorie in the first action that yow have to be tryed before the lords of counsell or session. What I do speak heir of your lawe bussines, the same I do adwyse yow in your querrells and feghting. Bewarr to give any occasion of stryf, but if yow be once engagded in your honour or credit, mentayne what yow have vndertaken ewen with your deerest blood. Then shall yow be sure that men will be the more vnwilling afterward to prowok yow; for the bad or good successe of any mans first attempt breedeth ewer a confidence or fear in his enemies of all his ensuing actions.

The heys of the Lord Oliphant have (as I do heir) ane action of spuilzie depending in law aganst your house since the tyme that your grandfather, Earle Alexander, went into Cathnesse to spoyle that country, the yeir of God 1578 aughtie-eight. If they do not mowe this mater to yow, yow shall newer motion the same to them. It is not good (sayeth the proverb) to awaik sleiping dogges. Whensoewer they shall intend that action aganst yow, vse your best freinds and all your moeyn to get the mater taken away freindlie, and give rather a somme of money by the sight of freinds then that yee shall abyd the extremitie of so old ane action of that nature; except it passe prescription, then yow neid not to be affrayed of it.

Ther is ane other thing that I wishe yow to be carefull off, if I do it not before your majoritie, and this it is. Be diligent to call in all the bands and obligations that your father gawe out in his tyme, and be verie carefull to call in all the infetments he gawe either vpon wedsets or otherwayes. For he gawe tripill securitie for all the det that he is owing in Aberdeine; first, he gawe bands to the creditours conteyning cautioners; then he gawe Sutherland men for releif of such gentlemen as were suirtie and cautioners for him in Aberdein; and thridlie, he gawe securitie and infetment of land to such Sutherland men as he did employ in that bussines. So the nixt remeid is, to recall in all these securities when the money is satisfeid, which (God willing) shall be done, if I happen to liwe till your majoritie. Againe, ther ar some bands alreddie payed which ar as yet in

the creditoures hands. One ther is in the Laird of Assints hands of two thousand merks, for the which he hath gotten Ballechnock. An other ther is of thrie thousand merks maid to Maister Duncan Forbes, wherein Macky is cautioner. This also is satisfied, and remains in Maister William Forbes of Craggivar his hands. An other is of one thousand merks payed alreddie to William Innes, chalmerland, which band he hath promised me to be destroyed. Jhon Gordone of Golspitour hath infestments vpon the lands of Clentradduell for his securitie for his cautionerie in Aberdein; which infestments yow shall call in and cancell when the money is payed, if it be not done by me. George Sinclair in Cathnesse is infest in Loithbeg in clause warrandice of his two thousand merks, which also yow shall cause to be canceled when the money is satisfied. Ther is also a band of a thousand merks in Gilbert Gray of Skibo his hands, which somme I have satisfied, and have gotten his acquittance therevpon. Ther ar many of this nature which I know not nor can remember. So preasse yow to amend your fathers escapes herein. It may be the tyme of prescription will passe before they sute it, then yow ar sure; and it may be they delay to sute these bands so long as I live. Mack your residence at Dornoch in the winter sease, and hold the most pairt of your meetings and courts ther, that so you may better the towne and passe the tyme the mirrier with the gentlemen of your countrey, who will repair thither to passe the winter with yow. Enlarge the liberties of Dornoch so far as yow can, and proclame a Setterdays market ther, which yow shall cause observe weiklie and dewlie. And because this whyle bypast all the merchandise and trafick of Strathnaver and Sutherland hath bein transported ower to Tayne, whereby it is enriched and Dornoch depauperat; to remeid this yow shall mack strait and seweir acts in your courts that no merchandise be transported ower into Tayne, except it be first brought to the towne of Dornoch and offered to be sold ther.

Be carefull (as I said) to enlarge and to mentayne the liberties of the toun of Dornoch, because it holds of your self. Erect scooles ther, which may be a seminarie of vertue to instruct the children and youtnes of your countrey in learning. Perswade the inhabitants of that towne to build vessels and shippes of ther owne to transport from thence such commodities as the countrey yeelds, and to bring thither from other parts such merchandise as is requisite for the weill of the countrey. Suffer as litle wyne and spyce to be brought hither as yow can, for that serwes to lytle purpois, but to give occasion of drunknes and gluttonie. Erect it in a brough royall if yow can.

Setle also a summer market in Broray, that so yow may bring money into your country in the summer seasons for your marts, wooll and other commodities; seeing the best markets that yow have ar in the winter.

According as the pryces of victualis do fall and ryse, either for the abondance or scantenesse theroff, the pryces of all other wares within the country should ryse and fall. Suffer not the nyghbouring strangers to bwy your wares or victuall at what pryces they please to set on them, and to sell them againe either to your selfe or others at the deirest pryces. But let all the commodities of the countrie be first offered to be sold at Dornoch; for reasone would that they should have the profit therof before a stranger. Set down ewerie yeir a certaine pryce for all things, considering first how it is in other countreys, and the pryce being reasonable set donn be the adwyse of the cheif gentlemen of the country, then punishe exactlie such inhabitants as yow sic refractarie. Allure strangers and artificers of all sorts to repair to your country, and to inhabit ther.

Be war to mak a forehand block off your victuall, fishes or other commodities, but vpon extreame necessitie of money to performe some great bussines; for it vndois the tennents and hinders yow greatlie, being forced to sell your commodities for halfe the value. It is both easier and farther to your profite to tak vp silver vpon anuell whersoever it can be hade, and to sell your commodities yeirlye as the market gois. If yow have to do with money, tak it vpon anuell within your owne country, if it can be hade, rather then to go to Edinbrugh and Aberdein, and ther to spend double anuell in seiking of it; the experience heiroy your father bought at his owne charges.

I do advyse yow of one thing, that if at any tyme yow give bands for money (as yow must do vpon sewerall occasions) that yow newer pay the money vntill yow receawe your bands; for I have knowne many to have payed the money vpon discharges and not retire ther bands; so that they were afterward persued for the money and forced to pay the sommes, the discharges being lost. Therefore when yow deale in any bargaine with such as hawe not given yow your bands, be sure to get discharges from them for all preceeding bussines betuix yow.

Moreower, when yow give any infetment of land vpon reversion, yow shall cause insert the reversion in the bodie of the infetment. So yow shall be sure that the reversion shall not be lost. If this be not looked too yow may loise the land by not producing the reversion.

The first thing I would wish yow to interpryse when yow are out of debt and

your wedsetts relied, is to build a house in Dunrobin, for that is the werie heart and center of your countrey, and the most pleasant habitation yow hawe. Ther yow may easelie mak a fyne delicat park, comprehending therein boith the syds of the burne of Golspie, the most pairt of the lands of the Backies, with the Gallowhill, and some of that which is round about the house of Dunrobin. Yow may breid therein boith reid deir and fellow deir, if yow list, as also horses. I think fittest that yow should build vpon the mote. Vse heirin the opinion of the most skilfull artificers yow can find; and if they will perswade yow that the mote is a sure foundation at the southwest corner, and giue yow opinion to build vpon the mote, yow shall folow ther opinion therein, and drawe the southeast corner of the kitching and brew-house ewen leawell with the lytle tour, and cause the northeast quarter of the great chalmer to be drawn east againe to meit the south quarter aganst the lytle tour, and mak your entres at the east. By this meanes yow shall enlairge your cloise a great deale. But I leave this to ther advyse who ar heirin more expert then I am. None in the kingdome can build cheaper then yow, hawing stone and lyme so neir yow.

Now concerning your cole hugh (which decayed before I returned home from England after your fathers death by reasone of a controversie betuix your grandmother and your mother), I do advyse yow to put it fordwart againe. And if by reason of your other employments yow can not easelie go on with it, then set a take or lease of it to some speciall and trustie freinds who will vndertake it.

Employ your countreyemen often with woluntarie contributions and supports, especiallie whensoewer yow vndertak to build, or marie a daughter, or interpryse any other important bussines; not only to hold them in vse therof, but also to stop ther mouthes from seiking any fawour at your hands incaice they refuse yow. Ask confidentlie that which yow require, for he that asketh doubttinglie teacheth the way to be denied.

Vse a moderation in all your exercises, and suffer not your sport to drawe yow from your more serious affaires. Let your bodelie exercises be running, leaping, fencing, wrestling, dancing, playing at tennise, archerie, ryding, tilt, ring, hawking and hunting, which is a martiall sport, and resembleth the warres much; for it maketh a man hardie and skilfull in all grounds. When yow wold be quiet, and withdrawes yourself from your exercises, admit few to your chalmer. Let them be boith trustie and secret that yow admit, for eshewing of caring tales and reports abroad.

Touning reports either false or true, I thus advyse yow. Consider first the nature of the persone reporter; nixt, what entresse he can have in the weell or ewell of him of whom he maketh the report; thridlie, the lyklikehood of the purpois itself; and last, the nature and bypast lyf of the persone delated. Try the mater exactlie, and if it be found a ly, punishe the tale teller rigourously, that others by his exemple may absteine from lying reports; for it is better to try reports, then by credulitie to foster suspition vpon ane honest man; and to mistrust one, to whom no such vn honestie was knowen before.

Be carefull of the report that gois abroad of yow through the country; and of all other things eshew ane ewell name; so tender, delicat, and incurable abowe whatsoewer els is fame.

Vse playing at cards and dyce sometyne, but therin obserwe these things. Resolve to hazard all that yee play. Play no more then yow care to cast among the pages and boyes. Play alwayes fair play preceislie, without angering yourself or offending the companie, least yow come in vse of tricking and lying in jeast. Learne to bear your loises patientlie. Let your pley be great or small as pleaseth the companie, if they be not your inferiours; for then it becommeth yow to owerwrele them to your pleasour. In playing obserwe these things, otherways absteine alluterlie from playing.

As for your hunting, if yee be not carefull to preserwe your game and forestes, that sport will decay. Spair therefore your deir and roes, your conie-warrand, and all sorts of wild foule within your country. Hawe shearcheres and watchmen in ewerie corner of the country to informe yow of the destroyers of your game, and punishe the offenders exactlie. Hunt often in the Dirimoir and Durines, therby to keip yow in possession of hunting in these bounds seeing it is holden of yow, howsoewer it is Macky his heritage.

When your leasure serwes yow, reid the best approwed histories in any langage which yow vnderstand; for therby yow may knowe other mens escaps, and how they hawe willinglie run them selfs into eminent dangers; and also learne how to avoyde them. Yow shall hawe some insight in all sciences, cheiflie in cosmographie and geographie, which becommes a man of your qualitie.

Reid choysed and approwed authours, not confusedlie a peice of one then a peice of ane other, for the turning ower of dywers volumes togidder breids confusion. It tastes of a wandering and vnstable disposition, and a multitude of books do distract the mynd. Therefore when yow do Beginn to reid any

book pervse it to the end before yow enter with ane other; and when yow growe wearie, leawe, and retire to the same againe. What yow reid let it not slip vndegested till meditation hawe maid it your owne. Cause erect a bibliothek in Dornoch and fill it with sufficient store of books, boith for your credit and the weel of this countrey, to amend ther ignorance which increases through laik of bookes. This work shall be begun and interprysed to your hand if I live.

In your langage be plain, honest, mirrie, naturall, quick, short and sententious, without any affectatioun in termes or gesture. Vse mirrines or grawitie according to the subject and occasion of the tyme.

Be war with vseing excesse of meat and drink, cheillie be war of drunkenesse. Abuse not your bodie in youth with surfet, ryot or any other distemper; and for your longer dayes and better health vpon earth, afflict not your bodie with two much vnecessarie phisick. Be not dismayed although you grone vnder the hand of seiknes, for as sometymes it purgeth the bodie from nocent humours, so doeth it often tymes the soule from more dangerous securitie.

Be not superfluous in your rayment lyk a deboshed waster, not yet too baise lyke a miserable wretche. Let them be comelie, honest, cleane and proper; rather meane, to change often, then costlie to keip them long and out of fashion; keiping the seasons of the yeir and of your age. But at parliament and hie tymes spare not to be apparreled as your rank and qualetie requireth. In the fashions of them be carelesse, vsing them according to the forme of the tyme, sometymes richelier, sometymes meanlier, cloath'd as occasion serweth, without keiping any precise rewle therin; and vse your repair to parliaments als earlie as yow can.

There can be no accomplished gentleman without traweling abroad in other kingdomes. And becaus the government of strangers is best knownen by trawell, my advyse to yow is to trawell about the age of eightein yeirs, for then ar yow able not only to learne your exercises abroad but also to learne and remark the langage, maners, customes and government off ewerie state and kingdome. In your trawells mak choyse of wyse and discret companie, els it may breid yow more harne then yow ar awar off.

There is a historie of your descent and genealogie wrytten in Englishe by one that loueth and favours you and your house. I advyse you to preserwe and keip that historie saiffie amongst your best wryts least it should be lost or destroyed; and whosoewer advyses yow to the contrarie, trust him not; he doth it onlie for

his owne ends. It is ane ornament to yow and your famelie to haue your actions so truelie and lairghe desorywed. Ther is also a compend of the same wrytten in Latin by one Mr. Alexander Rösse. I do adwyse yow to preserwe both these books cairfullie.

Whatsoewer good purpose yow intend at your death that do in your lyff; for in so doing it shall be more acceptable to God and commendable to man. For he that gives when he cannot hold is worthie of thanks when one cannot chuse: besyds in so doing yow shall sie your intent brought to ane end, and will thereby hinder the crasie conscience of ane executour or owersier to pervert your meanes when yow dye to some sinister respect or privat end. Whatsoever yow shall purpose be silent in your intentions least yow be prevented and laughed at.

Now, to conclude, I adwyse yow to live wertuouslie that yow may dye patientlie, for he who lives most honestlie will dye most willinglie; that so, living a good man, yow may dye in peace, lamented of your countrey men, admired by your nighbours, and leaving a good fame behind yow on earth, yow may obtayne the crowne of eternall felicitie in heavin.

It may be if God spare my dayes and health, that by his assistance and grace I shall performe some of these things before your majoritie. But sieing ther is none besyds my selfe and your vnclie, Sir Alexander, descended of your owne famelie to manage the affaires of your house dureing your nonage, I haue therfor wryten these precepts for yow that inace God do call vs to himself, yow may adwyse with these instructions, as if wee were alywe to give yow counsell. They will not onlie instruct your selfe but also may serwe for some purpose to your successours, Earles of Sutherland. These dead papers, when yow please to reid them will not flatter yow. These will not give yow partiall counsell for ther owne profeit and commoditie.

The fatherlie love that I bear yow, and the tender care which I hawe of yow and your estate, hath mowed me to wryte them. Yee shall find them impartiall counsellours, neither flatering in any wyce, nor importuning yow at vmeit tymes. They will not come vncalled, neither speak vnspired at. Receawe them then, and harkin vnto them as loueing counsellours with as good a mynd as I do give them. Receawe them (I say) from him, whose principall care in this world hath ewer bein and shall always be, the prosperous and flourishig estate of yow and your famelie, which I besiek the Lord to blisse.

FINIS.

Some Additions.

Permit none of your countrey men (cheifly your own surname) to giue ther dependance in any sort to the Earle of Cathnes or to Macky, or any other nighbour, and let none either within or without Sutherland meddle with your countrey affairs, or deall betuix yow and your countrey men, for that will alwayes diminishe your authority and reputation among your people, and will (doubtlesse) harme yow if yow happen to fall out with any of the nighboring countreyes. By the contrarie do yow stryve to haue a faction and some dependancy in all the nighbouring prowinces tho' it cost yow largely.

Suffer no intelligencer to be within your countrey, at least to stay long ther, to spy and reveal your secrets vnto your nighbouris; and cause your countrey men eshew secret correspondencies with your nighbours, vnlesse it be by your own permission and attollance.

Vse frindshipe with the most flourishing men in the commonwealth or court for the tyme that yow may vse ther favor whensoever yow haue anie bussines to do. And still remember them with small gratuities such as they shall haue greatest esteime of and make most often vse of.

This I do adwyse yow further concerning the laird off Duffus and his kin. They haue ewer borne a secret malice and hatred to your house and surname, for your forbears haue taken the bitt out of ther mouthes. Therfor trust them litle. In all ages they haue still joynd with the enemies of your house. If in progres of tyme yow can or may be able to do it, faile not to shift and buy the laird of Duffus out of your countrey, for he will overwatch all occasions to contest against yow and take part with your enemies. Enter him not to any lands in this countrey, but to such as the last deceased laird of Duffus shall dy infet and seased in; otherwyse yow shall endanger the lands of Kinnunoy and other lands, resigned be this laird of Duffus his forbears into the hand of your great-grandfather, Earle John, by the which right yow possesse these landes. And lykewyse befor yow enter any laird of Duffus to his lands yow shall cause him ratify ane band past betuix Alexander, Maister of Sutherland, and this laird of Duffus, his predecessoris, which band was of late ratified by this laird of Duffus his father.

Brydle the pryde, etc. . . .

If yow sie any house or family which hath beine long in frindshipe with youres, commanded by ane vnworthy foolish man, and therby likely to decay, first try your diligence to vphold him. If this cannot be done, then persvade him (if it be possible) to binde himselfe vnder great pecuniiall soumes, that he shall do nothing without your adwyse and consent. If he do faile herein, and that yow perceawe and forsee his decay, then make your own profite by his fall by all good means possible.

Morower, if ther be any rich heyre or heretrix fitt for mariag in any nighbouring shyre strywe to get her for on off your sons or frindis; and quhen any gentlewoman that is a stranger is matched to any of your countrey men, suffer her not to be vronged, that others may therby be induced to settle themselves in your countrey. Vpon the other part, suffer as few of your countrey gentlewomen as yow can to marie or match themselves in other shyres, for that will drawe the riches of your prowince to your nighbours. This is all, I think, expedient to adwyse yow concerning your nighbours, with quhom yow shall cause your countrey men alwayes to entertain free commerce and traffique for venting the commodities of your countrey.

COLLECTED SEALS AND SIGNATURES

ARMORIAL SEALS OF THE EARLS OF SUTHERLAND.



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.

1. William, fifth Earl of Sutherland, 1357.
2. Alexander Gordon, Master of Sutherland, 1529.
3. John, eighth Earl of Sutherland, 1492.



No. 1.



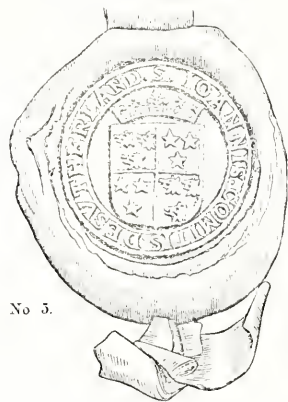
No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.

1-4 John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, 1550-1567.
5. John, twelfth Earl of Sutherland, 1690.



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.



No. 6.



No. 7.

1. John, thirteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1622.
2. George, fourteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1680.
3. John, fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1729.
4. William, Lord Strathnaver, 1719.
5. William, sixteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1734.
- 6, 7. Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, 1809.

Adam Gordon Earl of Sutherland

No. 1.

John Gordon Earl of Sutherland

No. 2.

John Gordon Earl of Sutherland

No. 3.

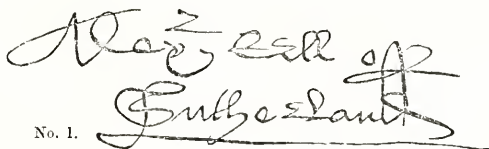
John Gordon Earl of Sutherland

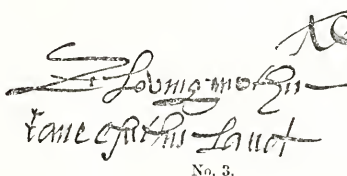
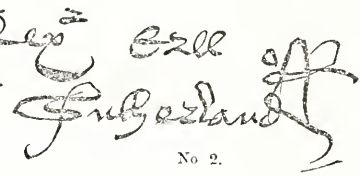
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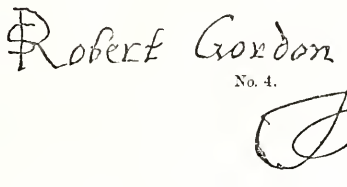

Helenor Countess of Errol and Sutherland

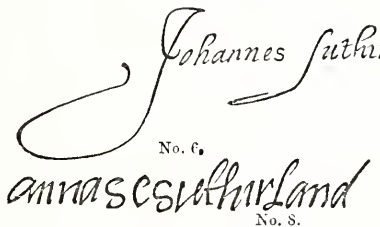

No. 5.

1. Adam Gordon, Earl of Sutherland, 1515.
2. Alexander, Master of Sutherland, 1529.
- 3, 4. John, tenth Earl of Sutherland, 1549, 1562.
5. Helenor, Countess of Errol and Sutherland, his wife, 1562.


 No. 1.



 No. 3.
 No. 2.


 No. 4.
 
 No. 5.

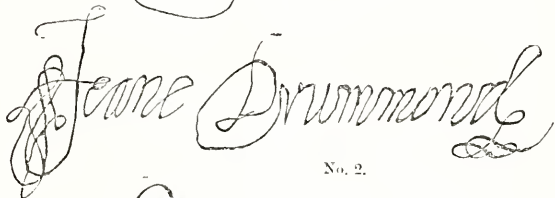

 No. 6.
 
 No. 7.

- 1, 2. Alexander, eleventh Earl of Sutherland, 1587, 1588.
 3. Lady Jane Gordon, Countess of Sutherland, his wife, 1616.

4. Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonston, c. 1650.
 5. Sir Alexander Gordon of Navidale, 1636.
 6, 7. John, twelfth Earl of Sutherland, 1615.
 8. Agnes Elphinstone, his Countess, c. 1612.



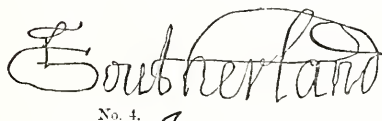
No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. John, thirteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1644. | 4. George, fourteenth Earl of Sutherland, |
| 2. Jean Drummond, his first Countess, c. 1630. | c. 1682. |
| 3. Anna Fraser, his second Countess, c. 1642. | 5. Jean Wemyss, his Countess, c. 1700. |

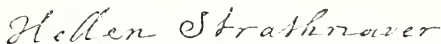


No. 1.

No. 2



No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.




No. 6.

No. 7.



No. 8

1. 2. 3. John, Lord Strathnaver and fifteenth
Earl of Sutherland, 1696, 1715

4. Helen Cochrane, Lady Strathnaver, his
first wife, 1657.

5. Dame Frances Travel, his Countess, 1727.

6. William, Lord Strathnaver, 1727.

7. Katherine Morison, Lady Strathnaver, 1746.

8. Helen Sutherland, Lady Colquhoun, 1745.

Sutherland Elizabeth Sutherland

No. 1.

No. 2.

Eliza Sutherland

No. 3.

Strathnaver

No. 4.

Sutherland McSutherland

No. 5.

No. 6.

Sutherland

No. 7.

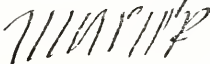

Elizabeth

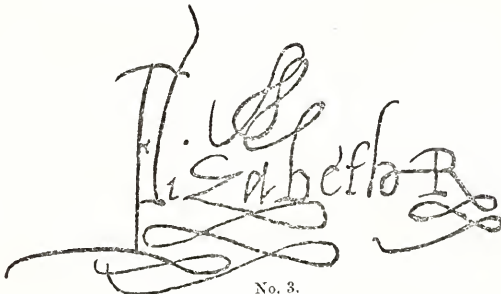
No. 8.

Gower

No. 9.

1. William, sixteenth Earl of Sutherland, 1750.
2. Elizabeth Wemyss, his Countess, c. 1746.
3. Elizabeth Sutherland, wife of James Wemyss of Wemyss, 1746.
- 4, 5. William, Lord Strathnaver and seventeenth Earl of Sutherland, 1747, 1766.
6. Mary Maxwell, his Countess, 1761.
- 7, 8. Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland and Marchioness of Stafford, 1803, 1820.
9. George, Lord Gower, afterwards first Duke of Sutherland, her husband, 1801.

Mary of Guise - *MARY*
 No. 1.  No. 2.

 No. 3.

James
 No. 4.

Charles
 No. 5.

Charles
 No. 6.

1. Mary of Guise, Queen Dowager of Scotland, 1557.
2. Mary, Queen of Scots, 1571.
3. Elizabeth, Queen of England, 1563.

4. King James the Sixth, 1601.
5. King Charles the First, 1634.
6. King Charles the Second, 1651.

William R George R

No. 1.

No. 2.

George R Adolphus.

No. 3.

No. 4.

Ferdinand Guillaume
Duc de Wurtemberg

No. 5.

1. King William the Third, 1693.
2. King George the First, 1714.
3. King George the Second, 1727.
4. Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, 1844.
5. Ferdinand William, Duke of Wirtemberg, 1694.

Your more loving and
ever assured friend

No. 1. *Katherine Lennox*

FRICHMOND & LENOX

No. 2.

Vostre tresaffionnee
Cousine

Henriette Stuart

No. 3.

Walter Scott

No. 4.

Arthur Wellington

No. 5.

1. Katherine, Duchess of Lennox, 1624.
2. Frances, Duchess-dowager of Richmond and Lennox, 1626.
3. Henrietta Stuart, Marchioness of Huntly, 1636.
4. Sir Walter Scott, 1809.
5. Arthur, first Duke of Wellington, 1843.

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

No. 6.

No. 5.

No. 7.

No. 8.

No. 9.

No. 10.

1. James, third Marquis of Hamilton, 1631.
2. Archibald, Marquis of Argyll, 1640.
3. James, Marquis of Montrose, 1640.
4. John Graham, Viscount Dundee, 1659.
5. John, first Duke of Marlborough, 1715.

6. John Erskine, sixth Earl of Mar, 1714.
7. Simon, Lord Lovat, 1714.
8. John, second Duke of Argyll, 1716.
9. John, first Duke of Roxburgh, 1716.
10. James, first Duke of Montrose, 1719.

Lachlan MacEwan of Farr
of Dunachton

No. 1.

William MacLeod
of Dunvegan
of Dunvegan

Lachlan Mackay
of Farr

No. 2.

No. 4.

William Sutherland
of Dunrobin

No. 3.

Donald Gormie
of Sleat

No. 5.

Hugh Mackay
of Farr

No. 6.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lachlan Mackintosh of Dunachton, 1588. | 4. Hugh Mackay of Farr, 1588. |
| 2. William Macleod of Dunvegan, 1588. | 5. Donald Gormie Macdonald of Sleat, 1588. |
| 3. William Sutherland of Dunrobin, 1588. | 6. William MacQueen of Corrobrocht, 1588. |

