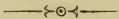


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SECOND SERIES

VOL.
IX



LETTER-BOOK OF
BAILIE JOHN STEUART

APRIL 1915



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COUNT MAIDA AND HIS SISTER MRS. FENWICK

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THE LETTER-BOOK OF
BAILIE JOHN STEUART
OF INVERNESS

1715-1752

Edited by
WILLIAM MACKAY, LL.D.



EDINBURGH

Printed at the University Press by T. and A. CONSTABLE
for the Scottish History Society

1915

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INTRODUCTION

INVERNESS has from the earliest period of which we have historical knowledge been the principal town in the territory which we now know as the Highlands. In the sixth century it was the seat of Brude, the Pictish king, whose sway extended from the Forth to the Orkneys, and at or near it was the king's palace, to which St. Columba made his memorable journey in 565. How long it had previously been a royal residence it is hard to say. It is still more difficult to conjecture at what time the community which during the course of the ages developed into the burgh, began to gather together. According to an ancient tradition, which is recorded in the histories of Boece and Buchanan, the town was founded by King Ewin (Evenus), who reigned before Julius Cæsar landed in Britain. In a petition presented in 1626 by the inhabitants to James the Sixth, it is stated that the town's 'foundation was long before the birth of Christ.' The tradition is, of course, historically unreliable, but that a rude dùn or fort early crowned the summit of the naturally strong Castle Hill (*Tom a' Chaisteil*), which rises abruptly from the river Ness, and was isolated by the deep gulley now occupied by Castle Street, and by the perhaps equally deep pass (*Am Beallach*, the Balloch) which ran along the line of the present View Place from the top of Castle Street to the river, may be taken for granted; and it may also be assumed that, long before the time of Brude, a small community gathered around this fort and gradually increased, enjoying the fort's protection and the benefits of its own more than ordinarily favourable geographical

position at the crossing of the ancient trade routes from the east to the west, and from the north to the south, and in the immediate vicinity of the safe haven of Inverness (*Inbhir-Nis*, the Mouth-of-the-Ness). Native traders—Picts they were, speaking the Pictish branch of the Celtic language, in the time of Brude and for centuries before and after him—bought and sold within the narrow bounds of the town which had thus gradually evolved itself, and supplied the men of the Bens and the Glens with such wares as were at their command, in exchange for the produce of the country and the spoil of the chase. Gaels, or Scots as they were then also called, came into the town from Ireland, and from the Gaelic or Scotie kingdom of Dalriada on the west coast of Scotland, between the sixth and eighth centuries, as preachers and teachers of Christianity, and at a later period as the result of the union of the kingdoms of the Picts and the Scots; and in the twelfth century Flemings, Frisians, and Lowlanders joined the community, much to the advantage of trade. These strangers and their descendants, as well as settlers of later periods, intermarried with the native race; and the population which thus arose was more Celtic than Saxon. The first burghess on record—mentioned in a charter by William the Lion to the town about 1200—is a Saxon or Norman bearing the name of Geoffrey Blund, and for generations after his time the trade of the burgh was mainly in the hands of merchants of alien origin. For a long period the Saxon took more kindly to trade than the Celt, whether Pict or Gael; but the Celt's prejudice against town life and commercial pursuits gradually wore away, and the first burghess that appears in the records of the Town Council is John McGillewe, a Celtic bailie whose father was a burghess as early as 1521.¹ After McGillewe's time Highlanders of position—small lairds and wadsetters,

¹ See the Editor's Introduction to *Records of Inverness* (New Spalding Club, 1911).

and sons of larger lairds—took to settling in the burgh as merchants and lawyers,¹ and their numbers gradually increased until in the beginning of the eighteenth century almost every merchant was a Celt—even those of them who bore southern names, such as Alves, Cuthbert, Inglis, Hossack, and Chevis, being in blood largely Celtic.

Among the Highland gentlemen who thus settled in Inverness was Alexander Steuart, of the family of Kinchardine in Strathspey, who began business there as a merchant about 1670, and continued to trade until his death on 22nd April 1720. To him was born, on 2nd September 1676, a son John, the Bailie John Steuart² of this volume. The barons of Kinchardine were of royal descent, the first of them being Walter Stewart, son of Alexander Stewart, the Wolf of Badenoch, who was a son of King Robert the Second. Walter, who was knighted for his valour at Harlaw, received from King Robert the Third a charter of Kinchardine, which he and his descendants continued to hold until 1661, when it was sold to the Gordons. The eighth baron was also named Walter, and from him was descended the Bailie, who was the son of Alexander, son of Robert Og, son of Robert, son of Walter. In his veins flowed not only royal blood, but also the blood of the chiefs of Grant, Mackintosh, Macgregor, Cameron, and Maclean.

The Bailie began business on his own account in Inverness before 1700. His correspondence shows him to have been a man of education and culture, well versed in mercantile matters, and having a smattering of law. He was married, first, to Marion, daughter of Bailie Robert Rose of Merkinch, Inverness—of the family of Kilravock.

¹ One of the Inverness lawyers in the Bailie's time was John Mackay, proprietor of Achmonie in Glen Urquhart, the Editor's great-great-grandfather.

² The Bailie always signs 'John Steuart'; and, although he is not so consistent with others of the same name, the form 'Steuart' has in this Introduction been adopted in the cases of his more immediate contemporary kinsmen.

She died early, and for his second wife he took Ann, daughter of Norman Macleod of Drynoch in Skye, who survived him. Through his own relatives and those of his wives he could claim connection with many of the leading families of Skye and the central Highlands; and among his customers were many 'cousins' of position, including Simon Lord Lovat, and the Chief of Macleod. For forty years after 1700 he led a life of great activity: the present volume does not give a tithe of the contents of his Letter-Book, or rather, long series of letter-books. For years he appeared to prosper, giving close attention to his mercantile business and to his duties as factor on the Earl of Moray's lordship of Petty. He served on the Town Council of Inverness from 1703 to 1716. He was a magistrate of the burgh from 1713 to 1715, and was ever afterwards known as Bailie Steuart. He was of a speculative disposition and of a sanguine temperament, and he ventured and trusted too much. The result was that, while other Inverness merchants of his class made money and became landed proprietors, he, who excelled them all in industry and enterprise, died in poverty.

Bailie Steuart was a merchant in the larger sense of the word, and not in the restricted Scottish sense of shopkeeper. So far as the Letter-Book shows, he had no shop, his business being mainly a counting-house one, and such supplies as he from time to time kept in stock being stored in his wine-cellars or in a building which he calls his barn. Nothing came amiss to him, and for many years he carried on a home and foreign trade of an extensive and varied kind—as a rule by himself, but sometimes in partnership with other merchants as joint adventurers. Only a brief indication of the nature and scope of his business can here be given.

He sometimes sends barley to the south of Scotland and

Holland, and oats to London, and on one occasion at least to Italy; but his great agricultural produce trade was in oatmeal, which he purchased on the seaboard of the Moray Firth and along the coast from Montrose on the one hand to Thurso on the other, and shipped to the West Coast and the Hebrides in large quantities. Among his meal customers were the Hanoverian garrisons of Fort William, Bernera in Glenelg, and Duart in Mull. He also supplied the men who worked the lead-mines of Strontian and Glenelg, as well as the proprietors of the Western Highlands and Islands. To the West he as a rule sent the meal by ship round the north of Scotland, but small quantities for Fort William were sometimes forwarded on horseback to the east end of Loch Ness, from where it was taken by small boats or the Government frigate which General Wade placed upon the loch to Kilchumein (now Fort Augustus), whence it was conveyed on horseback to Inverlochy. In 1718 he sent 200 bolls from Banffshire to Sir Robert Pollock, governor of Fort William, 600 to Gairloch, and 700 to the Isle of Skye; and brought 500 to Inverness. For years thereafter he continued to supply Fort William and the troops at Bernera and Duart, and to meet the requirements of the West Coast and the Isles. A few examples of his meal transactions may be given. In 1718 he sells to 'Lady Kinlochmoidart'—Margaret, daughter of John Cameron of Lochiel, and wife of Ronald Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart, who fought at Killiecrankie and Sheriffmuir—from 400 to 500 bolls; and in 1729 he supplies her son, Donald Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart, the hero of the Forty-five who was executed at Carlisle, with 300 bolls. In the same year he, in company with William Simpson, merchant, Aberdeen, sends 2000 bolls to the West Coast, and in 1729 1000 bolls to Stewart of Ardshiel, who sometimes acted as his agent and sometimes traded on his own

account, and, despite his Jacobitism, had many transactions with the Fort William garrison and the Suinart or Strontian¹ lead-mining company, in which General Wade was a partner. In May 1726 he accepts an order from the Laird of Macleod for 400 to 500 bolls 'to supply your peoples' in Skye: and in 1738 he sends 400 bolls by his barque the *Christian* from Caithness to Portree and Glenelg. His letter of instructions to Donald Mackenzie, the master of the barque, is a fair specimen of the directions which he usually gave to his skippers, or to the agents whom he sent with the meal—'You are to proceed with all possible Diligence to Thursoe in Cathness, and, when you arive there, you are to deliver my letter to Mr. Francis Sinklair, and show him the other letter from Loduick Brodie, writer in Eder., ordering to deliver me four hunder bolls meall at eight and half ston pr. boll, which meall you are to receive and is to be put free aboard in the River of Thurso; and my Cousin Mr. Alexr. Pope, Minister of Rea, is to assist you to receive the same, so send my letter howsoon you arive. And when you receive the Meall, make the best of your way for Portree in the Isle of Sky, and adress to Alexr. McDonald of Kingsborrow, and give him what meall he calls for, and to Sr. Alexr. McDonald, at eight ston pr. boll,² and the price at ten shilling, and sell all you can for reddie Mony. And, after you have stayed tuo days there, you are to proceed to the Kyle to Glainelg, and sell there all you can for reddie Mony, and give to the order of Drynach what meall he calls for, and take receipt for the same; and give Sr. Alexr. McDonald and Kingsborrow, and take there receipts if you gett not Mony. And, if you put in to Stornway, sell what you can for redie Mony, but trust non there. So pray make all possible

¹ The mineralogical names *strontianite* and *strontium* come from the place-name Strontian.

² It will be observed that the Bailie bought at 8½ ston per boll, and sold at 8 ston.

dispatch, and I hope to meet you in Glainelg. You are to receive from Mr. Francis Sinklair a barrell of tar and one of pitch, the tar to be sold at 12 shillings, and the pitch at 18 shillings. And, if can not gett that price, carie the same to the Highlands.¹ I have sent with you ane iron balk, with brod, barell and weights, to weigh out the Meall, viz. two 52ths of lead, tuo iron ston weights, half ston of iron, and a 4th and 2th of brass, which must be carfully returned. And keep ane exact acct. of the Meall, and take care that non be stoln nor imbasled. You are to grant receipts for the meall, when shipped, to Mr. Francis Sinklair; and my Cousin, Mr. Alexr. Pope, will supply you with anie Mony you want. The mens wages as follos:—to Will: Munroe 25 sh. ster. pr. month, and to David Miller 22 sh. pr. month, and to Alexr. McLeod 20 sh. pr. month, and your own wages as Master is six pounds sterlin for the whole woyage; and I have given you at this Dait half a Guenie to account, and seven shilling ster. more. I have shipt of provisions tuo bulks Mutton and a syde of young beef salted, tuo lairge cheeses, and half ston butter, and half boll meall baked, and tuo pocks groats, and 12 lbs. candles; and have ordered Mr. Francis Sinklair to provid you with tuo barells beef. And I have shipped a gallon of Whiskie, and given five shillings to David Millar in pairt of his wages, and given Donald McKenzie 17 shil. sterlin to account to pay the Whiskie, etc.’

With the meal he frequently sent other commodities. In a letter to his agent, Donald Macintyre, dated 27th April 1725, he, after giving instructions regarding the disposal of the meal, in Skye, Harris, North Uist, and Glenelg, writes: ‘*Notta*, you have likeways on board, to be dissposed for my accot., 100 half barrs Iron, containing 113 Ston 9 pound, old weight, which you are to sell at the best rate you can, not under 3/ 6d. p. Ston. There is

¹ By ‘the Highlands’ the Bailie usually means the West Highlands.

likeways 17 doz. of botles claret, to be sold at 16 sh. pr. doz., botles and all ; or the wine without the botle at 15 sh. There is likeways a bag of hops, No. 14, containing 1 : 1 : 14 lib., which you 'll see to dissposse off at Starnway at the best price you can. I suppose may reach a shilling pr. pound, but, failling of that, it must be sold at Glenelg, or Dowart Castle in Mull. Notwithstanding the price of the meall and bear I mentioned, I must leave it to your self, with the assistance of my friends, to make the best of it ; and you can, according as you find it in demand in the severall countrys, but not under five pound Scots pr. boll of 8 ston untill you hear further from me ; that is, for the meall. Howsoon the cargoe is fully dissposd, and that you have gott payment of the same in money or bills as above dertected, you 'll give Alexr. Wood on receipt twenty five pounds Strl. to purchase his loading of sleat at Mull, and twenty five pound more if he takes in part payment of his freight, likeways on his receipt. And when you have so cleared fully with all and sundry, you are to repair to Glenelg, and make the best of your way home with such convoy and directions as my Father in Law will give you.¹ And if you find it more adviseable, may deliver him the whole money and bills on receipt. And for your trouble I am to give you four pound Strl., and pay your necessary charges. I wish you a good voyag.'

The necessity of being guarded by a convoy on Macintyre's journey across country from Glenelg to Inverness shows that the arm of the law was not strong among the mountains. A similar instruction is given to John Macleod in 1718, when he is requested to 'be seure of sufficient companie with yow till Stragless' on his journey with the proceeds of a meal cargoe from Glenelg to Inverness by Kintail and Strathglass.

¹ Norman Macleod, the Bailie's father-in-law, resided at Eileanreach in Glenelg.

The only serious opposition which the Bailie had in the West Coast meal trade came from Ireland. In 1718 he is disappointed to learn that the Tutor of Macleod and Sir Donald Macdonald of Sleat had bargained with Irishmen for their requirements. In March 1730 he writes his son Alexander, then in business in Leith, informing him that Mr. Salmar, brother-in-law of General Siburg, governor of Fort William, has bought from one Mackun, a Kintyre man, 250 bolls of Irish meal at 8s. 6d. per boll, which is less than the Banffshire gentlemen demand for their meal at home; and he adds: 'I think Sir John Shaw, or his managers, that are paid for keeping off of Irish meall, ought to be a prize to this [apprised of this], and if you should take your own prudent way to aprise the comssr. of Customs of the practice of porting Eirish meall to the West cost and Inverlochic, so as they may repremand the officers there for coniveing at such practices, since its plain, what ever fals shame [sham] clearances such meall may have, the same is certainly brought from Ireland, since no place in the west of Scotland can affoard meall near so shape [cheap]. Your endeavours to put a stope to such meall trade will be good service done to this country in Generall and to me in particular; and, as I design to go for Inverlochic nixt week, I am resolved to enquire into ye clearances came wt. this meall lately landed ther.'

The inflow of Irish meal continued, and in a letter which the Bailie addressed in December 1733 to the Earl of Findlater, who demanded a big price (£5 Scots per boll) for his meal, he writes: 'Truly there is no prospect of any advantage by meall bought at such a rate on any part of the West Cost, where I dale that way, there being a plentifull cropt in Ireland, and so the people of that Country makes shift to be supplied from thence, notwithstanding the legall prohibition. And, tho there was

little or no Irish meall imported last year, yet I made verie little of about 2200 I shipped off from Banff shire for that Countrey last year, tho I purchast the same at £4 Scots, and 4 : 3 : 4 the highest pr. boll, payle. only at this Mertimass. So your Lop. may easily judge its not in my power to give the price demanded ; but if your Lop. will Accept £4 : 10 sh. Scots pr. boll, payle. at the term of Mertimass nixt, 1734, I will take your Lops. parcell, provideing it be good sweet meall : but Ile take no part of it that is sour or old teasted.’

The fish trade of Inverness in Steuart’s time was very important. He and other Inverness merchants purchased salmon in large quantities from proprietors on the East and West Coasts, and sent it sometimes to London and Leith, but more frequently to Continental seaports from Rotterdam to Venice—timing their ships as a rule to reach their destinations before the beginning of Lent. For example, in 1725 William Mackay, an Inverness merchant, and a grandson of General Hugh Mackay who opposed Dundee at Killicrankie, despatches four ships laden with salmon—180 barrels for Alicante, 400 for Leghorn, 200 for other ports in the Mediterranean, and 110 for Havre-de-grâce. The Bailie bought his salmon mainly from Lord Lovat, the Earl of Moray, Sir Thomas Calder of Muirtown in Morayshire, Mrs. Mackenzie of Assynt, the Laird of Sand in Gairloch, and Lord Seaforth, proprietor of Kintail. Of his numerous ventures the following may be mentioned.

He purchased 99 barrels of salmon, including grilse, from Lord Moray in 1718, and was thereafter for many years a regular purchaser of his Lordship’s fish. In 1720 he sends 200 barrels to London. The confusion of trade in the winter of 1720-1721 was such that a large quantity of the salmon of 1720 remained on his hand, and in 1721 he writes his Bordeaux correspondent, Robert Gordon,

inquiring whether the old fish, 'if well cured and bright coloured may not pass for new fish caught this spring.' He sends salmon to Leghorn in 1721; a cargo from Findhorn to Havre-de-grâce in 1722; a cargo to Amsterdam in 1725, which arrived too late for Lent, and in reference to which he proposes to his agent, Alexander Andrew, in April, that 'they should be laid up and kept under pickle till the moneth of Septr. nixt, and than, if repackt and washd clean with pickle, I think might sell at Bilboa or Havre for new salmon.' A cargo went from Lochinver to Bordeaux in 1728, and one to Campvere in 1736, and another in 1737. Of twenty-two barrels sent by him to London in 1734, one is ear-marked for his daughter Marion 'to purchess her a gown.'

The Bailie dealt extensively in codfish and herring, which were caught partly in the Moray Firth, with Cromarty and Chanonry as the fishing centres, and partly in Gairloch, Lochbroom, and the Lews, and sent to Danzig, Königsberg, Stockholm, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Campvere, Dunkirk, Havre-de-grâce, St. Martins, Bordeaux, and the Mediterranean ports. In 1720 he buys a cargo of herring at Stornoway, where Zachary Macaulay, granduncle of Lord Macaulay, was his agent. Three years later he purchases 40,000 cod in Gairloch and Stornoway—the Gairloch fish being, he declares, better than that of Newfoundland, where the Gairloch curer gained his experience. In 1728 there was an excellent herring fishing in the Inverness Firth, and he secured the bulk of the catch. Herring and cod were from time to time cured for him by 'Lady Assynt' (Mrs. Mackenzie of Assynt); the Earl of Cromartie, proprietor of Coigeach; Sir Colin Mackenzie of Coul, owner of extensive lands in Lochbroom; the Laird of Dundonald, Mackenzie of Gairloch, and other proprietors. The old Highland chiefs and lairds have been painted as far above traffic of this kind; but

the truth is that they had a keen eye to business, and were experts at a bargain. The lady of Assynt conducted her negotiations with a skill against which the Bailie found it necessary to be on his guard. In connection with herrings which he purchased from her in December 1733, he insists that they be good, sufficient, merchantable ware, and adds: 'I think fitt to caution your ladyship that to make them all good merchantable ware they need to be all repact in shipeing.' For curing the herring he undertakes to supply her with foreign salt; and, to avoid questions, he makes it a condition that she advises him of the exact number of lasts of herring which she has, and that she appoints a representative to see the salt weighed and shipped at Inverness. He at the same time (January 1734) writes the Earl of Cromartie as follows: 'I received your Lops. favour of 30th curt., and am willing to take your Lops. eighteen lasts herrins at the rate of seven pounds ster. pr. last, including ye bounty, to be received any time before ye middle of Aprile next, payable in six moneths after delivery. But it is not in my power to advance part of ye price just now, being extremly stretned by many great disapointments from good men, and obleged to goe south against Tuesday next. So, if you let me have the herrin, payble six moneths after delivery, or at Lamas next, may send your obligation to deliver the herins pr. Express, and mention that they must be good, sufficient, well cured, well packed herins, cured wt. foraing salt, and in good tight cask of ye legall Gadge; and Ile send my answer to such letter concluding our bargain, which is all yt. can be done by, my Lord, etc. *P.S.* Acquaint if your Lop. will want any cask to be sent by ye ship goes for the Herrins.'

On 4th February his Lordship wrote accepting the Bailie's terms, but asking that he be accommodated with £30 some time in March—which was agreed to.

Among his fish consignments may be mentioned a cargo of herring to William Thomson, Cork, in 1722; a cargo of cod to Barcelona and Leghorn in the same year; and a cargo of herring to Stockholm in 1725. He frequently purchased herring and cod for John Coutts, Edinburgh, the founder of Coutts' Bank, who sometimes acted as the Bailie's agent in selling fish. The Bailie as a rule supplied the salt for curing, and sent his coopers across country to the west coast of Sutherland and Ross to see the fish properly packed.

The bounty system which prevailed at the time in connection with the export of fish and corn was complex and unsatisfactory. The Bailie's custom was—probably he had no choice—to give the seller the benefit of the bounty in fixing the price, and to take the debentures in his own favour. He almost always found it difficult to negotiate them, and frequently years elapsed before they were passed and paid by the Government officials. Bribery of the custom-officers was not unknown. 'I send you likewise,' he writes to his cousin, Commissary Steuart, Edinburgh, in November 1716, 'fish debenture certified on the Board of Customes for 92£ 14 : 2 sterling. For procureing of speedie payment I am advised you apply on Mr. Savage, and give him a guenie, which will effectually procure prompt payment. If you find Land Syurveyors certifyeing necessar ther is one Mr. James about the Custom office who was surveyor here when the hering were shipped, who will supply that want upon payment of 14 sh. ster.'

The following letters indicate Steuart's usual arrangements in connection with the purchase, curing, and disposal of fish:—'I have,' he writes John Baillie, on 13th September 1735, 'shipt on board the sloop *Christian*, of which you are master, fourteen Last herring cask, in which is packed fiftie bolls Spanish salt, that is, in four

last, 2 barrells herring. You have likways one thousand hoops. Three bolls meall backen in bread, three barrells Beef, and a boll oat meall in a cask, 21 pounds Candles, a half stone butter, four pecks peese, thirty six pound Roll Tobacco, and five Gallon whisky; with all which you are to make the best of your way to Lochbroom in order to make a full loadning of herring. And at your arrivell you are to write me pr. Express that I may dispatch Alexander Layon the Coupar, and to apply yourself to Alexander Mackenzie, younger of Coull, and deliver him my letter. And, if he will undertake to furnish me wt. herring in the terms of my letter, in that case you are to deliver him what salt and cask he calls for, and take his receipt for the same. You will likways deliver him ane anker of the whisky, the Tobacco and hoops. And in case you be straitned for meall its fitt you buy a boll or two more meall in the Orknies. In short, if Coule make your herrings, you'll give out of the stores what Alexr. Layon will advise, on his receipt, and according as he makes herrings and is customary in such cases. If you return with the bark here you are to have six pounds Sterling Wages. If you goe to the Sound,¹ you are to have Nine pounds Sterling. And Duncan Mackenzie is to have three pounds here, and Baine thirty shillings. I give you two Guineas in hand to account, and what further necessarys will be sent by Dougald and Alexander Layon or either of them. So, wishing you a speedy voyage, etc.'

On the same date he writes Alexander Mackenzie, younger of Coull, who was then on his estate in Lochbroom: 'Since I had the pleasure of seeing you here I informed my self by Andrew Munro of the terms that was promised for makeing of herrings at Lochbroom for his Account;

¹ The Sound, between Denmark and Sweden.

and, after haveing considered seriously of that affair, I agree to give you three pounds Sterling for every last of herring you make for my account, and will furnish you salt, cask, and hoops here for that purpose, likways any other stores such as Bread, meall, Tobacco, Whisky, at the same rate they cost me. And Likways you are to pay the Couper, and to have the cask well packed, fitt for shipping at a convenient fourland for that purpose, and that with outmost dispatch. If you agree to this proposall youll acquaint me how soon this comes to hand, and deliver your letter to John Baillie by whom this goes, and who is to send me ane Express. And, whether you agree to this proposall or not, I hope youll order Boats to Mr. Baillie, who pay them as well as any others doe. *Nota* that I am to allow three boll salt to each last of herring, being strong Spanish salt.'

Among the Bailie's other exports may be mentioned several consignments of beef to Holland, pork to the Baltic, and a cargo of lamb skins and furs—fox, otter, and wild cat—to Danzig in 1720. Between 1737 and 1741 he took an interest in the development of a lead-mine in Glenelg, and sent small quantities of lead to London and the Continent for sale. No success followed. He also in 1737 writes the Laird of Macleod, requesting him to advise him 'annent the expence of working Sir Alexr. McDonald Coall Mines'—apparently in Skye; but the coal is not again mentioned.

In return for his exports the Bailie imported goods of various kinds—barrel staves, knapwood, timber, iron, window glass, copper, soap, flax, and rope from Danzig, Stockholm, Norway, and Hamburg; writing-paper, flint stones, prunes, etc., from St. Martins; sago and linen from Hamburg; linseed oil, madder, azure, white lead, verdigris, indigo, linen, muslin, aniseed, cloves, nutmeg, tea, sugar, and cork from Rotterdam; raisins, lemons,

oranges, coffee beans, rhubarb, ipecacuanha, olives, olive oil for burning in lamps, eating oil, and rice from Leghorn (Livorno); salt from Hamburg, Rotterdam, and Cadiz; and large quantities of brandy, claret, sherry, burgundy, champagne, sack, and other wines from Bordeaux, St. Martins, Rotterdam, and Hamburg. He almost invariably instructs his skippers to bring home for the use of himself and his family such articles as copper tea-kettles, lint hankles, iron pots, metal trenchers, house lanterns, warming-pans, pewter dishes, and silks and other articles of raiment or ornament for his wife and daughters and lady friends.

From London and other home ports the Bailie gets, mainly for his own household, such things as pewter vessels, iron spits, branders, skewers, flesh crooks, flamers, leather, dressed calves' skins, clothes for himself, silk plaids and other articles of raiment for his wife and daughters, and tea and powdered sugar. He liked to see his family well dressed and to have nice things about him. He orders from London two iron grates—one for his dining-room and another for a bedroom—and insists on their being 'hansom.' His wife and daughters dress in silks and striped linen, and in scarlet cloaks; and the daughters, when out riding, wear black velvet capes. The walls of his rooms are covered with 'painted paper' from London. In London also he usually purchases his books. So long as he is able to pay for it, Edinburgh sends him his newspaper—the *Caledonian Mercury*. Direct from the Mediterranean he gets lemons, oranges, olives, almonds, raisins, anchovies, cloves, nutmegs, rice, and 'best Florence eating oil.' London and Rotterdam furnish his coffee beans, and the 'best Bohea,' which his wife carefully keeps for the refreshment of the county ladies who do her the honour to call. With the leaf at from 14s. to 20s. per lb., and the shillings rare, the delectable

beverage has to be sipped sparingly. The time-honoured deal cradle is not good enough for him, and in 1722 he gets a 'wand cradle' from Rotterdam, and, later, a 'watlin cradle' from Leghorn. In ordering from London blue drab cloth for a 'jockie big coat' for himself, he directs that the buttons sent for it be of the latest fashion. When his sons become lads he gets hats for them from London at 4s. or 5s. each, as he considers they are too big to wear bonnets. For the large garden which stretches from his house in Church Street to the river, he gets from London the finest dwarf pear and apple trees, laurels, yews, and variegated hollies; and onion and other seeds from Campvere.

One of the Bailie's acquaintances in Inverness was Edmund Burt, author of *Letters from the North of Scotland*. The *Letters* have been taken seriously, and Lord Macaulay founded upon them his picturesque but untrustworthy description of Inverness and the Highlands at the time of the Revolution. But Burt, who wrote for the amusement of a friend in England, and perhaps also for his own, exaggerated greatly, and on many points his picture is a caricature. The mountains and glens are still with us, and we know that the mountains are not so high nor the glens so deep and dark as he depicts them. We know that a traveller from Inverness to the barracks of Bernera in Glenelg had not to ride over the stupendous perpendicular precipices or through the bottomless bogs which he encountered, and that there is no lake in Strathglass so high and so shut in by top-joining mountains that the sun's rays never reach it, and that it is covered with ice all the year round. We also know that Highland eagles do not fly away with colts and calves. His pictures of the country are not more distorted than his pictures of our town. According to him the burgh was a collection of thatched and almost windowless hovels.

Slated houses are, however, mentioned in the Inverness records in the sixteenth century, and we learn from the Letter-Book that large quantities of slate and window glass were brought into the town before and during the period of Burt's sojourn. Almost every ship that the Bailie sends to the West Coast with meal returns with a cargo of slate from Easdale or the Isle of Mull. He considers the Easdale slate to be the finest in Britain. His ships carry home from 20,000 to 30,000 at a time, the price running about £10 Scots per 1000. Some of these still cover buildings in Inverness, among which are at least one prominent one which Burt saw. Slezer's drawing, published in 1693,¹ and the prospect² drawn in 1725 by Government surveyors, are pretty pictures, showing large and substantial buildings; and it appears from the ground-plan which Burt himself gives that the burgh was a regularly built town of four main streets—Bridge Street, East Street (now High Street), Castle Street, and Church Street. In those streets the merchants and lawyers had their residences and shops and offices—Bailie Steuart's house being about the middle of Church Street. It appears to have been a prominent building. In September 1721 the magistrates, in appointing constables for the ensuing year, allocated the part of Church Street above the Bailie's house to Alexander Fraser and William Binnie, and the part of the street below it to John Gibson and John Munro.

Hugh Miller informs us in his 'Scotch Merchant of the Eighteenth Century,' that coal did not find its way into the Cromarty Firth until 1750. That, however, is incorrect, and the probability is that coal was introduced into both Cromarty and Inverness in the seventeenth

¹ In Slezer's *Theatrum Scotiae*.

² Given in this volume from *Records of Inverness*, edited by William Mackay and H. C. Boyd (New Spalding Club, 1911).

century. In any case, the Letter-Book shows that the Bailie was importing coal into Inverness as early as 1715. For example, in September of that year he gets a cargo from the Firth of Forth; a cargo from Newcastle in December 1721; a cargo from the Firth of Forth in January 1722; a cargo from Newcastle (together with 20 gross bottles) in June 1723; a cargo from the Forth in December 1728; a cargo from John Coutts, Edinburgh, in March 1729, partly for Inverness and partly for Cromarty, and another cargo exclusively for Cromarty. In 1728 he tells his correspondent, Strachan of Montrose, that he may load a returning ship from the Forth with 'great coals, which will sell pretty well here.' Circumstances were different in April 1729, when he writes John Coutts acknowledging receipt of $15\frac{1}{2}$ dales of coal in the *Lamb* of Kinghorn, 'for which could only reach 12/ per dale,¹ the town being stocked by a large cargo came immediately before it.' From the twelfth century the burgh of Inverness had by Royal charter the right to cut peats on the moors of Caiplich and Daviot. By the eighteenth century, however, the privilege was practically discontinued, and the inhabitants took to purchasing peats from country folk who delivered them at their doors.

The trade of shipbuilding was known in Inverness at a very early period. Matthew Paris informs us that in 1249 the Earl of St. Pol and Blois, when preparing to accompany the King of France to the Holy Land, had a wonderful ship (*navis miranda*) built for him at Inverness, which carried himself and his followers and their horses to Palestine. Native timber, floated down the Ness and

¹ According to Mr. Robert Scott-Moncrieff a dale was synonymous with a ton.—*The Household Book of Lady Grisell Baillie* (Scot. Hist. Soc.), p. 417.

the Beauly—oak from Loch Ness side and fir from Glenmoriston and the Strathglass glens—was no doubt used, as it was in the construction of the small vessels of the town, the boats of Loch Ness, and the galleys of the Hebrides and the West Coast; and the native workmen were assisted by artificers from Flanders, Marseilles, and Genoa. Another ship which was even more famous was the war frigate ‘of a prodigious bigness’ built by Captain George Scot at Inverness between the years 1643 and 1645, the skilled carpenters being brought from the south, and the timber from Glenmoriston. Scot took his frigate to the Mediterranean, and, entering the service of Venice, became vice-admiral of the Venetian fleet, and the terror of Mahommedan navigators. ‘He oftentimes so cleared the Archipelago of the Mussulmans that the Ottoman famely and the very gates of Constantinople would quake at the report of his victoryes; and did so ferret them out of all the creeks of the Hadrattick ¹ Gulfe and so shrudly put them to it, that they hardly knew in what port of the Mediterranean they might best shelter themselves from the fury of his blowes.’ ² After his death the Venetians erected a marble statue to his honour near the Rialto, which was seen by the author of the Wardlaw MS. in 1659. The sixteenth century records of the Town Council frequently refer to ships, to trade with the Continent, and to ‘the Stane of Inverness where the ships lie,’ and ‘the dock where the ships lie.’ Boece describes the town as a great resort of merchants, who came from Germany to seek rich furs, itself being full of merchandise and goods; and in 1578 Leslie, Bishop of Ross, refers to it as ‘a toune nochd of smal reputatione’—no mean city, as St. Paul would have said. But in common with other Scottish

¹ The Adriatic.

² The Rev. James Fraser’s *Chronicles of the Frasers* (the Wardlaw MS.), edited by William Mackay (Scot. Hist. Society, 1905).

towns it suffered by the removal of the Scottish Court to London in 1603, and by the wars and troubles of the reign of Charles the First; and Thomas Tucker, who in 1655 prepared a report for Oliver Cromwell on the Scottish ports, gives it credit for only one merchant and only one ship of ten tons. It soon, however, entered on a new period of prosperity, and in the Bailie's time Tucker's solitary merchant was represented by at least a score of men of standing—Celts mainly, and all of good family. Among them were the Bailie himself; his father Alexander Steuart; Duff of Drummuir; Fraser of Fairfield; Mackintosh of Termit; Chevis of Muirtown; John, Donald, and William Mackay, sons of Mackay of Scourie, and grandsons of General Hugh Mackay of Killierankie; Cuthbert of Castlehill; Dunbar of Aldourie; and Angus Mackintosh, James Mackintosh, Lachlan Mackintosh, William Mackintosh, Kenneth Mackenzie, Simon Mackenzie, Alexander Rose, Robert Rose, Duncan Grant, Donald Macpherson, John Hossack, Ludovic Gordon, and Thomas Robertson. A noted merchant who did business in Inverness was Duff of Braco, ancestor of the late Duke of Fife, who dealt in corn and meal, and whom we find in 1725 in partnership with the Bailie in a timber and iron speculation. These merchants required ships for their operations, and Tucker's single vessel was represented by a considerable number. The Bailie himself owned wholly or in part about a dozen, almost all named after members of his own family. The *John* bore his own name, the *Alexander* that of his father, and the *Ann* his wife's; while the *Margaret*, the *Marjorie*, the *Helen*, the *Janet*, the *Agnes*, and the *Christian* tell of his daughters and other female relatives. The ships were all commanded by gentlemen—the *Alexander* by his cousin Alexander Steuart, brother of his correspondent John Steuart, W.S., Edinburgh, and Commissary of Inverness; the *Marjorie* by John Mackay, and afterwards by Donald

Fraser; the *Ann* by Alexander Rose, brother of the Bailie's first wife, who subsequently sailed the *Helen*, and thereafter the *Janet*; the *Margaret* successively by the Bailie's brothers-in-law Donald and John Macleod, sons of Macleod of Drynach; the *Agnes* by his cousin Donald Steuart; and the *Christian* by John Baillie of the family of Dunain—names which show that the Celt had taken to the sea as he had to the counter. There were also connected with Inverness the *Good Success*, the *Janet Dunbar*, the *Swallow*, the *Lark*, the *Adventure* (owned and commanded by John Reid, the Bailie's son-in-law, and his best friend in his old age), and the *Pledger*, owned and commanded by Hugh Inglis of Kingsmills, which regularly ran between Inverness and London, and in which it was proposed to send home the headless body of Simon Lord Lovat in 1747. Among vessels from other ports which frequented our harbour were the *Good Fortune* of Montrose, the *Unicorn* of Dundee, the *Joseph* of Pittenweem, the *Katherine* of Leith, the *William and James* of Prestonpans, and the *Restoration* of London.

The Inverness vessels were as a rule built of native timber at the shore of Inverness, the iron and framework, however, being sometimes brought ready made from the Continent. The *Marjorie* is described by the Bailie in 1721 as a clever, well-managed vessel of twenty tons. Next year he builds a new barque of forty tons, and, later, there is reference to his intention to build one of thirty. The probability is that none of the Inverness ships exceeded fifty tons. But small though they were they were continually ploughing the stormiest seas—braving the winds and currents of the Pentland Firth; crossing the Minch to Stornoway or the North Sea to Holland, Norway, Denmark, and the Baltic ports; to-day at Leith, London, or Cork—to-morrow on their way across the Bay of Biscay and round Gibraltar to the ports of the Mediterranean and

the Adriatic. In 1743 we find John Reid in Jamaica. It would be interesting to know that he had made his way there in his own little *Adventure*.

The Bailie was as a rule careful to insure his ships and cargoes, the insurances being effected sometimes in Edinburgh and sometimes in London, but more frequently in Rotterdam. Only a few instances can be given. In 1715 he insures through Andrew of Rotterdam the *Margaret* and her cargo at 800 guilders Hollands from Danzig to Inverness. Next year he insures the same ship against risk from Swedish privateers, and effects an insurance of 1800 guilders on the *Margaret* and the *Success* for Hamburg, and the *Alexander* for Cork. In 1717 Andrew effects for him an insurance of 900 guilders on a ship and cargo from 'Poleu [Poolewe] on our West Coast or ye Preades [the Hebrides] to the port of Campeer [Campvere],' and on another ship 'from Hamburg to Christiansand in Norway, and from there to Inverness, and from Inverness to Cork.' In 1718 a cargo of salmon from Inverness to Rotterdam is insured at 2500 guilders; and in 1723 the *Ann*, bound for Leghorn, is, with her cargo of fish, insured for £225 sterling. The premiums range from 2½ per cent. in peace times to 10 per cent. in times of war. The risks were sometimes heavy. During the early years of George the First's reign British commerce suffered greatly from the Swedes, whose privateers scoured the Baltic and the North Sea. The wars with Spain interfered with voyaging in more southern seas; and for many years Moorish pirates were the pest of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coasts of Morocco, Spain, and Portugal, and even ventured into British waters, seizing ships and taking their crews to Morocco or Algeria, where they served as slaves until released by death or ransom.

References to these troubles are found in the Letter-

Book. In March 1716 the Bailie instructs Alexander Andrew, Rotterdam, to refrain from insuring the *John* from Danzig homeward 'unless you find danger from the Sweddish privateers'; and those privateers are subsequently repeatedly alluded to. He did not always escape them, notwithstanding that his ships sailed under convoy when available. In April 1716 the *Margaret*, returning from Danzig, was boarded in the Cattegat by a Swedish ship. 'They, however, did no more than plunder a little.' In October of next year the *Alexander*, laden with herring, sailed from Inverness for Cork, with instructions to dispose of her cargo there, and then to proceed to Rochelle for wine and brandy. Her master, Alexander Steuart, was ill at the time, and Thomas Greig took his place. She sailed along the East Coast until she reached the North Foreland, where she was met and captured by a Swedish privateer, of which a traitorous Englishman named Norcross was commander. Norcross started with his prize for Gottenburg in Sweden, but, landing in France, he was apprehended, and sent to England, to suffer, no doubt, for his misdeeds. The privateer, however, with the *Alexander* sailed on without him. But, when off the coast of Norway, Greig and his Inverness lads suddenly attacked and overcame the Swedes who were on board their ship, and, sending them adrift, ran the vessel into a Norwegian harbour. A Danish warship which witnessed the deed took the *Alexander* under her protection, and, claiming her as a prize, took her to a Norwegian port and thence to Copenhagen. The claim was resisted by the Bailie, who had as his agent Alexander Ross, merchant, Copenhagen. The British ambassador was appealed to, and he brought the matter before the Danish Court, with the result that the ship and crew and cargo were released; and in 1718 Greig returned in triumph to Inverness, having sold his herring, not at Cork, but in the Baltic.

The *Alexander*, however, did not long survive. She was lost at Sali, on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, in December 1719.

In 1718 the Bailie's cousin Alexander Steuart sailed from Inverness for the Mediterranean with a cargo in which the Bailie and certain partners were interested. The ship was taken by the Moors, and Steuart and his crew were kept captives in Morocco until the end of 1721, notwithstanding that an expedition under the command of a certain Captain Stewart was, in September 1720, sent from England to Morocco to procure their release. On their return home the Bailie draws upon his London correspondent, Joseph Faicknie, for £20, the money being 'designed to supply my poor friends come out of captivity.'

The Bailie suffered much from the ordinary perils of the sea. In November 1718 the *Good Success* was, with her cargo, lost 'on a blind rock of ye Isleland of Sandsortone' on the coast of Sweden, Captain Alexander Dunbar and the crew narrowly saving themselves by taking to a small boat three minutes before she sank in forty fathoms. They made their way to Danzig, and returned to Inverness in the *Janet Dunbar* on 4th January 1719. As we have seen, the *Alexander* and her cargo were, in December 1719, lost in going over the bar of Sali on the Atlantic coast of Morocco—Alexander Steuart, the skipper, writing to the Bailie from Mekinez in Morocco with the unpleasant tidings. In connection with the loss a question arose with the Moors, in which the British Privy Council, at the instigation of Mr. William Steuart, M.P. for Inverness-shire, interested itself. The result is not recorded.

In December 1720 the *Marjorie*, returning from Danzig, was caught in a violent storm near Copenhagen, and, 'the sea being full of ice,' the master, Donald Fraser, and the crew, despairing of her safety, betook themselves to their boat, which unfortunately upset. Fraser and two of the

crew were drowned, other two being saved. The barque rode out the storm, and was taken possession of by John Van Oste, who claimed salvage. After much trouble and expense she was brought back to Inverness in May 1721. Of the expense the Bailie finds that his agent, Ross of Copenhagen, who is a 'very sharp man to say no worse,' pocketed the bulk. 'All I shall say is, God forgive him, and keep me hereafter out of such hands.'

In December 1721 a barque, bringing meal, nuts, and oak bark, etc., to the Bailie, was stranded on the coast of Aberdeenshire. Immediately the vessel struck native fishermen 'fell on,' and carried the rigging and the cargo to their houses. 'Bailie Forbes,' writes Steuart to William Simpson, Aberdeen, on 19th December, 'who seems to be ane honest gentleman, and baillie in those Bounds, was so convinced of there barbarity from there own confession, that he fined them in ten pounds sterl. . . . By a lait act of Parliament meddling with wrecht good, where all the crew come safe ashore, is made Felonie, and to be punished with death; and if some rascall was hanged for such a crime it would be a good service done the nation, and probable deter from such proceedings again.'

The *Ann*, laden with wine from Bordeaux, sank thirty miles off Ushant in October 1725, the crew being saved by an Arbroath ship. In December following, the *Margaret* was lost on the bar of Montrose, nothing being saved but a barrel of pitch. In September 1728 the *Agnes*, returning from a smuggling expedition to the West Coast, was wrecked in the Orkneys. 'I bless Almighty God,' writes the Bailie to Donald Steuart, the skipper, 'for all his dispensations, and that he spar'd you and your crew.' In a letter which he at the same time addressed to his friend Hugh Baillie, collector at Kirkwall, he, after referring to the fact that he had not a groat insured, writes: 'This misfortune lys heavey on me,

but must patiently submit to divine Providence.’ In his latter years the *Christian* alone remained to him—‘my poor *Christian*’ he tenderly calls her. She escaped the perils of the sea, but met a worse fate. She was seized and dismantled by sheriff officers at Leith, and, to his undying sorrow, sold for his debts.

Smuggling—free trading or fair trading, as it was popularly called—was universal in Scotland, especially after the Union. ‘From Holland, and France, and Spain,’ says Mr. Henry Grey Graham,¹ ‘luggers brought their contraband cargoes of wine, tea, cambric, and brandy. No crime was so respectable as “fair trading”; none was so widely spread. Along the quiet bays of the Solway, into caves under the rocky cliffs of Forfarshire, to remote lochs of Ross-shire, and even to the open shores of Fife, boats came with fine impunity and perfect confidence. . . . Gentlemen holding high position in the country and offices of justices of the peace joined the smugglers in their ventures of running in the cargoes, while excisemen were hopelessly baffled. The signal of a white sheet or shirt out to dry on thatched roofs or corn-stacks was the reassuring sign by day, and bonfires on cliffs were timely warnings at night.’

Bailie John Steuart and his contemporary merchants in Inverness, as well as their correspondents abroad and in southern towns, including, as Mr. Graham points out, the eminently respectable firm of John Coutts & Co. of Edinburgh, participated in the traffic. The Highland gentlemen and the Hanoverian officers who purchased their wines from the Bailie did so in the knowledge that no duty had been paid. Of the Bailie’s wine customers one of the best was John Forbes of Culloden—Bumper John; and we may

¹ *The Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, vol. ii. p. 261.

take it as certain that his brother, Duncan Forbes, who was fond of his wine, and was in early life 'a prime ringleader among jolly fellows,'¹ winked at the traffic, and, even after he became Lord Advocate, enjoyed his brother's famous claret none the less for the knowledge that the king whom he served had not received his own.

The Letter-Book contains many references to the illicit trade. 'There is,' writes the Bailie to Commissary Steuart in June 1715, 'a mighty seizure of about 25 tunns brandy and some wine made by our Custom house officers here this week.' In 1717 he writes very indignantly regarding a charge against himself and Bailie Robertson and Mackintosh of Termit over the 'running' of salt. He characterises the charge as 'malicious willanus falsehood'; but, all the same, the probability is that it was true. Brandy in which he was admittedly concerned was seized by Cuthbert of Castlehill and roused in Exchequer, his partners in the venture being Bailie Barbour of Aldourie and Mackintosh of Termit. 'This brandy,' he writes Commissary Steuart in June 1718, 'hes been an unluckie bargain all along.' In April 1722 he sends the *Margaret* to Rotterdam, and instructs the master—'his loveing friend' and son-in-law, David Stevenson—to address himself to Alexander Andrew and Alexander Carstairs, merchants there, who will have orders to load the ship with Lisbon salt and wine. 'From Rotterdam,' he writes to Stevenson, 'you are to proceed for this place, and bring letters and bills of loading as from Lisbon. But befor you come directly up here you are to make a signall with your ensign off Helmsdeall, if the wind serve, where my orders will waite you either there or at Tarbetness. You are to take care that no goods be found in the ship that may endanger her, especially that can be easily seen

¹ Hill Burton, *Life of Forbes*, p. 295.

or discerned. Such goods as may be seen are as follows, vizt., salt, wine in hogsheads, chests with lemons and oranges, barrels with reasins and feggs, or brandie in hogsheads. Except these non other goods can be seen without great danger. You are to be verry cautious that if there be any other you stow it under the salt, or put it in hogsheads and stow it among the wine.' At the same time he writes Alexander Andrew with particulars of the cargo required. 'I intreat,' says he, 'that in caise any of cruizing sloops should meet the bark that you make up invoice and bill of loading for the salt and wine as from London, borrowing some merchant's name liveing there, since the ship is to report here as from Lisbon, and the wine to be entered as Portugall wine; and pray fail not to caution Mr. Castairs to doe the same.' On 9th July 1725 he writes Andrew: 'There will be now ane effectuell stop put to trade to this Firth from you, for this morning arrived two small cruizers from England in our road to attend all shippis from you in this Firth hereafter.' He expresses the belief that the stoppage of the trade will be good for the country; but the trade continued for many a year, and the Bailie continued to take part in it. In June 1726, he and his son Alexander, his brother-in-law John Macleod, and William Mackay, grandson of General Hugh Mackay of Killiecrankie fame, send the *Katherine* of Leith to France for a cargo of salt from Alexander Gordon, St. Martins, and liquor from Robert Gordon of Bordeaux. Alexander Gordon, he writes the skipper, 'is to provide you in foreign clearances. Yule endeavour to gett as much as possible, and notice yt. when, please God, you return, in case you meet or is taken up by any coustome house yatches [yachts], to declare yourself bound for Riga in ye Baltic; and be shure you be well furnished with clearances accordingly. If you gett safe to ye firth yule endeavour to calle off Causea [Covesea in Morayshire]

where orders will attend you. We beg your outmost care and diligence.' In July 1728 the Bailie's cousin Donald Steuart is on the West Coast in the ship *Agnes*, selling salt and brandy, and embarking salmon and herring. 'Fail not,' the Bailie writes him, 'to sell both at Lochinver, or qrever else you hapen to touch, as much brandy as you can for ready mony, particularly in the Orkneys. . . . Only, before coming up here be sure you stop in the night time in Conage Bey [in Petty], where boats will wait you and get a shoar qt. brandy you may have aboard, qch I hope will be but little by the tyme you come yr. However, it is fit you advise me by express from Lochinwer before you sale from thence, qt. quantity you will have aboard. I am told, if you touched at Kylskow in Strathnaver, you could sell all your brandy for ready mony ; but this I leave entirely to yourself. . . . I wish you Gods blessing.' The blessing did not come, and, as has already been seen, the *Agnes* was lost in the Orkneys.

In the spring of 1730, the barque *Christian* (Duncan Baillie, master) returned from Bordeaux with a cargo of brandy and wine and instructions to make for the West Coast by the Irish Channel. Stewart of Ardshiel was to take eighty ankers of the brandy at 25s. per anker, and Captain Campbell, governor of Fort William, five hogsheads of claret at £10 per hogshead. Baillie was to offer to Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart what brandy he might require, and he was thereafter to proceed to South Uist, Dunvegan, Portree, and Kyle of Lochalsh, and endeavour to sell the remainder. The *Christian* arrived in the Sound of Mull in the beginning of April 1730, and on the 18th the Baillie wrote the skipper: 'I am apprehensive there may be great danger in your laying any time in the Sound of Mull, and therefore I hope my friends will order matters so that no time be lost. Let all you are to unload there

be put to shoar together, so as your lying make no great noice. And I think fitt yourself and sloop take borrowed names, and that it be not known the shipe belongs to this place.' Notwithstanding these precautions the ship's presence in the Sound became known to MacNeil, the custom collector at Fort William, who hurried out to seize her. The *Christian* escaped; but the Bailie was angry and expressed the hope to soon break an egg in the collector's pocket. He, however, took another tack, and on 26th May wrote to Ardshiel authorising him to square the collector by making him a gift of five guineas. On the same date he wrote his agent, Donald Macintyre, Fort William, who was now on board the *Christian*, instructing him to land the brandy in the Kyle of Shuna in order that whatever happened the barque might be safe. To the skipper he wrote with instructions to go to Easdale for a load of slate, and added: 'I earnest request that when you come to Apin the barques name and your own may be chainged, and that none know where you belong to; likewise that you enjoyne your men to secrecie when they come home. Wishing you all happiness.' Somerville, a merchant in Renfrew, was at the time deluging the West Coast with Marseilles brandy at 10s. per gallon, which, no doubt, came 'duty free,' and which, remarks the Bailie, can be sold much cheaper than that from Bordeaux. The Bailie professes to be sick of the clandestine trade, and on 20th August writes his brother-in-law, John Macleod: 'There is such strong resolutions and endeavours to crush the importation of br. . .y that it is disparaging to a mans caracter at this juncture to be known to medle that way; besides, the Duke of Argyle and Marquis of Seaforth have engaged in the strongest maner to allow no br. . .y to be bought or drunk in ther severall countries. And, besides, Culloden and the Advocate expect McLeod and Sr. Alexr. McDonald

to come to the same resolution. So, if such ane project be undertaken, it most be done in the most clandestin manner possible, and the ship can only touch at one remott port, and only ly while the goods can be unloaded, and imediatly thereafter to come of without letting anybodie know the ship or master name, or where she belongs to.'

The voyage of the *Christian* appears to have been the Bailie's last serious smuggling venture. He was often suspected, and on more than one occasion got Lord Lovat, General Wade, Colonel Guest, and other men of weight to use their influence with the authorities in his favour. In 1729 a quantity of brandy, landed for him on the shore of Petty, and concealed in the mansion house of Castle Stuart belonging to Lord Moray, was seized by Mr. Hopson, the general supervisor, who broke open the castle and did damage to it to the amount of £13 13s. The brandy was roused by the Excise. Hopson threatened to raise proceedings before the Exchequer in Edinburgh, and the Bailie wrote his son with instructions to take the advice of Commissary Steuart. He relied, he said, upon the assistance of the Earl and Countess of Moray, but would willingly stand an Exchequer prosecution, 'though I hope no jury in Britain will find me guilty.' The good offices of the Earl and Countess probably prevailed, for no prosecution took place.

When the first of the Bailie's letter-books now existing opens in 1715 we find him factor to the Earl of Moray on the fair and fertile lordship of Petty, whose mansion—Castle Stuart, about four miles from Inverness—has undergone little change since his time. We gather from certain of his epistles that before 1712 he was factor for Lord Bute on the estate of Rosehaugh in Ross-shire, to which Bute succeeded through his descent from Sir George Mackenzie of the Killing Time. He continued the Petty factorship

until 1734, acting also as baron bailie, and presiding over the baron court. The name Petty means the place of 'pets' or townships or farms; and, as it is Pictish and not Gaelic, it must have been given to the district after it became agricultural, and before the Pictish tongue was superseded by the Gaelic, which was introduced into the district of Inverness by St. Columba and his church. The lands worth cultivating were reclaimed centuries before the Bailie's time, and, as the farm buildings belonged to and were maintained by the tenants, who were paid 'melioration' for them when they removed, his duties were pretty much confined to collecting money rents and feu-duties; gathering in and realising the fermes or rents payable in kind; removing defaulting tenants, and letting their holdings to others; and giving judgment in the baron court. The factor of the olden time had to perform the unpleasant duties of his modern representative without the pleasant; and he consequently acquired an unenviable reputation which in certain districts still lingers.

That the Bailie was in his own day looked upon as an oppressor of poor tenants is very probable; that he was their friend and never lost a fair opportunity of pleading their cause with the Earl is clearly shown by his Letter-Book. The troubles connected with the Rising of the Fifteen were followed by distress, which in some districts developed into a famine. The people of Petty were among the sufferers, and they found it difficult to pay the rent for crop 1715, part of which was payable in 'custom' or money, and part in grain, which was gathered into the grange barn at Castle Stuart, and converted into meal or sold to the maltsters and brewers of Inverness. In April 1716, the Bailie writes his cousin, Commissary Steuart, who was the Earl's 'doer' in Edinburgh: 'I entreat howsoon this comes to hand you pay the Earle of Morray 50£ sterling more, and gett his Lordship's receipt

to me for the same, and forward the inclosed to his Lordship after reeding and sealling. I think the Earle should give down to his tennants of Pettie a year's custom mony, which is no great mater in consideration of ther losses, which they will not recover on heast. And I wish you 'l advise this.' To begin with the Bailie's recommendation was accepted 'in a measure': ultimately a full year's custom was allowed the tenants as 'discount.' A series of bad years followed. 'I am sorry to tell your Lordship,' the Bailie writes in January 1722, 'that I find the tenents of Pettie for the most part in verry bade circumstance, and daily groweing worse. And if Providence doe not order that the next cropt be better than these two or three years past, there will be verry soon either ley lands or insuperable debts in that country. And it is not in my power to doe more for your Lordship's interest than what I doe.' In July of the same year he writes the Earl: 'I am sorry to tell your Lordship that the accot. of rests [arrears] in Pettie is this year rather larger than last, and, if should please God that the present cropt should prove bad, the one half of ye tennants of Pettie will be bankrupt and oblidged to give up their labourings, for the one half of the farms [ferms] was not payed of last cropt, and the old accot. rests litle diminished. This a melancholy story, but I cannot help it.' He, however, finds no excuse for the easy-circumstanced proprietor of Delnies for not paying his rent for the farm of Brachley; and he recommends that proceedings be taken against him. In 1722 several tenants were evicted, and in November 1725 so many summonses of removing were sent from Edinburgh to be served on the tenants and feuars of Strathearn (now Strathdearn), Strathnairn, and Petty, that the Bailie writes the Commissary, mildly but facetiously protesting: 'Such a liberarry of prints was never dispersed in these part before. In short you have put all

belonging to our Earle in these parts in a fever, and can not be easy untill they know the meaning, of which I could not tell them, unless it was a project to instruct them in the law, or make them more redde hereafter to their superiors in their payment.' Removals took place, but the new men who came in were not more successful than the old, and in November 1732, the Bailie writes to James Maul, Lord Moray's agent or factor at Donibristle: 'I am sorry to tell you that most of the tenants under my charge in the Lordship of Petty are quit ruined and broke, having now the 3d crop running that has proved extream bad by shaking and oyr accedents I cannot account for. Last year they did not pay one 3d of their farms [ferms], and this year, for ought I can learn, they will not pay one 4th of it, and that by few of them, for most will pay none at all this year. What makes the affair still the more pitiable is that they will get no price for their kattel to enable them to pay their bygone rents. I hope my Lord will not impute these misfortunes to me, being the hand of God, and what I cannot help nor prevent.' There was in that year a famine in the land.

Although the Bailie was himself of gentle blood, or rather, perhaps, because of that circumstance, he never, if he could avoid it, sacrificed the common people for men of family. In March 1717 he wrote the Earl protesting against his instructions to turn out tenants in Petty to make room for William Macgillivray, a brother of the Laird of Dunmaglass. 'I think,' he states, 'it will be a hardship to remove such honest tennents on so short advertisement. . . . I must say I am already sick of too many gentlemen tennents in Pettie.' The landed gentlemen of Strathnairn and Strathdearn who were the Earl's vassals gave much trouble. Not only were they constantly in arrear with their feu-duties and casualties, but they absented themselves from the baron courts which

they were legally bound to attend, and so brought the courts into contempt.

The Bailie's factorial duties were as unremunerative as they were unpleasant. His salary was 200 merks (£11, 2s. 2½d.) a year. In November 1716 he writes the Commissary that he does a great deal for the Earl for very small wages. In July following he again writes him from Castle Stuart: 'I have been here the 8 days agoe about the Earl's affairs, and Im soe tossed and diverted by my ffactorie here, and I believe much looser too, that I judge a new ffactor must uplift and sell this current cropt, or I must have better conditions.' The conditions did not improve, but the Bailie remained in office. In February 1720 he writes the Commissary: 'I have taken a positive resolution to give up my charge unless I have better encouragement for my service, for I can declare yt employment has been much money out of my way by my loss of much valuable time I spent about, which, if hade been employed in my own private affairs, I might have been in much better circumstances than I am at present, besides the advance often of my own money to please my constituent. I am now growing old, and my family encreaseing, so that I must take ane oyr. course of bussiness than for some years I have done, oyrwise I know not in time may come of me and famly. And you may judge if 200 merks a year be a suitable reward for such a diversion as the charge of Pettie is and has been for many years past to me. I leave it to you to insinuatt this much to my Lord in yor own prudent way.' What the result of the appeal was does not appear, but the factorship was continued for other fourteen years. In February 1734 the Bailie made his last journey to Donibristle, settled his accounts, and terminated his factorial career. He boasted that he had made the return journey from Donibristle to Inverness in two days and a half.

Perhaps the consciousness of having left a load of cares and worries behind added to his speed homeward. When he journeys to Donibristle he invariably visits Edinburgh. In 1718 he records that he is allowed £100 Scots, equal to £8, 6s. 8d. sterling, to meet his expenses there and back, including no doubt those of a servant and two horses.

Of the Bailie's customers and correspondents only a few can here be referred to. During the period of thirty-two years covered by the Letter-Book many Highland lords and lairds, chiefs and chieftains, wadsetters and tacksmen are seen crossing and recrossing the stage. His relations with the Earl of Moray have already been referred to. With the Duke of Gordon, Sir Henry Innes of Innes, and Sir Thomas Calder of Muirtown in Morayshire, he trafficks in salmon and meal. The Earl of Seaforth, who was 'out' in the Fifteen, and led the subsequent Spanish expedition which came to grief at the battle of Glenshiel, sells his salmon to him and buys his slates; and Seaforth's soldier-factor, Donald Murchison, deals with him, and grants bills which he finds it difficult to meet. The Earl of Cromartie, who in the Forty-five fought for Prince Charles, and was saved from the block through the devotion of his wife, enters into herring and meal transactions with him with a shrewdness which has no savour of romance. Simon of Lovat, who was not so fortunate, is his friend—'my best friend Lord Lovat,' he calls him—selling the Beaully salmon to him, buying his salt and other commodities, and sometimes, although not always, accommodating him when his purse is empty. The Bailie's second wife is Lovat's near relation, and the nobleman addresses the merchant as 'My Dear Cousin,' and entertains him and his wife and daughters at Castle Dounie (Beaufort). The Countess of Sutherland likewise

invites the young ladies to Dunrobin; while her son Lord Strathnaver grants the Bailie bills which he takes years to pay. In Caithness and Sutherland he has business dealings with the Earl of Caithness and his brother Francis, Sinclair of Ulbster, Sinclair of Barrack, Sinclair of Freswick, and Lord Reay; and in Orkney with Sir James Stewart of Burray. He also corresponds with his relative—‘my cousin’—the Rev. Alexander Pope, minister of Reay in Caithness, who visited his relative the poet Pope at Twickenham in 1732, riding his pony all the way from Caithness. Nearer home his principal customers are John Forbes of Culloden and his brother the Lord President; Mackintosh of Mackintosh, who fought for King George, while his wife, Colonel Anne, did her best for Prince Charles; Mackintosh of Borlum, the famous Brigadier of the Fifteen; the renowned Alasdair Dubh Macdonell of Glengarry, who fought at Killiecrankie and Sheriffmuir; his grandson Alexander Macdonell, ‘Young Glengarry,’ who after the Forty-five led a mysterious life in France, and whom Mr. Andrew Lang identifies, but not conclusively, with Pickle the Spy; Coll Macdonell of Barisdale, a prominent Jacobite leader in the Forty-five, and afterwards one of Mr. Lang’s ‘Companions of Pickle’ on the Continent; Macdonell of Scotas, who fell at Culloden; Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart, who did good service at Killiecrankie and Sheriffmuir, and his son, who fought through the Forty-five and was beheaded at Carlisle; Stewart of Appin, and Stewart of Ardshiel, who both suffered for their loyalty to the Stewart line; Sir Alexander Macdonald of Sleat and Macleod of Macleod, who were accused of encouraging Prince Charles, and of deserting him when the time for action arrived; Alexander Macdonald of Kingsburgh, who suffered imprisonment for sheltering and assisting the Prince after Culloden, and whose son Allan married Flora Macdonald; Colonel

William Grant of Ballindalloch, who raised one of the Independent Highland Companies which were incorporated into the Black Watch; Brigadier Grant of Grant, who had a distinguished career under Marlborough on the Continent, and served King George in Scotland in and after the Fifteen; his brother and successor, Sir James Grant, who during the Forty-five sat on the fence; and the Gentle Lochiel, who joined the Prince despite his conviction that his cause was hopeless.

A noted Jacobite, whose name repeatedly appears in the Letter-Book, is the Bailie's cousin, Colonel John Roy Steuart.¹ So little is known of the personal history of this brave soldier and excellent Gaelic poet that what the Letter-Book tells of him may be of interest. In 1727 he is an officer in the service of King George, and recruiting in the Highlands. 'Ile write fully,' writes the Bailie to Commissary Steuart, Edinburgh, in May, 'by our cousin the Dragoon, who will be with you nixt week with the best recruits goes to his Regiment [the Royal Dragoons] this year, 20 handsom men.' Edmund Burt is in Inverness at the time, and the two must have met. In 1736 John Roy is again in Inverness, and through Lord Lovat's influence, and also, perhaps, through the good offices of the Bailie, is allowed to escape from the burgh prison, into which he had been thrown on a charge of treason.² Next year he is in London, and promising to pay his bill of £17, 14s. to the Bailie. In 1739 he grants a renewal of the bill. From that year till 1745 he is in France, the Bailie's letters to him being addressed to the care of the Jacobite Charles Smith, whose wife, *née* Paterson of Bannockburn, is an aunt of Clementina Walkinshaw, Prince Charles's friend, and the mother of his daughter Charlotte.

¹ John Roy—*Iain Ruadh*, Red-haired John.

² *Lord Lovat's Trial*, pp. 23, 36.

John Roy's bill remains unpaid, and in November 1743 the Bailie endeavours without success to get him to send home brandy in settlement. In August 1745 news comes that he is in Ghent, wearing the Highland dress, and in much favour for having rescued Mrs. Menzies, a daughter of Campbell of Monzie, from French soldiers and procured for her letters of safe conduct to England. 'I believe,' writes the Bailie to his son John, 'the story we had of his being killed with old Lochiel was designedly given out.' In September John Roy is in the Highlands in the interests of Prince Charles—'in very good credit and esteem,' observes the Bailie. After Culloden, where he commanded a regiment, he for a time wanders in his native Strathspey, composing 'psalms' in English and laments in Gaelic, and in the end finds his way back to Boulogne, where he died—probably in 1749, for in November of that year his widow is referred to.¹

¹ See *The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry* for John Roy's effusions. His two Gaelic songs on Culloden Day show that he believed in the groundless charge of treachery against Lord George Murray. His English 'Psalm,' composed during his fugitive days after Culloden, may be given:—

The Lord's my targe, I will be stout
with dirk and trusty blade,
Though Campbells come in flocks about
I will not be afraid.

The Lord's the same as heretofore,
he's always good to me,
Though red-coats come a thousand more
afraid I will not be.

Though they the woods do cut and burn
and drain the waters dry;
Nay, though the rocks they overturn
and change the course of Spey;

Though they mow down both corn and grass
and seek me under ground;
Though hundreds guard each road and pass,
John Roy will not be found.

The Lord is just, lo! here's a mark,
he's gracious and kind,
While they like fools grop'd in the dark,
as moles he struck them blind.

That the Bailie was a Jacobite is clear. The Jacobites who suffered after the Fifteen have his practical sympathy. In August 1716 he advances 20s. for the relief of Highland prisoners in Edinburgh Castle. In November he assists in getting up a fund for the 'poor gentlemen at Carlisle,' and on 5th December remits £20 to Mr. William Drummond, Edinburgh, 'for that charitable end.' 'I hope against next post to send you a good deall more.' In 1717, he remarks, with reference to the loss of the ship *Alexander*, which was taken by a Swedish privateer, that his father, who was interested in the vessel, prays 'that God may speedily remove the cause of such losses. You may guess his meaning.' The old man's prayer was for the removal of King George, which was one of the avowed objects of the Swedish king. On 29th May 1729, the Bailie fails to meet a friend, as he 'could not omit the attending the excellent prayers for that day'—Royal Oak Day, the anniversary of the Restoration. In the *List of Persons Concerned in the Rebellion*, prepared by supervisors of excise for the information of the Government, and printed by this Society in 1890, the Bailie is included as 'A Volunteer in said Rebel Army and very active; now at Newton.' In 1745 the Bailie was sixty-nine years of age, and although his heart was with Charles, he saw no active service. He himself subsequently wrote that he was 'absent at that

Though lately straight before their face,
 they saw not where I stood;
 The Lord's my shade and hiding-place—
 he's to me always good.

Let me proclaim, both far and near,
 o'er all the earth and sea,
 That all with admiration hear
 how kind the Lord's to me.

Upon the pipe I'll sound his praise,
 and dance upon my stumps;
 A sweet new tune to it I'll raise,
 and play it on my trumps.

dismal period.’¹ In the Letter-Book he gives no information regarding the Rising: except once or twice, incidentally and darkly, he never refers to it. He followed the same policy of silence in the Fifteen, and in the trouble of 1719 which ended at Glenshiel.

His Jacobitism indeed was not allowed to interfere with his intercourse with the Hanoverians. Between 1715 and 1735 he was on intimate terms with General Wightman, the victor at Glenshiel; General Cadogan, who after Sheriffmuir commanded King George’s forces at Inverness; Captain David Kennedy, paymaster to Brigadier Grant’s regiment, which was stationed in Inverness in 1716; Lieutenant Allardyce of the Fusiliers, who was beaten by Donald Murchison in the skirmish of Ath-nam-Muileach in Glenaffarie in September 1721; Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindy, surveyor-general to the Forfeited Estates Commissioners; Sir Robert Pollock, General Siburg, and Captain Campbell, governors of Fort William; Lieutenant Wainsbarow, governor of Duart Castle; General Wade, the pacifier of the Highlands and the maker of the famous roads; General Guest, governor of Inverness; Edmund Burt; Colonel Lie, whose regiment was stationed in Inverness in 1728; General Sabius, whose regiment was there in 1734; Major Thomas Gordon, of the Bernera Barracks; and many other officers. With those Hanoverians he traded and drank healths, avoiding, we may be sure, the toast of ‘the King over the Water.’ Guest lived for a time in his house, and continued to be his friend after he left the north. In 1723 the Inverness magistrates had a tide-waiter and two soldiers whipped by the common hangman in connection with the death of an alleged smuggler. The military were greatly incensed and threatened vengeance. The Bailie got Guest to intervene, and

¹ Letter, dated 16th November 1748, to Bishop Forbes, *Lyon in Mourning* (Scot. Hist. Soc.), vol. ii. p. 211.

violence was avoided ; but a long and interesting litigation followed on the subject of the magistrates' jurisdiction.¹ In 1728 there was a somewhat similar quarrel between the town and Colonel Lie, which was brought to an end by Wade through the good offices of Guest. In 1729 Guest and Burt assisted the Bailie in recovering the price of meal supplied by him to the Suinart lead-mining company, in which, as has already been said, Wade was a partner. The Bailie in return obliged the Hanoverians. Among many similar transactions he in 1725 discounted a bill by his friend Captain Mungo Herdman on Richard Whitefall for the cost of the frigate placed by Wade on Loch Ness, and of which Whitefall was the builder. In 1728 he conveyed in one of his ships military baggage and invalid soldiers from Bernera to Fort William.

Some of the Bailie's business agents and correspondents at home and abroad may be mentioned. For many years he corresponded with John Coutts of Edinburgh, the founder of Coutts's Bank. Coutts discounted bills, but his business, so far as Inverness was concerned, mainly consisted of ventures in herring, cod, salmon, corn and meal. Steuart also had many dealings with such merchants as Alexander and James Coutts, George Auchterlonie (or Ochterlonie), Joseph Faiknie, Donald Mackay, William Cumming, John Maclean, David Ross, Patrick MacHattie, Charles Mackintosh (' who is every day on Change '), and Alexander Mackintosh of Kyllachy (granduncle of Sir James Mackintosh, the Historian of England), all of London ; Nicholas & Ridley, Newcastle ; William Thomson, Cork ; James Fall (or Fauld) & Bros., and Charles Fall, Dunbar ; Alexander Arbuthnot, Alexander Cumming, James Cumming, Hugh and Archibald Hamilton, John Innes, George Falconer, Andrew Henderson, Alexander Tait, William

¹ See Mr. Kenneth Macdonald on the case in his edition (1913) of Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh's *Antiquarian Notes*, p. 390.

1 LETTER-BOOK OF BAILIE JOHN STEUART

Carmichael, and James Stewart, all of Edinburgh; John Strachan, Leith; Macfarland & McCarrol, Roderick Macleod, and Charles Miller, Glasgow; William Somerville, Renfrew; John Auchterlonie (or Ochterlonie), and Ramsay & Strachan, Montrose; William Simpson and John Burnett, Aberdeen; John Donaldson and William Gordon of Farskane, Elgin; William Dawson, Forres; Walter Pollock (son of Sir Robert Pollock), Maclean & Co., George Douglas, William Park, and William Macdougall & Co., all of Maryburgh, now Fort William; George Urquhart and William Ross, Cromarty; Colin Mackenzie and Alexander Mackenzie, Dingwall; Zachary Macaulay, Stornoway; Magnus Meason, Kirkwall; and Henry Graham, Stromness. His principal foreign correspondents were Marjoribanks & Coutts, and Francis Grant, in Danzig; in Stockholm, Nelleton & Campbell, Montgomery Mould & Fenick, and Campbell Gerrard & Dobson; Hugh Ross in Gottenburg; Alexander Ross in Copenhagen; David Barclay and Bartholomew Bludworth in Hamburg; Jackson & Bradley in Amsterdam; Alexander Andrew, Robert Gerrard, John Gordon, and Robert Mackay in Rotterdam; John Macdonald 'in Holland'; Jacob Ferray in Havre; John Super and Alexander Gordon in St. Martins; Robert Gordon and John Macleod in Bordeaux; Ivan van Duffel in Bilbao; Shalet Vonder & Ferrant, otherwise Winder and Ferrand, in Barcelona; Aickman & Winder, and Godfrey & Hudson in Leghorn or Livorno; in Barbados Mr. Mackay 'on the wharfe'; and in Jamaica Donald Macdonald—or rather Donald Mackay, the writer's great-grandfather,¹ who was transported to Barbados for his part in the Forty-five, and, escaping to Jamaica, changed his name. After many years Donald returned to his native Glen Urquhart, where

¹ Son of John Mackay of Achmonie, solicitor in Inverness. See p. ix.

he now rests under a tombstone to the memory of 'Donald Mackay Macdonald, Esq., late Planter in Jamaica, and Representative of the Ancient Family of Achmonie.' To the foreign wine merchants the Bailie occasionally sends as a rare gift a small quantity of whisky, which he sometimes calls 'mountain wine,' and sometimes 'Isle of Skye champagne.' Whisky was coming into general use in the Highlands and gradually displacing the old native ale. In 1735 Steuart quotes its price at £12 per hogshead.

Many of the Bailie's home and foreign correspondents, it will be observed, bear Celtic names. His periwig-maker was a Celt—Maciver, London; and so, with one or two exceptions, were his lawyers—in Edinburgh, John Macleod, Advocate, who was concerned in the abduction of Lady Grange; Roderick Macleod, W.S.; John Steuart, the Commissary; and William Fraser, W.S., proprietor of Balnain in Statherrick, and grandfather of Patrick Fraser Tytler, the Historian of Scotland. In Inverness Steuart's legal advisers were Evan Baillie of Abriachan, a successful 'doer,' whose most prominent client was Simon Lord Lovat, and John Taylor, who held some land right in virtue of which he was one of the few 'barons' or freeholders who were entitled to vote for a member of Parliament for the county of Inverness, and whose name still lives in Baron Taylor's Lane, Inverness. Baron Taylor appears in the Letter-Book from 1720 to 1743.

In the Bailie's time money was very short and credit very long. The ready money system was virtually unknown, and sellers and buyers lived in an atmosphere of bills and bonds which frequently floated unpaid for many years. Some of these obligations have already been referred to. A few more may be mentioned. In 1706 Mackintosh of Mackintosh granted the Bailie a bill for £16. In 1716 it was protested for non-payment. It

was still due in 1736. In 1738 the balance of the principal was paid, but the Bailie remarks on his simplicity in having lost thirty-two years' interest. In 1717 he is dunning Colonel Grant of Ballindalloch for the contents of a bill; in 1728 the dunning is still going on. A bill by the Chief of Glengarry and Macdonell of Scotas, which was past due in 1722, is in the same state in 1730. Lochiel's obligation, granted prior to 1720, is 'not yet paid' in 1729. Brigadier Mackintosh of Borlum's bill, signed in 1724, is unpaid in 1737. Colonel Donald Murchison's document for £6, 7s. is unpaid for years, and so is John Roy Steuart's paper for £17, 14s. Some time before 1735 the Laird of Mackinnon granted a bill for the large sum of £114, 19s. 2d. It is still due in 1742. William MacCulloch, a Ross-shire laird, signed a bill in 1728. In 1743 it is recorded that he is in Virginia, and that payment is expected when he returns. The bill is not paid in 1749, when pressure is put upon MacCulloch, now barrack-master of Fort Augustus. About 1710 the Bailie's father took an acceptance from Angus Mackintosh of Kyllachy, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Preston in 1715. In 1736 the Bailie is pressing Kyllachy's son Alexander, the London merchant, for payment. In 1722 Steuart refers to the difficulty he has in recovering from Bumper John of Culloden a bill for £25, granted no doubt for a quantity of Culloden's famous claret. He experiences the same difficulty in 1740 in recovering the debt from John's brother and successor, Lord President Forbes. In 1717 he is urging Lord Strathnaver and Lord Reay for payment of obligations long past due. Young Gordon of Glenbuchat gives the Bailie his bill for £5, 'which he promised upon honour to pay several times.' He failed to keep the promise, and in October 1726 his father was written to, and the bill was probably paid. In 1700 Robert Cumming of Relugas granted to the Bailie's father an

obligation for £10. In 1748 the Bailie is endeavouring to recover the amount from the grantor's son, Mr. Patrick Cumming, minister in Edinburgh.

The English officers from time to time stationed in the Highlands, and whose paper the Bailie was always ready to take, were also frequently in default—among them being General Siburg, governor of Fort William, in 1725; Colonel Long and Major Ormsby in 1726; Captain John Trelawney in 1727; and our friend Edmund Burt, the critic of Highland customs, in 1729. Among others whose bills or bonds are referred to in the Letter-Book are William Macleod of Hamar, the 'Theophilus Insulanus' who wrote a well-known treatise on second sight; Donald Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart; Stewart of Ardsziel; Grant of Shewglie, who died in the Tower of London, where he was imprisoned after Culloden; Major James Fraser of Castle Leather, author of *Major Fraser's Manuscript*; the Earl of Cromartie; and Macleod of Macleod.

Although the Bailie found it difficult to turn his bills into cash, they were not allowed to lie idle in his desk. In a measure they served him the purpose of bank notes. He continually sends them to his correspondents in satisfaction of his own obligations; and sometimes they return to him after many days and after passing through many hands. Highland bills were as a rule made payable at Crieff, where a great cattle tryst took place every year in September. The market was regularly attended by Highland lairds, tacksmen, and drovers, and Steuart was frequently represented at it, and did his best to exchange his paper for the gold produced by the black cattle from the glens.

There was in the Bailie's day no bank within the Highland bounds, and no way of remitting money except in specie, notes, or bills, transmitted by the ordinary posts or by 'expresses' or special messengers. A post walked

from Inverness to Edinburgh with more or less regularity every week, returning the following week. There were posts also to Aberdeen, Montrose, and Caithness. These officials were selected for their strength, courage, and fidelity to trust, and during the Bailie's long period of business only one complaint is recorded—the post of 1722 'is a drunken carles fellow.' Their adventures were doubtlessly many, but they seldom failed to carry their mails, money, and parcels to their destination. There were periods, however, of special danger. During the troubles of the Fifteen and the Forty-five the postal service was suspended. In 1721 the Bailie is unable to risk a remittance to Edinburgh 'for fear of robbing, which is verry frequent of late in the Highlands.' He as a rule seals the bag containing the money or what represents money, and sends a separate letter specifying the bag's contents—the individual coins, the bank notes and their numbers, the amount, dates, drawers and acceptors of the bills. The contents of the bag are sometimes mixed. In 1718 a remittance to Banff consists of a bank note, 67 golden guineas, 5s. in silver, and $2\frac{2}{3}$ pennies in copper. In the same year a special messenger is sent to the Earl of Moray in Fife carrying 'in Gold 157£ 0 : 6d. ster. all in guineas and half guineas, except 5 Luidores.' In 1725 he sends to John Duff, Elgin, by special messenger, £27 : 13 : 4d. sterling, 'being in Specie 10 guaneas, a quadruple or 4 pistole piece value £3 : 6/. Strl. and a £5 strl. bank noat, and the rest in Silver'; and in 1734 the Bailie's father-in-law, Norman Macleod, sends him from Glenelg by an express, who takes eight days to do the journey, '37 moedores and a half, 30 guenes, and elven Banck noats of 20 shillings each, and your Bill on Ebost for ten guenies, payable att Creef, and a porteguisse ps., and seven shillings ster.'

Some idea of the rate at which those messengers were

remunerated will be got from the following payments made in 1735: to an express from Inverness to Lochbroom and back 8s. sterling; to one from Inverness to the west coast of Sutherland and back, 7s. 6d. The man who brought the money from Glenelg in 1734 had evidently access to it, for he used 6s. of it during his eight days' tramp. 'If you think fit to give him more may doe it, and Ile allow of it,' writes the Bailie to the sender. Expresses are sent from Inverness to Fort William, Ardshiel, Dunvegan, Gairloch, Lochinver, Caithness, Cullen, Aberdeen, Crieff, and Edinburgh; but the payments made to them are not stated. When the *Agnes* was lost the news was brought to the Bailie by a special messenger who boated from Orkney to Thurso or Scrabster, and walked from there to Inverness.

The extent of the Bailie's business notwithstanding, it cannot be gathered from the Letter-Book that he ever made money. From the outset his capital was insufficient for his business; as has already been said, he ventured and trusted too much; and his losses were great. His household and family expenses were heavy. He appears, however, to have made ends meet until about the year 1735, when he began to be in serious financial straits. Things went from bad to worse. He made strenuous efforts to convert his bills and bonds into cash. His creditors gave him trouble. The newsagent who sent him his weekly paper from Edinburgh served a summons on him in 1741, and so did Maciver, the periwig-maker. In December of that year he was threatened with horning and caption and the other legal processes which were the terror of the impecunious. 'I cannot pay these claims,' he writes, 'was I to be hangd as well as imprisoned. I care not to go to a stinking gaol at this time of the year, in my old age.' The Earl of Seaforth dealt him a bad blow by arresting his salmon on the shores of Loch Duich.

In 1743 he is 'prodigiously straitned for pressing demands, and for the sustenance of my family'; and is 'perplexed and dunned to death by poor people.' In 1749 'swarms of small creditors are on my back.' He frequently borrows from friends and draws bills upon them for small sums, and he writes to his son John from 1744 to the end of the Letter-Book in terms which disclose a cruel and continuous state of impecuniosity. His long letter of 29th November 1752 to John, then in Carolina, is interesting for the account it gives of his family; but the close is pathetic: 'This [thus] have I given you an Account of all our family, so have only to add that your mother and I have laboured under great troubles of late years, and only subsisted by the bounty of our children, and few or non other of late; and our schemes have missgiven. May God sanctify every dispensation of his providence to us, and prepare us for death and eternity, which I may dayly look for, as I am now very old, and of late feel the effects of it. Your mother, Meg, and brothers give you their blessing, and to your spouse and child, in which I join.' It is the last of our friend's recorded epistles.

Steuart, although he did not allow his politics to interfere with his friendships or his business interests, was, as has been seen, a sincere and hopeful Jacobite. In October 1748 his son Francis hands Bishop Forbes a written account of the cruelties that followed Culloden,¹ and in November he himself writes the Bishop on the subject. 'I doe not think,' he says, 'there were ever greater inhuman barbaritys and cruelties of all kinds perpetrated in anie cuntry, either Cristian or Infidel, than was in this at that period; and all by order of the commander [Cumberland], as some of the officers then in that service

¹ *The Lyon in Mourning* (Scot. Hist. Soc.), vol. ii. p. 189.

have since told me. And those that comitted the greatest barbaritys, whether by murder, rape, rapin, or fire, have since been most liberally rewarded and prefered. But God is the Lord to whom vengeance belongs, righteous in all ways, and just in all his judgements, so shall say no more on this subject at present.’¹ Soon after the close of the war he is in correspondence with the Highland exiles on the Continent; and in March 1751 he makes a journey to France, where he remains till November. In a letter, dated 17th January 1752, to his son James, he records his cordial reception by his friends there, through whose hospitality he ‘lived at little expence,’ and who made an effort to get for him a ‘share of the pension settled by the Court of France for certain Gentlemen in distress.’ The effort was without success, ‘as I wanted certain qualifications without which my project would not doe, but at the same time I got assurance that at a proper time I would be provided for.’ The proper time did not come, and, notwithstanding his son John’s offer to allow him £20 a year if he settled in Boulogne, the disappointed old man returned to his own Highlands to resume for a few years his struggle for existence. He died on 20th April 1759.²

In church politics the Bailie was an Episcopalian. In 1717, when factor of Petty, he declares that he has ‘no stomach for planting [Presbyterian] kirks.’ In 1734 the Rev. Robert Jameson, ‘minister of the Gospell to the Episcopall Congregation of Inverness,’ made over his library in trust for the congregation—among the trustees being Steuart and John Taylor, writer—Baron Taylor. In his letter of November 1748 to Bishop Forbes, Steuart states: ‘Wee are here in a deprest confin’d condition as to

¹ *The Lyon in Mourning*, vol. ii. p. 211.

MS. *Mackintosh of Farr Book*, in the possession of Miss F. Mackintosh of Farr.

the publick profession of our religion, tho' our good worthie Pastor [Mr. James Hay] does all he can. But I dare say matters will not long continue so. Meantime, God grant us patience and resignation to his unering providence.' When the Bishop visited Inverness in 1762, and again in 1770, the good Bailie's memory was still green in the Highland Episcopal fold.

Steuart's family was a large one. The Letter-Book evidences his care to have his children well educated. Among the subjects which his boys were taught at the Inverness grammar-school were Latin and Greek. The girls were educated at the same institution, and, as regards certain subjects, at other schools. 'Wee have,' he writes in 1752, 'verie good schools of all kinds here, and vast many young girles sent here to be educat.'¹ His daughter Ann married Richard Hay-Newton of Newton, East Lothian, and it is to her descendant, Mr. W. Hay-Newton, the present proprietor of Newton, that the writer is indebted for the Letter-Book. Another daughter married Captain Reid, and another Captain Wedderburn. His son Alexander was a wine merchant in Leith. James went to India, where he prospered. John, after spending some years at sea, and going round the world with Lord Anson as purser of the *Centurion*, settled in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was appointed British agent for the Carolinas. He is said to have been the only officer who escaped in the massacre at Fort Loudoun on the Tennessee River in 1760. In the American War of Independence he took the British side, and on the conclusion of the war left

¹ The innkeeper's daughter whom Dr. Samuel Johnson met in Glenmoriston in 1773 had, he tells us in his *Tour*, been educated at Inverness, and 'had the English pronunciation,' and was 'not inelegant either in mien or dress.' Among her father's few books were a volume or more of Prideaux's *Connection of the Old and New Testaments*—a book which we find the Bailie ordering from London in 1723. The Doctor, when parting with the girl, presented her with a copy of *Cocker's Arithmetic*, which he a few days previously purchased in Inverness.—Johnson's *Tour*, and Boswell's *Journal of the Tour*.

America for good and settled in England, bringing home with him the child whom the Bailie blessed in his last recorded letter, and who was destined to become famous as Sir John Stuart, Count Maida—the victor of Maida, where, to the surprise of the world, ‘the veterans of Napoleon fled before the British steel.’¹

The Bailie’s sons Francis, Patrick, and Henry also settled in South Carolina. Many Highlanders emigrated to the same state in the early years of the eighteenth century,² and for generations Gaelic was as much spoken there as in the parish of Inverness—negroes speaking it, to the amazement and horror of later Highland emigrants. The Gaelic is now dead in the State, but in Charleston the ‘Old Stuart House,’ built by John and Francis, still stands.

A pleasing trait in the Bailie’s character may be mentioned. He was fond of flowers, and was in the habit of placing southernwood and other sweet-smelling plants and herbs between the leaves of his letter-books. These lay there undisturbed until the volumes were read by the Editor after the lapse of nigh two centuries.

The Editor’s indebtedness to Mr. Hay-Newton for the Letter-Book has already been acknowledged. In connection with the work of editing it he has received interesting information from Mr. P. J. Anderson, Aberdeen; Mr. John Malcolm Bulloch, London; Mr. James Grant, Banff; Mr. William Grant, Aberdeen; Mr. Ranald Macdonald, Portree; Mr. A. Francis Steuart; and Dr. Maitland Thomson. The Society and Editor are indebted to the late Mrs. Henry Glassford Bell, a descendant of Bailie

¹ See Frontispiece.

² On 25th March 1737, for example, the *Hope* sailed from Inverness with seventy passengers and indented servants for Carolina (pp. 404-407.)

lx LETTER-BOOK OF BAILIE JOHN STEUART

Steuart, for the Frontispiece, and to the New Spalding Club for the drawing of Inverness in 1725, which was first printed in the Club's *Inverness Records*, vol. i. The excellent Index is the work of Mr. Mill of the Signet Library.

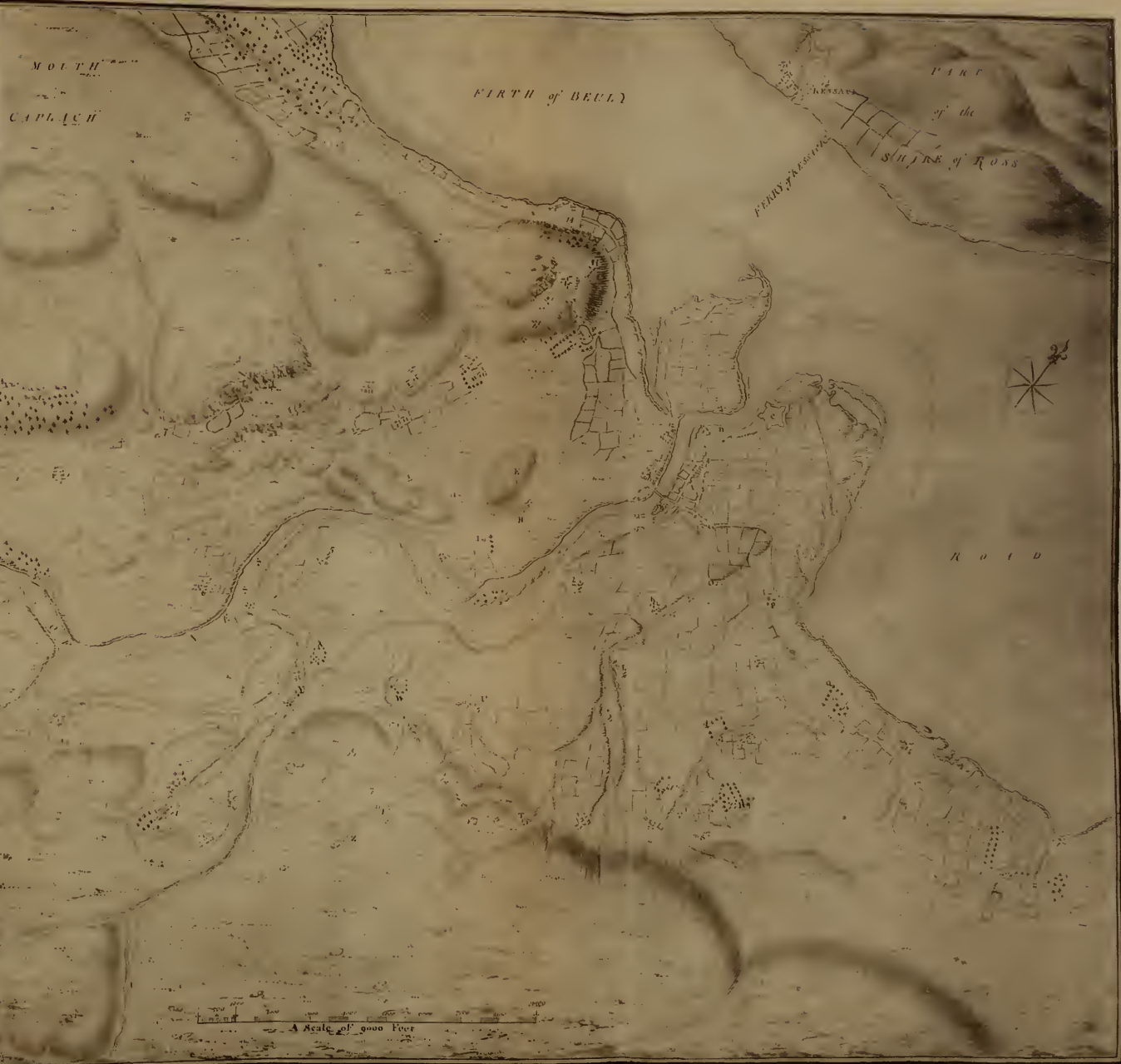
WILLIAM MACKAY.

CRAIGMONIE, INVERNESS,
March 1915.

Your most humble servant
John Steuart

THE BAILIE'S SIGNATURE

West Prospect of Inverness



A GENERAL SURVEY of *INVERNESS*
and the Country adjacent to the *Foot of LOCHNESS* 1725.

REFERENCES

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| A. Town of Inverness | U. Ballowen |
| B. The Castle | W. Frazier of Kildrinhall |
| C. The Old Fore built by O. Cromwell | X. Mackintosh of Home |
| D. The Pier | Y. Torribrae |
| E. Fairy Hill or Iona Bury | Z. Robison of Wetherlays |
| F. Mure Town | 1. Town of Effich |
| G. Pollen of Hilmilly | 2. Alnathiel |
| H. Camp before marching to Glendochill | 3. Drachy |
| I. Town of Inch | 4. New ton |
| K. Kings Mills | 5. Tolton |
| L. Colenboch Mill | 6. Duman Croy |
| M. Forbes of Burntrae | 7. Duman |
| N. Middle Mill | 8. Mackintosh of Borlum |
| O. Dear boch Mill | 9. Bualide |
| P. Mill Bours | 10. DuFore |
| Q. Stony Field | 11. Aldry |
| R. Cuthbert of Cattle Hill | 12. Dava |
| S. Robison of Inches | 13. Kirk of Durca |
| T. Frazier of Cattle Lethers | 14. Clohohary |

D R I M ASHEY MOOR

LOCH ASHEY

A Scale of 5000 Feet

THE LETTER-BOOK OF BAILIE JOHN
STEUART OF INVERNESS

Invernes, 23 May 1715.

Messrs. Jackson and Bradley [Amsterdam].

I WROT to you this dait in Compy with Messrs. Tho: Robertson and Alexr. Mackintosh of this pleace, by recommendation of Mr. Alexr. Coutts, of Dantzick,¹ annent a small Cargoe of Barly In the shipp *Margret* of this pleace, George Rodgers, master, Laitly consigned to Mr. James Murison, who I am sorie to hear is dead. I say I wrot in Compy. to you annent the disposall of sd. Cargoe and reloading the shipp home, to Which refers. Now this serves to advise that I wrot to sd. Mr. Murison the 28 Aprile and 6 instant to shipp for my proper account in sd. *Margret* a parcell of goods, which I computt to about 1000 Guilders in value, so that if this overtake the shipp, and that you find my Commission is not to be complied with by Mr. Murisons freinds, I will entreat the favour of you to Call for my Letters of 28 past and 6 instant at the Defuncts Cantore, and buy and shipp for my acct. all those Goods I have Commissioned for, except the Mather, which please forbear; and for what Goods you buy and shipp thus for my proper acct. may send me envoyce and bill of Loading, and shall order you payment on the first Notice. I hope what Goods you buy you'll take care they be bought frugally, as you may depend on

¹ Alexander Coutts was probably a member of the family of Coutts of Auchtercoul. A younger son of that family is said to have settled at Montrose about the end of the sixteenth century. Several of his descendants were provosts of that Burgh, and John Coutts, Provost of Montrose, registered arms 1672-78. Members of the family also settled in London. One of them, Alexander Coutts of Redfield, had a niece Concordia, who married, first, Thomas Marshall, secondly, Gotlieb Gotz, both merchants in Dantzic. See Stodart's *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii. p. 298.

punctuall payment for what Creditt I shall want. Please to Inshure for my Acct. on Goods in sd. shipp 1200 Guilders, and pleace the premium to Acct. off, Gentlemen, Your most humble servant,
 JOHN STEUART.

Pray forward the inclosed to Dantzick pr. first.

Invernes, 24 May 1715.

Mr. Andrew Majoribank [Dantzic].

SIR,—I wrot you the 23d Aprile last, as did my Father ¹ the 6 instant, ordering to remitt all the mony in your hands as proceeds of herins consigned to you, to the hands of Mr. James Murison, of Amsterdam; but being advised this post of that Gentlemans death I hope this comes time enouch to hinder anie remittance that way, haveing reason to belive you have notice of that Gentlemans death befor my orders came to hand; so now I desire befor you make anie remittance for my acct. or my fathers you wait my further orders, or, if have made remittances, as I belive not, pray, if possible, stop payments untill wee know some further of the deceast Gentlemans affairs; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 28 May 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Ochterlounie [London].

SIR,—I wrot you some time agoe in Company with Mr. Alexr. Mackintosh of this pleace adviseing that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 180£ sterling remitted from Minorca by Capt. George Person for Thomas Robertson and Comp. was for sd. Mr. Mackintosh and me, and Mr. Robertson tells me he has confirmed same by valueing only for $\frac{1}{3}$ of sd. mony. Therfor I have Drawn on you of this dait to Mr. George Mackilican, apothecarie here, for 36£ sterling @ 6 days sight in pairt of my 3d of sd. mony, which pleace accordingly. Pray how-soon this comes to hand procur a Mediteranean pass Conform to within certificatts, and send it me pr. first, and pleace the value to my Acct. Capt. Dunbar, in the shipp

¹ Alexander Steuart, merchant in Inverness.

Good Success of this pleace, is gone Laitly from Hamburg for London on freight. Wee have recomended him to call at you for your assistance in procuring him freight for Scotland, and, if can gett non, bid him full the shipp with hoopes for the owners accts., and value on us for the price of sd. hoops; but, if can gett freight, it will doe better, in which must entreat your favourable concurrence, and, I am, etc.

Comissar Steuart [Edinburgh].¹

Invernes, 3d June 1715.

D. COSSN,—I am very much fashed with the Earl of Murrays farms² of Pettie yt. are still on hand, and I am sure it will be a loss to his Lop: that they were not sold in the beginning of the year to the people of this place, Since they ofered the same price as they are sold at, and Considering that they the tennents would have made fuller paymts, and been freed of a great deall of trouble; and I have by the Earles order protested agt. Mr. Cumming, the buyer, so may tell him all the Inlake³ and charges of keeping will hereafter fall on him. George Urquhart, Mr. Cummings doer here, told me the oyr day that he knew not when the Earles bear would be received, and he beleeved Mr. Cuming was not as yet determind how to Dispose of the Same; yrfore pray speak to him and tell him yt, if he will give orders to his correspondent here to dispose of the bear in this place, I will concurr wt. him for yt end, and doe suppose he may still get 6£ Scots pr. boll; As to qch pray favour me wt. his ansuer pr. first. I send you inclosed precepts of poinding att my Instance agst. Hugh Rose, late tennant in Overcoull [in Petty]. I desire you may raise horning yron, and send me first, but first arrest in the hands of Wm. Rose, Wryter, his cousin,

¹ John Steuart, Commissary of Inverness, and the Earl of Moray's legal adviser in Edinburgh. The Bailie was factor on the Earl's estates in Inverness-shire. The Commissary was the Bailie's cousin.

² Farm, more commonly *ferme*, rent in grain or meal.

³ Loss, deficiency.

who I am told hes of sd. Hughs effects in his hands. This debt is really due the Earle of Murray, which makes me anxious about it. There is a mighty seizure of about 25 tunns brandy and some wine made by our Custom house officers here this week. Its said to be landed wt. Designe to be seized, and belongs to some gentlemen att Edr. ; but Im afraid they 'll catch a tartar.—I am, Dear Cousin, Yours, etc.

Inverness, June 3d 1715.

Messrs. Jackson and Broadlie [Amsterdam].

GENTLEMEN,—My last was 23d ultimo, qrin I desired you to call att Mr. James Murison his house for my letter of 23d Apryle, in which I hade ordered him to ship some goods for my accot. As alsoe that you would be pleased, now that sd. Mr. Murison is Dead, to buy and ship sd. goods for my acct. in the ship *Margrt* of this place, George Rodgers, Mr., but being since apprehensive yt my said order might not come to yor hand I send you note of the said goods, and, if you please to buy and ship them as above for my accot., shall on sight of yor bill of Loadning and Invoice send you bills for the value on Dantzick, London, or Rotterdam, as you shall advise me most in yor favours. I have writt you of this date in Comp wt. Messrs. Robertson and McIntosh anent our cargoe of bear in possession of Mr. Murisons Exors, and shall not doubt of yor best endeavours that wee be not losers in that affair. Youle please delyver the inclosed to Mr. McIntosh, who is along wh. Mr. Rodgers, and, if needfull, will give his assistance in buying the few goods I have commissioned for, so as they will be fitt for my purpose, I am, etc.

Inverness, 3d June 1715.

I WROTE this dait to Mr. John Supper, Mercht. in St. Martins [France] desire advise annent herrins and codfish, how both might be most safly sent from hence to sd. port ; as alsoe prices of sundrie goods in France.

Invernes, 24 June 1715.

I WROT to above Mr. Supper for advice annent Mud Codfish to France directly from GarLoch, etc.

Inverness, 10 June 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Ochterlounie [London].

SIR,—My Last was of 28 ultimo, adviseing of my Drawght on you to the order of George Mackilican, of this pleace, for £36 sterling, as also desiring a Mediteranean pass for the shipp *Alexr.*, of this pleace, bound fore Spain, which I Look for pr. first. This serves to advise that have valued on you of this dait to the order of Mr. James Mackintosh, mercht here, £22 sterling @ 6 days sight, which I hope will find due honour, being in further payment of my 3d of Cash remitted to you by George Person from Minorca Island, in name of Thomas Robertson and Company; and so pleace it accordingly. I hope you shall hear verie soon of further remittances from sd. Captain Person for our accts., as alsoe from some other parts for my accts. You may tell Capt. Dunbar, if with you, that non of his owners have now occasion for hoops as pr. my last advice. I am, etc.

Inverness, 21 June 1715.

Mr. Andrew Majoribanks [Dantzic].

SIR,—My Last was of 24 past, ordering to Make no remittances for my Acct. to the hands of Mr. James Murison, of Amsterdam, as have formarly advised, being informed of that Gentleman's death, which I hope came in due time to hand, since I have your favour of 28 ultimo with acct. of seall [sale] of 30 barells herins pr. the *Helen* of this pleace f 226: 6¹ I have likeways Acct. of 90 ps. knapwood shipped for my Acct. in sd. shipp amounting to 72: 22 gr. [gross], and must beg Libertie to think that

¹ 226 florins or gilders and 6 gross (groschen?). See letter of 8 August 1715 to Marjoribanks and Coutts, and letter of same date to Alexander Indrew or Andrew.

f 26 : 2 gr [gross] is too much Charges on so small a subject. I have your bill on Keneth Mackenzie for f. 116 : 14 gr for which have Credited your Acct. This serves principallie to advise you pay to Mr. Alexr. Coutts, your pairtner, one thousand Gilders, and pleace the same to My Acct., I say him 1000 f Polish, and what further Ballance you are due me I will order verie soon by way of Holland. Notice you are to bring What Ballance is due my Father, Alexr. Steuart, on herins pr. George Rodgers, to my Credit, conform to his orders of 6 May Last, and I am, etc.

Invernes, 21 June 1715.

Mr. Thomas Robertson [Merchant, Inverness].

LOVEING COMRADE,—I have yours of 17 instant adviseing your Brother [that] Mr. Coutts will Give mony at Edinburgh for mony at Dantzick @ 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d pr. Gilder, Which I think too litle. However, doe send you here inclosed my order to Andrew Majoribanks to pay him 1000 Gilders Polish, so may negotiat the same accordingly, and if you are not to come off verie soon may send me the mony in Guenies [guineas] or bank noats by the post, being Mostly for Acct. of my brother James Russell¹ who you know Loves to be full in hand with the reddie, and uneasie without it. Pray send me pr. first a blank debenture for beef and pork, and I am, etc.

Invernes, 5 July 1715.

Mr. Robert Gerard, at Rotterdam.

SIR,—I have yours of 18th past, with envoyce of some goods sent me, extending to f 8 : 9 : 8. I am sorie to find my beef pr. the *John Bark* [barque] comes to slow a Merket after the master of sd. bark told me pairt of sd. beef was sold or he came from Rotterdam, which now I can

¹ Russell was the Bailie's predecessor, and for a time his associate, in the factorship, and he sometimes was a partner in his speculations. He was tenant of the farms of Treton and Wester Connage in Petty. Treton is still possessed by his family, the present representative being his great-great-grandson, Mr. Donald Russell. According to tradition the Russells have been tenants in Petty for six hundred years.

not credit. However, I hope you 'll see to dispose of it to best advantage as soon as possible. My freind Mr. John Mackay of this pleace tells me he owes you some mony, and was enquiring if wuld give him bill,—payabel to your order, which could not doe; but if anie of the product of my beef be come to your hands so as to serve Mr. Mackay shall be glad you apply it for his acct. and value on him to my order for the same; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 7 July 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Ochterlony, of London.

SIR,—I have your favours of 18 and 23d past, and I thank you for your punctuall Compliance with my Draughts in favours of George Mackilican and James Mackintosh. In yours of 18 ultimo I gott the inclosed bill Gilbert Robertson on his Father for 20 £ ster., which he would not accept, and therfor have returned it as you desired. Doe observe you have given orders to shipp some hoops for my Acct. in Capt. Calders shipp, which, if done, the value shall be punctually payed to your order By, Sir, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 7 July 1715.

Messrs. Jackson and Bradly [Amsterdam].

GENTLEMEN,—I am honoured with your favours of i and 2d Curt., and is glad to find a future corespondence will be so acceptable to so good men. I am sorie my order of 3d ultimo for some goods pr. Captain Rodgers came so Lait to hand, and therfor I herby countermand anie goods for my Acct. by anie other shipp till further orders. Mr. Rodgers told us he gott our Letter went under your covert, and so were surprized you suffered our shipp to come home emptie after you hade our orders, but now doe suppose it was Mr. Rodgers own fault in comeing away prhaps too abruptly. Mean time I am hopefull youll doe the needfull to gett us fairly rid of Mr. Murisons executors, and, I am, with due respect, Your most humble servant.

Invernes, 6 August 1715.

Mr. Robert Gerard [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I am surprized with the melancolie accounts you give of My beef consigned to you pr. the *John* Bark of this pleace, and I think it verie strange that good beef should prove so verie bad a Comodity with you. In the mean time all I can advise is you take care the beef be preserved from spoiling by fresh pickleing, and, if you can find anie better Merket for it in anie of the Nighbouring provinces, pray send it thither, or to anie other Countrie wher you think most can be made of it. It has cost me a good Deall of Mony, and its verie unlukie if all should be Lost after comeing safe to the merket. I shall writ my freind Mr. Alexr. Indrew to Concur with you, and I am, etc.

Invernes, 8 August 1715.

Messrs. Marjoribanks and Coutts [Dantzic].

GENTLEMEN,—My Last was 21 June, wherin I have advised Mr. Andrew Majoribanks to pay his pairtner, Mr. Alexr. Coutts, one thousand Gilders Polish value received to pleace the same to my acct. ; to which order no Doubt Compliance is made. This serves principalie to advise that I have of this dait wrot to Mr. Alexr. Indrew, of Rotterdam, desiring he may value on you for what Ballance you are due me, which, including the ballance due my Father and formarly ordered to be placed to my Credit, amounts to about 1717 Gilders 25 Gross Polish, so if Mr. Indrew should value on you for sd. sum, or order you remitt the same to his hands, I entreat your Compliance pr. first, and I am, etc.

Please advise me when anie remittance to Mr. Indrew is made for my Acct.

Inverness, 8 August 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Indrew, Mercht, of Rotterdam.

SIR,—I have your acceptable favour of 26 July in return to mine of 24 June Last, and I am sorie to find that

my designe of fraighting a Dutch Doggar to goe from hence to France with herins will not doe, and yet I am advised last post from Rochell it would doe, tho find your advice so solid that can not doubt of it. I Return you heartie thanks for your advice of merkets wch. you sent me, and will entreat you 'll acquaint me pr. first of the success of your Dutch herin fishing this year. This serves principallie to bring you the inclosed which you 'll please forward under your Covert to Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutts at Dantzick. Youll see by it Ive ordered f 1717 Polish to be remitted to your hands from Dantzick for my Acct., or you may draw for the same as you find most convenient, and please to advise me when I shall value on you for the same. I sent in spring last to the care of Mr. Robert Gerard 73 barells of salt beef to be sold for my Acct., and he writs me last post he has sold non as yet of sd. beef, and can get non sold ; therfor must entreat the favour of you to eandevour to gett the same disposed off either for mony or Barter of some vendible goods ; and in the mean time spak to Mr. Gerard to fill the Cask with fresh pickle, otherways all may spoill, which will be a hard case. The beef was verie good, and its hard if it dont sell somewhere in the Provinces ; to which pray give your advice and Concurance, and I am, with much respect, etc.

Invernes, 9 August 1715.

Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutts [Dantzic].

SIRS,—I wrot to you yesterday under Covert of Mr. Alexr. Indrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, desireing you should remitt to his hands, or pay to his order, f 1717 gilders 25 gr. Polish, but this day, finding mony here for my bill on you, have valued on you of this dait to Mr. Alexr. Arburthnot, senior, Mercht. in Edinburgh, for 1720 Gilders Polish, to which I hope you 'll give due honour, so you are to pay no mony to Mr. Andrew for my Acct. I am, Gentlemen, etc.

Invernes, 16 August 1715.

I WROTE to Commissar Steuart of this dait, and sent a Letter inclosed for Mr. William Steuart,¹ Member of Parliament, of sd. dait, and Kimilies² receipt to me for 40 £ sterling payed him on sd. Commissars Acct.

Invernes, 2 7ber 1715.

Mr. Andrew Henderson [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I have yours of 25 past, and send you inclosed Letter from Archibald Geddes to his Brother, in which he orders to pay you £35 : 14 : 6d. sterling as value of salt and sugar sent by John Mackays bark, which is safe come to hand. You are to value on me for this mony, which will be punctually honoured, and, if this don't answer, pray advise me, and your mony shall be sent you verie nixt post. Deliver the inclosed to Mr. James Cuming, who is sending a bark here to take in about 400 bolls bear. Therfor I desire, if can agree with sd. Mr. Cuming, or the Master of sd. Bark, to bring hither for my acct. 1200 bushels of home salt @ 6d. or 7d. pr. boll of freight. I desire you may Load the sd. quantity of salt, with 4 or 5 dealls of Coalls, for my Acct. ; and this, with the Masters bill of Loadning, will oblidge me to pay you the value on Demand. If can Manadge the Custom office as Last time for pairt of the excise of sd. salt, in that Case may venture to give a litle more freight rather then fail. I depend on your Good Manadgement in this Matter, and on your answer pr. first ; and I am, etc.

¹ William Steuart of Weyland, Advocate, King's Remembrancer of the Court of Exchequer, and Secretary to the Prince of Wales in Scotland, born 1686, died 13 Sept. 1768. M.P. for Inverness Burghs, 1715-22, for Ayr Burghs, 1722-27, Elgin Burghs, 1734-41. [Information from the descendant of his cousin, A. Francis Steuart, Esq.]

² Polson of Kinmylies, near Inverness.

Inverness, 17 7ber 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Indrew [Rotterdam].

I HAVE your favour of 10 ultimo, which came to hand but 2 days agoe. I heartly thank you for your kindness in asisting to dispose of my beef, altho I may reckon it a lost stok, after charges are deduced. This serves principally to advise you to insure for my account in the ship *Good Success* of this pleace, Alexr. Dunbar, master, and her cargoe of herins from this to Dunkirk, six hundred Guilders ; as also on the Ship *Helen*, of this pleace, Thomas Jamison, Master, and her cargoe of herins from this to Dantzick, two thousand Guilders Hollands ; as alsoe on the ship *Margret*, of this pleace, George Rodgers, Master, and her cargoe of herins, eight hunder Guilders Hollands. I say on the shipp *Margret* from this to Dantzik ; and how soon have made those insurances for my account advise me, and may value on me for the Premium. I am, etc.

Inverness, 21 Sepr. 1715.

Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutts [Dantzic].

I SEND you inclosed by the Shipp *Margret*, of this place, George Rogers, Master, bill of Loading for fifeteen last, eight barrels herings, which I hope will prove verie Good. You ar to sell said herings on my Accompt, and to reload with the neat proceeds free of Ship paid of Iron qreof one third broad Shampelonis and the rest fine midline Iron : Item, on hundred and tuentic prast [?] ston flax in fair bales ; eight barrels Sope in fourths and eights equaly ; Six hundred weight steel ; thre shook knapwood ; and as manie brake pipe stais as will make up the rest of my Lastadge. Pray give the shipp all possible dispatch, and order Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam to Insure for my accompt fm. Dantsiek to this place eight hundred Guilders holands on said shipp and Cargoe, and to value on me for the premium ; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 24 7ber 1715.

Mr. Alexr. Indrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—My Last was of 17 instant, in which I advised you to insure for My Account on the shipp *Good Success*, of this pleace, and her cargo of herins from this to Dunkirk, 600 Guilders hollands; on the shipp *Helen*, of this pleace, Thomas Jamieson, master, from this to Dantzick, 2000 Gilders—I say on the shipp and cargoe of herins; and on the shipp *Margret*, of this pleace, George Rodgers, and her Cargo of herins, from this to Dantzick 800 Gilders. Now this serves to advise you that if these insurances are accordingly made befor this come to hand, you are to alter the purpose mentioned, makeing that on the shipp *Good Success* from this to Hamburg, my orders annent Dunkirk being a mistake; and on the shipp *Helen* you are to make from this to St. Martins in France, which I hope will be cheaper than to Dantzick, there being no hazard of Swede privateers that way. I beg your care in this, and that you'll advise me accordingly pr. first; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 21 7ber 1715.

Mr. John Super [St. Martins, France].

SIR,—Inclosed you have bill of Loadning for 58 lasts one barell white herings pr. the shipp *Helen* of Invernes, Thomas Jamieson, Mr., which herins you are to dispose of to the best account, and are to credit each of our Accts., according to the bills of Loading, Viz. John Steuart and Compy, 41 Last 5 barells; ditto his particular acct. 4 last 8 barells; James Cuthbert and Company 12 lasts; and with the net proceeds you are to reload the sd. shipp for our Accts. with salt and five tuns and half best brandy in half hhds., Fiftie rehms writing paper from 34 sous to 9 livers, 30,000 flintstons, five tearces Pruins of best sort, tuo tuns best white wine of the growth of St. Martins Island; and you are to pleace the value of sd.

Goods to our Accounts as follows, viz: $\frac{4}{5}$ th to acct. of Jo. Steuart and Compy., and $\frac{1}{5}$ to James Cuthberts acct. and Compy. Should the hering not answer our expectation, and the proceeds not enough to purchase the above mentioned goods, in that case you are to Load only 3 tuns brandy, and the rest salt; but we hope it will prove otherways. Pray Let the brandie be Good, and the Casks of ane equall Size. What further wee have to say wee shall advise you separatly pr. post; and wee remain, etc.

P. S.—Pray take care to shipp for us the whitest and cleanest salt you can find.

Inverness, 1 8ber 1715.

THIS Day I wrot to Ditto Mr. Super, and ordered him the shipp *Helen* and Cargoe homward from St. Martin to Inverness, 200 £ Sterling, as also that he should advise Mr. Robert Gordon of Bx. [Bordeaux] to inshure for my acct. on the shipp Alexr., of this pleace, Alexr. Steuart, Master, $\frac{1}{8}$ of the value of his Cargoe homward from Bx. to this pleace, and, if Alexr. Dunbar, in the *Good Success*, appeared at St. Martins, to load him with salt, and furnish what other goods he called for.

29 8ber 1715.

THIS day I wrot to Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam, and ordered him to insure for your account f 800 Gil. hollands on the shipp *Gd. Fortune*, of Montrose, Thomas Greig, master, from this to St. Martins with herin and Cod fish.

10 March 1716.

For Commissar Steuart, at Edinburgh.

JUST now I have yours of 5 Instant with the inclosed for James Russell, which is surprizing, but will be immediatly forwarded to him. I send you inclosed receipt George Urquhart for 283 bols bear delivered him on Mr. Cumings

acct., as also sd. Mr. Cumings order and bill of Loading for 375 bolls shipped for his acct., both which makes 658 bolls, for which you will please procure sd. Mr. James Cumings receipt, which give the Earle of Morray, and for it gett his Lops. receipt to me for 505 bolls, and to my brother James Russell for 153 bolls, both which receipts you 'll please forward here pr. first. I wrot you last post and sent you inclosed bill Collonell William Grant¹ on John Innes for 40 £ ster, which I ordered to pay Alexr. Arbuthnot 20 £ ster., and gott his receipt. As half the last mony diserned to that fell Chalmers, Termit² haveing remitted the other half, ther is in that mony 40 sh. ster. for your own pains, besides your debursments, which stop. I send you heirinclosed bill Alexr. Cuming on Mr. James Cuming for ten pound sterling, to which please procure acceptance, or doe the needfull, and tell Mr. Cuming that if our Collector were not from home I would send Debenture for his bear shipped in *Ralph Brown*, but I hope to send it next post.

Inverness, 18 March.

For ditto.

DEAR COUSIN,—I send you Provest Clerks bill for ten pounds sterling. Whether it will answer or not I know not. In the mean time I have told Paul Macphail that Ile pay him ten pound sterling as you order, and will please the same to your Acct.

For Mr. John Super, Merchant in St. Martins, France.

Invernes, 23 March 1716.

MR. JOHN SUPER,—I admire I nor anie concerned in Capt. Jamieson's ship have no advice from you since arrivall of sd. shipp att St. Martins, especieally that, now

¹ Colonel William Grant of Ballindalloch, who raised one of the independent Highland companies which were incorporated into the Black Watch.

² Mackintosh of Termit, in Petty, and merchant in Inverness.

our unhappy wars are over, and our posts go without hindrance, or trouble. I saw lately a letter from sd. Capt. Jamieson, giving acct. of his departure from St. Martin's about the 20th of last moneth, and that our herins were sold from ten to twelve stivers pr. barrell, free, which I want to know from your self; as also if you have ordered anie Insurance on sd. shipp and cargoe for my acct. homeward, as I ordered. Not having anie thing from yourself of the seall [sale] of the herins, nor of anie goods shipt for my account and company, I can say little about that matter, only you are to remitt no monie of what ballance may be due on the cargoes pr. the shipp the *Helen*, of this place, or the *Fortune*, of Montrose, to the hands of Mr. Robert Gordon of Bx. [Bordeaux], if anie orders that way has been sent you, which I doe not remember. Pray advise of merkets for wine, Brandy, fish, etc. with you; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 23 March 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SR.,—I have yours of 17 instant, N.S., and I am verrie glad to here the *John Bark* [barque] is arrived, and Insurance prevented, and I doubt, tho the salmon is come somewhat too late, yet you 'll see to do the best for my Interest. I cannot imagine what has brought our Skipper to Amsterdam, unless some blackish mistake of his course. I know it will bring some needles charges, but, no help, however. I hope you 'll see that the Bark find all posible dispatch. I observe that Mss. Majoribanks and Coutt have wrot you about some Insurance to be made on the shipp *Margaret*, of this place, from Dantzick homeward for my acct. I desire, if this come to hand before anie Insurance on sd. shipp be made, you forbear to make anie, unless you find danger from the Sweddish privateers; in that case you are to comply with your orders from Dantzick. I wish you would send me pr. first a price currant and advice, particularly of the price of corns, and I am, etc.

Invernes, 24 March 1716.

For Comisar Steuart.

D. C.,—In my Last of 18 Curt. I sent you Provest Clerks bill for ten pound sterling. He is at present verie ill, and not like to recover, being loaded with a complex of diseases. I profered Paul Mackphail the ten pound sterling you ordered him as ballance of his account, but he shifts taking it. I think it is waiting Charles Farquharson's coming here. I send you inclosed first bill Capt. David Kenedie, paymaster to Br. Grants¹ regiment, for 50 £ sterling on James Nimo, which I doubt not will ansuer punctuly. Pleace the value when payed to my Credit, and advise accordingly. I send likeways inclosed Corn Debenture for Barly shipt for Mr. James Cumings account ; you 'll please give it him, and bid him call for Mr. Haldon, now Colltr. [collector] at Prestownpans, who was Surveyor here when the corn was shipt, and let him certify the same by signing his name above the Land-waiters name. Its want of this has kept back this debenture from being forwarded of a long time. When it certified by Mr. Haldon Let it be returned here untill our Colletr. doe the needfull.

Invernes, 21 Aprile 1716.

For Commissar Steuart.

DEAR COUSIN,—I send you inclosed your acct., and Noat to Paul Mackphail, and have payed him 10 £ ster., with which sum you are to credit my Account. I send likeways a fish Debenture for 25 £ sterling inclosed blank be Termit, and payable be the Commissioners of Excise. I hope it will be speedily payed ; which Done, pleace to my Credit. Last week some freinds here and I sent Genll. Cadogan,² for the Kings service, 500 £ ster. for which wee

¹ Brigadier Grant of Grant.

² After Sheriffmuir, Cadogan commanded King George's forces in the Highlands, and for a time had his headquarters at Inverness.

have sent good bills this post to Mr. Alexr. Arbuthnot, Senior, merch., in Edinburgh, payable at 3d sight, and have ordered him to pay you on my account 132 £ 2sh. 4d. sterling on your receipt, and please the same likeways to my credit, and call for sd. mony. In the mean time I entreat howsoon this comes to hand you pay the Earle of Morray 50 £ sterling more, and gett his Lops. receipt to me for the same, and forward the inclosed to his Lop., after reeding and sealling. I think the Earle should give down to his tennants of Pettie a years custom mony, which is no great mater in consideration of ther losses, which they will not recover on heast, and I wish you 'd advise this. I long for the return of our express, to know further of our Porteus roll¹ affair; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 27 Aprile 1716.

Mr. Alxr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I received your favours of 10th and 12 curt., as alsoe one since by sea pr. the *John* Bark with Invoice and bill of loadning, of which doe noat the contents. I observe the 2 ps. muslin sent is too dear for this merket, and I am affrayed will scarce yield my mony. I find you have shipt the fourth of the iron on boord for my acct. which you ought [not], since a tenth of the homward cargoe does no belong to me, but no help; all is prettie well. You may pay Mr. Gerard the ballance I am due him on the beef, tho, besides his ill maners in aresting my mony, I must claim his keeping my beef so long on hand untill it spoiled, and selling some belonging to Mr. Alves here at 5 f pr. barell which went in the same bark with mine, and bid him not to let me know it; however, I say, pay him, and please the same to my Debit. I observe you have insured 800 f on the shipp *Margret* for my acct. from Dantzick, which shipp is arived here, and met with the Sweds privateers in the Catagate that did no more then

¹ Captain Porteus had drilled the City Guard to be ready for the defence of the city in 1715.

plunder a litle ; so I regrate the loss of so much mony, when no reall danger. You are to value on me pr. first for 500 gilders payable at Edinburgh, and, in a moneth thereafter, for what Ballance I will be due you if I prevent you not by remittance or then. Advise of merkets ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 12 May 1716.

Mr. Ivan Van Duffle, at Bilboa.

SIR,—Your last, directed to Mr. Alexr. Duff in company, was of thirteenth Febry, wherein you advise of the seal [sale] of a pairt of the Cargo of fish, consigned to you last harvest p. the ship *Alexander*, of this place, and that from the proceeds of the same, you had remitted six hunderd piece of Eight to Mr. Robert Gordon, of Burdeaux, for Company accunt. Since Receipt of said Letter I wrote you in Company, desireing you should make the best you could of what fish, and of the above-named Cargo remained in hand, and that without loss of time, which I hope is done Long or Now, and shall be glad to be advised accordinglie. This serves chiefly to advise you that, since our Last, Mr. Archibald Dunbar, in the ship *Alexander*, arived here, who informes me, that Mr. Archer, who I suppose is your Co-pairtner, told him he hade in his hands some litle money arising from a small parcell of Refuge Cod-fish sent you by the said ship *Alexander*, the voyage to Bilboa before Last, and wanted my orders about the Disposal of said money. Therefore I desire, how soon this comes to hand, you remitt the same to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, and pray advise me pr. first of your complyanace, as also of what Prospect may be for the sale of fish with you this ensueing season, the fishing being pretty large in this country this year. If you have sold all our fish, last year pr. the *Alexander*, I am persuaded it will be very acceptable to all concerned that you remitt what ballance may be due the Company, by Bills payable either at Rotterdam or London, Since in our last we advised you should make noe farther Remittance

for our Accounts to the hands of Mr. Robert Gordon, of Burdeaux, to which I hope you will advert ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 12th May 1716.

To Comissar Steuart [Edinburgh].

DEAR COUSEN,—I received yours, third Instant, and I am well Satisfied the Earle of Murray does in some measure comply with my Proposals. I send you Inclosed Corn Debenture and Letter for Mr. James Cuming, both which, after perusall, you are to Deliver him on paying you two pounds one shilling one penny half penny Sterling, I deburse for his acount, with which you 'l please Credit mine.

I drew on you the Second Instant to the order of James Russell for thirty four pounds Six shillings fourpence Sterling, to qch. I desire your Compliance, and debit my Account accordinglie. I am due by accepted Bill to Capt George Pearson, of Mont-Rose, payable at White-sunday, Sixty eight pound Sterling ; and, now that I understand the Same is indorsed to Alex^r Arbuthnot, Senior, Mercht. in Edr, I desire you may retire s^d Bill first, and place the Same to my Debit. You 'l advert that I accepted first and Second Bills to Mr. Pearson of the Same Sume ; So you 'l notice to get both Discharged on the back of the Bill you retire. Your bruyr [brother] Alexr. Sails for Lille in a Day or two, by whom you 'l hear from me ; and I am, Dear Coosen, Your, etc.

Inverness, 30 May 1716.

To Commissar Steuart, Edr.

AFF. COUSIN,—My Last was the 26th instant wherin I advised that hade accepted your bill of fiftie pounds sterling, in favours of Duncan Mackintosh in Elrig [in Dores, near Inverness], and that hade valued on back for £20 15s. ster. to sd. Duncan Mackintosh. Now this serves to advise you that, since writing that bill, sd. Duncan

Mackintosh acquaints me that he will not want sd. mony, and is to give me back My bill. I have valued on you the 29 instant to Gilbert Gordon, Mercht. here, for £25 sterling, and dait to William Mackintosh, Junior, here, for £10 sterling, to both which please give Compliyance, and please the same to My Acct. I Long to know if have retired My Accepted bill for £60 sterling to George Person, of Montrose, in the hands of Alexr. Arbuthnot, senior, mercht. in Eder, as I formarly advised; if not done pray advert to it. Termit informs me that a freind of his at the Custom office writs him that there was a Debenture in his name for £25 sterling, with a blank indorsation, Lying neglected in that office, that anie bodie might fill up the blank and gett payment. What sd. Termit says is the same Debenture he gave me, and I forwarded to you some time agoe, he haveing non other for that sum; therfor pray enquire unto this, and procure payment, if not done. You see I give you a Deall of truble with my Affairs, but will take care you be no Looser by, Dear Cousin, Your verie Affectionat Cousin and servant.

Invernes, 7 June 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam.

SIR,—I have your acceptable favour of 26 past, which brought advice of your Draught on me to the order of Mr. John Philp in Edr., for £46 : 17s. 6d. sterling, value of 500 Gilders. The same day your bill came to hand, and was duely honoured by acceptance, and the payment is ordered against fall due. I ordered two posts agoe Messrs. Vandufle and Archer, my Correspondents at Bilboa, to remitt you a small Ballance due me on acct. of fish, to which I doubt not they will punctually Comply, so that I think you need not Draw for the Ballance of My Acct. so soon as I ordered.

Some freinds and I have a Cod fishing on our West Cost at Loch Garloch. Last summer wee put a parcell to Bilboa, which found a verie Low Merket, and now are about to send a small bark from thence with a Loadning

of Dry fish to Hamburg for a tryall, as also about 14 barell of old salmon. Pray advise how you think this may doe, as also how Cod fish would sell at Brudge in Flanders, and whither wet or Dry, and what season would doe best. The Breach is Like to be betwixt Brittan and Swedland makes us fear May interupt our Sound trade of herins this inshueing season; pray let me have your opinion of this pr. first for my Government [guidance] with a price Currant. There is a small wassall [vessel] gone from this your way; there is one William Mackintosh that is a freind of Mine gone Mercht. in sd. shipp; if he has anie occasion to give you anie truble I must recomend him to your freindship, being a verie responsall person. My wife is verie desirous to have 50 lb. flanders lint, undressed, which please send by sd. shipp, the *Margret* of Inverness, George Rogers, Master. Recomend to the Master in my name, and he 'll take care of it. I am, etc.

Let me have advice of the price and salmon with you Earlie.

Invernes, 7 July 1716.

For Commissar Steuart [Edinburgh].

D: C.;—I have yours 28 ultimo with the inclosed relaiting to Mr. B. . . . r, which shall pr. first mak the proper use. I drew on you the 26 past for 20£ ster. to the order of Mr. Alexr. Erskin, which no doubt is come to your hands or now, and accepted, and will draw no more for some posts, if can help it. I send you inclosed your bill of 15£ ster. on the Laird of Mackintosh sent me Last year, duely protest and registrated for not payment, as also two Decreets horning and Discharge by Mrs. Cristian McCulloch relaiting to me and Company. Wee have been and are under diligence for exhibiting these papers at the instance of John Mackintosh, tutor of Piltown, in some Debat twixt him and sd. Mrs. Cristan; so pray Make the proper use of them, that wee be not further trubled. William Ross, who is now at Edr., will inform more fully in this Matter or anie of tutor of Piltown his doers. Our Provest goes south this day or Moanday, and I did communicat to

him the Project annent the Clerkshipp, which I think will doe if he is heartie in it, as I doubt not he will. I sounded our Clerk by a freind who seems to be willing to goe in to a resignation, but would expect 40 or 50£ sterling of equivalent, but I think less may doe; so I wish the designed Pole election May not prevent the execution of this Project or the Provost return. In the Meantime its fitt yourself discourse him on the subject, and I think no time is to be Lost in it. Forward the inclosed to your Brother, so as it may Come to hand and I am, etc.

Invernes, ii July 1716.

For Commissar Steuart.

AFF. COUSIN,—I was not designed to have Drawn on you for some time, but that our freind Duncan Mackintosh in Elrig was stratned to gett some mony sent our freind Alexander to London, and Could gett no bill in town at present, so I hope you 'll not takit amiss, but honour my Draught of twentie guenies, and please it to Account. I hope next week to remitt £50 sterling, and in the mean time I am, etc.

Invernes, 28 July 1716.

Ditto.

D: C:;—Ill be well pleased to be advised as soon as possible that the £100 ster. to be Given by a Certain Lady for the use of Mr. B. is in your hands, that Gentlemant being at present in Great pain about shipping of some goods of value to a proper forainge merket, and I Judge he 'll find occasion verie soon, and I wish that a disappointment in this mony may be no stop to his project. Duncan Mackintosh in Elrig is gone south laityly and promised to Lodge some mony in your hands for my Acct.; so may take thirtie pound sterling, and value on me for the same, which will find acceptance. In the mean time I think fitt to advise you that I have wrot of this dait to Alexr. Cuming, our Surveyar, who is my good freind, and now at Edr., allowing him Credit on you for nine or ten pounds

sterling, if he wants it; therfor pray endeavour to accomodat him if he calls, and take his receipt in my name. Pray assist Alan Grange¹ to the Manadgment of the E. of Butt's² Esteat, and tell him I wrot you so.

Invernes, 17 August 1716.

For Commissar Steuart.

D: C:,—I have yours of 9th Curt., and will endeavour to observe the Contents, and I earnestly entreat that, if the 100£ ster. designed for Mr. B . . . r be come to hand, that you send me by the post the half in Guenies, and the other in 1 2d Bills Drawn by Patrick Steuart, merch., on his Corespondent at Paris, payable to My order; for I doe assure you this Mony is presently wanted. I am Desired by the relations of the Miserable prisoners³ in the Castle of Edr. to advance them 20 shillings sterling which I entreat you may doe pr. first, and plecte to my acct., and if can send some receptt from them for the mony it will be the better. Ther is, I think, four of them. Duncan Mackintosh presented this day your Draught on me for thirtie pound sterling, and I am to pay it tomorrow. I wish you 'd explain a litle the paragraph annent My Land Lord and Landladie pr. next. I am, etc.

Inverness, 18th Agust. 1716.

Messrs. Vanduffle and Compy. [Bilbao].

MY Last of 12 May desiring to remitt the Net proceeds of 17½ [?] fish left with you pr. the shipp *Alexr.* in Xber, 1714, to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, since which I have yours to Alexr. Duffe and Compy. desiring orders annent sd. proceeds, which you say is 807¾ Rs. pt. I thought that in Compliyance to my sd. orders of 12 May this small summ hade been ordered or now to sd. Mr. Andrew, but he writs me he has no notice

¹ Mackenzie, of Allangrange, Ross-shire.

² Earl of Bute.

³ Highland Jacobites taken in the Fifteen.

about it, therfor I desire this comes to hand you order the same either to sd. Mr. Andrew, or to Mr. George Ochterlonie, Mercht. in London, as is Most convenient for you, and advise me Accordingly. It will be very agreeable to My freinds and me that you likeway remitt to either of the abovementioned Gentlement the Ballance Due me and Compy. on the Last Cargoe of fish sent you pr. the shipp *Alexr.*, and that pr. first, and I am, etc.

Invernes, i. 7ber 1716.

Mr. James Cuming, Mercht. in Edr.

SIR,—I have Yours of 6th Ultimo advising of Your haveing bill *Alexr. Steuart* to the order of Mr. George Ochterlounie on me for £45 14s. 7d. sterling, payable 30 days after dait, which is the 5 instant. I hereby accept sd. bill, but can not promise it will be payed precisly when it falls Due, my Corrspondent, Comissar *Steuart*, being, as I suppose, Come from Edr. on his way hither; therfor must beg your patience for som litle time, which will Oblidge, Sir, Your most humble servt.

Inverness, i 7ber 1716.

Mr. *Alexr. Andrew* of Rotterdam.

SIR,—I am indebted to your of 25th July, 14 and 18 August, Last. In the first I have William Mackintosh his bill on me of sd. dait for 1756 Guilders, 6 stiver, for Acceptance payable in 5 Months. Ther is a great pairt of that Mony for Mr. Mackintosh his proper Acct.; and, since be reason of hurrie with hering fishing etc., he could not take time to adjust the same with me, I was obliged to Delay returning you sd. bill accepted, but now receive it inclosed, as also a small Spanish bill Joseph De Marquwan on Mr. Richards, of London, for 80½ ps. of 8 @ 49¼d ster. pr. ps, and you may send the same to your Corepondent at London, and I doubt not it will answer punctually, and when payed Credit my Acct. Accordingly. I

have ordered a further remittance of 300 ps. of 8 to your hand from Bilboa, which I hope you'll hear of verie soon, and, should that fail, I hope to Ballance what I am Due you by the proceeds of hering I am Just shepping for Hamburg, as also of salmon some freinds and I design for your merket and is bought up. Pray advise pr. first if a small Cargo of hering would sell at Camphere or Brudges pr. first ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 8 7ber 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam.

SIR,—I wrot you the 1st instant, and sent you inclosed William Mackintosh his bill on me for f 1756 : 6, accepted, as also a small spanish bill on me for for 80½ ps. of 8 on London, and told you I could not serve you with Lieutenant Urquhart, that Gentleman being Gone from hence with his Regiment about 2 months agoe ; since I have your favours of 25 past and 3 instant N: S., which I think is answered by my Last, except as to your on me to Mr. Philp for 46£ sterling, which was punctually payed, and I admire that he has not advised you accordingly. Please insure for my Acct. on the shipp and Cargoe of hering, *Margret* of Inver., George Rodgers, Master, 800 Guilders hollands from this to Hamburg, as also on the shipp *Success*, Alexr. Dunbar, Master, Cargo ditto 500 Guilders, Likeways for Hamburg ; and advise accordingly ; these shipp will sail in 4 or 5 days. Howsoon this Comes to hand you are to writ to Alexr. Steuart, Mr. of the shipp *Alexr.*, to Cork in Ireland, advysing of the Most Proper good from that port for your Merket, and insure Likeway on sd. shipp 500 Guilders, I say on Cargoe of hering in sd. shipp from this to Cork.

Inverness, 19 7ber 1716.

Mr. Bartholimew Bloodworth, at Hamburg.

SIR,—By recomendation of My Mr. Alex. Mackintosh of this pleace I send you inclosed bill of Loadning for one

hundered and seventie eight barells White hering, which you are to dispose of to the best avail for My Account ; and from the Nett proceeds You are to shipp for My Acct. 1500 brack pipe staves, the best of there kind, and 6000 barell staves fitt for herin Cask, like those come Comonly from Norway. Norway staves are Como ly bought at 5 to 6 R. Dollars¹ pr. Mill, but if not Gett them about that price, that is for a Dollar or two More pr. Mill, you are not to buy, but in there please shipp 1500 best pipe staves or Crown Ware, to be kept seperat from the brack in the barks hold. Buy Likeway and shipp 12 shipp lb best Midlin iron, if can be hade, not exceeding 8 R. Dollars pr. shipp lb best Midlin iron, if can be hade not exceeding 8 R. Dollars pr. shipp lb : Item. 3 barells black sope in firkins ; that is, 12 firkins ; and pleave the value of sd. goods to My Acct., and lett the value be insured. And What Ballance remains on the proceeds of the herins you are to Remitt to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, and advise me Accordingly. I am to writ you further in two or three days pr. Capt. Dunbar, and make you some fúrther Consignation of herins and Codfish, and I hope will be encouradged to Continue our Corespondence, and I am, etc.

P.S.—Give David Rose, sailer with Mr. Rodgers, 12 Dollars, and take is noat payable to my order, and send me by the masters Care 20 yards English of Hamburg Lining [linen] for shirting.

Invernes, 29 7ber 1716.

Messrs. Nicholas and Richard Ridleys, at Neucastle.

I HAVE your favours of 14 Curt., adviseing that the flax sent you pr. Capt. Jamison does not suit your Merket, being Coarse, that are not profered for it but 26s. pr. Ct., which is a verie small price considering the interuption now in the Baltick trade. If it was here would sell it for

¹ Rex dollars.

a great deall more, and therfor, if anie occasion of a shipp offers immediatly for this pleace, doe rather inclyn you send it back here than sell at that price ; but if that can not be gott then must make the best of it, but hope it will yeeld more than 26 sh. There is, I think, about 19 Ct. of it I mean @ 112 lb English. When sold may send me a bill on Edr. for the ballance will be due me. Your bill of £69 : 2d : 4d, payable to Tho. Alves on Keneth Mackenzie, John Mackay, and me is Complied with. Please advise of the price of Barlie, oats, and oat meall with you ; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 29 7ber 1716.

Mr. Bartholimew Blutworth [Hamburg].

SR.,—My last was p. the ship *Margaret*, of this place, George Rogers, Master, in which I sent you bill of loadning for one hundred and seventy eight barrels white herrings. Now I send bill of Loadning for one hundred and eleven and half barrels white herrings p. the ship *Success*, Mr. Alexr. Dunbar, commander. Which you are to dispose of for my accompt to the best avail. And from the proceeds you are to pay the Capt. 30 shill. ster. p. last as freight, with 2 shill. p. last Caplakan ;¹ as also you are to pay sd. Mr. Dunbar besides his freight sixteen pound sterlin, for which you are to take his receipt, And send it me p. first. I am not to be concerned in his homward lastage, haveing givn of the same to some freinds here, so doe desire that, after the Mr. is cleard as above, You remitt the ballance due to me to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, mercht. in Rotterdam, and advise me accordingly. Some freinds and I consigned about two years agoe to Bartarin Vanheshsyt wt. you a Cargo of Barlie p. sd.

¹ Caplakan or Capleagen is derived from the German word *Kapplaken*. The latter originally meant cap cloth, but was used in the sense of 'hat money' or 'primage,' a 'small sum of money paid along with the freight to the master of ship for his care of the goods.'

Capt. Dunbar, which measurd out at Hamburg 35 Last, of which he hes not made the least Account ; Therfor we intreat you 'l pleas concurr wt. Mr. Dunbar to gett us Justice done, and, if any money is recovered, retain a third of it for my accompt, which money likeways remitt to the hands of sd. Mr. Andrew. I send inclosed Mr. Bartarin's letter to me on receipt of the barlie for your government, and I intreat your care that we be not quite baffled by this fellow, and much oblige, Sr., etc.

Invernes, 26th 8ber 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Ochterlonie [London].

SR.,—Wee have yours of the 29th past, adviseing that you could find no mercat for our herings with you, and therfor was, accordeing to our order, in tearms with a Ship to come here and Load 800 barrells for Marcelles or Leag-horn, and that the master asked twelve Dollars per last to be free at either of thes ports, and that you had offered ten Dollars, to which you was to have the Masters Ansuer in two dayes. Wee have Impatiently looked for your advice whether sd. Ship be freaghted or not for our Acct. ; and, now that wee have not heard from you for Some posts ago, doe Conclud you have made no bargan for Sd. Ship ; And, If you have not, we desire you forbear freaght any, Judgeing it now too leat to prosecute that designe, so that, if that Ship Ingadged, wee Incline, if possible, you Indeavour to Dischairge her ; but if that cannot be done conveniently, pray See She proced here with out lose of time, And advise us per first Accordeingly. If this overtakes sd. Shipe, John Steuart desires you Ship ten thousand Barrell hupes. for his acct., and value on him for the same. It was a lose to us that we have not heard from you for Some posts Ago Whither that Shipe you mentioned was freaghted or not ; therfor wee Intreat that hereafter you be mor punctuall ; And wee are, etc.

Invernes, 27th 8ber 1716.

Mrs. Marjoribancks and Coutts [Dantzic].

INCLOSED you have bill of loadeing for 8 lasts herings per the Ship *Helen*, of this place, Thomas Jameson, master, by whom this goes. I desire you will dispose of sd. herings to the best aveall for my acct., and from the neat proceeds you are to Ship for my risque and acct. one shouck beast and leargest clapboards, 3000 barrell Steaves, and 2000 brack pipe staves, and, if good Midlen Iron can be head at or under 24 gilders per Ship pound, In that cease and not otherwayes you are to Shipec ten Ship pound for my Acct., if the hazard of Sweds prevatiens be over befor the Ship arives. In that cease you are to paye the master but fourtie Shillings Ster: per last, and, if otherwayes, he is to be payed conform to charter partie, but in any event he is to have Winter monie and Capleagen, as per charter partie. What Ballance may Remaine after the above goods are bought, and the freaught pd: you are to remit to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, at Rotterdam, And advise me accordeingly. I shall be glad to hear mor frequently from you with advice of Mercats. Please notise to compute the Lastadge of what goods is shipped in the bill of Loadeing as much in my favours as posable, Since the freaught is dear; and be sure that the full eight last homeward be made up by adeing of the Staves what will doe it if mor be requested then what is above desired; And I am, with much respect, Gentelmen, your most humble Sert.

Invernes, 27th 8ber 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

I HAVE your favour of the 6th Current, adviseing you had gott Wm. McIntosh his bill of 1756 gilders accepted, and I hope the Same will be payed when due. As also that you have my Small Spanish bill of 80½ pice of eight on Lundon, for which would credit my Acct. 182 gilders

19 Stivers when payed. I have no return of the remittance of 300 pice of eight I wrot you to be Sent me from Bilboa and admyre have not heard of it or now; however, I will not negleck, Whither that does or not, to putt you in cash for me verie Soon. And in the mean time I have ordered Mr. Bartholemew Blodsworth at Hamborow to remit you Some monie from the proceeds of herings I leatly Sent ther, as I have Mrs. Marjoribancks and Coutts of Danzick the proceds of Some herings goes ther per the Ship *Helen* of this place, Thomas Jameson, Master, with Convoy from the South firth,¹ and sails in two dayes from this. So I desire you may Insure on sd. Ship and Cargo, with or without convoy, from the South firth for Danzick, 800 hollands gilders, and advise me accordingly. I have ground to hope the fear of Sueds prevatiers is or now over, and therfor that the premium of Insurance will be cheap. I observe you have com-
 ployed with my orders of Insurance for 1800 gilders on the Shipes *Margaret* and *Succes* for Hamborow, and *Alexr.* for Corck. And I note the premium 57 gilders, which is well; and I thanck you for your care in writing to Mr. Steuart to Corck for his government. The Inclosed is from your freind, Liftenant James Urquhart, who hes ordered to pay me for your Acct. 22£ 8s. 9d. sterling. This monie is not come yett to my hands, but will, I hope, in a few dayes, of which will advise you per nixt. The few Salmond I wrott you I designed for Holand being too few to make a cargo by themselves, and most pairt grilses, I am oblidged to take the lastadge in a Ship for them goes to Haverdegras, but the proceds to be ordered your way. I am, etc.

Invernes, 27th 8ber 1716.

Comissar Steuart [Edinburgh].

I RECEIVED yours last post without deate, and will doe all I can anent the Contribution you recomend, tho can

¹ The Firth of Forth.

not promise Sums but with verie fewe. I notice that the Earle of Murray is to value on me agst. mertemas for 100£ Ster. I cannot promise that his Lops. effectks will ansuer So much so Soon. How ever, if his Lop. draw, will Indevour to Honour his bill; but would have it maide payable only Agst. the 20th of next Moneth. I send you Inclosed Bill Wm. Wimes [Weems] on his Brother at the post office for 39 £ Scots, with which credit my Acct., And I earnestly Intreat that how Soon this comes to hand you call for Charles Gordon, Mercht. in Edinburgh, And Brother to Mr. Robert Gordon of Burdeous, And paye him on my Acct. 8 £ 8 sh. Ster. And take his receipt for the Same as my fifth of the Ballance due to me and Companie on the bills drewen be Mr. Archibald Dunbar to the order of sd. Mr. Robert Gordon, on Drummure¹ and Companie in Febrevary or March last. I am ashamed this monie Should have been So long resteing, but it was not my Falt. Baillie Robertson and Termet are goeing South nest week, who no doubt will take course with ther own Shears of this monie, if not done alreadie. I send you likewayes Inclosed Decret agst. James Wiseman in Elgin for 131 £ Ster. on which send me ane Horning per first, as also Send me ane Blanck Sumond before the Lords at my Instance, being much opresed at present by Sel. [several] Debtors, boath in town And cuntrie. James Russell and I have atended thes Several dayes on My Lords Act and Comission agst. Mr. Michael,² and Send you the Same with the Comissioners report Inclosed. Non of the comissioners on the Earles pairt Accept Kinmyles³ attended, who was verie kind and franck in My Lords Interest, and, tho James Russell was at paines and vent to Strathnairn to gett proper witnesses, Yett I am afraid what is proven will not Signefye much for my Lord. Kinmyles and wee found that Mr. Michaels possession of the Land would be gott proven for the full number of years lybelled, And therfor it was that in

¹ Duff of Drummuir, merchant in Inverness.

² Mr. Michael Fraser, minister of Daviot.

³ Polson of Kinmilies.

consequence of your advise he aduced but on witnes on that point, Since Mr. Michael will be oblided to give his oath in Supplement ; but you understand this better then I doe. Receve Cragie Mephersons¹ his letter Inclosed, which Kinmyles desired might be sent you. Some of my Lords warsells [vassals] in that cuntrie vere not So franck And fair for my Lord in this matter as might be Expepected ; but of this mor here after. James Russell hes been out upwards of Fiftie Shillings in this affair.

Invernes, 3 9ber 1716.

Commissar Steuart.

D. C.,—I have yours of 26 past, and will take care of Your Draught in favours of Duncan Mackintosh, which has not yet appeared, for 50 £ ster., and will depend on you for like sum to the E. of Morray who has writ me pressingly for Mony. I wrot you last post to pay 8£ 8s. ster. to Mr. Charles Gordon, mercht. in Edr., which I hope is Done. I send inclosed acct. and bill on Lieutenant David Brymar of the foosaliers for 3£. 18s. sterling, of which pray procure payment. I send you Likeways fish Debenture certifyed on the board of Customes for 92£ 14s. 2d. sterling. For procureing of speedie payment I am advised you apply on Mr. Savage, and give him a guenie, which will effectually procure prompt payment. If you find Land-surveyors certifyeing necessar ther is one Mr. James about the Custom office who was surveyor here when the hering were shipped, who will supply that want upon payment of 14 sh. ster. I entreat your Care in this, since will want the Mony about Mertimass. Mr. Br. is shipped the 23 ultimom, which he desired signify.

Invernes, 8 9ber 1716.

Mr. Robert Arburthnot, Mercht. in Rouan.

SIR,—This goes by *Janet Dunbar* Sloop, David Stevenson, Master, and addresses you with the inclosed bill of Load-

¹ Macpherson of Craggie, Daviot.

ning for twentie nine barells salmon and Grilses, which I [desire] you Dispose of to the best avail howsoon it arives, and Credit my Account with the net proceeds, and pr. post shall advise you annent the Disposeall of the same. In the mean time I desire to be punctually advised of the Shipp's arivall, seall of the fish, and Course of Exchange twixt you and London and Rotterdam. I am hopefull you 'll take such care of My interest in this small consignment as that I shall be encouradged to Continue and inress our corespondence; and I am with Much Respect, etc.

Invernes, 9 Nover. 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

MY Last was of 27 past, and I am favoured with non of yours. I told you in it that Lieutenant Urquhart was to pay me some mony on your acct. Since I have gott £22. 4s. 9d. sterling from sd. Lieutenant Urquhart, but have passed my receipt wherin I oblidge myself to procure Your recpt. for the same or repet the mony; so may Debit my Acct. for this mony, and send me your receipt for the same pr. first; I mean to Mr. Urquhart. I send you inclosed two bills on Amsterdam, Alexr. Ross on Messrs. Desobry and Brothers for twelve hundred and eightie seven Guilders; one payable to William Mackintosh, mercht. of this pleace, your acquaintance, for f 787, and the other payable to my order for f 500, both indorsed to you. When those bills are payed Credit my Act. with there value, and advise me accordingly; and I hope you 'll have verie soon remittances will ballance your acct. In the mean time you are to insure for my acct. on the shippe *William and James* of Prestownpans, John Gillies, master, I say on the Cargoe of hering in sd. shipp from this to Hamburg, 500 Guilders: the shipp is Just reddie to sail. May pleace the premium to my acct., and advise me accordingly, which, with due respect, is the needful from Yours, etc.

Inverness, 13 9ber 1716.

Mr. Bartholemew Blutworth, at Hamburgh.

SIR,—I have your favour of 20th 8ber Last, adviseing of the arivall of George Rodgers, and that My bill of Loadning pr. Ditto was Come to your hands for 178 barells herins, but don't advise of Currt. price; however doe not doubt you have done the best for My interest in sd. shipp and Capt. Dunbar. This addresses you pr. the *William and James* of Prestownpans, John Gillies, Master, and brings you the inclosed bill of Loadning for 161½ barells white herins, what I wish May Come safe to hand, I desire you may dispose of sd. herins to best avail, and howsoon possible. Pray fail not to remitt the nett proceeds to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, mercht. in Rotterdam, and advise me accordingly. As I advised, you should likeways doe with the preceeds of herins pr. Capt. Dunbar, and What Ballance would be due on ditto pr. Rodgers, to which no doubt youll advert. I Long to hear what you've done with Mr. Barterin Vanheshysen annent the Corns sent 2 years agoe; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 17th 9ber 1716.

Commissar Steuart.

DEAR COUSIN,—I have yours of 9th instant with the inclosed bill accepted be Duncan Mackintosh, in Elrig, for 1000 merks, which I heirwith return you, sd. Duncan being gone south, and I understand your bill to him for like value on Alexr. Grant was not Complyed with. I send you inclosed bill William Weems on Bailie James Gordon, for £49. 10sh. sterling, payable 2d of Febry nixt, but haveing writ to Mr. Gordon that I am willing you discount 3 months interest, I hope it will yeeld reddie payment, of which pray advise me pr. first, and pray push the payment of this and of my Debentur of £92. 14s. 2d. sterling, tho should make a Discount of the Last, likways of some Months interest; since the Earle of Morrays mony

does not answer so soon as I expected. However I hope next post to send you fiftie pound ster. for his Lops use, which, with what may answer of the funds sent, I hope will Make him Easie. I have not yet Considered the Factorie you sent me, nor 'seen Dunmaglass,¹ nor John McGilvray; but will sett about affair. But if I am to gett nothing in this affair, it is hard, since I doe a great Deall for his Lop. otherways for verie small Wadges. Understand my Mackintosh May be at Edr. by this time. I think fitt to send you heirwith his protested bill of 15£ ster. with the assignation you desired. I entreat you pay Mr. Charles Gordon the small sum I formarly ordered, since still Complains for want of it; and send me by the post a greek Gramar for my son Sandie, which is all from Yours, etc.

I payed your bill of £50 ster. to Duncan McIntosh in Elrig on sight.

Inverness, 24 9ber 1716.

Commissar Steuart.

D. C.,—I have yours annent the Contributions for the poor Gentlemen at Carlile,² which Ill observe to the outmost I can; but, if Culloden³ will appoint with the Consent of his Counsell one of there own number for that purpose, it will doe much better then by me. I thought to have remitted you fiftie pound sterling for the Earle of Morrays acct. this post, but Could gett no bill; but I understand Bailie Robertson, who is at Edr., has mony there, so may apply him for that sume, and Draw on me for the same. Duncan Mackintosh is back here, and desires you May send back his accepted bill, tho he may give yours on Alexr. Grant up to me. If My bill on Bailie Gordon or the Debenture answer, pray apply all for the Earle of Morrays payment, and gett receipt in my name; and I am, etc.

¹ MacGillivray of Dunmaglass.

² Jacobite prisoners taken in the Fifteen.

³ Forbes of Culloden.

Inverness, 1 10ber 1716.

Mr. Bartholemew Bludsworth.

Sr.,—My Last was to you of the 13th past pr. the Ship *William and James* of Prestonpans, John Gillies, Master, by which I sent bill of Loadeing 167½ barrells hering Shiped in sd. Ship, what I hope is come to hand or now. Last post I gott yours of the 17th past, with the Invoyes of goods per George Rodgers, as also adviseing of the Seall of herings, per Alexr. Dunbar. Neith of thes Masters are arived, So I wish they may be Safe. I formerly advised and doe now entreat that as soon as posable you remitt the proceeds of all my herings to the hand of Mr. Alexr. Andrews, merchant in Roterdam, and advise accordeingly, which will much oblidge, Sr., your most humble Sert.

P.S.—Mr. Gilies is the last you are to Expect this year with herings.

Invernes, 1 10ber 1716.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

MY Last of 9 9ber last, wherin I sent you two bills on Messrs. Desobry Brothers and Compy. of Amsterdam, for f1287 gilders, which I hope will find punctuall payment. Since I have yours of 10th past, and find the price of sallmon is prettie well with you. All I bought was about 40 barells, which, for want of Present occasion your way, have shipt for Haver De Grace, where I hope they may Likeways doe well; but there a few Lasts here on hand to goe for your Merket. Please and forward the inclosed for Hamburg, by which You see I have writ pressing to have you in Cash for My Acct. Have sent to that Port this year about 40 Lasts herins, Most of which I am advised are sold from 40 to 43 Dollars pr. Last, a poor price; but, should remittances from theme fail to Answer again the first of January next, may value on me for f 500 Gilders, payable at Edinbrugh, Which will find punctuall Compliance from Yours, etc.

Advise the prices of Corns with you.

Invernes, 15 Decer. 1716.

Mr. William Drumond.

SIR,—I wrot you last post adviseing how I thought the Contribution at this pleace for our distressed Countriemen at Carlile would goe. I have since endeavoured to Gett something done for that Charitable end, and send you inclosed bill on Mr. James Mepherston for 20£ sterling, which I hope that Gentleman will pay ere it falls due, being for a Charitable use. I hope again next post to send you a good deall more, and I am, etc.

Inverness, 15 Debr. 1716.

Mr. Robert Arbuthnot, Merchant in Rouan.

SIR.,—I have write to you the 8th of November last by ship bound for Haverdegres, to which I have got noe return. I and friends have a ship with about sixty Last of Herrins load and bound for Danzick, but missed the Convoy went lately from the South Firth¹ to the Baltick, soe that most proably remain here untill the Spring; therefore I desire youll please advice me pr. first If their is anie proabilitie that there will be alowence given or then to Inport our herrins to anie of the ports of France, and, in that cace, where they will sell best; or, if ther is noe proabilitie that way, if you could procure me Such Clerence for said ship either Frence or Sweedish passes as might Secure passage for the sd. ship and Cargo from this to Danzick; also please advice if could get a Frenge ship to fraught in anie of the ports near you, that would come hear in the Moneth of March or Apryle next, to load herring to goe from this for Danzick or Stockholme; or, if you think such a ship would be safe from Capture by Sweedish privateers, If you advice me she would, then would send Commission to fraught for my account a ship of anie burden from 20 to 50 last, providing the fraught be reasonable; of which please advice me. I beg pardone for the trouble, and I am, etc.

¹ Firth of Forth.

28 December 1716.

For the Earl of Morray.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LOP.,—Severall considerations relating to your Lop.'s interest obliged me to run this by express which accompanys the inclosed papers came some time agoe to my hands from Commissar Steuart. I hade returned them Much sooner but that I could not prevail with Dunmagless and John Mackgilvray to Signe them till verie laityly, they making Demur annent Alexr. Mackpherson of Craygie, who, they say, is much in arear and quit broke. They insinuat they are to recall ther Cautionre in the factorie again Whitsunday; in which case I think your Lop. must think of a new Manadger on sd. Esteat again that time. In the mean time I return your Lop. a Coppie of my interim Factorie, subscrivetd, as also a Duble of the rentall, with a bill on Mr. James Muchelson, Jowellers in Edinburgh, for fiftie pound sterling on four days sight, which, I understand, will answer punctually, and is what I have received of these few Duetys [feu duties] as yett, and I shall send what more mony comes to my hand as I gett it. I have indorsed the bill to your Lop., so that your Lop. May indorse it blank, and send it over for payment to your doer at Edr. I sent a good time agoe some funds for answering your Lop., about one hundred pound sterling, which I hope has answered your Lop. or now, and is much more than could make good as yet of last years farms of Pettie. However doe hope again Candlemass shall pay your Lop. one hundred pound sterling more, all by the hands of Commissar Steuart. As to the £ sterling sent by yr. bearer, I expect a receipt in return of this, mentioning it is a pairt of the few dutys of Strathern¹ and Strathnern in Consequence of my Factorie.

Now, My Lord, I come to writ to your Lop. annent Currt. farms of Pettie. Your Lop. wrot me some time agoe to dispose of the same the best I could, which certainly I

¹ Strathern, now written Strathdearn.

inclyne to doe; but, laily hapening to meet with old James Russell, he insinuat that bear this year would be worth six lbs. Scots pr. boll, and I doe not know but he may have writ your Lop. soe. My Lord, I have done what I could hear to gett your Lop. a price, but I find it will be difficult reach eight Marks; therfor, without your Lops. express orders, would not sell. I confess the Cropt in Morray this is much less then last, but I belive likeways that the Demand from Abroad will be alsoe less, considering what of old victuall is yet on hand here. The price of Corns can not rise much however. Will be glad your Lop. employ the old Chamberlan¹ to try what can be don here with the bear of Pettie, and Ile heartily concurr with him. Your Lops. further orders in this head will necessarie without loss of time, Seing the tenants are begun to thrash there farms, and the sooner they pay it, I am sure the better for your Lop. I wrot to Commissar Steuart severall Months a goe Shewing that the people of Pettie had suffered verie much dureing the time of the Lait unhappie civil wars,² and that therfor they expected some Compassion from your Lop. on that head. I humbly proposed to give down to such as were really suffarers discount of a years Customs, which he told me your Lop. Complied with. Now I want some orders on this head under your Lops. own hand, and shall observe them.

Invernes, 20 Decer. 1716.

Commissar Steuart.

D. C.,—By this express I wrot to the Earle of Morray, and sent him Dunmagless and John McGilvray there bond of Coroberation, which, with much adoe, they were persuaded to signe, and say they'll recall there Cautionrie again Whitsunday next, in which case I am told the E. will be at no great Loss; this *inter nos*. I have likeways sent the Earle the Duple of My interim factorie, and

¹ James Russell.

² The Rising of the Fifteen.

rentall and 50£ ster., Which is all I gott yet of the few dueties. Dunmi [glass] has promised to be your Debtor for a guenie, but had no reddie ; which I believe. I wrot the Earle I hade sent you funds to answer you 200£ sterling which I hope is not amiss. I payed your bill 50£ ster. to Bailie Robertson, but the 10£ ster. bill you mention Don't yet appear. Pray acquaint me if my fish Debenture for 92£ 14s. 2d. ster., and bill of 44£ 10s., sent on Bailie Gordon, are yet payed. I have some more Debentures to send you, but, being ill and Confined to my house, can not gett them exped here, so as to goe this post. I wish a good new year.

Invernes, 29 Decer. 1716.

Messrs. Vanduffle and Compy [Bilboa].

GENTLEMEN,—Wee see yours of 31 July last to our freind John Steuart, informing you was to remitt us the balance due on Last years Codfish pr. the shipp *Alexr.* of this pleace, by good bill on London, howsoon our mony Came to your hands. Wee Doubt not you have gott in the same Long or now, and, if have not remitted the same as above, pray fail not pr. first to remitt the one half of sd. Ballance for our accts., to the hands of Mr. Robert Gordon, Mercht. in Burdaux, and advise us of the same pr. post. Wee have been informed yt Dry fish has been no good Comodity with you this year, which made us forbear medleing for this season ; but wee hope the Merkat will prove better, when you may expect our Commands ; and we are, Messrs., Your most humble Servants,

ALEXR. DUFFE [of Drummuir]

JOHN STEUART.

Invernes, Ditto.

Mr. Robert Gordon, of Burdiaux.

SIR,—The Inclosed for Mr. Vanduffle, of Bilboa, and Compy., Your

Inverness, 31st May 1717.

To Commissar Steuart.

I recd. yours 23d Instant relateing to poor unfortunate Mr. Denoon,¹ and I could wish My Lord were not So Complysant with our Teachers in that Affair As I find he is. For ought I could learn anent ye orders given by ye Justice Clerk, when here, there were not So much in them as is represented; And our friend Kinmylies² was not inclined to be overheasty in Complying with that Verball order. Besides that Expedience were fallen on qch might probably have Softened the Justice Clerk on that head; but now no remedy, for he most fall, and to be plain with you I have no great Stomach to medle at any rate about planting Kirks, Especially with teachers of a Certain Sort Since I allways found the whole gang of that Side much of apiece.³ Tell the Lady Innerneity, if with you, that her letter Came here when I was lately in Bamph shyre, oyrwise had been answered or now, but have delivered her Commission, and ye Linnings etc. will be forwarded next post. Pray give her my humble duty, and I'll write fully to ye Earle of Murray anent ye Kirk Affair pr. next, and will take care of your bill of 5 pound to Mr. Alexr. McKenzie, and I am etc.

Inverness, 1st June 1717.

To Mr. James Clark, Mert. at Banfe.

SIR,—I send you this by ye *Agnes* of Aloway, James Jarvie, Master, who is gone to Portsoy to Load My Lord Banfs meall and 250 bolls ditto. Father has bought from the Earle of Finlater for my Acct. @ eight stone pr. boll, which, with the 200 bolls Mr. Hunter has sold, makes

¹ The Rev. Alex. Denune, minister of Petty. Admitted during Episcopacy; continued after the Revolution, deposed in 1706 for swearing, drunkenness, etc.; appealed, and litigation continued virtually till his death in 1719.

² John Polson of Kinmylies, near Inverness, advocate.

³ These 'teachers' were the Presbyterian clergy. The Bailie was an Episcopalian.

650 bolls, so that He want still 50 bolls to Load the bark, which I desire you may buy for My Account at the Cheapest rate you can, and He give my Accepted bill at anie rate you agree, and, if you Can not gett it, May writ to My freind Mr. William Gordon of Farskin, who will see to Furnish it. I must desire the favour of you to see this bark Load of for my Acct. in order to which I send you inclosed My Lord Banfs accepted bill for 200 bolls meall, and I have Writ to Farskin to Cause deliver the Earle of Finlaters to your order, and since it may inconvenient to you to be at Portsoy while the meall is a Loading, I think David Cuthbert, to whom I have wrot, will see the meall proofed as to the weight, and give receipts for what is shipped in your absence, and I hope tuo Days time will doe all thats to be done at Portsoy, and your Pains and all necessar charges will be thankfully payed you. As for Mr. Hunters meall I wish you Could prevail to send it to Portsoy, but if that Can not doe the skippar has agreed to goe to Down to Load it, but then I promised that all should be reddie in caskes on the shoar when he came there, and he would not be kept above one tyd or tuo at most there, to which pray advert since it will be dangerous for me, as well as the skippar, that the Shipp should be obliged to stay in that harbour. You must observe that Mr. Hunters 200 boll is to goe last aboard, since it is to be unload at Garloch, and 500 bolls at Inverlochie to Sir Robert Pollock, Governour of Fortwilliam; and notice to take the bills of Loadning for the tuo ports, that is, one bill of Loadning for 200 bolls to be delivered at Garloch to My order, and another for 500 bolls deliverable at Fortwilliam to sd. Sir Robert Pollock or order, and for this purpose I send stamped bills that will doe inclosed. The freight is to be conform to Charterpartie. When the bark arives Cause Urqhart the Waiter at Portsoy writ for a Cocquet to Aberdeen, and mention yourself as Mercht. May let it be for Inverness, and no more then 500 bolls in the sufferance and Coquet. This is lest you should be trubled to give Cost bond, but, if better can not bee, there is no hazard in giving it will be unload at Inverlochie,

for Ile return you Certificat to Gett up your bond. My Father and I give you our service, and Desire if can buy for our Account one hundered bolles good boyn bear, not exceeding 4£ 10s. Scots pr. boll, Martimass payment, doe it, and advise uss by this bearer accordingly. I believe you may gett so much of My Lord Finlater or Lord Desford's Farm to buy, and will give our Joynt bill for the price at the term you Agree. Pray excuse this work, and wherin I can serve here or elsewhere Command freely. Sir, Your etc.

Inverness, 14 June 1717.

Mr. Robert Gordon [Bordeaux].

SIR,—I received your favour of 15 May last, and doe observe you have Credited Drummure and me for 200 piece of Eight remitted you for our Accounts by Mr. Van Duffle, of Bilboa, £636, 15 and 6. I thought it would have been more, because the sd. Van Duffle writes of 69 Soles p. piece of Eight, and you reckon but at 64. My ffriend Alexr. Stuart only arived about a week agoe, and I hope his Cargo of Wine will prove very good, and you will be thanked for it. Sir, please advise me what goods from Hambourgh, in one of this Country Ships, would sell best with you, and the dutys such goods doe pay with you. The Reason why I want to know this is because we send from hence a Vast many Herings to sd. Port, and would be glad to make return your way if thought it would doe. I desire, how Soon this comes to hand, you Remitt to the Gentleman wanted 50 pd. Stg. due by Keneth McKenzie, 500 Livers, and Debit me for the Same, and, how Soon I have got in Some Small accounts yt. Gentleman ordered me to pay for him to Some friends here, I shall give you advice accont., paying the ballance yt. will be Due him. Pray give him my most hearty Service, and get me his receipt for this money, and shall order you p. next to value on me for Drumure's part of this Small Summ ; and I am etc.

Inverness, 18 June 1717.

For Mr. John Mackenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch.

SIR,—I send you inclosed Letter to Mr. Jervie, ordering him to deliver you tuo hundered bolls oat meall, conform to Agreement, as also his bill of Loadning to me for sd. meall, indorsed to your order. Therfor I desire you may accept the tuo inclosed bills for seventeen Hundered merks, in terms of our agreement, and return them by the bearer. You need not make anie scruple in doeing this, since should anie missfortune befall the shipp, as God forbid, my indorsed bill of Loadning, and order to the skippar, will be good to prevent anie payment of your bills; besides I hope wee are both honest men. Dear Sir, I beseech you, howsoon this comes to hand, that you goe or send imediatly to Garloch, for the shipp sailed Wednesday Last, and I am sure is at her port Long or now, the Winds being since constantly fair. Pray Lett the skippar have all possible Dispatch. May Writ me that you accepted my bills, and the Dait; and I am etc.

P.S.—I had almost forgott to bid you pay either in oatmeall or mony what may be resting the Fishers of Garloch of the fish on hand, and William McKenzie of Shillack his receipt for the same will oblidge me to allow the same in pairt of your Accepted bills.

Inverness, 22 June 1717.

Mr. Bertram Vanheihuyzen [Hamburg].

SIR,—I have your favour of 30 Aprile last, with the inclosed bill on Thomas Robertson of this place, for 21£ 13s. 5d. Sterling, which sd. Mr. Robertson would not accept, and therefor have returned the same protested, and Indorsed your bill to Mr. David Berkly, mercht. in Hamburg, and hope you 'l pay him the walue, with expence and postage; and if you order to purshue Mr. Robertson by some frend at Edinburgh, he will certainly be obliged to pay you what he rests; but I can not oblidge him. I

hope you have or now gott in what further ballance is due in Cargoe of bear pr. the *Success*, and desire you pay my third of the Same to Mr. Berkly, and his receipt will be good for the Same : and I am etc.

Inverness, 22 June 1717.

Mr. David Berklay [Hamburg].

SIR,—I have your favour of 25 may last with the inclosed Acct. of Sealls of herrins pr. Georg Rogerts, and Envoyce of goods pr. Ditto. Mr. Rodgers is arived ; and observe the mistake in Computing the freight, of your prejudice, and find the ballance of one hundred and sixtie eight Merks Loops due you is right, and Shall pay you accordingly. Please reed, Seall, and deliver the inclosed to Mr. Bartram Vanheshusen, mercht. with you, as also see to gett payment of the enclosed bill of 21£ 13sh. 5½d. ster. which is draun on Mr. Thomas Roberson of this pleace, and now I send you inclosed, indorsed, and the protest thereon for not acceptance. And pleace look in to My Acctt. of Seals of 36 Last barlie sent him in Aprile 1715 per the *Success*, Alexander Dunbar, Master, and send me your thoughts of it. Gett my third of what is due, as I have ordered. It is a hard Case that of So much Corn Sold be him he has never payed a farthing to this day. Pray see to gett justice done me, and it will be a favour done me which Ile study to repay in Course ; and I am waiting your ansuer with advice of Merkats with you. Yor etc.

Inverness, 26 June 1717.

Mr. Isack Delamar.¹

When you Come to InverLochie you are to Deliver my Letter to the Governour, Sir Robert Pollock, and, in his absence, to his Son, Mr. Walter Pollock, as also my letter to James Jarvie, Mr. of the Ship *Agnes* of Aloway, in which

¹ Delamar went from Inverness to Fort William by Loch Ness and Invergarry.

Shipp I have five hundered bolls meall, which you are to See Carefully Delivered to sd. Mr. Pollock at eight Ston Scots weight pr. Boll; and, since or most of the meall Shipped there was tow or three pc. pr. Boll more than eight Ston, I doubt not their may be Some Considerable out-come; for all which you are to gett me Sir Robert Pollock his Accepted bills payable the eleventh day of nouember nixt, at 10 Shilling Sterling per each boll of eight Ston, at the house of John Steuart, Commissar of Inverness, at Edinburgh. Only you are to notice that Sir Robert is oblidge by Agreement to pay the Skippar his freight, which is five hundred and thirtie merks Scots freight and Caplaken, or twentie nine pound eight Shillings 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. Sterling. But I have writt to Mr. Pollock or Sir Robert to Give you five pounds Sterling more, for which you are to hold Count with me at your return; and you are to notice that Sir Robert is to receive the meill on his own Charges from Ship board, and I am no further Conserved then to put it over the Side, ther may Some avaridge Due the Skippar besides the freight, which can be but very litle; but I pay $\frac{2}{3}$ ds. of it. I herewith give you the Charter partie and bill of Loadning for the Meall, So when all is Cleared you are to call for the Double of the Charter partie, which the Skippar has, and See both Cancelled, and give the bill of Loadning, which Sir Robert will discharge, or his Son. I lickways give you heirwith a Guinea towards your Charges, for which you are to hold Count. Give my Service to Glengarrie and his Lady; and I am, Sir, etc.

P.S.—If Sir Robert Pollock is not at Fort William, you 'l tak his Son, Mr. Walter Polock, his bills on his Father, payable in the terms above written for the walue of the meal, whch bring here along with you, and notice that the bills be payable to me or my order.

Inverness, 1 July 1717.

For Dunbar of Burmadan in Cathness.

SIR,—I make bold to trouble you with the inclosed bill of 5£ sterling accepted be Mr. Henry Grahame, Mercht.

in Stromness, indorsed to me be one Edward Kerr, who was recommended to me by Mr. Grahame, and I ordered to supply him to the value of this bill, tho not yet due. I desire youll please acquaint sd. Mr. Grahame that you have such a bill indorsed by me, and, when you gett the value, please transmitt the same to me pr. post; and excuse this truble from, Sir, etc.

Please forward the inclosed letter to Mr. Grahame.

Inverness, 5 July 1717.

Mr. George Auchterlony [London].

SIR,—I'm favoured with yours 23 May Last, advising your receipt of my first and Second Bills 2000 Livres on Mr. Robert Arbuthnot, of Rouen, which you had Negotiat at 47 p. Crown, and Credite my Acct. accordingly. As also that ye would retire my accepted Bill of 60 pds. to Mr. George Strahan, and Send me the Same discharged, but is not as yet Come to my hands. This Serves to advise you that I have Valued on you, the 22 past, to the order of Jonathan Thomson, Mert. of this place, 20 pds. Str., to which I hope you 'l give due honour, and desire that first you 'l remitt the full balance of the 2000 Liver in your hands to Mr. Thomas Brown, Mert. in Edr., and advise him that I have ordered the Same acct. of Alexr. Duff of Drumure, Esqr.; and pray fail not to Send me Mr. Strahans Bill Discharged p. first, with advice of the remittance.

You are not to Ship any hoops for my acct., being Instantly provided from Holand and elsewhere. You 'l See by the inclosed to Mr. Robert Arbouthnot that I have ordered Some further Remittance to your hand. So you 'l Please Seal and forward the Samen. Let me know how good old ffrench brandy will sell with you, with the price of Tobacco for Exportation, and if you can Sell for my Acct. about 40 Lasts of good well cured and well packed herings of Ensueing fishing, to be delivered here, and at what rate. As also, Let me know how a Galley

of ane 100 tuns Could Come here, and be fraighted for Leghorn with Salmon and herings to be free at the port of Delivery. I am, etc.

Inverness, 5 July 1717.

Mr Robert Arbuthnot [Rouen].

SIR,—My Last was of May Last, qhn. I advised that I had valued on you of ye Date for F. 2000 Livres, payll to ye order of Mr. George Auchterlonie, Mert. of London, as also yt. you should remit any neat proceeds of 6 barrell Salmon and 3 grilses sent you by ye *Jean* of Alloway, Thomas Arthur, Master. Since I'm favoured with non of yors. and yrfor doe send you this to advise you yt. I Long very much for acct. of Sales of ye sd. 9 bar. Salmon and grilses, qch. I Entreat may be sent pr. first, and doe hereby confirm my former order to remit yt. proceeds to Mr. Auchterlony, qch. I hope you'll fail not to Comply with. Ime Inform that yor. Regent has renewed old Edicts qch. Debarrs ye Importation of Salmon and oyr. Comoditye of this Cuntry to France; of this you'l please Inform your etc.

Inverness, 26 July 1717.

For Sir Robert Pollock, Governour of Fort William.

MUCH HONOURED,—I have performed punctually my Bargaine with you for 500 bolls good oat meal, the same being now Delivered to your Son at Fortwilliam. Therefore I have forwarded this to advise you that I have put his first Bill on you for £214, 10 sh. Sterling, payable at Mertimass nixt, in Edinburgh, for acceptance, which I hope you will comply with; and please mention in your acceptance that the payt. be at the House of John Steuart, Commissar of Inverness, in Edinburgh, or the Exchange Coffee house there, as you please. You know this is agree-

able to our first Correspondence, and therefore cannot doubt of Compliance. I am, with much Respect, etc.

Meal delivered 499 bolls @ 10s.		
p. boll, £249 : 10 : 0		£249 : 10 : 0
Pay'd the Skippar p. my order		
£35 : 0	£35 : 0 : 0	
By Bills on you payable at Mer-		
timass	214 : 10 : 0	
	—————	249 : 10 : 0

Castle Steuart, 26 July 1717.

For Commissar Steuart.

DEAR COUSIN,—According to my promise I send you an extract of Termitts account, which I have left open in case he may have any Articles to be put to his Credit I can not think off, and if he has I am sure there will be a good deal due me. However, I hope he and I will adjust all at meeting, but in the meantyme, lest I should be thought to alledge what was false in fact, I thought fit to send you this account, which may return after you have let Termitt see it if you please. I have instructions for most of all the Articles under his own hand, which I thought needless to send at this tyme, tho I am sorrither should arise soe much mistake on this head. I trouble you with the Inclosed Letter to Sir Robert Pollock, Governour of ffortwilliam, qch. please Seall and fforward with his Son's Bill, payable to my Order at Mertimass nixt at Edr., for £214: 10. sh. sterling. I think this will be got best done by a Correspondent in Glasgow, I mean to get Sir Robert's Acceptance payable at your House or Some Coffe house in Edr. Soe I hope youll advert to it, and, qhn. you procure Acceptance, return the Bill to me, or, if Acceptance is refused, lett it be protested against the Drawer, which I hope will be needless. Place the Charges to my Account. I have been here the 8 days agoe about the Earl's affairs, and Im Soe tossed and

Diverted by my ffactorie here, and I believe much Looser too, that I judge a New ffactor must uplift and sell this Current Cropt, or I must have better Conditions; but, without that, it will be no strait to find one can doe better service than I can. I thought to have seen the Earle in this month, but, my wife being about to trip over in Child bed, and the hering fishing approaching, must I forbear for some little tyme; but qn. I come South ther will be a Considerable account of arrears on this Estate, which, with many oyr. disapointments I have met with of Lait, gives me much uneasiness; but must doe the best, and submitt to Divine Providence. I am etc.

I am glad Ferchquard's [Farquhar Macgillivray's] Bill of 60 pd. Sterling on Peter Crafurd hase answered, for I paid him the value.

Inverness, 9 August 1717.

Mr. Charles Gordon [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SIR,—I have your favours of last post and first Instant. in your last I have Sundrie bills, vizt.

On My Lord Stranever ¹ and Newmore ²	£286 : 10 : 10
On Hugh Munroe, mercht.	77 : 14 : 2
On Lord Reay	21 : 13 : 4
John Macklish on Robert Gordon ³	48 : 12 : 2½
Ditto on Lord Stranever and Newmore	16 : 14 : 6

These bills Shall be returned you nixt post protested or accepted, but these gentlemen Living at so great a distance

¹ William, Lord Strathnaver, eldest son of the Earl of Sutherland. He fought on the Whig side in the Fifteen, and on the same side at Glenshiel in 1719.

² George Munro of Newmore, Ross-shire.

³ Robert Gordon, merchant, Bordeaux, brother of Charles Gordon, Edinburgh. Another brother, Alexander, was a merchant at St. Martins, France. They were sons of Patrick Gordon of Hallhead, Aberdeenshire. Robert succeeded to Hallhead. He was the father of George Gordon, whose house was plundered by General Hawley in 1746 (*Lyon in Mourning*, vol. iii. pp. 167 *et seq.*), and great-great-grandfather of Adam Lindsay Gordon, the Australian poet.

could not be done by this [post] and My Lord Stranaver cannot be returned p. nixt ather, who Lives at 60 miles distance. I am obliged to send a friend of mine to the Country with the bills, since I knew non I could trust to protest them in Case of non accepptance; so that the Negotiating of them will be expensive, and I think your brother, Mr. Gordon, has little to do with giving such Credit to there qualitie, since I cannot promise theyl be punctuall in there payments. I think Newmore is obliged to you, and to be shure He cannot now feal to gett it punctually, which I shall be glad to hear.

28th Agt. 1717.

To Mr. Charles Gordon [Edinburgh].

MY last to you was of 9 Instant, by qch. I promised to Return you your bills Either protested or Accepted. But could not get ye same effectuated so soon By reason those concerned were not at home. But now I send you inclosed 4 of yor. bills accepted :

The Lord Stranaver and Newmore	. £286 : 10 : 10
Do.	. 16 : 14 : 6
Robert Gordon	. 48 : 12 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$
Hugh Munro	. 77 : 14 : 2

As for yor. oyr. bill I hope to have it returned you within 9 or 10 days, being forwarded to my Ld. Rea's Country for Acceptance, who lives about 70 or 80 miles from here, and when I Send sd. bill I shall advise you what Charges I have been at, qch. is more than ordinary, Because I was obliged to send a trusty friend to ye Country to get ye bill protested in case of non Acceptance. I am, etc.

Inverness, 6 7ber 1717.

Mr. Robert Barklay, Hamburg.

SIR,—I am favoured with yours of 3d August last in which I find your care of My consern with Bartram Vanderhusen, for which I thank you. His aledgeing that

Mr. Robertson was the only man that addressed our Cargoe of Corn to him is false, for it was consigned by Mrs. [Messrs.] Thomas Robertson, Alexr. Mackintosh, and me Joyntly, and, if he has remitted the whole proceeds to Mr. Robertson without our orders, its nothing to us ; Let him Look to it, and redress himself the best he can. But I think all the Law in the world will oblige him to make good his draughts to us on Mr. Robertson, and therfor I hope you will push that afair. This Adresses you pr. the shipp *Margret* of this pleace, George Rodgers, Master, and brings you the inclosed bill of Loadning for 210 barells white herins, which I assure you are verie well Cured and packt ; and I hope you will take all possible care in the disposall of them, that they be particularly noticed as to the quality, for I am persuaded if anie Scots herins yeeld Mony Mine must ; but I intirely depend on your prudent Management. From the nett proceeds you are to shipp for My Acct. and risque 25 shipp pound best midlin [iron], and Lett the most of the barrs be of the broadest sort. And I desire you Give the Skippar, Mr. Rodgers, as much mony as will purchase 25,000 barells staves in Norway, since he proceeds thither from Hamburg, or $\frac{5}{8}$ th of his Cargoe of do., and pleace the same to my Acct. And what Ballance may remain in your hands affter the iron is shipt, and the mony be payd. the Master to buy the staves, you are to remitt to the hands of Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, and advise me Accordingly. You are to pay the Master 30 sh. ster. pr. last freight and Caplaken as pr. Charterparty, and send his receipt per post for the same. I am to send you ten last more herins pr. the shipp *Success* of this pleace, that will sail to Morrow, by which shall writ you fully ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 17 7ber 1717.

Commissar Steuart.

D. C.,—I Received yesternight a Letter of 12th Instant from Thomas Fairholme, servant to Alexr. Arbuthnot

Knox, complaining he wanted payment of My Accepted bill of £42 : 8 : 4d. sterling was due 20 th ultimo and hade protested the same. I depended on Farquhar McGilvray to Enable you to pay sd. bill, but it seems he did not see you, notwithstanding his promise, and his being due me more then I ordered for you, and he has used me unkindly. I send inclosed bill Lieutenant William Ross, paymaster of the fusaliers, for 13£ sterling, on Mr. Mitchelson, Jeweler in Eder., @ 3 days sight, And I must beg the favour of you to apply this, with the 30£ sterling formarly remitted and ordered to Castlehill, to pay this bill in Knox's hands ; Otherways My Credit May suffer abroad. I expect to see you verie soon, and then what Ballance is due you in Acct. Currant will be thankfully payed. I want vouchers from the Earle of Morray for what remittances I made his Lop. the tuo Last years, which I Doubt not you 'll advert to gett me.

Inverness, 20 7ber 1717.

Mr. Charles Gordon, Eder.

SIR,—My Last was of 13th instant, in Which I sent you My Lord Reas bill, accepted for £21 : 13s. 4d. sterling. Now I return you the last tuo bills sent me for £16 : 14s. and £34 : 14 : 2d. sterling, both accepted by my Lord Strathnaver, but not by Newmore. I suppose Lord Strathnavers acceptances for that Drawn on him and Newmore will fix the whole on him, but, if you think that won't doe, may return it, and shall protest it against Newmore for non acceptance. I have a Corn Debenture for £70 : 9 : $\frac{3}{4}$. sterling in the hands of Alexr. Arburthnot Knox since the Moneth of May Last. He wrot me he could not pass it under 20 pr. Ct. Discount. It will be a favour done me if you can pass the same at a more moderat Discount, and howsoon I have your answer shall order the same to your hands ; and your Compliyance will oblige.

Inverness, 2 October 1717.

Mr. Alexander Arburthnott [Edinburgh].

I truble you with the inclosed bill to gett payment of the Same. Its Drawen by the Tutor of McLeod, but I know not the gentleman accepts it. However, you'll please call at Mr. John McLeod, or Mr. Alex. McLeod, Advocate, and either of them will direct you where you are to gett payment of the Same; and, when payment is recovered, you'll Credit my Acct. five hundered and fiftie five merks Scots, and advise me accordingly. I hear I am informed against by James Cowie as being Concerned in running of Salt, in which Mr. Cowie is highly injurious to me, for I believe he canot say that ever I gave once orders to that purpose, or ever received the value of one Shilling on that head, but on the conterar make it appear that my Share all the Cargoes I was ever concerned in with his Mr. was bonded duely, and exsise paid; for the trouth of which I have good Wouchers. I have yours Last post, and I hope my Cousin, Commissar Steuart, has paid you or now sum.

Please advise me what you have gott done with my corn Debenture of £70 odd, money Sterling, on the Shipp *Fortoune* of Montross in March Last; also when you think it will be paid. I hear their is Leatly orders about paying Debenture, So if you could procure payment of it for me it would be a great favour, tho at 10 p. Ct. Discount; so must entreat your care in it p. first.

Inverness, 8ber 1717.

Mr. Alexr. Andrews [Rotterdam].

SR.,—This addresses you by the barek *Morjory* of Invernes, John Mackay, Master, and brings you the inclosed bill of Loadeing for two and twentie barells Grilsses, and thirtie barrells Salmon marked £ [J. S.] shipt for our joynt Acct., And which wee asure you are

in ther qualaty inferier to non in Scotland, and hope they will Prove so. Wee desire you may Dispose of Sd. Salmon And grilsses to the best aveall, And credit our Acct. equally with the nett proceds, And advise us of the Acct. of Sealls as soon as possible. You are to buy and Shipe for Acct. of James Russell 5 matts best hards and four hogs-heads Lineseed, of the freshest and best, And debit his Acct. with the proceds Accordingly. Mr. Thomas Alvas hes the return of the barck homward; however, what is farder wanted Shall be advised per post, which, with due respeckes, is all from, etc.

Inverness, Nover. 11, 1717.

Mr. Alexander Andrew.

* * * * *

I send you at last your Certificats for the salt you Demanded, which I hope will prove right fine. Your acquaintances Cumming and Cowe arrived in this Country. They have made great discoveries against Severall people, which is lick to draw deep; and they have told some truths, they have told a great many notorius Lyes and Falshoods. I have the misfortune to be a litle spoke of by them, as being Concerned with Balie Robertson and Termitt in the runing of the Salt, which, I asure you, is malicius, willanus falshood. But I am advised by very good frends that what they say in that matter will mount to nothing. I hope you Shall be no loser by Termit. I am etc.

Inver., Noveber 1st, 1717.

Mr. John Innes [Writer, Edinburgh].

SIR,—I did communicat to Mr. John Laing what you said anent your salt that Lys att this pleace, and I suppost he has Sold it for read money; and, notwithstanding the Considerable demands on me at present, I have promised him in a feu days what money I can send to make him and you easie, for which will take his bills as you desire.

The bills you send me inclosed payable to Mr. Fawlener could not be returned Last post, there being none of the persons on whome they were drawn at home. Nor as yet Could I find of them but accepted. I return inclosed the other three bills on Provest Clerk and Compa., and Drumuir is at present in Bamfeshire, and Provest Clerk is with my Lord Stranaver at Dunrobin ; so that I hope youl not blame me that all the bills are nott returned this post ; and you may depend that I will most cheerfully doe you or Mr. Fawlener your frend the best service I am Capable of in this Country. And I must tell you, without Compliment, I may justly Charge myself with ingratitude if I omitted any opportunity by which I might Indeavour myself to be your very affectionate etc.

Inverness, 8 Nover. 1717.

I WROT to Mr. John Innes, writer, this dait and sent him bill Mrs. Majoribanks and Coutts, of Dantzick, on Provest Clerk, Doctor Alexr. McKenzie, and Andrew Bain, payable to George Falconer, mercht. in Eder., for £243 : 7s. ster., accepted by sd. Gentlemen.

Inverness, 18 November 1717.

To Gordon of Farskan.¹

SIR,—I received yours of 23 7ber, and I acknowledge it too Long unanswered. I spocke to my pairtners in the *Alexander* (which Ship is not yet reached Cork in Ireland, her Port of Deliverie, by reason of Contrary winds). They are willing to accommidat you in Lastadge, but think 40 quarter Cask too much, seeing it will pinch themselves ; however, I have prevailed, and by the nixt post Shall give Commission to Mr. Gordon, of Burdeux,

¹ William Gordon, of Farskane, near Cullen, and merchant in Elgin. He was a Jacobite in the Fifteen.—*Annals of Banff* (New Spalding Club), vol. i. p. 114. He was ancestor of George Huntly Gordon, Sir Walter Scott's amanuensis, of Pryce Lockhart Gordon, the diarist, and of Harry Panmure Gordon, the famous London stockbroker.

as you have ordered ; only, if you please, that if be a third Concerned in this adventure of Brandy it will be a favour, since otherways I can have no Seperat Concern from the Cargoe ; as to which send me your answer by the bearer. If you Inclyne, I will order 45 quarter Cask, so there will be 30 for your accot. and 15 for mine. Ile lickways take care of the wine for your own use. I send you Inclosed in Bank notes and Cash eightie one pound fourtene Shillings 1½d. ster., which, with eight pound Eighteen¹ shill. 5¾d. ster. you are due for hards, as p. under written account, please pay the Earle of Finlater, and retire my accepted bill for £1093 : 6s. 8d. Scots, £90-5-6¾ sterling, value of 250 bolls oat meall bought of his Lop. Last summers, and acquaint me how I can buy his Lops. meal of the Curt. Cropt, payable at Mairtemas next. If he 'll take £4-3s-4d. Ile buy a thousand bolls, and receive the same in March or Aprile next, at Portsoy. If the Earle embrace not this advice, I can be so served in your Country, or cheaper, that I may regulat myself accordingly. Mr. George, who is Master of the *Alex.* for this voyage, has orders to Call at you when he returns from France. The Signall is his mainsale hurled up and his ensigne out ; so I Judge you 'll gett more goods to truble you then your own. I Know not if James Bussed payed your Dibursements on [George] Person or not. If he has not, acquaint me how much he and I rests, and it will be sent p. first return. My bill from the Earle of Finlater, with a receipt mentioning it is for 250 bolls meall due to your Lady and Daughters and I am with much respects.

Farskan Dr.

To 6 matts . . . [?] hard at £19	
Scotts p. hundred is	. £9 : 10 : 0 ster.
To Cash payed Geo. Parson, re-	
ceipt p. . . . .	. 4 : 0 : 0
	<hr/>
	£13 : 10 : 0

¹ Should be eleven shillings.

Cr.	
By 59 2 pd. Scots Sal- vege on the Ship <i>Alex.</i> .	£4 : 18 : 6 $\frac{2}{3}$
By bill payed the E. of Fin .	8 : 11 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$
	£13 : 10 : 0
Cash sent .	£81 : 14 : 1 $\frac{1}{3}$
Farsken pays .	8 : 11 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$
	£90 : 5 : 6 $\frac{2}{3}$

Inverness, 18 9br. 1717.

Mr. James Clerk.

SIR,—I send you by the bearer, William Lagon, sealed in a bagg, one hundred and four guineas in gold, and eight shillings 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ Ster. Silver, which makes in all one thousand three hunder and fortie six pounds Scots 13s. 4d., or £112 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ Sterling, with which you are to retire my accepted bills as foloweth

My accepted bill to my Lord Banfe, payable the 20th instant	£416 : 13 : 4
My accepted bill to Mr. Hounter payable	416 : 13 : 4
My accepted bill to James Duff in Banfe	480 : 0 : 0
To Cash to yourself in part profit of 50 bolls meall	33 : 6 : 8
	1346 : 13 : 4

I hope youll take care immediately to pay and retire the above mentioned bills, and return them by the bearer, and aquent me how my Lord Banf would sell his meall of present Crop, and how you think meall rule this year with you. If could be hade about Last year's price I would buy a thousand bolls in your Country tho we have a good Crop here : as to which acquaint me. The reason why I make no a full Clearance for your 50 bolls meall is becaess I want 50 merks of the prize as yet due. When

that Comes you shall have what further will be due you, which will be but Litle. I desire you advise how Dantzick flax would sell there at present, for some frends expect a quantity shortly here, which I suppose will sell Cheap ; and I can serve you in that or any thing els. Command.

Tell James Duff there is Some money come from the Highlands waits him.

Inverness, 20 Decer.

To Farskan Gordon.

SIR,—I have your favour of 17th instant adviseing non of your heretors will conclud anie bargain as yet, nor befor the first day of February nixt. I have made bargain for some meall which I am obliged to Deliver again the first of Aprile nixt ; Therfor I must presently buy the same. So if you can not buy for me in ten days a thousand bolls good oat meall, I must order to buy the same at Muntrose, for I goe from home verie soon, and I can not be at ane uncertaintie for what I am obliged to Deliver at InverLochie again the first Aprile nixt, which is from 800 to 1000 bolls meall. So, as I have said, if you will presently be at a point with the Earle of Finlater, or anie other has good oat meall, at the Cheapest rate you can, not exceeding six merkes and ane half, Scots mony, pr. boll, deliverable at Portsoy again the tenth of March nixt, under the failie of tuo merks for each undelivered boll, payable at Mertemass nixt. But if can get 800 bolls more at 4£, 3s. 4d. or 4£, 4sh. Scots, may Likeway buy ; and I promise to relive your Engadgement for me, and wait your answer to tenth of January nixt.

Inver:, 12 Decem. 1717.

Mr. Hugh Munro.

DEAR COUSIN,—I ought to have writ you Last post, but canot tell how I was diverted, and told you that the post before Last we had the most disagreeable news we had of the taking of the *Alex.*, Thomas Greig, Master, of the 14th ulto., of the North Forland, by a Swedish privateer,

of which one Norcross, an English man, was Commander. The Master writes the Ship was to be caried to Gottenbourg, so that in all probability the Ship and Cargoe is Lost, or at Least the woyage is ruined, and its therefor I return you inclosed your orders to Mr. Robert [?] Our generall commission to him was Countermanded Last post. This is a Considerable Loss and Disapointment, But we must Reverence and Submitt to Divine providence. I hope you have made some insurance on your intrest. My Father and I will be Losers by Ship and Cargoe about £150 ster. at Least; yet I insured in Holland 400 gilders. But no help, tho I assure you I much regret your Loss, being the first of your dealing in Compy. together. I Send inclosed a letter to my Lord Stranever, with his Lops. bill and accot., which pray use the best you can for my payment. Seal my Letter before Delivery. You see by it I blem you for want of my money; therefore I intreat you push my payment, and, if canot obtain before nixt post, return my Bill and accot.; and I assure you nexttime I ask my money it will be in more harshness, And I think no without just ground. Pray forward the inclosed for Lord Rea. It is from France, and coast me 20d. postadge. Remember me kindly to your Father, Mo., Bros. [mother and brothers].

Inver., 13 Decm: 1717.

Comissar Steuart.

D. C.,—I received yours of 29 past, and, having writt the Earle of Moray the 22 past that in a post or tow I would remitt his Lop. a good deal of money, I am forced this post, to preserve my Credit, to writ him that I had sent you good bills for above tow hundred pound sterling, but, not being advised that they were paid, could not Draw peremtorly on you; however Did order you, howsoon my money answered, to pay his Lop. 200 lib. Ster. which not doubt you will doe, and take receipt in my name for the same. This is surly the best method I could take to make you and my self easie, and I am hopefull you 'l not

give his Lop. ground to Complain of me. As to the 90£ Debenture, if that should not answer accquent me, and Ile presently make you Easie, for many of this years herin Debentures are payed at 5 p. ct. discount; so that I think Last years most fall due in Course. Tell Mr. Donald Taylar that when I come to Edn. again Candelmas Ile pay his money or give further Security.

I thought to have remitted you a good Deal of money this post, but, the paymaster of the Regiment lays here being out of town, Could not get it Done; But may expect the Same p. next. I send you inclosed bill Mr. John Laing, in Cromarty, on my frend John Innes, for thirtie pound Sterling, which bill you are to give up upon payment of ten pound Ster., and getting Mr. Innes his oblidgment to retire my bill of 20£ Ster. on him, payable again the first of January nixt to Mr. Thomas Jameson, Ship Master in Boristouness. I observe Balie Gordon has Complied with Doctor Mackenzies bill of £49: 17s. 4d. ster.; therefore I entreat that you call at Mr. Alex. Falconer, Mercht. in Edr., and pay him and ofer him [?] under form of Instrument eightie one pounds 2s: 4d. ster: as the Doctor 3d. of a bill Drawen from Danzick on Provost Clerks and Compa. for £243: 7s. Ster. And if that same is accepted, Debit my accot. accordingly, Minding to Credit me for the bill of £49: 17s: 7d. Ster: on Balie Gordon, and the £10 p. bill on John Innes. When paid, you are to Charge Commission as usuall. For this mony to be paid Mr. Faulconer I expect your return in Course. The Ship *Alex.*, that your brother was master of, is taken by a Swedish preevateer on the Coast of England, by which my father is Considerable looser, but is werie easy, only prays that God may Speedily remove the Cause of such Losses. You guess his meaning.¹

¹ The Czar of Russia undertook, in 1717, to assist the King of Sweden in the conquest of Norway. According to Hume (*History of England*) 'they promised to unite all their forces against the King of Great Britain [George I.], should he presume to interpose: both were incensed against that prince; and one part of their design was to raise the pretender to the throne of England.' The Bailie and his father were Jacobites, and the latter's prayer was no doubt for the removal of King George.

Inverness, 27 Decer. 1717.

I WROT this post to my Cousin Commissar Steuart at Eder., and Sent him inclosed bill My Lord Strathnaver on George Urquhart of Cromarty, who is now at Eder., for eighteen pound 2s. 6d. Sterling payable to my orders, and have indorsed the same, and desired the value to be pleaced to my acct. of Credit, if payed.

Inverness, 3 January 1718.

Mr. Alexr. Arburthnot, Mercht. in Eder.

SIR,—My Last to you was of 6th Nover. Last, adviseing I hade valued on you of that Dait for £25 Sterling to the order of Mr. Keneth Mackenzie, Mercht. of this pleace ; since I am favoured with non of yours. This serves to bring the tuo inclosed salmon Debentures for fourtie three pound, 6sh. 8d. sterling, viz. No 714, £15 ster. ; No. 715, £28 : 6s. 8d. ster. ; which pray see to negotiat for me as soon as possible, and pleace the [money] to My Account. I accepted bill Laitly Drawn by Mr. Berkley, of Hamburg, payable to you. I Judge it falls due the 19th instant. Therefore I wish you would be so Kind as to see and make mony of these Debentures, and the Corn Debenture send you last summer for 70£ ster., which last I hope will fall in to be payed verie soon now. You may advise me pr. first what I am to Depend on from these Debentures to Answer my Credit, that, if this should fail, I may order your Mony oyrways.

Inverness, 3 Ditto 1718

I WROT to Mr. George OchterLounie, mercht. in London, ordering to Inshure 100£ sterling on the shipp *Margret*, of Inverness, and Cargoe from Cristiansandt, in Norway, to this pleace, if Could be done not exceeding 10 pr. Ct. Also desired to be advised what most proper to be Done to Recover Thomas Greig shipp and Cargoe, taken by a Swedish privateer. Norcross Master.

Inverness, 11th January 1718.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam.

SIR,—My Last to you was by way of Postscript to a letter written of 5th December Last from Mrs. Alex. Duff, Alex. Steuart, and William Fraser, Merchts. in this place, in which these sd. Gentlemen desired you to Firmish Credit to Mr. Thomas Greig, Mr. of the *Alex.*, taken by the Swedish privateer, and, as they supposed, sent to Gottenborough, in order to buy back sd. Ship. I doubt not you have punctually Complied with there demand, and I must further entreat that you writ again to Mr. Greig with your best advice how to gett sd. Ship Liberated, for we suppose that now Mr. Norcross, commander of the privateer that took him, is seized in France, and sent over to England, our ship cannot Lawfully be Condemned; but as this is no more than Conjecture, pray fail not to give Mr. Greig your best advice p. first, which will be werie oblidging to all concerned. I desired in my Last that you should advise me of what instructions was proper for me to send you for recovering the 400 Guilders you have insured for my accot. in the Cargoe of Herins p. sd. ship, which I doe expect p. first. I am favoured with yours of 21st ultimo, advising of John McKays arrivall at Amsterdam, which is werie well, Considering what tempests we have had in that moneth. I doubt not you will do the needful for my Interest as to the Sale of the Salmon, and advise me of the same. All I have to advise you at present that you ship for Alex. Steuart, my father, in John McCay's bark, half a hhd. of good fresh hard Cherry wine, and please the value to my accot., and Draw on him to me for the same. You are also to send me p. sd. Barque a handsome tea Copper Kettle, to hold about 3 Scots points, and mine to send the fine Lint hackle¹ my wife has been seeking this Long time. I desired you along time agoe to send me tow piece of stamped Caligoes of a blieu [?] ground, with a [*two*

¹ A comb for dressing flax.

words illegible], but take notice that I doe not mean you should goe to the expense of bying Indian chints. Lett the tow pieces be of different figures. In the next pray let me be advised of the price of our Cuntry Barly with you.

Inverness, Jan: 17th, 1718.

Mr. Thomas Greig [master of the *Alexander*].

SIR,—We have seen your wery acceptable Letter of 29th November Last from Porter in Norway, wherein you advise that you have brought the Ship into sd. harbour, and, after you have turned the Sweds who Commanded the Ship ashore, and taken possession of her yourself, that a Danish man, lay in harbour near you, had sent a part of his men and taken possession of your Ship to Lerwick [in Norway] and from thence to Copenhagen, which we wish they may doe, haveing reson to believ by our advices from Mr. Ross, of Copenhagen, the pretentions of the Danish man of war are wery groundles, and will very Soon be determind to your advantage. But however matters may happen we are very Sencible of your good Conduct in the affair, and therfor do hereby advise you, since now it will be too Late to prosecute your intended woyage for Cork, you how soon possible fill and man your ship, and imbrace the first oportunity of a Convoy to proceed to Danzick, where you are to adress yourself to Majoribanks and Coutts, to whome you are to Deliver the Cargoe of herings, and who will have the needfull instructions anment Disposing your Cargoe, and Reloding your Ship; and you shall be paid according to the ordinary fraughts have been paid to others that have gone from this to that please this year, and Caplagen conform. And we have of this date sent our instructions to owr good frend, Mr. Alex: Ross, of Copenhagen, to furnish you with the needfull Credite for enabling you to proceed your Voyage. And we doubt not before this Comes to hand you will get Clear of any truble from

the Danes. In the meantime, if a Convoy does not ofer to Danzick, and that your ship is not carried to Copenhagen, in that Case you Can make a markett the pleace where you Are, and the pleaces adjacent, and from the nett proced of the herings you are to reload the Ship with barell staves from Arrundell for this pleace, or from any other perts there about where they can be gott. And should itt happen that you can not sell your herins wher you are, but to Loss, and Cannot find Convoy in the Spring but for Danzick, then, and in that Case only, you must proceed the herings first for Hamburgh, where you are to adress your self to Mr. Robert Barclay, but Reload the Ship with Spanish salt, and return Directly here ; for which you will be Lickways paid the Curt. freight. You may Depend we shall have all Dew regaird to what good service you have done or may happen to doe us, but we think fitt to Caution you that if you can get forward safly to Danzick it will be most in your favours. We recomend you to the Divine Direction and Protection, and we remain your wery affectionat, humble servants,

Accquent us how soon this comes	JOHN STEUART.
to hand how you determin your-	ALEX: DUFF.
self.	ALEX: STEUART.
	ALEX: CLERK.
	WILL: FRASER.
	JAMES DUNBAR.
	JAMES THOMSON.

Inverness, Jan: 17th, 1718.

Mr. Alex: Ross of Coppenhagen.

SIR,—We find your wery kind and acceptable favour of 21st ultimo, N: S., with the inclosed Cobby for our neighbour, Mr. Alex. Steuart, of this pleace, and Cargoe of Herins at Porter of Norway, and that the sd. ship, after gott rid of the masters good manadgement from the prevaters crew, was sized by a Danish manawar. Sir,

we are very much obliged to you, and render you many thanks for the kind Concern you have taken for our interest by making a seasonable presentation to the British Envoy, and by him to the Court of Denmark, which we hope will be speedily with your assistance rescue Mr. Grieg from his troubles and Difficulties. In the meantime we desire you forward the inclosed to him p. post, and allow him Credit for what money he shall want and Call for refitting and manning his ship, and take his receipt for the same, and your bills on us, payable either at Rot[terdam], London, or Edn., for what you so advance shall be punctually answered. We depend on your assistance.

In: Janu: 17th, 1718.

Mr. Georg Aughterlony [London].

SIR,—My Last to you was of 3d instant, which I have none of yours. I then advised you to insure on the Ship *Margrett* of this place, George Ross, Mr., and Cargoe, from Christian Sand, in Norway, to this place, Load with barell staves, deals, and iron, one hundred pound sterling, if it could be done under 10 p. Cent., or not exceeding it. Now this serves chiefly to advise you that Last post I have advice of the arrivall of sd. ship in the South Furth¹ and that yr. fore you are to make no Insurance on sd. Ship, if not already done.

Inver: Janu: 24th, 1718.

To Mr. Alex: Arburthnott, Mert. in Edr.

SIR,—I received yours of 13th Currt. advising that my tow Salmond debentures for £43 pound 6s: 8d. came to your hands, and are marked in the custom house, but cannot obtain payment for the same under twelve pr. Cent. of discount, which is very great, So that I do not inclyne to pay Such a high interest for advance of money.

¹ Firth of Forth.

You Lickways that you gott nott my letter of advice of 16th November, and therfor that you allowed my bill of 25 lib Ster: to whih it related, payable to the order of Mr. Keneth McKenzie of this pleace, to be protested, whih indeed surprises me, because by yours of 10th October Last you advise me you had received a bill for 655 merks Scots, drawn by the tutor of McLeod, and accepted by Donald McLeod of Epost, who was then at Edr., payable to my order, and I admire, if sd. bill was not paid, you have not returned it me Long or now. However, if you are in any mistake in that matter, and that the Same is paid my accot., the Same in part of my acceptance to the order of Mr. Rob. Barely, of Hambourgh, for £69 Ster., and I have ordered my cousin, Commissar Steuart, to pay yuw the ballance and retire my bill. But if my sd. bill of 655 merks be not paid, pray return it me pr. first, and in that case Comissar Steuart will pay you the whole value of Barely's bill, and you 'l please give him up my debentures in your hands ; which is all from, etc.

To Mr. Alex: Andrew of Rotterdam.

Inver:, 24th Jan: 1718.

SIR,—I received yours of 7th and 11th Instant. In the first I observe you have sold the 52 barlls Salmond p. John McKay at nett f52: 15s. p. barell, which is well. In the mean time, if this overtakes McKay, send me a whole sett of coupers tools except a great plain which is used for souming the staves : I have not the proper naim of it ; as also half ps. Holland Linen, at 24 Stivers p. ell, for my own house. In answer to your Last of the 11th Instant, I, in neam of the Concerned, give you and Mr. Coutts heartie thanks for the care you have taken about our Ship the *Alex:*, taken by the Sweds. Let this inform that last post and post before we have gott Letters from Thomas Greig, Master of the sd. ship, from Lerwick in Norway, With the agreable neuse that he the sd. Thomas Greig, by his good management, has brought the ship in thither,

seized all the goods were on board, and is now in full possession of his own Ship and Cargoe intire; and orders are sent him to proceed for Danzick with his herings with Convoy, so that there will be no occasion for the Credit you have been ordered to give him at Gottenbergh for £250 Ster., and the insurer who Insured so much, I mean 400 fl., on sd. ship Saves his money. Forward the inclosed to Mr. Robert Gordon, of Burdeaux, and please writ him to walue on you for 1000 Livers for my accot., if there be occasion for it, to my use; and if My haf of the Salmond fall short of paying this after what is due you in accot. is delivered, then walue on me for the ballance to my brother James Russell.

Inverness, January 29th, 1718.

To Mr. John Steuart, Commissar of Invss.

DEAR COUSIN,

I thought to have been ready to take jurny South in 8 days hence, but my honest father is fallen so seekly and tender of Late that I can not think of Leaving him untill I see how God pleases to Dispose of him. He has been ill all this winter of a cough and Sore ays, but for this 8 days past he is mostly confined in his bed with a Lousness; but I thank God this day he is somewhat better. But I fear he would not hold out Long, and itt was the apprehension of this that made me so earnestly wish for your comming to this country of a long time past, that you might se his affairs put in a Clear and Just fotting. But I hope god will spair him till you se him.

[P.S.] I understand there is one Mr. Lewes at the Custom Office who pays debentures for fish of a reasonable discount, so may try him, and I doubt not my frend John Innes, to whom give my service, will assist you in this matter.

Inverness, 31 Janry. 1718.

My Father wrott to Thomas Greig, Master of the shipp *Alexr.*, and to Mr. Alexr. Ross, of Copenhagen, a Confirmation of former orders of 17th instant from the Owners and freighters.

Inverness, 8 Febry. 1718.

To the Earle of Morray.

MY LORD,—Your Lops. Last favour Came verie seasonable, and I hop will have the Good effect of Causing the farms be payed prettie fully this year. I thought to have waited on Your Lop. at Dunibrisle or now, but, my honest father falling Laitly verie ill, and some other accidents hindered ; but I hope to be with your Lop. verie soon. In the mean time I send inclosed bill Will. Ross, paymaster to the fusaliers, on James Mitchelson, Jeweler in Eder., for £146, ster., payable at Eight days sight, which I have indorsed to your Lop., and I doubt not will find due honor. I think it will not be amiss your Lop. writ me you have received this bill, and if Commissar Steuart payed the 200£ sterling formarly remitted. I Remitted Last year by the hand of the Commissar £350 ster., of which I want to be advised, since yett I have no voucher for the Same. I am, etc.

Inverness, 11 Febry. 1718.

Mr. William Simson of Aberdeen.

SIR,—I Received yours of 3i Ultimo, adviseing you hade given orders to buy up 2000 bolls Meall for our Joynt accts., and that you hoped to gett it at the Conversion price, which I take to be a hundred merks pr. Chalder or 4£ 40 ds. pr. boll, which if could doe would make the bargain the better ; but you must not undertake to pay anie of it till Lambas att soonest—or rather Mertimass, if possible. Since my Last I hade a Letter from the West

Highlands, advising that the Tutor of Mackleod¹ and Sir Donald MackDonald² hade bargoned with Irishmen for Meall from that Country to serve them. If this be true they 'll want Litle from this Country; yet my Father in Law³ advises me to send a bark in March with 5 or 600 bolls, which he says the main land will want, tho the Isle of Sky take non of it. Houever, I am clear to risque 800 or 900 bolls that way, and the sooner the better; and howsoon you have advised me you have concluded, Ile fraight a shipp here to take it in as you 'll direct, but I wish all may be deliverable at Portsoy. In the mean time, if you have bargoned, you may buy only at present fifteen hundred bolls meall, that 800 to be sent to the Highlands, and the rest for this pleace, which I wish howsoon it Come here, for, if the storie of the Irish meall coming to the Highlands hold true, it will be no great peniworth, and now it gives from 8 to 9 merks pr. measur boll of 9 ston. I expect your answer pr. first.

Inverness, 15 February 1718.

I WROTE Mr. Andrew of Rotterdam annent the tuo firkins indigoe of 50 lb. wght. sent per John Mackay, to exchange the same, and send the like quantity of good float indigoe.

Inver., 11 march 1718.

Mr. William Simson [Aberdeen].

SIR,—My Last to you was of 6 instant, wherin I sent you 6 guineas to be given to Alex. and Donald McLeod,

¹ The tutor of Norman Macleod of Dunvegan, who ' was born in 1706. The estates were managed by his guardians until he came of age, when in addition to his family heritage, he succeeded to a fortune, accumulated during his minority, of about £60,000.'—Alexander Mackenzie's *History of the Macleods*, p. 122.

² Sir Donald Macdonald of Sleat, whose estates were forfeited for the part he took on the Jacobite side in the Fifteen. He remained, however, in practical possession. He died in March 1718.

³ Norman Macleod of Drynoch in Skye, whose daughter Ann was the Bailie's second wife.

students in Abd., on their receipts in my neam, wh. I hope is come to hand. I told you then of tow bargains I was about to Conclude, one for about 6 to 700 bolls to be sent to the Isle of Sky, and the other for tuixt 5 and 600 dito. to be sent to Garloch. Now let this Serve to advise you that I have concluded these bargains, and have obliged myself under a falzie to deliver these tow Cargoes, wind and water serving, and sea hazard excepted, by the fifteenth of Aprile next. For that goes to the Isle of Sky I have good mens letters promising there bills at Deliverie, at 6 lib. Scots p. boll of 8 ston., payable at Whitsonday and Mertimas market (which is the 15th of August) [*sic*—November ?] next in this town. And for that that goes to Garloch I have tow Rasponsall [responsible] landed men bound by contract to pay me 6 lib. 4s. Scots at Martimas next in this pleace for each boll of 500 at [8] Ston. p. boll, and are obliged to take 50 bolls more or less as the Ship can hold. This is the safest and best bargain I could make. Tho the profit be not great we have to doe with good, sure, honest men. Now the next great point is to get ships to cary this meal, and that without loss of time ; therefor, if the meal is not alreadie bought, . . . immediatly howsoon this comes to hand you secure the meal and the Cheaper the better, and longer term of payment. But pray let martimas be the soonest, but the price I refer to yourself. As to the Ships needfull I could find non here, so must see to engadge low barks on to cary from 6 to 800 bolls meal as you best can find here to go as soon as posible to Lochscalpay within the Isle of Sky, and from thence to Calichstoan in Kyleakin, and within 6 miles of the other harbour, at both which the sd. ship must remain at least 20 Days for unloading her Cargoe, and there after to be free ; for which yow mus agre the easiest rait yow can agree, not exceeding a merk Scots p. boll. And the freight will be payed on Deliverie of the meall there or at return of the ship, as the master pleases. And the Master may, if he goe a half days sailing farther south, that is for the Isle of Mull, get good sleat at 20 Sh. ster. p. thousand. As to the bark goes to

Garloch, let her be from 5 to 600 bolls burden, and not exceed in the same freight as to the Isle of Sky, but may be cheapest, there being no ports to be shifted, but the ly days must be 20 or 25 at least. Now, if yow can load the meal at Banf for Portsoy, I am perswaded you can get barks to cary it there lickways, or at Fraserburgh. If the Masters be not aquant they may gett pylots at Kerstown or Orkney. For Gods sake lose no time in this, and if can not find ships with yow, or wher I mentioned, must writ south, and get barks from thence immediatly, which will take I fear tow much time, for the success of all Depends on Dispach ; there ar no better than these barks ar Designed for. And with that bark goes to the Isle of Sky I will send a frend of mine alongs with it that was born at that Country, to see the meal Delivered. So its fit you acquaint me everie post what yow Doe, and when yow get the barks freighted, and at what plecte. If yow are straitned for meal to make up these Cargoes, I have 200 bolls in the byn to spare, which was bought at Christmas last at 4£, 10s. p. boll, which I hope is much dearer than yours will be ; but doe the best you can, and I leave all to your prudent Manadgement.

Inverness, 14th march 1718.

Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutis [Dantzic].

GENTLEMEN,—I have your favour of 8st January last, with my accot. Curt., and I am Just now ordering payment of your bill of £7 : 3s. 1d. Ster. on me to the order of Mr. Georg Fayhoner [Falconer], as ballance of my accot., and, had your bill appeared sooner, it had been honoured and sooner. This serves chiefly to advise you that the ship *Alex.* of this plecte, Thomas Grieg, comander, having loaden her in the month of Otob: last 446 barells herings for accot. of Mr. Duff of Drumure, William Fraser, Hugh Munro, and Myself, equally, for Cork in Irland, had the misfortoun to be taken by a Swedish pravateer, and was manned in order to be sent to Gottenburgh ; but, by

the good conduct of the Skipper of Sd. Ship, to Lerwick in Norway, and so got free of the Sweds. And the Master having wrot to us sundry time for advice what to Doe, wee have ordered him to proceed for Danzick, and adress himself to your good Selves, so that I hope he will be with you before this comes to hand. How soon he appears youll no Dubt Dispose of the herins to the best avail, and particularly take care of that marked § , which, I assure you, is perfectly well cured. I dare not positively give orders anent reloading this Ship my Self, only Im of opinion that the concerned with me will order to Ship for our joint accots Sixtie ship pound of Iron, six strock of Kneipwood, and as many barell Staves and pipe Staves as the Ship can hold, if the sale of herine allow of it, and that the price of the Iron exceed not what you mention to me in your last, in that case may Ship 100 Ship pound iron. I hope, besides the Iron and kneipwood, the ship may take in above 2400 barell and pipe staves fit for this pleace, but p. next shall study to have this order confirmed to you by Drumure and William Fraser; and, whatever they may order, I desire you may Ship for Mr. Munro and me the half of the Cargoe conform to this Comission.

P. S.—Give my Service to Thomas Gregory, and tell him that Alex. Steuart, my Father, Desirs him, if can spare so much time, to Girdle the ship wt. oaken planck at Danzick, that is, one strock above, the one strock betwixt the bands, and a third under the bands; and not to stir without Convoy.

Mr. William Gordon, of Faskin.

Inver., March 28, 1718.

THIS accompanies Georg Rogers, in the ship *Margrett* of this pleace, who goes to Portsoy, and, I suppose, will take about 900 bolles of the Earle of Findlaters meal; therefor I send yow inclosed the sd. Earles bill of 1000 bolles, accepted by Mr. Lorimer, indorsed to your order; so I hope youll see sd. Ship gett utmost Dispatch, and the Master, who is

a sober, carfull man, will assist you to receiving the Cargoe exactly. However, its fitt that some specall body from you be present, that there be no Dislay in filling up the bills of Loadning, which I send here inclosed. The bills must mention that the Cargoe is Deliverable to me or my order at Fortwilliam. And again I intreat that the Ship be dispatched without Loss of time, for I am tow Leat already, the Cargoe being Deliverable again the 8st of Aprile, and the Gaurison is in great streats at present. For what quantity of meal the ship will not take in of the thousand bolls meal may take a new bill in my name from the Chamberland, I mean Mr. Lorimer, to whom give my service, and tell I expect the best of there meal, and good waight, and that My Lord will not burden me with the Shoare Dues of Portsoy, the meal being already too Dear. I have Ship for you in this Ship 7 Duzan birk Rails, and 2 Duzan for spars, the accot of which is under written, and promised in your neam youll give the men a Crown to drink. I would not get big Rails under 8d. p. ps., which I thought extravagant, so forber to send them. When the Ship is Load send me the Bills of Loadning p. express, with your accot of Charges, and the sam will be payed you.

Inverness, 21 March 1718.

Shipped in the *Margrett* of Inverness For Will Gordon
of Faskin

To 7 Duzan birk Rails at 3s. 4d. Ster p. D. .	£1 3 4
To 2 Duz. for spars single at 6s. p. Duz. .	0 12 0
	1 15 4
To Charges on Shipping and Cargoe and Shore dues	0 2 0
	1 17 4

Mr. Robert Barclay, Mercht. in Hamburgh.

Inverness, 28 Mar. 1718.

SIR,—Upon examining your accot. at Clearing with Mr. Georg Rogers, on his Voyag from Hamburgh and Norway, we find according to Mr. Rogers accot. that you overcharge us in 300 merks according to owr proportions of $\frac{6}{8}$ for bying his Cargoe in Norway, for he says he received but 1200 merks for $\frac{8}{8}$ from Messrs. Hopfer and Bachmer and yow, so that, when you examine, youl think your self oblidged to Credit us $\frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ of 300 merks. We expect your answer p. first, and we are your humble servants,

WILLIAM FRASER.

JOHN STEUART.

Mr. William Simson [Aberdeen].

Inverness, 28 March 1718.

SIR,—Your favour of 18th and 22d. Curt are before me. In the first I have the Receipts of my tow frends, Donald and Alexr. MackLeods, for the 6 guineas sent you and 5s. 6d. ster: more, which is well. I observe yow have concluded for from twelve to 1300 bolls oat meal for the Highlands at 4£ 6s. 8d. Scots p. boll, pairt payable at Lamas, and most at Martimas. I wish it were all at Martimas. However, we must Doe the best. I am surprised that one of the Banf Shire Gentlemen should pretend to make a precedant of the Earl Findlaters price, there being little or non of there meal so good in quality by half a mark p. boll, it being generaly Clean White oat meal, I observe by your last yow was in terms with one, skipper Clerk, to goe to the Isle of Sky, but hade not Concluded, and that yow have actualy fraighted the *Union* of Dundee, John Clyton, Master, to Cary 567 bolls meal to Gairloch for 500 merks freight, 2 bolls meal, 2 barells, which is all well; but, if you have not got Clerk or any other ship yet ingadged for the Isle of Sky, must see to prevail with

John Clyton to Goe there, tho should give him a guinea more freight, for I am Duned [dunned] from that Country, the people being in want, and much Irish meal, with Scots Clearnace, being expected. But, if yow have gott Clerk or any other for the Isle of Sky, that need not alter your agreement; but, for Gods sake, lett both be dispatched as soon as posible, and may take the bills of Loadnings for the Cargoes Deliverable to me or order, and Despach them here p. first, that I may order trusties to wait the barks and see ye meal Delivered. And mind to send barrells, balks, and waights in each bark to weigh out the meal, for that cannot be hade that is exact in those Cuntrys. Mind the weight be Amsterdams or old Scots weight; ane hundred bolls of meall on either of the Cargoes, up or down, is no matter, so may take the first ships yow can find; but, if yow could send 20 bolls good bear by the barque goes to the Isle of Sky, tho at 8 marks p. boll, it would be a favour, for it is for my father in Law, and I have promised to send it, and Ile pay it again the 1st of June. But I am afraid it will not Doe if Clyton goes, being too Little; but I leave all to your own prudent manadgmt. Take as many Ly days as yow can on little barks for Delivering the meal. I cannot advise yow to venture sending to this pleace above 500 bolls meal, there being a good coming here. Lett what yow send be good Banfe Shire meal, and therefore would advise yow to Conclude with My Ladie Banfe for her meal, Deliverable at Porsoy, as I formerly wish you, for Cours meal will not Doe at this market; besides the freights will be gott Cheaper than from the ports near yow. I think it not amiss yow order Insurance on the tow barks goes to the Highlands, in Holland, where youle get it Done, I suppose, for $1\frac{1}{2}$ p. cent., as I did Last year.

Inverness, ii. April 1718.

To Mr. William Simpson, Mert. of Abdn.

SIR,—I received yours of 5th Instant, with the inclosd for 3033£ 6s. 8d., Scots money, payable to the order of

Mr. Thomas Arbuthnot, Mert. in Peterhead, at the Exchange Coffee house in Edr., against the Second of August next, qch. is too short a term, and much Sooner than I can expect the full payt. of the meal, qn. it pleazes God it arive Safe at the designed port. However, we must doe the best. Meantime, you may tell Mr. Arbuthnott yt. he cannot expect payt. of our bill befor the 20th of August at Soonest ; but, pleaze God, in that Moneth this money will be payd. I hope you'l not take it amiss that I return your Draught upon me not accepted, and, in place thereof, Send you the above bill for the Like Summ, accepted by me, and to be accepted by you, payable to sd. Mr. Arbuthnot ; and this I doe upon noe other reason but that this way of doeing, I think, expresseth the true matter of Fact more clearly, in caice of Mortality ; and, tho the bills of Loadning be in my name yet you may depend that the produce of the Meall shall be fairly accounted for, and the first and readiest apply'd for payt. of our Joynt bill, and what is over, deducing Charges, equally divided. But, if the Meall should fail to answer all at the term of payt, then we must advance equally towards discharging our bill, tho I hope ther will be no need that way. If our bark, I mean Clark, who goes to the Isle of Sky, be not too Late therfor, pray dispatch him, for my friends there expect him impatiently ; and, should any meal come there from other places befor ours, it may be of ill Consequence. I told you formerly that the Meal goes to Garloch is deliverable there 20th instant under a falezie ; so its fitt, Since the condition of delivery then is Wind and Weather Serving, you take a Notoriall instrument that the Ship is detained by Contrar Winds, for our Security ; but pray let all possible dispatch be used. I have discharged Bailie Clark to buy any more than 300 bolls meal for us, for this Mercat will be glutted, and probably fall ; and I have a bark to carry that quantity from Portsoy, with 100 bolls more I already bought yr. of Finlaters. Since insurances can be made cheap in Holand, v^t, 1½ p. cent, as I hade Last year by Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam, I think it realy advise-

able you order to Insure 3 or 4000 Guilders on both the barks ; qch. is all from Yours. etc.

Peterhead, 31 March 1718.

GENTLEMEN,—Upon the Second of August next pay to me, Thomas Arbuthnott, Mert in Peterhead, or order within the Exchange Coffee house in Edr., the Sum of three thousand thirty three pds., Six sh.; eight pennys, Scots money, value in oat meal delivered for your joynt account by, Your humble Sert.

To Mr. William Simpson, Mert. in Abn., and John Stuart,
Mert. in Inverness.
Accepts, John Stuart.

Inverness, 16 Aprile 1718.

Mr. James Clerk.

SIR,—I gott yours of 7th Aprile this day Under Covert of Mr. William Simson, of Aberdeen, with Dunlugas his bill on sd. Mr. Simson and me for 1300 Merks Scots, payable at Mertimas nixt at Banfe, value of 200 bolls oat meall Deliverable on Demand at Portsoy ; which bill I send you here inclosed, with my acceptance, and Mr. Simsons. Tho I now wish, for Certain reasons, sd. meall were not bought ; however, now no help. Take Dunlugas his obligation for the meall, Deliverable at Portsoy on Demand. I advised in my Last only to buy my Ladie Banfs meall @ £4, 6s. 8d. Scot p. boll, Mertimass payment. I am glad my offer was not agreed to ; so now I Desire you buy no more meall for my Acct., being, I am affrayed, too much Conserved that way already. Forward the inclosed pr. verie first to Mr. Simson to Aberdeen, and send me Dunlugass his oblidgeement for the meall, or keep it by you, as you please, till I call or send orders.

Inverness, 28 Aprile 1718.

I WROT to the Ladie Kain LochMuidart,¹ in answer to

¹ Lady Kinlochmoidart. Margaret, daughter of John Cameron of Lochiel, and wife of Ranald Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart, who fought at Killiecrankie, and also at Sheriffmuir, on the Jacobite side.

her's of 21 instant, offering to sell her 400 or 500 bolls meall at 9 merks pr. 8 ston weight, deliverable at Lochmuidart again the tenth of June next, or @ 8 merks pr. 8 ston here again the 20th of May nixt, the one half redie mony, and the other half again Merimass market in this pleace; and that she is to find me security for payment of the mony to my Contentment.

A memorandum Given to John McLeod.¹

Inverness, 5 May 1718.

I HAVE given herwith Letters to your father, McDonald,² and Ulnish,³ which you are to Deliver and forward immediatly; and you are, upon advice that the ship is arrived at Scalpy, to repair thither immediatly, and to Deliver the meall at 8 ston p. boll to anie persons Ulnesh and your father will Derect, and without there advice you are to Deliver no meal, having bargened wt. them for the whole Cargoe; only Lieutenant Charles McKinon⁴ is to be supplied in what he wants, at the same rait your father and Ulenesh, that is, half redie mony, and half at Martimas market, or 15th of August next, at 9 merks for each 8 ston wt. For what is taken on trust you are to take bills pyable here, or at Alex. Arburthnots house at Edn., to me or order, again the sd. 15th of August next.

2nd. Out of what redie mony you gett you are to pay the Skiper his freight, being 500 merks and 20 shilling, wh. is continued in the Charter party Delivered to you, both which Dubles, yours and Skippars, you are to cancell when the freight is pd., but notice that before you pay the freight.

3rd. You are to Deduce of the freight what inlake may be on the meal of 576 bolls shipped, and 20s. p. the skipers noat given yow herwith, and 5 shill. given for

¹ Son of Norman Macleod of Drynoch, and brother of the Bailie's wife.

² Sir Donald Macdonald of Sleat, who had succeeded his father, Sir Donald, in March 1718.

³ Roderick Macleod of Ulinish in Skye.

⁴ Mackinnon of Scalpay.

reporting the ship at Aberdeen, wh. comes in avaradge, and not yow are to alow no pylatadge from Orkney to come in avaradge.

4th. Howsoon the meal is all Delivered at Scalpay and Kalaichston [the Cailleach Stone at Kyleakin] as your frends Derect, you are then to fill up Discharge on the bill of Loadning for what is Delivered, and no other ways.

5th. If you cannot get as much redie mony for the meal as would pay the freight, etc., you are in that Case to Draw a bill on me to the Skippar or his order, payable here or at Abd., which will be payd.

6th. What mony yow receive for me you are to bring safly here, and be seure of sufficient Companie with yow till Stragless,¹ and kept exact accot. of all your Debursments; and, if can Dispose of the balks, weights, and bugdelen² at the rait they coast, doe it, as youl see by Mr. Simsons accot. Given you. If canot sell, Deliver all to your father till further orders.

7th. You are to show these orders to no person but to yr. father, whose Derectiions you are fully to folow notwithstanding of what I have written.

8th. I have shipt 6 botles brandy and a Duzen botles Claret with Skipper Clerk, with which you are to Entertean your frends, that is, Ulness, McDon., Leutenant McKinon, a board of the ship; and give what remains to any frend you please.

9th. Lett me here frequently from you, and lett the ship be Dispatched as soon as posible; and give my Service to Mr. Clerk and baxter in the ship, and to all frends a Shoar. Heast back, and bring one of the Indentors sent

¹ John Macleod was to walk with the money across the mountains to Strath-glass, and from there to Inverness.

² The word 'Bugdalin' is found in the Shetland dialect—'a stopping up or filling; something wound round or rolled together.'—*Jakobsen's Dictionary of the Old Norse Speech of Shetland*. Mr. W. Grant, Aberdeen, an authority on old words, writes: 'In the old days meal was emptied into the holds of the smacks, and sold round the islands. Balks and weights, of course, were sent along with it, and the meal was weighed out to purchasers. The sides of the hold were lined with bags, or sheeting, or canvas. This lining must be the "bugdelen" of the text, and the meaning corresponds not badly with what is given to it in Shetland.'

with signed by your father. Giving humble service to your aunt.

I have given you lick-ways 10 shillings ster. for your Expenses.

I have sent a suit of Ribans and a Napkin to Marie.

Inverness, 6 May 1718.

For Mr. John Mackenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch.¹

SIR,—This brings you, pr. express, Charter partie and bill of Loadning for five hundred and fourtie eight bolls one firloot oat meall, on boord the *Unicorn* of Dundee, John Cleaton, master, who I hope is with you before this time, having sailed from Newburgh the 14 instant, and the winds have been Since constantly fair. I have writte to ye Skippar to take your receipt for what meal he delivers, and to forward ye Same to me, and told him you art pay his freight according to the charterpartie, which I hope you will not scruple to doe; but you are to give him the inclosed bill of twenty Shillings Sterling Sent inclosed in first end of the same; and take notice, that you are to stop of his freight, which is five hundred merks, the freight of 30 bolls qt. he wants of his loadning which he was obliged to take in, which amounts to Seventen pound fifteen Shillings Scots unless there be outcome on ye cargoe, which I hope there wille be, the wight (as I am told) Shipped being werie lairge. Ye Skippar will likewise have twentie Shillings Sterling Caplackin payed him, and Some Small averadge of which I give hime the two 3ds when you pay the freight, etc. You are to See the two dubls. of charter pairtie cancelled, and Grant receipt for what meall you receive at eight ston pr. boll as wee agreed, which is to be sent me. I have a great deall of Confidence in your kindness and Cander, and its therfor I send no trustie to see this meall Delivered, but refers all to your-

¹ John Mackenzie was tutor to his nephew, Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Garloch, who was at this time a minor. John was proprietor of Lochend, now Inverewe.

self. And in Consideration of your advance of the freight, and that the meall is not come so soon as you or I could wish, I yeeld you the boll to the hundred you pleaded for ; so pray give the shipp Dispatch, tho she be oblidge to Ly 25 Ly Days for unloading, which I hope will be time enouch. Ther is a barell, balk, and weights aboard for weighing the meall, which Cost me 18£ 16 shilling Scots, which please to Dispose of, if possible, for me at sd. price, or keep it for yourself, and Ile give it you some what cheaper. The Skippars receipt on one of the Dubles of the Charter-partie for what freight, etc., you pay him will oblidge me to allow the Same in pairt of the meall as pr. Contract, but observe to take upp the Skippars Duple when you pay the freight, or, if you please to take a separate receipt for what you pay, it will be the same. In that case send both Dubles of the Charterpartie to me Cancelled. I told you in my Last that Fraser in Loggie¹ would want some, therfor I am Willing to furnish him what you please to spare, not exceeding threscore bolls, and take his own bill payable at Mertimass for the same, I am, etc., etc.

You'll find by the Charterpartie it was not mine or doers fault that the meall so Lait a Coming to you.

Inverness, 7 May 1718.

For John Cleatton, Master of the Shipp *Unicorn* of Dundee at Garloch.

SIR,—I have sent this express with your Charter partie and bill of Loadning indorsed to Mr. John Mackenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch, to whom you are to Deliver Your Cargoe of meall at Eight Ston pr. boll, being 548 $\frac{1}{4}$ bolls meall, but, since Mr. Simson writs me that the weight shipped was lairge, I hope there will be outcome ; and take notice that you be Carefull in Delivering this

¹ Logie Wester, now Conan, the Laird of Gairloch's property in the parish of Urquhart, Ross-shire.

meall that there be no mistake ; or for what you Deliver pr. Mr. McKenzie or his order you are to take, when all is out, his receipt in my name for the whole, and forward the same to me by this express ; and after all is out Mr. Mackenzie will pay your freight, for which youll give receipt, and then both Dubles of the Charterpartie is to be cancelled ; but if Mr. Mackenzie should fail to pay the whole freight due, then may take his on me payable at Aberdeen or Edenburg, and the same will be Complied with ; but I hope he will Clear you fully. I again entreat your Care in Delivering out this meall, and Deliver non without Mr. Mackenzies mandat for each parcell, and send (when all is out) a Distinct receipt to me for the whole. Deliver the balk, broad barell and weight to Mr. Mackenzie.

For Commissar Steuart.

Inverness, 10 May 1718.

DEAR COUSIN,—I have non of your favour for severall posts past. Now this serves to advise that howsoon this comes to hand you see to dispose of the tuo fish Debenturs James Russell and I ordered you to take up from Alexr. Arburthnot, walue 40£ ster., being advised that the Discount on such Debenturs is fallen prettie Low, that is, if payment can not presently be otherways obtaind ; and pray advise of this pr. first. I have seen your advice to pay thirtie Guenies on Munroes bill on Jollie for Like sum, and will this Day Comply with the same and send you bill on Mr. Jollie for that Mony pr. nixt. In the mean time, now that Whitsunday is at hand, I wish you would retire Termitts Joynt bond me to Mr. Donald Taylar for 800£ Scots, with 1½ years interest due. Take assignation in my name to the same, I mean principall and 18 months interest ; and to Clear matters I Send you inclosed his Last Discharge, Daited 25 January 1715. Whither the Debenturs answer or not I wish you would retire this bond, and on first notice Ile remitt you what Ballance be Due.

Inverness, 24 May 1718.

Mr. Robert Gordon, Burdeaux.

SIR,—My Last to you was of 10th Instant, desireing you should cause messrs. Simson and Sandilands advise that you hade payed them my 5th of the Goods shipt be them for me and Compy on the Shipp *Joseph* of Petinweem, you haveing formarly advised me you was to order soe. But since my Last these Gentlemen have valued on Mr. Alves and Compy for the full Ballance due them of What Goods they shipped in the *Joseph*, and so must pay my 5th of there bills: therfor, since now you see by the above Leter that my freind Alexr. Steuart goes in the bark *Marjorie* of this pleace to Load B——y [brandy] I desire you make good to your Brother, Mr. Alexr. Gordon, at St. Martins [France], What Ballance is due me in your hands. I can not tell exactly howmuch it will be, but I hope, if Mr. Arbuthnot of Rouan has done me Justice by remitting you as I Ordered some mony of mine remained in his hands, it will exceed £1000. Pray advise me pr. first of Your Compliance in this, and I am sincerely, Your most humble Servant.

Pray send my Act. Curt. and that in Compy for vintager 1715.

Inverness, 14 June 1718.

Mr. Alexr. Arbuthnot, mercht. in Eder.

SIR,—The Last of your favours of 26th March last brought me my Acct. Curt, by which you was due me a balance of £33 : 15 : 6 $\frac{5}{6}$ sterling, since which I valued on you of 8 Aprile last for ten pound sterling to the order of William Mackay, mercht. of this pleace, without advice; so that only remains due me £23 : 15 : 6 $\frac{5}{6}$ sterling. Now serves Cheefly to entreat that imediatly howsoon this comes to hand you remitt to the hands of Mr. Joseph Faiknie, mercht. in London, £32 : 16s : 8d. sterling, as my 5th of £146 : 3 : 2 sterling due pr. accepted bill to Messrs. Baynton

and Shawe, of London, of which advise him accordingly. And for enableing you to pay the same with exchange I send you nine Guenies inclosed ; so may Credit My accot. Accordingly ; and if More will be Due shall be punctually payed. I entreat your Care of this pr. first post, and I am, etc.

Inverness, June 16th, 1718.

Mr. John Steuart, Commissar.

DEAR COUSIN,—I wrote you last by Baillie Barbour,¹ when I told you if Mr. Donald Tayler would Superceed the payt. of his bond till Mertimes, it would be convenient for me. Now this comes to tell you yt. I am unhappily concerned in a bargain of brandy was Seized here last year by Castlehill,² which he hes rouped in Excheqr., and, now haveing paid him his Share, I am oblided to remit the Kings Share to Wm. McCay of this place, who hes an order from Castlehill for the whole. Alexr. McIntosh, Homes son,³ receives the half of the whole for his Cousins Wm. Termit, the Baillie, and me ; and I have valued on you for £36 : 4sh. ster payble at 3 days Sight. But, if you Should happen not to be in Cash to ansuer this bill, I send the inclosed open letter to Wm. McCay, qch. please deliver and inforce it to take yor bill on me for this mony when he comes here, and in that case let my bill to Alexr. McIntosh be returned pr. first, but, if Wm. McCay should refuse this favour, I hope you will not let my interest Suffer for want of this £36 : 4s. ster., even tho my bond to Mr. Tayler Should be paid, and Ile reimburse you very soon. This brandy hes been an unluckie bargain all along. But Should I get my Share of this roup Ile I hope Save about 30£ of my loss. I have Sent the E. of Morray by this express the value of his Salmon in Guineas to very little, qch. Straitens me much at present. I Send

¹ John Barbour, merchant in and a bailie of Inverness. He purchased the estate of Aldourie on Loch Ness.

² Cuthbert of Castlehill, near Inverness.

³ Son of Mackintosh of Holme, near Inverness.

you inclosed the tuo coppies of Summonds past agt. me. As for yt. at Grangehills instance I ow him nothing, but I Suppose hee'l see these accots. filled very Soon, and as to the oyr at the instance of John Hendersons relicts exors. I believe it can do no harm ; for its hard if a bill I drew 20 years agoe, or 18 at least, will recur now tho never protested agt. me, nor the men on whom drawn, and now Some are dead and oys broke. This bill was for about 6£ sterl. for value of goods bought in Comp. of which Ile Swear I paid my Share to Baillie Barbour, who is yet alive, and ought in justice to retire the bill. I am, etc.

You 'll take care of me as to these Summonds.

Inverness, June 16th, 1718.

To the E. of Murray.

MAY IT PLEASE YOR LOP,—I desired John Steuart, Commr., Sometime agoe to acquaint yor. Lop. yt. agt. the 10th Inst. I would remit the contents of my bill for yor Lops. Salmond being 2184£ Scots, but I could not hitherto find any bill or opportunity to remit the Same, and yrfore have been oblidge to send by ys. express in Gold 157£ 6d. Ster., all in guineas and half guineas, except 5 Luidores ; So yt. yr. will remain yet of the ful contents of my bill due 24£ 19s. 6d. Ster., for wch. I Send yor. Lop: inclosed my promissory note payable first of August next. So yt. I hope yor. Lop: will Send me by this bearer my bill wt. yor. Lops. receipt yron. I had Sent mony in lieu of this note, but the bearer going express for Edr. would not undertake to carry it. I cannot omit to acquaint yor Lop: that haveing taken my venture of the Drawback on yor Lops. Salmond last year, qch. amounts to near £50 Ster., I have not as yet recovered one farthing of the Same, tho I have often desired it. And when it Shall be recovered I believe it will not be under a considerable Discompt, to qch. I expect yor Lop: will have a consideraon in the price of next years fishing, wch. I hope will be much better yn. the last, to wch. I expect to be

preferred as to the first offer. I am just now Setting people to work to repair whats amiss at Castle Steuart.— I am, etc.

Inverness, Augt. 22d, 1718.

Mr. Joseph Fakney [merchant, London].

SIR,—In my absence my Servant Thomas Kurcholm writt you the 9t past, and remitted you Jno Hays bill upon Alexander Gordon, for £32 : 16 : 8 Stg. for accot. of Mr. John Steuart of Inverness, to be payed on to Mr. Byntoun and Shaw for returning his $\frac{1}{5}$ of an accepted bill Drawen upon him and compa. of £164 : 3 : 2 Ster., which bill being payd here you are to mak good the walue of the above remittance of £32 : 18 : 8 St. to Mr. John Shaw as he Shall derect.

Mr. John Steuart, Comissar of Inver.

Inverness, Augt. 22d, 1718.

YOUL pleas deliver the inclosed to one Alexander Hay. I know not whither the gentelmen be a lawyer or a mercht., but I supose youll find him out. He wrot me Last that he had gott a bill accepted by me and Wm. Simson, Mercht. of Aberdeen, to the order of Thomas Arburthnott of Paterhead for about £200 Ster. as the price of the cargoe of meal we bought from sd. Arburthnott. This gentleman writts me he expects his mony paremterly agt. the 15th of next month, in order to which I design to remitt p. next poast £100, and I expect Mr. Polocks bill will answer before then. However, should you hapen to come from Edr. before the mony be payd to Mr. Hay, pray Lodg my bill and what mony I Send you with my frend Wm. Cumming in Parliment Close, who hath promised to take care of me in this matter in case Mr. Polocks bill does not answer. And, please God, how ever it happen, he will not be long in advance for me, since I will have a good deal of mony payd me at Edr. at

Michelmass by my frends in the Isle of Sky. I entreat your care of me in this affair.

Mr. Norman McLeod [of Drynoch, the Bailie's father-in-law].

Inverness, Augt. 23d., 1718.

DEAR SIR,—I received of mony for your accot. from your neece and others sixteen pound ten shillings 10 and $\frac{2}{3}$ ster., as pr. the under written accot., and which shal be alowed of the meal received from your nefew John for my accot.; but you are to take notice that I gave receipts to Euan and John McLenans for fourscore and 5 merks they gave me which is included in this accot., so that these tow receipts are only in part of the 16 pound 10s. Ster. here mentioned. This mony you Sent me now came very Seasonable, for which I thank you, and I hope again Michelmas you will order the ballance of what meal is conteaned in your letter, which I think comes to eight pound fourteen shill. and 8d. sterling. Mrs. Rose and I has presumed to Keep Marion half a year Longer since it will be much for her adwantadge, and will coast Normand no more mony for her boord. I cam Leatly from Edr., where I saw honest Mr. Alex.¹ and John² McLeods who drank your health; and above all I saw the dear Little laird of McLeod,³ who is a charming sprightly boy. No news at present, but all things goe fair befor the win for the goverment, and the unfortunate still Learn patience. I thank you for your present to my wife, and I am, Sir, etc.

Accot. received for accot. of Mr. Donald McLeod.

Dr. To 40 ston butter Sold by your servants

5m. p. Ston £11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$

To 36 Ston cheas sold at 2s. p. ston 3 : 12 : 0

¹ Alexander Macleod, Advocate.

² John Macleod of Muiravonside, Advocate. He was implicated in the abduction of Lady Grange in 1730.

³ Norman Macleod, born 1706.

BAILIE JOHN STEUART OF INVERNESS 89

To cash per my receipt from Eyn McLeanan in Kintale	3 : 6 : 0
To ditto from John McLeanan in Glenelg p. recep	1 : 7 : 9
	<hr/>
	19 : 8 : 8
Cr. By Cash given your ser- vants by my wife	£1 : 13 : 4
By 2 bolls 3 firlats meal at 6m. p. boll	1 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$
By ballance remaining in my hands	16 : 10 : 10
	<hr/>
	19 : 8 : 8
45 bolls and $\frac{1}{2}$ p. Mr. Donalds [?] 45 merks to 45 merk Scots is Ster. mony	25 : 5 : 6 $\frac{2}{3}$
By cash payed by above ballance of accot.	16 : 10 : 10
	<hr/>
Ball. resting	8 : 14 : 8

Inverness, Sept. 2d, 1718.

Mr. Wm. Simson of Abd.

SIR,—I wrot you the 22d. ultimo to what reffers since I received yours 26d. Ditto. As I told you in my Last, I have secured 700 birk Rails, conform to your order to my father; but that order came too Late for ovr highland deals; besids that it seems fitt that you mention they are not above eight foot Long and wery thin. As for the birk bark I have Secured 40 bolls of it, and for you most of it, at 4 merks p. boll; and I can gett the full quantity of 100 or 150 yow Desire, but not one boll under 3£ Scots, which I think soe extravagantly Dear that I could not Conclude a bargain without your positive advise; so may accquant me pr. first if youl go to this price, and how much youle positively have me buy, and Ile endeavoure to accomodate you. I have pairtly bespoke deals that are

ten foot Long, but they are 5 merks p. Duzan, so you acquaint me if you be for them at that price. I received your Letter inclosed for Mr. Thomson super cargoe in the *John* of Arth, who has not yet appeared here; but how soon he does shall Deliver him your Letter, and doe him all the service Lys in my power. But I most tell yo befor hand that I am affeard his staves will not sell here by reason of thee Disapointment of our hering fishing; besids that there are tow ships just now unloading Iron, knapwood, and birk staves. I canot as yett Send yow the accot. of our two cargoes, Cleaton and Clerk, by reason that Mr. McKenzie gave me no other receipt except what he gave on the bill of Loadning to Cleaton; so its fitt you gett up that bill of Loadning Immediatly, and forward it to me. Owr accepted bill to Thomas Arburthnott, I find, is indorsed to one Alex. Hay at Edr., who has writt me that he has the sam, and will have parentor use for the mony agt. the 15th instant. I wrott him that he may expect his mony agt. that time, and shall doe my utmost endeavour to remitt him ye contents, being 208£ ster., this week, tho I have not gott yett of Cleatons cargoe but 100£ Ster., and does not expect that the whole of it will be payd till Martimass. And for John Cleatons cargoe, which is sold to Mr. McKenzie and his uncle, its non payable till martimas, and I wish it may all answer then. However, we have this satisfaction, that our security is very good.

Inverness, 5t 7ber 1718.

Mr. William Simson of Abd.

SIR,—I wrot you fully the 2d instant, which refers. This serves only to bring you the inclosed ten pound Ster. bank not, and to Desire that from it yow may pay to Mr. John Burnet, Junior, mercht. of Abd., nine pound fourteen Shill. and 3d. Ster., walue of ane accepted bill Drawn on me by Mr. John Gordon of Rotterdam, which please retire, and send me pr. first Discharged, and Credit my accot. with the ballance of the £10 noat.

This night I send orders to pay ovr acceptance of 208£ ster: to Thomas Arburthnott, now in the hands of Messrs Alex. Hay at Edr., which I hope will come in good time. Your ship from Norway has not appeard. I wait your answer as to the bark, and I remain, etc.

Inverness, 6 7ber 1718.

I wrot this post to William Bain, shippmaster in Leath, and returned him inclosed his bill to me on Colin Mackenzie, Junior, mercht. in Dingwall, accepted for £30 sterling.

Messrs. Gerard, Campbell and Dobson in Stockholm.

Inverness, 7ber 20th, 1718.

GENTLEMEN,—I send you inclosed bill of Loadning for 28 Last and 2 barrells Herins for the joynt accot. of me and Mr. John Inness, mercht. in Edr., not Doubting but you will dispose of Sd. Herings to the best avail how soon it please God the Ship arrives, and reload her with the uttmost Dilligence, conform to the inclosed order and Derection from the sd. Mr. John Innes. You take notice that there being 4 Last 3 barell for accot. of Mr. John McCay of this pleace, and 6 Last 2 barell for accot. of Mr. Wm. [*sic*—Fraser ?] of this pleace, which they no Doubt Send you there bills of Loadning. They are to pay freight in proportion to what I and Mr. Innes Doe, which is 5£ : 10s. ster. pr. Last out and home, of which $\frac{1}{3}$ vizt. £1 : 16 : 8 ster: is to be payd by you pr. Last, at the curent exchange to Britaine ; and youl notice to insert the other tow thirds in the bills of Loadning homward, conform to Charter party. Mr. John Innes and the other Gentleman Concerned and I only mean that you should invest the proceeds of ovr Herins in Iron and deals for fulling up the Ship ; and notice that Messrs. McCay and Frasures are to have separat accots., and may as from what is for Mr. Innes joynt accot. and myne. And I hope with Mr. Innes that youl give Master Captain Alex: Dunbar full

and Clear instructions as to the method of proceeding homward, and give him all posible Dispatch, by wh. we will be much incuraged to continue a further correspondence.

If the Captn. be straitned for 5£ more than what is above mentioned, Give him the Same, and take his receipt for it.

Inverness, 22d 7ber 1718.

Mr. William Cumming.

SIR,—I wrott you the 5th instant, since which I have non of yours. Then I sent your inclosed bill Major William Johnes for £108 ster., also an order on Comissar Steuart to pay you 100£ ster. or give you up Mr. Walter Polocks his acceptance to me for that same. I have reason to hope that mony is payd or now, so that I ordered then. I hope you have retired my acceptance to Mr. Alex. Hay for £2496 Scots, of which I expect advice by this days post since I understand when last came of you was not in town. I Sent you then inclosed 3 bills accepted by Normand McLeod of Drynoch, My Father in Law, Roderick McLeod of Ullenish and Charles McKinon of Scalpay, for 2450 merks Scots. Now I am to advise you that my Father in Law, Drynoch, is goen South with a Larg Drove about 8 days agoe, and writts that he will retire his own and Ulunish bills for 2050 merks, but could not that for Charles McKinon, so when he appears in town Deliver him the inclosed, and Drink a pynt of wine with him on my charge. If he canot pay the bill of 400 merks return it to me without doing any thing on it which at presen is the need full from, Sir, etc.

P. S.—Receive also bill Drynoch on me for £4: 4s. ster. which he is to pay yow for my accot.

Inverness, 27 7ber 1718.

AFFECCTONAT COUSIN [Commissar Steuart],—I have yours of 9th instant, wherin yow advise me that had

taken care of my acceptance on your brothers¹ accot. to Mr. Alexander Arburthnot, of £12 : 10 ster., so that I was much surprised Last post with the inclosed from sd. Arburthnott. I care not to have my credit at his mercy, So must intreat the bill be immediatly retired, if not Done ; and send it here pr. first, with a noat of how much of the Same you will advance for your Brother, and Ile Credit your accot. accordingly, and send his receipt for what is pay for him. I have ordered to pack the Earle of Murray Salmon, but I am affraid Ile be no gainer by them this year. I have gott allowance of 100 lib. Scots for my Expences of Journy South by a letter under the hand of my kind frend the Contess of Murray, and her honour ingadged that Ile be no Looser by bargain for my Lord salmon, which I securly Depend on. My father in Law will be at Edr. next week, and I hope youl see him and give him advice whow he shall settle his eldest son Alexander, who is with him ; and youl tell him my Wife is Delivered of a Son tow days agoe, to whom you are a god father, and owr frend Mr. Buttler another.

Inverness, Septr. 30th, 1718.

To the Laird of Cadbol.²

SIR,—The pinching want of mony I am at present trysted with oblidges me to give you this trouble pr. express to desire that if possible you send me in return the price of 45 Dozen and 2 deals Sent you last Summer, as pr. receipt, which amounts as pr. inclosed accot to £22 : 18 Sh. ster. ; and this is £3 short of the accot. I showd you first, which is so much loss to me, being Stoln on the Shoar ; but no help. If you Send the mony, let it be seald in a bag, and take up yor obligatorie letters and receipt from the bearer, I am, etc.

¹ Alexander Steuart, master of the ship *Alexander* of Inverness.

² Roderick Macleod.

Inverness, 3d 8ber 1718.

Mr. John Mackenzie [the Laird of Gairloch's Uncle].

SIR,—I Received yours of 26 past, and it is true that Mr. Rock payed me sixtie pound sterling, for which I have given receipt in your name. And this day I have Gott from Murdoch Mackenzie in Garloch bill of this Dait accepted be Donald Malue and Alexr. Skair, Drovers in Cupper of Angus, for fiftie pound sterling, payable at Edinburgh, for which have Likeways Granted receipt of this Dait, promiseing to Count for the same when payed.

I am Glad to find you Gott the full Contents of the bill of Loadning for me all by Cleaton, who is a Notorious Villan; and I much regrait and am blaimed that you and My [brother-in-law] John Mackleod pairted so slackly with him as to lett him have the mony I sent by John, and lett him pass with the Charterpartie. I am surprised you once mention failies on the Contract or Make anie maner of reserve about our Clearing. That way of Dealling is not My way; but as I told you formarly, if you be punctuall in Clearing with me again Mertimass, Ile be verie frank and kind in Considering your Loss by the shipp's Lait arivall, and will inclyn to end so as wee may deal again, being Yours, etc.

Inverness, 3d 8br. 1718.

To Mr. Wm. Simpson, Mercht. in Abd.

SIR,—I reced. yors of 22d. past wt. inclosed for Wm. Reid, qch. I delivered him here, where he hes been about 8 days past; but as yet his Salt bark hes not appeared, being put down this firth back wt. a hard gale of wind on Sunday last, I suppose to Fraserburgh or the Orkneys. I wish her Safe here and Soon. I have given Mr. Reid, conform to yor orders, £6 Ster. and taken his bill on you for the same. And I have engaged as formerly advised yor accot. 70 Dozen Corks at 2½ merks pr. Dozen, and about 40 bolls birk bark at 4 merks pr. boll, for qch. I have

paid 2 guineas in earnest, and must pay the full price on demand. This morning I had a letter from John Mckenzie, uncle to the Laird of Garloch, acknowledging the receipt of the mail [meal] contd. in the bill of loadning pr. John Clayton, wt. a bill payable at Edr. the 15th inst. for £50 Ster., for qch. I have granted receipt as for £40 mor I got in mony in pairt. of our meal and I hope all will ansuer at Mertimes. But Im afraid yr. will be a Struggle in clearing, for he writes me he will insist on the failzie in the contract in respect the villain Clayton hes given him a declaration yt. it was yor fault the bark arrived no Sooner by reason you Sent him wt. a freight to Muntrose after he was freighted for Garloch, to qch. he imputs his hindrance So long. I Send you inclosed his charter pairtie, wt. his receipts of £21 Ster., in qch. yor twenty Shillg. given him before Sailing is included. So may write me acknowledgeing receipt of his Sd. receipt, and Im of opinion you Should end wt. yt. rogue immediatlie by Submission or reference, and get up our bill of loadning, which forward to me ; and if reference will not doe, I would give him a charge of horning on his charter pairtie. And in the mean time See to cause Some friend at Dundee to get an attested note of the receipt on the bill of loadning, which I think may do here ; for I take Mr. Mckenzie to be an honest enough man. I Send you likeways inclosed yor charter pairtie wt. Mr. Clerk, that both may be cancelled ; and I have his receipt for what freight and averidge was paid in the Highlands, So yt. yrs. nothing due him after you have retired my Serts. bill for £25 Ster. I hope in 15 days to be able to draw on Edr. for £150 Ster. in pairt of Mr. Achindaice his meal pr. Clayton ; So may advise pr. first if Shall Send you bills payable for yt. Soume to yrself, or to whom Ile order it. I got 100 bolls meal from Mr. Cuthbert, for which I gave receipt in yor name ; and Shall take care to order payt. to Mr. Hunter when due ; and as our mony ansuers clearance will be punctually made by, Sir, etc.

Our accepted bill to Thomas Arbuthnot for £208 Ster. value of Clerks loadning of meal I have paid and retired.

Inverness, 3 Ocler. 1718.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LOP. [Earl of Moray],—I have, in obedience to your Lop. order of 11 7ber last, retired your Lops. bond of 6000£ Scots from Drumuir, and Doe send the same inclosed. I payd the Intrest from Whitsunday 1714 to 26th August Last, extending to 1293£ 15 sh. Scots, for which I have his receipt for the Same, which Shall be given your Lop. at Counting. I have in Some measur cancelled your Lop. name for fear of Miscariadge of the bond.

Your Lops. Salmon is packed, and extends to 99 barrells, of which a great pairt Grilses. I receive them next week, tho, in faith, I fear I shall be no gainer by this bargain, and I hope your Lop. will not See me too much Looser, for I have such bad incuradgement from abroad that I would not midle if I did not depend on your generosity. The Deduction of Coustomes of Drawbacks of Salmond made by the Comissioners is about 2s. Ster. p. barrell, which I hope your Lop. will order James Russell in return of this to expect from my bill, it being but Just, Since when I bargained with yr. Lop. the Drawback was then estemed at 10£ Scots p. barrell, and now its so much Less as I mentioned. I offered to sell your Lops. Grilses Laitly to one who hade a Commission from London, but could not reach above 43 Sh. Ster. p. barrell. This your Lop. may Depend on as truth. I gott non of your Lops. mony for Last years rent as yet, and I fear, considering what Drumuir has gott, It will be toward Christimas before I make any Remittance South; but will do my best for your Lops. Intrest.

Inverness, 17th Sber 1718.

Mr. Robert Gordon [Bordeaux].

SIR,—This serves to advise yow that your frend Alex. Steuart and ye Ship *Alexander* of this pleace were designed to have gone your way for a Loadning of wine, etc., but

the Surprising news of the war with Spain has diverted that project, and now he proceeds for Rotterdam in Holland with a Loadning of Salmon; therefor we Desire that how Soon this comes to hand youl enquire if can find any occasion of any Ship on freight to Holand, bound for Rotterdam; and, in Case such an occasion Should immediately offer at a reasonable, easy Freight, then you are to Ship for ovr accots. ten tunns of Excellent good Strong Claret wine, 2 tunns white wine, which is to be marked A.S. And you are to take bill of Loadning for the same for to be consigned to Mr. Alexander Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, a Duble of which you are to transmitt him p. post, and at the same time advise him to Insure the value of Sd. wines for ovr. accots. We desire that you may value on us for $\frac{2}{3}$ d of Cost of Sd. wines, payable at Edr., and for on Third on Mr. Alexander Andrew, of Rotterdam, for the proper accot. of John Steuart, who is to give orders that your bills Shal find Due honour, as shall your oyr Drawght payable at Edr. We hope youl take the most proper method to Secure this wine from Dammadge in the passage to Holland; but if no occasion doe immediatly offer to Ship ym. as above, in that case you are to advise Mr. Andrews yt. he is to Expect no wine for ovr. accots. We intreat you take care to Ship good Strong wine for us, Since Small does not doe with us; and we remain your most humble Servants,

THOM: ALVES.

JOHN STEUART.

Inverness, 25 8ber 1718.

I WROT of this Dait to Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam, and advised him to Insure on the *Alexr.*, of this place, Alexr. Steuart, Master, I say on the Cargoe of Salmon pr. sd. Shipp from this to Rotterdam f. 2500 Guilders: also I advised him that I ordered Robert Gordon, of Burdeaux, to send him for my acct., and Thomas Alvas his acct., to be returned here by the *Alexr.* 15 tuns wine,

viz. 3 tun white wine, and 12 tuns Claret, and to value on him for half of the value of sd. Goods.

25 8ber 1718.

I WROT likeways of this Dait to Mr. Robert Gordon, of Burdiaux, to add to the Commission sent him last post by Tho. Alvas and me 2 tuns Claret and one tun more White wine, and to value on Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam, for half of the value of 15 tuns wine to be shipt from Burdiaux to Rotterdam for our acct., and to value, payable at Eder. for ye other half.

Inverness, 1 9ber 1718.

Mr. William Cuming, Mercht. in Eder.

SIR,—I Received yours of 23 ultimo, and inclosed my Fathers Acceptance to Robert Wightman ¹ for £72 sterling and My own to Mr. George Falconer for £23 : 4 : 5 sterling, both which have pleased to your Credit. I am vexed MackDonald the Messr. [messenger's] Letter was neglected to be sent you in my Last, but it was my servants fault to gott my Letter to Coppie ; but now you have it inclosed, as to which writ me your mind. In the mean time, when he coms to town Ile be pressing with him in What you Desire. I send you inclosed bill Lemuel Rock on Patrick Crafourd, mercht in Eder., for 60£ sterling at ten days sight. If its not accepted protest it against the Drawer and Indorser, who is John Mackenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch. Mr. Rock will be in Eder. in ten days, so, if his bill is not honoured, may acquaint him you have returned the same protested, which fail not to Doe. I Likeways send inclosed Accepted Mr. Walter Pollock, mercht. in Fortwilliam, for £300 sterling, payable 5 Decer. next ; but you 'll see by his Letter to me of 20th past inclosed he promised to pay £200 sterling precisly at

¹ Was Robert a brother or other relative of General Wightman, who was at this time stationed in Inverness, and who in 1719 commanded King George's forces at the battle of Glenshiel?

Mertimass, and £100 again the i Decer. next, again which time, if I could value on you for about 200£ sterling, it would make me verie Easie, for I have abundance of mony to pay in this month. Acquaint me of the success of Mr. Rocks bill pr. first, and I send you inclosed his Letter of Credit from Mr. Crafourd. I have Drawn on you to Mr. John Polson Six pound sterling, which please honour and pleace to my Acct. I am pr. first to send you some Debenturs, and I am etc.

Inverness, 7th Nov: 1718.

Mr. William Cuming of Edr.

SIR,—My Last to you was of first Curt. by Mr. John Polson, in which I sent you inclosed accepted bill Mr. Walter Pollock for 300£ sterling, and Bill Mr. Lemuell Rock on Patrick Crafurd for £600 Sterling. I Long to hear of ye Success of ye Last, and I hope ye first will be Soon payd. I Send you here inclosed a corne Debenture of pretty Old Dait, for £32 : 6 : 8½ ster., and I Entreat howsoon it Comes to hand you See to Chap it of at ye best Rate you cane for Doing, of which I think ovr frend Mr. Lewes at ye Coustome office will be ye proporest hand, to whome give my Service. I have valued on you of this Date to Mr. Charles Gordone of Edr. at 8 days Sight for £20 : 15 : 5½ ster., being a ballance I am Due his broyr, Mr. Robert of Bordiaux, to which pray Give Compliance, and Place it my accot. Pray let me hear from you in Returné to this, and Send me by ys. post tow blank Debentures for Generall goods; and I am, Sir, your werye Aff.

Inverness, 13 9ber 1718.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam.

SIR,—This addresses you by my Cousin, Alexr. Steuart, master of the ship *Alexr.* of this pleace, and brings you inclosed bill of Loadning for nintie nine barells salmon and Grilses on boord his sd. shipp; that is, for 67 barells

salmon and 32 do. Grilses, all Markd. §, which you are immediatly to Dispose off at the best avail, and Credit my Acct. with the one half of the net Proceeds, and my brother, James Russell, with the other ; and, *nota*, the one half of value of wines from Burdx. ordered to be Drawn on you by Robert Gordon is to be pleaced to his Debit. You are to pay the Master 34 stivers freight and Caplaken, and no Doubt youll Contribut your endeavours he be Dispatched. What is further needfull Shall be advised pr. first post By Yours etc.

Nota, this salmon I sen you is of the best quality, and best Cured of anie in this firth.

Inverness, 14 9ber 1718.

Mr. William Simson [Merchant, Aberdeen].

SIR,—I wrot to you the 7th instant advising that I hade ended with John Mackenzie, and gott his bills for the ballance of the Cargoe, payable here and at Eder., after giveing him 10d. ster. pr. boll Discount, and that therfor I thought you needed be on great heast to Clear with Mr. Cleaton. Now this serves to advise you that I have no mony this week, as I expected, either from Mr. Mackenzies bills or the Isle of Sky, but I hope all may doe once this Month. In the mean time, lest you should be straitned, I send you inclosed twentie pound sterling pr. bank noat No. $\frac{3}{485}$, and May advise of the receipt of pr. first ; and how soon anie payment is made you may expect punctual remittance from, Sir, Yours etc.

Inverness, 14th 9ber 1718.

Mr. William Cuming [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SIR,—My Last was of 7th Currt, in which I sent you inclosed a Corn Debenture for £32 : 6 : 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sterling, as also advised yt. had drawen on yow to ye order of Mr. Charles Gordon, Mercht. in Edr., for £20 : 15 : 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ster. ; all which

I hope is Come to hand, Since I have your favour of 3d. and 6th Curr. In ye Last yow advised that £200 of Mr. Polocks acceptance for £300 Sterling was payd., as also that Mr. Rocks Bill of £60 on Mr. Patrick Craford was accepted, which is wery well. And now, as you Desire, I have waled on you of this dait to Mr. John Cuthbert, younger of Castlehill, at 3 days sight, for £120 Ster., which I doubt not will find Due honour. And, Since I can not find mony here for bills to Clear my debt about this term, please Send me by this post, in Return of this, in ye Bag, one hundred and thirtie pound Sterling in Large Bank Noats, Securly Sealed under your Covert. Send me also as much of your Best Blew Drab Cloath as well make a Jockie Big Coat, with as many Laitest fashioned bath Matell [Metal ?] Buttones as will mount it. Pray take care ye Cloth be of a deep Dy and well milned, and give it to ye post, and pleave the value to my acct. I send you inclosed a fish debenture Certified on the boord of Excise for £66 : 7 : 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sterling, and I am told it will find prompt payment, of which Shal be Glad to hear. However, you are to make mony of this and ye Corn debenture sent you formerly pr. first, Since Ile want it Soon. Waiting your answer in Course, I am etc.

Inverness, 22 9ber 1718.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam, and ordered him to insure on hold of shipp *Alexr.* of this pleace, Alexr. Steuart, master, six hundred Guilders, and that from this to Rotterdam, and to pleave the premium to my acct., and to value on my Father, Alexr. Steuart, for the same payable to My order.

Inverness, 29 9ber 1718.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I Received your favours of 2i Curr., with £130 sterling in bank noats inclosed, as also 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds. blew Cloath

from the bearer. I am pleased with what is done with the Debenturs, and that you are in Cash for them, and doe by these advise you that I have drawn on you the 26 Currt. for £41 : 13 : 4 ster. to the order of Mr. Francis Steuart¹ his Ladie, value received of Chamberlan Russell, payable in 8 days sight ; which, with best respects, is all on heast from etc.

Invernes, 6 Decer. 1718.

I ORDERED Mr. Alexr. Andrew, if in case he could not find a Merket at Rotterdam for the salmon sent by the shipp *Alexr.*, that in that case he should shipp off a great part of it for some place where it would better ; that is, for Brudges, Dunkirk, and Haver de Grace.

Invernes, 13th Decer. 1718.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SR,—My Last to you was of the Sixth Instant, and Since which Have yours of 6th dto N:S: [New Style] I observed you Inshured on Alexr. Dunbars Cargo 660 Gu. at 6 p.c. ; but I winder I was not advised of it befor now, and it is a Singular cease that your letter Miscaried. I'm Sorie to find that your Salmon mercat continous So lo. Notwithstanding what I wrott you last post of Shipeing of a great part of them to Some other ports, where they will Sell better, yett I leve you to Doe in that as you think fitt, Since boath James Russell and I doe intearly depend on your Selfe to Act for us in that affaire As if our Selves were present. It's well that you have advised Mr. Robert Gordon to value on you for the Halfe 15 tuns of wine which he writts me was a Shipeing of for Roterdam. Now that what monie is pd. for sd. wine is to be placed in equall halfes to James Russells acct. and mine, he signs this letter with me ; And wee desire that, beside the Said wine, you

¹ Brother of the Earl of Moray (Charles), whom he succeeded as sixth Earl in 1735.

will Shipe in the *Alear*. for our Joynt Accts. 60 Anchors best Br: [brandy], and four Ho. [hogsheads] of Tobacco in matts, provideing it be hade of a good, learge, fresh, strong leafe, and not exceeding four or four and ane Halfe Stivers. Wee must earnestly Intreat that the tobaco be right chosen and good, or that you Send non, for Some came leatly from your pairts hither proves verie naught. You will likeways observe to place the value of sd. Br: and Tobacco to our Accts. equally, and at Shipeing recomend the Same particularly to the Master as our concern. Wee hope the Shipe will be with you befor this comes to hand. And wee must intreat that you Imediatly bespeak the Small cascks for the Br:, So as that they may prove good and Tight. What will befurder need full Shall be advised per next post. And wee remaine, Your most humble Serts.

Inverness, Decem. 15th, 1718.

To Normand M'Leod of Drynoch.

DEAR SIR,—I Received yours of 7th Instant and with it, from the Bearer full payment of four hundred merks Due be Charles M'Kinons accepted Bill, which I return you here inclosed; and of this mony I have gott my Receipt to John McLeanan in Glenelg, 23d August Last, for £2 : 2s. Sterling, which Remember at next Clearing. I hope yt. befor Candlemass youll remitt more mony, for I am considerable in advance for your Childeren, I mean ye tow Lassies, Besides for John, Befor what you was to pay by in Debenture was promised. I observe that Mr. Donald [Macleod] writts to John yt. I am to count to him in part of his meat, Reasting me Some mony he advanced for you Last year; but I doe not understand this, for I mind no mony he gave me last year more than what payd his own meal and oyr accots. So I have Sent this accot to him, which Just amounts to £11 : 7sh : 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Sterling, of which I have Received non from any person for his accot.; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 15th Decem. 1718.

[To Donald Macleod.]

DEAR SIR,—I take yis oportunity to wish you a good Crismass and a good new year; and I Send ye under written accot., Extending to £10 : 7 : 9d. Sterling, of which I never Received a farthing on your accot from any Person whatsomever; So I hope youl transmitt it all here again Candlesmass at farthest, having pressing use for it again then. John Fraser or you wrott of to John, Should pay me Some mony for a hors Sold him by one of your Countrymen. He is a Roague, and I fear he poor man will Loose his horse by it, for I have not gott a farthing of that nor of oat meal he Reasted myself, tho I preferred yis Day to take penny wourth for both from him.

Mr. Donald M'Leod—Dr.

1718

August	To 3 Ston Iron at 4 Sh. p. Ston	. £0 : 12 : 0
Do.	To 16 lib. Cords at 5d. per lib.	. 0 : 16 : 8
Do.	To Custome pd. for butter and Chees	0 : 03 : 4
July	To one boll he is to count for more than he Charges pr. his obligatory Letter	0 : 14 : 1 $\frac{1}{3}$
	To Ballance of ane accot. Sent 23 August 1718 for meal	8 : 14 : 8 0
		<hr/>
		£10 : 7 : 9 0
		<hr/>
		£10 : 7 : 9

Received August 1719 tuo quad-		
ruples	6 : 12	
in Cash from John Ross	2 : 19	
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ston butter from Do.	1 : 2 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$	
	<hr/>	
	10 : 13 : 2	
Deduce above ballance	10 : 7 : 9	
	<hr/>	
Ballance payed to J. McLeod	0 : 5 : 3	

Inverness, 3d January 1719.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rottm.

SIR,—My Last was of 13 ultimo in Compy. with my Broyer James Russell, wherein we desired you Should Ship for owr Joynt accots. in ye Ship *Alexr.* 60 ankers brandy and 4 hhds. tobacco in matts, and to please the value of ye wine Mr. Robert Gordon was to Ship for owr accots to owr accot Equally. I ordered Sd. Mr. Gordon to Ship ye wine in a Dutch Ship, and advise you to Insure ye walue. If he has not obeyed these orders accordingly it is a fault, but I hope he has. Now this Comes Cheefly to Desire yt. if the *Alexr.* doe not arive in time to overtake ye Season for Selling his Salmon, yow Ship no brandy or tobacco for my accot. ; So yt. there is only 30 anquers and tow hhds. tobaco to be Shipt for James Russells accot. properly. Pray fail not to Ship the 40 flasks best Burgundy wine I formerly advised, and please the walue to my accot. ; half ps. Holands Lining [linen] at 25 Stivers ; a pound Best Bohea tea ; and tow Iron potts, one of 6 Scots poynts, anoyr of 12 ; ane Elm pomp [pump] from 13 to 14 foot in Lenth, with ye nesesar greath, being for a new bark abulding here ; one ps. plain muslin from 36 to 40 Guilders ; and a ps. Strip Ditto of ye finest ; I inclosed patern, but of a Diferent Strip. And pray notice yt. the Holland and Musline be well Chosen and Bought, for ye Last I got about 2 years agoe was too Dear bought, and I made nothing of it. Pray mind ye tow Cask Indigoe Returned by John McKay in ye *Marjory* being good for nothing. So please Send now ye lick quantity of better Seg[?] Indigoe, or Credit Mr. Russell and me with ye walye of what yt. Cost thats Returned. It Came pr. the *Fortune* of Muntross, George Parson, Master, in June 1717. The Ship *Alex.*, with owr Salmon, was at Burnt-island the 20 past, but whither She is Sayled as yet or not I canot tell ; but now I am affraid your Rivers will be So Frosen upp yt She canot get to Rotterdam ; So yt. I have but a very melancholly prospect of a market for ye Salmon,

tho I depend on your best Endeavours. I wish you a good new year, and Desier to be advised of ye price of Corns with you pr. first.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rottm.

Inverness, 9 January 1719.

SIR,—I have yours of 20th past, with your bill on my Father for £2 : 17 Sterling, for walue of 21 guilders as premium of f. 600 Insured on ye ship *Alexr.* for his accot. Yt Ship was Last week at Burntisland, but if be as yet Sailed I canot tell, tho I hope will be with you or this comes to hand. This Serves Cheefly to bring you the inclosed attestations of the Loss of the Ship *Success* of this Pleace, Alexr. Dunbar, Master, with the bill of Loading of Herings Shipt in the Sd. ship, being for Mr. John Inness and me 28 Lasts, 2 barells. I am Advised by yours of xber Last that you have Insured for my accot. on Sd. Hering, pr. Everad Vn Hussen, conform to my orders, f. 660 Guilders, for premium of which my Accot is Debited f. 45 : 18 ; So that now I have no reasone to Doubt but ye Sum Insured will be Recovered. Mr. Dunbar tells me that he has given Affidavids to Messrs. Dobsone and Campbell at Stockholm of this Loss, which was to be forwarded to you to Recover the Insurance and Indempify Mr. Innes bond and mine for the pass, and that he gave up the pass to Sd. Dopson. So yt I hope matters will be so ordered that no Disapointment will happen. As to ye pass or Recovering Dameages I will be considerable Looser by this misfortune, being pairt owner of the Ship, as will as this Cargoe. But no help ; must Reverence Providence. I wrot to yow the 3d Instant, and I hope the *Alexr.* will arive in Such time yet as to enable you to Ship for me the brandy and Tobacco I Desird the 13th Decembr. in Company with Mr. Russell. Alex. Dunbar arrived here 4th Instant pr. ye *Janett Dumbar* ; was wery Surprising to me.

Inverness, 9th Janry. 1719.

Mr. John Inness [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SIR,—I am Sory to advise yow that owr frend Alexr. Dunbar, Mr. of the Ship *Good Success* of this pleace, arrived here the 4th Instant in ye *Janat* Sloop of this pleace from Dantzig, having Lost his own Ship by Stricking her on a blind Rock of ye Isleland of Sandsortone, ye Coast of Swedland, ye 12 of 9ber Last, in thee night time. He and Crew narrowly Saved there Lives, and Says that there was 9 foot water on the Rock he struck ; and, after the Ship sunck half ane howr, Came of. He Keeped till ye water came up above the Loer Deck, and yn. [then] was obliged to take his boat, and saw the ship in 3 minutes yrefter Sink in 40 fathom water. I was Owner of the Ship as well as Cargoe, but I regrait your Loss as much as my own. I have Insured 600 Guilders on sd. ship, and I hope you have Done Something that way. This night I have forwarded Afidavits from the Master, Captine Dunbar, and one of his men arived here, and the bill of Loadning, and my own Afidavid befor tuo Justicess of peace, to Mr. Alexr. Andrew, of Rotterdam ; I say my Afidavid in ye Quantity of Herines Shipt for your accot. and mine, in order to Recover what Insurance Is made, and I heartily wish it may serve you that way. Alexr. Dunbar asures he gave the Pass to Mr. Dopson at Stockholm, and made Afidavits yre., which was to be transmitted to Rotterdam to Mr. Andrews to Recover our bond.

8 *Febry* 1720.

To ye Earle of Murray.

I WROTE to yor. Lop. twice in Six weeks past anent Sundry affairs of Pettie, to which I'm favoured with no return. So that I begin to Suspect that My letters have miscarried. However my Broyr., James Russell (by whom this goes) knows ye Substance of ye Seall. [several] points I wrote of, and will get your Lops. thoughts and derections anent

them. I send you by the bearer my bill on Wilm. Cuming, Mercht. in Edinr., for 300 £ Ster., payll. at ten days sight, which I doubt not will answer punctually, and for which I expect by ye Bearer yor. Lops. receipt for So much of my Intromission with the Rents of Pettie, Cropt 1718. I thought to have remitted a good deall more money, but ye Bearer Shall inform your Lop. of ye reason of ye Disappointment. I told your Lop. in my two former letters that I had sold the fearms of Pettie of last Cropt @ 9sh. and 6d. Str. p. boll, which I thought then a good price, tho, Hade I not Sold till now, might reach some more ; but could not promise from Such good debtors ; but Wee can not always See what may happen. I will endeavour As Soon As possible to remit your Lop. more money, and in ye mean time yor. Lop. may write me a letter, which I am to expect, ordering me to use legall dilligence agt. all and Sundry in Pettie are in arear, and to remove them at Whity. if they prevent not by payment.

Ill expect a precept of warning by ye Bearer.

8th Febr'y. 1720.

To Comr. Steuart [Edinburgh].

THIS goes by James Russell, with whom I have remitted to the E. of Murray £300 Ster., which is more than I have got in of his Effects. I have taken a positive resolution to give up my Charge [the Petty factorship] unless I have better encouragement for my Service, for I can declare yt. that employment has been much money out of my way by my loss of much Valuable time I spent about, which, if hade been employed in my own private affairs, I might have been in much better Circumstance than I am at prest., besides the advance often of my own money to please my Constituent. I am now growing old, and my family encreaseing, So that I must take ane oyr Course of bussiness than for Some years I have done, oyrwise I know not in time may come of me and famly. And you may

Judge if 200 Merks ¹ A year be A Suitable reward for Such a diversion as the Charge of Pettie is and has been for many years past to me. I leave it to you to insinuatt this much to my Ld. in yor. own prudent way ; and if his Lop. come not North Ill, God willing, go South in May to tell from my own mouth to this purpose. Yor etc.

20 ffebry 1720.

To Messrs. Champbell Gerard and Dobson [Stockholm].

THE last time I hade occasion to write to you was pr. the shipp *Success* of this pleace, Alexr. Dunbar Mr., that was unhappily lost on the Swedish coaste near your pleace wt. ane loadning herins. I say, when I wrote you pr. the Sd. Shipp, it was in Compy. and by recomendation of Mr. John Innes, Mercht. of Edr. ; Since [which] I have not been favoured wt. any letter from you. However, doe presume to give you this truble to advise you that in this Country I can at present buy a good quantity of wet Cod fish muded [mudded] ² so as to carry in barrls without pickle. Therfor, doe intreat that, how soon this comes to hand, you 'll pleas advise me if Such fish would be a Commodity wt. you, or what might yeald pr. barell of 32 English gallons, being good fish and well cured, and what payt. Could be gott, whether Barter and of what kind, and if in Specie, how the same will now ansuer in Exchange with Sterl: money ; as also prices of herins, Iron, Coper, panbress,³ etc. with you. I will expect a Speedy returne, Since, if the coad fish doe, you may expect to hear further from, etc.

¹ A mark = 13s. 4d. Scots, or, in the seventeenth century, 1s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. sterling. The Bailie's salary for the Petty factorship was thus only £11, 2s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. sterling per annum.

² 'Mud fish' and 'mudded fish' are terms still in use among Aberdeen fishcurers to denote cod fish salted wet, so as to make them keep without pickle.— Letter from Mr. W. Grant, Aberdeen, to the Editor.

³ Brass for pans.

Invernes, 10 March 1720.

My Lord Strathnaver.

YOUR Lop. may remember that when Mr. Innes,¹ Termit,² and I sent you the signed Contracts for the bear we bought, there was at the same time a Letter wrot your Lop. signifying that Termits receipt or mine would be sufficient to Your Lop. for sd. bear. Now I have oppertunity to Dispose of it so as to have it presently caried away ; therfor I Desire that, seing Mr. Innes nor Termit are [here], nor doe I know when I can hear from them, Your Lop. will please signify in return to this that the bear will be Delivered to My order on Demand, conform to Contract, that is four hundred bolls, at the port of Feriovens ;³ and by this I will be enabled to end fully with the Gentleman I am in terms with, and Your Lop. will be secured in all respects and events. And I think fitt to signify that, notwithstanding the terms of payment for this bear is Lambas and Mertimas, Yet I am Content to pay Most or all at Whitsunday, on Discount of the Common interest till it Fall Due. And as to the Malt I shall take Speedie Course with the receiving of it, not Doubting it will be sufficient mercht. Ware. Ile take the 200 bolls more bear your Lop. has @ 5 £ Scots pr. boll, Whitsunday payment, and the 200 [bolls] meall and 150 bolls malt 7 merks, Mertimass payment being sufficient.

Invernes, 11th March 1720.

To Mr. Alexr. McIntosh, Termite.

A. C [OUSIN],—Since you wrote me last I could find no oportunity of a Ship to export the Bear wee bought of My L. Strathnaver, and yrfore, rather than hazard our Interest at uncertanties, I have Sold ye 400 bolls Bear to Baillie Robertson at twentie pence pr. boll profite, qch.

¹ John Innes, Merchant, Edinburgh.

² Mackintosh of Termit.

³ Feriovens is the little ferry across the mouth of Loch Fleet in Sutherland. It is sometimes called 'Unis,' and is the 'Unes fl' of Blaeu's Map.

I think is much surer gaine than to export it, and the Baillie promises to pay ye money very Soon. This I have thought fit to Signify for yor. government, so as you might make any bargain, or freight any Ship, for sd. Bear.

11th March 1720.

To Mr. Alexr. Andrews, Rotterdam.

I HAVE yor. favours of 23d and 28 ultimo, qch. principally advises of Mr. Turpins arrivall, that you ordered ye Salmon pr. Scout from Amsterdam to Rotterdam Since he drew too much water to come through Land. All I can Say on ye matter is that I hope ye have taken Care of our Interest in paying D. Turpins freight, and that you Sold the Salmond, for I doe not fancie they should ly over year. I recd. p. Andw. Watson half piece of Linnen and a piece Musline and noe more ; But have no advice from you about ye Same. You'll mind to send me by ye *Margaret* of this pleace, John McKenzie Mr., ye Burgundy wine and Seven Ells Lace qch. I formerly Commissioned for ; and, if good tobaco can be bought not exceeding 4 stivers pr. pd., may Send me pr. sd. Ship *Margt.* four hogsheads in Turses ; but be sure it be really good fresh goods, or don't send any. You may recommend my Interest particularly to Mr. McKenzie, who will take Special Care of it ; and I am, etc.

1t Aprile 1720.

Mr. Wm. Cuming [Edinburgh].

THIS Serves to put you in mind to inquire after the money insured on the Ship the *Alexr.* of this pleace by your friend Mr. Sawden as you advised, which I think is 70 £ Ster. I think the Story is so notour and Confirmed that the Insurer will make no difficulty to pay on the common discount ; but, to Satisfie him, May Show him My C[ousin] Alexr. Steuarts own letter, dated the 29 Decemr. last, from Miquinize,¹ wherein he tells the ship and Cargoe was

¹ Mequinez or Mekinez in Morocco.

lost going in over ye bar of Sallie.¹ This letter my friend Culloden,² or Mr. Wm. Steuart, Our parl. man,³ will procure being Sent to London by the Comr., to be laid befor the privy Councill ; So pray notice it, and if any affidavit from my fayr. or me be requisite it shall be Sent you or yor. Correspondent whenever you please. Pray enquire if the Venetian Gellie be yet arrivd from the Mediterranean, in which Ship my 2d Son Rot. is. If Arrived, Call for the boy, know how he is, and give him yor best advice ; and if you and Gilbert Gordon, who has gon from here for London this day, would doe me the kindness to wait off Capt. Jess, Comr. of sd. Ship, and spend ane guinea with him, and thank him upon my account, It would be a great favour, and I would repay you heartily.

Invernes, 6 May 1720.

Mr. John McLeod, advocat.

ANDREW SCOTT, Meason, builds the Laird of McLeod's tomb,⁴ has Gott a great pairt of the stons Designed for that Use here, and assures me that nixt week all will be on the spott, soe that I have given him some Mony, and the full of the 1000 merks due him by Contract Must be payed nixt week. Therfor, according to Your Desire, I have valued on You for one thousand merks scots at 15 days sight, payable to the Commissioners of excise ; but shall take care that the same be applyed to the proper use by Mr. Scott ; And I am etc.

Inverness, 20 May 1720.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Sr., at Rotterdam.

I RECEIVED your favour of 16th ultimo wh. brought the

¹ Sali, on the Atlantic coast of Morocco.

² John Forbes of Culloden ('Bumper John'), who, on his death in 1734, was succeeded by his brother Duncan, Lord Advocate, and afterwards Lord President.

³ See p. 10, n.

⁴ The laird's tomb still stands in the Chapel Yard, Inverness.

Invoice of goods pr. Andrew Watson and John McKenzie Barques, wh. goods came safe to hand, except that one of the chids of burgundy had wanted one flask and had ane other old broken flask, wh. Looks as if put in not full ; and the half pc. of holland pr. sd. Watson measurs but $17\frac{1}{4}$ yds., wheras it shoud measure 19 yds. or thereby, being charged at 25 Dutch yds. ; so youll inquire into these mistakes and let them be redressd. The tubacco you sent me is pretty good, but it and all hollands goods are a drug here at present. I observe ye amount of my Invoice is about 400 glds. ; so, when you can make ye accompt of Sales of Salmond sent you by the *Alexr.* in anno 1718, may make out my accompt Currt. and send it me. Being informed yt. David Stivenson in ye *Janet* of this pleace goes from London to Load wt. you for this frith, please send me by the sd. ship two chids more of burgundy, but take care that it be not quite so shweetish in the teast as the last you sent me, for it is not thought quet so good as the chid I had last year. And notice to transferr the price of the chid of burgundy you charg'd to James Russell accompt to myne. I got severall posts agoe the miserable accompt of Sales of Salmond in Compt pr. Capt. Turpine, by wc. we will be considerably Loosers. I find your porte is a very poor precarious mercat for Salmond, having seldom found profites on ye Commodity wt. you. Send me wt. David Stivenson one pound of good tea for my own use, and I am, etc.

Inverness, 20 May 1720.

AFF. SON,¹—I got last post yours with the three shirts you returned. I observe your reason for not sending me or now the Erle Murrays receipt for £40 Ster: sent you for his Lordships accompt. You failed only in that you did not write his Lordship that you had sd. money and only wanted his receipt for the same ; but I expect or now it 's call'd for, and yt. I will have a voucher for the same from

¹ Alexander Steuart, apprentice to William Cumming, Edinburgh.

you pr. first. I send you inclosed first bill Richd. Peddly on Alexr. Innes at the Land tax office for £100 Ster.; we. you are to pay to the E. of Murrays order, and getting his Lops. receipt in my name for sd. sume in parte payt. of my accepted bill of £155 ster.;, price of his Lops. Salmond I bought Last year. May write to his Lops when ye bill is payd, as I have done by this post. Deliver ye incloseds as directed and get Sixteen pence from Mr. Steuart and two shillings and four pence from Mr. James Cumming; and I am your afft. ffather.

[In a letter to William Lorimer, Chamberlain to the Earl of Findlater, date 7th June 1720, the Bailie states 'My honest dear father has departed this life the 22nd Aprile.']

17th June 1720.

John McKenzie, Mr. of ye *Margret* of Inverness.

THIS servs to advise you that G. Gordon, being lately arrived here from London, does assure me that if ye proceed from Yarmouth to London you can't miss yor full cargoe of goods for this pleace. Therefor I desire how Soon you are discharged at Yarmouth you proceed accordingly thither, and address yor Self to Mr. Joseph Fakney, and cause ship for my Accot., which shall Serve you for ballast, 4000 well fired bricks, provideing you get them free aboard at 11 or 12 sh. Str. pr. 1000. And after you have got in what Merchandise you can expect, please full up all yor empty room with fresh barrell hoops for my accot. And if you have not money to pay for the Same, address your Self to Mr. George Auchterlony, my Correspondent, and draw on me for any litle money you 'll want. Take Care in buying the hoops that ye medle with few or no pints or half barrell ware, Since they are Scarce vendable here. Buy for me the following particulars, Vizt., a Doz. hard mettall trenchers for broath, two English quart botles of the best eating florence oyl, a house lantern to hold two Candles, and a garden Spade.

June 30, 1720.

To Mr. Wm. Cuming, Edinr.

WEe herewith remitt you fifty two pounds four shillings and four pence half pennie Str., as also two bills, Each for the like value of £52 : 4 : 4½ Str., payll. to Messrs. Hugh and Archd. Hamilton, Merchts. in Edinr., upon the first days of August and Octor. next respective. Wee send you likeways inclosed the Scroll of a Contract past betwixt John Innes, Mert. in Edinr., and James Russell and partners on the oyr. part, by which youll See the whole affair, and what wee are obliged to perform. It seems Mr. Innes has some time past assigned this Contract to Messrs. Archd. and Hugh Hamiltons, Upon which James Russell to his great surprise is lately charged with horning, Notwithstanding, as you 'll See by the Contract, he 's only obliged to accept bills for his own fourth share of ye Cargoe, and was expecting ever Since the goods were Delivered to have Seen Some person in Mr. Hamiltons name who would have cancelled the Contract and taken bills in terms yrof ; but to this hour he had no oyr. demand made on him but this horning. Now what Wee are to desire of you, that you immediatly call for sd. Messrs. Hamiltons and make offer to them of the above Sum of £52 : 4 : 4½ Ster., As also of the two bills Containing each the like Sum, Upon their granting to the sd. James Russell a full discharge of ye Contract, qch. wee hope will not be refused. Wee think fit to advise you that James Russell has got a Summonds befor the Admirall Court upon this Same head again ye 19 day of July next ; but for what all this work and bussell with a man that inclines to doe just things I can't understand. Wee desire you may communicate this letter to John Innes, who was bargan master, and tell him that he knows very well that Mr. Russell was to be noe farther concerned than for his own fourth share of that bargain, and that wee hope he 'll see that he getts noe needless trouble Since he offers to pay his Share honestly. But, in case Messrs. Hamiltons does not agree to this

proposall, Wee desire that you by ye advice of Comissar Steuart See to make the best defence in law possible by Suspending or makeing the oyr. necessary defences; and wee hereby promise to pay all needfull charges on this head. Wee send you for your direction the Charge of horning, and ye Charge befor the Admirall inclosed, also the £166 : 13 : 1½ Ster. included in the two bills and money Sent you. Wee Suppose will fall a litle short of the full price of Liquors Contained in the Contract; but least that should be any obstacle in the affair we desire you may pay in for us what it wants, and it shall be thankfully payed you; and we are Yours

JAMES RUSSELL.

JOHN STEUART.

1st July 1720.

To Ditto.

I WROTE to you of yesterday's date in Company with James Russell, to which refers. Notwithstanding I mentioned ye £52. ster. you are to pay Messrs. Hamiltons to be in the former letter, yet you shall receive it here inclosed in bank noats, Vizt. 8 £5 noats one 10£ noat, and 2 twenty shillings Ditto; and please advance ye four shill. and 4 pence half pennie and pleace the Same to my Accot. . . .

Accot. of bank noats sent to Wm. Cuming pr. ye bag ye 1st July 1720.

Ten pound Nr. $\frac{28}{5561}$

Five pound Nr. $\frac{32}{6284}$

5 pound No. $\frac{67}{1331}$

5 pound No. $\frac{73}{14596}$

5 pound $\frac{51}{10146}$

5 pd. Nr. $\frac{62}{12254}$

5 pd. $\frac{45}{8996}$

5 pd. $\frac{54}{10646}$

5 pd. $\frac{51}{11056}$

1 pd. $\frac{39}{23173}$

1 pd. $\frac{47}{27651}$

29 July 1720.

Mr. James Cuming, Edr.

I HAVE sold about half of your butt of Cherie to the Laird of Grant¹ and Strathnavers² funeralls @ 30d pr. pynt. Doe expect no money for it untill Mertimass. I most sell the rest of it considerable cheaper, to be rid of it, which is the best I can doe. I'm told there is a good prospect of a herin fishing here.

5 August 1720.

To the Earle of Morray.

MY LORD

I received your Lops. favour of 15th last moneth, wt. the deceast Mr. Denoon³ his bonds to your Lops., wc. shall take care to apply towards payt. of your Lops. share of the comprizing of the manse of Petty. I observe what your Lops. writs anent my buying your Salmond this year. I wrote some time agoe to Sundry merkats for advice, and as yet have got few answers, but such as I have gott are not realy encourageing; so that, if your Lop. find a merchant that will take them at a higher price then I gave last year, I dare not advise to forbear dissposeing of them, since I belive when I have got all the advices I expect I will not be able to come up to Last years price, and the rather that the quantity will be much greater then formerly; and for the two last years I bought them I declare I lost above one hundred guineas by them. In the mean time the ballance I owe for last years fish will certainly remitted nixt post.

¹ Brigadier Alexander Grant of Grant, died at Leith on his way home from London, on 19th August 1719, and was buried in the Chapel Royal, Holyrood.

² Lord Strathnaver died 19th July 1720.

³ The Rev. Alex. Denune, minister of Petty. See p. 41, n.

Mr. Will: Cuming, Ednr.

Inverness, 12 Augt. 1720.

I HAVE your favour of 4th Curt. wt. James Russells acceptance of £52 : 14 : 4½ Ster: to Messrs. hamiltoun Discharged. I wish you would write to Mr. Soden of London and desire him remitt you the ballance due on the insurance made on the *Alexr.* for my account. Since I received your last I have not seen James Russell, but how soon I doe shall order him to apply Termitt on the Subject you write off ; but for my own pairt I care not to medle into it for certain reasons. I have spok to Mr. Geddes to deliver me according to your orders Mr. Zacharie McAulas ¹ bill for the value of it, but he refuses to give me the bill to be transmitted you this post since nixt week he expected payt. of it. Im glade to find you have got upsides wt. McDonald. I observe what you write anent the fishery now setting up with you. Im litle acquent with that project, as it 's Laid down. However, if you and the Generality of Merchts. at Edr. be reconsiled wt. the reasonableness of it, Im content to take a concerne for what sune you 'll bid me not exceeding £1000 Ster. So shall expect your Sentiments about it and your advice nixt post, which shall determine.

Mr. James Cuming, Eder.

Inverness, 12 August 1720.

SIR,—I have your favour of 4th Curt., with the inclosed to William Tolmie, which have perused, and am sorie he has given you ground of Complaint. He has not yet payed the bill you sent me Accepted by him, tho I doubt not he will upon Demand, as he has promised. The herin fishing has hitherto failed, but some fishermen Came in this morning assure that nothing hinders a good fishing but the Easterly winds that now blow. In the mean time

¹ Zachary Macaulay, Stornoway, brother of the Rev. John Macaulay, grandfather of Lord Macaulay.

all Your Cask ordered for William and Hugh Ross are, as I suppose, now at Cromarty, ther being Last week 30 Last caried thither from Chanorie by Mr. Cumings sloop. Howsoon I find the fishing begins Ile goe Down to Chanonre and Cromarty to see that your affairs goe on right, tho I can promise but Litle attendance that Way. I Return your bill of f500 hollands on Robert Gordon, Accepted, and 14d. pence Charges in getting it negotiat. I am, etc.

[The Earl of Moray.]

Inverness, 19 August 1720.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LOP.,—I wrot to your Lop. the 12th Instant, when I sent your Lop. bill inclosed for £55 Sterling (which I doubt not will answer punctually) towards compleat payment of my bills of last years Salmond, except 5 Shillings and 10d. which will liekways make good. I told your lop. in my last that if your lop. found a mercht. for the salmon this year to dispose of them, reserving fifty Barlls for me at the price the rest was disposed of. Now this Serves cheifly to advise your lodship that if the Salmond is not disposed of I will now take the whole at last years, which is fifty Shillings Sterline p. barll, with a fifth pairt rebait for grilses, of which there are wery few in your lordsp. fishing this year. I expect your Lop. will comply to this, and advise James Russell Accordingly, and Ile give him my bill for the price, payable at Whitsunday; and I can pay them sooner Ile be sure to doe it. Farquar Megilivray is gone South with a drove of catle, and promised to pay your lop. fifty pound str. on my accot., in which I hope he will not fail. I am waiting your Lop. answer. My Lord, Your Lop. most oblidged.

Inverness, 19 Augst. 1720.

Mr. George Auchterlony, Edr.

SIR,—I received your favour of 12 July, in which I have no positive advice anent the price of Salmon with you, which mad me hitherto undetermined what orders to Send

you, Since, without knowing the price at London, I could not well determin my Self in a price with my frends the Sellers here ; but last night Georg Urquhart of Cromarty wrot me that you had advised him that you had Sold a parcell for him at 55 shilling pr. barll., without telling me any other particular anent the bargain. However, I hereby impower you to Sell two hundred barlls. for me at the Same price and on the Same terms you have Sold for George Urquhart, or better, if you can ; for I can assure you my Salmon is of better quality then his, being all of the fishing of the rivers Spey and Findhorn. I expect your answer with a full accot. of what you doe in this matter without loss of time ; and I am, etc.

Messrs. Marjoribanks and Coutts, Dantzick.

Inverness, 22 Augt. 1720.

GENTLEMEN,—This goes by the barque *Marjorie* of Inverness, Daniel Fraser, master, and brings you inclosed bill of loadning for 13 small packs of lambskins, which contean, as per inclosed bill of parcells, on Thousand and ninetie on duzans mort lambskins, three hundred and sixty larger lambskins commonly called Small Slaughter Skins, one hundred and thirtie five fox skins, 60½ otter skins ; which skins I desire you may dispose of pr. very first to the best avail ; and after my pairt of the owtward freight is payed, being as per Charterparty, £22 Ster. freight, and 20s. Caplaken in all, to be payed at the Currt. Exchange, which is to be equally proportioned on all the Skines aboard. I say when the freight and my proportion of all other charges be payed you are to Credit Mr. David Lonie of this pleace with the net proceeds of 217 mort, and 130 Dz. Slaughter Do., 89 Fox Skins, 42 otters do., Six Catts. These furs are conteaned in the packe N ii and 12, and you are to folow his own orders Sent you by the master as to the Goods he calls for. Notice that besides the above things you are to Credit me with 20 dz. morts of Lachlan Mackintosh his parcell ; from the net proceeds of all which you are to Ship for my risque and accot.

16 Ship pd. iron, $\frac{1}{3}$ Champaleon, $\frac{2}{3}$ midlin Iron, one lentren Steel, four half Chests of Brimar window glass of the best kind, 150 Spruce Ston Flax in Six packs of the best, Six barells washing Soap in 4 and 8 parts equalie, about 500 lib. Sheet coper conform to the within noat to be done up in two Sheeted bundles, the coils white rope from 6 to 12 threads; and, if there is any wast room after all the Commissions are obeyed, please Ship a great hundred barell staves for Salmond Cask, about 32 inches long each, for my accot. You are to pleace the walue of the goods to my accot., and walue on me payable in this pleace, if posible, for for what ballance I may hapen to be due you; and be sure you order Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam to Insure for my accot. the full value of these goods, as also six hundred gilders hollands on the Hold of the barque. . . . I told you befor that according to Charter pairty each fox and other skin pays freight equal to a dz. of lambskins; so you'll take care that there be no concealment of the quantity shipped here, so as all may pay freight Equalie. . . .

Directions to Daniel Fraser on his Voyage to Dantzick.

Inverness, 22d Augt. 1720.

So, frend, you are to proceed dèrement for Dantzick, where you are to adress your Self to Mr. Alexr. Coutts, and deliver him my letter, who is to receive your cargoe and pay you outward freight, and to ship your homward loading. When you receive your freight at Dantzig, and payed own and mens half wages, you are to buy for my accot. above 300 ccwts. tarred ropes, well sorted, for running riging for a Ship, from 9 threed to three inch or three and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ropes. It. 30 fathoms Shrud rops, four inches thick, for to be four Shruds for the *Margat*, and 20 fathoms ditto, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches round, to be as par of main Shruds for Sd. ship. It. buy from 20 to 30 firr plank, from 16 to 20 foot long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inch thick, to ly under the Iron in the hold, and take care they be good heart plank, or red firr. It. Shoat or 60 Dantzik ells Silesia lining [linen]

of the broadest Sort, the one half at 20 gross pr. ell, and the other about 30. Buy liekways two small caves with best double Strong Dantzig waters, each cave to contean about 4 Dantzig Stoaps or 4 Scots pts. Buy liekways a barell full of the best white peese for the barkes use and mine ; a shuffle of Carline peese for present eating. Mind to sell James Russells two barells pork, and buy for his use the value in Soap ; and mind to Stoap the freight of the pork, and the barell Soap Shipt by Angus Mackintosh, Junior. Be sure to writt wher ever you happen to touch ; and if Should, as God forbid, your barque Should meet with any misfortune by storm or other ways, you and your Crew are to make Efidavit before the first Majistrat you can find, wh. you are to forward to me pr. first.

Mind to Sloat your Barque with Barell Staves of 32 inch long for Salmond Cask, and let all Soap and Selable goods be Stored out of the way ; and be sure you alow no brandy to be Shiped by any of your crew. I pray be carefull of all goods Shipt, that there be no damage imbasement ; and let my goods be first Shipt at Dantzick, and my Soap Keeped at hand for running ; and take notice that you come not above Chanry Ness or Chery Road till all your soap be out ; and I am, Your

If William Binie Desires two barell bulk home, let him have it ; as also Hugh Robertson, William Mackintosh, and Bailie Fraser, a barell bulk Each.

Mr. Georg Auchterlony, Lond.

Inverness, 9 7ber 1720.

SIR,—My last to you was the 26 ulto, which, with my former of 19 do., was advising you to insure for my accot. on the barque *Marjorie* of this place, from this to Dantzig, £130 St. ; and I hope to be advised of your Compliance in course. Now this comes Cheefly to give you the trouble of reading, Sealing, and delivering the inclosed and Sub-joined letter to Captine Jessy, of the Venetian Gelly. Youl see it retails to a young lad, a son of myne, that took

a fancy about two years agoe to try a Voyage or tuo at Sea with Sd. Capt. Jessy, who is leatly arrived at London, from whence my Sd. Son, Robert Steuart, writts me a letter compleaning that this last Voyage he has been wery much neglected by the Capt., and maltreated by the under officers of the Ship, and Seems inclyned to be rid of Sd. Ship. It is true I am not wery apt to listin much to Compleants of this kind, fearing the boy may be in the wrong on way or other, disoblged the Capt. ; and therefore I must beg leave to truble you to call for the boy, and to discourse him about the grounds of his compleant, and, if Just, please advise me, but whither So or oyrways please take the truble to discourse the Capt., and give him a hearty botle of wine on my Charges, and gett his Character of the boy, and pay him the Contents of the inclosed Accot., being £8 : 1 : 6 Sterline, And what further he has debursed on the boys accot. Since first of Augt. 1719. And after you have discoursed the Capt. and the boy, youle then be able to Judge if Sd. Capt. has been in the wrong or not. If he has, I doe not incline to have my Son undergoe needless hardships ; and So youl pleace derect the boy to boord himself in Some house in the Citty at as frougall a rate as posible untill he can aquire a litle of what he begun to learn last year in navigation, and writting, Arithmetick, and in which I suppose a month or two may doe pretty much ; and then he may take passage to Leith or hither homeward. The Expençe of this manteanance at London, and what may bring him home, please to pay, as also his Capts. accot. for which you are to value on me, and your bill Shall find due honour ; and I am Your, etc.

Inverness, 16 7ber 1720.

Comisser Steuart, Edr.

SIR,—I received yours of 25t Ultimo with the Copy of your Broysrs letter of 2d June last, which wery melting and deplorable. In the meantime its comfortable that he, his Broyr, and Crew are Still alive, and in health ; and I hope Capt. Steuart Expedition from England to the Court

of Moroca will have the wished for Success towards their relief, which I pray God grant. I should have answered your last much Sooner, but, being almost perswaded that you was on your Jurny north, I forbore writting. Thomas Alves did Communicat to me your letter to him of 8th Currt., and, least owr poor frinds in Captivity should want, or you too much Streatned on their accot., I have, by advice of the managers Concerned in the Contributions for their accots., Sent to my Son Bill Major Sly on Alexander Inneys, payable on Sight, for £56 Ster., which Bill is indorsed to you; and for it yow are to give my Son your Receipt, promising to apply the Same for the use of your Broyr Alex: and Donald and Crew, which fealing, to return the Same to Thomas Alves and me being Countable to the Contributors for what wee have received, and for yt reason only it is that we demand a receipt of This kind of you.

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To the Earle of Morray, Danibirsle.

Inverness, 23rd 7ber 1720.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LOP.,—I have your lop.'s favour of 14th Currt wherin I observe your lop. is anxious to have your bond for £313 Sterline, with interest since 18th August 1719, retired from the Lady Kinminity [Kinmundy] by Your Lops. rents for Cropt 1719. I thought my Self obliged to Inform your Lop. without loss of time (and I am sorie to tell it) that it will not be in my power to retire that bond at the term of Mertimass, either by your Lops. Efects or my own, for Declaire Since ever I was concerned in Petty I could never get comand one hundred pound Sterline of your Lops. rents at preciesly at Martimass; and your Lop. must know that of last Crop the tenants of Pettie did not deliver 500 bolls bear, the Cropt being Exceeding bad and Scarce; and this year there bear Cropt is nothing better, but oats and ry very good. Besides, our brewers in this pleace think it very good payment if they pay there Martimass any time

before the first of January, and Some not before Candlemass. So, as I said, I dare not promise this year that £100 will answer precisly at Mertimass, doe I what I please. How ever, Since I find your Lop. so pressing as to the payment of this Ladies Bond, Ile endeavour, tho should put 20 Irons in the fire, to make good about Martimass, that is, again the first of December nixt, about 200£ Ster. ; and therafter your Lop. will writt to James Russell to Concur with me in getting the rest of the mony mad up. And, failing of that, I know Dawson, that buys your Lop. Salmond, can Easily do it, for he sells all to Londoners for ready mony. . . .

To Rob: Steuart, my Son.

30 *Sept.* 1720.

AFFT. SON,—I wrote to you lately under cover to your brother, to wc. I have no returne as yet. And since I wrote to my friend Mr. George Auchterlony, mercht., London, anent you, and sent him, towards clearing Capt. Jesse, what is due him on your acct. a bill of Sixteen pds. ster.; wt. orders to advance what furder wou'd be needfull to clear you off from London, and bring you home by the first occasion of a Ship for this place or Leith. And now I positively desire you repair home hither without loss of time by first occasion offers. Your brother writs me you had a notion of undertaking a farr woyage, but I forbidde you to harbour any Such thoughts; and you know, I hope, if you disobey my commands you cannot prosper the better; but I hope you will not. So, referring what I wrote Mr. Ochterlony about you, I am, etc.

30 *Sept.* 1720.

To Alexr. my Son, Edr.

AFT. SON,—I received yours pr. last post, and wt. it Comissr. Steuarts receipt of £50 Ster: value of Major Sleighs bill, wc. is very well. I send you inclosed a letter to your Brother Robert, wc. read, and forward pr. first.

You most write him pressingly to come home, for I think I am best Judge what is best for him ; and, if he dissobey my commands, he may smart for it when too late ; but I hope he knows more of his duty, and will not play the fool. Give my Service to your Mr., and tell him that James Russell intreats of him to speak to Mr. Hamilton to forbear payt. of his accepted bill, payable the first of October, untill the first of Novr., and that he will pay his bill wt. interest thankfully at that time, being at present scarce of money, as to wc. advise me what Mr. Hamilton Says. Your Grandfathers drab coat, wt. all his other cloath, are dissposed off, being but of very litle value.

Mr. Wm. Cumming [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 7th October 1720.

SIR,—I send you inclosed John Forbes, Writer at Edr., his note, I mean Mr. Duncan Forbes¹ Nefew, for nine quadruples of Spanish Gold, and two Guineas, which is all I recevd from Balie Barbour, Except 3 sh. an 6d. of mony, which I would not truble him to carry you. So you may pleace the Same to my accot. Balie Barbour only received on Mr. Youngs accot. nine quadrouples and 3 pistoles, of wh. he payd in to the Gentleman that delivered him the Gold 3s. ; and one Sh. more he stoped for portage of letters. So that I think he has Exactly balanced that accot. I think I have answered your orders by Sending your Gold.

To Mr. John McLeod [Advocate] Edr.²

Inverness, 21st 8ber 1720.

SIR,—I drew on you fourteen days agoe for £5 : 1 : 6 Ster. for like value payd to Andrew Scott, Meason, in part payment of what you are due him pr. Contract for building McLeods Monument. Now I have drawn on you of

¹ See p. 112, n. 2.

² See p. 112.

this deat for the Sd. Andrew Scotts accot., conform to your orders, £24 pou: 18s : 6d. Ster.; payable at 3 days Sight to my Son, Alexr. Steuart, to which I doubt not youle give punctuall Compliance. I understand that towards Martimass the thousand merks resting be bond by James Thomson and his frind Matheson to your deceast broyr Contiluch will be pd. ; So, if you please to Send the bond to me, He receive your mony, and dispose of it as youle advise and I am, Your Most Hum.

Mr. Georg Achterlony, London,

Inverness, 28t 8ber 1720.

SIR,—I have your favour of 15th Instant, and I return yow hearty thanks for your care in inquiring into my Son Roberts compleants of his treatment with Capt. Gesse and I am pleased he is over them his resentment, and resolves to proceed another voyage with sd. Capt. Since he inclynes not to come home as I ordered. Give my humble Service to Capt. Gesse, and asure him from me that what kindness and good offices he does my Son will be gratefully remembered. I observe my bill of £15 : 17 : 8 Sterline on Leut. Ritherfourd is paid, and that you was to pay Capt. Gesse on my Son accot. from sd. bill £10 : 18 : 6 Sterline, and have given my Son a litle mony and was to give Some more, which is all well ; but will have yow take notice that, if my Son make any Extravagant demand on you, you are not to comply, nor doe I mean to alow you to Judge. Please take his receipt for what mony you give him, which please forward to me, and the ballance due you will be thankfully pd. I saw Mr. Dawson the other day, and he is now very sencible that his sending Comissions this year to London without Concerting Measures with Georg Urquhart and me has been a considerable loss to himself and oysr, and I supose youle send that matter nixt year upon a better fitting, and I hope to your advantage and owrs. The barque *Magory* of this place, for which you insured leatly 130 £ Ster. on my accot. in the hands of Mr. Richard Cambridge, Sailed from this port

for Dantzig 23d Augt. last, Since which I have no accot. of her ; So that now I begin to fear all is not well with sd. barque, and I pray God send good news of her. Please deliver the inclosed to my Son, and I wish it may prevent my orders in my last ; and I am, etc.

To the Lady Kilmundy.

Inverness, 5t Nov. 1720.

MADAM,—The Earle of Morray writt to me Some time agoe advising that he was due you by bond £313 Ster., with some interest, and his Lop. was peremter to pay that mony at this tearme. I have therefor Sent this Express to acquaint you that again the tenth of next month your mony will be ready, and therefor in return to this please acquaint me where you will have this mony payd, for it will be equall to me whither here or at Edr. ; but Either Case its fitt that Some trustie be Sent here that will Clear with me and give up the Earle of Murrays ; and if your Lap. thinks this payment will be a little too late after the tearme, your intrest Shall be payd to a day. Your positive answer is Expected by, Madam, Your etc.

Mr. John McLeod, Edr.

Inverness, 18 Nov. 1720.

DEAR SIR,—Sir Keneth Mackenzie of Scatuall sent me this day twelve hundered Merks which he desir'd to be remitted you pr. first, and accordingly I Send you inclos'd bill Major Samuel Sliagh on Alexr. Innes, payable to yourself, for £66 : 13 : 4d. Sterling, which is Equivolent to the Sume I received from Scatwall ; So youl advise pr. first that the bill is come to your hands and of its Success. Andrew Scott is pressing to have the last payment in his contract for the tomb. I think there will be no hazard to give it Since the outer wall is built to the Capston or tableing ; and I am, etc.

Mr. George Faulconer.

Inverness, 31 Decbr. 1720.

SIR,—I got your favour of 20th Curt., wt. ten small bills on Sundrys in this place, drawn by Mr. Alexr. Coutts of Danzig, payll on moneth after Sight, accepted, and the tenth on Mr. Lachlen McIntosh. He wou'd not accept this post, but or nixt you may expect it. Since Mr. McIntosh chiefly means by delaying acceptance to gain a litle time I thought it wou'd be more in the drawers favour to delay on post than returne the bill protested ; and I hope youll not think whats done amiss, for I belive your money will be very good. I have promised to the acceptors of the inclosed bills that, tho their money doeth not come to your hands precisely as their bills falls due, that you 'll spare them a few days befor you protest their bills, considering the present scarcity of money every where. Some friends and I have at present a good ship on our West Cost load wt. about 56 lasts fine Lewis herrings. The Mr. is by Charterparty obliged, when the Season alows, to procede to the Baltick or Hamburg in our obtion. If to Hamburg gets three pouds ten shill. pr. last freight out and home. If to Danzig or Stockholme gets £4 : 10s. pr. last ; but is obliged to return to London, Leith, or New Castel in our obtion, or to this place. The Ship is ordered hither that all the Cargoe may be unload and packed before the Ship procede to the Sound in the Spring. Now if your self or any of your good acquaintances would incline to buy this Cargo at a reasonabl price, and take assignation of our Charter party, you may write me pr. first wt. the terms on wc. wou'd purchass Such a Cargo. I am, Sir, etc.

Bills returned accepted :—

John Steuart for	£50	Da: Hoom	. £12 : 0 : 0
Do. for	3	Alexr. McIn-	
B[ailie] William Fraser	32	tosh, Termit	8 : 5 : 4
Hugh Roberston	. 19	John Fraser	. 2 : 15 : 9
Will: Binny	. £18 : 1 : 4	Tho: Alves	. 2 : 2 : 10½

Mr. John Gesse [London].

Inverness, 30 9ber 1720.

SIR,—At the desire of your brother, Capt. Willm. Jesse, I presume to give you the trouble of sealing and forwarding the inclosed under your covert for Venice : it is for a young lad is along with your Brother, who is my Son. I wrote to your Brother Some time agoe informing him I had a mind to send him a hhd. of good ffrench Clarett when I could find a proper opportunity. He returned me answer if I sent him any wine to adress it to you. Now I must informe you thatt all our ffrench wine in this Country is gone quit wrong, being all prickt this year ; but in March or Aprile nixt I expect a parcell of good new strong wine, and then you may expect to hear from me, that is, if proper clearances can be gott to keep it from seasure when it comes to London ; or if you 'll write me a direction how to gett it Safe wtout a proper clearance, I 'le folow your Direction. I am, Sir, etc.

Messrs. Andrews and Gerard [Rotterdam].

Inverness, 13 Janry 1721.

LAST post we have a letter of the 31st Ultimo N: S: which brought us the following melancholy particulars from Alexr. Ross, Mercht. in Copenhagen, anent owr barque the *Majorie* of Inverness, Daniel Fraser, Master, bound homward from Dantzig, Vizt. that about the 20th December N: S: the Sd. Barque, in her way homward from Dantzig, was forced by a violent Storm to anker 3 Danish miles southward from Copenhagen, in which pleace, the Storm increasing wery violently, and See being full of ice, the Master and the crew, it seems, despairing of Safty for their lives in the barque, betook themselves to their boat in order to get ashoar, being five in number ; but, misfortunately, falling in among ice and broken water, the boat was overturned, by which the master and two of the crew were drowned, and only the remaining tuo narrowly escaped. But the barque being left at an anker hapned to rid out the Storm (as we judge by owr information) ; and Som days thereafter, the Storm being over, one John Wan Oste, a Danish Sea Captain, went on boord the barque, having

owr tuo Surviving men and Some Danish Sailers alongs with him, who on the 25th of that month N: S:, brought the barque Safe into Copenhagen harbour, where, for ought wee know, the barque and the Cargoe remain still safe. But sd. John Van Ost writes us yt. he expects, conform to the coustome of Denmark, full salvage and Charges for saving of sd. Barque and Cargoe, as taken up at sea in the most desperate Case, which Mr. Rose, in his letter to us explains to be a third of Ship and Cargoe, besides charges, which we think is a very exorbitant demand. However, as it appears by your severall advices to us of 22d Novr. last, that William Mackay had got insured on sd. Barque Cargoe F830. Hol. and John Steuarts F1950 Hol. upon the Barque and Cargoe, both policies being signed be your Companie, we think, as the Compa. will be lyable for ovr damages, it will be their interest to adjust their salvadge and Charges that falls on the Ship and ovr proportions of the Cargoe with sd. Van Ost, who writes us he was to unload the Cargoe for his own security. Therefor, wee hope you will use the needfull means for ovr interest, and advise Mr. Alexr. Ross of Copenhagen what it will be necessary for him to doe in the mean time for our interests, who writts that he will Send the necessary documents to any wee ordered, in the case of insurance being made; and we have writt him of this date to Send the Same to you, which orders please confirm to Mr. Ross, if nedfull. And for your further goverment we Send you dubles of our Invoyses from Dantzic, atested, and ovr bills of Loadning, as also John Steuart declaration anent his property on the Ship, which is all that occurs us to doe at present; only that we think to tell you that the mony we insured upon the barque and Cargoe comes So near the full value of ovr interests that, Should the Insurance masters demurr in paying of our damage in Copenhagen, we are willing to assign them to ovr interests in Ship and Cargoe upon payment of ovr mony insured; but we leave it to you to doe for ovr interests as Seems you best.

[JOHN STEUART.]

[WILLIAM MACKAY.]

[LACHLAN MACKINTOSH.]

Inverness, 13th Janry. 1721.

Mr. Alexander Ross, Copenhagen.

SIR,—Wee see yours to John Steuart of 31st ultimo N. S. in wh. we have the disagreeable news of the death of Honest Donald Fraser and tuo of his crew, as also that our barque the *Majorie* of this pleace was brought safe of the 23rd ditto into your harbour of Copenhagen, and that a Danish Captain, who, with the assistance of our tuo surviving men, did so secure the barque and cargoe, demand a third part of the full value of both hyr and cargoe as salvadge, besides chareges. Wee think fitt to advise you that we have a letter of same date with yours from one John Vanoste, who appears to be the same Danish Capt. you mention, who wrett a full accot. of what has hapned much in substance as you doe, but does not condescend on what proportion off value of ship and cargoe he would have, but asks yt. he expects to be payd for salvadge and charges according to the coustome of the country, which indeed we doe not undertsand. In the meantime, he tells us he is to unload the cargoe for his security, which wee think is more than he can be answerable to doe. However, after returning you our most hearty thanks for your kind and good officis for owr interests, this service only to advise you, and, notwithstanding of what wee writt in a seperat letter of this date anent the whole Cargoe, you are to take notice that our particular Interests are fully Insured. We have of this date advised Messrs. Robert Gerard and Alexander Andrews, Merchts. of Rotterdam, to corispond with you in this affair, and to give you the needfull derections for sending them the needfull atestations and documents for recovering owr damage of the Insure Masters, so that youl take care that in the documents to be sent to Holland non of the Charges that may fall to owr shares either as to salvadge or otherways be omitted. And before you make any bargain with Capt. Van Oste for the barque or owr interests in the Cargoe its necessary you be advised

by our frinds at Rotterdam what is proper for you to doe for our actts. Only upon the whole wee think Mr. Van Oste's Demands are unreasonable, and that no law will oblige us to such exorbitant salvadge as he demands. Therefor wee earnestly entreat that you use your best Interest and endeavours that, as our effects has fallen in the Hands of Strangers, wee be not imposed upon nor oppressed; and in this no doubt My Lord Glenurchy, our British Envoy, will assist you. So that, referring to what we say further in our Genll. Letter of this date, we remain
Your Most Humll. J. S. [JOHN STEUART].

W. MCK. [WILLIAM MACKAY].

N.B.—That the Insurance made for us in Holland is against all Hazards.

Inverness, 13th Janry. 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Ross, Copenhagen.

SIR,—Your favours of the 28th and 31st ulto N. S. to Lachlan Mackintosh and John Steuart are before us, by which we have the wery deplorable news of the death of Honest Daniel Fraser and tuo of their Crew, by the overturning of their boat in endeavouring to come ashoar out of the barque the *Majorie* of this pleace, after sd. barque had been forced to ancor by a violent Storm three Danish miles southward of Copenhagen; and thereafter the storm was abated, the sd. Barque was brought by the tuo surviving men of the crew, with the assistance of a Danish Captain and tuo or three others, to the Harbour of Copenhagen where we suppose she remains safe. You Likways accquent us that the sd. Danish Capt. demands $\frac{1}{3}$ of the value of ship and Cargo, besides Charges, for bringing of Sd. Barque to Copenhagen. Tho' wee must own that we cannot think of being ungrait or ungenerous to any that has given assistance in preserving our Interests on such an occasion, but on the conterary that they shall be Handsomly rewarded, we are mightily surprized that any man pretending to Charity or Honesty Should make such an

Extravagant demand as the third of shyp and Cargoe, besides charges, for shuch a piec of service, when, according to your information, which we belive is very genuin, that shyp can in no sence be obleand as an or a ship abandoned in the open seas, but on the conterary riding safe in a Road, with living men belonging to hir to acclain the property in hir; and why, forsooth, a ship in such a case should, for being carried 3 Danish miles to Copenhagen, be exposed to all this Cleam of Slavadge and Charges, is what we canot understand. But wee hope there is both law and justice to be found in Denmark, that the Interest of the British Envoy, My Lord Glenurehy, joined with your own, will proteet us from opression in shuch a pinching case. And, in the mean time, wee hearby empower yow so to notice and secure owr interests in sd. Barque and hir Cargoe to all intents and purposes as if wee were personaly present, that is, by securing the Cargoe that none of it be embazled or damnified, paying reasonable reward to the Danish Capt. and others who concurred to bring the Barque to Copenhagen, and, by inventoring and securing the Papers and efects of the defunct Daniel Fraser, who was master, and lastly by encouradhing the tuo surviving men, Alexr. Clerk and John Grant, to remain wh. the barque, and notice hir and Cargoe untill a master arrive with them, with our further orders wh. I hope will be very soon. You are to take notice that, as William McKay and John Steuart have yr. interests in the Barque and Cargoe insured against all Hazards, you are to be advised and Deredected by Messrs. Alexr. Andrews and Robert Gerard, Mercht. in Rotterdam, as to any composition may be due for salvadge, etc., least, by docing otherways, owr claim against the Insure Masters be weakened. And youle take care to send these Gentlemen such atestations in owr behalf as they requere. Wee herby send you atest duble of the Invoices of the whole Cargoe in case it be needfull to acertain the value of the same with yow; and what mony you deburse in this affair please value on us for the same, as also for your own truble and pains, payed at Edr., and your draugh

shall be punctually Honoured. Wee have a letter of the same dait with your last from one Jan Vanost, who appears to be the same Danish Capt. that you mention brought the barque to Copenhagen. He wretts a relation of the affair much to the same purpose as you doe, but says he was to unload the cargoe for securing his salvadge and Charges, tho does not mention how much salvadge he was to expect ; but wee hope you have prevented shuch a rash way of meddling, since we inclyne to pay that Gentleman very hansomly for his pains. In the mean time pleas advise us fully, when this comes to hand, what is done in our affair. You may Expect to hear furdur from us very soon ; so we Remain Your Humble Servants,

J. S. [JOHN STEUART].

L. M'I. [LACHLAN MACKINTOSH].

W. McK. [WILLIAM MACKAY].

Inverness, 13th Janry. 1721.

Mr. Jean Vanoste, Copenha.

SIR,—I have your favour of 31st Ultimo, which brings very melancolly news of the death of Daniel Fraser and tuo of his crew, belonging to the barque *Majorie* of Inverness, which Barque, being left at an anker three Danish miles eastward of Copenhagen, you, with tuo of the crew remained alive of sd. Barque, secured hir and Cargoe in Copenhagen. Sir, I must own this to have been a charitable, kind action, and I have writt to My frend, Mr. Alexr. Ross of Copenhagen, Mercht., to reward thankfully your pains, truble, and Charges. But I am surprized to find you mention in your letter as if you was in design to unload the barque. I doe not know but your doing so may be found to rash an action, Since I suppose your Cleam of salvadge will not arise so High as that you need midle with the Cargoe. However, the whole care of barque and Cargoe being left to Mr. Ross, I hope he will adjust matters with you for the interest of the concerned and your satisfaction ; and if in any think I can serve you here you may Command, Sir, Your etc.

[JOHN STEUART.]

Mr. Alexr. Ross, Copen.

Inverness, 13th Janry. 1721.

SIR,—All I have to add is that the barque is wholly min. I desire you supply the tuo men who have survived, and I hope doe attend the barque, with what necessary manteanance they may want, which comes in with the rest of accot. of Charges; and I desire, if you can dispose to profite the Shock Selesia lining [linen], the packs flax, thre barells soap, of what I have aboard, pray fail not to doc it. What these goods coast me youl see by the Invoice; so youl know best what to doc. When you draw on me and above gentlemen for your debusments, fail not to draw on your Corispondent for the proceeds of what goods you dispose of mine. There will be a skypar sent for the Barque as soon as possible; and I am Your etc.

[JOHN STEUART.]

Inver., 13th Jany. 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Andrews [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I received your favour last post of 27th ulto, and I am heartily sory for the loss of your childerin, as I am for David Steenson, ship Master, his misfortune. You are not to ship any goods for me for this pleace till further orders; so that this princpaly is to desire how soon this comes to hand youl call for sd. David Steenson, or, if com of, for his mait, Charles Pape, and try if can prevail with either of them, particularly David, to goe to Copenhagen without loss of time to take charge of my barque the *Majorie*, and to bring home hither. And, in case he condecend to goe, you are to agree for his wagis, not exceeding Seven pound Sterline, with the needfull allowance of mony for charges to Copenhagen, where pleas recomend him to Mr. Ross for the necessary instructions, and to suply what he wants for suplying his voyage. Of this accpent me by very first what you are to doc.

Mr. William Cumming, Edr., Mercht.

Inverness, 22d Janry., 1721.

SIR,—How soon this comes to your hand we desire the favour of you to call for our townsman, Georg Rogers, Master of the *Anna Gally* of this place, and, if he is not engaged under freight, you endeavour to freight him for our accots. to goe from the firth directly with a loading of coals for Rotterdam, and from thence with a loading of such goods as we shall order to be shipt directly back to this frith ; for which we hereby empower you to contract with him in our names, and to give him any freight, not exceeding £60 ster. and 5 £ Caplaken, the one half payable at Rotterdam, and the oyr half after unloading here. We doubt not doe your endeavour to make the freight as cheap as possible. And we likewise desire you please order Credit for Mr. Rodger for his loading of colls of the most proper for the Hollands Market ; and, how soon we know the value, it shall be sent you by one of our number that goes very soon South. Pray, Sir, Sett about this without loss of time, and keep the express till you have ended with Mr. Roger, so that you may be the better enabled to advise us fully what you doe. If Mr. Rogers be engaged so as that he cannot undertake this voyage youle please enquer if any other good ship can be had fitt for our purpose much about the burdine of his, and advise accordingly : and we remain, Sir, Your Most Humble Servts.

J. S. [JOHN STEUART].

W. McK. [WILLIAM MACKAY].

W. MESH. [MACKINTOSH].

Affectionet Son, Edr.

Inverness, 3d Febry. 1721.

I WOULD very willingly comply to your Masters proposall that you should goe in March with him to London, but in faith I am just now so much on the pinch with my own affairs that I scarce know where to find mony to pay

my pressing Debts. However, I hope it will not be long before you find as promising an opportunity of improving your self. I see you have enclosed bill Major Sliegh on Alexr. Inness for £53 ster., with the value of which you are to retire my two bills on of 50 £, and the other of 3 £ ster. from Dantzick from Mr. Georg Flaconer, Mercht. in Edr., and return them pr. first. Notice Major Sleighs bill is made payable to you for value received of me. I am, Your etc.

To the Earle of Morray.

Inverness, 3rd Feb. 1721.

I HAVE your Lops. favours of 12th last Month, and should have been much pleased if could have told you that your Lops. bear of Petty were sold at 6£ Scots pr. boll; but this is what I could not reach, nor any oyr. in this country, and considering matters I think not amiss that I gett 9 sh. and 6d. ster. pr. boll, as last year; of which I hope your Lop. will approve.

Inverness, 25h Febry. 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Rottrm.

SIR,—I have yours of 14th curt N. S., and doe observe you have agreed with David Steenson to goe to Copenhagen and bring home my Barque for 10£ ster. wages, and his travelling charges, and that the Insure masters will be Lyable for my proportion of sd. expence, as also for my whole damage at Copenhagen. There are severalls concerned in the Cargoe of the sd. Barque besides William McKay and me, a particular acct. of which is sent to Mr. Alexr. Ross in Copen:; and no doubt the acct. will be transmitted you by Mr. Coutts of Dantzick. Mr. Ross has wrett me Last post that he has paid the salvadge and charges for saving Barque and Cargoe for 320 R. d. [Rix dollars] and its well that your insuring Company have ordered you

and Mr. Gerrard to make up William McKays proportion and mine of the damadge. And, as to what you writt about my proper intres in the Barque, I send the above declaration, which I hope will fully adjust yt affair, which is all I can say at present except that I render you my hearty thanks for your care in this matter. There is a ship going in 8 or 10 days from Cromerty with salmond for your port for accot. of some Edr. people, and its lick I may have a concern in the return of sd. ship, being free at Rotterdam; therefor you may provide for me the Burgundy and cherie I ordered in my letter of 25t Nov. Last, but pray take care that both be true and good, that is, four chists Burgundy of 40 flasks each, and a Butt of Cherie to be bought of the Keys and Drawn of in 4 hhds. What further commands I am to send you may expect by the ship, and I am, etc.

To Mr. John McLeod, Edr.

Inverness, 25 Febyr. 1721.

DEAR SIR,—Andrew Scot, meason, has so importuned me for the payment of the Ballance due him pr. Contract for building McLeod's monument that I have been obliged to pay him £25 : 11 : 1 ster. for which I have taken his bill on you at six days sight, which have indorsed to my son Alexr. Steuart. Its true the coat of arms and some other small apendadges remain to be done one sd. monument, but for that he is quet built the utter wall except the cope stone, for which I agree to pay him by your Consent 600 merks, and he is positive that all will be finished again May nixt, the stons being all bought and raidy for putting up; so yt. I hope there will be no disappointment by him. As to the Iron gate there is a smith here under takes to doe it; but Iron is so scarce and dear at present that I wait the arrival of some that is shortly needed, and then it will be cheaper; and I hope all will be done to contentment.

Inver., 25 Febr'y. 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Ross, Copenhagen.

SIR,—Since my last of 13th Janry. old stile I have your favour of 28h do. in which doe observe that you have compounded for the salvadge of the Barque *Majorie* of sd. Cargoe at 240 R. D. [Rix Dollars], as also have payd 70 R. D. as charges for burying the dead, and that the Barque was now in your possession, and the Cargoe unloaded intire and in safe custody, which is all well ; and I thank you for your care, tho cannot help to think the salvadge and charges wery High, yet no doubt you have done the best for owr interests. Last post I had a letter of 17 Febr'y N. S. from my frend Mr. Alexr. Andrews of Rotterdam, in which he advise me that he had hired David Sevinson, Ship master of this place, to goe from thence to Copengn to receive and Bring home the Barque and Cargoe, of which I approve, as do all concerned ; and I desire that the Barque and Cargoe may be accordingly delivered to him, and his receipt or bill of loadning taken for all the goods when reshyp't, and yt. lickways you furnish him what will be needful to fitt out the Barque homward, which youle take notice to bring in to the acct. of salvadge and charges, and for reimburse of all after you have proportioned the whole upon the Barque and Cargoe, according to our respective interests that are concern'd, one copy of which must be sent to Messrs. Andrews and Gerard at Rotterdam, and the other hither. You are then to value on Mr. Andrews for my proportion, and on Mr. Gerard for William McKays, and on sd. McKay, Lachlan McIntosh, and me jointly for the Ballance, which will be punctually honoured.—I am, Sir, Your Humble Sert.

PS.—Note, for your goverment, I value the Barque at 65£ sterline.

Inver., 25t Febr. 1721.

Affectionet Son, Edr.

I RECEIVED yours of 11th curt. and I am pleased to find you have laid aside thoughts of goeing to London at this time. Not but I would willingly comply to any reasonable demand might forward your interest or advance your education, but, to be plain with you, I never was so much pinched for mony to suport my credit since I was a trader. However, I hop anor. time may be better for you yn now. The last post, William Fraser, is not arrived here yet. By him I expect My acceptd Bills to Mr. Falconer, retired in return of Major Slys Draught on Alexr. Fraser for £53 ster. I find you inclosed Bill to William McKay, Junior, of this place, on Mr. John Davidson for £40 ster. pay at six days sight, as also Bill Andrew Scott on Mr. John McLeod, advocate, for £25 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ster. at six days sight, both which I hope will find due honour, and will make in all 65£ 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ster., which I design to be payd the Earl of Morray when James Russell arives with you, which will in 10 days ; so pray fail not to take speaceall care of this mony untill he come.

To Mr. George Urquhart [Cromarty].

Inverness, 17 March 1721.

AFF. BROYR,—I have according to your desire delivered my cable to your servant John Polson, which weights 300 lib. great binders [?] tacking 4 pd. wt., which is a favour I would not grant anoyr, since my bark will very soon want such a cable. I canot sell it under 40 shillings pr. hundred. I have sent you a quarter pound bohea tea which cost me 5sh., and 7d. of charges for carying the cable up and down to and from the weigh house, and weighing ; but I must pay the weighing, so yule only rest []. I have been thinking since I saw you last that in month of May you might ship of a pairt of your cod fish and sallmond for Bilboa, where I supose the salmond

will pickle [?] in the cask well ; I mean duple hooped with fresh hoops, might pass for new fish ; so I am persuaded better than at home ; and in that case could get the ship taken of your hands for the return at a good rate ; or, if the salmond be cheap, I doubt not would get partners here to take a share of the fish. May send me your thoughts of this pr. next, and I am, etc.

Mr. William Simson, Abdn.

Inverness, 21 March 1721.

SIR,—I received yours of 11th Curt., and do observe your orders anent 300 bolls bear, but doe find I canot well serve you untill you acquaint me what lenth in price youl allow me to goe, for Provest Dawson has, I find, disposed of his bear in London, and has shippes coming down presently to load it upon your former order. I was communing with sd. Mr. Lawson for 300 bolls bear of the farms of the Daroch of Nig in Ross, which is no worce nor Morray bear, and had, I thought, agreed at £4 : 10s. pr. boll, Martinmas payment. But the Provest has reciled, so that I dare not be positive how you can be served, but if you advise me of a positive price Ile endeavour to serve you. I suppose the salt you mention will sell at Finhorn at abot 2/ ster. pr. bushell. I shall be glad to see you here when in Morray ; and till then I fear Mr. Barbour and I will gett litle done for your new Church, which Ile willingly contribute my mite ; and I am, with much affection, Sir, etc.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Rotterdam.

Inverness, 24t March 1721.

I WROTT you the 11th Instant pr. the ship *Christian* of Leith, George Cockburn Mr., which I hope will be with you or this comes hand. In it I advised you to shipt for my accot. in sd. ship 4 Chests best Burgundy wine,

each Chest to contean 50 flasks; It. one Chest of best Champaign wine of 50 flasks and four half hhds. of best Spanish Sake to be bought new of the Keys if posible; 8 rehms writting wheat paper of shuch as is commonly shipt for this place from 50 to 60 Stivers pr. rehm; 120 single and ten duble ankers best French Brandy; and one chest of Burgundy and one Chest of 40 flasks for James Russell and me in Compa.; it. for my proper accot. 50 lib. best Cork fee [?] Indigoe, and a tun of best strong French Claret to be bought of the Keys; a warming pan and a waffle ditto; and a Large black bears skin dressed on the inside being for a deck to Led Horse. This is the extent of my letter. I mean Commission, by the Ship, which I hope will be carefully bought and shipt; and As I told you in my last the price of these goods will be made good to you once in the moneth of May nixt. All that I have to add now is to buy for me by advice of Mr. Cockburn a new main top sail for my ship the *Margret* of this place, 50 tuns Burdin. Shuch as will serve Mr. Cockburns own ship I think will doe exactly for me, if not somewhat tuo Large. Let this sail be packed up in a dry ware cask, the value placed to my accot. Some frinds and I have a Cargoe Herings going to Dantzick or Coningsberg. We have thought of returning sd. ship to you with a Cargoe of wheat and Ry; therefor write to Mr. Coutts of Dantzick of ye prices of grains with you when this comes to hand, for his government, and what advice you think needfull. Mr. Alexr. Ross of Copenhagen has drawn on me last post for £100 Sterline, payable at London, without telling for what. His bill, however, will be honoured; and I hope ere now you will or now have the needfull documents for recovering my damage of the insure masters. I am, with much Respect, etc.

Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutts, Dantzick.

Inverness, 27 March 1721.

GENTLE,—I have your favour of 8th Instant N: S:, which brings my accot. of seall of Skins pr. the *Majorie*, with my

accot. Currt., by which I find I am yet due to you a ballance £17 : 10s. Ster., and that you are to value on me for the same at 2/ in sight. When your bill appears it will find due honour, as your former did. I have not yet examined your accot., but does hope they are right, tho that adventure will prove very much to my Loss, which is not your fault. This comes by the ship *Helen* of this place, and serves to advise you that if sd. ship doeth return hither derectly, and I hope she will not, you ship for my proper accot. 16 Ship lbs. Iron, of which $\frac{1}{3}$ shampo- loon, $\frac{2}{3}$ midlin, and tuo ship lib. Stenchion or Square Iron, 30 spruce ston flax, 6 Barell soap, and 30 ps. Clapboard or $\frac{1}{2}$ Shock ; and what may remain after this and my pro- portion of staves are bought, you are to Invest in Cordage, I mean tared, from three inch to [?] threed ropes ; and besides my 6th of Herings in Compa. I give here inclosed ane order from Keneth McKenzie to Credit me with the proceeds of 20 Barells more Herings, which please advert to accordingly. I heartily wis you may not return the ship here, but folow ovr derection in the Generall letter to which I referr, and that the Hering may come to a good accot. ; and I am, with due Respect, etc.

Mr. Alexr. Ross, Copenhagen.

Inverness, 27 March 1721.

SIR,—I have yours of 25t Febry. N: S:, and doe not that my Bark is frozen up, and all the Cargoe unload and entire, and that Clerk and Grant, the tuo surviving Sailors of the crew, are going to Law for their wages, and to Leave the Barque. I hope David Steenson, the Master, is with you or now, and that these Lads will come to better temper. But if they doe leave the Barque or give you truble about their wages, they need not think of returning to yis Country again, for they were Certainly payed of their half wages at Dantzick, and I know not what Claim they can have by any Law to the other half untill the voyage is ended. Your bill of £100 Sterling has apeared

here from London which indeed is much more than was expected. Lachlan McIntosh is at Edr., and William McKay, who was the other that wrott with me, will not accept because no accot. is come for what this mony is. Yet in Honour to you I will accept for all, not doubting your integrity, and that you will doe no injustice. Pray fail not pr. first to send me accot. of all the Charges, with how much falls to each mans share, valuing the barque at 50 or 60 Lib. ster., and send lickways a copy of your accot. to Mr. Alexr. Andrews of Rotterdam, as I formarly advised. This goes by the Ship *Helen* of this place, John Robertson, Master, Load with Herings. I beg youle give him your best advice anent a proper, Whither he should goe to Dantzic or Stockholm; but I think yt. last will doe best; but leave this to your advice. And I am, Sir, etc.

Messrs. Nelletoun and Campbell, Stockholm.

Inver., 27 March 1721.

GENTLEMEN,—Referring to what have writt you in the Generall letter of this dait from me and Compa., this comes particularly to inform you that I was Honoured with your favour, 9th Aprile 1720, with the Advices of Markets then with you. Its now by my recomendation that this Cargoe comes consigned to you, and I will Hope yt. any frinds will have no reason to Complain, but that youll treat them wery Honourable, and give them reason to continue their Corispondence, which may be much in your favour. The plain meaning of owr Generall letter is that you sell our herings to the best avail, and Invest the proceeds and no more in $3\frac{1}{2}$ ship lib. Coper in Sheets, and the rest in Iron, sorted as pr. owr Generall Letter, and as many of best and Cleanest firr Dealls as will fill up the ship. The Master will Give you anc order from Keneth [Mackenzie] to credit my accot. with ye proceeds of twenty baralls Herings besides what I have in Compa. from Zhich you are to buy and ship for my accot. Iron wear [wire] according to the inclosed patron, and the rest in best sort of

pan for [?] and six tea ketles of Coper to contean each from tuo English quarts to ane English Gallon. May advise by the ship of the prices of Corn with you, and I am, Gentlemen, etc.

Mr. Robert Gordon, Burdx.

Inverness, 7t Aprile 1721.

SIR,—It is a long time since I had occasion to writ to you or received any of your favours, tho I heartily wish our Corispondence were more frequent. This serves cheifly to advise you that some frinds and I have a design very soon to send a ship your way to load some strong wine, etc. Therefor I desire how soon this comes to hand you have me advised how good wine, Salt, and Brandy can be purchased with you, as also the course of Exchange betwixt you and London and Edr., and if can draw on us now, payable at Edr. to the Value of any goods we send for, or if must Lodge mony in London for that purpose. The confusion in trade last winter has occasioned a good deall of last years Salmond to remain yet on hand here, and in the fatts unpacked, which I believe might be purchased at a reasonable rate; therefor I desire you may lickways advise me Immediately if might venter a parcell of such Salmond by the ship goes your way, and in that case how much you would advise to send, and what price might Expect to get; or if such Salmond, being well cured and bright coulored, might not pass for new fish Caught this Spring. As to which particulars I expect your speedy return; and forward the inclosed to Messrs. John Vanduffel at Bilboa.

Messrs. John Vanduffell and Compy., Bilboa.

Inverness, 7t Aprile 1721.

GENTLEMEN,—The last of your favours I received was of 9th August last, in which found no encouradgment for

sending any salmond or Dry cod fish your way last season. Having a design to send a ship very soon to the bay of Biscay, I presume to ask the favour of you to advise me how soon this comes to hand how a small parcell of Salmond and Dry fish ariving with you in the month of June next would sell; as also the following goods from the Baltick, vizt. Hemp, flax, pitch and tarr, fir planck or Spruce dealls, bees wax, etc., as also the Course of Exchange betwixt you, London, and Bordeaux. I Expect your answer with these particulars pr. first; and I am, etc.

Mr. James Russell [at Edinburgh].

Inverness, 7t Aprile 1721.

I WRITT you last poast, and sent you inclosed a hering Debenture for 96 £ ster. Certified on the board of Excise, from which I ordered you to clear William Cumming what ballance I am due him, and to pay Mr. James Cumming £15 Ster. on receipt in my name. And now, Since Mr. William Cumming is gone for London, pay to James Cumming, that is, if the Debenture answer, 5£ sterline more; so gett his receipt for £20 lickways. I desire you pay the Earle of Morray 10 £ ster. of this mony, and so get his Lordships receipt for £100, the 58 £ formerly remitted being made good to him by Comissar Steuart. I lickways give Thom: Alves an order on you for 12 £ ster., which you are to answer out of the debenture, and bring the ballanc hither backward. I wrott to Mr. James Cuming this post to assist you, if needfull, to gett payment of the debenture. And I intreat that the Comissar and you look out for some settlement for that unlucky boy Sandy, who writes me he wants mony to buy meat; So may give him 20 sh. on my accot. Your wife and childerin are well, and Ile see them to-morow. 100 bolls of the Morray bear is come up here, which proved very good, and Good Measure. I payd the Freight and the boat. Alex. McLeans barque goes down tomorow to Findhorn to carry up 300 bolls, since despatch is necessary now in the Malting Season.

Receipts will be regularly returned your father, as the bear come there; so you may be easy and not hurry yourself too soon home. I am, Your aff. Brother.¹

Mr. George Ochterlony [London]

Inverness, 5t May 1721.

SIR,—It is long since I received any of your favours. However doe now truble you with the inelosed for Mr. John Turner, which please deliver. He there has orders to pay you about 80 £ Ster. for my accot., and for which Same you are to value on me to Sd. Mr. Turner or order in this country, which will be duely honoured. This mony, if it answer, is designed towards the paying of my acceptance of £100 Sterlg. to the order of Mr. Alexr. Ross, Mercht., Copenhagen, payable at your house the first of June. You can hear of Sd. bill by Mr. William Perkin at the Wheat [White] Lyon at Foster Lane, Ironmonger. If this mony answer pray doe the favour to pay twenty pound more, and retire and send me the bill, and value on me for the 20 £ payable at Edr., which will find due honour. But if this Credit on Turner Should not answer, pray fail not to advise me pr. first that I may otherways order my acceptance to be honoured; and in the mean time pray see to prevent any protestation on my bill till you have my return which will be exactly in course; or, If canot be done, Must intreat you retire my bill, and value on me for the whole contents. If any of our parliament men have mony to send down, I mean Colloden or Capt. Urquhart, Newhall, either of them will take your bill on me for this sum. I expect your punctuall return. When you sent my accot. Curt of mony payd for my son you forgott to send me his receipts as being payd; please look out for them, and send them.

¹ Russell was the Bailie's brother-in-law.

Mr. Alexr. Andrews, Rottm.

Inverness, 22nd May 1721.

SIR,—I received your favours of 29^t past and 6^t Curt., the first brought me Invoyce of goods pr. the Ship *Christian* of Leith, George cockburn, Mr. ; which goods are safe come to hand, and I believe good of there kind. I doe observe the value of the goods you sent twixt James Russell and me amounts to £150 : 15 : 9. And I writt of this date to my frind Mr. George Ouchterlony, of London, to wrett you to value on him for 80£ Ster., which pray take care to doe at tuo that I may have him in cash for me before your bills fall due. And when you have made up my accot. of damadge on the barque *Majorie* from Dantzig, with the Insure Masters value on me for the ballance due you, or, if you please, draw on me how soon this comes to hand for the Same payable at Edr. at as easy Exchange as you can. The barque *Majorie* is arrived hear, and Mr. Ross of Copenhagen writts me he was to send you the needfull documents for recovering my damadge. In the mean time I find I am first in advance for all, and that the others concerned and I are not so easily to adjust matters as I expected. David Stevenson tells me he has drawn on you 128 Rex dollrs, so that I find the whole damadge will amount to near £140 Ster. I find lickways that Mr. Ross is a very sharp man, to say no worse, for he charges 120 Dollars comission, and I find a good deal of the rest goes to his own pocket. All I shall say is God forgive him, and keep me hereafter out of Shuch hands. If you think I would not doe you all the service in my power to gett you Justice of T[ermit] you wrong me enuch, but really he is much embarassed at present. He Swears Sollemnly he has payd to Mr. Arburthnot all he could ask or crave any maner of way to 70£ Ster., and promise me to Shoe me Sd. Arburthnot accot. Curt. ; says not he gave him mony but undoubted Security, and that he gives him assignation to some Lews herings he has now going to the Sound for the ballance. I wonder Mr. Arburthnot has never cori-

sponded with me in the least anent that affair, for all you writt me you ordered him soe to doe. I wish all your Corispondence may be just to you, and I am, etc.

Mr. William Cumming, Edr.

Jne: do. 1721.

SIR,—I am glad to hear of your safe return from London, but much trubled at the breach betwixt my unhappy son and you is not yet made up. I belive by this time he is pretty sensible of his folly, but, as I hope he is not past recovery, I could heartily wish he were readmitted to your service untill his time be out, but I dare not press this too much, only I hope you will deall by me in this matter as on frind and commerad ought to doe with anoyr. When James Russell was leatly at Edr. I sent with him your accott. and documents in order to have cleared and payd what Ballance I was due, but, missing of you at Edr., returned me all again. I own I am too long in your Debt, but, as what I am due bears Interest, and Sundry large Demands are on me at present, I must ask your patience for some short time, and I expect your answer in course. Please forward the Inclosed pr. first post for London ; and I am, etc.

Mr. George Oucterlony [London].

Inverness, 2 June 1721.

SINCE I have your favour of 20th last Month, with my son Robert his receipt for the mony you gave him, which are very right. Pray, Sir, be so kind as to enquire after the Lads behavior, and how he used yt Mony he got ; and while he is ashoar let him be closs at Scooll, particularly at the writting Scooll, for he writs barbarously ; and please counsell him not to stay at Waping, where I know he will readily be Seduced by bad profligat Company ; and I am, etc.

Mr. Andrew Henderson, Edr.

Inverness, 2d June 1721.

Sir,—I send you inclosed bill Laird of McLeod on Mr. McLeod, advocate, for £20 Ster.	£20
Bill Captain James Ogilvy on Mr. Skeen	20
Accepted bill William Shaw, Marcht. in Edr.	70

£110

These bills amounting to 110 £ Ster. and Indorsed to you, and I hope will find due honour. If other ways pray doe the needfull, and return them. I most earnestly caution you to take no notice to my frind William Cumming that I have given you this truble, for reasons Ile leat you know very soon. From the proceeds of these bills I desire that you retire my acceptance to Mr. George Falconer for £17 ster., and pay to George Cockburn, writer to the Signet, at the sight of Comissar Steuart, 30 £ ster., and for which you are to get shuch a receipt as the Comissar shall Derect, which, with Mr. Falconers bill, you are to return me pr. first. The rest of this I shall advise you pr. first how it shall be disposed of.

Mr. George Ouchterlonie [London].

Inverness, 24 June 1721.

SIR,— . . . I have the Mellancholly news of the loss of my Dear son ; so Capt. Jess has not written me on that subject as he told you. Pray, Sir, take the trouble to call at him for the defuncts effects, and advise me what they are, etc., till all be secured by you untill you hear firder from me. I am much afflicted with the manner of my sons death, but do desire to take it as from the hand of God, and so shall overlook second causes, tho' cannot help to think from what the lad wrote me last time he was at London that he was not cared for nor regarded as he ought and as I expected. But, as I said, I desire to have no

bade thoughts or resentments that way, but to Looke on this smashing stroke as the dispensation of a wise providence, and therfor be easy and patient as far as I am able. I am about freighting a ship of mine to carry skins, etc. for London; shall doe my endeavour to bring the consignment of the cargo your way, or any other service I can.

Mr. Andrew Henderson [Edinburgh].

7th July 1721.

SIR,—I have reed. yours of 29 past, and with it two fish debentures and duplicates, with a memorandum from Mr. Crookshanks, wh. I forwarded pr. express to the Colector of Stornway in Lewes, as you desired, under my covert, and have agreed to pay the sd. express seven pounds Scots wh. is no dear here, the journey and voyage he is to make. I am much asheamed that I have made you no remittance this post as I promised. Since you write me that my herrin debenture had not answered, and that you was to remitt fifty pounds str. for my acct. to Mr. Joseph Faickme of London, and to retire my bill for fifty pound str. more from the order of John Gordon of Rotterdam. The main reason why I made no remittance is because I could not find a bill, and was loath to risque specie; but I hope pr. next to make you easy, tho' should be verry glad to hear that the debenture sent you was payed, tho' at some discount. I am, etc.

Inverness, 7 July 1721.

Comissar Steuart, Edr.

I SEND you inclosed a certificate from our Collector and Comptroller, and I hope will contribute to stop any prosecution on my two salt bonds of fowrty pounds strl. I find James Dunbar and Will. Fraser, Merchts. of this place, in the same caise with me as to such Bonds, to be prosecuted befor the Exchequer, and they have my write to Alexr.

Baillie, Clark, to employ for them before that court, and I think the same man may serve for me likeways, and I hop my caise is so plain and just that I cannot suffer. However, doe intreat your care and notice of it. I long to hear how you have adjusted matters with Mr. Cumming annent my sons indenture. Pray deliver the inclosed to Alexr. Baillie, and I am, etc.

Mr. Robt. Malcom [Merchant, Edinburgh].

7 July 1721.

SIR,—I was orderd some time agoe by the Countess of Morray to pay you ane acct. resting for wine by that Noble Lady for the family use, extending to about £19 ster. The Earle of Morray complains your white wine was to dare, and so will have me stop shillings of the price you charge; about q^{ch} you may take your own prudent measures; but for what I am empowered to pay you may expect the same pr. the first of August next, and indeed I cannot pay it sooner, but again that time you may depend on it, so that I hope you will give my Lord or My Lady na funder trouble about it except you please to write of the twenty shills. I am ordered to stop of you; and am, etc.

Mr. Alexr. Balie [Edinburgh].

Inv: 15th July 1721.

SIR,—According to what I promised in my letter of 7th inst. and pr. last I send you by the bearer £16:13s. ster., being the ballance you promised George Cockburn on my accot., for which I received his discharge. I send you inclosed protested and Registrat bill Gillis McBain and others, and I am advised that because the bill was not protested and registrat Exactly on the 15th of May last, or within tuo days therafter, that I can only have access against Angus McIntosh and not against Gillis or any of the Indorsers, and therefor that you can easily

help that by making the date of the registrat protest 16th or 17th of May, which pray fail not to doe, and cause my cousine the Comissar get out a horning on the same against the indorsers, as well as the accepter, and place the Expense of it to my aecot.

Mr. Alexr. Anderew, Rotterdam.

Inv: 15th July 1721.

SIR,—This goes by the barque *Majorie* of this place, Daniel Simpson, Master. She brings a Lodning of bear of Messieurs Hugh and Anderew Monros, but to whom they consign I doe not know. As the barque is wholly mine I have ordered the Skipar to pay what remains of the freight after paying charges and wages unto you, and take your receipt for the same. I have sent by the bearer all the papers and documents relating to the damadge on this barque and cargoe last winter at Copenhagen, as they were sent me by Mr. Ross, and they would have been with you much sooner had not the Barque they were designed first with been detained by conterary winds; but I hope they will doe the busenis very well. I beg of you to talk to all your acequentance in toun to put on board my barque what goods they design for this place, since I am afraid she will come hoam emty; and I desire if Lisbon Salt be cheap that you ship as much for my aecot. as will balast the barque, as also 13 ankers good brandy, four chests of brymer window glass shueh as ordinarily come hear, six hundered weight of best Cropt Mader in tuo cask, Eight Hundered weights of anaze seed in malted bags, in each bag on hundered wt. Nota, if eanot purchase salt so as that I can have it hear for 15d. ster. pr. bushell of eighty four pound English, then in that ease you are to ship non for me. I am sory the want of proper doeuments on the damadge of the *Majorie* at Copenhagen makes you too long in advanee for me, but for the value of the goods now sent for Ile take eare to remitt it very soon by the way of London; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 15th July 1721.

Mr. John Gordon, Rotterdam.

SIR,—I lately received yours under covert of Thomas Alves with my accot. Curt. which is all right ; but I am sorry to tell you that the wine sent pr. the *Christian* of Leith does not prove right, being generally very small, and now some of it begins to Spoil ; but no help, we must make the best of it. However, if you can find a tun of good strong wine I mean Claret drawn of the Gross lead [?], may ship a tun for my accot. in the *Majorie* of Inverness, Dan Simpson, master, by whom this goes. I mean that this wine be much better and stronger than the last, tho should cost from 60 to 70 Guilders pr. hhd. ; and take bill of Lodning in name of John McLeod, Junior, Mercht of this place. May draw on me for the value at as long sight as possible, money being prodigious scarce hear at present ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 20th July 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew, Rott.

SIR,—My last to you was of the 15 Inst. pr. the bark the *Marjory* of this place, Daniell Simson, Master, by whom I sent you all the papers and documents relating to the damage on the sd. *Marjory* last vinter at Copenhagen ; so I hope will be with you long before this and will be effectually for recovering My share and Wm. Mackays of sd. damage of the insure Masters. I desired to send me by the sd. bark thirteen ankers brandy, 600 wt. crop mader 800 wt. anaze seed, and four chests window glass, wh. order I hereby confirme, and only add fowr stoup of lintseed oile in a ston bottle, ten pound white lead, and two pound verdigrass, and one pound azure, wh. is to be carefully delivered to the skipper. I dare not comission for more goods because money is so scarce that we cannot depend on a farthing when due us. The laws are now so severe

agt. brandy running that it will be needfull you caution the Skipper to stow that sort of goods under all the rest, and by all means to endeavour to keep clear of all the ports on the coast of Brittain untill he come here ; and in eais the bark should not be full of goods I desire you should ship for my use 4000 barll hoops to full up room. I know this post there are comissions goeing to you for goods. Yowll take care to full up the bills of Loading with the bulk @ 3/ pr. barll bulk freight.

Mr. James Cuming, [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 4 Augt. 1721.

SIR,—I received yours of 20th ultimo and 22d, and had made answer to both but that I was not at home. I have considered both it and the former, and, tho I have much bussness on hand to look after at present, I shall doe all that lys in my power to obey your commands, and doe you the best serviee I can ; and for that end I goe this day for Chanorie and Cromarty, ther being (thanks to God) the beginng of a good herring fishing. Should I get any undertakers to make herring for you there woud be a necessity that you remitt me at lest £30 ster., for ther is not a shil: of money to be had in this Country, and I am much streatned at present for money ; otherwise wou'd not make this demand ; but of this shall write you more fully pr. nixt. As to the disposing of your Salt and Cork, I doubt not, if the fishing hold but, will be able to dispose of the same at a tollerable good rate ; and as I judge that bartering the same for herrings, if can be had, will be of no dissadvantage to you, I propose to encourage people to take herring at the Currt. rate, as to wh. I desire your aprobatation. I shall call at Will : Ross at Cromarty, and See to adjust your aect. wt. him the best I can ; but I cannot say your affair was in the best of hands by being in his.

Mr. George Oucterlony, London.

Inverness, 4 Agust 1721.

SIR,—My last to you was of 24th June last, since which I have non of your favours, tho I long to know what you have with Capt. Gess anent my dear sons effects, whose deplorable death afflicted me very much. Pray, Sir, get what things belongs to him, and ship them by Robert Ranken or the first occasion offers for this place, for the may be of use to some body ; besides that I suspect from what you writt me when my dear boy went from England that He had some goods besides his necessars. I honoured your bill of 70 £ ster. to Mr. Alex. Ross and send you the enclosed letter for £10 : 10 sh. str. more, which I am assured will answer to pay Mr. Andrews draught of 80 £ ster. on you for my accot. As Mr. Dawson and I are in concert this year anent the seall of salmond, I shall not truble you on that subject, but to advise what bargain you make for him.

Invs. 11th Augt. 1721.

To Mr. James Cuming, Mercht. in Edinr.

MY last to you was of ye 4th Inst., since which received yor favr. of 3d Ditto with 50 £ ster. in bank Notes inclosed, to be laid out on yor accot. in makeing of herring, qch. shall endeavour to doe accordingly. Since my last I was twice at Chanonry and Cromarty about yor affairs, and have Sold some of yor Salt and Casks, but cant tell you exactly at present how much ; and I found Undertakers to make 30 casks of herring upon yor accot. vizt: Andw. Ross, broyr to the Unfortunate Hugh Ross, and George Munroe of Newmore Surety for him, for 20 casks at 40 sh. pr. cask ready for shipping ; besides I furnish Salt and Casks, and Wilm. Ross in Parkhill for ten casks, qch. is all he would Undertake to make for you this year, haveing no boats engagd ; and am affraid must give him 2 sh. Pr. more than ye others. I'm under promise to sd. Andw.

Ross that, if he can make twenty casks more than the 20 stipulate by contract, he takeing yor salt and Cask to make ye same, to buy them at ye Current rates. Of all this I hope you'll approve. I return to Cromarty tomorrow about yor affairs, and I find that they'll require my presence ther most of all this fishing, qch. really slackens my own fishing, and is very troublesome to me at this juncture. But as I have adoe with Men of honr. I shall not doubt of A Suitable reward; and, as I think it may be of good use to you, I doe it with pleasure. The fishing is not so brisk as I have seen it, but hopes it may turn better. I reckon there may be since Monday last about 200 last salted; and if I can't find more Undertakers than what I have already agreed with yet I hope to get yor Cask and salt disposed of to a good accot^t, and shall take herrings for the same at the Currt. price rather than not sell. In the mean time I think you may be looking out for a mercht. that will buy 40 to 50 casks; and advise me pr. next what price you may Expect. I have a vessell of which I'm sole owner, about 30 lasts burthen, which I design to dispatch off immediatly to the Sound for my own accot. Please give me yor oppinion to what Part I shall direct her, and if to Dantzick or Queens berg¹ what sort of goods will be fittest for Newcastle or London, Since I design to return her to either of these ports.

Inverness, 25th August 1721.

Mr. James Cuming, Mercht. in Edr.

SR.,—My last to you was 11th instant since which I have your favours of 10 and 17th Do. Let this inform that since my last I bargoned with Alexr. Berkley and Alxr. Elphinston at Cromarty to make for your acct. fourtie Lasts herins at two pounds 3 sh. sterling pr. last, I furnishing sufficient cask and salt conform, with this proviso that if the herins did not sweem, in that case they are obliged to pay me thirtie shillings sterling pr. last cask, and half a Crown pr. bushell salt proportionable to

¹ Königsberg.

sd. fourtie last cask again Martinmass nixt, which is I think no bad bargone. But the fishing being much interrupted last week by bad weather, and intirly off since munday last, I went tuesday to Cromarty (from whence I came only this day) to see what was done, and now am to inform you that Andrew Ross has made from 8 to 9 lasts, which he refuses to be on your Acct. notwithstanding a signed Contract, as I formerly advised, and that he has used your Cask and salt. May I speak to his brother William to write to the Lad not to expose himself; and in the mean time send pr. first a blank admirall precept, since I design to seiz the fifth if Andrew persist. Its true I sold him eleven last of your Cask, which I judge is what perplexes him; but for that I offred to take his bill on his brother, as you ordred, and take his herins on the same conditions as the Cantor Compy made theirs, that is, 40 sh. pr. last for one half, and 5 £ ster., payable in 6 months; but I hope he will come to himself. I am bound to take back what salt and cask he has not used, except the ii last sold him. As to Alxr. Berkley and Elphinston, they have only made for you about two lasts, but about 18 lasts for themselves. However, as the used some of your salt, I hope to make them say better. They have offered their herins at Half a Crown pr. last under the current price, which, as I judge, will be under the value of your salt and cask, or near about it. . . . If incline send ane adventure to the Sound must freight a bark in the south firth of about 30 lasts, and in that case must keep Berkly's herins, for there is no ships to be had for the 4th of our herins, there being 8 or 900 lasts caught, as I judge. I have about 30 lasts only for my self, which will be shipped beginning of nixt week. I wrote to Andrew Hendersone to see if can sell 20 last of them for me not under £6 : 10 ster: pr. last, and my ship shall carrie them to Stockholm, and return to Leith, London, or New Castle at four Libs. sterling pr. last freight, or to Dantzick at £3.10 sterling pr. last, out and home. Pray giv him your advise anent a proper merchant. When I mak up your Acct. shall remitt the bill and of your money in my hands.

Inverness, 25 Augt. 1721.

Mr. George Ochterlony [London].

SIR,—My last was of the 4th Curr. since which I have non of your favours. This chiefly advises that my bark the *Marjory* of this place, Daniel Simson, Master, bound home from Rotterdam to this port, I say please insure on sd. bark and Cargoe for my Acct. £70 Stl. against sea hazard. I am advized the third Inst. said bark would be readdie to saile about the 15 or 16. Do advise of your complyance pr. first, and pay the premium to my Accot., likeways advise what have done with Captain Jess anent my sons effects, and if have made any bargain for Provost Dawson, with course of Exchange on holland.

Mr. David Anderson, Edr.

Inverness, 8 Sepr. 1721.

AT the desire of John McLeod, Factor to Capt. Mudie of Melsester,¹ I send you inclosed first bill Georg Skeen, pay master of the Foosiliers at this place, payable to your order, for Seventy pound sterline, of the receipt of which please have me advised pr. first; and I am, Sir, etc.

Messrs. Majoribanks and Coutts [Dantzic].

Inverness, 12 Sepr. 1721.

GENTLEMEN,—This will adress you by my frind and broyr,² John McLeod, in the *Margret* of Inverness, David Stevenson, Mr., who will consign you twenty seven lasts one barell herings, well packed and cured, which you are to dispose of to the best avail, and Credit the proceeds as

¹ Captain James Moodie of Melsester, R.N., was considered the leader of the Hanoverian party in Orkney. He was murdered at Kirkwall, 26th Oct. 1725, by the Jacobite, Sir James Stewart of Burray.

² Brother-in-law.

folowes, vizt., twenty two lasts one barell to my proper accot., and five last to the accot of sd. John McLeod. I must own I am at a loss what to advise to return by the ship, and therfor must depend chiefly on your own good Conduct and frindship in yt. matter. I wrott to my corispondent at London to try if could get a fraight for the ship for that port, and to advise you accordingly, and, if that could not doe, to advise you what sorting of goods from Dantzig would sell best there, which goods you are accordingly to ship to the value of the proceeds of the outward Cargoe and no more. According to the best advisis I have, I understand best hemp, long plank, and potashes and flax are the most proper Commodity for that market. Or if you can think of a better market for shuch goods on any part of the East side of England, or the Chanell, may advise Mr. McLeod to proceed accordingly and to whom he shall adress at any shuch port he may happen to goe to. And, in case of reloading the ship on my accot. as is sd., you are to order Mr. Alexr. Andrew of Rotterdam, or Mr. George Ouchterlony of London, to insure three hundred pound sterling on ship and Cargoe for my proper accot., and desire either of them to value on me for the premium, and derect that the insurance be made againes all hazards, and let the same be ordered timely before the ship sail from your Port. And noat the proceeds of Mr. McLeods five Last, and noat the proceed goes to make up an equall proportion of the homward Cargoe; and you are to advance what mony he calls for to fitt the ship and victuall it, and to pay mens wages. I depend very much on your own frindship in ordering this affair, and have only to add that there is fourty shd. [?] of best Iron for an English market to be shipt for ballast. . . .

Inverness, 27 Octr. 1721.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I received your favour of 7th currt, adviseing of your draught on me to the order of Rochell McLeod for

£12 : 15 : 2 str., and on Alexr. Ross to ditto for £17 : 4 : 10 stl., both which will find due honour, but Alexr. Ross says you have his acceptance already for the same sum, which he wants to be returned him since he has accepted this bill. I observe the prices of goods from france rise with you, and I doe not wonder of it. You are to expect no salmon from this firth this year, all being shipped for the Mediteranean, so I hope again next year Salmon may be in demand with you. The two Hhds. mader you sent me by the *Marjory* is not of a right quality for this country ; will not sell here at any price, and must be returned pr. first occasion, being Crust mader instead of best cropt which I called for. In a post or two shall order most of the money I am due you *via* London.

Inverness, 28 Octobr 1721.

Mr. And. Henderson [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SIR,—I wrote you yesternight, to wh. refers ; and now I send you inclosed accepted bill Charles Fall, of Dunbar, payable to my order at the chamber of Mr. Robert Hepburn, vryter for £1400 pounds Scots, wh. I doubt not will be punctually paid. And since I am bound to pay this to a peremptor demand at Martinmass next, and I find I cannot possibly get money here, I desire you transmitt me a hunder and ten pounds stl. in eleven bank notes. You are to inclose these noats in your letter in presence of the Postmaster, and see the same marked accordingly ; and its fitt you take ane accot. of the numbers of the noats you send.

Inverness, 17 Novr. 1721.

Mr. William Dawson.

SIR,—I received yours of 6th Inst. informing me of a loading of herrin salmon and cod fish you was to ship for Venice by Comission from London, and desired to know if I should be concerned or not. This being the first time you ever communicated any thing of this nature to me,

and so late to concert a project of this importance, and never hearing of it befor, but a little transiently from George Urquhart, and such terms were intimated to me as I think hardly you could ever goe into, so that really untill be more clearly informed of the nature of this affair I cannot tell if I hold a share or not. I sold Baillie Roy, junr. of Forress, for the last herrin fishing two hundred bushells salt, wh. he told was for your use; wherefor I desire yow or him order the payt. of it immediatly, being half a crown pr. bushell.

Inverness, 17 Nover. 1721.

Meseurs. Riehd. and Nicolas Rydlies, Newcastle.

GENTLEMEN,—It is a long time since I had any of your favours, and now send this to advise you that the ship *Margt.* of this place, David Stevenson, Master, of 50 tuns burden or thereby, I have ordered from Dantzick to call at your port with her loading of shampelonn iron, long fir plank, etc., pype staves, in order to try if can make a tollerable market with you, and have ordered my friend John McLeod, who is along, to call at you for your advice what to doe as to the sale of sd. Cargoe. Mean time please advise me pr. first post whow such a small cargoe of Iron, plank, and pype staves would sale at your Port; and your complyance will much oblige.

Date above.

Mr. John Aickman, Mercht. in Leghorn.

SIR,—My last to you was pr. the *James* of Leith, Capt. Patrick Hay, Commander, to which I have your answer in course pr. post, and I thank you for it. I am almost ashamed to give you the trouble of the inclosed receipt for five barrll salmon shipt for my accot. in the *Middleton* Gelly of Aberdeen, Robt. Middleton Commander, Marked B, which please call for and dispose of for my Accot.; and from the neat proceeds, that is, in eaise Mr. Middleton return directly for Scotland, please buy for my use as much

best mantua black silk as will make two full suits of womens clothes, that is, being about yrd. wide, thirty english yrds.; also about fowrty flask of best florence eating oyle in a chest, and the rest of the proceeds to be invested in best florence Chiante wine in chests, fowrty flasks to a chest; and take the masters bill of Loading for the same in my name, mentioning the freight I am to pay, wh. please forward pr. post. But, if the ship be not to return Directly for Scotland, may remitt the proceeds of the Salmon to the hands of Mr. George Ouchterlonie, Mercht. in London, and advise me accordingly. I was to have shipped fyfteen barll. more Salmon pr. the *Midleton* Gelly, but, being necessarily called from home, said ship sailed ere I could return, so that I am asheamed to trouble you with so small a trifle, but that I presume on your friendship for old acquaintance sake, and shll. hope to have occasion to doe one aneother better service. I intreat advice of markets with you for Fishes.

Inverness, 17 Nover. 1721.

Mr. Joseph Faicknie [London].

SIR,—Some time agoe Thos. Alves of this place advised you that he hade shipped aboard Robert Rankin of Dundee his ship eighteen tuns fine iron, wh. was consigned to your self, and to be sold at the best availe for sd. Mr. Alves and partners, the proceeds to be credited the following persons in the following proportions, that is, To Thos. alves accot. 5 tuns and to John Fraser 5 tuns, and to Jonothan Thomson two tuns, and to my Accot. six tuns; and no doubt youll advert to credit us accordingly, and doe the best for our interests. Now this serves chiefly to advise you that, if Capt. Rankin be not arrived at London befor this come to hand, you insure for my accot. agt. all hazards from Newcastle to London on the Cargoe on board the ship sixty pounds strl., and place the premium to my accot., and advise in course of your compliance. Pray forward the inclosed pr. first post for Italy, and place the postage to Your, etc.

Inverness, 28 Novr. 1721.

To John Macleod.

AFF. BROTHER,—Hopeing this will find you safe arrived. Serves to advise you that yesterday I recd. your favour of 25th ultimo from dantzick, with Accot. of sales of the herrens, and invoice of goods shipped on board the *Margaret* extending to 2841 : 7 : as also advice that you have drawn on to the order of Mr. Coutts fo. 56 : 11 : 3 stl., which will be duly honoured, I have likewise observed you have insured for my Accot. on ship and Cargoe f4400, wh. I approve of. I observe your cargoe chiefly consists of plank and iron, and there will be an absolute necessity for disposing the plank and pype staves in the firth or some port on the Coast of England, since here there will be no market for either. But I suppose Newcastle or some port there about will be the most proper for disposing of the plank, and I observe is none of the best for that market, being generally too short. However, as you are acquainted with the value of the cargoe I leave it in your self entirely to doe the best for me you can in disposing of the same ; only take notice, if you cannot sell the iron so as to save the price, cost, and duty, I incline that the greatest part come home with the ship hither rather than it should be sold at too great a loss ; and it was certainly a great mistake to ship so much iron at Dantzick at so dear a rate, and it would be much more in my favour to load stons for ballast ; but I blame David Shuson [?] and not you for that piece of mismanagement, and I have reason to doe so from what Mr. Coutts writes me ; and if you happen to sell the cargoe at Newcastle you are to address Messrs. Richd. and Nicolas Ridless for their advice, and when the Cargoe is sold please reload the ship with Coals for this place, and remitt the ballance of the proceeds to the hands of Mr. And. Henderson, Mercht. in Edr. If this should find you in the south firth [Firth of Forth] you are to address And. Henderson, by whose assistance you will endeavour to dispose of the cargoe there ; and if it can be done to any advantage you need not proceed to England, and in

that event Ile send you orders to reload the ship home with salt ; and take notice that whatever you sell the cargoe you endeavour it be for ready money, or at least a good part of it, in order to pay mens wage and duetys, and reload the ship. For your government I think fitt to tell you that Iron sells there at 28 pr. ston ready money. I am advised that Iron is worth at London from £15 to £17 pr. tun of 2000 weight, wh. is above half a Crown, and that this is your best market ; but if can find near that price at Newcastle need not proceed.

Inverness, 1 Dec. 1721.

Comissar Steuart.

AFFT. COUS.,—I have your favours of 24 and 25 currt. As to the first I am much refreshed to know of the arrivale of your Brothers at London, and would willingly comply to your demand for there present supply ; but, as the managers with me of the charity colected for behalf of your Brothers and Crew are now from home, I must waite till Thos. Alves return to town and take his advice about what is to be done in that matter ; and whether he goe in to your proposall or not Ile not faill pr. next post to send you something out my own pocket for my Cousins. James Russell tells me he collected some money in Morray about a year agoe for there relief, which is now recalled by the contributors, but James says heell keep it untill he see your Brother Alex. I observe your orders anent James Macky ship master in Elphiston, and after enquiry doe learn he is not in Lochbroom, but is gone to Stornway to load beef. However, shall write him to morow to send me his bill as directed for £20 stl., and Ile send him that sum, for without his orders I dare not risque money that way at present for fear of robbing, wh. is verry frequent of late in Highlands. Ile take care of your orders as to Mr. Malcom, and advise you pr. next. I wish he and others that employ me to serve them here will pay the postagde of there own letters and save me the trouble of keeping accot. on that head.

Inverness, 1st Decr. 1721.

Mr. And. Henderson [Edinburgh].

SIR,—Since my last of 25 have I recd. yours of yt. date, and I am glade to understand that the long depending debenture is like at last to find success, as I hope the two herrin debentures for £44 : 14 : 4 Stl., and Angus McIntosh his bill on Alexr. McIntosh for £30 stl., have or now ; and I hope to be advised accordingly in course. Pray, if David Stenson in the *Margaret* of this place be arrived in your firth from Dantzick, yowll please deliver the enclosed letter to my friend John McLeod who is alongs, and give him your best advice how to proceed, and, if he wants a little money, lett him have it on my accot. I think Newcastle or London will prove his best market. I understand iron sells at the last named place at from £15 to £17 stl. pr. tun, and what he has is of the finest kind. Deliver the enclosed to Mr. James McKenzie, Minr., and when you are in cash for me pay him £15 stl., and retire my acceptance in his hands for like sum.

1st Decr. 1721.

Mesrs. Richd. and Nicolas Ridleys [Newcastle].

My last to you of 17th ultmo anent my ship the *Margaret* of this place bound to your Port from Dantzick. If the said ship has arrived please deliver the inclosed to Mr. McLeod who is along, and pray give him your best advice what to doe anent the disposeall of the cargoe. If the prices be near as good with you as at London doe rather incline to sell than proceed forward, in wh. caise I depend on your favour for my interest, since the young Gentleman that is with the wesshell is a stranger. I understand iron now sells at Londn at from £15 to £17 pr. tun, but should be contented with some less at your port, being inclined to Load the bark with Coales for this place. I waite your answer in course.

Inverness, 8 Decr. 1721.

For the Earle of Morray.

I am honoured with your Lops. favours of 23d, in answer to which please know that some days agoe I was with Alex: McPherson, who told me positively it was not in his power to pay your Lop. his by gone rents, nor find security in time comeing; and therefor I thought fitt to make him sign the inclosed renunciation of his fue right to the Lands of Craggie, as also the inclosed letter directed to your Lop., which I think will make red work as to the decret of Reduction to be exped against him. No body has yet appeared for said lands of Craggie. However, its fitt your Lop. advise me pr. first of the Lowest premium you will accept for a fue right, the purchaser paying 250 Mks. of fue yearly; and its fitt your Lop. be advised pr. first and acquaint me how far John McBain in Alnaskiach his wadset right of 500 Mks. on Wester Craggie will affect your Lops. right to the new purchaser, since the not clearing that point may be a stop. I have not got one shilling of your Lops. fue duetys as yet, but have writt a circulat letter to all and Sundrie concerned that if I am not paid befor Candlesmass Ie use personall as weell as reall dilligence agt. them, and put them from keeping kirk and market. Mr. McKenzie of Pettie presses me much about colecting his stipen, wh. have refused, and told him that, since your Lop. made so many generous concessions to him, he ought not to push that point, especially since payt. was difficult of your own rents, besides his stipen, and that, if he forced your Lop: to that compliyanse, he was not to expect a furr of land. So he has taken the matter to consideration. Money comes in verry slowly for your Lop. rents; however, I send inclosed my bill on Andrew Henderson, Mercht. in Edr., for £50 strl, which I hope will find punctuall compliyanse, and I hope again next post to remitt your Lop. as much more. The Tenants of Petty complain verry much of their bear cropt this year, and yet I judge I cannot reach for it here above 8 mks. pr. boll, of which I desire your Lops. thoughts pr. post.

Date above.

Mr. Joseph Faicknie [London].

SIR,—Being informed that Mr. Ranken is safe arrived with you, and hoping my iron shipt with him in Compt. may be sold or now. I doe at this date value on you for twenty pounds strl. to the order of John Steuart, vryter to the Signet at Edr. This money is designed to supply my poor friends come out of captivity,¹ and therefor I hope will be punctually paid and placed to accot. of Your etc.

Inverness, 19 Decr. 1721.

Mr. William Simson [Aberdeen].

SIR,—I received your favours of 27 past, and I own I am too long in making a return to it, for which I beg pardon. I received in yours Meses. Forbes and Ogilvie letters, who appear to be managers for the Countess of Eroll, and I am verry sensible of your concern about my bussiness, and that you have acted the part of a kind friend for me. But I cannot fullie credit the report of Mr. Ogilvie, since poor James Cuming, who is ane honest man, and wittness to the misfortune, tells me that the other seamen found his goods, vizt. oat meall, nuts, and oak bark, in the fishermens howses, with some of the barks rigging, wh. he [they ?] immediatly fell on how soon the bark stranded, and that Baillie Forbes, who seems to be ane honest Gentleman and Baillie in those Bounds, was so convinced of there barbarity from there own confession, that he fined them in ten pounds strl. to be instantly paid Cuming for his damages, and direct Mr. Ogilvie would not allow to be extracted, so that the whole affair was knockt in the head. I can not say but his conduct might have been as good to lett the poor man get some small satisfaction, since I find he is advised to porteus roll a great many of these plunderers, and, by a lait act of

¹ Captured by the Moors.

Parliament, meddling with wꝛecht good where all the crew come safe ashore is made Felonie, and to be punished with death; and if some rascall was hanged for such a crime it woud be a good service done the nation, and probable deter from such proceedings again. But, for my part, as I have the honour to be Mr. Hays relation, and he has dispensed wh. his claim of Salvager, I design not to medle in it. A town's boat of this place goes soon with timber to Newburgh, by which I will order to transport what rigging, ankers, and sailes are saved; but, for the masts and boat, etc., may dispose of them the best you can. The masts are both new, and would be worth 40 shill. stl. there; but make the best of them. Give my hearty thanks to Baillic Forbes, and assure him Ile pay his charges on my goods thankfully, and that I hope heell take care of the goods in his custody, only please cause bring the Earle of Morrays knock [clock] to Aberdeen, and cause some skillfull tradesman oyle and dress it on my charges, and then ship pr. first for Leith, to the care of Andrew Henderson, Mercht., in Edr., advising its for the Earle of Morray at Dunibirsle. I recd. Mr. Donald McLeods receipt for the £40 nots sent him, for wh. I thank you, and I send you inclosed five guineas, out of which you are to pay Hugh McDonald, student in the old town colledge, fowr guineas, and retire my noat from him for the like value, and out of the other pay Alex. Scot for his charges, and whatever you Deburse for me shall be thankfully paid by Your, etc.

Inverness, 5 Janry. 1722.

John McLeod.

I WROTE to you the 23d ultimo, to which have no return, but wrote of the same date to Andrew Henderson, Mercht. in Edr., to which I have his answer of 29th ultmo, in wh. he advises me that the Pyne staves will not sell in the south firth except in barter for herring cask which I have no occasion for, and the plank cannot be sold untill they be livered and seen. The reall meaning of which I take to be that when they are unload I must sell them at any

rate. And for iron, he writes me it cannot sell at all ; so upon the whole I find there is an absolute necessity the ship proceed for Newcastle, or some port to the southwards of it in England, which I leave to your own good management, for I find by Mr. Hendersons letter that my cargoe, should it be unload in the south firth, will neither furnish me ready money nor credite to purchase me a loading of salt for this place. Newcastle, I find, will be your proper market, where at least you will find ready money for the plank and pyne staves, and perhaps for the iron too ; and it is my opinion that you sell the iron five or ten shillings pr. Under the Currt., so as you get ready money for it. And when your cargoe is disposed you are to reload the ship with coalls and 20 gross of chopin botles for my accot. ; and if you please to ship 20 gross more for your accot. you can have no loss by them ; and if can find good barrll hops [hoops] from 16 to 18/ pr. thousand may fill up all the waste room in the ship with them. You are likeways to buy for my accot. a hyde of ben leather, and half a doz. drest calves skins, with a pair of boots fitt for me, as also the value of ten shillings of wine glases, mugs, tea pots. I told you formerly that you are to address yourself to Messrs. Ridleys at Newcastle, and besure befor you part that you make up accots. with them, and remitt what ballance is due to the hands of Andrew Henderson at Edr., and pleasec order Mr. George Ouchterlonie at London to insure a hundred and fifty pounds strl. on ship and cargoe from Newcastle homeward, and place the premium to my accot.

Inverness, 5 Janry 1722.

Mr. David Stenson [Master of the *Margaret*].

SIR,—I hope this will find you and crew in good health at Bruntisland, and serves to acquaint you that I have sent positive orders to John McLeod to proceed to Newcastle, since I find it impossible to dispose the carge in the south firth without great loss. I shall not doubt but you will doe what you can will contribute to my

interest, and you may depend I will have a due regard to your interest and pains, while I find you have so to mine. Your wife and daughter are well; and you may tell Alexr. Gibson that his wife is brought to bed of a daughter, and you may tell him that I advanced her money she called for. The ship is to load coals and botles at Newcastle and come directly home here; and, please Good she arrives, I have a handsom voyage projected for her.

Inverness, 5 Janry. 1722.

Mr. Robert Gordon [Bordeaux].

SIR,—It is a long time since I had any of your favours, and the dismall and deplorable Accots. of the contagion that rages in the South of France has in a manner put a stop to all correspondence betwixt this place and you, Tho' I hope God will preserve you from the great evill that now prevails in that country, which I heartily wish. This serves to advise you that how soon this come to hand you ship for my accot. in the first ship you can find bound for Rotterdam fowrteen or sixteen hhd. of the best strong claret, better than that is ordinarily sent to this country, wh. you are to consign to the hands of Mr. Alex. Andrew, Mercht. in Rotterdam, and advise him pr. post to insure the value of the same, as also of the ship in Masters name, but you'll take notice that, if you find any difficulty such as makes this commission impracticable, you are to let it drop. I again intreat as a great favour the same be good strong well colored and tasted wine; and how soon I know the value of the same shall order your money at London.

Inverness, 12 Janry. 1722.

For the Earle of Morray.

I AM honoured with your Lops. favour of 21st last month, with Alexr. McPhersons renunciation returned, and I have called for him and told him it was not sufficient; to which he answers that that was not his fault but the clerks

that wrote it, being always willing to sign any renunciation can be contrived to divest him of his fue right to that estate, but swears he is no more able to relive John McBeans wadsett than he is able to fly in the air, being not worth one shilling. He promises again the begining of the week to bring now a full account of the rent of Ester and Midd Cragie, so that the same with the waled rent shall be sent pr. next. John McBean never offered for the fue right of the whole as Alex. McPherson hade it, but 200 mks., pr. year, and I told your Lop. so at Darnway, and your Lop. asked 250 Mks., and I am afraid a good man will be hardly got for those lands while McBeans wadsett subsists, since he has the marrow of them; and hear he is to dispute his right before the Lords. I hade a fuer court at Petty this week, and have taken a decreet again all and sundry except such as have paid, and those are a verry few; but I am promised a good deall of those few duetys again Candlesmass, wh. will be transmitted to your Lop. by James Russell, who finds difficulty, as I doe, to get any of your Lops. last years farms disposed here at eight mark pr. boll. I wrote to you of the 15th of the last month, in wh. I sent inclosed first bill George Skeen on John Gordon at the bank Edr. for fifty pound stl., payable ten days after sight, wh. bill was indorsed to your Lop.; and, seeing I have no return from your Lop., I send you inclosed the second bill indorsed; but if the first is come to hand and answered, your Lop. may return this to me pr. first, and in any event let me be advised in return of this being effectuall, and shall transmitt all the money I can get by James Ross. But am sorry to tell your Lop. that I find the tenents of Pettey for the most Part in verry bade circumstance, and daily groweing worse. And if Providence doe not order that the next cropt be better than these two or three years past, there will be verry soon either ley lands or insuperable debts in that country. And its not in my power to doe more for your Lops. interest than what I doe. Mr. McKenzie is upon me for his money stipen, anent wh. Intreat your Lop. orders pr. first, for he is positive not to collect himself ane farthing from the Tenents.

Inverness, 13 Janry. 1722.

John McLeod.

I RECEIVED yours of 15th inst. in compa. with And. Henderson, and I observe you brought the ship to Lieth in order to be unload, which I must own does surprize me, since in the orders I gave you to dispose of the cargoe in the south firth I cautioned you was not to doe it unless you could sell the plank and pyne staves at a tollerable good price, and could get as much ready money at least as could pay the ducty and mens wages, so that to unload this goods and put them in a yard at Lieth, by wh. plank particularly must be exposed to rain, and so great deal the worse, so that I cannot see but the whole bargin will prove verry ruinous ; and I wish Mr. Henderson had not himself too much in view in adviseing the livering it at Leith. But, since it is unload, pray doe all you can to dispose of it befor you come away, and likeways of the iron, provide, vizt., you can reach 28 pence pr. ston, wh. failling, you are to dispose of it as I formerly advised. And if you find occasion to send it for London you are to consign it to Mr. George Ouchterlonie, Mercht there, and order him to insure the walue. And to the return of the of ship here, I find salt wont doe, so you 'll cause ship ten [?] coalls for ballast, and take all the goods you can get upon freight, and may fill up the waste room with as many new herin bariles as the ship can hold, wh. you will gett in barter for some of the Pyne staves. And as I have formerly hinted, pray fail not to dispose of the plank and staves before you come away if possible, for I care not to leave my goods exposed the open air in Lieth. Cause And. Henderson ship for me a 100 shelled barley, and a barll. full of white biskets.

19 Janry. 1722.

To the Earle of Morray.

MY last was of ye 12 Currt., Since which I'm honoured with yor Lops. favour of the 4th do. and in it promisses to allow at compting my bill of £50 stl. on John Gordon at ye

Bank, So that the Second bill sent yr. Lop. last post for ye same sum will no doubt be returned me in course. I send yor Lop. a letter inclosed from Alexr. McPherson of Craggie, qch I believe shall convince yor Lop. the poor man had no bad design in the last paper he sent yor Lop. I send likeways inclosed an Accot. of ye reall rent of Craggie which Extends in all to 218£ Scots. As for ye Value Rent I could not send it this time, the Collector of the Supply being from home; But Craggie tells me he believes it is 100£ Scots, and that he pays 3 merks pr. month of Cess. He says likeways that befor he gave the Wadset Right of Wester Craggie to John McBean that the Lands of Wester Craggie were resting yor Lop. £25 str. of feu duty, which I think by the by ought to affect ye Wadsett. I can't find anybody in this country that will give 250 merks of feu duty for these Lands Unless the feu right were given gratis, but very sufficient man has desired me offer yor Lop. 1000 Merks for ye feu Right providing yor Lop. will restrict ye feu duty to 10£ str. pr. year, and I believe the man may be brought to give 200 merks yearly as feu duty, in which I dar not advise yor Lop., tho' I belive that when Craggie removes from the Land at Whitsunday we will get the feu duty made good by the tenants that labour the Land. Delnies has given up his land of Brackly, and promises faithfully payt. of his arreare at Candlesmass, in which, if he fail, I design to pursue him without loss of time. Its very fit yor Lop. send immeadiatly A process of warning, for its not a feu that must be warnd of the tenents to remove. I long for yor Lops. Answer anent ye Parson, who makes me frequent visits; As also that I be empowered to provide tenents to the land out of which the present possessors are to be removed at Whitsunday.

Inverness, 26 Janry. 1722.

For John McLeod.

I RECEIVED yours pr. last post adviseing that the ship *Margaret* was unload, and that you hade safed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the duety of the iron and pyne staves and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the plank, wh.

is verey weell, and if you can gett the iron sold, as I advised in my last, vizt., at 27d pr. ston. ready money, or one half reddy money, and the other in three months; but by all means I intreat that you and Mr. Henderson endeavour to get the plank and pyne staves disposed of, to wh. my friend Mr. James Cuming, Mercht. in Edr., will give his concurrence; and by all means let the ship be dispatched without loss of time least she eat up all, for I hear some of Sanders Steuarts crew are comeing passengers with her, wh. I cannot refuse, but see no reason for continueing longer Mr. Gemble the Irish man in my service, unless you find him a verrey usefull man. Pleas buy for my wife ane iron spit and brander, with ane doz. sgoors, and flesh-crook and a flamer, and fifty pound weight of single refenade [refined] Suggar. As to the ballasting of the ship with coalls, I leave it to your self to put in as much as you think proper.

Inverness, 20 Feby. 1722.

Mr. John McLeod, Ad[vocate].

I HAD a letter lately from my Brother, John McLeod, in which he advises me that you desired that I should value on you for fowr hundred pounds scots due Andrew Scot, Meason, for building the outward wall of McLeods tomb, and I have accordingly valued on you of this date to Mr. George Falconer, Mercht. in Edinbr., or order, for sd. sum, payable eight days after sight, which no doubt will be complied with. Its true that there remains some things to be finished about the tomb by Mr. Scot, but then I am resolved to keep a good deall of this money in my hands untill be compleatly done.

Inverness, 16th March 1722.

Mr. George Oucterlony [London].

SIR,—I received your favour of 22 ulto, advising that you had got bill of loadning for 548 barrs Iron Shipt for my accot. in *Hopewell* of Lieth, David Renny, Mr., and that you had insured upon my accot. on sd. iron from

Lieth to London £150 ster. at $1\frac{1}{4}$ pr. Ct., which is well. I hope before this come to hand the sd. ship will be arrived with you, and therefor doe intreat that on receipt of this you wrett to Mr. Robert Gordon of Bourdeaux, and order to value on you for my acct. 12028 french, I say two thousand and 28 french livers, at the Current Exchange. And in case you should not be in cash from the proceeds of my Iron to answer Mr. Gordons draught for sd. sume, may value on me for the same payable at Edr., and your bill will find due honour; or, if you find it more in my favours to remitt Mr. Gordon his mony by the way of Paris, pray feall not to doe it. I observed Captain Gess in the Venetian Gelly is arrived with you, and that you design to call him to an acct. for my sons efects. Ile take it as a favour you doe soe, and I leave that affair intearly to your own prudent manadgment. I have writt of this date to Mr. Robert Gordon advising him that you was to order him payment of the above mentioned sume for my acct.; therfor I advise that you may advise him without loss of time whether you comply with thir orders or not, that that honest Gentleman may not want his mony too long; and I am Your, etc.

Inverness, 16th Mr. 1722.

Mr. Joseph Faikny [London].

I RECEIVED yours of the 17 ulto, and doe observe that you have payd to Mr. Alexr. Andrews of Rotterdam on my acct £63. 8 ster., being the ballance due me by you, for which I thank you. I observe Robert Rankin is coming for this place, once this month, but I will have no occasion for any of these goods you mention; only please by for my use, and deliver to Robert Rankins own hands, 26 yards striped lute strong silk, green and whyt, and 26 yards ditto blew and wheat, making in all 52 yards. It is for making tuo swits of Cloaths for tuo young lasses, and the price is comonly from 3s. to 3:6d. pr. yeard. Please take Mr. Rankin receipt for the same, and accquent of the price, and the same will be remitted you pr. first; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 24 March 1722.

For the Earle of Morray.

BEING apprehensive that your Lop. would be anxtious to hear from me anent your last years rents, and finding James Russell, who is not idle in your Lops. service, could not get south so verry soon as I expected by reason of the slow payments he finds of your Lops. rents in those bade times, I have ventured to send by the Post to the care of honourable Mr. Francis Stuart, your Brother, £180 : str., that is, your Lop. has inclosed £110 strl. in bank noats, and the remainder in bank noats. If could find any bills, more bank noats or guineas, would had sent some more, but did not think fitt to risque specie in silver ; but again James Russell goe off, wh. I hope will be in ten days, your Lop. may expect to hear furdur from me. I must acquaint your Lop. that your tenants of Pettie haveing for three years past a verry bade cropt, particularly of barly, I find a vast difficulty in getting your rents made good, for in spite of all I can doe thir rests are not diminished, Tho I hope at long run your Lop. will not be much looser. I have warned severall tennants to remove again Whitesunday, and yet am affraid some must still continue for want of good tennants to take there rooms ; for I care not that any of your Lops. Lands should lay waste. The fue duety of Strathearn¹ and Strathnairn come in verry slowly—

£10 No. $\frac{68}{13433}$

10 No. $\frac{55}{10988}$

10 No. $\frac{80}{17695}$

10 No. $\frac{68}{13590}$

10 No. $\frac{68}{13533}$

10 No. $\frac{46}{9071}$

10 No. $\frac{72}{14335}$

£5 No. $\frac{88}{17492}$

5 No. $\frac{77}{15275}$

5 No. $\frac{87}{17344}$

5 No. $\frac{85}{16886}$

5 No. $\frac{81}{16109}$

5 No. $\frac{85}{16996}$

5 No. $\frac{88}{17445}$

5 No. $\frac{85}{16910}$

¹ Now Strathdearn.

Inverness, 5 Aprile 1722.

Mr. David Stenson [Stevenson].

LOVEING FRIEND,—You are to proceed with the ship *Margaret* of this place for Rotterdam, where you are to adress to Mr. Alexr. Andrews and Mr. Alexr. Castares, Mercht. there, who will have orders to load the ship with Lisbon Salt and wine ; and from thence you are to proceed for this place, and bring letters and bills of loading as from Lisbon. But befor you come directly up here you are to make a signall with your ensign off Helmsdeall, if the wind serve, where my orders will waite you either there or at Tarbetness. You are to take care that no goods be found in the ship that may endanger her, especially that can be easily seen or diserned. Such goods as may be seen are as follows, vizt., salt, wine in hogsheads, chests with leamons and oranges, barrells with reasins and feggs, or brandie in hogsheads. Except these non other goods can be seen without great danger. You are to be verry cautious that if there be any other you stow it under the salt, or put in it hogsheads and stow it among the wine.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—This goes by David Stevenson in the ship *Margaret* of this place, who is to load Lisbon salt and about ten tuns of french wine, haveing $\frac{2}{3}$ of the hold of freight. Mr. Castairs is to ship two hundred salt, dutch measure, which I am told will about 880 bushells of our measure, and five tunns of wine ; so that you will only ship for my Accot. about a dutch hundred Lisbon Salt, or 1200 bushll, for my accot., more or less, as Mr. Stenson will advise, and my four tun from Burdeux, with two good white wine, bought of the Keys, and 100 flasks best Burgundy, to be stowed among the wine in two chests. This is all the goods Ile want at present, for, to be plain with you, goods from you are a drugg here, and no money stirring, and no wonder, considering the wast number of deallers from hence your way. But I suppose it will not be long, so I intreat that, in caise any of cruising sloops should meet

the bark, that you make up Invoyce and bill of Loading for the Salt and wine as from London, borrowing some Merchts. name liveing there, since the ship is to report here as from Lisbon, and the wine to be entered as Portugall wine; and pray fail not to caution Mr. Castairs to doe the same. My son [in-law] Alexr. Sten: is gone along, and will deliver you this. He is gone more to see a little of the world than to trade; and please furnish him about £150 credit, and take his receipt in my name. Beside and am afraid you must pay port charges for the bark.

Inverness, 17 Aprile 1722.

Mr. George Falconer.

SIR,—I Received your favour of 5 Curt, with enclosed to be execute against George Urquhart in Cromarty. You'll please know that he was Married to my sister, so that it will look ill in me to medle in this affair. I send you by the post ten Gunies, and must beg the Favour that you'll please retire my accepted bill to the order of John Duglass, Mercht. in Aberdeen, payble at the Royall Coffee house the 19 Curt., for £9 : 13s. sterlin, and the rest will pay the ballance I am due you on the 3 Dantzick bills.

Inverness, 16 Aprile 1722.

Mr. George Urquhart [Cromarty].

AFFT. BR.,—Att my Mothers desire I have sent the bearer express to acquaint you that haveing agreed with a Gentleman in our neighbourhood to pay him a Considerable sum of Mony again Whitsinday nixt upon ane heritable Security on his Lands, in which my Mother is to have a Lyfrent right, I will lay stress on the 3000 Merks for which you and Glastilich are bound by bond to my Deaseased Father, without which I will not be able to make good my project. Therfor I will expect your punctuall Compliyance. You may remember it is above a year since I called for this mony, and now I hope to find no Dissapointment. I think it needless to writ to Glastulich, since you may acquaint him of this intimation, or, if you Desire me, Ile doe it.

My Mother sends you a noat of what mony and goods she has Gott in payment of the Anual rent of the 3000 merks, and untill I clear with you I can not tell positively how much she wants ; therfor pray send by the bearer a steat of that affair, for my mother is uneasie about it. I spoke to Capt. Donald Mackleod laitley annent a Clearance of the anual rents due be Cadboll etc., and he tells me its your consern to clear all; and you may remember you told me the contrar. So that I find I will (if my interest is not better payed) be oblidged to Demand all my Mony again Marts next.

Inverness, 11 May 1722.

Mr. John McRath.¹

DR. SIR,—I received your favour of 25th last month, with McLeods receipt to Drynoch and Ulinish for £50 ster, which I had sent you last post but that the post went is a drunken, carles fellow and I could find no bill. But now I send you inclosed £50 lib. ster., vizt. 8 notes of 5£ ster.

each is	. . . . .	£40 : 0 : 0
Bill David Aikenhed on Richard Savoyge		
at sight	. . . . .	6 : 13 : 0
3 guineas in gold	. . . . .	3 : 3 : 0
Silver	. . . . .	0 : 4 : 0
		£50 : 0 : 0

I hope this mony will come safe to your hands, and doe intreat pr. first you advise me that you have got it.

Banknoats sent to the Laird of McLeod.

N—	70 13968	£5
	98 19453	£5
	103 20563	5
	80 15835	5
	47 9257	5
	47 9202	5
	69 13722	5
	76 15060	5

¹ The Gaelic spelling of Macrae.

Inverness, 11th May 1722.

Mr. James Cuming, Edr.

I have sold a good part of the newest wine to Lovat and Coloden, but have got no mony as yet, and 30 botles to General Ross for ready mony. How soon I get all sold shall send you particular accot.

Inverness, 11 May 1722.

Comm. Steuart, Edr.

AFFECT. CUS.,—I received yours of 23d last month by James Russell which contained wery perumter orders anent Oberarder.¹ He was hear last week, and I told of the Earles commands, and he swears that once in this month the mony demanded will be lodged in my hands, which failing he would willingly goe to gaol. But I know he has the mony to a triffle, and I think he will not feall. I return you inclosed the letters you sent me relating to Craggy, with the tuo tacks you demanded, and I always thought that laird's promises to My Lord would amount to this. I send inclosed decreet against Donald McQueen of Coribrough for £125 : 15 Scots, and protested bill Lachlan McIntosh in Termit for £61 : 8 : 8 Scots ; on both which I desire you send me a horning pr. first, and charge the Expence to my accot.

Inverness, 19th May 1722.

Mr. John McLeod, Edr.

I SEND you inclosed a letter from My Lord Lovat, with a bill on John Gordon of the bank, payable to his Lop. and indorsed to you for four hundered fifty five pounds eleven shillings sterling. I hope youle advise by this post that this bill is accepted, since Ile not draw on you till I hear it is so, tho My Lord wants much his mony at this nice juncture. I give my humble service to Mr. Alexr. McLeod, and to all Frinds, and I am, with much Esteem and affection.

¹ William Mackintosh of Aberarder in Strathnairn.

Inverness, 5 June 1722.

[George Urquhart, Cromarty].

AFFT. BR.,¹—I have yours of 4th currt., and I am surprized at your proposall of sending bond in my name for the £1000 Scots and anual rents I want. I think the bond I have is fully as good as you propose, and I expected that you had my mony to send me and not a bond, for mony I must have; otherways my Credit must suffer, which Ile endeavour to guard against. What I told you was that if Scourie failed to let you have the mony I would try if my Lord Lovat would lend it; as to which his Lop. was not positive till he returned from Stratherick, Which will be this day, and then Ile acquent you if you are to expect mony that way or not. Its true John Tayler is to get some mony, but its to be payd to drymuier,² who I spoke to and refuses to give it. My Mother desires to know if you can spare her ten bolls of bear, and a gross of chapin botles, and the price of both. Pray secure acceptance of the inclosed bill of £34 : 3 : 5 ster., or return it protested. George McLeods bond is dated the 19th of June 1719.

Inverness, 20 June 1722.

Mr. John McKenzie, Uncle to Garloch.

SIR,—I wrote you yesterday in answer to yours of 18 currt., appointing you to come over to the Green of Muirtown to spake to me about the meall; and now to prevent that trouble I have sent this express to tell you that since receipt of yours I have been dealling for some meall to you, and after much to doe I have agreed for 100 bolls good Caithness meall at eight merks and one half pr. boll of eight ston, readdie money; so, if youll the sd. meall at this price, acquaint me, and Ile ship it for you on your own risque, and you shall have it freight free to Garloch. Or, if youll give me £6 Scots pr. boll of 8 ston, Ile deliver the meall on my risque at Garloch;

¹ Brother-in-law.

² Duff of Drummuir.

but mind its readdy money and in lieu of the £50 stl. was to be payd on delivery of your fish. You may likewise have the iron at 22 pr. ston deliverable at Garloch or 30 here, but in either of the caises must send a trustee to see it weighed here. Acquaint me what great salt youll need, for now is the time.

Inverness, 30 June 1722.

To Comissar Stuart.

DEAR CUSIN,—I Give you the truble to Deliver the inclosed bill to the Laird of Mackleod, and gett his receipt for a hundred pounds sterlin received by my hands from Rodrick McLeod of Ulanish and Norman McLeod of Drynach, in pairt of there intronmissions with the rents of his Esteat ; and no Doubt youll take care this voucher be sufficient, and transmitt it to me pr. next post, haveing passed my receipt for this money.

Invernes, 30 June 1722.

Mr. George Urquhart [Cromarty].

AFFT. BROTHER,—I Received yours, with your bond of £2000 Scots, in which Sir Keneth Mackenzie of Cromarty is Cautioner ; but your Letter came so Leat last night that it was not possible for me to gett anie mony remitted this post, but have wrot to Charles Gordon that a Good pairt of his Mony is in my hands, and that you would certainly send him all next post. But its not in my power to Draw for anie more Mony on your acct. then the net Ballance Due you after Deducting the sum and Interest due me on George McLeods bond, which is £104 : 3 : 4 sterlin, as youll see pr. inclosed Account, Which bond, with my assignation, shall be sent you next occasion, or on Demand ; but thought it not proper to keep your servant till the assignation was Done now. On second thoughts I thought proper to send you enclosed my promissarie noat for the £62 : 3 : 4d. sterling, which transmitt me anie time befor the next post goe off, and Ile send you the paymaster of this regiments bills for all,

or bills will be equally good. I say my promissarie noat enclosed is for the balance due you on your bond of 2000£ Scots, payable at Martinmas next, which I expect and hope will punctually answer to pay my bill to Balenain.¹

Inverness, 6 July 1722.

Mr. John McLeod [Advocate, Edinburgh].

DEAR SIR,—I valued on you the 4th Inst. to the order of Charles Gordon, Mercht. of Edr., at three days sight, fyftie two pounds stl., and of this date fyftie six pounds stl. to the order of the Earle of Morray, at three days sight; both which bills are in full of the Lord Lovats money in your hands—

Bill on John Gordon, payable to Lord Lovat, indorsed to Mr. John McLeod, drawn on sd. Mr. McLeod	} £455 : 11 : 0
19 May. To Robert Rose, Mercht., of Inverness . . .	£22 : 10 : 7
2 June. To James Cuming, Mercht. of Edr.	25 : 0 : 0
Do. To Will: McKay, Junr., Mercht. of Inverness . . .	300 : 0 : 0
4 July. To Charles Gordon, Mercht. of Edr.	52 : 0 : 0
6 July. To the Earle of Morray	56 : 0 : 0
	£455 : 10 : 7

Inverness, 6 July 1722.

To the Earle of Morray.

MY LORD,—I flattered myself of a long time with haveing the pleasure of waiteing on your Lop. at Dunibirslie or now, but my trifling affairs is so crowded on me that it was scarce possible for me to have that satisfaction; and, now that the season of our herrin fishing drawes near, I begin to despair of seeing your Lop. so soon as I ex-

¹ Fraser of Balnain in Stratherrick.

pected, and therefor thought fitt to send you the inclosed bill on Mr. John McLeod, Advocat at Edinburgh, for £56 : 0 strl., payable at three days sight, which I hope will find punctuall payment, and I doubt not your Lop. will signify your receipt of it by a letter to me pr. first. I am sorry to tell your Lop. that the Accot. of rests [arrears] in Pettie is this year rather Larger than last, and, if should please God that the present cropt should prove bad, the one half of ye tennants of Pettie will be Bankrupt, and oblidge to give up their labourings, for the one half of the Farms [rents] was not payed of last cropt, and the old Accot. rests litle diminished. This a melancholly story but I cannot help it. I must complain of Delnys who, notwithstanding of repeated promises, has not as yet payed on farthing of the large Accot. resting by him, wh. your Lop. saw at Darniway, and therefor its fitt that without loss of time Comissar Steuart be ordered to send me blank Summonds, so as he may be prosecute befor the Lords of Session, and his present cropt in Brachlie arrested ; for, as he lives now off your Lops. ground, I suppose he will not be layable to answer your Barron court at Pettie. I hope to have occasion to buy your Lops. Salmon this year, and therefor that they will not be disposed till I be acquainted, and I hope, should I chance to buy them, my payment will be found as punctuall as my neighbours.

6 July 1722.

Mr. John McKenzie [Gairloch].

SIR,—This goes by the ship *Margt.* of this place, Daniell Steuart, Mr., who has for your Accot. sixtie salmon barrlls containing 103 bolls oat meall at 8 ston pr. boll good weight. I say the said meall is for your accot., as in like-ways, wh. you are to receive, 39 barrs of iron contg. 113 ston 12 pound English . . . There is likeways ane anker brandy for your Accot. for your care and dispatch in shipping the fish ; and I intreat, as you regard my Credit and Keneths, you dispatch the ship, and therefor let your meall be emptied out of the barrlls without loss of time

that ye salmon may be packed. And I again intreat the outmost dispatch, that you grant receipt for the meall and salt in terms of your comission to, and take the said masters receipt for what fish you deliver, and the same shall be sufficient to your, etc.

7 July 1722.

Daniell Steuart.

THESE serves to order you to proceed to Cromarty to Receive aboard my ship the *Margt.* of this place five last herring cask with salt, and from thence you are to proceed whout loss of time to Garloch, where you are to address your self to John McKenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch, to whom you are to deliver the sixtie salmon barrlls wh. oat meall, 39 barrs iron, 150 rolls of tobacco, and ane anker brandy, with a timber balk and broads. You are likeways to deliver to the Laird of Garlochs order five last of herrin cask, contg. 200 Bushlls forraign salt, for wh. salt and cask you are to gett the Lairds receipt. And you are likeways to get Jon McKenzie's for ye meall, iron balk broad and two weights, . . . wh. receipts you are to transmitt to me by the Cupar, John Gibson, who goes to pack the salmon, for wh. purpose see that John McKenzie takes his meall immediatly out of the barrll that ye salmon be immediatly packed and shiped. And then you are to take on board the cod fish, from 24,000 to 25,000, and see you receive only good Merchant ware; and, if any be bade, you are not to receive it as good cod fish, but two for one; and if any be under 14 inches in lenth you are likeways to receive two for one, in terms of the contract. If you touch at Orkney its fitt you take a pilot, or if doe not, must call at Stornway, and in yt. event its fitt you get a coast coquet for 25000 cod fish, cuered with forraign salt, and 60 barrlls salmon, and cause his land waiter indorse the same. And from Garloch you are to proceed to this road, and waite my furder orders. Mind you are to grant receipt for what fish you are to receive, and *nota* there are 300 barell hoops aboard for packing the salmon.

Inverness, 16 July 1722.

Donald Steuart.

I HOPE this will find you safe arrived at Garloch, and accompanys John McGibson, Coupar, who is gone to pack the salmon, wh. I wish be no hinder to you. As I told you in my instructions from this, you are to take receipt for all the goods you have on board, that is, for the iron, meall, balk, broads, and weights, from John McKenzie, Uncle to the Laird of Garloch, and for the last herrin cask containing 200 bushles forraign salt you are to take receipt from the Laird of Garloch or his doer in the country, wh. receipts you are to transmitt to me by John McGibson. And you are likeways to Grant receipts for wh. number of dry cod fish and barrlls of salmon you recive aboard the ship, wh. is to be the rule of my counting for the same. And take notice that whatever salmon cask is left more than what is requisite to pack the salmon you will dispose them to Garloch, or any other in Country will buy them, at three marks pr. barrll, and take receipt or obligation for the same in my name accordingly if you get not money. If you fin that you have any spare room in the ship after the Garloch salmon and cod fish is stowed aboard, in that caise you are to goe to Stornway in Lews, where you are to address yourself to Mr. Zacharie McAulay, and deliver him the inclosed letter, being informed that he has a considerable quantity of dry cod fish, which, if you find to be sufficiently weell cuered and Merchanable goods, I desire you buy of the same at the cheapest rate you can, not exceeding 9/stl. pr. qll. [quintal] of 112 ston english, for wh. you are to pass your bill on me, payable again the 1 of 10br next at this place, wh. will be answered. And if you can agree at rate you are to buy of sd. fish at said rate as many dry cod fish as the ship can take in and no more. And take notice to get proper affadavits annent there being Royally cuered, since they are to be relanded here in order they be shiped for forraign Countrys.

Inverness, 27 July 1722.

To the Earle of Murray.

I RECD. your Lops. favour by my brother James Russell,

by which your Lop. is pleased to prefer me to the first offer of your Salmon this year, for which I humbly thank your Lop: and if I give not as much as any other Ile lay no claim to preference. . . . When Comissar Steuart was here he lodged a Caption against Mr. Michael Frazer¹ for £20 : 0 : strl., and desired I might execute the same if I got not Security for the money. I pushed Mr. Michael as much as I could, and he has now brought me four accepted bills payable at Whitsunday next for £5 : 0 : each by Faily, Phlichatie, Dunmaglass, and Farquhar McGillivray, and in the mean time the dilligence to stand in full force in my coustody untill these bills be [met] and the interest etc. is paid up. This is the best I could make of it, as to wh. I waite your Lops. orders on this head, and to know if this be agreeable or not. I hade seen your Lop: at Dunibirsle about the midle of this month if I had not been laitely seized with a severe touch of the goutt, so must delay untill I know the event of our herrin fishing, and I am, etc.

Inverness, 7 Sept. 1722.

Mr. Andrew Henderson [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I have yours of 23rd past, advising that you have disposed of my fir plank lay at Lieth, being 276, and the same amounts to £55 : 5 : 8 strl., of which on third payable reddie money, and two thirds in 6 mos. ; and that you are about to sell my two hhds. mather, and to ship the 6000 pyne staves for this firth pr. first occasion, wh. I hope you have accordingly done since I will want now the staves here. Likeways I hope you will mind my coalls. . . .

Inverness, 14 Sepr. 1722.

Mr. Charles Miller [Glasgow].

SIR,—This serves to advise you that we have this day valued on you to the order of Mr. John Davidson, Writer

¹ Minister of Daviot.

in Edr., for £51 : 19 : 6 stl., at 20 days sight, and that by order of Mr. Will: Thomson, Mercht. in Cork, for whom we have shipped herrins here, and who falls Dr. to us in that ballance by our accot. Curt. We doubt not your giveing due honour to our draught, since Mr. Thomson has timeously advised us.

Inverness, 22 Septbr. 1722.

Mr. Andrew Henderson, Edr.

SIR,—My last to you was the 7th instant, since when I have none from you, and doe admire that the pynce staves are not shipt for this firth by any of the many ships are come here leatly from Leith. Pray, if they are not shipt, embrass the first opertunity, since they will now yeld me hear £6 : 10 pr. thousand, and send me pr. first Mr. Taylers receipt for the 100 £ Scots I ordered him. This serves cheifly to advise that how soon this comes to hand you look out in Leith or elsewhere for a sufficient capable man to take charge as meat of my ship, the *Margret* of this place, to goe from hence to Haverdegrace, and from thence to Bourdeaux, and back here, who is to come north immediatly on my charge and with whom you are to agree for wages, any sume not exceeding ten pound sterling. I hope seven or eight may doe, which I leave absolutly to your own good conduct: only I entreat the man you engadge be dispatched hear without loss of time, as you can oblige Your.

Inverness, 25 Septbr. 1722.

Mr. Alexr. Steuart.

WHEN, please God, you arive at Dantzig you are to deliver our letter to Mr. Alexander Coutts, and also thirteen lasts, five barells, herings for ovr accot.; that is, for Alexander Balie five Lasts, for John Steuart four lasts and six barells, and for Robert Rose three last and eleven; and *Nota* there are six parcels for Jon Steuart proper accot., four of which you are to dispose of as his wife shall direct, and tuo as his mother shall direct. From the proceeds of

the 13 Last 5 barells herings to be consigned to Mr. Coutts above mentioned, you are to buy and ship the value in oak, and fir plank, cordage, and Iron, and that of the best kinds fitt for building a ship of about fourty lasts burdin or thirby. Since wee incline not to exceed the value of our herings in purchasing these goods youle take notice to cause Mr. Coutts fill up as much of _____ as will be wanting with best knapwood, that is, twenty peice to each of us, and the rest in barell staves. We wish a good voyage; and we are your Servts., J: S:, A: B:

Inverness, 25 Septr. 1722.

Mr. Alexr. Coutts, Danzig.

SIR,—This goes along by the ship *Helen* of this place, and will be delivered you by Alexr. Steuart, Master of sd. ship, who has aboard for our accots. thirteen lasts herins, which is lickways to be delivered you, and to be desposed of to the best avail, and I hope will sell to a good accot., being well cured and packed fish. You are to pay the Master tuo and thirty shill. and six pence sterling pr. last of freight, and half a crown and tuo shillings and six pence sterling Caplaken, at the curent Exchange; and you are to Invest the net proceeds in shuch goods as the Master shall advise, crediting cash of us with a share according to our interests in the Herins, which is as folows, vizt., Alexr. Balie five lasts marked A B; Robert Rose three lasts eleven barells marked R; and John Steuart three lasts 6 barells marked £ ; and send us bill of Loadning for such goods as you ship as above dertected, and insure the value, debiting each with a proportion of the premium. But youle take notice that what is this to be shiped doe not exceed the value of our herings; and All are your,
J. S:, A: B:

Inverness, 28 7ber 1722.

At 15 days sight pay to the honorable the Comissioners of Excise order, at there office in Edr., the sume of twenty pound sterling, value received of Mr. David Steuart,

Colector of Excise, being his majestys mony on return,
and lick value pd. for your accot, for charges on Patrick
Steuart's Stores, as formerly advised by, Sir, Your

J: S:

To Mr. Patrick McDowall,
Writer to the Signett in Edr.

Inverness, 5t 8ber 1722.

Mr. James Cumming, Edr.

SIR,—I received yours of 27t past, to which I canot
make a full and particular answer at present and so canot
accot. for my failings in your affair. In the mean time
I send you inclosed bill of 50 £ sterling drawn on Messrs.
McFarlan and McCawll, Merchts. in Glescow, payable in
three ms. after date, which I hope will find due honour;
and plase advise you have received this bill. Your
Draught on Coloden is not pd., but at parting this place
he assured me he had given orders which be payd at
martimas nixt. In a post or two shall endeavour to send
you a full accot. of my trust for you.

Inverness, 26 8ber 1722.

[Norman Macleod of Drynach, the Bailie's father-in-law.]

DEAR SIR,—My wife and I are Desperatly angery you
came not this way from the south, to see at least your
god son Normand, who is a fine promesing boy. Its realy
fitt you come this lenth very soon, since I want much to
see you; and your frind Lovat told me the other day
at his own house that he no jealoused your kindness in
respect you have not seen him for 5 years past. Glengarie¹
wrott me tuo days agoe that Scotos² has payd you the
bill and accot. Due me, the amount of which is fifty nine
pound eighteen shillings ster., and the accot. is above
written, and Glengaries accepted bill indorsed to you

¹ Alexander Macdonell of Glengarry, the famous Alastair Dubh (Black Alexander) of Gaelic song and story. He fought for the Stewarts at Killiecrankie and Sheriffmuir, and died in 1724.

² Macdonell of Scotus.

inclosed ; so, if you have not got this mony, its fitt you call for it pr. first, since I have Scotos wourd of honour and letter to pay me. If you get this mony give Major Gordon [Bernera Barracks, Glenelg]¹ on receipt or bill to me as much of it as he will take, and transmitt the rest by a sure hand to Halumus [Hallowmas] or Martimas market. And if you get no mony return me the bill, that I may persue, which I will be loath to doe.

Inverness, 26 Octr. 1722.

Major Thos. Gordon [Bernera Barracks].

DEAR SIR,—I recd. your kind favour of 20 inst. with the inclosed letters for Londn., and your bill of £64 : 14 : 0 strl. on Mrs. Kathrin Bourn, payable to my order six days after sight. Your letters shall be forwarded by to morrows post, as well your bill, to my corrispondent at Londn. if cannot gett the same negtiat here, wh. I belive I cannot. I am pleased my Father in Law has afoorded you the £10 : 0 stl. you wanted. I wrote him by this Post and sent him inclosed a bill and accot. wh. I hope will afford him a good deall more money ; so that I have advised him to give you what money you call for.

Inv. 27 8ber 1722.

Mr. George Ouchterlony, Londn.

SIR,—Since my last I received your favour of 11th currt., in which you advise yt. you had got insured in the ship *Helen* of this place for Dantzick, £30 ster. at three pr. Cent. . . . I send you inclosed an indorsed bill Major Thomas Gordon on Mrs. Katherin Burn in Cragg court near charing Cross, for £64 : 14s. ster., payable to my order at 6 days sight, which when pd. place to my Credit and advise me accordingly. And in the mean time please insure for my accot. on the ship *Margret* of this place, Daniel Steuart Master, burdin 50 tuns or therby, I say on sd. ship and hir Cargoe of Salmond from Findhorn to

¹ Macleod of Drynach resided in Glenelg.

Haverdegrace against all hazards, £200 sterling, and I hope youle study to make the premium as cheap as possible, and get undoubted men to be insurers, and advise me of their names in Course. The ship will be ready to sail next week.

Inverness, 27 8ber 1722.

Mr. William Thomson, Cork.

SIR,—When ye ship *Margret* parted from this place with 30 Lasts of Herins to your accot., which I hope is safe arived with you long or now and proves to your Contentment, I had not oportunity to wrett you then fully with Mr. McKay, being then extreamly hurried. I doe observe in your letter of 7th June yt. you have me indebted to you for £5 ster., which I must acknowledge has intirly escaped my memory, and therefor I desire that pr. first you advise me how this hapens, that so being satisfied in it may order your mony to your frind Mr. Rober Miller of Glescow, being inclined to doe you justice how soon my memory is refreshed in the matter. I supose you will think your salt was sold at a low rate, but as oyr quantitys the sam kind with yours at 20d. pr. bushell we did not think it advisable to refer the seall of your salt to thee uncertain event of a fishing. But as the Fishing hapned I must own it would have given more mony; and yet since the Fishing Great Quantitys of Lisbon Salt has arived hear which has been sold at 20d., payable only in ; so if you hapen to send here next year for herin I canot promise youl find any tolerable market for salt unless it should happen that we should have the misfortune to be engaged in a foreign war before then.

Inverness, 30 Octr. 1722.

Mr. Henry Graham.

SIR,—At the desire of my friend Mr. Will Sommervill, Mercht. in Renfrew, I send you the inclosed Debentures and letter from him, not doubting youle negotiat his debenture pr. first as he desires, and return it to his Uncle,

and your care in this affair which will be verry obliging to those Gentlemen.

Inver., 3d. Novem. 1722.

Mr. George Ouchterlony, Londn.

SIR,—I have yours of 18 8ber last advising yt. the ship *Ann*, James Cuthbert, Master, is sailed for this frith, as also bill of loadning for 5 baggs hopes shiped for your proper accot., which shall take care to dispose of to the best advantage how soon it comes to hand. Doe also note that you have shiped 56 lib. duple refined sugar, and 39 lib. solle leather for my proper accot., value £6 : 5s. ster., which is well. The ship *Ann* is not yet arived at Findhorn that I hear of, but doe suppose she may be at Fraserbrugh, a harbour 60 miles from thence, where are severall oyr shipes at present bound up this frith, where they are de-teaned by hard gales of westerly winds which have blown for 8 days past, but when she arives will not be detained in loading six days, the Cargoe being all in Findhorn ready to be shipped. I observe your proposall to take the half of my cod fish to be shiped for your accot. in sd. *Ann* of London. James Cuthbert, Master, at 12 sh. 6d. sterling pr. qlle. [quintal]. I hearby accept of your proposall, and shall accordingly ship the half of the sd. Fish for your accot., ye whole being about 550 qtles., which will consign as you derset to Messrs. Shalet and Vonder and Ferant at Barselona, and order the whole proseedes to be remitted to you ; but, being oblided to pay up what I am due for sd. Fish again the 20th Currt., have valued on you of this date to the order of Andrew henderson, Mercht. in Edr., for £100 st. payable ten days after sight ; to which I hope youle give due honour since I am not to value on you on this accot. for any more mony till about the end of January next.

Inverness, 3 Novr. 1722.

Mr. Robt. Gordon [Bordeaux].

SIR,—I own my self to blame that I wrote not to you

or now. As to the first I have been verry pressing with George Urquhart and James Glass to doe you justice, and I hope both will pay up verry soon all they owe of yor bills, tho I own they ought to be much ashamed your payment is so long postponed. This accompanys my son, Alexr. Steuart, in the ship *Margaret* of this place, Donald Steuart, Master, who goe from hence with a loading of salmon for Haverdegrace, and I hope the concerned, as well as I, who are good responsall men, and I doubt not yowll take care to send them such newes as will please them, since the ship proceeds immediatly from Haver to Burdeaux, and I am hopefull that the salmon will come to such ane acco. as that there will be litle occasion to draw any bill. As my son is a young lad, and intirely a stranger with your bussiness in France, I hope you 'll keep ane eye over him, and asist him with your best advice. He is to ship for my Accot. and his own about 8 tuns of wine and brandy, wh. I hope he will be able to pay up from the proceeds of the salmon sent along, and what will remain of the half freight payable to me; but should he want a litle credit let him not be straitned. In the mean time I must earnestly intreat that what wine you ship for me be good and strong and all rack of the lees; and the brandy to be shipt be put in quarter Casks or ankers to contain 5 vertes. My wife and I return hearty thanks for the present of the hhd. of wine sent by Alex. Wood two years agoe, and send you now two dozen of Isle of Sky champaign.¹ This only for a least, and, if it please, you shall have some more pr. next occasion.

Mr. John Somerwill, Renfrew.

Inverness, 10th Nov. 1722.

SIR,—I hope this will find you safe at home, and serve to advise you that your nefew, John Somerwill, sailed on wednesday last, the 7t inst. with a fair wind from Chanry road for Beuntisland, having taken aboard about 50 last of herins, for value of which he has drawn four Seperat

¹ Whisky.

bills on you and Mr. John Blacburn, mercht. in Glescow, which I hope will find due honour. This serves principally to advise that in the month of 8ber last, when I was delivering to you and your nefew your herings at Chanry, you told me you was going next day to Cromerty, and you may remember I gave you then the trouble of a letter to one Thomas Linsay, Mercht. there, who since tels me that the same did not come to hand. Therfor I earnestly entreat you look your letter case and among what oyr papers you had yrabout you, and try if can find sd. letter, and send it me pr. first, since, if it is miscaryed, I will loose about nine pound ster., there being ane obligation inclosed for salt to ye value, the granter of which is now dead, so that with out I can find this paper I must loose the mony. May enquere your nefew John if know any thing of this letter, and advise pr. first.

Inverness, 12th Decr. 1722.

Messrs. Windar and Ferrand, Barcelona.

GENTLEMEN,—This will adress you by Capt. James Cuthbert, in the *Ann* of London, and brings you bill of Loading for 520 Qutles of Dry Cod fish of the best kind this country affords, to be sold immediatly after arrivall to the best avail by the advice of my frind, Mr. Alexr. Rose, who is going along, and will wait of you. The net proceeds, after paying the Master a dollar pr. Quntle of Freight, is to be immediatly remitted Mr. George Ouchterlony, Mercht. in London, for whose accot. the half of the fish is, and by whose recomendation I adress you. If this small adventure finds a good market it will be ane inlet to a further corispondance and much greater Consignations of this kind hereafter, but will intirly depend on the encouradgment we find from you at present, and particularly your making speedy remittances of the proceeds of the Cargoe as above. I presume to your favour and best care My frend, Mr. Alexr. Rose, and entreat you give the ship the outmost dispatch, being to proceed with the rest of hir Cargoe to Leghorn, and the Lent season

being now aproching. And please have me advised of the ships arrivall with you, and departure from your Port, of the Success of this consignation ; as also in the month of May, June, and July next how markets for Dry fish are lick to rule with you. And, notwithstanding of this consignation, I hope, if your market Happen to be over stocked, and That this fish will not sell to accot. wt. you, and that you find it will doe better at Leghorn, in that case I hope youle be so kind as to order the ship with my cod fish to proceed to that port, to be adressed to my Frinds Ackman and Windar or to any oyr Mr. George Ouchterlony will advise you from London pr. post. There is lickways aboard the ship, which will be consigned lickways to your care, 300 Quntle Cod fish, shiped by Mr. Dawson, of Foress, which I supose youle find to differ in Quality with mine, and is Kept apart in the ship, as there is about 32 Qutles of the worst Fish I hade kept lickways apart, which I Reccomend to my frend Alexr. Rose, who no doubt will ask your advice for disposing the same. I wish all may find a good market, so that a further corispondance may be continued ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 12 Decr. 1722.

Messrs. Ackman and Windar, Leghorn.

GENTLEMEN,—The last of your favours was advising that 5 barells salmond I had consigned you pr. Capt. Midletown of Aberdeen were lost at sea pr. sd. Capts. ship, of which I had been aprized before yours came to hand ; for which no help but patience. Now this will adress you by my frind Alexr. Rose of this place in ye *Ann* of London, James Cuthbert Master, and who will consign you for my accot. 56 barells fine salmond, and fourtie barells Herins, which I hope youle see to dispose of to the best avail without Loss of time, and how soon the ship arrives, which I am affraid may be pretty leatt. However, as this is the beginning of our dealling, I hope youle doe for my interest as much as posible, and particularly make speedy remittances of the proceeds of sd. salmon and

Herins with Mr. Roses advise. And if Mr. Cuthbert returns with salt for Mr. Dawson and me heare, in that case I suppose will have occasion to imploy a good deall the proceeds in goods, and to purchase my half of the salt in Spain or Portugall; but, if oyr ways, all is to be as soon as posible remitted for my accot. to the hands of Mr. George Ouchterlony, Mercht. in London, and I am to be at same time advised by post; I say as much of the proceeds as Mr. Rose shall think fit. The ship has now on board, besids Mr. Dawsons Salmon, 850 Quintles Cod fish, which last part of the cargoe is ordered to be sold at Barcellona if a market offer. Mean time, if canot sell there, have order Messrs. Shallet, Windar and Ferrand there to dereet my share of sd. Fish, being 552 Quintles, to your house at Leghorn. And if the whole salmond aboard comes not your way you have not me to blaim, haveing endeavoured the same all I could. I expect youle assist My frind Mr. Rose with your best advice in what he may have to doe, and after this have me frequently advised annually of merkets for fish of all Kinds, and wine with you at least thrice yearly, and will give such incuradgment as will mak a Currt. trade yearly from this Country to your port, which shall Heartily wish, being, with much esteem, Gentlemen, Your, etc.

Your advices will come allways seasonably in the months of June, July, and August.

Inverness, 14th Decembr. 1722.

To Comissar Steuart.

SIR,—I received yours of 13th last month with the letters ejection against McPherson of Craggy, which shall execute very soon, tho I think its much about one whether he remove now or towards Whitsunday, since I find no body that inclynes to take his lands make any scrouple about his removell. However, Ile see to get him out presently, tho I hear he is at present under a course of mercury for ane ulser in his throat, so, if he is exposed to the cold, I would not give a sixpence for his life; and

shall lickways seize his effects, that is, where I can catch any. Last time I saw him He gave me the inclosed order to Mr. David Ross to be sent you anent giving up his rights on the Lands of Cragy to you, which I would have sent you long or now, but that I was expecting yourself here. I am glad to hear my cousine, your spose, got safe to Edr., and also to inform you that your broyr. Donald were in Harbour in the Orenys (?) during the stormy wather we had in Novem., so I hope has got to his port with the last north winds. I honoured your drawght of Eighty pounds scots in favours of Mr. James McKenzie, but must soon value on you again for the same; and I am, Sir, Your afft. Cousn. and servt.

Inverness, 14th Decr. 1722.

To the Earl of Murray.

I WROT some posts agoe to your Lop. anent the seall of the present farms ¹ of Petty, of which I wait an answer; and, since I have your Lops. favour of 15t past, and doe observe what is done as to the submission of the Dook of Gordon and his vasalls anent the contraverted marches of Flichaty and Gask, and shall take care in due time to see the same carfully execute. I now have your Lops. orders anent Alexr. McPherson of Craggy, with letters of ejection from Comissar. Steuart against him, which had been execut or now were I not from home for ten days past, but shall lose no time in ye affair, tho I hear sd. McPherson is now wery ill under a course of mercury for ane ulcer in his throat, so I am affraid it will be dangerous to put him at present out of his dwelling house till that is over one way or other, besides that those who inclyne to take that land will make no odds whether he is removed now or any time again Whitsunday. On twesday next I am to hold a fewer court at Castle Steuart, when I shall endeavour to make the best bargain I can with [the proprietors of] Faily or Culchaskie for these lands, either of them who most bids not under the tuo hundred

¹ Rents paid in grain.

and fifty merks your Lop. mentions of yearly few, and get what entry mony I can; and in the mean time sall seize what of Craggys effects can be found, of which your Lop. will hear more fully pr. next post. As to the geographickall map your Lop. wants of the contraverted lands of Breamurray I know no body in this country fitt to undertake that affair, but shall conferr James Russell, and try what can be done.

Inverness, 22d Decemr. 1722.

To The Earle of Murray.

SINCE my last of 15th instant I have been discoursing Culchaskie and Donald McBain of Falie anent the lands of Craggy. The first would take these lands at the present few rent, providing your Lop. take mony and give him a wadset right of sd. Few rent, as to which I could give no answer, having no instruction on that head, and Falie is content to take the few right at 250 merks yearly, and is willing to pay at the term of Whitsunday next £50 sterline of entry mony providing your Lop. will allow him down the first years few rent of sd. lands in consideration of the west [vast] wretched condition of the same at present—that is, that the first years rent is to comence at Martimass 1724. This is the furthest lenth I could drive him, as to wh. I desire your Lop. answer pr. first; and for your Lops. encouradgment shall only add that this Falie is a responsall man, and a good payer. As to McPherson of Craggy he offer, providing your Lop. allow him to sitt in his house till towards Whitsunday, to find undoubted security for his removall again that term under the penalty of £50 ster; and, indeed, as I hinted in my last, he and his family are in so distressed a condition that its impracticable to midle with them at present, at least till the snow is of the ground. In the mean time I have decreetd his tenants for what of the Martinmass rent is due, And when the competent days in the decret are out shall pind what of his effects can be found. Ile writt your Lop. what passes in this affair. Ile look for your Lops. answer as to Falie in course by the post.

Inverness, 12 January 1723.

To the Earle of Murray.

IN consequence of your Lop. last letter of ii ulto, James Russell and I have for severall days past been endeavouring to sell ye bear of Petty and Conadge at this place, but, after all we could doe, canot reach £6 Scots pr. boll, the most that is offered being nine shillings and 6d. ster., payable at Martinmass next ; to which we could not agree, your Lop. orders being perumter not to take under ten shillings. I dare not presume to offer my advice in this matter, tho I must say, were the affair absolutly at my disposall, I would rather take the price offered presently than have the prospect of 10s. pr. boll after the victuall is housed at Castlesteuart, which will be attended with some loss and a good deall of unconveniency. But Ile expect your Lops. answer to this pr. very first post, and regulat myself strictly accordingly. Your Lop. may expect a remittance of mony about Candlemass ; so, wishing your Lop. a happy year, I am, etc.

10 *Janry* 1723, O.S.

To Alexr. Rose, Mercht. of Inverness, at Livorno.

I HOPE this will find you safe at Livorno, tho' I'm affraid pretty late, and serves chiefly to advise you that all friends are here much as you left us. I have wrote at full to Messrs. Aikman and Winter annent freighting Capt. Cuthbert with salt, if he agrees to my purpose, and notice, if he comes to Cadix to load, to ship six half butts best Cherrie Seck, I say hard Cherrie, for my accot., with 2000 wt. reasins in 20 barrll, and 6 chests lemons, and two of bitter Orringes, besides what I ordered from Livorno formerly. But, if he load salt at Lisbone, in that case youll ship 4 half hogsheads white Lisbone wine, and 8 chests lemons, and orranges as above. If you fall short of money for this purpose, in that case may venture, after the wholl proceeds of the salmond is wared as above, to value for 20 or 30 £ on me, if needfull to purchase yt

Cargoe. But if Salmond does not sell to answer this homeward Cargoe, must not freight Capt. Cuthbert at all. Wm. Fraser is to be half concern'd in the salt; so pray advise frequently and from every port what 's a doeing.

26 *Janry.* 1723.

To Mr. George Ouchterlouny [London].

I HAVE yours of 29 Decemr. and 3d Int. In the first I observe you got insured for my accot. on the *Ann* of London, from Findhorn to Livorno £225 ster., vizt. 100 £ by Capt. Samuëll Bonnum at 2½ pr. ct., and 125 £ by the London insurence at 3 guineas pr. ct.; for which my accot. is debited £7. 15. 9. . . . I write to you in my last to send me a bushell of Ackorns [acorns]; now if any occasion offers to this place pray send me three bushells of last Cropt in a barell. . . .

2d *Febry.* 1723.

To the Earle of Murray.

I WROTE to yor Lop. ye 26 past, aquenting of Failies answer to ye proposall anent ye Lands of Craggie, to which I wait an answer in Course. I wrote your Lop. likeways ye 12 past advising that James Russell and I could not prevaill with ye Brewers and Malsters here to offer for yor Lops. bear above 9 : 6d. stl. pr. boll, but have since, with abundance of Struggle, sold about 300 bolls of the Fearms of Pettie at 6pd. Scots pr. boll, payll. at Mar. next, and I doubt not what further can be delivered will be got sold at same price, tho' I 'm sorie to tell yor Lop. that the tenants will not this year, for as good as the crop appeared to be, deliver litle more than 500 bolls; but my Endeavours will not be wanting to push them as much as possible. I send yor Lop. inclosed, as I promised, two bills for £200 str., One drawn by Leut. George Skeen for £100 on Jon Gordon at ye bank, payll. 14 days after sight, and the oyr by Capt. Wm. Franks, Paymr. to Coll. Kirks Regiment, for £100 str. on sd. John Gordon, payll. 10 days after sight; both which I doubt not will find punctuall

payt. Yor Lop. will please acknowledge the receipt of this money ; and I am, etc.

2 Febr'y. 1723.

To Mr. Andrew Henderson [Edinburgh].

I SEND you inclosed bill Comr. Steuart on me to the order of Mr. James McKenzie, for 80 £ Scots, the value of which I have order'd him to pay you pr. inclosed draught. As also you are to call at Mr. George Falconer, Mert., for £23 Scots I have deburs'd on his accot. ; from which money you are to retire from B[ailie] John Coutts my accepted bill for £102 10sh. Scots ; and I entreat how soon this come to hand you call for said B. Coutts and tell him you are to retire the bill. I expect yor Care in this, and I am, etc.

9 Febr'y. 1723.

Mr. John Sommerveill [Renfrew].

SIR,—I have yor favor of 29 past adviseing to buy for yor accot. and mine 1200 bolls oat meall, and 200 bolls of bear. Since my last the prices of victuall all over this country has Hasted very much, that is bear is now at 6 £ Scots pr. boll and meall at 8 merks in Bamf shire, and I have no return as agt. from the Earle of Findlater, by which I judge his Lops. meall is sold ; but I will without loss of time see if I can purchase for your accot. and mine any quantitie about 5 £ Scots pr. boll And advise you accordingly. . . .

Inverness, 8th March 1723.

Mr. George Ouchterlony [London].

SIR,—My last was of 1st Currt., since which I have non of yours, nor no return from your broyr., Mr. John Ouchterlony at Montrose, in answer to what I wrott him the 26th ulto anent the Cargoe of salt you designed to dispose of in this frith, and so knows not if it is to come or not. . . . Please seall and deliver the inclosed letter to Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindy, and, least you should think me to much a politician in Corisponding with such a top [?]

on Sr. Patrick,¹ I leave my Letter open for your perusal, which entreat may be carfully delivered.

Inverness, 8th March 1723.

[To Alexander Steuart.]

AFFT. SON,—I received yours of 22d past, new stile, from Haver, in wh. you advise me that 150 barells of your Cargoe of salmond was sold at 125 Livers pr. barell, but could not promise yt. the rest would sell this season. I hope this will find you safe at Bourdeaux, where youle have severall letters from me, particularly my Last of 9t Febry., in which I cautiond you not to lench deep in Credit, since this firth was lick to be overstocked with liquors, and that I would not be in ease to answer bills, having abundance of mony to pay at Whitsunday. However, now that I find the gross of yr. salmond Cargoe is sold, may ship four tuns good Claret for my accot., with the oyr goods formerly ordered, but pray take care that the Claret be prime good and rackt of the lees; and, if any of the outward freight can be served on my accot., please invest the same in brandy, as formerly ordered. And I entreat again you doe not draw any bills on me, if possible, for, if you doe, beshure you get three or four months time to pay them after date. I approve of your shiping the Burgundy at Haver provoiding it be strong and good. All of this famely are, thanks to God, well as you left them, and give you there service; and Alexr. Steuart, my Cousin, is just now about to sail for St. Martines to Load salt in the ship the *Helen*. Nothing extrordiner has hapned since you went from this Except the death of honest Angus McPhail, and of Mr. Donald McLeod, my wifes granduncle. The last dyed here about ten days agoe. I recommend you to ye divine protection, and I am, etc.

¹ Sir Patrick was surveyor-general to the Forfeited Estates Commissioners, and of course a Whig. See the editor's *Urquhart and Glenmoriston*, p. 233, for an account of his proceedings in Inverness in 1718.

Inver., 9 March 1723.

To the Earle of Murray.

I RECEIVED your Lops. favour of 1st inst. with the inclosed precept of warning which shall be duly execute, as your Lop. advises, tho I hope there will be no occasion to remove John McGilvray from Daligill [Dalziel in Petty] again Whitsunday. I observe your Lop. imbrasses John Shaws offer for the Lands of Craggy, and will advise him of the same accordingly; but I find there will be no necessity for removing Alex. McPherson before Whitsunday, since John Shaw is willing he continue till then; and assures me he has taken a possession from Mr. Welocks¹ in Strathern [Strathdearn], and probably he will lay down some cropt in Craggy which will be arested for by gones; but ile inform myself better in this matter and take my measures accordingly. Mean time I send your Lop. inclosed my bill on Andrew Henderson, Mercht. in Edr., for £175 ster. and 14s. 6d. ster., payable at 6 days sight, which will find due Honour; and since James Russell goes not south so soon as I expected I think this mony safer in your Lops. hands than any where els, and what further mony I can get in shall be remitted by sd. James Russell. Your Lop. will please acknowledge the receipt of this bill in course by ye post, and so shall only ad at present that, I am, etc.

Inver., 16t March 1723.

Mr. John McLeod, Edr.

I RECEIVED your favour of 8t inst. and had advised you or now of Mr. Donald McLeods death did I not belive yt. My Lord Lovat or somebody els had done it. He dyed in this place the 25t last month, and was Honorably buried the 28. Three days before his death he was at his own desire caried in a Chair to this town from Castledunie,² where he had been ill the most of all winter, being desirous to be buried by McLeod.² My Lord Lovat, who went from

¹ Willox, a name adopted by a family of MacGregors in Strathspey.

² Lord Lovat's seat, now Beaufort Castle.

³ That is, near Norman Macleod of Macleod, in the Chapel Yard, Inverness.

this yesterday for London, will acquaint you of all oyr. Circumstances relating to his death,, sho shall not insist further on this subject. I have been enquiring about the act of this town Councill relating to the piece of ground appointed for bulding McLeods buriall place, and doe find that Charly McLean, who was then toun Clerk, has, in his great wisdom, omitted to insert the same in the Councill books, and the minute canot be found ; but that can be easily suplyed if you think it needfull, and all I can tell of the matter is that Macleod dyed heare in Septr. 1706, and that the Councill apointed 30 feet square ground for his Buriall place, which is accordingly inclosed ; and I sopose William Martin can tell the precise day of his death, so that You may send the inscription you design without loss of time, since Mr. Scot goes very soon to Strathnaver to build a House to My Lord Rea. In the mean time, receive inclosed an exact draught of the gate, so as the Iron gates may be presently made. I am impatient to hear of the success of my process, and fear it has got leatly a wrong cast ; but, as you know more particularly, I entreat to be advised in this matter ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 12t April 1723.

Mr. George Ouchterlony [London].

SIR,—I have your favour of 28 past, with copy of what Messrs. Shallat, Windar, and Ferrat have writt you of Capt. Cuthberts arrivall at Barcellona, as to which I canot say much at present ; only youle please advert to inform these Gentlemen that, as the value of the cod fish was insured againest all Hazards, it will be proper for you that what damage is susteaned by stress of weather on sd. Fish be so attested for the same ; and I hope youle advert to this without loss of time. On Saturday last your ship the *Restoration*, James Ouchterlony Master, arrived at Chenry [Chanonry] a litle too late, there being 2 or 3 large Cargoes come to that port before, which has brought down the price [of salt] to 20d. pr. bushell, but Have got yours sold at sd. price, payable in November nixt, and the ship will be

queit unload tomorrow. There lickways come by hir 8 quarter pipes of cherry wine which will sell at 2s. pr. [?]; and there is also a large quantedy of cork, too much by the $\frac{1}{2}$ for this Country, but must wait your broyr. Johns advice anent the price to be sold at. Your hops are all sold, 200 weight of which I was obliged to give off at £3 15s. pr. Cent., which was all I could reach. You may expect the accot. of sale pr. next. The barque *Margret* of this place, John Reid Master, I supose will be with you before this comes to hand. Please ship for my accot. a tinn watering pott, and 2 spads for a gardend, $\frac{1}{2}$ hundred wt. double refined suggar, one Duz of comon prayer books without gilding in 8vo, Doctor Predo¹ his Conection of the old and new tastament, and some of the leatest and best pamphlets, particularly the story of the Plott, a leat one called News from Pernassus; and place ye value of all to my accot. When Mr. James Blair sends me proper instructions for recovering the debts due you by Angus McIntosh shall doe what I can for your intrest. I have a project of purchasing a good quantity of dry cod and ling on owr west coast very soon, so may please advise me if will hold any share, and how I could Fraight a good cliver ship with you, to come down Hear in the month of June next to load sd. Fish, and to proceed to Barcelona, and there to be free. But note sd. ship not to exceed 200 tuns burdin. And most goe to the port of Starnua [Stornoway] in Lews Island to load a good part of sd. fish, and from thence to proceed drectly. Pray push your doers at Barcelona to make speedy remittance of owr fish, as you can oblidge.

19 Apryle 1723.

To the Earle of Moray.

JOHN SHAW is impatient to have ye Extended tack with his Amendments return'd, otherways says he will quit his bargain; so I wish that affair was ended. I charged twice the Tenants of Daviot to yor. Lops. Baron

¹ Prideaux's Connection. In 1773 Dr. Samuel Johnston found 'a volume or more' of the work in the little inn at Aonach in Glenmoriston.

Court, but the first time non compeared, and on tuesday last severalls of said tenants came here in place of Castle Steuart, and were willing to give thir oaths befor the Sheriff here; qch I would not accept befor any judge but yor Lops. Baillie, on the ground I find they are made to believe they are not lyable to yor. Lops. Courts, and were not charged to any of them befor for 50 years past. However, Mackintosh¹ has write me on this head a very kind letter, which has made me forbear to insist agt. these tenants for contumacie untill I hear further from yor Lop., judgeing still the smooth, friendly way the best. Keillachy² and Duncan McIntosh in Elrig were with me here yesterday, and I find the first willing to perform his promise to yor. Lop., but flatters himself your Lop. will quite him the nonentry; so would have me make this proposall to yor. Lop., that is, to pay presently a thousand merks, provideing in consideratione of the straits of his family your Lop. would give the rest down. I have not the Arrogance to offer an advice to yor Lop. in such a case, only I must say I find Keillachy a very honest lad, struggling very much through his difficulties, and has pay'd me punctually his feu duty Since my intromission. If yor. Lop. think not fitt to grant him any abatement in this matter I find he'll still perform his promise. As to Duncan McIntosh's security, I suppose James Russell will get off for Dunibristell next week, and has now got near all the money. Bear sold at a good price considereing as matters goe here, the merkat being much fallen. Being to write by Mr. Russell shall only add that I am, etc.

Inverness, 27 Aprile 1723.

I WROT of this Dait to the Earle of Morray and sent him inclosed one of the Dubles of the feu tack of Cragie in favours of John Shawe in Urlarust, signed be sd. John Shawe; as alsoe his accepted bill for 600 merks Scots as

¹ Lachlan Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

² Mackintosh of Kyllachy in Strathdearn.

pairt of the Entrie mony agreed for sd. tack, payable at Mertinmas next.

Inverness, 30 Apryle 1723.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan, at Muntrose.

I RECEIVED your favour of 20 Curt., with the inclosed from Mr. George Falconer recomending your orders to my care, which shall be verie fond to observe to your contentment. It will be a long time befor there will be talkeing of the prices of salmon and herins in this country, but last year salmon was generaly sold at 50 merks pr. barell, $\frac{1}{5}$ discount for Grilzes; and herins were generaly at £5 ster. pr. last, and some at £5: 5: and £5: 10 sh. pr. last. Cod fish, which is much sooner redie then the two formar, was last year sold at 12 [?] pr. qtle [quintal] free aboard. I have just in my offer about 10,000 cod and ling on the west coast, at Garloch and Storway, that will be reddie for shipping in the moneth of June, about the end of that month; but as I have made a proposecall for the seall of that fish at London I can make no offer to you off them till I have a return from thence, which will be in ten days. However, may advise if would inclyn that way and what price would allow. Youll notice the cod fish on that Coast are a short thick fish and better split than anie in this frith; and the harbours where they are to be shipt are as good as anie in Britan, and the ship will be dospatched by the Customhouse of Stornway. The finess of the cullar of these fishes depends much on the Dryness or Wettness of the weather they have just now on that Coast, which is the time they Dry them, The Coadfish being now quiet over there; but you know what fish a man buys must be Merchanable. I can purchass as Manie in the Orknies as would make up with what I have Mentioned a Cargoe of from 1000 to 1200 qtles, and last year I hade the Garloch and Stornway which I caried about here for reshipping, and were as fine as ever was seen, but, being unluckily pyled on the shoar of Findhorn, where they lay under the watter till the month of December, gott a good deall of Damage and lost the merkett. But after this I

Designe they should be always in the month of June or July from the beech where they are cured, by which means hope may have the start of the Newfoundlands fish or anie other. I Received your bill on the Deceast James Dunbar of this pleace for 363 $\frac{3}{4}$ Dollars at 7 sh. pr. Dr. ; as alsoe his acct. Currt. and Letter of Advice from Lyder Fasten. I have given the letter to his son George, who says ther is nothing done yet in his Fathers affairs, but when matter are setled, which will be verie soon, this bill will be classed among the other Debts being justly due. Meantime shall, as you advise, keep the bill and Account, and doe the needfull for secureing your Mony ; and I am, Gentlemen, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 17 May 1723.

Messieurs Ramsay and Strachen [Montrose].

GENTLEMEN,—I recd. your favour of 10th Curt., in answer to which please know that the fish of Garloch consist altogether of Cod, and are of a short, thick kind, and doe generally run in lenth from 20 to 14 inches. As to the Orkney fish, I never bought any of them, but I understand they are full as good as the other, and generally larger. Since my last of 30th past I find the cod and ling of Stornway in Lews Island are bought up by Merchts. of Dublin for reddie money at 12/ pr. qtle. of cod and ling over head and most, or $\frac{2}{3}$ part, consist of ling. But befor concludeing the bargin one of the proprietors of the sd. fish was so kind as to come here to offer them to me, but [I] would not take them at 12/ pr. qtle., considring they are mostly ling. . . .

Inverness, 24 May 1723.

My Lord Murray.

In my last I sent double of John Shaws tack of Craggie, and now I send your Lop. inclosed, by your servt. Mr. Maull, bond Lachlan McIntosh of Keillachie, Dun: McIntosh in Elrick, and Robert McIntosh in Cullblair, for 1800 mrks., wh. I hope will be agreeable to your Lop.

in satisfaction of said Keillachies bargain with your Lop. for his non Entrie and bygane fue duety. There is likeways a letter inclosed from the said persons, wh. suplys the formality of a delivered evidence. I have been verry pressing with [Mackintosh of] Aberairder anent your Lops. money due at this term; to wh. he says that, as he is peremptorly bound to pay Collonell Farquhar the last part of the date [debt] due him at this term, he can doe nothing for your Lop. at present, but swears he will doe great maters again Martimass. But how farr this promise is to be determined upon I will not determine.

Inverss., 1st June 1723.

Mr. George Gordon, Writer to the Signet.

SIR,—I received yours of 23d past, acquainting me with the Countess of boots [Bute's] orders anent the outstanding debts upon that part of the Earle of boots estate in the Shire of Ross, to which I was factor five years. My Noble and dear patron, The leat Earle,¹ writ to me about three years agoe from London on this subject, to which I made answer yt. the great part of the oustanding debts given up by me at counting, I mean of the Eight hundred and 70£ Scots remaining after Inchcoulter² was taken of, was due by John McKenzie of Auch [Avoch] which intermeted with before my factory commenced, he being then apointed Factor by the Lady Prestonhall immediatly after Roshach's³ death, and his intermissions then more then fell to the Lady Prestonhall.⁴ I have Extend to 476 £ Scots 6s. 8d., which Indeed I designed not to be any way concerned with, but that Mr. Ranald Campbell persuaded me at Clearing my accots. with Leat Earl *in Anno 1712*, to bring in sd. John McKenzies intermissions as the most

¹ James, first Earl of Bute, who married Agnes, daughter of the famous Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh.

² The laird of Inchcoulter, in the parish of Kiltearn, Ross-shire,

³ George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, son of Sir George Mackenzie.

⁴ Sir Roderick Mackenzie, Lord Prestonhall, married as his second wife Margaret, daughter of Haliburton of Pitcur, widow of Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh.

regular way of Counting; which I did accordingly, tho to this day I never recovered a farthing of it; and he, having gone abroad after the rebellion 1715, had no mean Left of recovering sd. debt. And Mr. Ranald Campbell, if yet alive, knows very well I oft proposed that he should be persued at Edr. that his sd. intermission might be Constitute against him. And yet, tho it had, it would have amounted to litle, being even at his intermission but in bad circumstances; so that, in reason or justice, I see not how I can be Lyable for sd. John McKenzies debt. But, as to what remains, I would willingly count for what have recovered of the same, and demonstrate I have done my duty for what is wanting. I have ane accot. of disbursements to give in which was laid out by the Earls order and Mr. Campbells For reparations and negotiating Severall Law affairs in this Country, which will amount to about £15 ster.; and the ballance I will pay in mony. But then desire to know if My Lady, the Countess of bote, will discharge me in this affair; as to which I shall wait your answer.

Inverness, 5 June 1723.

Mr. Andrew Henderson, Edr.

I RECD. yours of 30 past adviseing that you hade sold the Cargoe of meall belonging to William Frazer, James Kinaird, and me to James Club and Company, of Borst'-ness, at £6 Scots pr. boll, as to wh. I wrote you in Compay with William Frazer some days agoe pr. Express, to wh. refers.

Inverness, 8th June 1723.

Mr. Robert Paterson, of Glasgow.

SIR,—I reed. your favour of the 22d past, and observe the pryce of meall is not high with you, and therefor have forwarded a cargoe I had in hand to the South Firth. I have been enquireing anent the quantity of Murray bear you want, and, had I now a positive comision to buy, doe belive could gett you served to your contentment and a

ship freight to carry it at a reasonable rate to the South Firth; but, as I have not that, I fear your orders will come too late, since all will be presently disposed off. Best Murray bear is generally sold this year from Eight to $8\frac{1}{2}$ Mrks. whole, but now there is verry litle to be sold. Our herrin fishing comonly begins at about the beginning of August, and we are making great preparations for it here. As to tallow and bees wax, of the last there is non to be gott here, and the first is only to be purchased in the months of Octr., Nov., and Decr., and was sold last year and 5/ pr. ston of 21 pound Amstrdame weight, wh. noat for your government.

Inverness, 11 June 1723.

Messrs. Strachan and Ramsay at Montrose.

GENTLEMEN,—I have your favour of 25 past anent the Garloch cod fish, but could not make answer befor now. Last week I bought the Garloch fish, being 26,000, deliverable free aboard at the port of Garloch, at 11/6d. strl. and have freighted a ship of 50 tuns to carry said fish, and what I can purchase in the Orkneys at £30 strl. freight. Will sail next week, and I hope will be back again 20th July. . . .

Inverness, 15 June 1723.

Messrs. Richd. and Nicolas Riddleys [Newcastle].

MR. WILLIAM FRASER of this place and I have ordered a small bark to proceed to your Port to load coall and botles to be returned hither. Should said bark appear may order what coalls she can take in, and about 20 gross botles, and pr. next you shall be advised how to value for the same. The bark is called the *Ann* of Carron, John Willison Master. I honoured your bill of ten pound for the ballance due on the coalls pr. the *Helen* for st. Martins; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 22 June 1723.

To the Earle of Murray.

MY LORD,—I am now to advise your Lop. that James Russell sett of yesterday for Dunibirsell, and will be with

your Lop. soon after this. Since I had not leasure to wrett fully with him, I send your Lop. inclosed my bill on Andrew Henderson, Mercht. in Edr., for £50 ster. at six days sight, which James Russell will negotiat when he goes over to get paymt. of his own bills. I writt your Lop. fully last post anent the unlucky Death of one of the Petty fishermen, and have only to add at present on that subject that Mill the Waiter and one of the shouldiers were wheept yesterday by the Hangman for the first time, which is wery disagreeable to the Military here.¹ . . .

Inverness, 28 June 1723.

Mr. Robert Patterson [Glasgow].

SIR,—I recd. your favour of 12th inst. with the inclosed schem of debenture for your candles, exported in the *Margt.* of Leven, James Black Master, and did make application accordingly at our coustom house to have the same expedd, but could not get it effected because the comptrollist happens to be now from home upon a circuit in the Orkneys and Schetland with Mr. Leynand [or Legrand ?] the inspector, and its uncertain when he will return ; and you know that without him no regular debr. can be made out ; but our Collr. is of oppinion, if you apply the commissioners, they will order some body here to sign as comptlr. ; wh. is all I can say on this subject. . . .

Inverness, 29 June 1723.

Mr. Will. Somerville [Renfrew].

SIR,—I recd. yours of 11 currt., and doe according to your desire send you inclosed the two Certificats you wanted, wh. cost five shillings strl. I am sorry you came to such a bade market for your herrin at Stockholm, and shall be glade to see you here this fishing season, wh. I hope may give you more profite than last. If you are to bring a shyp about here soon I know nothing will doe better than seleate from the Isle of Mull.

¹ See the story of Miln the Tidewaiter in Mr. Kenneth Macdonald's edition of Mr. Fraser Mackintosh's *Antiquarian Notes*, Stirling, 1913.

Inverness, 29t June 1723.

To John McLeod, in the Island of Ways,¹ Orkney [Factor for Captain Mudie].

THIS goes with your Cousin John McLeod in the ship *Margret* of this place, Daniel Steuart Master, proceeds to Garloch to load the dry fish of that place as last year. And, since I have not ys. year bought the Lews fish, I have given Comission to the bearer, the sd. Jo: McLeod, to try if he can bargain with you for your dry fish at Ways, providing you have Comission to sell ym. at a reasonable price, and will be found sufficient Mercht. ware, so that, in case you agree, I hearby promise that his or Donald Steuart the Masters bills on me for the value will be good, payable either here or at Edr., and, if you happen to agree in shuch terms as the bounty mony shall be for your accot., the debenture for the same shall be made good to your order how soon the sd. Fish is reshipt in this frith. If John agree with you its probable your fish will not be shipt untill ye ship return from Garloch; so when she returns youle take care to give good dispatch and send a Coast Cocket for what you ship, conteaning the tale of the fish and number of qutles, and mentioning that the same is cured with foreign salt for exportation; which is all I need say on this subject. Give hearty service to C: T: and tell him there is no news stirring Except that My Lord Bulinbrook's remission is passed the seals and he is to be verry soon in England. The Bishop of Rochester is gone from England as ane exile²

Inverness, 29t June 1723.

Donald Steuart.

AFFT. CUS:—You are to proceed immediatly for the Island of Wales¹ in Orkney, and, after Jo: McLeod has delivered my Letter to Capt. Mudie's factor there, you are to proceed to Garloch, where you are to deliver the

¹ Walls.

² The Bishop, accused of conspiracy in favour of the Stuarts, was deprived of his office, and banished in May 1723.

280 bushells Spanish salt you have on board to the Laird of Garloch or his doer, and take his receipt for the same. Note each bushell is 84 lb. English, so each boll is 300 lb. After the salt is out you are immediatly to load the dry fish at Garloch and concurr with John McLeod to see the same sorted, who is to grant receipt to Garloch for the same, as you are to him. And after you are clear at Garloch you are to proceed to Wales in Orkney, and adress yourself to John McLeod, Factor there, that is, if my broyr. John McLeod agree with him for Capt. Mudies fish. If oyr. ways you are to come derectly to this road; but, if you are to receive sd. fish in the Island of Wales, you are to see them carfully weighed and sorted and shipped, and draw on me for the value, as my Broyr. shall derect you, and according to his agreement, that is, if he come hoam overland from Garloch, and return not with the ship, the mens wage shall be payd as you have agreed, that is, twenty three shillings ster. pr. month to the foremost men, and therty pr. month to David Robertson; and your own wages shall be payd as last year. And when, please God, you return, all accots. for last woyage shall be Cleared. I pray God Derect you; and I am, Your afft. Cousin.

I have sent three Dozen botles Claret for the Laird of Gairloch, and ten pynts brandy and a loaf of sugar for ships use.

Inverness, 22 July 1723.

Mr. John Coutts, Mercht. in Eder. [Edinburgh].

SIR,—Haveing leatly sold a parcell of Cod fish to Messrs. Ramsay and Strachen at Muntrose, they advised me the 10th and 11th curt. to value on you for £150 sterlin, so that I have of this dait valued on you for fourtie pounds sterlin of that sum to the order of James Morison, indweller in Lewes, payable again the tenth of August next; so I hope you'll honour My bill, and plice the same to acct. of sd. Gentlemen. And must beg the favour of you that if Mr. Morison has occasion sooner for his mony you may accomodat him, since its probable he may not have

occasion to pay at Eder. untill the bill fall due ; and your compliance will much oblige, Sir, Your, etc.

Inverness, 2d Aprile 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachen [Montrose].

GENTILLMEN,—I received yours favours of 23 and 24 instant. The first I got on tuesday last by our Edr. post, we. brought me inclosed 2 accepted bills falling due the 13 instant for £219, 1622 Ster., we. shall be placed to your Credit when paid. I observe what you write anent the sale, and I know the same will do from Cadiz equally as from Lisbon. If could prevail wt. the ship to come directly here may order 8 quarter pips of best Cerry wine for my use ; but, if most inload at Montrose, will not do. However may still order the first I mentioned in my last for my acct. ; and take notice that your Sale must be here again the first of August. . . .

Inverness, 2d Aprile 1725.

Mr. James Cumming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I writt to you yesterday by one of our touns runners, to which I referr as to Captain Woods arivall, for whose Cargoe of Iron I doe not propose to raise 4d., but may depend Ile doe the best that I can for you. I doe not think proper to return you yet Colodens bill, Since his Chamberlan promises punctuall payt. of it at Whit-sunday, till which Ile have patience rather than trouble you with a drawght ; besides that about that time Ile be at Edr. But, if your Iron does not Sale in part for ready mony, I must draw on you for the freight and duty of Woods Cargoe, which must pay all tomorrow Except ane acct. of Gross averadge that Mr. Wood has, which Ile leave you to adjust. I have Sold your pipe staves at 40£, payable the 1st of August next by the coopers of Findhorn, good men ; but I am sory to tell you that the project I formed for rescuing your wine is misgiven, So that now I find it will be your best to Correspond with David forbes, which I belive will be gott done very Cheap rate, if I can

trust his oath, and its that Even, you must pass a Condemnation in Exchange next term. The wine is good and will Sell here, and you can get good new wine here to be sent to London in place of it. But there is but 5 Hogsheads Extant, the other is gone to lackadge. Send me your thoughts of this pr. next. Our Collector has no mony to pay for your receipt, and So Ile send it you Certify'd pr. next post; and next week I ship your deales for Newcastle.

Mr. James Cumming [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 5th Aprile 1725.

SIR,—I writt you ye 2d inst., in which I advised of Alexander Woods arivall, and that the Cargoe was unload. I am to morow to make publick offer to our Guildery of your Iron at 38d. pr. ston, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ready mony and the other in 4 months, and under yt. I will not Sell. But am of opinion that If this price cannot be reached it will be proper to Ship the most of what is entered for Newcastle or Leith, rather yn. give it under this price, and Especially Considering tuo vesells here at present bound in 8 days or so the first named port, that I suppose will cary it wery Cheap. and Since I have not heard yet from any of Duff of Braco's doers anent your deales I resolve to Ship them lickways for Newcastle, Since they will not sell here, where I suppose both Iron and deales will afford you ready mony, but as to the Iron Ile wait your answer. I have pd. Capt. Wood his freight and port Charges, being £27, 1s. 6d. Sterling; but he has got a claim of Gross Averadge of £5, which I am afraid you must pay.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan, Montrose.

Inverness, 16t Aprile 1725.

GENTLEMEN,—I writt you ye 2d inst., Since which I have not heard from you. This comes chiefly to advise you that I find there will be Severall more buyers of Salmond ys. year in ys. frith then there was last year.

Particularly Balie Gordon of Elon has imployed his Son in law, Drumuirs Son, Mr. Duff; by which means I must not Expect to purchase Drumuirs own Salmond, nor a parcell or tuo more I expected. I have lickways Some diffidence about My Lord Lovats Salmond, So that, to be plain with you, I doe not propose to Secure above $\frac{1}{2}$ the Quantity I got last year, Except by bidding upon them more than last years price, which I leave to your own better judgment. Sir Thomas Calder, whose Salmond I got last year, is Still at Edr. He will probably have from 80 to about 100 barell. While he is at Edr. its wery fitt you employ Some frend there to See if can Secure yec first offer of them to me without loss of time; but I jelous Balie Gordon will Secure them. I find our Salmond is at last arived in Holland, but as the lent is now over I wish you would give proper orders anent ym. and Ile goe in to your measure. I think it were best to lay them up and not Sell ym. at present. I am, etc.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

Inverness, 17 Aprile 1725.

SR.,—I received your favour of 27 and 30 past, in the first of which you advise me of your draught on me of that daite to the order of Alexr. Arbuthnot and Compy., £77 : 15 : 4 Ster.; which I accepted and will be punctually paid when due, being value of F807 : 12 due your accot. In your last you advise of Insurance of £1000 made on the *Margt.* of this place with herrins from this to Stockholm, at 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ pr. ct., which is pretty high at this time of the year, being in all £41 : 10, which have noated accordingly. I find Willisons barq is at last arrived with you, when no doubt our Salmon will come to a fine market. I am off oppinion ye cannot reach near our money for them. They Should be laid up and kepted under pickle till the moneth of Septr. nixt, and than, if repackt and washd clean with pickle, I think might Sell at Bilboa or Havre for new Salmon. But the question is if can be Shipped off again for your Country, for France

or Spain ; off which pray advise me. As to the character of Lodwick Polson, he is a verry young mercht., and I know litle of his affairs, and I doubt not but our young men will generall give over the Hollands bread verry soon, except our Shop keepers who make most by it. For my part I never found my accot. in it.

Mr. John McKenzie [Tutor to Gairloch],¹

Inverness, 21 Aprile 1725.

I RECEIVED yours of 18th inst., and I am Surprised Charles Paig is arrived with you contrair to my last orders sent him to Portsoy ; otherways you may be Sure I had not bargained with your Brother Keneth by your order for 200 bolls meall at 8 merks p. boll, to be sent you in May next by a Ship just a loading. But now that Charles Paig is with you, I doubt not but you 'll unload the full 200 bolls conform to my agreement with Keneth, and send me your accepted bill for the same in terms of my letter to you of 12th inst. But as to your proposeall of giving 5 lib. Scots pr. boll, payable again Reidecastle² market, I cannot goe into it ; but if youll take Charles Paigs whol Cargoe of meall, which is only 330 bolls, I am willing to let you have it at 5 lib. Scots pr. boll of eight ston, $\frac{1}{2}$ payable at Whitsunday nixt in this place and the other half again the first of Decr. nixt ; only that you advance the Skipper £20 Ster. just now for purchassing his loading of seleat at Mull and paying his mens wages. . . .

Mr. Donald McIntire.

Inverness, 27 Aprile 1725.

YOU are immediatly to repair to Portsoy, where you are to deliver my letter to Alexr. Wood, Mr. of the Ship *Thistle* of Bamff, who has loaded a full loading of meall and bear for my accot., which is shipped by Arthur Gordon of Carnuce, to whom I wrote last week countermanding

¹ See footnote, p. 81.

² Redcastle, Ross-shire.

the bear I formerly ordered, or at most to ship only 50 bolls, with 700 bolls meall; so that, if you find there is no bear to be shipt, you must forward my letter herewith given you to said Carnuce per express, by which I have advised him to ship 100 bolls more meall, makeing in all 800 bolls meall, for which Alexr. Wood is to pass his receipt or bill of Loading how soon the said cargoe is fully shipt. You are to advise me by the Elgin post, and Immediatly without loss of anny time you are to make the best of your way for Starnaway in Lews, where may disspose of a part of your Cargoe, if can doe it at 8 mrks. pr. boll of 8 Ston, reddy money, but does suppose you 'll sell non there, and therefore, how soon you arrive, you are to bespeak a skillfull pyllot to bring you from thence to Loch Fallord,¹ in the Isle of Sky, where you are to address yourself to Roderick McLeod of Contlieck,² who will assist you in the dissposeall of a part of your cargoe ther, and whos directions you are to follow in shifting of ports and giveing out of the Cargoe untill all is dissposed. How soon you arrive in the Isle of Sky you are to acquaint my Father in Law, Norman McLeod of Drynach [at Eileanreach in Glenelg] pr. express, who will likeways assist you with his best advice. I doe not incline to sell the meall under 8 mrk. pr. boll of eight ston, and if can get reddy money for the whole its the better, but, if not, you may trust to the following Gentlemen what quantity of the Cargoe they will order you to deliver them by their letters, vizt.: Willm. McDonald, Tutor of McDonald, Roderick McLeod of Contlieck, Roderick McLeod of Ulunish, Donald McLeod of Ballamenach, William McLeod of Uibust [Ebostr], who is married to my wifes Sister, or anny other that these Gentlemen will dessire to trust, or my Father in Law Drynach. And what payment you cannot gett in reddy money take their accepted bills payable here or at William Cummings shop in Edinburgh again the 10th day of Octr. nixt. And how soon you have dissposed of all or as much as

¹ Loch Fallord or Fallort, the old name of Loch Dunvegan.

² Son of John Macleod, second of Bernera and first of Contullich. Roderick was a brother of John Macleod, Advocate. See p. 88, note 2.

possible of the Cargoe in the Isle of Sky, Herries, and South Uist, if anny remain after these Countrys are served, you are to repair to the Keyle near Glenelg, and there you are to address yourself to my Father in Law, who will dispose of what may remaine of the Cargoe, or will give proper directions anent the same. You'll take notice that, if anny bear is shipt at Portsoy, you cannot disspose of the same under 9 mrks. pr. boll; and for that end its fitt the Skipper or you borrow a firflat at Portsoy to carry allongs with you. *Notta*, you have likeways on board, to be dissposed for my accot., 100 half barrs Iron, containing 113 Ston 9 pound, old weight, which you are to sell at the best rate you can, not under 3/ 6d. p. Ston. There is likeways 17 doz. of botles claret, to be sold at 16 sh. pr. doz., botles and all; or the wine without the botle at 15sh. There is likeways a bag of hops, No. 14, containing 1 : 1 : 14 lib., which you'll see to disspose off at Starnway at the best price you can. I suppose may reach a shilling pr. pound, but, failling of that, it must be sold at Glenelg, or Dowart Castle in Mull. Notwithstanding the price of the meall and bear I mentioned, I must leave it to your self, with the assistance of my friends, to make the best of it; and you can, according as you find it in demand in the severall countrys, but not under five pound Scots pr. boll of 8 ston untill you hear furdere from me; that is, for the meall. Howsoon the cargoe is fully dissposd, and that you have gott payment of the same in money or bills as above derected, you'll give Alexr. Wood on receipt twenty five pounds Strl. to purchase his loading of sleat at Mull, and twenty five pound more if he takes in part payment of his freight, likeways on his receipt. And when you have so cleared fully with all and sundry, you are to repair to Glenelg, and make the best of your way home with such convoy and directions as my Father in Law will give you. And if you find it more adviseable, may deliver him the whole money and bills on receipt. And for your trouble I am to give you four pound Strl., and pay your necessary charges. I wish you a good voyag.

Inverness, 27 Aprile 1725.

Mr. Alexr. Wood [Master of the *Thistle* of Banff].

THIS will be delivered by Donald McIntire of this place, who I have thought fitt to send allongs with you, as being ane honest sensible ladc, and has the Irish language, which will be absolutely necessarie where you are bound, since I cannot promise seall for your cargoe without shifting a great many Ports and the assistance of the Gentlemen of the Country. I am now advised that you should goe first to Lochfallord in the Isle of Sky, and from thence as you will be directed by Roderick McLeod of Contlieck. I suppose it will be to the Long Island, either to Herries or Uist, and what will not be dissposed there my Father in Law will see to disspose in Glenelg. Upon the whole have given my full directions to the bearer, who is to sell the Cargoe and receive the payment either in money or good bills; and I doubt not your care to be assisting to him and making all possible disspatch. I am not apprized whether Carnuice will ship bear on board you or not. If he send no bear, than it will be necessar that ship about 850 bolls meall, for which purpose I have wrote to him, to be forwarded pr. express. I am of oppinion after you are load you proceed straight to Stornway in Lews, and there take in a pylot who will carry you thence to Lochfallord in the Isle of Sky, and from thence to the severall ports whither you may be directed by my friends. And after your cargoe is out, you'll proceed to the Isle of Mull, where you will deliver my letter to John Stevenson, sleat quarrier, who will furnish you your cargoe, which will be about 30,000 I suppose; and Don: McIntire will furnish you money to pay for them at £10 lib. Scots pr. 1000; and as much cheapper as you can, with as much of your freight as you'll think needfull to take. Shall advise you before you goe to Mull whither you return here with the sleat or to Lieth. Mind to gett certificatt from Stornway anent unloading your cargoe, or, failling that, from Liut. McKenzie, who is Surveyor on that coast, and lives near Glenelg.

Inverness, 8 May 1725.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

I SEND you inclosed bill accepted by your friends Messrs. Ramsay and Strachen of Montrose, payable to my order at your house the 15 inst. for £650: Ster., which Bill I have indorsed to you for the ballance due on it, being £430 : 3 : 9½ Strl., and have valued on you of 7 currt. to the order of Alexr. Duff of Drummuir £89 strl., payable the eighteenth inst., which place to my Debit in accot. ; and again nixt post its probable I may value on you for £300 lib. more, which I doubt not will find due honour, being laitely advised by your friends at Montrose to value on you for this money ; so you 'll Credit my accot. accordingly. Wherein I can serve you, Comand.

Inverness, 15 May 1725.

Mr. James Blair [Edinburgh].

I RECED. your favour of 6th currt. with two packets for John McLeod in Orkney inclosed, which will be carefully forwarded Munday nixt, I being out of town when the last Edr. post arrived, and Caithness post disspatched. There will be probably presented to you my accepted bill for £122 Strl., payable to Mr. Robert Gordon of this place, and indorsed to Alexr. Gordon of Ardoch. Its due this term for value in Salmon. If said bill appear pray pay it, and the ballance I will be due then may call for from your friend John Coutts, who has of my effects in his hands.

Inverness, 18t May 1725.

Mr. William Cumming [Edinburgh].

I hope youle not be displased that I send you the inclosed bill on Mr. John Coutts at sight for £11 Ster., and that I have valued on you of this date to the Earle of Morray at 10 days sight for £200 Ster. ; to which I entreat punctuall Compliance. I know I have overdrawen a little, but I hope to see you shortly and make all odds

even. Pray pay Mr. Rolland, Author of the Calidonian Mercurry, Six Shillings Sterline for me, and Give him my service, and desires not his newspapers hereafter, being too dear.

Inverness, 31 May 1725.

Mr. Alexr. Wood [Master of the *Thistle*].

YOUR letters for Bamff are forwarded. I was last week at Fort William, and was assured your loading of selead is redy at Esdale, and have agreed for twenty thousand of you loading for Collonell Urquhart of Newhalls house,¹ so that you are to return to Cromarty road and waite my orders there; so that its not my power to send the Ship for Lieth, as you propose. When you pass throw the Sound of Mull call for Leut. Wainsburrow who will write with you to the quarrier and heasten your disspatch.

Inverness, 4t June 1725.

To Captain Urquhart of Burcharge [Burdyards].

SIR,—I received your favour of 24t last month, and had made answer to it ere now but that I hapned to be at Inverlochy when it came here. I observe your proposall of offering 50 merks pr. barell of Salmond and Grilses this year over head, to which I am sory I canot comply, for tho I have Comission to bespeak some Salmond, yt. have no orders to make any price as yet, and doe find my frinds in the South are of opinion, because the fishings are good and plentifull ys. year, that the price of Salmond will rather be lower yn. higher as last year. However, Ile venture to offer you 50 merks pr. barell Salmond and 40 for Grilses, payable $\frac{1}{2}$ before Christmas nixt, and ye oyr half again Whitsunday next; or 50 sh. for Salmond and Grilses overhead, payable as above. And I suppose ys. will be ye Highest price yule reach ys. year, and for my part I resolved not to Exceed it and indeed I must say its a good price. Please seall and forward the inclosed to Sr. Henry Innes.

¹ Newhall in the Black Isle, Ross-shire.

To Sr. Henry Innes.

Inverness, 4t June 1725.

I HAD returned answer to your favour of 22d past ere now but that I hapned to be in ye Highlands when it came here, from whence I only returned a few days past. I return hearty thanks for the offer you make of your Salmond conform to your promise, and would embrass your offer if I had either Comission or prospect by which I could be safe, as, indeed, I have not. [Steuart makes the same offer for salmon and grilse as made to Captain Urquhart in the foregoing letter.]

Monsieur Jacob Ferray, Havre.

Inverness, 12 June 1725.

SIR,—I reed. your favour of 24th past, and is sorry to find that the payment of the Salmon per the *Margt.* and sold in Novr. last, is not yett pay'd. This proves a considerable disscouragement, but hops hereafter it may prove better. I observe your proposeall to pay Mr. Robert Gordon of Bourdx. his full account for me and Company, as I take it, being f7882 : 4 : 4 : french money, which I agree to, and intreat you may doe pr. first, sending like ways at the same time ane account of what is due to each, I mean Alexr. Steuart, John McLeod, Andrew Monroe, and Willm. Frazer from the proceeds of their Salmond, with orders to draw on them for ballance to my order at the currt. exchange. . . .

Inverness, 18 June 1725.

Mr. James Blair [Edinburgh].

Sr.,—My last to you was of 12 currt., since non from you. Conform to what I wrote you in my last I send you inclosed bill Leut. John Preston, paymaster of Brigadier Groves Regiment, for Seventie pounds Strl., payable eight days after daite, which place to the Credit of Mr. George Ouchterlony, and advise him of the same, and me of your receipt hereof. Ile send you some more or bring it up to Edr. with myself verry soon.

For Normand McLeod of Drynach [at Eileanreach, Glenelg].

Inverness, 21 June 1725.

DEAR SIR,—I Received your favour of 16th Curt. with Mr. Chaplains noat to Mr. Watt for £14 Sterlin, which I presented to sd. Chaplain with Mr. Watts Letter to him ; and he promises that howsoon his Regiment arrives here, which will be in ten days, that he will make good the Noat to Me. And, indeed, being intimatly acquaint with the paymaster of that Regiment, I hope to recover payment, which when done shall advise you, and Credit your Account Conform.

Inverness, 24 June 1725.

Mr. George Ochterlonic [London].

SIR,—I Received your favours of 25 March and 10th Curant, and thought I hade made answer to the first in course, and I beg pardon I did not. I have yet 5 bags of your hopps on hand, which I have offered at the prime cost with you, but can not gett it, this pleace being overstocked, and is loath to sell it at loss. And as yet I have not gott a farthing for the rum. The tar is sold, and I have gott Ardloch's¹ mony, £60 : 2 : 4 sterlin, and I remitted last post £70 Sterlin for your Acct., and will in a post or tuo send him the proceeds of which is sold of your goods. And, as we are to have verie soon a lairge encampment of Forces here, I hope your rum will goe off, and then shall make acct. of all and send it you. I am glad the uglie debate with our freinds at Barcelona is ended, tho at loss. I observe your recomendation of Capt. Herdman, and when he comes here shall doe him all the service in my power ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 9 July 1725.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SR.,— I recd. your favours of 14 past, and delivered the inclosed letter for Brigadier Groves to his own hand,

¹ Alexander Mackenzie of Ardloch, son of Sir John Mackenzie of Tarbat.

and I suppos he has gott the two hams directed for him. I have long agoe pay'd your bill to Mr. Arbuthnot, and have since gott f.180 [?] from Mr. Coutts as the Nett proceeds of my ten barrell of Salmon sent you pr. John Willison, a verry poor affair. You may remember I sent you by said Wilison two packets to be forwarded to Italy. I expected the returns pr. James Grant as I advised, but he sayd you gave him no packett of letter for me but these wherein the Brigds. letter was inclosed, about which I am in great pain. So pray write me pr. first if you gott anny return by these letters sent you pr. Willisons Barq, and advise of the price of corns with you, and how your herrin and Salmon markets is like to prove. I observe what you write about Lewis Polson, and shall obey your orders. I opened his box with China. I find the 12 cups is wanting, but the rest is in it, which is certainly a mistake with you. I find you have forgott to send me the two pound tea as I ordered. The Clow [cloves] and Nutmeag James Grant has. There will be now an effectuall stop put to trade to this firth from you, for this morning arrived two small Cruizers from England in our road to attend all shippis from you in this firth herafter,¹ which I belive in the event will be good for this Country. I expect your answer in course ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 31 July 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

I RECD. your favour of 2nd currt., acknowledging receipt of £30 Strl. from Alexr. Monroe for my accot. as of Duncan McIntosh, Drover, his accepted bill for £4 : 16 : 6 Strl. and £30 Strl., and Joseph Faickines for £50 Strl. I now send inclosed the Laird of McLeods bill on Andrew McFarlin for £50 Strl., payable the first of 7br. Said Mr. Mcfarlin was laityly here and promised that this bill would be punctually paid when due ; so you may reckon on it as good money. I ordered, two post since, Alexr. Forbes, Junr., of London, to remitt you about £90 Strl.

¹ That is, to stop smuggling.

for my accot. I must value on you in two posts to the Earle of Morray for £200 Strl., but I desire your allowance per nixt. I return you inclosed Angus Shaws bill, which I had returned much sooner, but that I was promised payment daylie. I expected to have been with you or now, but happens to be so crowded with bussiness, and by the herrin fishings approach, that I am obliged to postpone journey till 7br nixt, if God permitt.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

Inverness, 13 August 1725.

I RECEIVED your favours of 31 past and 6 Currt., by first of we. I find that your barque wt. salt is not sailed, and that many of my Lemons are spoiled. Both salt and Lemons will come too late, for two or three bigg ships are arrived here wt. Salt, of we. is Bailie McKays pink, in we. is 20 Chists of fruit; and cannot sell your Salt befor arrival except upon uncertant conditions, as I told you formerly. 200 Ston Rakets flax will sell here as formerly, but no hemp, so send non. When the Salt comes shall send you the Certificate you mention; and as to the Salmond the eace stands much about what I told you in my last from Nairn. I have coneluded for non in Murray except 3 lasts from Burgyards and two lasts from young Clava, we. I carried over McKays and Bettys head at 3£ pr. bar: $\frac{1}{5}$ discount for Grilses, reddy money, and gave him already £12 Ster. in parte payt. and both that and Burgyards are packed, and will expect here to morrow. My Lord Lovats are likewise apacking this day; but, to my sirprise, Will: Fraser told yeasterday he was to draw 70 barrlls to be exported for his own acct. but I expect yett to [get] 100 barrells at least, and 12 more in this plaec. . . .

Inverness, 20 Augt. 1725.

Comissar Steuart.

AFF. COUSIN,—I thought to have seen you long ere this time, but was necessarily detained, tho verry unwillingly;

yett hopes to be with you sooner than you expect. I saw your Servt. David Monroe the other day, who spoke to me anent the Debt due by Mr. Michall Frazer. I have recovered the half of it by Phallie [Faillie] and Aberchalder, and Dunmaglass is charged with horning, which paper happening now to be at Castle Steuart will be sent you nixt post; and the 4th bill resting by Flichitie¹ is promised to be retired at Mertimass, for he was dead before the bill fell due, so could not be protested mean time. Besides the bill sent you on Mr. James Mckenzie for £125 mrks., I send you inclosed a £5: Strl. bank noat Numr. $\frac{173}{34520}$, which will pay more than I gott, and enable you to send me in return of this post two hornings on the inclosed two protested bills, vizt. bill, John Finlay for 55 sh. Strl., and bill Wm. Frazer £52: 5: Strl.; but Notice that the horning be for no more than what is due, as you'll find by the receipt on the back thereof. Mr. Binnet, one of the Comissioners of the Excise, was laitely here. I waitied of him and entertained him handsomly, and he was serriously spoke too on our affair by Lord Lovat and others, and he has promised to doe us all the service in his power in our monetry affair. Mean time please advise me what is doeing, or if application to anny of the top people here could doe us anny service.

Inverness, 21 August 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I Received yours of 12 Curt. and may be assured Ile studie all in my power to serve my good freind Collonell Clayton, but ther are so manie want mony here that it will difficult to provid him; but Ile doe my best, and take bills as you advise. . . .

Inverness, 28 Augt. 1725.

Mr. James Cuming [Edinburgh].

SR.,— . . I send you the acct. of Sales and Invoyce at Stockholm for your perusall, but the Invoyce of the

¹ Faillie, Easter Aberchalder, Dunmaglass, and Flichity are estates in the parish of Daviot, held of Lord Moray as superior.

Staves and Clapboards shipt at Dantzig could not be sent this post haveing falln by hand; only, for your government, know there is twixt Mr. David Monroe and me equally $4\frac{1}{2}$ great hunderd barrll. Staves and two chock clapboards, which all remains unsold, as does the iron. . . .

Inverness, 28 Aug. 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I wrote you the 21 Augt., and desired you might pay the Earle of Morray £200 Strl. for my accot. in part of my bill for Salmon in his Lops. hand. Now I confirm my Said order, and have wrot to his Lop. of this daite to Call for said money, which I hope you 'll pay on a receipt from his Lop., including what payment you have allreddy made. I send you inclosed bill Genrall Siburg, Governour of Fortwilliam, on Peter Crawford, Mercht. in Edr., at sight for £40: Strl., and deliver said Crawfoord the inclosed letter of advice. I like ways send you inclosed £50: Strl. on 5 bank noats Numr. $\frac{154}{30620}$: No. $\frac{149}{29664}$: No. $\frac{114}{23743}$: No. $\frac{112}{2325}$: No. $\frac{989}{17627}$, which I wish may come safe to your hands. I have valued on you of this daite £30 Strl. to the order of my Friend, Mr. James Cuming, Mercht. in Edr., which no doubt will find due honour. Advise if yett you have anny remittance from Alexr. Forbes, junr., of Lond. for my accot.

Invern:, 31 August 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachen, Montrose.

THIS day I wrote you by the *John* of Arbroth, John English Master, with whom I shiped for your accot. $103\frac{1}{2}$ barrells Salmon and $16\frac{1}{2}$ barrels grillses, making in all 120 barll., wc. is all the Master could take in. In my Letter the 26 Instant I wrote you that some discord had happened twixt me and Bailie Fraser about his half of Lord Lovat Salmon, wc. stoped the loading your barque a day. The mater was that sd. Bailie, tho had agreed to dissponce all yt fish in my favours, except 40 barrels Salmon he was to risque himself, yet, when I came to Load sd. fish, he

would not consent I should draw any more than my half unless I gave him profit for what I was to get of his half, which, considering the high price of sd. fish and the very few grills among them, I would not goe in to this proposall, but drew my own half; so I want 40 barrel of what I formerly mentioned I thought I was sure of. . . .

Inverness, 10 Sept. 1725.

Mr. George Ouchterlony [London].

I RECEIVED yours of 8 Instant, which I acknowledge is too long unanswered. I with it had the Inclosed from [for ?] Collonell McKenzie and Capt. Herdman. The first I did not deliver because in it you made mention of my name, and because I was then about causing arrest of sum of money due him by Merchts. in this place, which would doe much more than pay your debt. Accordingly these arrestments are led on, and I design to cause doe so a second time; and mean time may write a letter pr. first to the Collonell, but pray take no notice of me in it, for I care not to appear in that matter, tho I would willingly doe you all the service I can. I sold lately 3 baggs of your hops, so only now two [to ?] hand, for which I expect £4 : 10 : sh. Strl.; but of the first was sold there is yett two baggs resting. I belive your rum will not sell here, so I think you should order me to return to London whats unsold of it. The officers of the army here dont medle with it, being weell stored with wine and Sack [?]. Capt. Herdman was here tother day, and he and I drank your Health. I send you inclosed bill and letter of advice Capt. George Monroe on Mr. Perrigreen Fuerry for £37 : 19 : 5 Strl., payable at sight, which I have indorsed to your order. I doubt not will find due honour, so place it to my Credit in accot. and advise me in course; as also of the prices of corns, brandy, etc., with you; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 11 7br., 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I received yours came pr. last post without daite, advising your receipt of Generall Siburgs bill on one

John Crawfoord is pay'd, and that you received £50 Strl. in bank noats, and would comply with my Orders to the Earle of Morray and James Cuming, which is weell. I likeways gott a draught of my accot. currt., which differ in some articles from mine, particularly that you must Credit me for £6 Strl. sent you in bank noats inclosed in my letter of 6 March, when I ordered to pay Alexr. Arbuthnot in part of Alexr. Roses bill. As also you forgott Duncan McIntosh, Vintner, his accepted bill of £4 : 16 Strl. which [with] some other litle mistakes will make the ballance I am due you less. Now I send you inclosed seven accepted bills from severall Gentlemen of the McLeods for £197 : 16 : 8 Sterlin, and bill John Hosack and Company on Capt. Rutherford at London pr. £9 : Strl., which makes all £206 : 16 : 8 Strl., all which will be punctually pay'd again the first Octr. that they fall due ; the receipt of which please signify, and advise pr. first how you have a particular noat of these bill under written. The accot. of the inclosed bills is, vizt.

20 Augt. 1725.

Bill John Hosack and Compy. on Capt.

Rutherford 20: days after date	£9 : 0 : 0
Do. Roderick McLeod of Contlieck	16 : 13 : 5
Do. Said Roderick McLeod	26 : 10 : 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do. Donald McLeod, Balmenach	37 : 10 : 0
Do. Roderick McLeod of Ullanish	75 : 5 : 10
Do. William McLeod of Hammart ¹	10 : 17 : 6
Do. William McLeod of Eboost	21 : 9 : 5
Do. Ladie Clanranald on Mr. Alexr. McKenzie ; all payable again the first October	8 : 17 : 9
	<hr/>
	£206 : 4 : $\frac{3}{4}$
To Contlieck promissarrie noat	0 : 12 : 6
	<hr/>
	£206 : 16 : 9 $\frac{1}{8}$

¹ Hamar or Hamara in Glendale, Skye. William Macleod of Hamar was a well-known character in the early part of the eighteenth century. Under the name of 'Theophilus Insulanus' he wrote a curious treatise on second sight, published in 1763.

Inverness, 14 Sept. 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan, Montrose.

Gentlemen,—I received your favour of 31 past and hade returned you answer pr. last post but that last week I was from home in the Highlands. . . . I hope John Inglis is with you long ere now, but James Orkney only sailed from Findhorn. What kept him so long I know not, but you need be no great anxiety, since I hope your Ship may be at the market befor anny other from Scotland, since one James Grant, who takes in the Inverlochy fish, is not yett arrived there, nor Joseph McIntosh yett at Garloch. He unloads his cod fish at Barcelona, and I suppose goe with his Salmon to Marseilles or Leghorn, and Baillie McKay's pink will not be disspatched before the first of Octr., and is not determind where to send her, but doe think it will be to Venice; and Baillie Gordon Salmon lays here and no appearance of a Ship to take it in, and I am verry much of the mind, being but about 200 barel., it may goe for Havre or Bilboa. I'l notice what you write annent Sir Thos. Calder,¹ and will improve your cash to the best advantage. Lodwick Gordon is verry angry, and swears he never meant to give his bounty money; but that will depend on Binhalls oath, or his. . . .

Inverness, 18 Sept. 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

My last was of 11 inst., when I sent you inclosed 8 bills and ane obligatorry letter, all indorsed to you, value £206 : 16 : 9 $\frac{1}{3}$ Strl., which I hope will find punctuall payt. The Gentlemen acceptors being now gone south with their catle, and promiseing to retire the same, I send you now inclosed three bills more, vizt.,

Aneas McDonald of Scotis, payable the twentieth October	£32 : 7 : 0
Roderick McLeod of Contlieck, payable 1 ditto	6 : 9 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$
Norman McLeod of Drynoch, 1 Novr.	50 : 14 : 2

89 : 10 : 7 $\frac{1}{3}$

¹ Sir Thomas Calder of Muirtoun, Morayshire, father of the noted Admiral Sir Robert Calder.

Being in all eighty nine pounds ten shills. seven pence one third Strl. Drynach my Father in Laws bill, tho' payable here, is sent South at his own desire, and will ye paid equally with those sent you last post. You'll give my service to Ulanish and Donald McLeod, Ballamenach, and tell them I depend on them for payment of Hammer's¹ bill according to promises to Don: McIntire, and that their compliance will be esteemed a favour; and meantime I intreat you be at pains in it, since I have no doubt anny of the bills but that of Hammers; and, when all is paid, credit me in accot.

Inverness, 18 Sepr. 1725.

Mr. Alex. Forbes [London].

SIR,—I received your favour 2d currt. and doe observe that Mr. John _____ has paid you for my accot. £89 : 2 : 8 Strl., value of f1700 french, due me by Mr. Jacob Ferray of Havre, and that you have advised my friend William Cuming to value on you for £83 : 14 : Strl.; but I wish you had rather remitted the money, since I am affraid drawing from Edr. will be a loss to me, Exchange being under parr there, as they pretend. The Ship prosperous *Margt.* of this place is just now redly to sail for London, by which please send me two doz. fine poutter [pewter] pleats, half doz. thereof deep for Supe; a large Ditto Supe dish; and two large flat dishes for roast or boiled meat, and few ashetts ditto; and you'll notice the same be good hard mettall, and the pleats and dishes marked thus J._sC. Send me likeways a doz. of the finest dwarf pear and apple trees for a border of a garden, and two doz. plants of evergreens ews, varrigated hollies, and some Lawrells, all which to be carefully done up to prevent spoiling; and you'll observe to find ane honest gardener, that you may not be imposed on in the fruit trees. Send likeways four bottles of the Florence eating oyle; and place the value of all to my accot., or draw on me for the same.

¹ William Macleod of Hamar. See p. 234.

Inverness, 8 8ber 1725.

I WROTE of this dait to William Cuming, and sent a small Account due be Charles Gordon to me, and ane order to pay the same to sd. Cuming, being £2 : 14 : 5½ Sterlin. As alsoe sent him Æneas Mackdonell of Scotus his accepted bill for £34 Ster., which is to be returned me iff not payed.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

Inverness, 12 8ber 1725.

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favours of 24 past and 4t Currt., ye last by Mr. Alexr. Coutts of Dantzig. I am sorry I canot Comply with ym. ys. post, being wery much Hurried and from home since your Salmond was dispatched; but by friday nexts post all yt. you desire shall be regularly sent you. As to what you mention about ye debt due you by the Laird of Brody, I dont belive any Creditor for Salmond will take any transaction yt. way. I think the best and Quickest way to ballance ye affair is to buy all or a part of his farm [victual rents] ys. year if you find your accot. in it. As I am Countable to all the sellers of Salmond for their bounty, I entreat you negotiat ye debentures as soon as possible, and send ym. to William Cumming, Mercht. in Edr., placeing ye fees to my accot.

Inverness, 15 Octr. 1725.

Messrs. Winder and Aikman, Livorno.

I RECEIVED your acceptable favours of 24 agust and 22 7ber last, and do returne my most hearty thanks for your kind remembrance of me. The prices of Salmon run very high for 2 years past, so I did not care to deal much that way, particularly this year, for our Salmon has sold at 3 lib. pr. barrel, so that any I could purchase was upon Comission for the Montross men. However, I'm glade to advise you that Will: McKay and Copa. [Company] of this place have shiped off 400 barrll. for your porte in the ship *Larke* of this port, George Rodger Master, we. ship saild 8 days past; and your acquaintance Alexr. Rose

and I have prevailed with Mr. McKay to make the Consignation to your house; assuring them of honorabl tratemen by you. If you find that sd. Mr. Rodgers returnes not directly to England, but is freighted for Holland or Hamburgh, send by him for my accot. the following goods, 100 pd. of the longest Cotton Wool; 20 pd. Course Cotton yearn; 20 pd. do. midlen Sorte, and 20 pd. do. finde, for a tryal; 40 lib. Coffee beens: a Chist of finest Cucca oil; Doz. small yarrs Olives; 2 hhds. Corako wine; 1 doz. small cask anehoves. Mind to take bill of loadning for these goods deliverable to me or order in this plaec. There is one James Grant, of this place, gone likewise to your seas wt. Salmond and Cod-fish, but cannot tell if will proceed as far up as your porte. If he does pray ship these goods I call for on board of him, and tell him they are for my accot. You are to draw on me for these goods to the order of Mr. Will: McKay, and your bill will find due honour. . . .

Inverness, 13 Novr. 1725.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

YOUR friends at Muntrose advise me vizt., Messrs. Ramsay and Straehan, that they have ordered you to answer my draughts for £220 Strl. for paying my engadgements here for there accots. I therefor have valued on you of this daite for £50 strl. to order of the Earle of Murray, at 3 days sight, which I hope will be punctually answered; and per nixt I will probably draw for all the rest.

13 Nov. 1725.

To the Earle of Murray.

I EXPECTED to have seen your Lop. ere now at Duni-birsle, but, my old Mother falling ill and like to dye, I could not in duety think of going so farr from home untill I seed how it pleased God to dispose of her. She is still in a languishing eondition, eonfined to her bed; and now being about our Mertimass term, when your Lops. affairs, as weill as my own, require my attendanee, I cannot possi-

tively tell how soon I can wait of your Lop. at Dunibirsle. Mean time I send your Lop. inclosed my bill on John Coutts, mercht. in Edr., for £50 Stg., payable at 3 days sight, which, with the former £200 Strl. paid by William Cuming, makes up payment of my accepted bill for last years Salmon, which your lop. will please return me or receipt for this money.

13 Nov. 1725.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

I WROTE you the 6th currt. when I drew on you two large bills, both value £327 : 13 : 4 Strl., which I hope will find due honour, tho I find my funds in your hands have not answered so quickly as I expected; but still I hope you 'll be in cash for me before my draught fall due. I return you the debentures and our accot. currt. signed, so may make out a coppie of it and return it signed to me per first. I draw on you for 13 sh. which I am due my cousin the Comissars Lady; so please pay her on sight. My debentures on the Salmon exported 1719 are made out, but our Collector cannot pass them without orders from the Exchequer. But what I want to know is what sort of vouchers I must give in order to procure the Exchequer orders to pass my debentures as the Law directs; therefor pray concert with my cousin the Comissar in this affair, that, if possible, such order may be obtained befor this court of Exchequer is up, so that we may be no longer keep out of our money.

Inverness, 13 Novr. 1725.

Comissar. Steuart.

I GOT your letter with Jon. Monroe the Messenger, who gott punctuall attendance from Farquhar both in Strathearn, Strathnairn, and Pettie, where all his coppies were passed, and such a large liberarry of prints was never dispersed in these part before. In short you have put all belonging to our Earle in these parts in a fever, and can not be easy untill they know the meaning, of which I could not tell them, unless it was a project to instruct

them in the Law, or make them more redly hereafter to their Supperiors in their payment. Munroe went to Murray [Moray] on Monday last with James Russell, and I gave him £40 Scots, for which took his bill on the Earle, which I send you inclosed, and I think should have a receipt for it.

Inverness, 17 Novr. 1725.

Mr. James Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I send you herewith extract of our accot. currt. and accot. of disbursements for you, as also accot. of sale of your Iron per the *Thistle*; all which I hope you'll find right. I am due you by this accot. currt. about £30 Strl., but as I want yett about £40 of your Iron, and 18 lib. of Cullodens bill, I cannot remitt you the ballance not in a fortnight, being straitned at present. I hope in a litle time to be able to make out the accot. of sale of your last Iron from Stockholm in Compa[ny], as also of the two hhds. cherry from Hamburg; and then our accot. currt. can be fully filled and finished, and not before which.

Inverness, 24th Nover. 1725.

For Sir Thomas Calder, of Muirtown.

SIR,—I gott both your Letters and hade made a return or now but that I was Disapointed of some mony due me and that I depended on last week. Mean time I send you inclosed my first and 2d bills, as you desire, on Mr. John Coutts of Eder. for £170 Sterlin, and Collonell Clayton's bill on Alexr. Tait for £50 sterlin, indorsed to you, both makeing £220 sterlin, for which please send me your receipt in pairt payment of your salmon. And when I am advised that the bounty mony of your salmon is payed at Eder. shall remitt you what ballance is Due you; so that I hope you will have no reason to Complain of Bad payment. I have your receipt for the £100 sterlin sent you from Muntrose, so that you have now in all £320 sterlin, which at present is all from your, etc.

Inverness, 26t 9ber 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favours of 5t and 6t Currt. In ye first I observe ye severall Articles put to my Debit in Accot. Currt., which I belive are right enoch, only I think that the 30 barells and $\frac{1}{2}$ of salmond ye bounty mony wherof is charged on me ought to bear a proportion of ye Coustome house pd. at Montrose. I observe you do not liek ye proposall made you about your flax, So have only but yet sold of it 43 Ston of it to John Frigg at Findhorn, payable 6 months hence. I have payed Sr. Thomas Calder all his Salmond to a very litle, and I have drawn on John Coutts, as you ordered, for £220 Ster. and Binhall has payed me, for which I have granted receipt in your name, 40£, which please Dt. me in accot. Currt. in part of ye Salmon shipped for your accot. I received ye three Certificats for retiring ye cost bonds. I received Kilravack's Accot., due ye Lady Balnain, but have since have heard no wourd about it from Mr. McKay or any oyr. I doubt not but I writt you what you mention of 13 or 14t Augt. last, but Grangehill disapointed me of his Salmond after he promised, and gave ym. to John Duff for accot. of Balie Gordon. It is very true yt. Mr. McKay has load of Salmond in 4 severall Ships, vizt. 200 barl. by Jos: McIntosh for the Mediteranian; 400 do. by his own pink for Leghorn; 180 do. p. the *James* and *Ann* of ys. place, which last Ship sailed from the Orkneys . . . and was loaded at Lochaber and Lochinver. This ship is bound, as I hear, for Alicant; and, in ye begining of ys. month, in ye *Fair Trader* of ys. place, betwixt him and Balie Fraser, 110 barells for Haverdegrace. As to ye affair of Codfish for next year, I find it so inhansed in ys. frith yt. there is no bying of any except at a very high rate, and some yt. was sent to Bilboa by Lod[ovick] and Robert Gordons is come to a very good market; and ye price of ye Salmond ye insueing year will depend much on ye success of ys. years at ye foreign markets. So yt. in ys. affair I can as yet promise nothing Certain; which is all from your, etc.

Inverness, 27 Novr. 1725.

Mr. Wm. Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I send you inclosed bill Richard Whitehall p. £20 Strl. on Capt. Mungoe Herdman, or, in his absence, on his Brother Patrick Herdman, vintnor in your City, being for Cash for building a frigate on Lochness for his Majesties Servis, and by the Capt. Speciall order. So I doubt not it will be punctually payed, which you'll place to my Credit. And you'll pleas retire my bill from Alexr. Tait for £10 : 12: Strl., and place £14 due you by my Son Alexr. to my Debit, and Credit him accordingly. My friend George Ouchterlony of London writes me he has remitted you Alexr. Tait's bill £99 Strl. on my accot., which money belongs to our friend James Cuming. So I desire you make good the Same to him howsoon its payd.

3d Decr. 1725.

Mr. Patrick Herdman [Vinter, Edinburgh].

I WROTE you the 27 past, when I advised of Robt. Whitehalls draught on you for £20 Strl. in my favour, and which was to be paid out by your Brother Capt. Herdmans order for the Kings Service. Now I am to advise you by order of Coll. Clayton that he recd. your last, with Mr. Alexr. Tait's bill on John Duff for £50 Strl., which he has indorsed to me, since he will not take the trouble of deburseing said money, as he has ordered and keep accot. of it. So, if you have answered Whitehalls bill to William Cuming, I shall remitt you £20 Strl. value of said bill as you shall advise, since its probable £50 is all the fund left with you for finishing the weshell [vessel] on Lochness. So, expecting your answer, I am, etc.

Donald Steuart [Master of the *Margaret* of Inverness].

8th Decr. 1725.

WEE wrote you of this date under Cover of Coll[onel] Alexr. McKenzie, from whom wee have bought eleven last seven and a half barrel herrings at 8£ 10sh. ster. pr. Last,

the bounty being ours. So that wee hope this will come in time to prevent your offering him any more mony. As wee have had no advice from you since our last, wee doe suppose there hes been no fishing for our accot. ; and, if there hes, you are to blame did not advise us. However, wee have made it a conditional bargain with Coll. McKenzie that, if Gruinziord ¹ made a bargain for us, you are not obliged to take his herrings ; but, as wee suppose that hes not happened, wee have likeways agreed to let Mr. Peter Forbes Ship, on his own risque and accot., eleven last seven barrel and a half more, which will make the greatest part of your Loadning. You'll take notice that what herrings you receive for us be well cured and packed, and the cask very tight and full hooped at one end. You are to follow your former instructions as to the Disposeal of your Salt and cask ; and, since Peter Forbes is come to this country, wee are to Concert with him about the proper method of getting Custome house officers to see the Shipping of these herrings so as the Drawback may be secured to us. And for this purpose wee think it fitt you goe to Cairstoun harbour after you have load your herrings, and when there apply yourself to our friend Hugh Baillie, Collr. of the Customs of Orkney, who will certainly Expede the Debentures. So you'll notice to enter the herrings in name of Magnus Meason, Mert. in Kirkwal, who will Expede the Debenture and forward them to us. But wee are not yet positive if this is the method wee will prosecute, but shall fully advise you in our next.

Inverness, 13t xber 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

GENTLEMEN,—My last was of 26 past, to which I reffer. This serves only to advise you that some frinds and I had in ye month of 8ber last a barque ² belonging to this place load with wine from Bourdeaux, which had the

¹ Mackenzie of Gruinard, Lochbroom.

² The *Ann.*

misfortune to give way at sea 3 days after She parted from ye river of Bourdeaux, and 30 Leagues westward of Usseant ; and yere ye Crew of sd. barque were saved by ane David Spink of Arbroath, being yn in Company with them. We had insurance made in Bourdeaux for 6000 Livers on ye Cargoe of sd. Barque, and since ye master and Crews arivall here have taken ye needfull atestations, and did forward ye same to our Corespondent, Mr. Robert Gordon of Bourdeaux, in order to recover our damage, of which you have a Cobby inclosed. And now what I am to desire of you is that how soon ys. comes to hand yule be pleased to me ye favour to call for sd. David Spink and one or two of his men, and get ym. to make oath before a majistrat or Justice of peace, and declare what they know about the loss of sd. barque and ye saving of its Crew. And be pleased pr. wery first to forward such declaration in my name to Mr. Robert Gordon at Bourdeaux, and no Doubt you 'l take care yt the declaration doe not disagree with ye Copy here sent you inclosed. What ever Charg you deburse on ys. affair place it to my accot., and ye same will thankfully pd. Let me entreat your care of ys. p. first. Your Dr. [debtor], the Laird of Brody, goes of for London in 8 or 10 days, So yt I belive I shall not have your orders to bargain with him about his bear before he goes of. So its my opinion you wrett to your Corespondent at Edr. to watch him, and strick bargain with him there. Shall be Glad to here of ye arivall of your Ship in ye Mediteranian, and your success in Salmond project.

Inverness, 14 Decr. 1725.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—This will be Delivered you by David Stevenson, who goes by John Willison of this pleace. He is a freind of Mine, and, if he wants a litle Credit, may furnish him to the extent of six pounds sterlin, and take his bill on his spouse. May likeways send me by his care three pounds best bohea tea, and please the value to my Accot.

Inverness, 16 Decr. 1725.

[Commissar Steuart.]

D. COUSIN,—I am too long indebted to your last letter, and doe observe your complaint that your debursments in manageing our unlucky affair lay heavy and inequally on you. William Cuming charges me likeways in accot. about Seven pounds six on that head he laid out, besides some money I debursd in this Country my self; but, whatever happen, shall, God willing, doe you justice, and hopes verry soon to reimburse you what you may be in advance more than your share. I write this night to our good friend Mr. Steuart at London, to keep him in mind of our affair and pray God grant us a safe deliverance after all our expences. My verry good friend Collin McKenzie, Laird of Killdin, has of a long time recomended to me the manadgement of his litle affair he hapned to have in James Thomson exquitory [executry], and I intreat your care in it conform to his direction to me in his leter to me of 10 Augt. last; and Mrs. Wyllie, to whom you'll deliver the inclosed sealed letter, will advance anny needfull Charges you'll cal for. So I hope you'll take care of my worthy Friend, especially the deceas'd Thomsons two receipts of payt. sent you here inclosed. I must likeways mind you of the Bond resting me by James Thomson since I find Drumuir,¹ Scatwell,² and Baillie Fraser are now goeing heartily to pass their Interest that way, and to Stop Alexr. Monroes [?] and preferring himself to the other Creditors. Evan Baillie³ sent you last Summer the extract of Thomsons bond for £40, and I am willing, if you think fitt, to Concurr with other Crs. mentioned, that I may be at least on ane equall footing with them. I send you inclosed horning agt. Wm. Frazer, Brother to Dumballoch⁴ and Chamberlain to Lovat, and intreats that Caption may be sent me on it pr. first, since I find the man not inclined to doe me justice otherways.

¹ Duff of Drummuir.² Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell.³ Evan Baillie of Abriachan, Solicitor in Inverness.⁴ Dumballoch near Beauly.

Mr. John Duff, Elgin.

Inverness, 24 Decr. 1725.

BEING advised that my acceptance to your Brother Wm. is in your hands for £127 : 13 : 4 Strl., of which I paid £100, I send you by the bearer your Said Brothers letter and receipt for the same £27 : 13 : 4 Strl., being in Specie 10 guaneas, a quadruple or 4 pistole piece, value £3 : 6 Strl., and a £5 Strl. bank noat, and the rest in Silver ; so you 'll please return my bill by the bearer, and acquaint if John Donaldson has retired my other bill for £20 Strl. indorsed you by young Clava.

Inverness, 30 Decr. 1725.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

[In this letter Stuart orders 'a box with powther, 4 barrells pitch, a box with suggar, and some trees and evergreens for my garden.']

Inverness, 1 January $\frac{25}{1726}$.

Mr. Alexr. Tait [Edinburgh ?].

SIR.—I send you inclosed Alexr. Gordons bill on Alexr. McKenzie protested at said McKenzies common place of Residence, he haveing not appeared in this country since he was in France, and I am told the master of his Ship has dropt him in Norway and gone to the Orkneys with his cargoe for the security of his freight ; so that our friend, Mr. Gordon, has but ane indifferent chance for his money. I paid 5 sh. for protesting this bill, which have passed to Mr. Gordons accot. I hade a letter last post from Mr. Robert Gordon of Bourdaux, wherein he advised that our insurance on the bark *Ann* that was lost will be made good. I therefor advised you not to insist on the payt. of our bills ; which at present is all from your, etc.

1 January $\frac{25}{1726}$.

Mr. Alexr. Forbes [London].

SIR,—I received your favour of 30th Novr. last, with Invoyce and bill of loading for goods shiped in the un-

prosperous *Margt.*, John Reid master, which Ship was soon after lost on the Barr of Montrose water, and of my litle cargoe there is nothing saved but a barrell of pitch. I wish you had insured it as others did what they shipped without orders; but now no help. I observe the value of these goods extends to £10 : 14 : 1 Strl., which shall verry soon order you at London, being just now shipping off about 500 qrtrs. oats for your Port. I hear there is a pink bound from the Themis to this place immediatly. If so, please send me a doz. of dwarf pear and apple trees in place of what was lost, and only one handsom varricated holly, for I find I can be provided in the rest at home. Send likeways half hundred Suggar, such as you sent last.

Inverness, 13 January 1725.

Mr. Alex. Forbes [London].

SIR,—I wrote you the first inst. adviseing you of the missfortune of Capt. Reid, since which I have your favour of 30th past, mostly on that subject. I am surprized to find the great fall of oats at your market. The cargoe that I have purchased, and will sail begining of next week, haveing cost us here more money than 9/ pr. quarter, I have resolved to try what can be don on the way twixt this and London, rather than trust to such a low market. Mean time I intreat howsoon this comes to hand you cause insure on the cargoe of oats, etc., on board the *Kathrin* of Lieth, Alexr. Tod master, £250 Strl. against all hazards, from this to London, with liberty to said ship to call at Lieth, Newcastle, and Yarmouth, by the way and advise me of your complyance pr. first, as you will Wm. Cuming at Edr., who will remitt you the premium. Advise likeways how the market rules with you.

Inverness, 22d Jan. 1726.

Mr. Alexr. Forbes, junr. [London].

SIR,—My last was of 13t Currt., when I advised you to insure for me and Compa. my Cargoe of oats, etc., on board the Ship *Kathrin* of Leith, Alexr. Tod master, from ys.

to London, with priviledge to call at Leith, Newcastle, and Yarmouth, £250 Ster., which I hope is accordingly done before ys. comes to hand. Sd. ship sailed on Wednesday last, with a fair wind. This comes chiefly to cover ye inclosed, which I intreat may be carefully and speedaly delivered, as they are of importance to me. And I desire that lickways how soon ys. comes to hand you pay to Thomas Kerr, Seedsman in Church Laine, in Great Chelsy, £6, 10s. Ster., and take his receipt for the same in name of James Pitkaithly, Gardner in ys. place, which please send me p. first, and mean time value on me for sd. sume to your Corespondent at Edr., and your draught will be duely Honoured.

Inv:, 12th Feby. 1726.

To Donald Steuart [Master of the *Margaret* of Inverness].

AFF. COUS.,—I have yours of 5th currt. from Lochinver, and I am verry heartily glad of your safe arivall yre, being affraid you was come by some misfortune, having been so long unheard of you. It was not possible to dispatch your Express till ys. morning, and now all your dispatches are sent you. So you are to proceed drectly to the Orkenes to enter your Herins, and negotiat your debentures, and what provisions you want must be purchased there, which I hope yule have mony to buy out for it. If not, may value on me. And, if you find the Ship any way Creasie, Its fitt you putt Carpenters on her in Orkney. I approve of your Conduct in discharging ye Villain Clooness who yule find always a mutinous fellow. As for your Wife, you may depend she will not want while I can help her. I am to lett her have tuo bolls meall tomorow. She says she wants nothing els. I need not insist on derections to you, only invest what can be spared in good broad Iron and 4 barells pitch. I doubt not but yule have a tender Regard to my interest, and there is much need you doe, for there will be litle got by ys. voyage. And I am yet like to suffer for our unluckie Cousin David Steuart, your Broyr., and I am affraid will be oblided to pay 500 guineas, which will demolish me if God in his provi-

dence doe not prevent. We are lick to have warr over all Europe. So mind to cause ye Gentlemen at Stockholm to whom you are consigned notice my Orders anent insurance by Robert McKay at Rotterdam on ye Ship and Cargoe homeward. I pray God derect you, and send you a safe and prosperous voyage.

Inverness, 15th Febry. 1726.

To John Stevenson at Isdell [Easdale].

SIR,—I recived yours of 15th and 30th xber last, and I doe by these assure you I will take 30,000 of Esdale Slate at ye same rate Donald McIntire payd. for ym last year, provoiding, in return of ys., you signify by a letter yt. yule have sd. slaite ready again ye midle of May next or the 20th at furthest; and in ys. case ye price shall be payd you at Fortwilliam ye begining of June therafter, whither ye Ship come to receive ym. or not. I say ye price will be payd not exceeding ten pound Scots p. thousand. So faile not to have ym. ready as above. . . .

Mr. James Cuming [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 26th Febry. 1726.

Non of your pruins [prunes] are sold, so will ship ym. to Leith p. first occasion if canot gett any of ym. disposed as you desire. . . .

Inv.; 26th Feb. 1726.

Mr. George Ouchterlony.

SIR,—Howsoon ys. comes to hand please insure for my accot. on ye Ship *Margaret* of ys. place and her Cargoe of Herins on board, £150 Sterline, from Lochinver on our west Coast to Stockholm. . . .

To Comissar. Steuart [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 26th Fy. 1726.

I RECEIVED yours of 19th Currt., and I am Glad to find yt. our debentures are in shuch forwardness. Send me p.

first ane accot. of all your Charges in ye affair that I may see to gett Justice done you before ye debentures are expedd here. I have written fully and pressingly to Colonell Guest by ys. post in our unlucky affair, and I doubt not he will make use of General Wades interest in it, and if you can think of any oyr. application I can make that may serve us Ile doe it. Ile certainly notice what you recomend to remitt £3 sterline to your moyr. [mother] and take bill as you desire. Having missed ye post, doe send ys. p. Express after him.

Inverness, 4 March 1726.

Messrs. Mountgomrie, Mould, and Fenick [Stockholm].

WEE refer you to our Letter by Donald Steuart, master of the shipp *Margret* of this pleace, only with this differ that now wee desire the whole proceeds of our herins be invested in Iron, and as many of the best dealls as will be sufficient for Dunage. Wee desire our iron be of the same quality as mentioned in our sd. Letter. If Donald Steuart call at Dantzick, as wee have ordered, shipp no Dealls but what will be necessar for Dunage; but, if doe not goe, then shipp the 20 Dozen formarly ordered, and to the value of fiftie pounds sterlin of iron more than the proceeds of our herins; for which you are to value on us payable in Eder., which will find Due honour.

Inverness, 4 March 1726.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

GENTLEMEN,—I Received your favour of 8 Febr., with your bill on John Coutts for £1253 : 3 : 6 scots as full ballance of our last Acct. Curant, which have to [told ?] Lovat he may gett on Demand. As for the Salmon I have secured for the inshueing season, I designe to risque a Deall of it Myself, and I was offered by Bailie Mackay¹ and his

¹ William Mackay, merchant in Inverness.

brother Scourie ¹ 3 pr. Ct. of Commission for all the Salmon I can purchass and other advantages I wont name, but have Made them no promise, tho I am realy obraidet that I preferr anie to My townsmen. Yet, as I found you still men of honour, I enclyn not to break off, and so will not engage with McKay nor anie other untill I see you, which I propose to be sometime in Aprile nixt, God willing, at Muntross. Ile mind your salt affair, and hade done it ere now but that 300 bushells of it was sent Coastwise to our west Highlands to last herin Fishing, and must Ly there to nixt fishing, so Must gett a certificat from the [?] of Lewes. A Loadning of salt in July nixt will Doe. If from Cadiz, may order 3 or 4 tuns of Cherie in half and quarter pyps, 20 barells rasins, and some Leamon: it will doe well.

Mr. William Cumming [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 4th March 1726.

SIR,—I received yours with McLeods bill on Ulinish ² for £300 Ster., which, according to your desire, I have forwarded p. Express for acceptance, for which have agreed to pay 10sh. . . .

Inv., 4 March 1726.

Mr. James Blair [Edinburgh].

SIR,—This brings you inclosed bill John Preston, Leut. and paymaster to Brigadier Groves Regiment, on the Honble. Sir Spenser Compton for £300, payable ye 10th Aprile next, which I doubt not will find due Honour. I must entreat you negotiat the same p. first and place ye value of ye Exchange to my accot., which, I am formed, is at present at 2 p. Ct. I sopose I must draw on you tomorrow for about £140 sterline to ye order of John

¹ Hugh Mackay of Scourie. William and Hugh were grandsons of the famous General Hugh Mackay of Scourie.

² Macleod of Ulinish in Skye.

Thomson, Mercht. in Glasgow, which I hope will find due honour.

Inverness, 18th March 1726.

To Comissar. Steuart [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I received your favours of 4th and 10th Curr. Ye 1st I got at Cromerty, and ye last yester night at my Return here from Ross, where I have been for 8 days past. . . . I wish Mr. Bowls may be a good Agent for us at London, and may answer what has been bestowed on him first and last. Poor Wretched David¹ came to me ys. day asking if any post or pension is provided for him from ye Government; he is wery d——. I writt a Second Serious Letter to Collonell Guest, and Captain Herdman wrett me yt. ye Collonell has promised to serve us and next post our Governour Collonell Clayton, in our affair to Generall Wedd [Wade] and oysr, which I hope will doe us no harm. He forwarded your letter to Dalrachnie² younger, tho I learn by Collonell Grant³ that ye mony you ordered for me is remitted you, and £28 Ster. more p. bill ys. post. I thank you for your kindness to my son, and am in pain to know if he received my last letter, or if he left my watch at Edr., which I sent to be mended, or Caried it alongst. I send you my fathers assignation to me of his Effects, with a bond resting be ye Deceast McLeod of Cadboll, David McCulloch of Glestulich [in Ross-shire] and George Urquhart, Mercht. in Cromerty, for 4000 merks. I have been advised to send ye assignation with ye bond in order to raise Horning on ye last, and inhibition against sd. David McCulloch of Glestulich; only the reason is because I can gett no anuall rent on ys., nor has any been payd for 7 years past: and George Urquhart has agreed to pay me provoding I rase dilligence against Glestulich, which Ive agreed to doe; so faile not to Find me Horning and Inhibition p. next post, and return me my fathers disposition.

¹ Brother of Commissary Steuart.

² Grant of Dalrachnie in Strathspey.

³ Colonel Lewis Grant, brother of Sir James Grant of Grant.

To Mr. Adam Gordon of Carnusy.¹

In: 22d March 1726.

I SAW leatly your letter to your broyr. in law Culbin² advising that ye farm meale³ of your Country of last Cropt could not be bought under 7 merks p. boll of 8 ston, payable at Whitsunday next, or at 5 lib. Scots pr. boll at Martinmass next, but yt. you belived yt. ye black oat meale of Buchan ought to be bought at 6 merks, and $\frac{1}{2}$ payable at Martimass next, and deliverable at Frasersbrough. I supose be ys. time ye price of meall will fall with you, as it has done much in ye South. Mean time I send you ys. to advise yt. if you find you Can purchase for my accot. from 8 to 900 bolls of the black oatmeall of Buchan, deliverable at Frasersbrough or Peterhead, @ $6\frac{1}{2}$ merks Scots p. boll of 8 Ston, and $\frac{1}{2}$ payable at Martimass next in Edr. or ys. toun, yule please accquent me p. express, and Ile send you Comission by ye same bearer to conclude bargain for me. But take notice yt. I only mean ye meall of last Cropt, for if it is not sweett it will not doe. I expect your answer p. first.

Mr. Robert Barckley, Hambg.

Inverness, 8th Aprile 1726.

SIR,—I received your favour ye 22d past with 6 bills inclosed on Sundrys here for £120 1s. 6d. sterline, which I have presented to ym. on whom drawen, and have given ym. there letters of advice came lickways under my cover; but I am sory to tell you that, Except ye Small bill on Alexr. Rose, none of your bills are accepted, and so are protested, for ys. reason that they aledge you refused a pretty good offer for their Herins at Hamborough and Sent ym. for Petersbrough without their orders. But John McKay tells me yt. William McIntosh, Ken:

¹ Carnousie in Banffshire.

² John Duff of Culbin, son of Alexander Duff of Drummur, Provost of Inverness.

³ Meal which had been received by proprietors as ferme or rent.

McKenzie, and he are Content to refer ye matter to tuo merchts. in Edr., on to be Chosen by you and anyor by ym. ; as to which doe as you think fitt. Mean time I thought fitt to keep the bills till I heard further from you ; and its my opinion you send your orders from yse. Gentlemen to Mr. Alexr. Arburthnot, our frind at Edr., with orders to proseeute your payt. by Law if the affair will bear it, which I Question not it will. Pray, Sir, advise me how much Hering you mean to be purchased at Petersbough as p. ys. accot. for 9 Rubells, and what each rubell is wourth Ster. mony. . . .

Mr. Patrick Herdman, Vintner, Edinburgh.

Inverness, 15th Aprile 1726.

SIR,—I had last post a letter from your broyr., Captain Mungoe Herdman, Ordering me to draw on you for what mony I debursed by his order on ye Highland Gallie,¹ and yt. he advised you to Honour my drawght by ye Same post. I am out about £50 Ster., but have only drawn on you of ys. date £30 Ster. to the order of James Huiston, Mercht. in ys. place, at 8 days sight, which I hope will find due Honour, and shall p. next post send you a Coppy of my accot. of Debursments ; which at present is all from yours, etc.

Inverness, 6 May 1726.

To Mr. Will: Cuming [Edinburgh].

SR.,—Return you MackLeod's bill and Ulanish, accepted for £300 Ster., as also two fish debentures certified on the Commissioners of Excise, Number 6 for £39 : 6d Ster. ; and Numb. 16 for £36 : 13 : 4 ster., being both £76 : 1 : 4 ster., and I entreat howsoon they com to hand that you apply for paymt., ther being a great many gone up this post, and place the proceeds to my accot. I send you likewise inclosed three small fish debentures being in all £37 : 16 : 4 ster., which are not certified, only indorsed by me for receipt. With these Last I desire you 'll please

¹ The boat placed on Loch Ness.

call at ye Custome office for two salt bonds of mine of £40 Ster. value, resting since ye year 1719, and retire these bonds, paying me ye ballance in money, being two pounds one Shill: and eight pence Ster. ; and please send me these bonds pr. first. Ther is no intrest due on ym., being Compensate with fish debentures due since sd. year. Pray Let this be done asoon as possible. I have valued on you of this date for £60 ster: at 8 days sight to ye order of ye Earle of Morray, to which pray give punctuall compliance. I hop to see you very soon, and I am, Sr., yr. most huml. servt.

6 May 1726.

To the Earle of Morray.

I HAD ye honour of yr. Losps of ye 25 past, and yr. Losp. may depend I woud not fail to Contribute my best Endeavours to get yr. Losp.'s farmes¹ of Morray disposed here, tho yr. Losp. had desired it. James Russell tells me all is now disposed of, I suppose @ 8 merks pr. boll. Since I can not have ye pleasure of seing yr. Losp. so very soon as I proposed, I send yr. Losp: inclosed three good bills for three hund: pds. ster:, which will be punctualie payed. The receipt of which I hope yr. Losp: will signifye pr. first, and I am, my Ld.

p: s: acct. of bills sent Major Ormsbie and Collonel	
Long	£100
my bill on Jas: Blair @ 10 days sight	140
my do. on Will. Cuming @ 8 days sight	60

Inverness, 7 May 1726.

Mr. James Cuming [Edinburgh].

Let me entreat, howsoon this comes to hand, you try if can fraight a shipp for me, about 800 bolls meall burden, that will Come and Load at Portsoy, Fraserbrugh, or Peterhead in My Option, to goe from thence to the West Coast and deliver her Cargoe at 2 severalls ports, the one

¹ Rent in grain or meal.

half at Glainelg, and the other in the Isle of Sky; 14 Ly days at Each port; and thereafter to Load slait at Mull for this firth or Lieth, and then free; for which I am willing to pay £50 pounds sterlin freight, and pay the Pylot from the Orknies. You need [not] absolutely conclude till you have my return. A shipp from 8 to 900 bolls burden will doe.

Inverness, 17 May 1726.

Mr. Jno. Donaldson [Elgin].

SR,—I received yours of 9 May and one formarly annent your barrell of mather seized and in this warhouse. Ther is no such thing here as rousing of seized goods. They are only appretiat here, and roused in Exchequer, and if no bider for ye whole parcell, then they fall in ye seizer maker's hands, in which Event I Can promise to save your barrell of mather, and no other wayes. The Exchequer will not sitt till June, and probablie yours and all that is in ye sellar will be in one write. Please read and forward ye inclosed pr. Express to Alexr. Simson, shipmaster at Portsoy, and, if come your Length, may ffreight him to take in a Loadning of meall at Portsoy, and to goe from thence to Glenelg, and from thence to Loch Fallord in ye Isle of Sky. The one half of the Loading to be unload at ye first port, and ye oyr at ye Last, and 14 Ly days at each port; and thereafter to goe to ye Isle of Isdeal near Mull to Load Selait; and from thence to return to Scrabster road in Cathness, Cromartie, this place, or South, in my option; and in either of these places to be free. For which may agree for any price you can, not Exceeding a merk Scots pr. boll of meall, but I suppose a shilling may doe, and may make ye Charter partie in my Name, and send them up here and Ile signe and return one of ye doubles. . . .

Inverness, 23 May 1726.

[No name.]

HONORABLE SR.,—John McLeod, late factor in Walls, writes me that your Broyr. the Earle of Cathness waints a

parcell of Isdalle scalie sclate, which are certainly ye finest in Brittain. I have sent this therfor to acquaint you that I have a barque just now going to that Coast that will carie about 20,000 ; so if his Ldship. ye Earle will waint such a parcell, and pay me on deliverie fourtie shill. Ster. pr. thousand, Ile, upon receipt of your answer to this, order my ship to call at Scrabster road in her return, and deliver the sd. sclate at six score to ye hundred. Your answer to this will determin.—I am, Sr.

26 *May* 1726.

For the Laird of McLeod.

HONBLE SIR,—I received your favour of 20th Instant, and will Comply with your orders in sending from four to five hundred bolls meall to your Countrie to supply your peoples, and shall buy it as cheap as I can, and take but Moderat profit. But you will be pleased to writ me to whom the meall is to be delivered, since its necessar my trustie gett your Doers receipts in order to clear for the same. The meal is bought, and the shipp is freighted, so I hope it will be reddie to sail in eight days.

I will endeavour of the first Mony Comes to my hands to pay the £15 ster. you order towards clearing your cess ; and payed 36 sh. sterlin to clear the freight of your 9 hhds. wine from Leith ; and have kept a Duzan botles of your claret ; and I am, Sir, Your most humble Servant,

JOHN STEUART.

Inverness, 17 June 1726.

Messrs. Ramsay and Strachan [Montrose].

SIRS,—Since you was not positive about sending the salt heir I have told severals were spakeing to me that they could not Depend, so I can't advise you to anie heir, there being a great deall of Spanish salt and French expected otherways. I have gott no promise of Preference from anie as to there salmon, but from the Earle of Morray,

Lovat, and Sir Thomas Calder. Cubin ¹ and Bailie Mackay gett the gross of the rest in this country, having joynd in Compy., but the fishing proves verie backward everie- wher; yet I belive the price must be lower then last year. . . .

INSTRUCTIONS

Inverness, 22d June 1726.

Mr. Alexr. Todd [Master of the *Catherine* of Leith].

SIR,—You are to proceed without loss of time to St. Martins [in France], and you are yr. to adress yourself to Mr. Alexr. Gordon, Mercht. there, and deliver him ye letter herewith given you, who will furnish you in what quantity of salt your ship can take in, with ye Liquor which Mr. Robert Gordon of Bourdeaux is to ship for our ² accot., which will be about 12 tunns. And sd. Mr. Gordon is to provide you in foreign Clearances. Yule endeavour to gett as much as possible, and notice yt. when, please God, you return, in case you meet or is taken up by any Coustome house yatches, to declare yourself bound for Riga in ye Baltick; and be shure you be well furnished with Clearances accordingly. If you gett safe to ye firth yule endeavour to calle off Causea ³ where orders will attend you. We beg your outmost care and Dilligence.

Inverness, 27 Augt. 1726.

Mr. Alexr. Strachan [Montrose].

SIR,—I received your favour of 20 inst. from Aberdeen pr. Express, and for answer please know that besides the Earle of Murrays salmond, which will amount to 150 barells ys. year, I have secured 150 barells more, of which yr. is about 80 Barells from Sr. Thomas Calder, to whom I was oblidged to promise about £90 of mony for reliving

¹ See footnote, p. 253.

² The persons interested in the venture were, Bailie Steuart, his son Alexander, Bailie William Mackay, and John Macleod, the Bailie's brother-in-law.

³ Covesea in Morayshire.

tuo bills of his in ye hands of John Coutts, Mercht. in Edr., and the rest payable ye first of Xbr. next. I made no positive price Except ye Currt. price of ys. frith, which I hope will not exceed 50 shillings pr. barell. But yn. I am to have three months interest discount for ys. ready payt., so yt. I hope yule aprove of ys. bargain. There are some small parcells lickways I am to gett, but those, I am affraid, will be payble about Martinmas, but those I gett from My Lord Lovat and ye Earle of Morray will be only payble at Candlemass and Whitsunday next. I have secured in all above 300 barells, but of ys. quantity your frind Mr. John Burnet wretts me to ship about 4 Last of ye Earle of Morrays fish at Garmouth, to goe costways with the Dutchess of Gordons fish, which shall accordingly be done ye begining of ye week, being already packed. All ye rest of ye fish I design to cary to ys. place howsoon packed, which will be sett about nixt week, so yt. you may as soon as you please freight a ship for to take in at ys. place 300 barells of salmond and grilse, either to be caried costways, or goe drectly for a foreign market, which quantity I doubt not to have ready be ye time your ship comes here. Mean time it will be proper you order me Credit at Edr. for about £150 besides what to be given presently to Sr. Thomas Calder, which I hope will procure ye sd. small parcells of fish a litle under ye Currt., I canot tell ye precise number of grilse and salmond at present, but howsoon they are packed shall advise you, so yt. you may now order the shipping of ym. as soon as you think fitt ; which is all occurs at present.

Inverness, 30 Augt. 1726.

Mr. James Maul [the Earl of Moray's factor at Donibristle].

SIR,—The wouchers I wanted at clearing with My Lord I found in a bundle together at my arrivall at Castle Stuart, which was only the 24: inst., having mett My Lord Lovat at Ballindalloch on Sunday the 21st currt., who seem'd extream angry I did not waite a day longer for him at Dunnibrisle ; but our peace was soon made up. Receive

inclosed the following vouchers contained in my obligation to my Lord vizt. [vouchers for stipend, repairs on manse of Petty, work by the blacksmith at Petty, etc.].

Inverness, 9 Septr. 1726.

MY LORD MURRAY,—How soon I arrived in Murray your Lops. letters annent Mr. Gilchrist were delivered. Blervie appeared verry obstinate and would by no means agree to the call of that minister, being, as he pretended, contrair to his conscience to be directed by anny boddy in such a great spirituall concern. I found the Patron, Lethen,¹ much on the same strain and under the influence of some Anthusiastick [enthusiastic] Ministers who oppose your Lops. proposall, But Alter² and Mr. Primrose seem'd verry forward to comply with your Lops. proposall. I am told Burgyards can be of good use in this affair, as haveing much the manadgement of the Presbetry of Forress; so its fitt your Lop. write him pr. first to act in it, as also to James Russell who goes now abroad about Bussiness, and I will still joyn my best endeavours. . . .

Inverness, 23d Spt. 1726.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I recived yours of 15 currt., advising that my Capt. Simson is diverted a litle wh. his suspension, which I aproof of; that you have sold the remening part of my slait to James Sandylans, payble in one munth. I wish he may prof a good Deter, for the prise is prety well; and I am pleased my Father in Law and severall other McLeods are gone south to Crif [Crieff] markt. with a large Drove of catle. I suppos will be week after nixt at Edr. I do therfor send you the inclosed acceptd. bills, which I hope will all answer, being payable the 6 of the nixt month, amounting in all to £232: 15: 2d str., vizt.

¹ Brodie of Lethen in the parish of Auldearn.

² Cumming of Altyre.

Donald McLeod of Ballnallnach . . .	£48 : - : -
Donald McLeod of Tallscar . . .	30 : - : -
Normand McLeod of Drinach . . .	96 : 18 : 6
McDonald of Scotos	9 : 6 : 8
Alexr. McLeod and Andrew McPharlin	3 : 10 : -
Rod McLeod of Oishnish	39 : - : -
Mallcome McLeod of Rasae	6 : - : -
	<hr/>
	£232 15 : 2

Pray be very sieres with my Father in Law to push the payment of these bills as soone as posoble. Since I have a good dell of money to pay at the term, depends on this fond [fund], so I hope they will all answer. Youll tell Comisar. Steuart that Novar¹ appears publicly her, and says he was at Edr. letly, and Discourst some of the Comsrs. . . .

Inverness, 3d Octr. 1726.

For the Laird of McLeod [in Edinburgh].

MY Brother, Alexr. McLeod, drew on me the other day for £5 strl. to the order of Mr. William Harper at Foch-aburss, which he wrote me was for your accot. I instantly remitted that sum to said Gentleman, and likeways give a Smith, one Ross, by your order 30 and $\frac{1}{2}$ ston iron at 40/ pr. ston, which in all makes £10 : 1 : 8 strl. ; and, being straitned for money now at Edr., I intrat you pay my friend William Cuming, how soon this comes to hand, £20 : strl. for my accot. on his receipt. I will pay you the ballance how soon you return to this country ; and I am, etc.

7 Ober. 1726.

Mr. John Burnet, Senior.

SIR,—I give the truble of the inclosed bill due me by young Glainbuckat,² value £5 sterlin, which he promised upon honour to pay severall times, but has failed. If can

¹ Munro of Novar.

² Gordon, younger of Glenbucket.

gett the protest registrat may send for a horning, and lett him be instantly charged. If that can not be gott done he must be Decreeted before your Shirive Court, mean time please dispatch the inclosed to his Father, and youll see what answer comes, which will determin what is to be done. If you gett the monie remitt it to William Cuming, mercht. in Edr., or to John Donaldson, mercht. in Elgin, pr. post.

Inverness, 10 Octr. 1726.

Mr. Alexr. Strachan [Montrose].

SIR,—I received your favour of 24 past, which I think bears hard on me, but anny such challenge never gives me much pain when I cannot accuse myself of being guilty of anny fault or injustice to my friend, and I think this is my caise with you; and If youll please notice your own letters and my answers from time to time as to what relates to this years salmon, I hope you will be of my mind. . . . And now that I find you have by your last of 24 past allowed me to doe so, youle please be advised that this day I shipped in the *Hellen* of this place, Alexr Steuart master, for Livorno, twelve barrells salmon and six barrells grilzes, which was all remained of what was bot on your accot. They are marked thus A.S., and will take bill of loading in your name, consigning them to your friends, Godfrey and Hudson at said port. And the sd. bill will be sent you per nixt; so may order your Insurance when you please, tho' its uncertain when this ship will saill, a good part of her loading being yett in boats at Spey, and cannot gett up with this stormy weather. This fish ship't here for you is as weell cuered and pack't as any in Brittain, and I wish they may come in time to the market; but I could do no better for you was it my dearest interest. I am glade the *Agnes* is safely arrived with you, but pr. nixt please signify the receipt of the flax sent by her. I wrote to John Gordon of Braes to send your 14 barrll salmon overland to Findhorn, but have not yett heard from him where [whether?] if they arive in time, by a

bark goes for Havre-de-grace, or per Alexr. Steuart with the rest.

Inverness, 14 Oct. 1726.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I recd your favour of 29 past and inclosed Sir Thos. Calders two receipted bills for £96 : 9 : 3d sterlin with Interest, and doe likeways observe your compliance to my sundry draughts on you. . . .

Inverness, 28 Octr. 1726.

Mr. Daniell Mackay.

SIR,—Be pleased how soon this comes to hand to Insure for my Acot. and Company one hundred pounds str. one the Cargoe of sallmone one board of the ship *Hellen* of this place, Alexr. Steuart master, from this to the Port of Livorno in Italie, against all hasards; the ship not yett sailed. Advise of your Compliance, and value on me for the Premium, which will be duly honoured by, Yours, etc.

Novr. 7, 1726.

Messrs. Windor and Aikman [Livorno].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your obliging favours of 19 Janry. and 11 May last, which brings advice of Success of your mercat for fish of last year, which was not very incuraging. However, I return you thanks for them. I'm sory to find that Bailie and Compa. have not continued their comission to your house this year. What they chiefly complain of is that, notwithstanding their salmon was sold for ready money, your remittances of the proceeds was very slow, which occasioned a good deal of trouble. I hope in time you can vindicat your selves. Mean time, as I am loath to pairte with my old friends untill I can assign a good reason for it, and having an entire dependence on your ffriendship and Candor, this will adress you by the ship *Helen* of this place, Alexr.

Steuart Master, who brings you the inclosed bill of loading for 38 barrells salmond, weel cured and packed fish, which I intreat you may see to dispose of howsoon it comes to hand, and remitt the proceeds without loss of time by bills of London, payll to myself, noticing to send first and second bills by diferent posts in caice of miscarriage. As this is a triffling consignation, I cannot doubt but you will very easily get it disposed of how soon it arrives, and remitt the proceeds howsoon as possible; so I hope I will be in condition to tell my neighbours here that Im as weell served by you as by any. You 'll see by the bill of loading that I 'm obliged to pay 40 shill. sterl. pr. tun of six tearies, free of any charges, at the current exchange to London.

COPPY OF A MEMORANDUM TO ALEXR. STEUART

WHEN, pleas God, you arrive at Livorno, you 'll deliver my letters as adressed there to the severall houses, and my salmon conforme to the severall bills of loadning, that is, to Mr. Godffry and Hutson twenty barrells, marked A.S. and to Messrs Aikman and Windor thirty eight barlls marked f , who are to pay ffreight conforme to the bill of Loadning. As for the two half barrells, there not to be disposed of with the rest of the Cargoe, but probably will be called for by Monsieur Bellonie, Banquer at Rome. If not, deliver it to be disposed off with the rest of the Cargoe. My wife intreats you buy for her acct. ane anker of Course Olive oil for burning in lamps, or for wool. Pray be carefull to deliver what letters you received here.

COMMISSION TO LIVORNO

To 100 pd. Coffee beens at 38 pr. 100—is in Italian Doll.	£38
To 10 pd. Coffee beens at 1 dollar $\frac{1}{4}$	12
To 2 pd. Ruburbe at 5 or 6 dollars pr. pd.	12
To 5 pd. Hypococoano at $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar pr. lib.	$2\frac{1}{2}$
To 50 pd. Cotton wool at $9\frac{1}{2}$ dollars pr. 100	$4\frac{3}{4}$

To 25 pd. Candied Citron	£7
To 200 pd. anise of Malta at 3 dollars pr. 100	6
To 100 pd. almons	4
To 100 rice of Lombardy	1½
To 50 pd. white wanston oritrgol	2
To 20 pd. prime sorte cotton yarn	5
To 20 pd. fine do	4½
To 20 pd. 2d sorte	4
To 20 pd. third sorte	3
To 20 pd. ordinary sorte	2
To ½ Chest Luca oil	4
To 1 doz. red Smirna skins To ½ doz. blew To 3 skins yellow	9
To 14 pd. Course brocken Correll for pounding	10

30th Decer. 1726.

Mr. William Cumming, mercht. in Edr.

SIR,—. . . . This comes chiefly to advise you that on Tuesday last, ye 26 inst., in ye morning, your mother departed this life, and was decently buried ye 27 Currt in ye evening. I took upon me to bestow every thing thats usuall for ye decent interment of honest gentlewomen in this place, and your ffriends Termett¹ and others went about in mourning to invite all ye gentlmen of this place to ye buriall. And after ye interment I invited ye majstrats and all ye gentlmen to as much wine and sugar bisket as they pleasd to take at my house, which no dubt youl approve of; and, after all, ye expence will not be great. Your mother, at her own desire, was buried in ye same grave wh. your ffather, and had her corps dressed in good fflanings, and a handsome coffin, and best pall in town. And next post will send you an acct. of what expences will amount to. I supose any little furniture in her room was but very trifling, a note of which I send you as I got it from our ffriend John McHendrik, which he says his mother lays claim to, and has taken it to her posession,

¹ Mackintosh of Termit.

tho' an other friend of yours here lays strong claim to it, one that calls you her father, which I really believe is true, if I can judge by resemblance. . . .

Inverness, 10 January 1727.

To General Sibourg [Governor of Fort William].

HONBLE. SIR,—I have delivered to your servant Thomas Ruftown, conform to your orders, fiftie bolls oat meall, and bought 24 lairge Sacks to hold the same, which will be usefull if you'll want anie meall or malt from this afterwards, so pray fail not to send Sackes hither, for it often hapen that non can be bought here, which may prove a considerable Disapointment. Within you have the Account of all, amounting to £26 : 14 : 7½ sterlin, for which please send mony or bill on Eder if not Done or now ; and be sure to send bags for the other fiftie bolls you'll want, which I will have reddie at a call. This meall falls dear, but no help. I have not a penie by it but my commission. The nixt 50 bolls, if sacks are sent down, will fall cheaper, and new sweet meall.

Inverness, 13 Janry. 1727.

Mr. Wm. Cuming [Edinburgh].

MY last was of 30 past, adviseing of your mothers daith, since which I received yours of no daite, with Robt. Tullochs bill on Cubin¹ for £21: strl., which said Cubin promises to pay verry soon. I wrote pr. express last week to Scatwell² annent your money, who sent me an angry answer, so that I cannot determine when that money will answer you. Nor has Charles Steuart yet paid me his accepted bill. Pray write me whats come of the laird of McLeod, if still with you. I saw a letter from him lately promising to pay you £10 strl. for my accot. May remind him of it Gently, if with you.

¹ Duff of Culbin.

² Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Scatwell.

17 January 1727.

To General Sibourg [Governor of Fort William].

I HAD your favour of 9th Curt pr. Express, and I hope the fiftie bolls meall sent by the Sergant will be with you befor this come to hand, of which I sent the Acct. of cost and charges, being £26 : 14 : 7½ sterlin. And now, by order of Captain Burt, I have sent you by this bearer six pounds Coffee beans @ 9 sh. pr. pound. And since its like you will not want the other 50 bolls I bespoke for you near this please, please send your bill on Eder as soon as you please for the meall sent and the coffee, being in all £27 : 18 : 7½ sterlin. If it be on Coll: Long I like non better. I suppose I may be able to lay down meall with you @ 9 sh. 2d. sterlin pr. boll of 8 ston, and not under.

17 Janry. 1727.

Mr. Alexr. Strachan [Montrose].

SIR,—Above is your acct. of Sales of fflax and salt in Compa. I wrote you the third Currt, and advised you that I had drawn on you for £27 : 15 : 3 ster. to the order of Sir Thomas Calder, but Sir Thomas refuseth to take under fifty merks pr. barrll ; in short I am much fashed about his clearance, and to goe in to his proposals would be a bad precedent ; so that the bill I have drawn is still here. I have not yet drawn to My Lord Lovats order £50 or 60 ster., as I advised in my last, but I hope you 'll order Mr. Coutts at Edr. to pay sd. bill when it apears, since it will be drawn on your self, payable at his house. I hope my salmon sent you coastways will make you easie about so much salt, as I advised in my last. I 'le send you certificate for the remainder pr. nixt. The herring fishing I had on the West coast has proven very indifferent. However, I belive you will not medle with the few that are, being only 18 lasts, at the price. My partners expect no less than 10 pds. ster. pr. last, and the bounty to us, to be received at Barnera in Glenelge. Our Murray bear

sells at 8 merks, and its Mostly all sold. Advise of the price of oat meal with you. I am, etc.

Inverness, 27 Jany. 1727.

To The Earle of Murray.

I RECEIVED your Lops. favour of 22d Xber. last, with a noat of such fewers as I was to demand payt. of yr. few dutys, which I did accordingly intimate, but have not as yet got one shilling of last years few duty, for which have decreeted ym. in your Lops. Baron Court. I observe your Lops. orders to sell the bear of Petty at 5 lib. 10s. Scots pr. boll, which I attempted to obey, but could not find good Merchants in ys. place to buy the same at 8 Merks, there being a good part of it yet unsold even at the last named price. But, yet, I belive it may in a little time goe all of at that price. Your Lop. may belive if could done better for your interest I would not have failed, but the truth is that the selling of victuall here to brewers is very precarious they being Much depupard [?] by the malt tax and towns duty on Eall [ale]. I have a project of building a small ship, and made offer to James Russell of 550 lib. Scots for the few oaks your Lop. has at Darnway, which I am assured by people of skill is the sume of what they are wourth, and this price will be payd at Martimas next, as the timber canot be cut before May or June. However, if your Lop. think this offer too litle I am willing to subject myself to the domination of Burgage [Burdyards] and the sd. James Russell, and therfor will look for your Lops. answer in ys. point pr. first. Last week I had occasion to see Dunmackglass,¹ who told me with abundance of regrait that he was lek to be ruined by the process your Lop. is now intending against same deficient washals [vassals] as not having presented his rights in judgment. But he told me plainly that his case was such that he had no right to present, all his papers, with the rest of the plounder of his house, being caried away by the Earle of

¹ Farquhar Macgillivray of Dunmaglass.

Sutherlands men when he was prisoner in London ;¹ and therefor that he throws himself intirely at your Lops. feet, declaring that if your Lop. in your goodness, will show him Cleamencie, granting him new rights, he will pay the outmost farthing of his bygone few dutys Imediatly, and give Security for what Entry mony may be due to a short term. This Dunmackglass ye son of a very honest woman, and I always found him a sensible man ; and therefor, durst I plead with your Lop. for favour to any of your washells, it would for this man, with all submission to your Lops. pleasure. James Russell goes soon south, and your Lop. will have all ye mony I can send.

Inverness, 1 Febr'y 1727.

Messrs McLean and Compy. [Maryburgh or Fort William].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favour of 21 Janury by Mr. Archd. Smith, one of your Number, wherein you offer to by from me Six hundred Bolls Meall at Eight Mark pr. Boll of eight ston, deliverable at Marrybrough, and payable three Month after delivering. I have considered this proposeall and find it not posible for me to serve you at that price without Considerable Loss. I have full Convinced your friend Mr. Smith, so that he hass agreed by his letter of the date given to me to take the above quantity of meall Deliverable at Mairy Brought some time in March next, wind and weather serving, at eight Mark fourty pennys Scots pr. boll of [eight] ston, payable as above, with this difference that A Mark pr. boll is to be paid at delivery for clearing the freight, and as much more money as will load the ship with Sleat in caise there be occasion for anny, to which agreement I hope you 'll send me your letter of approbation, which at present is all from, Yours, etc.,

¹ Macgillivray was a Jacobite, and appears to have been sent prisoner to London after Killiecrankie. After that battle Lord Strathnaver and his regiment scoured the district of Inverness. See *Urquhart and Glenmoriston*, p. 204. Macgillivray died about the end of 1727.

Inverness, 16 Feb. 1727.

To Ardsheall.¹

DEAR SIR,—I Received your favour of 9th Curt in return to mine, pr. express, in which I observe you agree to the price of Nine shillings and tow pence sterline pr. boll of eight stone, but not to the terms of payment; that is, no reddie money to pay the freight, and all only payable at Martimass nixt; to which I can not agree, being obledge to purchass all the meall I want payable at Lambas nixt, and General Sibourg gives me reddie money, and the Maribrough Merchts. in 3 month after Deliverance. And after all I will be no gainer, since meall is laityly gott up here and dayly rising. When I wrote you in my last that I would easie as to the Difference betwixt 3 months time and your own proposall, I asure you I red your letter to mention Mariemass, which is the fifteenth of August, and not Mertramass; but I would not stand much on that difference for a less quantity as you proposed; but, to speak out plainly, meall is risen here much laityly and Dayly rising, so that I must be looser by such bargain, which I belive you would not Desire. Untill I see in a few weeks what turn matters will take, I dare not bid you depend on my sending anie meall your way; but youll hear further from in eight or ten days after this; and I am, with sincere affection, Honble. Sr., etc.

Inverness, 5 Febry. 1727.

To Generall Sibourg [Fort William].

SIR,—As to your proposall for Malt, I could not deliver such good Malt as you want in my barn here under 11 sh. 8d. ster. pr. boll, and it will cost 2 sh. more of freight to Deliver it at Fort William; in all 13 sh. 8d. sterlin. And it would not be gott reddie for shipping till about the end

¹ Stewart of Ardshiel.

of May, and under this price I will not medle, being ane affair attended with a good deall of truble and expence. And could not promise near so good as the Dunbar Malt, but your brewer can inform of its quality. Befor I received your last letter I was engagded to send a parcell of Meall to your Nighbourhood, and now I have gott a shipp fraighted will load it Immediatly, and from 3 to 350 bolls More for your ac., 9 sh. 2d. sterlin pr. boll of eight ston as you propose, payable after Delivery. And, as I have a prospect to send another bark with meall to a Gentleman¹ in Appin, shall endeavour to send what will be wanting of the 500 bolls by sd. bark, the last of which I hope will be with you in Aprile nixt, wind and wather serving. I give this day your 50 bolls meall to Mr. Wheat-halls care at Lochend.² It is good meall and Lairge weight, about 4 pound or half a peck on each boll, the acct. of which will send pr. express on Moanday nixt, and shall always endeavour to serve you faithfully.

Inverness, 25 Februy. 1727.

Mr. Daniel McKay [Merchant, London].

SIR,—Yule please, on receipt hereof, to insure for our joint accot. on the Cargoe of Barley on board ye *Katherin* of Leith, Alexr. Tod master, from this to the port of Gotenburg in Swedland, with Liberty to call at Christian Sand and Arundale in Norway, £200 against all Hazards, and value on us for the premium when you please, which will be duely honoured and it shall be duely pd. And *nota* that the ship lyes load in our Road ready to sail with the first fair wind, and please accquent us of your Compliyance. Advise as how Iron, dealls, from Gottenborgh would doe with you, as also pleas wrett to Alexr. Tod at Gottenborough, advising of the same, to the care of Mr. Hugh Ross, Mercht. there, that he may take his derections accordingly, and we are, Sir.

¹ Stewart of Ardshiel.

² East end of Loch Ness.

Inverness, 25 Febr. 1727.

Mr. Alexr. Todd [Master of the *Katherin* of Leith].

SIR,—Having shiped aboard your ship the *Katherin* of Leith, 413 bolls barley, we herby desire you proceed with the first fair wind to Gottenbourg in Swedland, and before you go up to the town yule call for Mr. Hugh Ross, Mercht. there, with whom you are to advise about the sale of your Cargoe, bringing a patern of the same alongst with you. And if you find the market tolerable, that is, not under 5 silver minted dollars, you are to dispose of the Cargoe and invest the proceeds in Iron fitt for the London Market, reserving always as much mony as will fill your ship with dealls, with which you are to return to London, Newcastle, or Leith, in your option, or Prestonpans, as you think best for our Interests and as you are advised by Mr. Ross. But, should you find it Convenient for you to goe to London, in yt. case you are to invest all in Iron, and as much as you can on freight. But if should happen that you canot make market at Gotenbourgh but at Considerable loss, and that you are advised you can doe better in any of the parts of Norway to the eastard of the Naize, we desire you proceed to any of the ports where you heare the market is good, and there dispose of the Cargoe and invest the proceeds in good dealls for Leith or any oyr. good port you think fitt, and the ballance you are to remit by good bills payble to the order of Mr. Daniel McKay, Mercht. in Lond:, or William Cumming at Eder., or Robert Mackay in Rotterdam, advising us of the same by post. And, in case you are tristed with Conterary winds in your outward passage, we impower you to call to the Eastard of the Naize, and in case you gett a reasonable market dispose of the Cargoe and invest the proceeds as above dedercted. And, if you find before you can be clear in Norway and Sweden to Return home, that a War comences, in that case you are to give orders to Robert Mackay in Roterdam to insure the value of the Cargoe. And in Consideration of the above mentioned voyage we herby promise to pay you fifty pound freight and five pound Caplagen, the one half

payable at the port of delivery, and the oyr. payable at your Return to the Firth. And if you happen to return for want of Market from Gottenbourg to Norway, we herby oblidge ourselves to pay all port charges. I wish you a happy and safe Voyage, and we are, Sir, Your Humble Servts.,

J: S: [JOHN STEUART].

A: S: [ALEX. STEUART].

J: MLD: [JOHN MACLEOD].

If you are tristed with any port where you cannot gett good bills of Exchange for your Cargoe, in that Event you are to see if you can gett sterline mony or guineas for the same; and, failing of that, you are to gett good silver specie of Holland, Hambourg, or Germany, and failing of all, the best silver specie of the Country.

Inverness, 28 March 1727.

To Steuart of Ardseall.

SIR,—I received your favour of 8 Inst. only last week. I was from home 50 miles hence when it came to this place so that it lay eight days at my house before I seed it. I observe you are now willing to goe in to the price last proposed for meall, that is, 9sh. 6d. pr. boll, payable Mertimas next. Now I am sory to tell you that the Conclusion of our bargain finds daily new and unexpected hinderances, so that I am affraid I shall be still unable to doe what I so much wish, that is, to accomodat you in the meall you want; for, Canterary wery much to my Expectation, meall is gott up in Banf and Aberdeen Shires, which are the only Countrys in ye North, to 5 lib. and 8 merks pr. boll of 8 ston; and I was forced to buy above 200 bolls at the above named price for Fort William, by which I will be a looser; so that, as you are my friend, and doe kindly insinuate in your last, I hope you will not desire me prosecute a project which will prove so much to my disadvantage. In the mean time Ile writt to Kaitness to try what I can doe there, and have made a wery frank offer for a Cargoe. But I must tell you that it is not so agree-

able to the sight as Banfshire, as being of a round grain much lick your Irish, and of black oats; but of this Ile be able to accquent you more at large in Eight days. Mean time may please advise how far ye Kaitness meall may be agreeable to you. If I happen to send any barque with meall your way, I suppose it will be about the begining of May before you can expect it.

8 April 1727.

Mr. Patrick Cuming [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I drew on your Father last week for seventeen pounds sterlin, seven to my son, and ten to William Mackenzie of Bellmaduthie. . . . I wrot to your Father for 16½ yards stript linen to be gouns to my tuo Daughters about 26d. pr. yeard. Pray mind to send it and I am, etc.

Inverness, 8 Aprile 1727.

Mr. Francis Grant, Dantzick.

SIR,—My last was of 3d March last, in which I advised to wrett Mr. Hans Peterson, at Elsinoor, advising of your market for Herins, to be comunicated to John Willison on his arival there, to which I doubt not you have Complied. Now this goes by the sd. Willison, Mr. of the *Ann* of this place, and brings you the inclosed bill of Loadning for 18 Lasts of Herins, of which there is 5 Lasts nine barells for accot. of John Stuart, and the remainder for accot. of John McLeod; and you are to dispose of sd. Herins to the best availe and credit our accot. accordingly with the proceeds. We have given orders to lett out our barque at Aberdeen on freight, and have writt Mr. Willison to that purpose by post. But if in case no freight can be gott for Aberdeen or any oyr. port in the East of Scotland, of which yule be probably advised befor this comes to hand, in that case yule please ship for our accot., that is 1/3 for John Steuart, and ¾ds. for John McLeod, 12 ship lib. of Sham-peloon Iron, 3 [] of square Iron, 60 sprush ston of best bareband flax in three bealls, 12 barrells soap in firkins, one

shock best Crown Claboord, 2 dozen oak plank for accot. of John Steuart 2 inches thick and from 20 to 27 feet long ; and the rest of the Hold you are to fill up with best oak staves fitt for salmond Casks. Alexr. Tod, who went with you last winter, informs us that he could have bought with you wery good bohea tea at 4 guilders the pound. If shuch can be gott that you know is truly good at that price, we herby desire that you ship for our accot. in 3ds one hundred pounds in pound cansters all in a cask tuo ; but we entreat, if you are not sure that its very good, not to buy it. May lickways buy 30 lib. wt. of green tea if can be had proportionally cheaper. . . . We doubt not of your good endeavours for our interst, which will encourage a further corispondence. We expect your answer in Course, and we are Your etc.

J. S.

J. McLEOD.

10 *Aprile* 1727.

Mr. John Sinklar of Barack [Caithness].

[PURCHASING 600 to 700 bolls of meal, at £4 and half a merk per boll of 8 lbs. delivered at Scrabster or Thurso Burn.]

Inverness, 27 May 1727.

Comissar. Steuart [Edinburgh].

I GOTT yours of 15th when you was impatiently expected here. Ile write fully by our cousin the Dragon,¹ who will be with you nixt week with the best recruits goes to his Regiment this year, 20 handsom men. I entrait how soon this comes to hand you see to recover the money due me on the ship *Helen* laying in the admiralitys clerks hands, since I believe there as no stop further than deduceing my proportion of charges, and let the same be paid to my worthy frient, Mr. Alexr. Tait, who will deliver this ; and

¹ John Roy Stewart, Prince Charles's famous officer in the 'Forty-five, and a noted Gaelic bard. In 1727 he was in the service of King George.

gett his receipt for the same in Name of Alexr. Gordon, Mercht. in St. Martins.

Inverness, 27 June 1727.

For Sir James Sinklar of Dunbeth.

HONBLE. SIR,—I received yours of 28 curt pr. express, and I take your Meall in terms of your letter providing it be good and sweet and of last 1726, with this Difference that I can not promise you anie Mony in hand or again Lambas, for that was in case you hade furnished me at £5 Scots pr. boll. However, if I have anie Mony to spare about Lambas Ile give you some, tho I can not bid you Depend on it. I have fraighted a shipp will sail on Fryday for Dunbeath Watter, so pray lett all be reddie for loading immediately, and Ile either come or send to receive your meall, and be sure to order good weight for now its lait in the year, and I may run risque if the ship is not dispatched, and I gett good weight. The shipp I fraighted will hold about 600 bolls meall, and I could wish were fully load ; of which have wrot to Barack ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 30 June 1727.

For Sinklar of Barack.

SIR,—I wrote you the 27 instant by Sir James Sinklar's express, and now this goes by the ship I have sent to Dunbeth to receive his meall, by which shipp I have accord to your order shipped, betuixt you and Sir James equally, 90 duzans birk rails and 19 cuple Legs, which was all the timber I could gett att present. The rails cost half a crown pr. duzan, and the cuples 40d pr. pair, which, with some charges, comes in all to £6 : 7 : 4 ster., your half of which youll please to make good to Sir James Sinklar since I have ordered to take his receipt for the whole. And I hope Sir James and you will betuixt you make the barks loading to six hunder bolls meall, and I hope to gett what is above Sir James's quantity cheaper then his. . . .

Inverness, 30 June 1727.

Mr. James Steuart at Mariburgh.

SIR,—Since you went from hence the twentie first instant, I had a return from Sir James Sinklar of Dunbeth, and have bought his meall, tuixt 5 and 600 bolls, and have fraighted the *Agnes* of Borowstowness, Robert Waker Master, that does sail this night for Dunbeath, and I hope may be with you, God willing, befor the 20 of July, wind and weather serveing. But I find the freight so dear and the other charges so manie and great that I am affrayd I can not serve at the rate you propose, and not under ten shillings and eight pence pr. [boll], of which ther must be £50 or £60 payed in hand, and the rest against the first of November in this pleace. So, dear Cousin, you 'll call your pairtners and consider of this proposall, and send me immediatly your full and pointed answer by the bearer. I could sell 1000 bolls here befor Lambas at 10sh., reddie mony; and I can in the Isle of Sky and the west Highlands gett 10 merk pr. boll and thanks. So, if you inclyne not to accept my proposeall, acquaint me, that I may take my measures accordingly. Mean time may send immediat Notice to John Stevenson, the slait quarier, to provid about 20,000, I say tuentie thousand slait, or 22000, for loading back at Esdale. In case the shipp goe to Fortwilliam I have ordered Mr. Delamare to writ you from Cathness that you may acquaint me of the shipp arivall pr. express, and I am, etc.

14 July 1727.

I WROT to McLeod of Ulanesh in answer to his of 10 do and returned his Discharge to Lord Reay for 100 Scots to be payed by John Mackay, mercht., and sent him old Mackinons acct. value £3 : 8 : 1 sterlin.

Inverness, 11 August 1727.

Mr. John Frig [Forres].

JOHN WILLISON, contrar to My expectation, has arived and unloaded here, when I was from home at Inverlochic.

But, as you did advise in answer to My last, that you would take a good quantity of the Iron I expected by sd. Willison, I have sent pr. express to acquaint you that I have by sd. bark about 400 ston of iron, and if you or anie other good Men in your nighbourhood would take the same att thirtie five pence sterlin. pr. half, payable reddie mony, and the other in three months, you shall have the same when you please, as to which I expect your answer by the bearer. Give My service to John Mackie, Cupper, and tell him I have 14,000 of the best salmon barell staves I ever saw ; so if he has a Mind for them Ile expect him here at our market nixt. I have 60 ps. of excellent crown clapboard, so if he and pairtner will take all off will give a verie reasonable peniworth. If he is not for all may acquaint anie other Cuppars of your Acquaintance that are good Debtors. If you think this quantity of iron too much for yourself, I Doubt not youll find pairtners enouch at Foress ; which (expecting your answer) is all from yours, etc.

Inverness, 11 August 1727.

Mr. William Cuming.

SIR,—I received your favour of 20th last month with the inclosed of Account Currt which I belive is right. However to keep all maters plain lett me entreat you send me a copie of our formar Acct. such as I sent you with the same Docat on it. Mean time I hope the bills and debenture mentioned on the end of last acct. and value of £182 sterlin is all payed or now and Meantime I send you inclosed promissorie noat Peter Murdoch, Junior, payable the 25 curt at James Blairs house for £132 sterlin, which I hope will be punctually payed and is indorsed to your order, of which fail not to advise me. I have gott your four hundred merks from Scatuall and pairtners, so pleave the same to My Debit in Acct., as alsoe the value of Comisar Steuarts bill on Bailie John Fraser for the Guenies, he promising to pay the same in a few days and Mr. William McKenzie promises the same for Donald Murchisons bill

being £6 : 7sh. sterlin, but please not the same to my Acct. untill I advise you. I promised James Lesslie My Lord Newhalls Clerk again the 15 instant for 420 £ Scots and desired him call at your shop so I hope you 'll retire My sd. bill. Mr. Carse the skippar in Lieth that has My plank has not yet appeared which at present is all from Sir, etc.

Inverness, 11 August 1727.

Mr. William Cuming [Edinburgh].

SINCE writing of this dait I received payment of Donald Murchisons¹ bill [for £6, 7/], and now I send you receipt Robert Walker in the *Agnes* of Borowstowness for 20,000 Esdale slait, which pray sell as soon as possible. I send you sd. Masters receipt for 20 £ sterlin in paymt. of his freight, and ther is yet due 17 £ sterlin. Gett Drynachs receipt for 23 bolls meall.

Inverness, July 1, 1728.

Mr. Thomas Arthur.

SIR,—I hope this will find you at Glenelg after unloading 200 bolls meal of your Cargoe at Garloch, Conform to your Instructions. Now this serves Chiefly to advise you that I have recomended what remains of your Cargoe to the disposal of Norman McLeod of Drenach, or his Son, Mr. John McLeod, and have advised them that In Case the Seal of the Meal proves slow at Glenelg, that in that case you imediately forward to Inverlochy, and adress yourself to Donald McIntire My Agent yr., Who will unload you imediately and pay your freight. And this being in your way to the Slait quarries, I hope youll not scruple it and oblidge, Sir, your Most humble Sert.

Ile stand to any agreement that the sd. Norman McLeod or his son John will make with you about any alteration in your voyage.

¹ Donald Murchison, Seaforth's famous factor in Kintail, who defeated King George's soldiers in the skirmish of Ath-nam-Muileach in Glen Affaric, in 1721.

Inverness, July 13th 1728.

For Alexr. Stuart, My Son.

I RECEIVED yours of 7th Instant at Inverlochy, from whence I arrived here late last night. Before I reached that place the Salmon of yt. Countrey was Sold to Messrs. Cuninghame and Alus [?], Merchants in Glasgow, at 43Sh. stl. p. barral, Salmon and grilse over head, to be received at Inverlochy, and the bounty Mony to the sellers, all prompt payt. You know this was a bargain I sould no go into, tho I had it in my offer. So must now depend on purchasing Salmon on this Firth, except a few I expect from Garloch's broyr., which I design to Carry about by Donald, and qch. will fall much Cheaper. I have sent a Cupper already to pack them. I have done all I could to Sell our brandy in the west Coast, but I find there is no Mony to be had there, tho I am of opinion all will sell, if we trust the greatest part Six month, at 20 pence p. pint or thirty Shil. p. anker, wt. a discount of 3 p. Cent for lackage. So that we are like to make little of this bargain, as I find the brandy will stand us very dear. No less, if I am not mistaken, then one pound 5 shil. 8 pence happenie ane anker prime coast. How ever I am of opinion it will be better to make the best of it yr. then to be at the great trouble and expense of running it here, considering that we can sell it to very good responsal men on whom we may depend for punctual payt. And if Alexr. Rose has shiped but a little brandy a good part of ours will go of about the Isle of Skie, but may send me p. first your thoughts of this affair. The Countreys about Lochaber and Apin was glutted with wine and brandy by little Summerwale of Runfrugh [Renfrew] in the month of April last, and has more still of coming. But if we sell as cheap as any other, I find we will be prefered to any. If the Laird of Apin ¹ be at Ednr., as I hear he is, pray wait on him, and tell him I saw his children at

¹ Stewart.

his own house on Munday last. Try if ye can deal wt. him for brandy, for he is a ready mony Mercht., and ane honest good man. Give him my humble service. I received your wife's letter, and will write her next post.

Mr. George McKenzie [the Laird of Gairloch's brother].

Inverness, 18 July 1728.

SIR,—I received your favors of second curt and another wtout date from Assint. As to the first annent Drynach's accepted Bill, I have yet no accounts of the payt., nor no orders about, so its fit you writt him. As to your last, I am glad to find that the Salmon purchased from Sand [in Gairloch] is come safe to Lochinwar, and I observe what you writ of this years Salmon, and doe think Mr. Wood is officious in interfering wt. you; and it will be your fault if he or any stranger get hereafter footing on that coast, since we may easily manage the fishings wtout them; I mean of all kinds. I intreat you fail not to conclude wt. Ladie Assint¹ for this years Salmon, for in all appearance the ship I designe will come in time to carry both. And may likeway pick all you can elsqr., particularly Sands fishing of this year. I have wrot to the Ladie Assint of this dait, offering her some hering Cask and Salt I have at Glenelg, and, since I find there is no brandy shipt for you in the same ship wt. Alexr. Rose, I must entreat you try what you can doe for me on your coast; or, if could barter for Salmon @ 28 p. pynt, I will order four or five tuns, that is, about 500 ankers by the ship I design to take away the Salmon as I will the Salt and Cask. I have wrot off to Lady Assint, under whose cover this goes. I beg your answer pr. first and am

The Emperor Moroca has broke wt. Britain and sent out his sale privateers; so no small ship will venture to go to the Mediteranian, which will make the salmon sell low at home. But Ile get ours sold here.

¹ Mrs. MacKenzie of Assynt.

Donald McIntire, Fort William.

Inverness, July 23d, 1728.

I AM much surprised wt. the conduct of the late commanding officer at ffortwiliam anent the freighting of Thomas Arthur. I wish the sd. Masters uneasie, pivish humour be not prin[cip]ally the cause of it ; but no help. What remains now is to make the best of a bad bargain I can, and therefore I intreat you extend the protestation taken agst. Captain West, the comanding officer, mentioning yt. when the ship arived at ffortwilliam that the master received part of the bagage at Benerra, and sailed wt. the first fair wind for Fortwilliam acording to agreement ; and that the sd. Arthur was not only willing to receive the bagage but such invalid pessangers as they were pleased to put aboard of them. And, if you can get the protestation extended in this shape, I doubt not but the same, wt. Colonell [Lee's] obligation to me, will make him lyable for the freight. . . . As to the tun of claret and half tun of white wine desired for General Seaburg, pray see to get that delivered to the General. I told him I could not sell the claret under £ 14 St. p. hogshead, but rather than carry it about let him have it at £ 90 stl. the tun, and the two hogsheads of white wine at eighteen pound stl. ; but this *sub rosa* betwixt you and me. John Willison is arived in Cromarty but Bog and Adam are gone to Leith, for the crew of the last named would not consent to come up here. Give my humble service to my dear friend Ardsheall, on whose good advise and assistance I very much depend on the affair of Donald Stuart. . . .

Inverness, July 29, 1728.

Mr. Donald Stuart.

AFFECTIONATE COUSIN,—If this hapen to be delivered you by my father in law, Norman McLeod of Drenach, I desire ye may ship two lasts Salmon Cask and as many of the best Herring Cask as your ship will hold. Go with the same to Lochinver in Assint, from whence you are

immediately to advise George McKenzie, broyr. to Garloch, who will wait upon you and receive sd. Casks wt. all the salt you have on board to be packed in the Casks yr. ; and yrfore, if ye have any hoopess on board, pray dont dispose of them till you come to Assint, where they will be certainly much wanted. And, if sd. Mr. Mackenzie, or the Laird or Lady Assint, will call for any Brandy, let them have it on receipt or rather their Bills payable at the curt. price in three months, or as much shorter time as you can. And fail not to sell both at Lochinver, or qr. ever else you hapen to touch, as much Brandy as you can for ready mony, particularly in the Orkneys. And, when you have unload your Cask and Salt at Lochinver, you will then take aboard all the Salmon there, qch. I reckon may be about 100 barrells, wt. qch. you are to make the best of your way for this place ; only, before coming up here, be sure you stop in the night time in Conage Bey,¹ where boats will wait you to get a shoar qt. Brandy you may have aboard, qch. I hope will be but little by the tyme you come yr. However, it is fit you advise me by express from Lochinwer before you sale from thence, qt. quantity you will have aboard. I am told, if you touched at Kylskow in Strathnaver, you could sell all your Brandy for ready mony ; but this I leave intirely to your self. Your wife is very well and big with Child ; so you spoiled poor Angus milk, who dyed soon after you went from Scotland. Your son and daughter are very well. I received yours of 20th from the Horse Shoe. I wish you Gods blessing ; and am, etc.

Inverness, July 30th, 1728.

Donald Stuart.

NOTWTSTAND. qt. I wrote you yesterday I now desire you may sell the Salt you have on board except one third part qch. you are to deliver to Mr. Peter fforbes now at Loch Invar, and take his receipt for the same. And be sure to take aboard my two last Salmon Cask lying at

¹ Near Ardiersier.

Glainelg, and, if cannot get the Salt disposed of, may fill sd. two lasts of Cask wt. salt and carrie them about to this place wt the Salmon. Give my service to the comand-ing officer at the Barrack of Bernera. May tell him you are my friend. If he wants any you have let him have it and no doubt he 'll pay you for it. You are to return to ffrance how soon you arive here, and I am, etc.

Inverness, August 3d, 1728.

Roderick McLeod, Writer in Ednr.

I RECEIVED yours of 20th July wt. the silk plaid for my wife, and I send you inclosed thirty four shillings stl. as the price you paid for it. Wt. hearty thanks for your care, my wife and I are, etc.

Inverness, 10 August 1728.

For my Son.

THE inclosed should have gone forward last post but old Ross disapointed me after promising to come and receive some mony I was to send you. Now this is to inform you that your Broyr. Patrick¹ arived here on thursday at three afternoon. He lodges at my house, and you often observed of him he is a very judicious, sensible young man and challenges all the civilitys we can show him. I observe your order to pay him thirty pound stl., qch. will endeavour to comply with, so have sent no mony wt. the post. . . . We had last post the very mealacholy news of our dear Cousin Alexr. Stuarts death in Virgine [Virginia], the 25th of May last, qch. is very affecting to his wife and all his poor friends. I am under acceptance to ffrancis Rusell French Bills to the value of £275 Stl., £70 stl. of qch is due, and the rest falls due again the first of October next. Our friend Captain Robison is lately gone to Ednr., and promised to lodge this money on you, and take your Bill on me for the same, which will pay by a good Bill of Generall Seaburgh. So pray speak to him

¹ Brother-in-law, Patrick Cuming.

and retire my Bills from Mr. Rusell; qch. at prt. is all from, etc.

Mr. Avory has consined some oak bark to you by one Mr. Methers of Leith, and their is likways 5 hogsheads good wine by Andrew Monro in return of yt. came from Leith, but I find by your Broyr. Peter we have mistaken your intention. . . .

Inverness, August 16, 1728.

For the Laird of McLeod.

I HEARTILY wish this may find you in good health, and comes chiefly to inform you that your Cousin, Lord Simon of Lovit, informed me lately that he had concluded bargain with your doers at Ednr. and these of your Uncle in Law, Auchtertyre, etc., for your respective claims on the lands of Strahericke,¹ and was oblidge to pay the money peremtory at Martimass. He depends on me for payt. of about two hundred and fifty pound sterling of this money as price of the Salmon this year, qch. I am afraid I cannot pay at that term, tho it will be necessary for me to have the Salmon. Therefore, Dear Sir, if such bargain be concluded, I must ask it as a favor of you to take my accepted Bill for £200 Stl. in part of your proportion of this mony, payable again Candlemass next, tho perhaps may pay it sooner; as to qch. I intreat your answer in course of this post; and your compliance will singularly oblidge, etc.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

Inverness, August 16th, 1728.

SIR,—My last was of 10th Inst., in qch. I returned you George Rosses accepted Bill for £43 Stl. Now I am to advise you that about two moneths past your friend and mine, Alexr. Strachan of Monrose, ordered me to furnish one David Wood, his trustie on the West Coast, credit for qt. dry fish he could purchase on his account, and to

¹ Stratherrick.

accept his Drf. for the same, and told me he would order you to make good the same to me. And accordingly in this week I have accepted sundry Bills drawn by David Wood for about £360 Stl., payable all about twenty days hence. . . .

Inverness, 22 August 1728.

For the Ladie Assint.

MADAM,—This accompanys our couper who we send in order to pack your Ladyships Salmon, which we expect will be readie to be shipped with the last years, otherwise you could think to get them off till next year if you miss this opportunity. Howsoon the Salmon is shipped may draw on us for the value at 18 pds. Scots pr. barrell, wee allowing cask, salt, and couperage, payable in 6: moneths after deliverie. . . .

Inverness, August 31th, 1728.

To my Son [Alexander Steuart].

I RECEIVED yours of 22d curt wt. the accepted Bill to James Duff for £50 Stl. and Bills to ffrancis Rusal £70 Stl. . . . As to Colonel Lie, I return your friends letter anent him, qch. I think does not agree wt. the strain of his own, that he sent me. But, as I think as the pretensions he has for not standing to his bargain are but wheebeles [quibbles], If he will not compound the matter imediatly about wc. I formerly hinted to you, no doubt there must be a prosecution wtout. loss of time, since I hear the Colonel goes very soon to England. My good friend Colonel Guest, who lodged wt. me here, is gone South the other day wt. Generall Wed [Wade]. I desire ye give him my service, and speak to him on this subject, and I doubt not but he 'll procure you Generall Weds letter to Colonel Lie to do me justice. Our herring fishing has been much interupted al along wt. bad weather. I don't believe there is yet 300 last caught, and we may now reasonably expect they will fail; so for my own part I will not sell

my herrings under £8 stl. untill I here further, tho I doubt not I could purchase a good deall cheaper. James Rusal, who married on thursday to broad Cyel [?] Daughter, sayes you shall be preferred to his herring, but has but a few; but he is none of the cheapest sellers, so send me your full orders pr. first about wt. ye would have done. Donald Stuart is in Lochinver, taking in Salmon, and when he arives you shall have the parcell you want, for I can purchase none else here except at ane extravagant rate. And, if Donald goe to Burdeax, I see not any reason for your carring your Salmon boath ways to Lieth. He has not yet got his salt sold, nor will Will: McIntosh take what he wants on that coast for all he promised. I hope my dear friend your Broyr. Patrick has come safe to you before now. Pray give him my service.

Inverness, Septr. 2, 1728.

ffor Norman McLeod, Drenach.

I RECEIVED yours of 27th Inst. I observe Donald has been with you and taken in two last Salmon and ten last herring Cask, and also ten stone of butter for my account, of which I am to pay eight, which will do most cheerfully, and place the same to your credit and account, as I will do 13 shs: you have made out for my account for shiping the cask, etc.

I received your accepted Bill for £505: 9 Stl., and, if the money is paid here or to Will: Cuming in Ednr., it will be equal acceptable to me. I observe my Broyr. Alexr. has gone South to see Marion, of whose recovery I long to hear. As to my Bill of £42: Stl. on Scotas,¹ I leave it to your self to get the best terms you can. But be sure to transact it wtout. loss of time lest there come any new hindrance in the affair, for last year Scotas offered to transact it payable at this Martimass, so must make ane end of it as soon as you can, and I will see to cause Glen-gerie pay the interest due on it. I drunk your health wt. Lieutenant Messon, who insists on the price of the

¹ Macdonald of Scotus.

two hogsheads of wine because of great lakeage ; but of this acquaint me what ye know. John is wt. Alexr. Ross in the Sound of Mull, but as there project was but insufficiently conserted, I am affraid they will make little of it.

Inverness, 6 7ber 1728.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

I HAVE valued on you of this dait £72: 14 sterlin to Mr. John Hossack and Compy., and to sd. Mr. John Hossack thirtie five pounds sterlin. Both the sd. bills are payable 3 days after sight and are to be pleaced to acct. of our freind Mr. Alexr. Strachan and amount both to £107: 14 sterling. Our fishing is over ; has been only good this last week at Cromarty. I am, Sir, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 12 7ber 1728.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

. . . This is only to desire that you will send me pr. John Wilison of this pleace, who is going to your port, four pound good bohea tea, and my wifes Lining [linen], which I hope is now reddie, and draw on me for the value. Please advise me in course of the success of your herin fishing this year, for here we have a plentiful one, being alredie 1000 last caught. Advise what merket for salmon and corn with you, and if anie letters for me in your custodie send them by sd. Willison ; and I am, etc.

[Fragment of letter to Donald Stuart in reference to the wreck, in Orkney, on 2nd Sept. 1728, of the ship *Agnes* of which he was master.]

. . . Meantime I bless Almighty God for all his dispensations and that he has spar'd you and your crew. Your Spouse and all friends are well, but my old Mother departed this life about fourteen days past. Give my humble service to all the worthie Gentlemen who have been so kind to you, particularly Mr. Hay and the Collr. I wish you well home ; and I remain, etc.

Inverness, 20th Septr. 1728.

Mr. Hugh Baillie [Orkney].

DR. SIR,—I Received your favour of 12th instant with the inclosed attestations relateing to the shipwrack of the Ship *Agnes*, Donald Steuart master. The loss falls heavie on me, as being mostly concern'd, and it appears by your letter that there are little hopes of recovering any thing of what may be saved. Meantime I am deeply sensible of the very friendly part you have in this as on all other occasions acted for me, and return you my heartie thanks. I have not a groat inshur'd, and therefore I hope you 'll doe your best to see to recover as much as possible of what might have been come safe ashoar, particularly of my [?] last of Casks was aboard. There was likewise a tun of wine belonging to me, but that probably has perished. This misfortune lys heaviey on me, but must patiently submit to Divine providence. I'll take care to forward your inclosed letter, and have pay'd the express what was order'd for him here. We have noe news, and but languishing hopes of a peace with Spain. We have had a plentiful herring fishing, there being above 1200 last caught. So my Cousen poor Donald has been unluckie wt. a wittness. I give my humble service and best wishes to Mr. Hay¹ who has been so kind on this occasion, as allso to your Lady, and my Cousen Charles Steuart; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 21 Septr. 1728.

To Alexr. Steuart.

. . . Now I come to tell you a melandholly story. Donald Steuart sent me Thursday last an express from Orknie, adviseing that on the 2d instant he lost his Ship on a blind rock among the North Isles of Orkney, being, three days before, forced by [*i.e.* past] Lochinver, where he was to load Salmond for my account; for the particulars of all which I referr you to the inclosed letter and attestations. . . .

¹ Of Bablithan, Orkney.

Inverness, Septr. 23rd, 1728.

ffor Ardsheal [John Stewart].

I HEREWIT. give you the trouble of the Inclosed caption agst. James Glass, and summons of forthcoming agst Archibald Smith ; so that upon receipt of this you will please call for McDonald the Messenger in Glainko,¹ and order him to execute the summons of forthcoming, and return it here as soon as possible wt. execution, as also that he endeavour to execute the caption agst. sd. Glass and bring him to this place as soon as possible, or get a good man bond for the debt, or a presentation at this place in my house again a competent day ; the charges of all qch. you 'll please give out and place the same to my account. I send you likways inclosed accepted Bill Kenloch Muidert² for £159 Stl., payable at Ednr. the 11th of November nixt, which I find a very unperfect Bill, having the full soume interlined ; so will not protest in case of need. Yrfore, Dr. Sir, how soon this comes to hand you 'll please return this Bill, and send the other new one to him for acceptance, qch. you 'll please get done by a sensible bearer, being ane affair of importance, tho I have no manner of doubt but, as Kenloch Muidert is a man of honour, he would do me justice wtout. this ; but we be all mortall. . . .

ffor John Sinclair of Barrock.

Inverness, 23d Septr. 1728.

SIR,—I wrote you the 2d inst. and I sent you inclosed my accepted Bills of that date for 2500 lib: Scots value of the 500 bolls meal shiped for me in Staxigo in the moneth of June last, and then desired that Alexr. Richie my agent his receipts for the same meal and missive letters relating thereto should be returned me in course ; and I am surpris'd I hitherto received no return anent sd. Bills or my letters and receipts ; yrfore must beg your answer pr. first.

¹ Glencoe.

² Donald Macdonald of Kinloch Moidart who fought at Sheriffmuir, and in the 'Forty-five was aide-de-camp to Prince Charles. He was beheaded at Carlisle in October 1746.

Inverness, 30 7bter. 1728.

Norman McLeod of Drenach [at Eileanreach, Glenelg].

I RECEIVED yours of 25th curt, and finding no ship to be had wt. you to transport my Salmon from Lochinver, I have freighted one here goes imediately to take them in and from thence directly to France at a high freight ; but no help. Captain John Robertson, paymaster to the troops, lyes now with you [at Bernera Barracks], was verie pressing with me to pay in about £180 Stl. to Captain Englintown, governour at your Barrock, and to take his Bills on him, payable again the 20th of Nomb. next at Ednr. Now, If you please, I am willing that Alexr. Watt and you give in what is due me to sd. Captain, who will not straiten you as to the payt., but take it as it is wanted ; and, if you please to get me the sd. Captain Elningtowns Bills on sd. Captain for £180 Stl., it will be the better. Send them to me as soon as you can on sd. Captain Robertson, payable at Ednr. against the 20th of Nomb. next, and Ile send you McLeods Bill on your self for qt. youll want of the money over and above your own and Alexr. Watts Bills. And I know the Captain will not straiten you tho a part be resting till Candlesmass, since it is for the pay of the two companys till Spring next. So I hope this will suit your conveniency and do me a favour, as to which I entreat your answer pr. first ; and this will be a great favour done the officers wt. you ; which at present is all from.

Mr. John Grant, Chamberlain of Urquhard [Lochness].

Inverness, 14 Otbr. 1728.

YOUR last was of 1st August last, in qch. you promised the £7 stl. due me in full of Grants¹ wine ordered by young Delrachnie.² Now in case you may have forgot the same I have sent the bearer express to beg the favor of you to send me this seven pounds, and I send you Delrachnies order on you inclosed, qch. please return in

¹ The Laird of Grant.

² Grant of Dalrachnie in Strathspey.

case you send not the money. And mind I gave receipt formerly for the £20 Stl. I gott not wstanding the tenor of Dalrachnies order. I expect your compliyance, and you will oblidge, Sir, Yours, etc.

I Return your Bill on Sheuglie ¹ for ten pounds qch. was paid in part of the twentie pounds I gott.

Inverness, 15th Octbr. 1728.

A list of Accepted Bills sent at this date to Ardsheall inclosed.

Accepted Bill Lieu: Crosbe, Governour of

Douert Castle	£30 : - : -
Ditto John Minro In Lesmore	7 : 10 : -
Ditto Duncan Stuart In Morwine	31 : 8 : 6
Ditto James Stuart, Innernahile	15 : 15 : -
Ditto Colin Campbell In Lesmore	9 : - : -
Ditto Mr. Duel of Cregness in Lesmore	15 : - : -
Ditto Lackland McLean of Kingerloch	45 : - : -
Ditto Donald Campbell younger of Erds	90 : - : -
Ditto James Campbell broyr. to Barkaldine and Compy.	30 : - : -
Ditto Ardsheall for Baillie James Stuart	30 : - : -
Ditto Coline Campbell of Inveresprachen	45 : 15 : -
Ditto Ewen Cameron, Ballie of Morvin	60 : - : -
Ditto Duncan Stuart In Mengrie	30 : - : -

£439 : 8 : 6

Do Donald Mclean in Mull In your hands

already 15 : 15 : -

Dr. Sir,—Advise me pr. first that you have received the above mentioned Bills all payable the first of Nomb. next, and amounting in all to £455 : 3 : 6 Stl.

Inverness, 15 8tbr. 1728.

Colonell Grant, Ballindaloch.

Dr. SIR,—Haveing expected you here every week for two months past Ive for born to give any trouble about

¹ Alex. Grant of Shewglie in Glen Urquhart. Supporter of Prince Charles. Imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1746, where he died.

the payt. of your account due me, but that I am very much pressed for money. I send you the coppie of your accompt underwrit, qch. amounts too £34 : 20 : 10 Stl., which I entreat youll either send me in specie by the bearer, or your Bill on your agent in London or Edr. for the same. And youll observe I charge no more for the hhd. of wine sent you last but £12 Stl., tho I told you it would cost £14 Stl. As for John Mcleods accompt. you have it as he left it with me when he went last from this Countrey and I payd him mony for it. Dr. Sir, I would not trouble you in this manner, but that I am really much straitened at present, so that your compllyance will be ane new favor done. I owe you a dozen bottles claret, qch. Ile either give to your order or you may discount it of the mony or Bill @ £14 stl. ; and I ever am, etc.

Your Acct. Dr.

1726	Given to Auchterblair for my Lads	
Decer.	[Lady's ?] ffunerall :—	
	To ane hhd. Claret Bottled in 19	
	Duzen 7 Bottles	11 : - : -
	To 4 Duzen Bottles white wine @ 14	
	sh. pr. Duz.	2 : 16 : -
	To 3 Emptie hhds. wt. packing	
	Straw and hoops	- : 9 : 6
1728	To Ballance of a hhd. due since June	
	1726	1 : - : -
3 March	To a hhd. of Strong wine sent you	
	there by Sween McDonald your	
	Souldier	12 : - : -
		<hr/>
		£27 : 5 : 6

To Acct. John Mcleod Dr.

To 18 $\frac{3}{4}$	yards fine Holland @ 5 sh.	
10	pr. yrd.	5 : 9 : 4
To 2	pound best Bohea tea @ 14 sh.	
	pr. pd.	1 : 8 : -

Total £34 : 2 : 10
Sterline

Iness., 15th 8ibr. 1728.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I Received this morning your favor of 10th Inst. wt. 8 Bills inclosed, qch. will be returned pr. next post accepted or protested. I observe your orders about herring, and I go just now down the firth, and will inquire about the 50 last herrings you write of, but do not see you can be served under £6 Stl. And yr. are two or three resolved to keep till Spring rather than sell at that price ; so that I am of opinion you can not be served unless yourself take the keeping of them all winter. Even at £6 stl. pr. last I have bought a good deall for Mr. Alexr. Tait, payable at Martimass next, but must take them in keeping after this day, which for your goverment is all from, etc.

Inverness, 26 Octbr. 1728.

Mr. Robert Gordon [Bordeaux].

SIR,—My last was of 16 August, since qch. Ime favored wt. only one of yours advising of Captain Woods arrival wt. you, and that you receivd my letter by him. If you have got any return to sd. letter, send it under cover to my ffriend, Allexr. Andrews at Rotterdame, who will forward it pr. any coming here, or may send it by any other sure occasion under cover to your Son in law, wt. orders to forward it as it must contain bills and accts. of value qch. will be too expensive to send by post. A friend and I have lately been obliged to buy about 120 tierces of Salmon, about the disposall of qch. we are not yet ripely advis'd, but are proposing to send them to Haverdegrass, the ship being first to call at Haleford to be advised of the mercate at Roterdame. There fore this is chiefly to advise the favore of you that how soon this comes to hand you will please write to Robert McKay, Mercht. in Roterdame, advising him of the best meracte you know for sd. Salmon on the cost of ffrance, and to qm. the master will adress in your name, since the consignation

will be to yourself. Probably the ship will proceed from thence to the Bay to load wine and salt, and therefore I earnestly intreat you write immediately to sd. Mr. McKay how soon this comes to hand, that, in case there be no prospect of a mercate in ffrance, he may make the best of them at Roterdame, whither no Scots Salmon has come this year. I have a bark just now one the west Cost loading about 120 barrells Salmon, which I have ordered directly for Burdeaux to your friends there, so that I hope they may find a tolerable mercate. And sd. Bark is likeways to load all wine qch. I wish may prove better then the last I got, a part of it having quite spoiled, tho kept in a good seller, being small and sweet. So must advise your friends to mend this in time coming, or I must quite that trade. I give my humble service to your Lady and to all friends; and, wishing to hear good accts. from you of my affairs, rests, yours, etc.

Inverness, 29th 8tbr. 1728.

Mr. John Sinclair [of Barrack, Caithness].

SIR,—I Received your favor of 21st curt., but, being out of town qn. your post went off, was oblided to send ane answer pr. express. I received Bills and other papers sent me by Colector Mollison, but he wrote me that your servant was going wt. him to Ednr., and was to call for ane answer at his return, and I was still expecting him untill I gott your letter of 21st curt, and since I have unhappily misst your post. I send this after him pr. express, and, in case of missing the post, to go forward to Cateness and brings you inclosed my Bill of this date on Mr. Alexr. Tait, Mert. in Ednr., for £208 : 6 : 8 Stl., payable the 15th of next moneth, qch. is good Martimass payt. I assure you my Bill will answer punctually, and I thought it was better draw all in this, I hope, then be makeing different Bills. So ye may order ffresicks¹ share to be paid at Ednr. as you think fit, and the little ballance that will be yet due you for shore dues or other charges

¹ Sinclair of Freswick in Caithness.

Ile send you by the post from this; and I am, Dear Sir,
yours, etc.

Coppie of Bill drawn upon Mr. Alexr. Tait to Sinclair of
Barrock.

£208 : 6 : 8 Stl.

Inverness, 29th Octbr. 1728.

Again the 15th day of Nomb. next pay to John Sinclair
of Barrock or order 208 : 6 : 8 Stl. for value received of
him, and place the same to acct. as pr. advise from John
Steuart ffor Mr. Alexr. Tait, Mert. in Ednr.

Inss., 7th Nobr. 1728.

To Drynach.

SIR,—I Received yours of 1st Inst. and inclosd Capt.
Elringtowns Bill and Captain Robisons for ane £142 : 19 : 6
stl. which I find is rectified; and I send you inclosed your
own receipted Bill for £101 : 19 : 4 stl. and Alexr. Wats
Bill for £34 : 10 : Stl., amounting both to £136 : 9 : 4
stl., qch. is in so much for Capt. Elringtowns Bill; and
the ballance I will remitt you or allow it in first end of
McLeods¹ Bills on you, qch. I expect to morrow. I saw
the Laird of Lochcheal² here yesterday, and I spoke to
him of your Bill of 240 Merks, and he promises to pay the
same in a fortnight. Contilligh³ has been here constituting
his title as executor to your Uncle, Mr. Donald McLeod,
but I opposed that as much as I decently could; but I
here he is to be in town to morrow, and like to get his
affair done; so it is fit to you be in equall dilligence wt.
him, that you be not wronged. I got a letter from John⁴
last post from Ednr. I find he and Alexr. [Macleod]
are there and John has freighted a ship from Clide for
Burdeaux. We have no news here but of war, wch.
now seems unavoidable.

¹ Macleod of Macleod.

² Donald Cameron, the famous 'Gentle Lochiel' of the 'Forty-five.

³ Macleod of Contullich.

⁴ John Macleod, Drynach's son.

Inverness, 9th Nobr. 1728.

Mr. Alexr. Stuart [Cousin of the Bailie].

I RECEIVED yours of 1st Inst., and have considered the contents apart of qch. requires consideradon to answer. I am sorry for the mistake about Henry Rose's¹ Bill. That affair makes a noise here. Meantime I wish Henry may take care to pay up your father in law that Bill speedily; but I have not concern in that affair. I sent you in my last accepted Bill Alexr. and Donald Campbells to Ardsheall for £236:13:4 Stl., qch. I told you was to be immediately paid by Mr. Will Nilson, manager of the moins at Swenard,² qch. I hope has had success and that the same is applyed as I desired for payt. of my accepted Bill in hands of Rothemay³ for £3200 Scotch. I send you now inclosed Bill Captain Elringtown on Capt. John Robertson, payable the 22d Inst. for £142:19:6 Stl., qch. I hope will find due honour, and have valued on you this date to the order of Baillie Will ffraser £17:3:8½ Stl., qch. place to my Acct. Alexr. Tod is loading, but Donald McIntire wonders you sent him no written Instructions. . . .

Mr. Alexr. Coutts and Compy. [Danzic].

Inverness, 9th Novr. 1728.

I RECEIVED your favour of 17th Past, and do observe what ye write anent the Hollands Herring fishing. The advices from that Countrey to this place say it was all over very Indifferent, and they expected the price of herrings would Rise. All the herrings Caught in this firth are bought except a very few, and are mostly exported, the greatest part to Stockholm; only one Bark from this place to Danzick, I suppose to your house; but, as the price seems to be pritty Good there, I suppose there will go more in the Spring. Herrings have been sold here at £6 Stl. since the fishing, and those that have any on hand expect

¹ Henry Rose, a brother of the Bailie's first wife.² Lead mines at Suinard in Argyll.³ Ogilvie of Rothiemay, advocate.

that price and better in the spring. He order the payt. of the Sword to the hands of your Cousine, John Coutts¹ at Ednr. Your frequent advices about mercats of herrings and Corns with you will much oblige yours, etc.

For the Earle of Murray.

Inss., 15th Novr. 1728.

THE 13th Curt. I Received your Lops. letter of 7th Inst., since which I have been enquiring about the highest prices of Barlie in this Countrey, and find some of the Murray Gentles have sold @ 10 Sh. 6d Sterling pr. Boll, and I can reach that at least for the Petie Bear here, and I hope a little more. As to the quantity can be delivered or the tyme, I cannot advise by this post, but shall endeavour to do it pr. next, so as your Lop. may take wt. measures will be found best anent the disposalle of sd Bear. Duncan McIntosh, Drover, goes soon South for Mony, when He remitt Some mony of the rests of Cropt 1726. I will be sure to obey your Lops. orders anent the trees Lord advocate² wants; and when his lops. spoke to me I ffrankly forwarded all I Could be spard, being well assured your Lop. would approve of my Compliance that way. I am, wt. much esteem and affect., yours, etc.

Inverness, 15th Novr. 1728.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I Received yours of 8 Curt. and return you Inclosed Bill Donald McKay on his Broyr. for £80 stl. accepted. I return you thanks for your Care about the wines I sold my son, etc. I intreat you forward your determination in that affair as soon as possible. I have secured now all the herrings you want, and one parcell of 28 lasts I have gott the seller to keep till the first of febr. at £6 stl. pr. last, $\frac{1}{3}$ in hand and two thirds the first of febr. nixt. What

¹ John Coutts, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, head of the firm of John Coutts and Co.

² Forbes of Culloden.

remains I hope to get some under six pounds but in that must be prompt payt., which, wt. due respect, is all at prt. from, yours, etc.

Norman Mcleod, Drynack.

Inverness, 25 Novr. 1728.

I RECEIVED yours of 16th curt, but before it came to hand Contilick had done his affair here, wt. full assurance to Comissar Murray he designed to doe you no wrong, but that you should be preferred for the funerall charges. However I will speak to Mcleod [of Macleod] as you desire, and so will John. I hope your son Alexr. will be with you or now, and so will soon see his Sister Janet, for whose recovery I heartily wish. I send you inclosed Mcleods Bill on yourself for £136 : 18 : 2 Stl., wch. I have placed to your Acct., and will Credit you with Locheals accepted Bill of 12 score merks when the same is payed ; as also another Bill of three score Merks left wt. me at prt. by John Mcleod, when it is payed, wch. will not be before Candlemass. I find there is a suit of stuff for your Daughter Ann resting in a shop in this place, about 37sh. Stl. I am craved for it, but really Cannot till whither you remitted Mony for it, or If I charged it formerly to your Acct., off qch. advise me. As to meall there is the greatest run on all sorts of victuall here that ever I know. Bear gives ten Merks, and Meall nine. I am of opinion I cannot deliver Meall at Bernera this year under Seven pounds Scots pr. Boll of Eight stone, and you must naturally expect a Merk more of this. Send me your opinion pr. first, wt. the price of the Butter was lost, that may charge it to your Acct. If Could find me any ready Mony wt. you for Meall in the Spring, It would encourage me to seek but little by it ; so will depend much on your opinion of it. And I am, etc.

Inverness, 21 Novr. 1728.

Mr. William Thomson of Cork.

SIR,—This will be delivered you by My freind Captain Alexr. Tod, and serves to inform you that the reason of

My long silence as to the Cargoe of Salt consigned to me by your Captain Edwards in Nover. 1724, was, that, there being no herin fishing since that time to this year, I was obliged to take up with anie tollerable price and Debtor I could find for it. And till of Lait it was mostly outstanding Debt ; but now, haveing gott Clearance for all of it to a little, I Designe to Make out the Account of seall verie soon, and give you orders to Draw on Me for the ballance ; which at present is the needful from, etc.

Inverness, 29th Nover. 1728.

Mrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [Danzic].

GENTLEMEN,—My last was of 9th Inst., since qch. Im favoured wt. non of yours. Now this comes chiefly to advise that how soon this comes to hand you will insure for my acct. on ye Cargoe of salmon on board ye ship *Margret* of Banff, James Hay master, from Lochinver on our N.W. Coast to Bourdx. in ffrance, wt. ye liberty to call in ye Orknies, £250 Ster. against all hazards. The ships burden is about 40 tuns, and was ready to sail from sd. Loch Inver ye 18th Inst. I intreat your care of this how soon this comes to hand and advise me pr. first wt. your Compliance, and ye Insurance masters names, and value on me for ye premium payble. to any you please, which will find due honour. And let me be advised of ye price of corns wt. you, and what you hear of ye Dantzick mercat. for Corns and Herrings ; and I am, Gentlemen, your most humble sert.

Inverness, 10th Decr. 1728.

ffor the Laird of M'leod.

I RECEIVED your favore of 9th Curt, wt. a Carolus from your servant, of qch. I send you ane Acct. subjoined. I Could not well distinguish by your letter whither it was 2 or 7 pound of Amons ye wanted, but I adventured to send you the last number of pounds, wt. two pounds rasins. Baillie McKay has disappointed me Basely of the

Cherry [sherry] I bespoke for you, by selling it all off ; so that there is none to be had here but in a tavern, and therefore ye must only take a dozen of Bottles or two, and Ile write by the next post to Leth to send me a whole pipe pr. next occasion as I have already for 20 dale of Coalls to be sent you which is all I can do. There is a Boll of floor [flour] bought for my lady Cromarty, which Cost four and twenty Shl., so may be sent for when her ladyship pleases. I send you the Acct. of your Amons and Rasins, and return you 12 Shs. and 8d. Stl. by the Bearer.

To Mr. Harper.

Inverness, 10th Decr. 1728.

I HAD no return to the letter I wrote under your cover some time ago to George Stuart, Tanachie, from qch. in some Conversation I had wt. his broyr, the Doctor, lately here on that subject, I Conclude he inclines not to meddle in that affair you proposed I should employ him. If so, his jealousy is Groundless, for I am as thin shipped as any ever he dealt with in the affair of credit, and I bless God that, for all I have been disapointed at this term in above £500 Stl. I expected from the Returns of Meall alone, I have made a shift to pay up 3500 Bolls I bought this year in Banff shire and all to £100 Stl. due yet by consent to J. S. which I hope will be wery soon payd, and, as I incline to deall a little in meall this year, tho not near so deep as last. . . .

Inverness, 10th Decr. 1728.

For the Laird of Buckie.

WHEN I had the honour and pleasure of seeing you last Aprill at your own house, you may remember you was so kind as to make me ane offer of your service in purchasing for me what quantity of Oat meall I should want for the ensuing year or any other hereafter when I should have occasion to deall that way. I find the prices of Victuall runs high beyont my expectation, and therefore i do not Incline to dip half so deep as last year; but as I have engaged to

furnish a Gentleman of honour and a man according to your own heart a thousand Bolls of Meall early in Spring, and have made a pritty secure Bargain in any event, I desire that one receipt of this ye secure for my Acct. the sd. quantity of Meall, providing it can be done of the groweth of Banff shire, and of last cropt, not exceeding 8 and $\frac{1}{2}$ Merks pr. Boll of 8 Stone, payable at the term of Martimass next, and deliverable in harbour of Portsoy again the first day of March next, or sooner if possible. And, as you proposed some more then the curt price for your own growth, I agree to give a half merk more then qt. ye pay for the rest in consideration of your trouble and Comission. Your friend the bearer will tell you what manner I have hither too performed all my engagements for meall in your Countrey. . . .

To James Steuart, Camilla.

Inss., 12th Decr. 1728.

AT my Son Alexr. Stuarts desire I send you by the bearer John McDonald, post, two large parcells of Tea Nr. 2 and 3, and [in ?] ten pound canasters, each sealed thrice, as this letter is, of qch. please advise my son, and dispose of the same as he shall direct. You give my humble service to Mr. Ffrancis¹ and to my Lady, and to all the young Gentlemen, and Sincerely am.

Messrs Alexr. Gordon and Copy [Bordeaux].

Inverness, 21st Decr. 1728.

GENTLEMEN,—My last was of 6th Curt., of qch. we sent you Bills of Loading for 112 Barrells and one half Salmon pr. the *Margarat* of Banff, James Hay master, qch. we hope is arrived before this comes to hand. You are to ship for our Acct. in the sd. ship four Tun of the best and strongest new Claret, and two Tun of good old Claret. If can be had, two Tun Brandy in greater Casks, and a Tun of Barasack white wine in hogshheads. Youll notice

¹ Francis Stuart, who became Earl of Moray in 1735.

that we desire the Claret be better then ordinary sort that comes to this Country ; and, if it is not good and such as you think will keep, we incline you send none. You are to place half the walue to each our Acct., and let the goods be marked J: S:, and be sure ye ensure the whole walue, which, if cannot be done at Burdeaux, youll order the same to be done by Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts at London. Whatever is further needfull youll shall be advised of pr. next. John Steuart desires ye ship for his proper Acct. three yards and ane half of strong, thick Scarlet-cloath, and three bottles of best eating provincia Oyl, and half dozen small bottles of hungry [Hungary ?] water. We earnestly intreat that you take care our wine be good.

Inverness, 28 Decer. 1728.

Mr. James Hay, Shipmaster.

I RECEIVED your favor of 4th Inst. from Kerstone, and I hope this will find you safe in Burdeaux, as we have had since a Constant Tract of North East winds and frosts. Orders in shiping your Cargo were dispatched last post and this, of qch. doubt not ye will take speciall care that there be no abuse or embaslement. There is 16 Tuns for your friends at Banff and Portsoy, and 14 for this place; so youll notice that the goods for Banff be kept upermost for unloading below, from qch. run ane express upon your arrivall to me, and then make the best of your way for Tarbit ness, where youll find my orders at Wilkheaven. Be sure to insert each mans freight in his Bill of Loadning, and to take receipts for all as unload. . . .

To Ardsheall.

Inss., 30th Decr. 1728.

DR. SIR,—I am sorry to tell you that meall has got up over all Scotland to ten merks pr. Boll; but suppose it will fall towards May, qch. is but uncertain. Pray advise imediately if you will still take the whole quantity, or if less will doe. I wrote just after you left this Country to a friend to buy your meall, qch. he neglected then,

expecting a fall, but now he finds his mistake. I hear Duff of Braco has sold his meall and oats overhead at ten Merks.

I am much surprised you have not wrote me since you was here, qch. makes me uneasie. What I feared of Mr. Tait at Eder has come to pass. He has stoped payts., and owes me about £300 sterlin, a heavie disappointment ; but I am told Ile not loose much at long run. But now I am wery much straitned, and, if the Money due by you does not answer again the end of ffebry, I must Indorse your Bills to satisfie my Creditors, which will be loath to doe ; but necessity has no law. I give my best wishes to your Lady and family, and to Apin and all frends. I hope the Brandy Bills are payd or now. I wish you a happie new year, and I am, etc.

Mr. Alexr. Strachen [Montrose].

Inverness, 31 Decer. 1728.

SIR,—I Received on Saturday last your favor of 18th curt. and I can advise you wt. certainty that I have secured for your Acct. from 400 to 450 bolls Barly, of the growth of the Lop of Petie, at ten Merks pr. Boll, deliverable at this place, payable at Whitsunday next except fifty guineas at Delivery, if called for. So you may freight and dispatch a ship to this place to take that quantity as soon as possible, and, if the ship be to come from the South firth, may cause load her wt. great Coals, which will sell pretty well here. . . .

Mr. John Burnet and Copy. [Aberdeen].

Inss., 31st Decer. 1728.

I RECEIVED your favor last week advising of the price of Corn and Meall wt. you, and that the Bear was become excessive dear, and that the Gentlemen of your shire demanded all six pounds pr. Boll of there meall, and that ye knew of none went into that price. I have occasioned for some meall to furnish the Garrison of Inverlochy, so if you can purchase for my Acct. howsoon this comes to

hand 1000 Bolls of good sweet oat Meall of last cropt, deliverable at Aberdeen, Stonehive, or Peterhead, any time before the middle of March next, at Six pounds Scotch pr. Boll of 8 stone, payable at Martimass next, I hereby empower you to purchase the same for my Acct., and would grant my Bills for the value and pay you Comission for your trouble; but must intreat your answer to this imediately in course, that I may know if can depend on the same or not.

3rd Janry. 1729.

SON,— . . . I observe what you write of Mr. Taite. Im affraid he has done me great misschief, for, not wtstanding of what you write me, I find by a letter of the 30 from Mr. Russell that my bill in his hands recurs; therfor I earnestly intreat you see to get me some relief in this affair, otherwise I know not well what to do. Im likewise much troubled wt. a charge I got at the Instance of the Comisrs. of Exceise as a wittness in the affair of John Monro of Novar, and as I hope for Mercy I know nothing of that affair but by hearsay; so I earnestly intreat that the Comissr. and you see to get me clear of this, for should I be obliged to go South in my present Suituation it would do me much misschef. Besides, there is scarce any traveling; there is such Storme on the ground. Deliver the inclosed to My Lord Lovat, who has made me a kind offer; so I write his Lop. to pay £100 Ster. on my acct., for we. will grant accepted bill payable in 2 months. . . .

3d Janry. 1729.

For Drynach.

I heartyly wish you and family a happy new year, and do herwith send you a cobby of your acct., by which there is a ballance due me of £45 : 1 : 8 Ster. You have likewise inclosed bill on Leut. Messon in parte of this ballance, and a letter to him, with the papers, and a bill I paid for him at Aberdeen. . . . Locheil has not yet pd. your bill, but when the payt. comes to my hand will send it you, as I will payt. of the litle bill John McLeod left with you.

Generall Sibourgh [Fort William].

8

Inverness, 16th Jary. 1729.

I RECEIVED the honour of your letter of 11th curt. anent Meall. It is true Patrick Campbell told me by a letter sometime past that you would want about 1000 bolls of Meall again the first of May next, but wanted to know the price. I wrote him directly that the demand from Ireland and the west cost was so great this year that meall was gott up over all to above 11 sh. pr. boll of 8 stone, and that I could not undertake to lay it down at Maryburgh under thirteen sh. pr. boll, one half readdie monie, and the other in three months. But till I gott your letter I had no return to sd. letter; so if you incline I should furnish Meall, must imediately on receipt of this letter write me if you agree to this proposall, and the quantity you will want, and then Ile imediately set about to get you furnished without loss of time. There are no Lemons here to be had for anie mony, but howsoon anie arive, which will be werie soon, shall send as manie as a horse can carie.¹

To my Son.

8

Inverness, 24th Jary. 1729.

I RECEIVED yours of 20th Inst. acknowledging receipt of mine of 4th and 10th curt. and bringing me the Laird of Grants Bill on his Chamberlain, John Grant [Factor, Glen Urquhart] for £45 Stl., qch. is accepted. It is not three days since I spoke to sd. John Grant about this Bill, but he did not tell me positively when he would pay it, but he was going to Strathspey wt. mony to his master for his London journey, and promised to call at me at his return, and will press him as much as I can. . . . I wish you could get my Lord Lovat to advance the £100 stl. he promised untill I can recover my mony from Ardsheall, which I hope will happen in a short time. In that case

¹ That is, in two creels fastened to what was known as the Highland saddle.

pay the value of Lord Reays bill on Blair, sent you in my last, to the Earl of Morray. . . .

To Capt. John Robertson [Bernera Barracks, Glenelg].

Inverness, 25th Jary. 1729.

I RECEIVED your acceptable favor of 20th Inst. and shall take care to provide the Barrell of Pork you want and to have it such as will please you. And for the two Bolls of white oats, that you always will find ready at a call. And there is some mony due me by my father in law at Glenelg, and by Lieutenant Merson that I have advanced here for him, and will according to your desire send orders by my broyr Alexr.,¹ who goes from this on Monday next for that Country. . . .

ffor the Laird of Kenloch Mudert.

Inss., 27 Jary. 1729.

I RECEIVED your acceptable favor of 22d. curt., and doe observe your orders to send you three hunder Bolls Oat Meall to be unload in Sound of Mull or @ Kenloch Mudert. I cant possibly promise the Ship will call at both these ports wtout putting you to a great charges, since this quantity will not be the half of a cargoe; but Ile doe my outmost endeavour to get you served if you take meall in the Sound of Mull, and the price shall not exceed what I get from Ardsheall or Generall Sibourgh. But then the Generall pays the half in hand, and the rest in three months, but if you could give the 3d. in hand would trust the rest to Michalemass Mercat. Meantime shall give orders to secure the Meall and advise you; and expect your answer to this in course; and I am, Sir, yours, etc.

Inverness, 7th ffebry. 1729.

SON,—I Received yours of 1st inst., wt. the two accepted Bills and protests relating to the two Camells [Campbells] inclosed. I have wrote to Ardsheall and told him in plain

¹ Alexander Macleod, brother-in-law.

terms I cannot want my Mony longer. And this post I wrote to my friend Colonell Guest at London to speak to Generall Wed [Wade] that the Gentlemen on whose credit my meall was furnished do incline to poind the Lead Oar belonging to the Compy. of which the Generall is a partner, if that Mony is not imediately paid. . . .

You need not trouble My Lord Lovat, on whom I had no great dependance, but that he Bambused me wt. ane offer of five 100£; so I thought fit to try him wt. one hundred first. I hope again next post to be able to remitt you some Mony, and meantime shall do qt. I can wt. Grantts Chamberlain about your Bill. . . .

ffor Colonell Guest.

Inverness, 8th ffebry. 1729.

I PRESUME to give you the trouble of this letter to inform you that in month of June last I sold to a Gentleman in Argile Shire 1000 Bolls Oat Meall of qch. he sold about one half to Mr. Nilson, agent for the lead Moin [Mine] Copy. at Swenard [Suinart], which was to be paid in Octbr. last, the sum due for the same being £266 : 14 : 4 stl., for qch. my frend has the accepted Bills of Mr. Campbell, younger of Airds, and of Donald Campbell, factor to Mr. Murray of Stanope; but so it is that Mr. Nilson went off abruptly for London wtout paying the mony, by qch. my friend is disappointed, and I through him, qch., with other disappointments, does at present straiten me pritty much. Therefore I must ask the favor of you to acquaint Generall Wed, for whom I have all possible honour and respect, that as the Gentlemen who granted Bills for the same Meall are now under prosecution^r for^r the^r Mony,^r they threaten to attach the Effectts of Swenard Copy., unless the Mony be paid imediately wt. Interest since it fell due. And, seeing I would not wish that any Compy. in qch. the Generall is concerned had any affront done to their credit, I thought fit to aprise you of this in order to inform the Generall of what is designed unless the mony is instantly paid. . . .

To the Baillie of Morvin.¹

Inss., 15th february 1729.

I RECEIVED your acceptable letter of 3d Inst. by your nephew Duncan Stuart, and, according to your recommendation, have undertaken to doe all lyes in my power to serve him from three to five hundred Bolls Oat Meall, to be delivered again the first day of May nixt in the Sound of Mull ; and I assure you it will not be my fault if he be not as soon and as reasonably served as any of his neighbourhead, since I depend much on his own Good Inclinations and your Credit for him ; and I am, wt. much Esteem, etc.

Inverness, 17 Februy. 1729.

For General Sibourg [Fort William].

HONBLE. SIR,—I Received your favour of 10 Curt., which came in good time to prevent my concluding anie Bargain for bear or Malt to be caried over land, and by Lochness, which must have cost you verie [much]. The sending all Meall and 200 bolls bear in one shipp would requir one too lairge for our dry harbour, so, since you leave that point to my manadgement, I am just now trying if can find tuo barks, one to carie a pairt of your bear with the Meall on top of it, which will keep the bear cooll from heating ; and you may depend Ile have all possible regaird to your interest, and doe all lys in my power to gett you well and soon served ; and I am, with verie much Esteem, etc. The bear will cost reddie Mony.

No Lemons to be hade.

For Collonell William Grant, Ballindalloch.²

Inverness, 24 Februy. 1729.

SIR,—My last to you was by Baillie Gilbert Gordon, when he went to Duke Gordons Burriall, to qch. he brought me no return in write, but told me you assured him you would send me a Bill on London for the following months pay, and allow me a reasonable time to pay the ballance.

¹ Duncan Stewart.

² See footnote, p. 14.

I am not to prescribe rules to you in this matter, but, if you remitt me the mony either in specie or Bill on London, I assure you it will be a great favor done me, being never so much straitned in my life as at prt., as I could convince you if pleased, but think it needless to trouble you wt. these things in write. If you please to send a Bill on London for a half or whole months pay I judge the war-house and I will soon make out the Ballance in a short time; but pray fail not to send either mony or Bill by the bearer, as you would oblidge yours, etc.

Inverness, March 1st, 1729.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SR,—I received late last night your favor of 24th past, and your orders therein shall be obeyed; and now send you inclosed Mr. Weems receipt for three last herins I have shipped for your Acct., and by your order he had gott four, as you desired, if the herins I had at Findorn had come up in time; but shall have them at Cromarty again your ship arived to load the rest, if I can. Chalmers of Leith is just now a loding, and David Weems will be cleared in the Customhouse this day. I have valued on you of this date to the order of Mr. James Cuming, senior, in Ednr., for £16 : 13 : 10½ at Eight dayes sight, qch. I intreatt may find me honour; and when Chalmers is load will send a schem of your Acct., and I am, Sir, etc.

The Shipp you are to send for the rest of the herins will be load fully at Cromarty, and mind to send the 20 dalle of Coals I formentioned, either for your own Acct. or mine.

To Norman McLeod of Drynach.

Inverness, 1st March 1729.

SIR,—I Received your favour of 24th Last Febry. with your bill of same date on Andrew McPharlan and Malcolm Mclaran, Drovers, payable at 10 days sight, for £50 Ster., and I heartily wish it may answer punctually, being oblinded to endorse it to a stranger does not know them,

one Archibald Wightman, Mercht. in Edr. And now, since you could not accomodat this affair with Captain Edrington, I wish you would doe your endeavour to persuade sd. Captain to send down some man next week with his bill on Captain Robertson for £50 Ster., and Ile return by the same person ye same in gold or silver, as the Captain pleases. I've only gott nine score and ten merks of Locheils bill, which shall be sent by John Forbes when he comes down, as will the ballance due of the small bill be John McLeod. As to the accot. of Cloaths sent your daughter, my wife is positive it was not payd., that it was sent a year after Mrs. Kenisons Cloath. James Innes is loading meall for your garison and Fortwilliam, and Ile order 50 bolls for you, and wery soon. If can gett a barque will send from 5 to 600 bolls meall to be sold in the Kyle, for which will expect a good deall of ready mony, as must pay ane excessive price for it now, and a great part ready mony. I wish you would perswade Scottos to doe me justice as to Glengaries bill, which I returned by broyr Alexr., who is to pay you a guinea on my acct., besides the 5£ Sterline included in your £50 Sterline bill.

To John Stewart of Ardsheall.

Inss., 7th March 1729.

I ADVISED you in my last that I bought your Thousand Bolls Meall above a month agoe, and wrote to my son about that time to freight a ship to carry sd. meall. He writtes me he cannot get any shipp that will shift portts of delivery but on months pay. I have wrote him back that my credit and honour is so much engaged to have this Meall dispatched that he must freight a shipp at anie rate the best he can, so that I hope pr. nixt post to be advised the shipp is engaged and readdie to sail for the loading port. Your friend Mr. Campbell of Inerushlachan spurned at my proposall for Meall and went off for Banffshire, where he has been travelling for 20 days past, and I hear returns wtout makeing any Bargain, for there is none to be made there now but at ten Mrks., payable

at Whitsunday ; and the Gentlemen who bought the Meall for you presses hard to have 3000 Mrks. at Whitsunday, of qch. I wrote you before and would wish this demand could be comply'd wt., as it might bring some little abatement of the price. Of this Ile want your answer pr. first. I told you in my last I had wrote to Generall Wade about your Meall Bargain at Sweenard. I have a letter last post from my good friend Conll. Guest in answer, who informs me that Mr. Burt¹ was to set off for Scotland the 25th last Month, and had positive orders to pay me preferable to any ; and therefore the Collonell advises that howsoon this letter comes to hand I should have ane order from the Gentlemen who have Mr. Neillsons security to pay the Mony to my order at Ednr. Therefore it is fitt how soon you gett this you cause these Gentlemen send up Mr. Neillsons Bill to Ednr. to my son, wt. ane Indorsation, or ane order to Mr. Burt to pay the mony to him for my Acct. ; and I will write to my Son and Mr. Burt by the post, and send up your Bill to be given up on payt. to Mr. Campbells order. . . .

To my Son.

Inverness, 8th March 1729.

. . . I had a letter last post from my good friend Colonel Guest at London, in which he advises that Mr. Edmond Burt, who resided here wt. Generall Wade, and factor on my Lord Syforth's Estate,² is coming down as manager and overseer of the Lead moins at Swenard in place of Mr. Neillson, wt. orders to pay all the just debt of the Compy., and particularly and preferably that due to me by Ardsheall for meall sold by him for behalf of the sd. Compy., so I send you inclosed Ardshealls accepted Bill to me for £266 : 13 : 4 Stl., and desire howsoon this may come to hand you call for Mr. Cambell, younger of Airs, and wait on Mr. Burt, who is certainly wt. you before this, and lodges at Mr. Collans at the foot of the Canigate, and

¹ Edmund Burt who wrote the *Letters from the North of Scotland*.

² The Seaforth forfeited estates.

deliver Mr. Burt my letter, who no doubt will adjust matters so wt. Mr. Cambell as that the mony will be paid you on receipt. On second thoughts I have not sent you Ardshealls Bill, being payable here at my house, and a good deall of Interest and charges on it I cannot copute [compute] at prt. Meantime, if the mony is payd., let £250 stl. of it be instantly given the Earl of Morray, to qm. I am deeply in arear. I sent your meall wt. James Chalmers, who promised he would freight wt. me to the West Coast, and will come north here imediately wt. lyme.

Inverness, 8th March 1729.

Mr. Edmond Burt.

SR.,—I had last post a letter from my worthie friend Collonell Guest, in qch. he gives me the agreeable acct. of your coming down to manage and oversee the Lead moins belonging to the Compy. at Swenard, and that you was instructed by the Compy. to pay the Debts contracted by Mr. Nelson, of particularly that resting by Mr. Campbell of Ottomore to John Stewart of Ardsheall, and by him to me, for a certain quantity of oatmeall sold for sd. Compys. behoof last summer, and amounting in value to 266 : 13 : 4 stl., besides interest and charges. Now, Sr., I hope if Mr. Campbell of Airds is at Ednr. I hope matters will be so conserted to your satisfaction as that my mony will be presently paid to my son, who delivers you this, on his receipt, which will be good for the same, and will be a favor done.

Inverness, 13th March 1729.

For Drynach.

DR. SIR,—I Received yours of 8th instant, and have delivered to your servant, John Forbes, ten Guenies I gott from Locheil on your Acct., and promised to send me the rest in 10 days, but its not yet come. However, I have drawn on him for the ballance, to Alexr. Rose, as if he hade payed me the same, so that I have credited you in my book for the whole twelve score Merks, and the thre

score Merks in the litle book, but could send you no more mony at present but the ten Guenies; and you will gett a guenie from Br. Alexr. I sent him when he left this pleace. . . .

Mr. James Duff [Banff].

Inverness, 14th March 1729.

SR.,—I received yours pr. last express, and have, according to your desire, given orders to shipp two tuns liquor for you on board Allexr. Keith, who I suppose is due now at Burdeaux, where James Hay arrived the 12th of last month, and I suppose is readdie to sail. Now his being bound here makes such a prodigious noise that I believe we shall find difficulty enough to get clear of; therefore, pray give me your opinion if could lodge safely in your countrey for some little time about ten tuns of liquor a friend and I have aboard that shipp. Meantime, I most earnestly intreat you run ane express to me how soon James Hay appears, and stop him from coming up untill you can judge your letter is wt. me. And if the wind should blow hard down that he cannot get up he must run over to the Orknie rather then goe to anie harbour on your coast. . . .

Inverness, 22 March 1729.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I Received yours of 14th curt., as alsoe yours by John Lightin, of Kingorn, who has unload 25 Deall of Coalls, pairt here and the rest at Cromarty, and I oblidged to give 20 sh. ster. to his crew befor they would come in to liver the Coalls, which are all sold from 13 to 15 sh. pr. deall, but the half not yet payed. The sd. boat has loaded 22 lasts of herins, and I am just now going to gett out the coast clearance from our customhouse. When the other boat appears shall give her all possible dispatch; but her coales will not sell here, so must be unload at Cromarty. . .

Mr. Alexr. Strachan [Montrose].

Inverness, 4th Aprile 1729.

Sr,—My last was advising of the sloop *Hopewell* [of Ipswich, Benjamin Hicens master] to receive your Barley, about the freighting of qch. your friend Mr. Fenick was mightyly mistaken as to her burden, for in place of 450 Bolls purchased for your Acct. has only taken in 355 Bolls, for qch. I send you a Bill of loadning inclosed in the terms you desired. Meantime, advise pr. first how I shall dispose of the 95 Bolls remains. I doubt not to reach your price for it, and the same terms of payt., and yt. is all. I asked the master of the sloop how he came to give out his wessell for so much more then she carried, which he sd. was owing to his mistake about the quality of our Barley, whose being heavier then that of Suffolk, of qch. he usually Loads 800 qrs. And wt. his loadning here he is extream deep, so I hope, if he arives soon and safe, youll make the highest price, qch I wish. And it is a loss to you that all was not shiped. The master acknowledges at parting that the reason he gave his ship for so much burden more then she carried was that he was told in England that our Barley was not heavier then English oats, but that he now found he was much misinformed and mightyly bit. . . .

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

Inverness, 5th Aprile 1729.

Sr.,—Since my last of 22 past I received your favor of 3d Inst. by John Summerwell in the *Lamb* of Kingorn, who delivered here 15½ dales of Coalles, for qch. could only reach 12 sh. pr. dale, the town being stocked by a large cargo came imediately before it. The sd. *Lamb* is gone to Cromarty, wt. proper clearances, to load 14 last herins qch. is all the sd. would agree to take, so there remains yet at Cromarty five last for your acct., about the disposall of qch. pray advise me pr. first post, that I may know exactly how to make up your acompt. I was oblided to repack

all your heirins from top to bottom, and furnish fresh hoops and salt, qch. has occasioned some expence, and inlake of qt. was bought, but I am perswaded the herins will be found very good. I wish the *Jean* of Kingorn James Lighton master, may be safe wt. you, having sailed Sunday the 23d past, the day before the great storm. I send you inclosed Bill of Loadning for 22 lasts shipped in the sd. *Jean*, the receipt of qch. please acknowledge, as also that for 16 last pr. James Chalmers, whose misfortune I very much regrate, but I hope your Interest was secured by Insurance.¹

To my Son.

Inverness, 5th Aprile 1729.

YOURS of 25 and 27 last past are before me. As to qt. relates to Burt, I saw him here, and he told he had payd you or Mr. Lumsdale £200 stl. in part of the money due to Ardsheall by Mr. Neilson, and will pay the ballance very soon in the Highlands, so I send you inclosed my receipt for £200 stl. in part payt. of Ardshealls accepted Bill to me, qch. sum I intreat may be paid wtout delay to the Eroll of Morray. . . . I received Colloden accepted Bill for £44 stl., and will do my outmost for you, and advise of the success pr. nixt.

To Generall Sybourgh.

Inss., 9th Aprile 1729.

SR.,—I Received your favor of 4th Inst. and have according to your desire dispatched 20 Bolls Meall to the Lochend,² and given the meall in Charge to one Malcome McIntosh, nephew to Culduthell,³ to see it safe delivered at Killiwhimen [Fort Augustus], for qt. I gave him half a crown, but the boatt freight up the loch is to be paid besides, and I have likeways pay'd the carryage from this to the Lochend at Six pence pr. horse. I have given sd. Malcome McIntosh

¹ Chalmers' ship was wrecked off Peterhead.

² East end of Loch Ness.

³ Fraser of Culduthell, near Inverness.

two dozen Lemons, there being no bitter orangers in town. I suppose the young man will goe along wt. your Meall, and see it delivered at Fortwilliam. I hope to hear in your next that James Innes is arrived wt. you, and I am, etc.

Inss., 9th Aprile 1729.

Generall Sybourgh Dr.

For 20 Bolls Meall from B: William fraser @

10 sh. 11d. pr. Boll	£10 : 18 : 4
To Cord to Bind the pocks	- : - : 6
To Carryage to the Loch End	- : 8 : -
To Malcome McIntosh for his trouble	- : 2 : 6
To Two Duzen Lemons	- : 4 : -
	<hr/>
	11 : 13 : 4
	<hr/>

Send this mony per first sure occasion.

Inss., 19 Aprile 1729.

Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [London].

I RECEIVED your favor of 27th last post, advising of the insurance made for my Acct. on the ship *Issobella* of Bernera [Glenelg] amounting to five pd. 2 sh. 6d. St. for £280 pd. stl. on the cargo of meall from Portsoy to Fort William, pr. sd. shipp. This comes now to advise you that how soon this comes to hand you insure for my acct. five hundred pd. Stl. on the cargo of oat meall pr. the shipp *Jean* of Lieth, James Bennie master, agst. all hazards from the harbour of Peterhead to the port of Fort William. . . .

Generall Sybourgh [Fort William].

19th Aprile 1729.

I HAVE your favor of 12th curt., and, conform to your orders, have given the bearer, Malcome McIntosh, twenty bolls more meall, qch. cost 8d. pr. boll more than the former sent you, and it was wt. reluctantcy I sent you any, hoping the 1st part of your meall pr. shipp before it, but

I thought it for your Interest to act the surest part. I can find no bear to purchase in Banffshire, where I have load the meall under 13sh 4d. pr. boll, so that it could not be laid down wt. you under 17sh., which is much above your Comission; so if you cannot take Kateness Bear, as I advised in my last, cannot serve you in Bear, qch. I am sorry for; but you shall have near the quantity of meall you wanted. I desire the bearer be payed for the trouble of coming down these two tymes, having only given him half a Crown; and I am, etc.

Generall Sybourgh Dr.

To 20 Bolls Meall @ 11sh. 2d. ster. pr. Boll	. £11 : 3 : 4
To Cairiage to the Lochend . . . . .	. - : 4 : 0
	<hr/>
	11 : 7 : 4
	<hr/>

Inverness, 29 Aprile 1729.

Generall Sybourg.

I HAVE your favor of 22d curt., advising that the last 20 Bolls meall went over land, and I have at same time advise pr. express that James Innes was arrived, but that you would not receive the meall at the In [?] the same manner that I and all mortalls receive these goods in such a case, but that I must carry it to your storehouse. I hope youll inform yourself better, and put no new and unprecedented hardship on me. Now that I understand the shipp is arrived and put under guard, I inclyne to deall wt. everie body in same manner as I would be dealt wt., and as you are a Gentleman of honour I doe expect that Ile find no reason to complain of any innovation or unprecedented hardship. George Douglass writes me you are informed I gave Partik Campbell 5 Bolls of Meall for receaving the meall last year at the shipp, qch. indeed is not true, for I declare I never to my knowledge allowed him a peck on that head. So I hope before this is arrived the shipp will be unload, and not detained beyont her ly dayes, after qch. I am oblided to pay sh. 15 ster. pr. diem. Mr. Innes is to get £25 stl. as half of his freight, for

qch. take his receipt. I returned last night from Banffshire, where the rest of your meall is loaded, and 100 Bolls Barley, qch. coast a werie high price; but I hope youll not see me looser by it, since the freight will be double that of the meall, and I shipped it only to serve you, and prevent your being straintned that way. Ile expect that on receipt youll please send the payt. of the last 40 Bolls Meall pr. James Innes, or £150 stl., because I am straintned at prt.; and let it come by a trustie man or two of them, and pay them for their truble.

Inss., 1st May 1729.

Generall Sybourgh.

I RECEIVED your favor of 26 past in answer to mine from Earlsmiln, which, as it was wrote in a hurrie, seems to have been blunder all over. It seems ground of ridicule that I went of purpose to see and remove your uneasiness for want of Barlie, and, yet, I still say it was soe. And I would not goe twenty miles for all I expect to get by the hunder Bolls of Barlie I shipped, as I advised in my last. I observe your poscript about what Mr. Scott of Greenock says of the freight of Barlie from this burgh round by the Orkneys @ 10½d. pr. Boll. That gentleman has forgot, or does not seem to say, what has any probability of trueth, for if you will consider that a shipp of 45 tuns burden will only carrie 400 Bolls Barlie, and duble that number Bolls of meall, now 400 Bolls Barlie @ 10½d. pr. Boll is about £17 sterlin., and 5 or six men necessary to navigate such a shipp in 2 months the shortest time can be allowed to exped such a voyage need £17 ster. to buy them victuals and small Beer, so that there must be not a groatt allowed for the shipp or mens wages. So I leave it to yourself to consider the probability of Mr. Scotts asertion. And I solemnly declare the cheepest freight I ever had was 10d. pr. Boll of oat meall, which is equal in weight and bulk to half a Boll of Bear. And this year the werie freight, besides other charges and insurances, will cost 12d. pr. Boll meall, and James Innes, who is now wt. you, has no

less. I have insisted on this the longer to clear you of anie suspicion about my designing in the least to impose on you. So far from that are my Intentions in dealling wt. you that I can make it appear, if you please, as clear as noonday that, as I dont deall wt. you in view to be a lossor, I have but a werie small profit not equall to the trouble and risque I incur in the prosecution of your orders. And all to labour under the suspicion of thiefting or sharping is the Devil, and what goes werie ill down wt. me. I hope before this comes to hand youll be over your scruple about the method of receaving the Meall aboard James Innes, since I propose nothing but the common practise over all Europe, and what I always used to doe even at Maryburgh. As to the quantity of meall pr. the present shipp, you may be very easy, since the whole quantity you want will be made good to you, sea hazards and other unforeseen accidents excepted, before you consume a 100 Bolls of this, the shipp for Ardsheall being sailed; and the other in qch. is the last of your meall and the Bear will probablie saill this day or to morrow. I look for answer to my last of 29th past; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 2d May 1729.

Mr. William Simson [Aberdeen].

SIR,—I Received your favour of 26th Curt. adviseing of William Thomson arriving in your road to take in our Meall at Frasers brugh, of which loadning I always reckoned on a half for my share, so is to be charged accordingly. But if you can provide five or six hundred bolls more, and some Barq to carrie it, I belive I could find you good chaps for it, and content my self wt. one third of the adventure. Ile write this night to Mr. Alexr. and Jears Coutts, Merchts. in London, to insure £230 sterlin as my half of ye meall from Frasers brugh to ye sound of Mull, wt. priviledge to call at Loch Brackadale in the Ile of Sky, being advised from Glainelg that that will be still our best port after the first pairt of the Cargoe is unload at Scalpay and Glainelg. At the first place will not be detained three

days, and is in her way to Glainelg. And Nota, if you incline to make insurance by my friends Messrs. Coutts at London, Ile write them this night to obey your orders and make the whole insurance of your joint account; so may order your friend to pay your part Premium to the sd. Mr. Coutts. I was assured yesterday by some Gentlemen of the name of McKenzie yt. there is nixt to famine at Stornway and Lews island, ye people have sown non this year, but have eaten all their seed; so if there was some carfull lad to goe along wt. the shipp and to call at Stornway, I doubt not might sell a good dale of meall for raidy money at any price. But this would be the ships nearest way to Loch Brakadale in ye Isle of Sky, from which might goe next to Glainelg, and so drop goeing to Scalpay. But this I leave intirly to your self. Ile look over our last account of Meal in Compy., and send you my opinion of your account; and I am, etc.

Invernes, 5 May 1729.

To Kinloch Moidart.

SIR,—I received yours of 1 Curt. yesternight pr. express, and I am mightie sorie to find that my writing to Duncan Steuart that I was dissappointed of the Meall I designed for you and him gave you such uneasiness. And I was disappointed of that meale is as true as that I writ this letter, altho I hade a shipp fraughted and come to the port where it ought to be load; but as no man can guard against tripps and Accidents and Disasters of this kind, I beg you may belive that I hade [not] of designe to Disappoint you, and William Stuart can acquaint you of the quit contrar, haveing shoven the person's letter to me who was to furnish the meall, adviseing he hade sold the same at Eder. When William set from this I told him as I was then goeing to Banfeshire I would try what I could still doe for your accomodation in meall which he dissuaded me from, assureing me it would be too lait to send anie to that Coast. Which made me make no positive bargain untill I heard from Dun. Steuart and your self. However,

last week, on my return home, I wrot to Ardsheall, telling him to acquaint his cousin Duncan that in case he would be satisfyed if a parcell of meall about 700 bolls were with you and him again the tenth day of June next, I would immediatly doe my endeavour to provid you again that time, but that it was necessary I should have your return, so as not to be exposed to anie uncertainty. However, tho I have got no return, yet, finding your extream anxiety to have still the meall, I will writ tomorrow to Banfeshire to secure a shipp and meall ; and I entreat howsoon this comes to hand Duncan and you writ me immediatly, promising to accept the meall anie time it arives befor the midle or tenth of June next, tho I flatter myself you may expect it much sooner. But I must tell you that all my Letter befor now or this is only binding on me barring unforeseen events and Accidents, tho you may depend my best endeavour will not be wanting on all occasions to approve myself, Sir, Your most faith. humble Servant.

6 *May* 1729.

For Generall Sibourg [Fort William].

HONBLE. SIR,—I received your favour of 2d instant by way of postscript to George Dowglass his letter of that dait, and if in my Letter of 29 ultimo I have said any thing gave offence I beg pardon, and doe protest I did not mean it in the least. I have trubled my freind Captain Wheat to deliver you my receipt for £150 sterlin in pairt of meall pr. James Innes, and also another receipt for £23 : - : 8d. ster. in payment of the tuo last parcells of meall, being 40 bolls, with charges, sent by Lochness as pr. my Actcs. If you please to send me the extent of these tuo receipts it will be a favour at present ; but I leave that point to yourself, only I will consider of the reddie mony payed now at clearing for the next cargoe pr. Robert Gray, who, I hope, is far advanced on his voyage or now, and has a parcell of excellent meall and bear, which I hope will give you satisfaction, and I suppose sailed about the end of last week, since which the wind continues fair. . . .

6 May 1729.

For Captain Wheat at Fortwilliam.

I PRESUME to give you the truble of the tuo enclosed receipts value £173 : - : -d. sterlin, and desire that on receipt of this you will wait on the Generall and receive the value of said tuo receipts ; but, if he will only pay the one of £150 ster: at present, may return me the other of £23 : - : -d. sterlin, inclosed in your letter, and with the mony you gett, which I hope will be in Guenies or Banknoats. I must entreat the favour of you to pick out ane honest, trustie man, either of your own men, or of the independant Company (in which my freind ensign John McPherson will direct you) and send him hither immediatly with this mony sealed up carefully, and Ile pay the bearer what you order me for this truble. I give my humble service to all your Gentlemen of my acquaintance, and, beging pardon for this truble, I remain, etc.

Inverness, 8 May 1729.

Mr. James Hay [master of the *Margaret*].

SINCE my last pr. express I have ane ansuer to my letter sent to ye Highlands, and my friends there are still willing to take your cargo of Meall ; so, provideing David Bremner furnish the cargo of Meall, you may sett about to load the same as fast as you can ; for the sooner it arives it will be much the better for me. The ship goes first to Loch Moidart, and from thence to the Castle of Mingrie in the entrie of Loch Gruinard, or Fort William, in my option, and thereafter to load slait and return to this place or the firth of Cromartie, as I will dereet ; for qch. I pay you fortie pounds sterlin if you load not under 700 bolls meall, and if you please to take the return to yourself you shall have thirtie pounds sterlin in the Highlands, and be free. Donald Stewart has gott a ship, so you can not depend on him. Therefor, if your brother be not come home, I hope yourself will be in case to goe the voyage, which I wish you may take a Pylot at Orkenie.

And, since Loch Moidart is not a much frequented Loach, you may caus my father in law, Drynoch, run ane express from Glenalge to the laird of Kinloch Moidart to know a skilfull man at Topr Morae [Tobermory] in Mull, to carie you in to Loch Moidart to unload ye half of your meall. And, if you are detained above tuentie days in all in the Highlands twixt livering and loading, you shall have five shillings sterling ; so I expect your compliance, and that you will make all possible despatch. Write me when Patrick Gray and William Adam saild ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 10 May 1729.

To Ardsheall.

I RECEIVED yesterday your favor 6th curt wh. the inclosed Bank Bill drawn by Mr. Burt for seventy nine pounds, fifteen shillings sterline, for qch. I will acct. to you in part payt. of your accepted Bill. . . .

Inss., 20 May 1729.

Mr. John McLeod [Glenelg, son of Drynoch].

I RECEIVED yours of 16th curt. and am wt. you surprised the shipp wt. the meall is not yet arived, having been loaded the 6th inst at Frasersburgh. I suppose has been put to Starnway wt. the last sutherly winds, and will probably call first at Loch Bracadale, and from thence come to Glainelg.

I think my aly Scotus uses me werie ill, for I have his letters two years past desireing but one years delay to pay the mony, and now three is untollerable. Therefore, I desire you may bring me the Bill, that I may see what I can make of Glengerie himself when I goe to Lochabor, which I hope will be werie soon. . . . I return my heartie thanks to lieutenant Meason for the fine present of spectackles he has made. I payed his acct. to Bailie Campbell, and send inclosed wt. receipt walue £1 : 2 : 9 ster., which bring me when you come.

Inverness, 27th May 1729.

Mr. John Meleod [Glenelg].

I WROTE you fully yesterday, and I have verie little more to add at prt., haveing only detained the express to wait the arrivall of the post in case there should be anie extraordinary news; but, as there happens to be none, I refer you to the inclosed packet of newes for Meleod, which I think you may venture to unseall; and pray forward it with the other letter. I gott only yesternight the inclosed Bill of loadning for Mr. Thomsons Cargoe of meall being 840 Bolls input, which I hope will come out at least one pr. ct. I have indorsed it to your father, as I feared you would not stay untill all the cargoe was disposed off, and shall only earnestly recomend to you to give what readdie mony can be gott to Capt. Elringtown for his bill on Capt. Robertson; or, if that cannot doe, that youll bring it here wt. yourself, and howsoon all that can goe off in Glainelg is gone off, that youll dispatch the shipp to loch Brackadale. I wrote you fully what I thought proper anent the return of Slait, to qch. I refer, and now, since there is little hopes of getting slait, I wish could be rid of the shipp on payt. of the full freight at 10d. pr. Boll; but, if that cannot doe, since I understand Mr. Thomson understands timber verie well, I desire you may consult him how Coigach dealls would sell at Lieth at the folowing prices sent me by Lord Tarbat that in case any thing could be saved by ym. I may procure his lops. order to deliver to my order as many as the shipp could hold, viz., dealls of 12 foot long, inch and half thick, not under 8 inches broad, £5 sterline pr. hunder of six score; Do. of 10 foot long, like breadth and thickness, at £4:5 sterline pr. hunder; Do. of 9 foot long, like breadth and thickness, at £3:15 sterline pr. 100; to be put free aboard at Ulaboll [Ullapool] in Coigach. Perhaps all these dealls may be had something under. If so all the better. Meantime may consult the skipper William Thomson, and, if you find that we can save a good part of the freight by buying them, run immediately ane ex-

press, and Ile return my lord Tarbat's orders to deliver the dealls and ane order to the master to receive them; which will be much better then to goe to the southward on ane uncertainty. . . .

Inss., 31 May 1729.

Roderick Meleod, writer in Eder.

SR.,—I was sorrrie I missed you the day you went from this, which was occasioned by my judging you was not to goe off so soon, and could not omitt the attending the excellent prayers for that day, being the 29 May.¹ . . .

Inss., 31st May 1729.

To my Son.

SINCE I had no answer to my last of 19th Curt. by the post I have little to say except that two dayis ago the Brandy feated [confiscated] at Castle Stuart was rouped in the Excise Office, and was carried at 4sh. and 2d. pr. Gallon by Andrew Munro for behalf of those concerned in it, and comes to two hund. and fiftie pd. stl. Since that seall I have been in the [?] manner imaginable been treating wt. Mr. Hopson, the Generall Supervisor, about my damages at Castle Stuart, who broke open that house, all the doors in it; but he agrees to pay me little or nothing. And because I sent him notice I was to pursue him in a legall way for sd. damages, of qch. you have the enclosed acct., amounting to £13 : 13 sh. stl. by the modesttest computation, besides the wine, I understand he has write this post to the Comissioners to raise a supena before the Exchecqer for having sd. Brandy, as he alledges, in my custody. I dont much fear he'll fix that, as I did not posses the house at that time, nor gave orders to put any Brandy there. However, I have not thought fit to comense any process for damages here untill I know the Comissioners opinion about the same, being unwilling to accur there displeasure; and therefore I entreat howsoon this

¹ Royal Oak Day, the anniversary of the Restoration of Charles II.

comes to hand you will communicate this letter to the Comissar, and take his advise qt. is proper to be done. And in the meantime see to guard against this intended supena ; and, if the Comissar thinks fitt I dropt my cleam, I am willing to do it, but, if otherways, I think I may gett ishū of him at Ednr., whither the sd. Mr. Hopson is to set out on Monday nixt, and is to be at Ednr. again the 20th of nixt month, or sooner. So I recomend this affair earnestly to your care, and that you use the best interest you can to put the [case ?] in most favourable likeness. I depend upon the Eroll and Countess¹ assistance in, and would willing [stand ?] any Exchaker prosecution, tho I hope no Jure in Brittain will find me Guilty. I assure you Mr. Lumsdeall has repeated orders to pay you that £200 stl. for the Eroll of Morrays acct., which keeps me in extrem pain, especially that I have not heard pr. last post.

Inss., 31st May 1729.

Ardsheall.

DEAR SIR,—I had ane express just now from Inverlochy advising that Robert Gray, master of the shipp has brought the Generalls Meall and Bear to Inverlochy, is arrived the 29th inst., and, seeing it is impossible for me to hear from this before Tuesday next, I must intreat the favor of you that either you or your son come on receipt of this to Marryburgh, and wait on Generall Sybourgh, who, I understand, goes of wery soon for England, and know in qt. manner I am to be secured for qt. part of this Cargoe of Meall is sold on time, that is, the half of the meall, and what remains of James Innes Cargoe unpaid, having only received £150 stl. ; and the price of the meall is 13 sh. pr. st. The bear I have ordered to be delivered, since it is to be for readie mony ; and the half of the meall is to be trusted three months. Now, Sir, as the Generall is to goe for England, I would chuse to take Capt. Camell the deputy governors Bill for the same, or the Generalls Bills on some good man in Edr. or London, payable in three months. I wrote to

¹ Earl and Countess of Moray. Castle Stuart was one of the Earl's seats.

Capt. Campbell on this subject, who is my good friend, and it is fit you advise wt. him qt. is proper to be done in the matter, since would not willingly incur the Generalls displeasure, who, I find, insists I should deliver the meall in his girnall, which I never did before otherways then in the shipp, for by yielding that point to James Cargoe I am assured I lost five Ss. of meall. I have wrote to the skipper to unload no meall wtout your orders, so pray lose no time in going to Marryburg, where I hope to see you before Wedsendays night. The skipper is to get his full freight at Marryburgh, being £37 stl. I hope James Binnie is unload wt. you or now, and I am wery desirous you make a full end wt. him about the freight, and gett up the Charter party, since I love not law Debts. I have no word as yett about payt. of the two hund: pd. stl., which is a great truble to me. This, on heast, is all from, etc.

Inss., 31 May 1729.

Mr. Robert Gray.

I AM glad you have safe arrived, and desire how soon this come to hand you may deliver the Barly carefully wt. the Generalls own firlott, but need not deliver any of the meall untill you have orders from my friend John Stewart of Ardsheall or his son; and I will see you myself, plase God, again Wednesday next, and will be in your will for any dayes I keep you over your ly dayes; but some points must be onsorted before your meall can be delivered; qch. at prt. is all from, etc.

Inverness, 6 June 1729.

MY LORD,—Being laitley advised by Mr. Maule that your Lop. hade laid aside thought of comeing north this year (which I wery much regrate), I have thought fit to send your Lop. the tuo inclosed bills p. £200 sterlin, which I doubt not will be puncutually payed. . . .

The disasture of the seizer laitley made at Castle Steuart gave me a vast dale of pain, tho I declare I was in a great mesaure inocent in it, haveing trusted the key of the house

to a folish servant who was imposed on in that affair. The supervisor of exise, Mr. Hopson, who most barberously broke in on that house, and allowed ye militarie guard was wt. him to plunder and ruffle all that was in that house to a coniderable value of things belonging to me, is now pushing ane exchequer prossess against me because I asked payment of ye damage in modest terms ; but I hope his masters, the Comissioners, will not think fitt to countenance him in such proceedings, and Ile take care hearafter that no such misfortune happen at that house. And in the mean time humble beg your Lops. pardon for what is past ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 16 June 1729.

Mr. William Thomson.

SIR,—I sent you a letter pr. express from Inverlochic, the 8 current, ordering you to proceed to Esdale to load slate, but by ye return of that express I was much surprised to find that before my letter came to Drinachs hands [in Glenelg], you was sailed for Ulubole [Ullapool] since Ime sure I gave no orders for your proceeding derectly yt. way, haveing only wrote to John McLeod to know your opinion of prices of deals at that place as given in to me by Lord Tarbat, and which I mentioned in my Letter to John McLeod. And this morning I was extreamly surprised to find that the price of these deals as given by Normand McLeod and mentioned in your Last, ye 14th current, differs werv much from what my Lord Tarbat wrote me upon ye whole mater. Wtout recapitulating any more, I find the prices will at no marcat ansuer Normand McLeods Demands for ye Deals, but that realy the botome of ye story is that you are not to have them, and that they are sold oyerways ; so that, as this is ane ugly pusiling affair, I know not weel what to say, but that I wish you hade not been so rash in proceeding northward ; or, had you gon for Esdale, you hade certainly gott your loading of slate or now. And I gave no orders for your goeing to Eulobole until I had your Judgment of wher [whether ?]

the Deals at the price might yeald to what Lord Tarbat proposed, that so, if I found them a reasonable penieworth, might in that event have ordered you to sail where they were, and have apointed bargan made to avoid any disapointment. Now all that I can say is, if youl still proced to Esdale and load slate, Ile make good to you five pound sterlin of extrordinary fraught for your extrordinar trouble, and my friend, John Stewart of Ardsheal, who lives in the nighbourhead of the quarrie, will pay for ye said slate on first notice ; so youl adress your self to Robert Stincen [Stevenson] ye quarrier, who has the slate raidy, and send ane express emediat at your arrival to my friend John Stewart of Ardsheal. Or, if you think fitt still to goe load these slate, and return wt. them to this place, where youl not be stopd three days, Ile give you 10 pound sterlin of fraught, since hear the slate is at present in demand. But, if neither of these proposals doe, you most doe what seams you best, and I most leave it to your fraughturss to adjust matters wt. you. I have not gott the cokat for ye loadning of meall, and doe think ye certificat for the un-loadning ought to be hade at ye Costome house of Starnaway ; but, if I hade the cokat, I think I could gett it done at the costome hous of Marrybrugh. I have given your express five shillings, as you ordred ; and I am, Sir, etc.

Inverness, 4 July 1729.

Mr. John Coutts [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I received your favour of 5 past and 1d returned ansuer or now but that I was mostly since in the Highlands. I observe wt. wery much surprise what you write about the inlake of the herins I bought for you, which I cant understand ; and Ime shure it will be now too late to look for redress from those who sold them. I have never been advised yet from the Earel of Morray of my draught on you for £150 sterlin to the sd. Earel of Morray on account of our friend, Alexr. Strachin, be payed, of which please advise me in return of this. I trouble you wt. the inclosed from Leus Polson to John McBain, Messenger,

who is wt. you, who, it seems, has payed £20 sterlin to sd. Bain in pairt of the debts due Alex. Andrew, for he got no receipt but promised to procur you. Pray speak to Mr. McBain, and advise me what is in this matter ; and I am, Sir, etc.

Inverness, 12 July 1729.

For Drynauch.

I RECEIVED yours of 4 instant, wt. the inclosed accot. and bills for the value of the cargoe of meall pr. William Thomson. I think the accout is right, and I own the receipt of the £20 pound Baunk note last sent me, and £65 16 8d. formerly sent me by John McLeod, your son. I return you inclosed the five bills accepted, to witt, your own and sons, and that accepted by Ullinish, Ballimenach, and Ebost, that you may cause John McLeod, your nevoie, who delivered the meall, sign them, wtout qch. they will not be so formall as I could wish ; and I obledge my self they will not recurr on him on any event. And, if you pleas to allter your own bill and make it payable at Edr., it will sute my convenience much better then to have it payable at this toun, since most of all this money most be payed at Abr. again Mertimess. And, if you pleass, may add too the one and thirtie bolls you received from James Innes, or send a seperat accepted bill for it, as you pleas, but I rather the last. Youll likewise cause John McLeod draw a bill on brother John for the tenn bolls given out by his order, so that all matters may be clear. And please give sd. John McLeod 40 sh. sterlin for his trouble, which either pleace to my account or deduce from on of the bills. I have dropt my design of sending meall to your cost, and doe now send it south where there is better encouragement. My wife is, thanks to God, in good health, and gives you her duty, and bids me accquent you she depends on you for butter again Merrimass mercat.¹ For God sake be serrious wt. Scotas, and try if can persuad him to pay the bills due me by Glengarry again Michalmass, being abut £50 pound walue, and ile discount him a years interest of

¹ Marymas market (September), still known in Gaelic as *Feill Mhoire*.

it; for when I saw the Laird latly he swor upon honour he had sattled a bond wt. Scotas for my payment again Michalmass; and I will have a great dale of money to pay again nixt term. Give my service to brother Alexr., and tell him I gott his letter and the guinie, and I will satisfie the berar for his trouble. Return the inclosed bills as soon as possible; and I am, etc.

Pray advise me what orders you gave William Thomson when he went for Coughach [Coigach], for he is returnd home unballased, for which I am much blamed, and a looser by it.

Inverness, 14 July 1729.

SON,—I have your favours of 3d, 8th, and 11th instant. By the first I observed you have stopped £50 pound of Mr. Lumsdales money design for the Earell of Morray, I supose upon the credit of Collodens accepted bill, £45 sterlin, which is not payed me, tho have craved it tuentie times; but I care not to doe any thing thats offensive to Collodens bill. I could heartaly wish you had made good the £200 sterlin to ye E: of Morray, being too much and too long in his debt, and I am affraid not in his good graces, as I hav not yet any return of a Letter I wrote him the first of June last, wt. the two bills I formerly mentioned. However, I am glade they are payed, tho I have got no receipt for the money. Major Derurs bill was on John Atkins, Esq., Secretary at war for N. Britain. I have not hade yet time to consider your account current, but in compareing of it wt. my book I find some diferance, of which more per nixt. I am much surprised wt. the article of £5 sterlin charged for a Buckdealling to Wm. Beany, which I sold in the Highlands for tenn shillings, the Dealls being werry naughtie, and scarce good for nothing except Lath for plaster. Pray send me the acount pr. first, for we commonly pay in this Country for a Buckdealling much better then Binies £20 Scots. And I wonder you agreed to pay him for a pilot from Orkenie, since I know the one he hade was hired at Leith, and tho he hade not such a pillot was none of my concern. . . .

Invernes, 16th July 1729.

For the Earl of Murray.

My last to your Lops. was of 5th June last in which I sent inclosed two bills payable to your Lops. for £200 st., viz., by one bill on John Cutes [Coutts] for £150, and Major Daniel and John Aitkins, Secretary att Warr, for £50 st.; but to this hour I have no advice that thir bills came to your Lops. hands, or were payd; which creates me some pain. I told your Lops. in my last I proposed to wait on your Lops. att Dunibirstell early in July, but I wrot to Mr. Maul the 14th Instant informing him of the reasons made me lay aside that design for some weeks, which I hope will be accepted as a good appology from your Lops. And in the mean time I send your Lops. by my freind Kellachie,¹ who will deliver this letter, £190 stl: for which your Lops. will please to send me by him a receipt in part of my intromissions; and I am, with much esteem, etc. A note of the bills and money sent by Kellachie.

In small notes of the new Bank ²	. . . . .	£68 : - : -
In two old Bank notes	. . . . .	40 : - : -
Petter Murdochs promissary notes payable be		
Mr. James Blair in Edr.	. . . . .	30 : - : -
Edmund Burts bill on Alexr. Whitfoord	. . . . .	36 : - : -
Nine broad pices, 5 guineas, and six shillings		
white money ³	. . . . .	16 : - : -

Inverness, 26 July 1729.

Mr. John Coutts.

SIR,—I received your favour of 17th Current wt. the following bill inclosed, Cubin ⁴ and Hugh Cambell, for £10 : 12 sh. 10d. ster., Simon McKenzie and Collin McKenzie of Coull for £1 9sh. 9d. ster, and Do. on Keneth McKenzie of Assin £5 13sh. 9d. ster. How soon the two last bills are

¹ Mackintosh of Kyllachy.

² The New Bank—the Royal Bank of Scotland, founded in 1727.

³ White money=silver. Same in French and in Gaelic.

⁴ See footnote 2, p. 253.

payed shall credit and advise you, and when Hugh Cambell comes to town shall endeavour to procure acceptance on the bill on him, and return it you. I ask pardon that I have not sent you your Accout Current, which was occasioned by my being much from home of late, but you may expect it pr. next post. The Bots who are looking for the Herrins this week report that there are great shoals in the furth, but continues still in depth water ; so cannot yet be fished, so that again nixt nip tide, if the winds prove westerley, we expect to have a fishing. I return you wt. the inclosed obligation from Mr. Polson of Kinmillies for £400 Scots in behalf of his brother Lodovick, Mr. Andrews Debitor. Youl pleas deliver that Gentleman the inclosed letter from me sealled, and see to get his accepted bill for the money again Mertimass, in lew of the inclosed obligation.

Inverness, 4 Agust 1729.

To Lord Lovat.

MY LORD,—I had only ye pleasure to hear once from your Lop. since you went from home, to which I made a punctuall return by post. I most heartaly regrate what you have since sustained in ye death of your most worthy Lady and my good friend, but I shall not pretend to ofer your Lop. any advice as to your conduck under such a despensation of Divine providence, but only heartaly to wish the same providence may provide a sutable remaindy for your loss, and that of your hopefull childerin. My Lord, I was concerned that your Lop, by your severall letters to Baillie Frasar, seemed to take it amiss that I endosd your accepted bill of £3 pound ster. to John Coutts, which, indeed I hade not done if I hade known yt. your Lop. did not propose to pay it when it fell due, notwtstanding I payd your bill to provist Druman [Drummond] puncutually. I am at a great loss not to know your Lop. resolution about ye salmon, since any yt. I am to be conerned in this year most be exported emediatly, and so should be sorry if any mistake hapend that way.

Inverness, 9 August 1729.

Mr. Duncan Baillie [master of the *Christian*].

AFF: COUSIN,—I hope this will find you safe arived at Leith, and this to advise you that I have not yet concerted about ye Desposall of the Bark after ye meall is unload, but may surely expect my full orders by nixt post. I desire you may advise what the Carpenders anchor is worth, and caus weight it, for I design to keep it ; so you are only to buy one new anchor to the Bark, and a new pert line, and I hope you will doe all that lays in your powar to manage so carefully and frugally and to make all possible despatche, that so we may be mutually contented and pleased wt. one and other. You may tell John Pape I depend he will carefully notice my intrest aboard ye Bark, that nothing be embazeled or lavishd. And I am, etc.

Inverness, August 19, 1729.

Mr. Duncan Baillie [master of the *Christian*].

SIR,—I have yours of 14th instant adviseing of your arrivall at Leeth ye 10th Int. and that you hoped to be unloaden ye day of the date. I cannot understand how my son has neglected to advise me about the meall, or how its desposd off. Pray mind him to write me of it. I am glade to find your Bark behaves weell, and in time I hope to gett the fault mended you complain of. I observe you are offered a fraught for London, but does not advise of the terms ; so can say litle about it. However, I would leave that affair wholly to your self ; but now, thanks to God, we have the beginning of a fine herin fishing, so that if you could gett any reasonable fraught north I rather incline to it then that you should goe any where els ; for, to be plain wt. you, I belive I could gett a werry good fraught for the bark to goe wt. ye first of the Herins to Gotinburg or Danswick. But, if you can not get some reasonable fraught, you may embrace that offer for London, makeing all posible despatch out and home. It is true that I could gett a fraught from Holland, and would near

£40 ster: of it; but, if can get near that for goeing to London, I much rather it then run the rusk of ane ugly smugling affair. I wish you could spare as much money as would pay for the cable came north here, and a new anchor. I earnestly entreat your outmost care and despatch; and I am, etc.

Inverness, Sepr. ye 9th, 1729.

For Kenneth Mackenzie of Dundonell.

I HAVE your letter of ye 3d. Instant to Ken. Mackenzie and nottice you have [want ?] verry much a Coupper to packt the Laird of Assint Salmond, and for that end you desire to send hoopps, which we think will be impracticable over land, as it will be a vast Expense, more the subject can bear, to send a Barque about of purpose to cary sd. salmon. However, that we may ovide giving you any just ground of complant agt. us, we have resolved to send an Barque immediatly for sd. salmon, and therefor have sent this per Express, that in ansuer to it you may advise us pointedly how manny salmon cask youle have us send for packing of Assint and Sands¹ fish and what quantity of forreng salt; and how manny last of herring Casks, and salt conforme, youle have us lickways send by sd. Barque; which we are willing to furnish uppon our own risque providing you pay a resonable parte of the Barques freight. Pray be as particular as possible as to ye quantity of Sand Salmon and the number of Cask to be sent him, and when he will delyver the sd. salmon, and wher you would have the herring Cask delyverd. And as this Bargan of salmon is lick to tourn but to a verry small account, considering the great charges we most be at, we cannot promise to pay them befor Whitsunday nixt, which is the comon term of paying salmon in this country. Pray despatch the bearer with your full answer, since the Barque can nott be despatched itill it come; and we are, with much esteem, your most humble Servt.

¹ Sand in Gairloch.

Inverness, Sepr. 11th, 1729.

Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [London].

MY last was 28 Agust, since qch. I am favoured wt. none of yours. I sent you in it Samuell Chaplains on Mr. Adair of £6 ster., and now I send you inclosed bill Generall Charles Syburg on Capt. John Rutherfoord, his agent, £173 ster., which, tho not wery formerly drawn, I am persuaded will be duly payed. If not, return it to me wt. protest. Mean time I have drawn on you of this date for £150 ster. to the order of John Coutts in Compy, payable 20 days after date, which I hope will find due honour. Deliver the inclosed letter advice to Capt. Rutherfoord, and, if he should refuse the bill, may acquent Generall Syburg, who will be then in London, wt. the fate of it. And, as the bill is not drawn for value receved, I could wish when the bill is payed it were cansaled. I long for the accot. of sealls for the brandie. Our Herrin fishing is over, and not a hundred and fiftie lasts caught in this furth ; and I am, Gentlemen, etc.

Inverness, 19 Sepr. 1729.

Mr. John Strachin [Leith].

SIR,—I receved your favour of 4th curt, and I hope you will have or now diffrence adjusted wt. Mr. Thomson the skippar, of which would be glade to be advised as soon as possible, that when I know the amount of all charges I may make out a stated accot. Mean time I send you inclosed three wery good bills, amounting to six thousand and sixty sixt merks, which makes £337 ster., viz: Rodrick McLeod of Ulinish, payable 8th Octer. nixt, 2015 merks : Norman McLeod of Drynach, payble first Nover., 2466 merks ; Donald McLeod of Ballimenach, payble 5 Octer., 1485 merks. How soon this comes to hand may write to these gentlemen, who will be at Creef marcat wt. their cattle, and accquent them you have there bills indosd by me. They are responsall honest men, and I dout not the bills will be honestly payed, so may advise me pr. first that

there bill wil come to your hand ; and, when payed, you are to credit Wm. Simson wt. the same, being in part payment of oat meall sent for our accot. to the Ile of Sky by Wm. Thomson, of which one half for my accot. And *Nota* I have remitted Mr. Wm. Simson £100 ster. on this accot in May last. I observe Thomsons buckdalling is desposd of to himself, and that you incline to keep the Beam and weight for ane other occation rather then sell it at too great a loss ; of which I approve. I entreat to hear from you in course.

Inverness, 19 Sepr. 1729.

SON,—I wrote to you the 16th curt. by Donald Dingwall, in qch. I requested to send me the accot of sealls of the 508 bolls meall sent you pr. the *Christian* of Inverness and Scots Tarbats [Scotstarvet ?] acceptance for the same, as you promised, as also the Earell of Murays receipt for the £150 ster. you charge payed him. And I likewise again entreat you send me wtout loss of time the accot. of sealls of the six hogsheads of wine, and 9000 slate, for I have a wast sume to clear again first Nover., so that I will require to use all the bonds I am master off to support my credet ; therefor pray you dont neglect what I recommend. When my worthy friend Collinell Gest was here the other day, I spoke to him about my affair wt. Collinell Lee, and he is positive he will preveall wt. the Generall [Wade] to order the Redgemet [Regiment] to pay me, and therefor desires that you have a fair and distinct memoriall of the case drawn up again the Generall comes to Edr., which will be in eight days, which you are to give the sd. Collinell Gest. And take notice in the memoriall that Collinell Lee offred to compond this affair wt. me at this place in his way south, but that I refused any abaitment of the agreed for fraught, the ship being then come to Fort Wm. to receive the baggage. I payed your bill of £10 ster. to Barran Taylor, and he payed yours to Duncan McIntosh to about 30sh. Advise me frequently about Corn marcats wt. you and in England.

Inverness, 19th Sepr. 1729.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I received your acceptable favour of 30th August last, wt. the inclosed from Robert Gordon, of qch. will take notice. I observe your Herrin fishing proves very bad, as our has done; not a 150 last caught in this furth. I entreat that how soon this comes to hand you advise me if you think a barks loadning of salmon and Herrins would not sell weel at Ostend or Bridges [Bruges], and, if you think it would doe, to whome I should address at ether of these ports; or if such a cargo would doe at Camphier; as to which I bege your advice pr. first.

As to your affair wt. Lewes Polson, I wrote you formerly what I got done, and I have sent his brothers obligation to your frend John Coutts at Edr., in order to get ane accepted bill payable in a few moneths in place of it; and Lewes promises to pay the ballance very soon, but that he will perform his promise I cannot say. Lachlan McIntosh promises to pay the Dutchmans money next moneth, and I have told him if he fail he will be heartily prosecuted. Robert McKays¹ ellopment makes a great noise here, and is like to bring a hurrykain on some of his near friends. I dont find he's looser by any in this place. I fancy youll gett his costumars, and Ile advise you in due time wt. whome you can deall safely and wt. whome not. I am, wt. much esteem, etc.

Inverness, 19 Sepr. 1729.

Messrs. John Coutts and Compy. [Edinburgh].

I WROTE to you the 17 pr. Express anent the herrins, to which have little to add at present, except that I have given comission to a friend to buey all the small parcells he can gett at £8 : 10 ster., bounty and all, for raidy money, which I belive will doe wt. some better then £7 : 5 at Mertimass, and the bounty to the sellar, but as yet know not the Sucess of this Comission. I give you the trouble of the inclosed bill

¹ Robert Mackay, merchant, Rotterdam.

for 1299 merks Scots payable first of October nixt at Alexr. Bars hous in Creef. It is accepted by Wm. McLeod, a very honest Gentleman. If can find any sure hand going to sd. marcat send the bill, and the money will be punctually payed. If not, you may write a Letter to the Gentleman adviseing him to send it along wt. his brother Ballimenachs money, which is payable to John Strachan in Leeth 5 Octor nixt. When the same is payed place to my credet pr. accot. £72 : 3 : 4 ster. ; which at present is all from, etc.

I likeways send you inclosed bill Joseph Averie, accepted be William and James Morisons, for £6 sterlin, payable the 29 curt. ; which, if not payed, let it be protested.

Inverness, the 27th Sepr. 1729.

Messrs. John Coutts and Compy. [Edinburgh].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favours of 10 and 20 curt., the first of qch. 5 Dansuick bills for acceptance, which are returned inclosed accepted. I got likewise the letters of arestment at the instance of our Dutch merchants, and have cased execute the same by aresting in the hands of Wm. McKay and Compy., and all others I judged Credetors of Robert McKay, late of Roterdame ; but doe fear these letters, wt. ye executions, cannot be returned this post. . . . I sent you last post bill Wm. McLeod of Ebst for £72 : 3 : 4 ster. and bill Joseph Averie acceptd by Wm. and James Morisons for £6 ster., which I hope are both payed, and I wallued in you the 26 currt. for £10 ster. to the order of Duncan Grant ¹ of this place at three days sight to which I desire your Compliance ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 4th October 1729.

SON,—I received yours of 29 Seper., and doe note its Contents ; but I am just now so tormented wt. a violent foot of the Gout that I know not what to say. Only let me eranestly request you to send me by return this Scots

¹ Merchant, Inverness.

Tarbats excepted bill for 508 bolls meall, and the Earell of Morrays receipt for the £150 ster. charged payed him by you for my acot. ; for I cannot stir from this south till I have got these voutchers, since the first I design to make up a part of my Mertimass debts, and wtout the other I cannot make up my accots. wt. the Earell of Morray. Wm. Ross in Chenorie has got the quantity of salmon you want to dispose of, and has promised to write you this post of them.

Inverness, 4 October 1729.

Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [London].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favour of 20th past, wt. the inclosed bill on Andrew Monro for £22 : 0 : 11d. ster., which I herewt. return you accepted. I observe wt. re-grate the poor price you mention for the Brandie in Company. I hope and expect it will sell much better then what you mention, tho there is ane acot. of seals sent hre leatly by Mr. Crafarm of some Dutch Brandie that he sold for 6sh. pr. gallon, and its hard that ours, which is of much better quality, doe not sell at much better price. I thank you for the kind offer you make of advancing some money on the Brandie rather then sell it at ane under price ; and I most accept of your offer, since I have a great dale of money to pay again nixt term.

This comes chiefly to advise that how soon this comes to hand you insure for my acot. on the Bark *Christian* of this place, Duncan Baillie, Master, from this to Loch Broom upon the West Cost ; I say on the hold of sd., and the Cargoe, salt and Cask of fishing stors aboard, £150 ster., at as cheap a premium as you can. Advise me of your Compliance pr. first. *Nota*, the sd. Bark sailed the Day before yesterday wt. a fair wind to the Orknies, and is a slender new bark of 34 tuns burden.

Inverness, 8ber ye 4th, 1729.

Ladie Asint.

MADAM,—This will be delyvered you by our Coupper, John McPherson, who is sent to pack your salmond Dun-

donald sold us ; and we have sent by the Barke *Christian* of this place, Duncan Baillie, master, three last of salmon Cask, or as many as will be necessary for packing your last salmond. Ther is lickways sent salt, in order to pay what salt has been wasted out on salmon, at the raite of half boll pr. barell as is usuall. And after the sd. salmon is packed and shipped, youle please take sd. Duncan Bailles, the shipmaster, his receipt for the number of barells shipped, which will oblidge us accept bill for the vallue conform to Argeement wt. Dundonell. We heartily regrait the vesell we have sent for ye salmon happen be so small that she could carry no herring cask. If happened be otherways would have willing sent what salt and Cask your Laps. wanted, being, with much esteem, Mad., Your Laps. most humble Sert.

Inverness, Sber ye 4th, 1729.

To Mackenzie of Sand [Gairloch].

SIR,—This will be delyvered you by our Coupper, John McPherson, who is going to pack the six last Salmond you engadged to delyver us, and we have sent by ye bark *Christian* of this place, Duncan Baillie, master, six last salmond Cask and thirtie six boll foreign salt for packing the salmond and paying what salt was expended on them as is usuall. Howsoon the Bark is despached at Loch Inver she is to proceed to little Loch Broom or Loch Ew ; but we are ashured that ye last named place will be most Comodious for Gairloch and you, and safer for ye shipp. We hopp youle order her to go there. We have advised ye master, if possible, to delyver at ye Ile of Gruinard what salt and Cask wil pack your salmond ; but, as this is ane unsafe place, we begg it of you not to detain the Bark there, but let the salmon be despached to a convenient harbour after packed, and for what salmond is shipped you are to take Duncan Baillie shippmaster his receipt in our name, which will oblidge us to grant bills for the ballance conform to agreement. I again entreat the Bark gett all possible despach ; and we are, Sir, Your humble Sert.

To Duncan Bailie, Master of the *Christian*.

Inverness, 8ber ye 4th, 1729.

THIS will be delyvered you by John McPherson and Alexr. Lyon our Couppers, who goes to pack your salmond. We entreat you enjoin them nott to receive anny but such as are well cured, cleain fish; and, when you are despached at Loch Inver, you are to grant receipt to ye Ladie Assint for what you gett on board there, and then yow are to proceed to Little Lochbroom or Loch Ew, as McKenzie of Sand will derect you. Butt, if possible, we desire you delyver at ye Ile of Gruinard what will be required for packing what fish he has there; but we leave this to your own prudent conduct. When yow have received at little Lochbroom or Loch Ew, as is sd., what salmond Sand is to delyver, which we suppose will be six last, we desire you grant receipt in our name to sd. Sand; and, when all is on board, full upp the two inclosed stamped bills of loadening in name of John Steuart and Comp., mentioning the number of barrells you have gott in the same, to be consigned to Alexr. Gordon and Comp. at Burdu, and the fraught to be as per Charter partie. And you are to send us this two bills of Loadning wt. ye couppers and keep the 3d. unstamped to yourself. When you are thus disspatched you are to proceed to Starnway in ye Lews, wher you are to delyver Kenneth McKenzies letter to Mr. Johnston, ye Collecter, and wher you are to cause Mr. Zachary McAulay or anny other responsible enter the cargo outward as Agent for Mr. Jo: Steuart, and, if possible, gett a debentour exped while you are there, to be forwarded to Kenneth Mackenzie or John Stewart pr. first ocasion, and let the debenter be certified on ye board of Custome; and mind who ever enters the salmon as agent is to indorse the debenter to John Steuart, or as he pleases. And for what Custome house fees you agree to pay to Mr. Johnstown and ye oyr officers, you are to draw on us for the same, which shall be punctually payed. But in case the wind blow so easterly that you can nott fech the Lews, you are in that case to go to the Orkanes

and clear and Exped debenters there by the Advise of Hugh Baillie, Collector ther; but we much rather you go to the Lews for despach sake. And when you are quite cleared at either of those ports, you are to make the best of your way for Burdeux, adviseing us without faile from every port you touch at. And when you arive at Burdeux, you are to Adress yourself to Mr. Alexr. Gordon, who will have the necessary orders about reloading of your shipp. And if anny missfortown should befall your shipp in ye outward woadge (which we pray God forbid), you are to be shure to make the proper declairations and affidavits before a proper Magistratt, which you are to forward us, or to Mr. Alexr. Coutts and Comp. at London, by post. Acquient us soon as possible from the last port you sail from the Highlands, that we may order our insurance conform; and be shure of that port in your deposition, in case of a missforton. We have sent you three pounds sterling by the coopers, for which send us your receipt, promising to compt for the same. We pray God send you a prosperous safe voadge, and we remain, etc., Your aft. humble servts.¹

Inverness, 15 Nover. 1729.

For Mr. Wm. Stivens, at Cullinokyle ² [in Strathspey].

SIR,—I received your favour of 10 curt, wt. the inclosed for Mr. Linn, which I fear doeth return, haveing sett off from this a few hours before your letter cam to my hand. I observe your orders about sending down a hogshead of wine to be bottled off here, and the same will be raidy for bottling again the end of next week, as will the half hogshead which Mr. Linn wanted. The remainder of your Candles, much about the quantitie sent you, has been raidy by me for some days past. I was telling Mr. Linn at part-

¹ The parties to the joint adventure were Duncan Grant, Kenneth Mackenzie, junior, and John Steuart, all merchants in Inverness. Each was interested to the extent of one-third.

² William Stephens, manager of the York Buildings Company, which in 1728 took a lease from Sir James Grant of the pine woods of Abernethy. See Sir William Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*, vol. i. p. xcix.

ing that after the wine you want is sent for, it will doe me a favour if you drew on bill on Edr. for all the wine and candles sent you and ye other Gentlemen, of which I will send you ane accot. when the wine goes off; or, if you pleas to pay it in the shape you propose yourself, its equall to me; what you pleas will be agreeable. What clean bottles you send shal be descouted of the Accot. There is 240 Candles sent and to be sent, which at 6d. per pound is £6 ster.; which, wt. my humble service to Mr. Linn, is all at present from etc.

Inverness, March 27, 1730.

SON,—I received yours of 13 Current wt. the inclosed charter partie contracted with John Watson, Shipmaster in Leith, and now I wish that bargan hade not been concluded, for last night I was advised from several hands that the project I desight wt. the loadning of Meall to be put wt. yt. Barque will not doe, there being great quantities of Eirish meall sold on the West Coast, some of it @ sixpence pr. peck; and Mr. Salmar, Generall Syburgs broyr in law, has bought lately from on Mackun, a Kintire man, 250 bolles of Irish meall @ 8sh. 6d. pr. boll which is less then the Gentlemen in Banfsheir demand for yr. meall; so I entreat you advise me pr. first if I could sell a small cargo of meall wt. you, and the outmost I could expect, and when payll, for I belive I am engaged wt. 600 bolles in Banfsheir and would rather be much send it to Leith or any place in the furth [of Forth] so as I could avoid loss rather then rusque it to ye west coast to a certain prospicable loss. Mean time I think Sr. John Shaw, or his managers, that are paid for keeping off of Irish meall, ought to be a prize to this [ap- prised of this], and if you should take your own prudent way to aprise the comssr. of Costoms of the practice of porting Eirish meall to the West cost and Inverlochic, so as they may repremand the officers there for coniveing at such practices, since its plain, what ever fals shame clearances such meall may have, the same is certainly brought from Ireland, since no place in the west of Scot- land can affoord meall near so shape. Your endeavours to

put a stope to such meall trade will be good service done to this country in Generall and to me in particular ; and, as I design to go for Inverlochic nixt week, I am resolved to enquire into ye clearances came wt. this meall lately landed ther. . . . Pleas send me wt. sd. Chalmers, as I formerly advised, 4 Chest oranges, 20 of Seville and 20 of Chena, providieing they be fresh and good and not too dear. Send me likewise 4 bolls of Ry Grass seed, of which Mr. Teitler will inform you.

Inverness, 28 March 1730.

Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [London].

GENTLEMEN,—This comes chiefly to advise you that the Barque *Christan* of this place, Duncan Baillic, master, on which you made £240 insurance on my Accott., is safely arived at Burdo, and, as I supose will be very soon clear to part from thence Homeward, I desire that how soon this comes to hand you will insure for my Accott. on sd. Barque and her cargoe of Wine, etc., £150 ster. against all hazards, wt. priveledge to sd, Barque to Return hither by the Eirish Chanell, and to call in the sound of Mull near Fort William, and from thence to this place by ye Orknies ; and may place the premium to my Accott., and advise me of your compliace pr. first. I long much to have the Accott. of Sales of Brandy, wt. my Accott Current. Deliver the enclosed to Mr. Wm. Cumming wt. you ; if not, return it to Edr. pr. post ; and advise of the prices of Barly and oats of this country, and what ffrench Brandy gives wt. you ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, Aprile 17, 1730.

Mr. Donald Mackinteere [Fort William].

WE¹ desire imediatly you make the best of your way to Ardsheall, to whome you will deliver my Letter, and after concerting wt. him the needfull anent the desposale of Duncan Baillics Cargo, you are to repair on board sd.

¹ Duncan Grant, Kenneth Mackenzie, junior, and John Steuart. See p. 344.

Duncan Baillie's Barke, deliver him my Letter, by which he is derected to proceed wt. his Bark and Cargo as you advise. And you have here with a bill of Loadning indossed to you for 240 Ankers Brandy, 118 Quarter Casks Do., and 9 hhds. Claret, and 6 half hhds. white wine. The Brandy you are to despose of to the best aveall, but if possible not under 25 sh. pr. Anker ; and the same in proportion for the qr. Casks. And since a quarter cask is not reckoned equal to two Ankers, you are to descourt about half a crown of the price of 2 Ankers for each qr. Cask. And be sure you gett the qr. Casks first deposed off, being generally not so vendable as ankers. And you are likewise, incase that the buyers doe not think fitt to full up there casks on board, to allow five pr. ct. for the Lakage, that is ane anker or qr. Cask to the Score. And you are to trust no liquor but by the advise of Ardsheall or his son Mr. Charles ; and you are to take bills for the same payll here or at Ardshealls dwelling house, at as short time as you can, not exceeding six moneths after the delivery of the goods. And *Nota* that Ardsheall is to take 80 Ankers brandy @ 25 sh. pr. Anker, payll in six moneths ; and Capt. Cambell is to take a Tunn or five hhds. wine, the Claret, @ £10 pr. hhd. ; and what remains you are to sell it to Ardsheall @ £8 pr. hhd., Claret and white wine, provideing after you have teasted the same and descoursed Duncan Baillie, you find it is not high prist strong wine and has not lost above 400 Livers pr. tunn, in which case it cannot be sold under £10 pr. hhd. ; for all which you are to take Accepted bills. And if you find the Cargo cannot sell there but wery sloly where the veshell now lays, it is fitt that you make the outmost despatch to go from thence, since it may be hazardous to lay any considerable time in the sound of Mull. And if you find that the Cargo Cannot sell there you are to proceed to Kainloch moudart to the North ward, and give him what Brandy he 'll take at the same rate as to Ardsheall, takeing his bills for the same payll in six moneths at furthest ; and what remains afterwards of the Cargoe you are to proceed to South Uist, and sell what you can there for ready money, for as we are not

acquainted in that country we cannot advise to give any trust there, unless it be to Clan ranald, to whome deliver my letter. And from Uist you are to proceed to Dumvegan loach in the Ile of Sky, from whence youll direct my letters to Donald McLeod, the tutors son, and Wm. McLeod of Ebost, who will assist you about the desposale of what may remain of the Cargo ; and if it cannot sell there you are to proceed to Portree, where you will address your self to Donald Mackdonald the Tutors son and Alexr. McDonald of Knockow, to whome you may trust what they Call for as above directed ; but if possible gett there bills payll again Michallmass att Edr. Upon the whole matter I leave all to your own prudent management, but would encline if possible that the whole cargo were desposed off on that Cost, since in that event you are to order Duncan Baillie to proceed to Esdale to load Selate for this place, or for Leith for Accot. of James Simm Selater att Edr. If the liquor cannot sell in the Ile of Sky there will be a necessity that you proceed wt. the Bark to the Kyle, where my father in law and his son Alexr. McLeod will assist you to despose of a part. And *Nota* that you have on board besides the Companies, 2 Tunns Brandy and one Tunn of wine which you are to deliver to any haveing thre order, I say the order of John and Alexr. Mackeods or Alexr. Rose.

Inverness, 18 Aprile 1730.

Ffor Duncan Baillie.

I HAD your yesternight of 13 Currt. to Ardsheall, which was sooner then I expected. However, this will now be delivered you by Donald Mackintere, whose orders you are to follow about the desposale of your Cargo. And I entreat that no pains or time be spared to gett the whole of it sold, since I doe not encline that any part of it should come about here, there being great quantities of the like already landed here, and very little encouragement besides a great dale of risque and charges. I am apprehensive there may be great danger in your laying any time in the sound of Mull, and therefore I hope my friends will order

matters so that no time be lost. Let all you are to unload there be put to shoar together, so as your lying make no great noice. And I think fitt your self and sloop take borrowed names, and that it be not known the shipe belongs to this place. If the whole Cargo be sold I encline you load the Bark with selate for this place, or Leith, as you can best agree wt. your Crew. And I hope and depend youll doe every thing most for my intrest. And take speciall notice that none of the goods be embasled. I give this last caution because I am told there is a person on board who has a costome of using freedome that way.

Inverness, 25 Aprile 1730.

ffor Collinell Guest.

DR. SR.,—Since I wrote you in ffebruary last from Leith, I have not been favoured with any letter from you. I wrote you then fully, and sent you severall dockaments about a Clame I hade on Collinell Lee in My Lord Cardogans Regement, and I long to hear of the sucess of the same. I likewise told you that how soon I gott home I would shipe off for the Barracks of Bernera, conform to your orders, 200 bolls meall and 100 bolls Barly. Now this serves chiefly to advise you that I have freighted for your Accot. and my own the shipe *Margat* of Leith, John Wattson, Master, to carrie sd. Meall and bear, which is just now a loading, and which falls payable the meddle of nixt moneth, and therefor have valued on you of this date to the order of Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts, Meretts. in London, payll eight days after sight, for £63 ster., which I doubt not will be punctually honoured; and pr. nixt post I hope to send you envies and bill of Loadning for the sd. Meall and bear, which I hope will be to your contentment, and will then value on you for the ballance; which at present is all from, etc.

Inverness, 25 Aprile 1730.

ffor Major James Abercrombie.

I RECEIVED your Acceptable favour of 10th Current by Mr. Bell, and I am much ashamed I did not write you

before now of what I gott done in your affairs. Your friend Cheves has payed none of his bill, and seems to be angrie with your letter, and is not positive when he will pay. James ffraser,¹ the major, has given me £7 : 8 sh. ster. in part of the bill due by him, and promises daly the rest, but has often failed. Meantime valu on mc for what is paid. As for John Cambell I hear he is quartering for Cess in Cathness, so cannot reach him, so must wait till his return.

I send you enclosed receipt Wm. Bachop, shipmaster in Leith, for 7 Chests arms, 3 halberts ; and there is a serjant and four men gone with the Bark. I suppose each Chest will cost about 4sh. freight, and the men pay 5sh. each for their passage as is useuall. I heartaly wish you joy and prosperity in your new post, and I sencerly am with esteem,
Dr. Sr.

Inverness, 2 May 1730.

For Donald McIntere.

I RECEVED yours of 26 past from Loach Brackadale, and am exceedingly well pleased that you gott cleare of Colector McKneele, in whose pockat I hope to breack an egge very soon, being persuaded his expedition to Loach allen [Lochaline in Morven] was only against you. My brother Allexr. and John McLeods, who are boath here, doe send you orders to deliver the wine and Brandy to there brother in Law Wm. McLeod, and are very glade it was not receved by the Baillie of Morvin, tho I know they sent orders to you pr. ane express to that Countrie, which it seems did not oertake you. As to what concerns Keneth McKenzie, as I wrote to you formerly to doe, I now that you may despose of his wine and Brandy as you doe mine. I know of no new orders to give you about the desposale of the Cargoe, only that I am told that is great penurie just now over all the Highlands belonging to Seaforth and that Ardleach, Achterdonald,² and John McKenzie, Garlochs

¹ Major Fraser of Castle Leather, near Inverness, author of *Major Fraser's Manuscript*.

² Lady Assint's manager.

Uncle, will buy a good quantity. But I must leave it to your own managment entirely to despose of matters as you think proper, only that John and Alexr. think it very hazardous that the Barke carie any of her Cargo back thro' the Sound of Mull, but that rather a large boat be hired, and a Trustie agent along with what Ardsheall is to gett. And John and Alexr. McLeods makes mention of one Normand McLeod, who was lately here, to be sent along with it, and the liquor to be covred with packs of strea, as if the boat had in victuall, or feathers, or woole ; but how far it will be proper to try this expedement yourself will be able best to judge. Only I am of oppinion whatever you doe with the Brandy that the wine will spoil this time of year. Give my service to Duncan Baillie, who I hope will not be backward any thing concerning my intrest, and I shall have a due regard to his time and pains. But if you find that the Cargo cannot sell on that Coast, most try all round with it to the Orknies ; and what remains most be run here, where it is a very poor comodity at present. So refferring you to my former instructions, I remain, etc.

Inverness, 4 May 1730.

To Donald Macintyre.

DR. DON:—I have litle to add to what you received pr. the express, but that Simon McKenzie, Gruinards son, is to take seven or eight tunns of Brandy at Garloch ; but, if with what Ardsheall is to gett, the whole go off in the Ile of Sky, I think you need not go to Garloch. I am advised that McKneelee came on porpose from Marieburgh to seize the Barke, and missed you only by two hours. And now I know not how safe it may be for you to go Back thro' the Sound of Mull ; so I leave it to your self to manage and despose of all as you think best. And if all can be sold in the North, I am easy about sending any Cargo South, altho the wine came about with the Bark hither ; that is, if you send it good, and in no hazard of spoiling.

Inverness, 4 May 1730.

Mr. George Duglass [Merchant, Fort William].

I RECEIVED your favour of 2d. Instant, and doe observe the progress Colector McKneele made in the Sound of Mull. I observed the design of that expedition was wholly intended against Duncan Bailie, to which Ile say nothing at present, but I apprehend he could not be touched if he had been overtaken. . . .

Messrs. Alexr. and James Coutts [London].

Inverness, 8 May 1730.

MY last to you was of 25 Aprile, since which I have none from you. I then advised you that I drew on you of that date for £63 ster., £50 of which pr. first and second bill to the order of Wm. McIntosh, senior of this place, and £13 to the order of Dun: Monroe, chirurgon here, and for your reimburse. I sent you inclosed my bill of same date on Collinell Joseph Guest, Barack master for Scotland, for the like sune of £63 ster: payll at eight days sight ; and I hope these severall bills are duly honoured. I send you now inclosed my bill of this date at 4 days sight for £63 : 10 : 4 ster., on sd. Collinell Guest, which I doubt not will likewise find due Honour. I have been obliged to draw on you of this date to the order of the above mentioned Wm. McIntosh, £63 : 10 ster. by first and second bills, payll 10 days after sight, which I hope will find due honour.

Inverness, 9 May 1730.

Mr. Wm. Carmichall [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SR.,—I received your favours of 9th, 11th, 13th Aprile last. In the first I observed you have been at some pains enquering about the desposale of meall I proposed then to send to your furth ; for qch. I thank you, but now I have dropt that design, finding no encouragement wt. you. As to salmond I can easily furnish you what will make up with Lord Lovatt Salmond 200 Barrells, and have

actually secured about 60 already again the propr. season of shipeing, but doe belive more will be wanted to make up your number, since I understand my Lord Lovat fishes but sloly this year. His Lop. received the 40 Barelles salt came by James Chalmers, and since I received 34 Barelles consigned by Ezra Thomson on Capt. Edmans of Londons shipe, for which I paid 34sh. ster: of freight as Mr. Thomson ordred; and I send you inclosed my Lord Lovats doers receipt for the same, so that now I suppose they will have salt enough. Your Walnutts go verie sloly off, there being yet 15 Bushells on hand, there being another parcle came lately here, which were sold at 18 sh. pr. Bushell.

Inverness, 9th May 1730.

Mr. Alexr. Andrew [Rotterdam].

SR.,—I received your favour of 2d. Instant desiring the Character of Donald McPherson, Meret. of this place. He is imputed a man of verie good substance and credet, and one you are verie safe to deall wt., but at present happens to be verie ill of a Decay, and in case of his death, which is much feared, it may take some time for your bills answer, tho I am persuaded there will be no hazard of loss. I am to write you fully by a shipe going from hence with recruts for the Scots Redgements in Holland, so shall only trouble you to give my most humble service to Mrs. Andrewes, and I am, etc.

Inverness, 18 May 1730.

Mr. John McLeod [Glenelg, Drynach's son].

SIR,—Being advised of the 14th Curtt. that those I depended on in Argile Shire for takeing a large quantity of the Brandy pr. D: B: [Duncan Baillie] are supplyd by Somerville¹ at 10/ pr. Gallon, and nine months for payment, which are terms I cannot goe in to, therefore I entreat howsoon this comes to hand you forward the

¹ Merchant in Renfrew.

inclos'd to Donald McIntier, wherever you hear of him, and, if as yet in the Isle of Sky, I would earnestly entreat that you and your Broyr give all the concurrence you can to get what of the Cargoe is not dispos'd of at Garloch sold wt. you to good hands, which can doe noe harm to your intrest, as it will be but a small parcell to the whole Island, only Seven Tons; for I am now not inclin'd that the barque return to the Sound of Mull at this time, there being little good to be expected that way, besides a great deall of risque and charges, for you see Somerville has knocked that trade in the head by his Marseills Brandy, which can be sold much cheaper than that from Bordeaux. So, as I have said, if it be possible to sell any where about the Isle of Sky I doe not incline to send the Barque or any part of the cargoe southward. . . .

Inverness, 18th May 1730.

Mr. Donald McIntier,

SIR,—I hade a letter of the 14th Curr. from Ardsheall in which he advises me that, tho' the Barque goe his length, he is not able to doe us any service, in respect, as he says, that Capt. Campbell has resil'd from his bargain wt. me, as allso that the whole Country is overstock'd with Brandy by Somerville, who sells at 10/ pr. Galln, and trust from six to nine months. So I reckon there's noe good to be done that way equall to the risque and expence it will be to goe Southward; but yet I am at a loss what to advise, except to tell you that I have written of this date to Jno. McLeod, my Broyr in Law, to give you all the assistanee he can to see to get of the half of the Cargoe in Sky and about it. And the other half of the B——dy you are to deliver to Simon McKenzie at Garloch, as I formerly advis'd, who has my orders to that purpose to be deliver'd you. I am persuaded that, if the Barque goe not Southward, the wine must come about here, and should it so happen there is noe help must see to make the best of it. But then you are to acquaint us timeously where we are to look for you in this Firth, as allso how much Brandy

you are obliged to carry about here. And, if it so happen that any part of the cargoe, particularly the Brandy, come this way, I could wish you came along, since by Application to my good freind the Lady Burray,¹ who was here lately, you may come to get what wine and Brandy you have sold in that Country to good responsall men ; but, should that faill, you must run express, adviseing of what you have on board, and you shall meet the proper directions at Tarbatness. I wrote to Montrose to try if Mr. Betty will employ the Barque to carry his cod fish from Garloch to Cromartie. If that happen it will be easie to save what may be on board at Cromartie ; and, should you put in there, you are for certain reasons to tell Jno. Haldane that I only am concern'd. But will write you more fullie of this when we hear from you from the Orkneys ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 20 May 1730.

Mr. Alexr. Andrews [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I wrote you the 9th Current pr. post in answer to yours of 2d. Current anent Donald McPherson, who I hear is on the way of recoverie as to his health, being gon to the Highlands to drink Goats milk. I trouble you with the inclosed for which may forward under your cover as derected how soon it arives, and when any answer comes to your hand, forward it by sea with some shure hand comeing to this furth. I want for my famelys use a pice of Cotton muslin from 20 to 24 f, and half pice cambrick muslen, and a pound best cork indigoe, and will look for the four pounds Bohea Tea I called for in my letter in favours of Keneth Mackenzie Junior ; so may send the muslin and Indigo pr. David Nisbat, by whome this goes. Receve inclosed ane obligatory letter from Mr. John Coutts and Company for Mr Polson of Kinmilies his Bond of 400£ Scots, payll to them on your Accott in part of what Lewies Polson owes you ; and I am, Sir, etc.

¹ Wife of Sir James Stuart of Burray in Orkney.

Inverness, 26 May 1730.

[Ardsheall].

DR. SIR,—My last was of 18th Inst. in answer to yours of 12th and 14th Curr., which I sent under cover to George Dowglass, desiring him forward the same pr. express on my charges, which I hope he has accordingly done. This comes to advise you that Just now I have a letter from Donald McIntier, in which he tells me that, having disposed of the Gross of the Cargoe to the Northward, he designs to goe directly for you with as much of the Cargoe as you and I agreed for, to wit 80 Ankers b—dy and two Tons wine for yourself, and a Ton Claret for Capt. Campbell, so that I entreat when he comes the goods may be immediatly unload and the Barque dispatched to Isdale to load slate, for which purpose you 'll deliver the inclosed to Duncan Baillie. Now, as to securing Collr. McNeill, I leave that point entirely to yourself, and, if you think it necessary it be done, I am willing you give him five Guineas; but, in case Duncan Baillie has any more goods on board than what you agreed for, it must be likewise unload for our accot. and Risque that are concern'd, unless Merchts. can be secured for it, which I hope youll endeavour; but in any event all must be taken out of the barque so as we incurr noe furder risque that way, so must leave matters to your own prudent manadgement entirely, and Donald McIntiers, whom I advise not to be seen at Maryburgh in his coming home for reasons you may easily guess. I likewise desire that the Barque and the Master goe under other names than what they appear'd in when at Lochalin. I have noe furder to add, but to give my most humble service to your Lady and son, and all your familie; and I am.

P:S: In my letter under George Dowglass's cover I desired you might send down your Nephew Dowgall, furnished with cloaths and linnen, and will take a tryall of him till Martinmass; so may send him when you please, and by all means enquire what came of the above mentioned letter.

Inverness, 26 May 1730.

Mr. Duncan Baillie.

AFFT. COUSEN,—I hope this will find you safe, and serves to advise you, howsoon you get all out, you are to goe wtout loss of time to Eisdale, and deliver the Inclosed to John Stinson, Slate quarrier there, or his Son, who will deliver you a full Load of Slait, with which you are to proceed to this place or Leith in your own option. If you goe to Leith you and crew noe doubt must be pay'd conform. I earnest request that when you come to Apin the Barques name and your own may be chainged, and that none know where you belong to; likewise that you enjoyne your men to secrecie when they come home. Wishing you all happiness, I remain

Inverness, 26 May 1730.

Mr. Don: McInteere.

SIR,—I received your favours of 21 Instant from Garloch, and 24 Do. from Glenelge. First, I observe what you have given to Simon McKenzie, and by the last what you have still on board, which I ashure you is a great dale too much for the countrie you are going to, and therefor its my positive oppinion that you endeavour to sell as much as you can at Glenelge; and, whether you can sell or not, that you unload in that countrie at least 50 Akrs. to the care of my father in law, but in his absence to Alexr. Watt till my father in Law returns from Sky, since I'me positive that youll find whats behind rather too much to carrie to the southward, as Ardsheall seems by a Letter I receved lately to decline his Bargan with me, so that I realy think fiftie Akrs. too little rather then too much to leave. And threfor, on second thoughts, I am of opinion you leave at least 60 Akrs.; but if possibly you can sell that number or more its the better. Imediatly as I receved your letter this day I sent ane express to Ardsheall accquenting him of your design, and advising him to secure Mackneile ye Collr., since its certain he went out from Fortwilliam, when you was at the Sound of Mull, with a design to seize your

cargo only, and I know not but he may be still on the catch for you. So its fitt, when you come to your livering port, which I reckon will be the Kyle of Shuna, lett all the Brandy be imediately put ashore, whatever happen, in order to secure the Barke in the worst event. And, when all is out, may despatch Duncan Baillie to load the Sclait, who will receive a letter from John Stivenson, the Sclait Quarier, from Ardsheall with instrinctions what he is to doe. And I think it most convenient, if possible, that you stay some time in that countrie after the Barke is livered, to gett good chanches for what may be unsold of our Cargoe before you come home, since you may be asured that none of what is left with Ardsheall on our risq. willbe sold while any of his own lasts, besides the great desappointment charges and leakage that would be upon it if you should leave any of unsold, which I begg you doe not if possible. But would advise you not to goe near Marriburgh in your return on severall reasons. We are desigt to have a due regard to your trouble, and pray God to derect you.

J. S.

Inclosed I send you a coppie of mine of 18 Current in case it has not come to your hand, which compare this and your former orders ; and for God sake doe what you think best for our intrest ; either by proceeding to the Southward or not at all, being reffered to your own prudent management.

Inverness, 20 June 1730.

Messrs. Jno. Coutts. and Compy. [Edinburgh].

GENTLEMEN,—I received your favour of 11 Current with 4 bills inclosed for acceptance. The two on Keneth McKenzie for £60 : 6 : 6 ster. I return you herewith accepted ; but the other two on Donald McPherson I most send to Badinoch, where the sd. Mr. McPherson has bean for some time past for the recoverie of his health ; and I hear he is a deying, but I judge the money will be good.

Inverness, June 28th, 1730.

SON,—My last to you on 25 Current by my daughter Marron, who, I hope, will be safe with you before this comes to hand ; and I earnestly entreat that if her coming South should creat uneasiness to any of your friends, that she may be returned pr. first, since it can be no affront to her nor any body that she should go South, were it but to see you and her sister in law in sickly condition. . . .

Inverness, 28 June 1730.

Mr. James Maule [Donibristle].

DR. SIR,—I received your favour of 18 instant, and I was much troubled to find that my Good Lord is offended at the slowness of my remittances. At the same time I think my self extreamly obledged to you for your kind representation in my behalf, but I hope my Lord needs not be in the least uneasy, since I hope verie soon to remitt a £100 ster. more, and before the middle of Agust nixt I hope there will be no ground of any complaint that way ; which is all I can doe. Meantime I depend on your good office for me, and that I encure not too much in my Lords displeasure, which shall always esteem great misfortune. . . .

Inverness, 28 June 1730.

Mr. Patrick Cumming [merchant, Edinburgh].

DR. SIR,—I received your favour of 18 instant and was verie much troubled at reading of it, for severall reasons, but I hope my son will be more wairie heréafter, and avoid as much as possible giving trouble to his friends by runing himself into streats and undertakeing too much.

Inverness, 28 June 1730.

Sr. Alexr. Morray [of Stanhope].

SIR,—I have sent my son, Alexr. Stewart, mercht. in Leith, your Servant Robert Blackburns receipt for 198 boalls meall. I have delivered him conform to your order,

which as to the quality I am certain must give satisfaction, and att 10 : 4 ster. pr. boll extends to £102 : 6 str. I have valued on you as we conserted of this date two bills, on for £10 str. at sight to my son, which is to pay the freight of the meall, and the remainder being £92 : 6 str. in my bill of this date to my own order, payll. the first of Agust nixt at William Cummings shope in Edr., both which I hope will find punctuall compliance ; and wherin I can hereafter serve in any thing may freely command.

Inverness, 4 July 1730.

Mr. James Stewart [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I received your favour of 25th past with the enclosed letter for Glengary, and I observe your situation with him, and will doe all lays in my powar to serve you ; but, to tell you the truth, that Gentleman has so plunged himself into difficulties that I find he has verie litle now in his powar to doe. But you may depend Ile both write and speak to Glengerie about your affair, and he is certainly much in the wrong to him self if he doe not speedaly take care to sattle matters with you. . . .

July 4, 1730.

Ffor Rodrick McLeod, Writter [Edinburgh].

DR. SR.,—I send you inclosed a right made to me on Duncan Grant, Junior, of this place, of the shipe *Swallow* by Alexr. Baillie, our toun Clerk, who is now with you at Edinburgh, which I desire you may lay before my worthey friend, Mr. John McLeod, or your Uncle, and gett the opinion of either of them how farr they think this right is good and valid to us, since Mr. Baillie has promised to make out the same in any shape thell desire in case they think not this sufficient. The shipe costs us £125 ster., and is a good pennie worth if the right be good, as to which I entreat your answer pr. first ; and, if you please to give a Guinie of consultation to Mr. McLeod, Ile remitt the same to you how soon I have your Answer. As I happen to be

at present streatned for money I most entreat the favour of you to speak to Alexr. Tait and try if can perswade him to pay the Ballanee due me or the half of it. I wrote him two letters lately but had no answer, so pleas acquent me what he says. Pray give my humble serviee to the old Gentleman, and to Mrs. McLeod.

Inverness, 11th July 1730.

[Alexr. Steuart, Merehant, Leith.]

SON,—I observe what you write about your affairs, and I am verie well pleased with the Aecott. of your Circumstance, tho I Doubt not, as you observe, that the expeneeing Liveing and Desapointment to which you are exposed at Leith ly verie heavie on you. Mean time its my most serious advice that hereafter, rather then run your self unto Straits, and so put your self on Necessity to be troublesom to your friends for their aid, I would Circumserve my Trade, and shun spending, espeeialy in the Taveran, as much as possible; and, rather then be a slave to the Taverans, I would be much rather renounee the Wine trade for ever, and take another that providence should put in my way. And, if you happen to come north again the beginning of nixt week as you promised, we shall think of matters seriously. I am so engaged with Alexr. Strachin and Baillie Carmichall for a lairg quantity of Salmond that I cannot positively ashure you of my Ashureing.

Mr. Angus McDonald of Seotas.

Inverness, 31 July 1730.

DR. SR.,—I saw your verie kind obledgeing letter to my wife when she was in the Highlands, and aecording to your advice I went last week to Glengarrie, and mett at the laird, and has drawn two bills on you, as you advised, the one for £30 ster. at Mertimass, and the oyr for £24 : 17 : 10 ster. again Mertimass 1731; both which have sent to my ffayr in law to gett accepted. But if could pay both bills again nixt Mertimass it would be great favour done me,

and Ile discount a years intrest for that payll att Mertimas 1731 ; and if could suit wt. your convenience to pay this money at Edr. after the Michalmass drove, Ile send the bill or bills to him as youll advise me in return of this. I give my most humble respects to your Lady and Son, and all friends ; and I am, wt. much esteem, etc.

Inverness, 31 July 1730.

For My ffayr in Law, Drynach.

I SEND you inclosed two bills drawn by Glengarrie on his Uncle Scotas in ye shape that Scotas advised in his letter to my wife, with a letter for Scotas, qch. read and seall, and ye letter under your own cover to Scotas, and press as much as possible to pay all at Mertimass nixt, since in faith Ile want money much at Mertimass. And youll desire him return the bills accepted to you, being both for £54 : 17 : 10 ster. There is likewise inclosed a bill drawn on your self by McLeod, payll the 29th of 7ber nixt, which pleas return accepted wt. Scotas as his bills again our Martimass. And, if could send me again then the value of McKinnons bill on your self, it will be convenient for me being £3 : 5sh. sterling, which is £4 ster. less than McKinnon rested me. J: S:

John desired to send two Grass Syths, which cost 6 shillings str.

J: S:

Inverness, 1st Agust 1730.

SON,—I am mighty Glade to hear that your spouse is safely delivered of a Male Child, of whom I wish you joy, tho I expected to have heard this from yourself ; as also to be advised of the success of my bills on Sr. Alexr. Morray of Stanope. . . .

Inverness, 11 August 1730.

Lieutent Philip Dunbar [of Montague's Regiment].

SIR,—I received yours of no dait in answer to mine of 2d. curt, which brought Capt. Delaunes accepted bill for

£21 : 6 sterlin, and 15sh. in Cash, pr. bearer, which does not answer my purpose, nor ballance my acct. which I sent you discharged, being £28 : 15 sterlin, including Mr. Dubeese his bill for £4 : 10 sterlin., for which I payed value to the indorsee. I would not have trubled you by this 2d. express, but you wrot me you would be in town after return of the post and came not, and I can not delay setleing the affair. Now I send you a coppie of the Account, by which is due me £28 sterlin, including, as sd. is, Mr. Dubeeses bill, for which, if you have not mony to send by the bearer, may accept the bill of this dait I have sent pr. bearer, payble 14 days after dait, for sd. sum of £28. And I return you Captain Delaunes bill and your promisory noat, for Mr. Dubeese his bill being torn in the sum by the sealling, for Capt. Delaune is at Fort Augustus and his bill is only payable 24 7ber nixt, which will not doe for me, for you may remember our bargain was for reddie mony, and it was that consideration only made me sell my goods at such a poor low price, and be at the truble and expence I was at of carieing a great pairt of it for you a great distance ; and not one word was ever mentioned of one to the score till you letter last sent me, and is what I never meant to give, nor expected you would now demand, nor ever heard of the like except in the case of delivering goods out of a ship on the buyers own risque, wher the cask could not be conveniently filled up. But that is not at all the case now, but your casks were all fairly filled up, and caried on my risque and charges a considerable distance ; so I see no room now for anie such demand, and I assure you if I had these goods now on hand would reach a crown more pr. anker on my sellar floor. . . .

Inverness, 18th August 1730.

Mr. George Dowglass [Merchant, Fort William].

I RECEVED your favour of 10 Currt., and I observe the contents. I have my bill on you to Ardsheall for 5 Guenies, and I return your acceptance to me for £9 : 8 strl. I also reced. Ardshealls letter and his son's bill on Duncan

Steuart for £34 : 13 strl. I have sent you by the bearer, conform to your desire, four dozen botts. Superfine Arack at 3 shl. strl. pr. botle, which is the lowest could be furnished ; and for the Lisbon wine, I hade non of my own, but would have gott it from another, but the bearer had no way to carie it. As to Claret, you will get non to buy here of good wine under 12 £ strl. pr. hhd., which is 1sh. strl. pr. botle or thereby ; so, if you think it a penie worth that way, tho' I have no wine of my own this year yett, I can gett you served. I have sent you six doz. Leamons @ 2sh. stg. pr. doz., and payed 10 pence for the two creells to hold the botles of Arack, which in all amounts to £7 : 16 : 10 strl., for wh. I have drawn on you three months after dait, wh. bill I expect you will return accepted by first Occasion. . . .

August 18th.

Mr. Geor: Dowglass of Marybrugh, Merchtt. Dr., to John Steuart, Merchtt. in Inverness.

To 4 Doz. botles Arack @ 3sh. pr. Doz.	£7 : 4 : -
To 2 Creells to Carie the same	- : - : 10
To 6 doz. Leamons @ 2sh. pr. Doz	- : 12 : -
	£7 : 16 : 10
To your servant came with the Letter	- : 1 : -
	£7 : 17 : 10

Inverness, 20 August 1730.

Mr. John McLeod [Glenelg].

DR. BROTHER,—I reced. yours of 8 Currt. from Ebst, and observe your orders about fraighting a ship, and I am straitned what resolution to form about it, since I find your brother and you are to hold but one third of 20 Tuns, and for my part I am not able to hold another third. And besides this, there is such strong resolutions and endeavours to crush the importation of Br—y that it is disparaging

to a mans character at this juncture to be known to meddle that way; besides the Duke of Argyle and Marquis of Seaforth have engaged in the strongest maner to allow no Br—y to be bought or drunk in there severall countries. And, besides Culloden and the Advocate¹ except [expect] McLeod and Sr. Alexr. McDonald to come to the same resolution. So, if such ane project be undertaken, it most be done in the most clandestin manner possible, and the ship can only touch at one remott port, and only ly while the goods can be unloaded, and imediatly thereafter to come of without letting any bodie know the ship or master name, or where she belongs to. And of this send me your thoughts, and if doe think it can be manadge in the maner I have said, Ile certainly gett yett a friend with my self to take two thirds of the cargoe; so may send your orders. And, yett, now I begin to fear itt will be lait to overtake the four winter market in the Highlands; but may likewise think of this. . . .

Inverness, 15th October 1730.

Mr. John Aikman [Livorno].

SIR,—By Recommendation of our freind Mr. John Stuart, we recommend to your favours Mr. Donald McIntier of this place, who is gone from hence on our account in the ship *Swallow*, David Nevoy, master, and has consigned to him on our joynt accots. one hundred and sixteen Tierces Salmond; and, as we suppose he will address himself to you for your advice and assistance in the sale of said Salmond, therefore we hope you will doe him all the good service in your power, and assist him with your best advice in procureing freight for the ship; and in that event we begg you will make speedy remittance from the proceeds of our Salmond according to our directions to him, which will encouradge a future correspondence, and much oblige Yours, etc.

¹ Forbes of Culloden and his brother Duncan, Lord Advocate.

Inverness, 7th Nov. 1730.

I WROT to Drynach acknowledgeing receipt of his bill of £62 : 7 : 8 sterlin on Malcom McLaren and Andrew McPharlan in payment of McLeods bill on him of £32 : 7sh. : 8 sterlin, and Glengeries bill on Scotas for £30 sterlin. I sent him Likeways William McLeod of Ebosts tuo accepted bill discharged for £63 sterlin, and desired to retire my obligatorie receipt for the value.

Inverness, 29 Decer. 1730.

Mr. John Donaldson [Elgin].

SR.,—I am much alarmed that to this hour I never hade anie return from James Mackie at Portsoy relaiting to that Letter I sent him recommended to your care the 27 8ber last, in which was inclosed my bill on William Cuming in Eder for £25 sterlin and the 20 sh. bank noats. I entreat the favour of you to spake to that post who gott the sd. Letter, and gett acct. to whom he delivered it, since, if it is miscaried, he must certainly be lyable for it ; and forward the inclosed pr. first to James Mackie. My son has sent here laity from Lieth some chests of Lemons and sweet Oranges, for some of which there is 3£ ster. pr. chest gott ; but for love to gett them soon off Ile lett you or anie freind in Elgin have them at 50 sh. ster. pr. chest. They are fine fruit and in good order, verie few spoiled. I sawe one reckoned the other day, which ran 68 Duzen ; and they are retailed at 2 sh. per Duzen, by which you see ther is a good deall to be gott by them. If you or anie freind wants anie at the rate above mentiond may send a cart for them, which will contain tuo chests ; and the sooner the better. But *nota* Ile have nothing to doe with them after they are delivered here. May sell six chest Lemons if you can ; and lett me have your answer in course, which will be a favour done.—Sir, Your most humble servant.

Inverness, 22d Octr. 1733.

For Ardsheall.

DR. SIR,—I wrote by your Servt. to yours of 15 Currt., and, lest he should be longer by the way in returning home than I would wish, I most tell you ingenuously that, if the full payt. of your bills doe not answer in the first week of Decembr., I most run the risq of haveing my credit ruind ; for, as I must answer, I have no fond at present to supply such a desapointment. Therfor, Dr. Sir, as you regarde my standing, let me not be desapointed, since I realy depend on yr. payt. as a shure fond for paying my credit. If you remitt here the payt. of the £50 due by your two bills against our Mertimass Market it will be verie obliging to, Dr. Sr., etc.

Inverness, 23d Octr. 1733.

For Drynoch.

DR. SR.,—I am Sorry I hade not the pleasure to see you as you passed homeward. My wife and I flattered our selves wt. the hopes of seeing you, haveing sundry affairs to talk of wt. you. I hade a letter lately from Hugh Stamfield, Shipemaster, in which he tells me he has a bill of yours on me for £4 Str. for goeing to Fortwilliam. I thought you wrote me you paid that money. So may acquaint me how the matter stands, that Stamfield may be cleared off. If I am to pay that bill then the ballance of your Accot. due me will be about £14 str. as youll see by the Accot. I sent you by John Bain McLeod to Creeff. So, Dr. Sr., the sooner you remitt me the ballance the better, for there was never more need of it. My wife entreats you send to Mertimass marktett about Eight Stone of your best butter, since she took too litle at Merrimass of what you sent out then.

Novmr. ye 3d, 1733.

Mr. Ja: Stuart [Edinburgh].

SIR,— . . . Please inquire how I could purchase a Cargoe of 5 or 600 bolls of Bear in Lauthian or in fief

[Fife], payable in six moneths after delivery; for I am of oppinion it will be a very scarce commodity in this Countrey this year, and that ther may be a good deal of money gott that way if it could be purchased wt. you as chape as last year. And when I know the prises with you I shall write you more fully on this subject.

Ins., 3d Novem. 1733.

Mr. James Maul [Lord Moray's Agent at Donibristle].

DR. SIR,—My last to you was of 20 past in answer to yours of 11th Ditto. Ever since I have been in the country, making up my accts. with my Lords tenents and vassalls, but found it unpracticable to get the same so compleatly done as I expected, but I hope against next post you may expect them. Mean time I long mightly to hear how my Lord relishes my proposal anent going south, of which please advise me in course if not done already. And likewise acquaint me if the Falls of Dunbar are to have My Lords curt. crop of bear in Murry, or if their take be all-ready out. I am sory to tell you that most of the tenants under my charge in the Lordship of Pety are quit ruined and broke, having now the 3d cropt running that has proved extream bad by shaking and oyr. accedents I cannot account for. Last year they did not pay one 3d of their farms [ferms], and this year, for ought I can learn, they will not pay one 4th of it, and that but by few of them, for most will pay none at all this year. What makes the affair still the more pitiable is that they will get no price for their Kattel to enable them to pay their by gone rents. I hope my Lord will not impute these misfortunes to me, being the hand of God, and what I cannot help nor prevent.

Inverness, 19th Nover. 1733.

For Drynoch, Senr.

DR SR.,—I Wrote you the 23 Last moneth acquainting you that Hugh Stamfield writes me he has your bill for £4 stl. on me. If it so, then the ballance of your Accot.

to me will be £14 : 11 : 6d, which I entreat you send me how soon this comes to hand, since I never knew my self so much streatn'd by reason of many desappointments. I was wt. the Laird of McLeod last week at Castle Leod, and I spoke to him about that bond he has of Johns and mine for £100 str., to which he told me I needed be in no pain about that affair, but at the same time insinuat that he would have ane Assignation to your back bond, so that, as he is to be at Glen Elge in a week or two, its fit you talk to him upon that Subject, so as that affair may be gott adjusted. I have last week a bill from the Laird of McLeod on Andrew McFarline for £63 str., payle. the 10th Febry., which does not at all answer the pressing demands are on me just now. So if you would write to him desireing that he would pay the money again the latter end of Deecr. you would doe me a great favour, and, that you would send such a letter to me, and Ile send it under my cover to him. My wife was desappointed of her butter, so if you would send me 3 or 4 stone it would be verie acceptable, and Ile thankfully pay the price of it.

Inverness, 23d Novembr. 1733.

Mr. James Maule [Donibristle].

DR. SIR,—The inclosed Accots. ought to have been sent last post, as I promised, but being obleged to be from home most of last week could not gett it done. I now send you for my Lords perusale the Accots. relateing to my intromissions in Pettie since Cropt 1727, for which the last clearance was made ; in which, if any mistakes are found, the same will be adjusted when I come south. And youll take notice that in the Generall Accot. Currt. I have not charged my self wt. the Accots. of Rests given in at my last clearance, because could not get the Accot. of Rests resting for the sd. cropt now clear'd, and preceeding made up not constitute by our Baillies Decreet at this time ; but hope to doe it in a few days, and I belive it will near ballance the former Accot. of rests I gave in ; which I ashure you is not my fault. I will likewise wtout

loss of time gett readie my intromissions wt. the few duty of Stratheirn [Strathdearn] and Strathnairn, on which there will be a considerable ballance due by me to my Lord, after the ballance of £109 : 4 : 2d sterling due me by the inclosed Generall Accot. for Pettie, and four Years sallery, is taken off; but I am hopefull again nixt post a part of the same will be remitted. There is a doubt remains wt. me which I entreat you may solve me in p. first; that is, I have a verie strong suspicion, and not wtout good grounds, that I paid my Lord £100 Sterling last year that I have not credited my self wt., and have no voucher but the bill I drew for the same discharged. The story is, you may remember, I drew in May or June 1732 on Patrick Cuming @ Edr. to my Lord for £100 sterling, which Mr. Cuming was pleased to refuse; and when came South thereafter I paid the money my self, and sent it over by James Russell to Dunibirsle, who brought me back my bill on Patrick Cuming, discharged; and the voucher I have preceeding that payt., I find, is dated at Dunibirsle, the 6th of May 1732, which is for the sum of £282 : 5 : 3 Str., and I find by my book that the same was remitted by bill on Allan Whitefoord. Therefore, I entreat you think serriously of this, and send me your answer in course; for, as I dont desire to wrong my Lord, so I dont care to lose such a considerable sum, which God knows is too much to be lost by me. I likewise remember that when I came to Dunibirsle the first of Septr. 1732, from Edr., I paid in specie 70 Guenies, and gott for the same, and cash I paid by order to Comissary Steuart, which amounted in all to £115 : 1 : 8 Str., for which I have my Lords Receipt of that date. So upon the whole matter I realy apprehend I want a voucher for the above mentiond £100 sterling, as to which pray put me right. Youll observe in my Accot. of debursements about £2 : 6 Str. charged as given by order of the Commisar to Mr. Angus Morrisons Wife; and for some charges that way I am not shure but the Commisar has counted wt. me for the same; which Ile know when I goe in to toun. So if it be a mistake it will be adjusted; and therfor my Lord

needs not be displeas'd about it. I entreat you show my inclosed Accot. laid out for Mr. James Steuart of Camilla to Mr. Robison, who attended him last year at Darnaway, and tell him I hope he will attest the same to be really furnished, since I have charg'd it to my Lords Accot. Dr. Sir, *sub rosa*, Mr. John Steuart, Son to Mr. Francis,¹ owes at the most modest and lowest computation, twixt what I lent him in money, or paid for him, and my expenses and wifes for three moneths last summer at Edinbr., £70 sterling; too great a sum, after many desappointments and demands for money I lately met wt., for me to ly out of. So, Dr. Sir, if, wt. the assistance of my good friend my Lady, my Lord could be prevealed on to give me allowance of said sum, it would be a verie seasonable help, and what in gratitude I most acknowledge as a great favour. I have some more to say on this subject, which will reserve till meeting, etc.

Inverness, 6th Decr. 1733.

Mr. Wm. McDougall and Co. [Fort William].

GENTLEMEN,—I Recd. yours of 1 Inst., and will, according to your promise, expect remittance of the ballance of your bill in a few days; and, if Ardsheall call at Marryburgh on his way hither, he may give Capt. Carrie £100 ster., and take his bill on Allan Whitefoord for the same at short sight. I send you inclosed Capt. Campell the Governours Receipt for 300 bolls meall sold him last summer pr. Hugh Stamfield, which I desire you may deliver him on his giving you up my accepted bill in his hands, discharged, for £30 str., and Rodk. Steuarts receipt in my name for £10 str., which I gott in part of said meall, and send me the same pr. first shure hand; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 13th Decr. 1733.

For Ardsheall.

DR. SR.,—I recd. this morning your favour of 10th curt. from the bearer, your cousine Alexr. Steuart, and

¹ See footnote, p. 102.

wt. it your accepted bill for £200 str., payle. at 3 days sight in Edr., and £114: 2 sh. sterling in cash; and I have given up your three accepted bills for £314: 5 sh. ster. to yr. cousine, receiptd. I will only observe that your bill of £200 str. accepted at Ardsheall, and payle. at Edr. at 3 days sight, is not done in the regular way, since I am obliged to indorse your bill to Landrick, which makes it in some measure obligatory upon me. But I think you ought rather to have sent your own accepted bill for the money to your father in Law [Harden of Lendrick] inclosed in your letter of advice to Mr. William Wilson [Writer, Edinburgh], and at the same time have drawn on him, payle. to me. However, as I have to doe wt. a man of honour and a friend, I hope it will doe in the shape you have put it; and so I will forward your bill and letter of advice pr. post to Edr., and draw for the value on Mr. Wilson. Cause the first person goes to fferintosh¹ from your country call here for your saddle, and it will be delivered you well mended; which it wanted. . . .

Inverness, 15th Decembr. 1733.

For the Earle of Finlater.

MY LORD,—I have the honour of your Lops. verie kind obleging letter of 22d last moneth, and doe observe your Lops. proposale anent the sale of 400 bolls oat meall, you have on hand of last cropt. And, if I could possible see that I could make any advantage of it at the rate your Lop. proposes, that is, £5 scots p. boll, payle. at Whitesunday and Lambas nixt, I would most chearfully goe into your proposale, but truly there is no prospect of any advantage by meall bought at such a rate on any part of the West Cost, where I dale that way, there being a plentiful cropt in Ireland, and so the people of that Country makes shift to be supplied from thence, notwithstanding the legall prohibition. And, tho there was litle or no Irish meall imported last year, yet I made

¹ Forbes of Culloden's famous whisky distillery in Ross-shire.

verie litle of about 2200 I shipped off from Banff shire for that Countrey last year, tho I purchast the same at £4 Scots, and 4: 3: 4 the highest pr. boll, payle. only at this Mertimass. So your Lop. may easily judge its not in my power to give the price demanded ; but if your Lop. will Accept £4: 10 sh. Scots pr. boll, payle. at the term of Mertimass nixt, 1734, I will take your Lops. parcell, provideing it be good sweet meall ; but Ile take no part of it that is sour or old teasted. So, if your Lop. will agree to this proposale, I will receive the meall all betwixt this and the first of May nixt at Portsoy, and grant my accepted bill for the value of each cargoe, as I received it. And I think fitt to acquaint your Lop. that I have new meall in my offer for 7 Merks pr. boll, but will not take it ; so if your Lop. will accept this offer may write me in course, and your answer will determine, my Lord, etc.

Inverness, 15 Decr. 1733.

Mr. Rodrk. McLeod, Mercht. in Glasgow.

SIR,—I recd. your favour of 10th inst. and one formerly by John Bayne McLeod¹ of this place, in which there was a bill accepted be John Beck McLeod.² I spoke to him earnestly about the payt. of it, but to no purpose. And now he has the misfortune to be throun into prison by one or oyr. of his creditors ; so that I realy fear your money is in danger, tho he says the contrair himself, and ashures me he is worth much more money then will pay all his debt. But it happens mostly to be debts resting in the Highlands, and when that will answr is a great question. But Ile doe all lays in my power to serve you, and, if cannot gett payt., will send you a new bill or a Decree verie soon. Please advise in course of the prices of meall and bear wt. you, and what you hear of the price of meall in Ireland this year. Pray inform your self from the best hands, and advise, etc.

¹ Fair-haired John Macleod.

² Little John Macleod.

Inverness, 15th Decr. 1733.

I WROTE of this Date to Mr. John Coutts and Co. [Edinburgh] impowaring them to sell for my Accot. from 24 to 26 Last Lews Herrings, deliverable at Lochew and Loch Inver early in the Spring, at any price not under £6: 10 or £7 pr. last, the bounty to my self; and that I would bear the half of the expence of a coupar to goe and receive them, and see them shipt in good order, etc.

Inverness, 16th Decr. 1733.

For My Lady Assint.

MADAM,—I Recd. your acceptable favour of 23 Novr. last, and I find you have accepted of my offer for your herrings; so I hereby oblege my self to receive them, being good sufficient merchantable ware, in the term of my last letter to yr. Lap. and your last to me, twixt this and the first day of May nixt. But I think fitt to caution your Lap. that to make them all good merchantable ware they need to be all repact in shipeing, which will cost you no great expences.

Invss., 22d Dec. 1733.

Mr. Wm. Cuming, of London.

THIS comes to advise that the 24 yards of silk stuff bought for my Daughter Margreat came safe to hand p. David Ross in the moneth of Augst. last; but I am sory to tell you it does not please the Woomen, being judged too dear of its kind. Besides, it seems the figure of it is not so agreeable to them; so that its still on hand waiting a Chap¹ will buey it. Pray advise me in course if you recd. from William Polson or Mrs. McKenzie, his sister, a pice of white worstet Camlett belonging to my Wife, was sent up by James ffinlay of Portsoy last summer to be dyed green and watered. It measured 38 yards, and if it came to hand, and be dyed as ordered, please send it doün by first shipe comeing to this place; and advise if you have gott any thing done wt. Mr. Morrison anent the

¹ A small merchant, a pedlar.

money he recd. on Accot. of — Ross, Chelsea pensioner, haveing right to the same by his last will, and laid it out for paying the mans funrall expences and his house rent. Advise of the price of corns wt. you in course ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 29th Decembr. 1733.

Messrs. Jno. Coutts and Co. [Edinburgh].

GENTLEMEN,—I recd. your favour of 20th Inst. wt. four bills inclosed for acceptance, three of which I herewith return you ; that on John Hosack and Co. not accepted, haveing remitted the value of it to London about the beginning of this moneth, and the oyr. two on Lachlen and Angus McIntoshes you have Inclosed ; that on David Ross of Inver Chasslie most be sent to the Countrey where he resides, so cannot be returnd you this post. I am sorry you have no incouragement to buey my Herrings at the rate I offred them ; but, since your selves cannot accept of them, you need not look for any oyr. Mercht. till I see you, haveing some vew of getting them disposed off here.

Inverness, 21st Janry. 1734.

For My Lady Assint.

MADAM,—My last was of 16 Decembr. by Simon McKenzie, in which I advised your Lap. that I accepted of your parcele of Herrings in terms of your last letter of 23d November. And now I have sent this pr. express to advise you that I am just now about freighting a shipp to load your parcell and ane oyr. I have a litle to the southward of you. So youle please advise me in return of this where your Herrings lay. If at Lochbroom or Loch Kinard it will be the more convenient for me, as I have the best of the cargoe thereabouts, So will prevent shifting of ports. And likewise entreat that, conform to your promise in your last, youle please name some person here to see your salt weyed and shipped ; and, to prevent mistakes, advise of the exact number of lasts you have, that your salt and cask may be accordingly shipped here ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 21st Janry. 1734.

Mr. Zachrie McAula [Stornoway].

SIR,—I presume to give you the trouble of this letter to acquaint you that I am engaged in a parcell of Herrings on the West Cost, but not sufficient to make a tolerable good cargoe; and, being informed that some of your Nibours at Starnaway have a considerable parcell on hand to sell, cured wt. foreign salt for exportation, I entreat that, how soon you arrive home, youle please advise me what number of lasts they may have, and the lowest price they will sell them att, payll. in three or four moneths after delivery, being all repact at shipeing. Likewise please advise if the sellars of the herrings will take any stons of salt and cask in part payt. of their herrings, to be sent about wt. the shipe receves them. And I think fitt to tell you for your government that I am offred herrings on that Cost at £7 4s. p. last, including the bounty; and if theyll make ane offer at that price its probable Ile take the Herrings, being sufficient merchant ware; and if the sellars chafe Ile let them have the bounty and give them £5: 10/ p. last, and receive them at Starnaway. I entreat your answer to this as soon as possible; and I am, etc.

Ins., ye 31 Janry. 1734.

To The Earle of Cromerty.

I RECEIVED your Lops. favour of 30th curt., and am willing to take your Lops. eighteen lasts herrins at the rate of seven pounds ster. pr. last, including ye bounty, to be received any time before ye midle of Aprile next, payable in six moneths after delivery. But it is not in my power to advance part of ye price just now, being extreamly stretned by many great disapointments from good men, and obleged to goe south against Tuesday next. So, if you let me have the herrin, payble six moneths after delivery, or at Lamas next, may send your obligation to deliver the herins pr. Express, and mention that they must be good, sufficient, well cured, well packed

herins, cured wt. foraing salt, and in good tight cask of ye legall Gadge ; and Ile send my answer to such letter concluding our bargain, which is all yt. can be done by, my Lord, etc.

P:S—Accquaint if your Lop. will want any cask to be sent by ye ship goes for the Herrins.

Inverness, 4th Febery. 1734.

For My Lord Cromertie.

MY LORD,—I reed. your Lops. favour of 4th inst. with your Lops. obligation anent the 18 last three barells herrings cured to be delivered me well packt, and in good cask, and in good order, free aboard my shipe, or to any haveing my order, betwixt this and the 15th day of Aprile next, for which I am to pay your Lop. £7 sterling the last, the bounty to be mine, payll against the first day of August nixt at this place, and will grant my bills accordingly upon delivery of the said herrings at Lochkinard ; and, if possible, I will try to accomodate your Lop. wt. £30 str. sometime in March nixt, in part payt. of the price of the herrings. So this letter concludes the Bargone on my part, only that the Herrings are to be all repact at shipeing, which your Lops. obligation does not mention, but is absolutely necessar to be done. So Ile endeavour to despatch a shipe to load these Herrings as soon as possible ; and if your Lop. will want any salt or cask to be sent about for nixt years fishing it shall be done as your Lop. will advise, My Lord, etc.

Inverness, 7th Febr'y. 1734.

For Capt. Campbell [Governor of Fort William].

DR. SIR,—I reed. yours of 4 instant this forenoon, and I observe your proposall to buy 600 Bolls good Oat Meall of last years crompt, and I am verry willing to dale with you ; in Testimony which I hereby promise to send you betwixt this and the first of June nixt, barring accidence and wather serving, 600 bolls of good and sufficient

Oat Meall, deliverable at the shore of Fort William, at Nine shilling sterling p. boll of eight stone, and will referr the sixpence which I demand to your self, not doubting, when I lay the plain case before you, but youll at least allow me the one half. But I declare to you upon my honest word I cannot serve you at nine shilling sterling. But I am loath to pairt with you, so will send you the 600 bolls meall again the time I promised; and therefore, I hope, do expect yt. youll remitt me for the fifty pound sterling you promise, derected to the care of Mr. Jas. Steuart, Mercht. in Edr., and Ile send you my acceptance for the same; and I will expect the other fifty pounds again the first of Aprile, in terms of your letter, etc.

Inverness, 3 May 1734.

Mr. Charle Greig, Shipmaster [at Fort William].

SIR,—I have yours of [4th] currt. just now, and I desire how soon this comes to hand you fall to work and unload the meall by delivering the one half to the Governour [Campbell] and the other half to Willm McDougall and Compa., and take there receipts for the same, which you are to depositat in the hands of Mr. Alexr. Muir, Surveyar there, in case you should hapen to be despatched to Eisdale to load slait befor I see you. I have wrot to Baillie McDougall to give you credit for the loadning of slait to John Stevenson, the slait quariers, which I desire you may deliver to the order of Mr. James Steuart, Mercht. in Edinburgh. And, how soon the meall is out, I have ordered the Governour and Baillie McDouall to pay you Tenn pounds sterling each in pairt of your freight on your receipt; soe hoping to see you, etc.

P:S:—Your meall to be weighted with the common standard weights of Mariebrugh, as to which I entreat your care. George Douglass will assist you in anie thing you want. To avoid desputes may deliver to the Governour and Baillie McDouall 50 bolls meall to each alternatively.

Inverness, 6 May 1734.

Mr. John Sinclar of Barruck.

SIR,—I Recd. yours of 30 past advising of the ariveall of John Baillie and David Greig at Staxgoe, and that you found deficulty to ffurnish the six hundred Bolls of Meall wanted to be shiped in David Greigs at Staxgoe. Its true you sold only by contract ffour hundred Bolls Meall, but when I fraighted I could not find a shipe to my mind to load so small a quantity, and soe choose to take one of some larger sise, not doubting there would be any deficulty in getting what quantity of meall I plased at the price I had yours. Therefore, Dr. Sir, lett me entreat that bark be loaded ; for to pay vast freight will be considerable loss to me, and Ile grant my accepted Bill for the value of the same on demand. It was not possible to send you the 30 or 40 £ sterling you wanted, but, in case you get not the Bark load at Staxigoe, which I sincerely wish, I wrot in the strongest terms to David Greig, the shipmaster, to go to Scrabster road untill he be loaded. But I know his shifting ports will be attended with some considerable expence to me, besids loss of time. However, if better cannot be he must goe. Dr. Sir, I begg the outmost Despatch to both my Barks, etc.

Inverness, 14 May 1734.

For Donald McDonald, of Scotas.

SIR,—The Bark *Agnus* of Dundie, David Greig master, was freighted at Leith the 3d day of Aprile last, and only arived at weeke [Wick] in Cathness the end of said month, being detained by contrary winds ; was loaded the 9th inst. and reddy to sail ; so I am hopefull will be with you before this comes to hand. This bark has on board about six hundred bolls of meal, of which Drynach takes 150 bolls, so ye rest will reman for you and partner. And I have wrote to the shipmaster to goe and deliver it as you shall drect ; so pray send him your orders how soon this comes to hand, to whom he will deliver the meal, and whose receipt to take for it. I have ordred my father in

law to send a trusty alongs with the Bark with Balks [beams], barrel, and weights, for weighing all out ; so I desire you may paye ye twentie five pounds ster. you and partner are obleged to pay at delivery to the person Drynoch sends along wt. the bark, and his receipt will be good to me. I give service to your lady and to all freinds. I am vexed your meal was not with you or now, but ther is no answering for cros winds and events. I am told the meal you got is exceeding sweet and good.

Inv., 15 May 1734.

For John Sinclair of Ulbster.

THIS goes and will be delivered you by John Baillie, Master of the Bark *Christian* of this place, whom I have sent to receive ye 400 boll I boght of your meal from Lodvick Brody, writer of Edr., as youll see by his letter inclosed. But Mr. Brody was much in the wrong to me to impose on me by asuring that there was a convenient harbour in the river thirso [Thurso], whereas I am asured there is none fit for a veshal of any burthen. . . .

Inv., 15 May 1734.

Commission and instructions John Stuart, merchtt. of Inverness, to John Baillie, Master of the Bark *Christian* in Inverness.

How soon you have livered your cargoe of Bear you are immediatly to proceed for thirso in Cathness, and forward the letter herewt. given you to John Sinclair of ulbster, Esqr., who will caus deliver you a full loadning of oat meal of eight and an half stones pr. Boll. And, in case you can not convenienly and wt. safty to the Bark and cargoe load in the river of thirso, I have wrot to Ulbster to send of ye meal in boats to Scrabster Road. And how soon you have got in your full loadning you are to proceed with the same drectly to Loch Broom, and to acquaint Alexr. McKenzie, younger of Cooll, of your arival ; to whom you are to deliver 30 bolls at eight stone pr. boll, and take his accepted bill for ye same at 10 sh.

ster. pr. boll, payable ye 1st of Novr. next to me or order at my house in this place. And I desire you may sell out as much meal as you can in yt. country at sd. price, for ready mony, of which I am told there is a good deal to be had there. And after you have sold what you can at Loch Broom, laying about eight day there, you are to proceed with the rest of the cargoe to Glenelg, where you 'll adress self to Normand McLeod of Drynoch, my father in law, and deliver the rest of ye [meal] to him, Alexr. Watt, Barrack mr., or as my father in law will desire you, and take his receipt and Alexr. Watts for what meal you deliver, mentioning the price of each boll of 8 stones 10 8½ marks, and payable at Michelmas next. You are to transmitt here pr. Express these receipts, with the Laird of Cool's accepted bill, and what money you receive for meal either at Loch Broom or Glenelg, wt. the advise and concurrence of my sd. father in law. And when the meal is all out you are to proceed for Eisdal, and adress to John Stevenson, Slait quarer there, who will furnish you with a full loadning of slait, with which you are to proceed deryctly to this place.- And I hereby declare that the fraught of ye sd. cargoe of meal for the whole voyage out and home is to be sh. str. pr. boll, ⅓ whereof for your own and crew's wages, I being to victual the bark for ye whole voyage. And likewise I am to give you for your own trouble a gueny of Caplaken, and from the money you receive for meal in ye Highlands you are to keep in part of the fraught in your own hands £6 or 7 ster. And advise me per express when you arive at Loch Broom, and how matters are like to goe there, yt. I may send you what further orders will be needfull. I have given you two barells beef, one boll baken bread, £10 [lib.] candles; and you are to provide yourself at Thirso with what Beer youl want, and two bolls Baken Bread, and a stone of butter. You have likeways aboard Balk, Broad and Barrel, and eight stone of oldweights for weighing out the meal @ eight stone pr. boll. So wishing you an happy and prosperous voyag, I am, etc.,

Accepts [*signed*] JOHN BAILLIE.

Inverness, 27th May 1734.

Mr. James Steuart [Edinburgh].

BEING detain'd longer at Ffortwilliam then I expected I did not overtake our last post. However, in consequence of my last from said place, I send you this pr. Express, with two Bills inclosed, vizt. Capt. Alexr. Johnston, pay master of the Welsh fuizuliers, on Capt. Bolton, Agent for said Regiment, for £52 : 2 sterling, and Alexr. Muire, Storemaster at ffortwillm, on James Cockburn, Esqr., for £77 : 2 sterling, of which bills I have indorsed to your order, and are very good. . . .

Inverness, 10 July 1734.

Mr. Robtt. Bigar [Edinburgh].

SIR,—When I had the pleasure of seeing you at your hous at Edinburgh, I was talkeing to you of sending you a tun of wine which cost me 500 Livers prime cost at Borx. [Bordeaux], and was so kind as to promise to take it @ £60 sterling if it pleasd. It is now sent to the care of my freind James Steuart, and I hope it will please ; and I leave to him to settle with as you can best agree. But I think the wine is a fine cullerd deep good wine, clean racked of the lees ; and I hope you will give contentment for it.

Inverness, 6 August 1734.

The Earle of Cromerty.

MY LORD,—I recd. your Lops. letter of 27 past, which had been answered or now but that I was from home. I observe your Lops. orders with regard to the bearer Andrew Monro, Coupar, and will chearfully comply in paying him £7 sterling as your Lops. orders. But I doe not find there is any of it chargable to my accott., haveing done no work to the Hering by my orders, but what was necessar to be don in consequence of our bargain. But, as for the ships ariving to load them a litle too leat, that

was cheifly the effect of contrary winds, which can not be garded against in such cases, and I hope no damage is arisen to your Lops. in that small diference of time betwixt the term in which they ought to be recd. and were delivered. Soe if your Lops. pleases to draw a plain order to pay the bearer £7 ster. it will be complyed with, and any deference were anent the receiveing the Herings I hope will be easily ajusted. I got laitly a bill of your Lops. to Mrs. Polson at Edinburgh for about £35 sterling, ordorsed to me for value, which was payll. the first of ffebr. last, and have place the same to your Lops. accot., which I will make out some time this month, when I have money to pay the ballance due on the Hering, and advise your Lops. acordingly ; and I am with much respect, etc.

Inverness, 9th August 1734.

Mr. Willm. Carmichaell, Edr.

SIR,—I recd. yours of 25 last moneth, and I was much surpris'd to find that any complaint had been made to you anent the non delivery of the 250 busheells of salt for which you have my noat to the Lord Lovatts fishing, when indeed all was delivered at that time except a very litle which was awantting by my being from home and forgetting to writt or leave orders with my servant about it. But now they have all but 24 Bussheells, which will be delivered how soon they send for it. I find you are sending a shipe about immediately to load Lord Lovatts salmon, which I judge may be about the quantity you gott last year from his Lops. ; so, if you incline I should provide any more to make a cargo, must write pr. first post advising what number of Tearces youll want and the greatest lenth youll allow me give for them, for there is no price made here as yett. So, if you please, may make the curt. price the rule, which will not I suppose be high, but know not how much it will be. So pray fail not to write fully, haveing no letter from you on this subject since I saw you, and I will serve you the best I can ; and I am, etc.

9th Aug. 1734.

Mr. James Blair, Edinr.

I HAVE your favour of first currtt. adviseing you hade gott my accepted bill of £40 sterling to Andrew Munro, drawn by the Earle of Cromerty, indorsed to you for value. I own Andrew acquainted me that he was to send you that bill, but I then told him I could not pay it till the begining of nixt month, and he asured me you would not demand it till then. But whether hase wrot on this subject or not I cannot tell. Mean time I entreat you delay this payment till the end of this moneth, and then I dout not but you may depend on your payment ; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 10th August 1734.

Mr. David Ross [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I have sent alongs with you six dozen very good Claret, packed in an hodd, which I entreat you dispose to the best acctt. you can, and buy for my use two silk plaids such as you bought for my wife, and 16 yards of silk damask of ane ash culor or a straw cullor, not too light ; and call at William Cuming, and tell him to give you the ps. worsted camlet he got from Mrs. McKenzie, Josephs wife, to be dyed blew and watred, which was cairried up last year by James funlay, and pay the expence of dying of it ; and pr. first post Ile send you a letter of credit on Mr. George Udney for what mony you may want for these particulars more than proceeds of sd. wine ; so, being to write pr. post, I shall only add that I am, etc.

Inverness, 12 August 1734.

Messrs. William McDouall, Malcom MackLean and William Park, Mariebrugh [Fort William].

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to my last pr. express I received yours of 9th curt., with Mr. Alexr. Muirs bill on James Cockburn of London for twentie pounds, and £30 sterlin in Mony and noats, makeing in all fiftie pounds sterlin, which, reckoning the 20,000 slait shiped in Charles

Greig at £10 Scots pr. mill., and 3sh. ster. for Brandie, makes sixtie six pounds sixteen shillings and four pence sterlin; so the ballance due me on your bill of £122 sterlin will stand £55 : 3 : 8 sterlin, for which I must and depend on Captain Philips bill on the Major again the end of this month, haveing verie pressing use for mony at that time, etc.

I have recepted £66 : 16 : 4d. sterlin on the back of your first bill.

Inv., Seber. 4, 1734.

Captain Edward Phillips [Fort William].

SIR,—I spoke this day to Major Hay here, and by his advice I have drawn on Willm. McDouell, Willm. Park, and Malcom McLean, Merchts. in Compy. at Maribrogh, for £35 : 3 : 8 sterlin, payll. to you or order ten days after dait, which I doubt not will be accepted and carefully paid; so will accept your bill on Major Hays here for the equivelent sum, which he promised to pay att sight. I say I expect the same in return of this pr. Bearer; and I am etc.

Inverness, 25 7ber 1734.

To Normand McLeod, older of Drynoch [at Glenelg].

DR. SIR,—I received yours of 15 currtt. only the 22d. instant in the evening, so that the bearer was 8 days comming here, and I received from him 37 moedores and a half, 30 guenes, and elven Banck noats of 20 shillings each, and your Bill on Eboast for ten guenies, payable att Creef, and a porteguisse ps., and seven shillings ster.; so that it answers to Alexr. Watts receipt except six shillings sterling which the Bearer says he made use of; so if you think fit to give him more may doe it and Ile allow of it. . . .

Inverness, 25 7ber 1734.

To AEneas McDonald, of Scotas.

SIR,—Being informed yt. you was going to Crief market, I've thought proper to send you the melancholy acct. of your Grandchild funell. charges; and I gave anoyr

double of the same to his uncle Alan when here, to which he seemed very well pleased, except that the funerall expence too litle. Now, as this acct. is all ready money out of my pocket, I've presumed to Draw on you for the same to Alexr. McGillivray, Drover and tennent in Petty, to which I hope youll give compliyance. And if you cannot att the market, I presume to entreat the favour of you to lodge the money for me wt. my ffreind Rodrick McLeod, Writer to the Signet in Edr., your nefue, and take his receipt in my name for the same, being £17, two shilling, 4 pence Sterlin, as youll see by the accompt.

Ins., 25 7ber 1734.

To Willm. McLeod of Ebost.

DR. SIR,—I hope this will find you hearty at Crief, and that you have gott or will gett a good market for your catle, and plenty of ready money. I have sent the Bearer Express to my freind Alexander McGillivray, and have sent him Drynochs Bill on you for ten Guines, payll. the first next moneth. Ive sent likewise to him Alexr. Watt in Glenelg his accepted Bill for £8 : 11 : 6 ster. payle. 20 currt. ; and he wrot me last week was to send me Bill on you for the same, which I have not gott. However, as I've endorsed the Bill blank to you, I think youll not scruple to pay it, since certainly the honest man will pay it you at your return, or Drynoch will ; and it serves you the trouble of bringing back so much money. I expected yt. my Father in law would have given you orders to retire his accepted Bill to me for £59 sterling, as also Normand McLeod¹ the Scholmaster's Bill drawn on Rodrick McLeod, writer, for £21 : 5 : 6 Sterling, which was given me for ready money. . . .

Inverness, 25 7ber 1734.

To Alexr. McGillivray, Drover [and Farmer in Petty].

SIR,—I thought to have seen you before you sett off for Creif, having severall affairs to entrust to your care

¹ Schoolmaster in Glenelg.

att that markt. But, as I had the misfortune to miss you, I've sent you this pr. Express, with the inclosed Letters and Bills. The first I desire you may peruse carefully, seal and deliver, by which youll the better understand what I mean, and so can the better manage what I trouble you wt. You have inclosed Bill Normand McLeod of Drynoch upon Willm. McLeod of Ebost for £10 : 10 : Sterling; also accepted Bill Alexr. Watt in Glenelg for £8 : 11 : 6 Sterling, which I expect the said Willm. McLeod will likewise pay. And I have indorsed both these Bills blanck for that purpose that you may upon payt. indorse the one and fill up a discharge in the oyr. I send you likewise inclosed an acct. of Funerall Charges for Scotas Grandchild, who dyed here lately, as my letter to him will informe you; which seal and deliver. The said Account extends to £17 : 2 : 4 Ster., for which I've drawn on him to your order at three days sight of this date, and which I doubt not that worthie Gentlman will comolie with. And I send you inclosed an open letter to Duncan McIntosh of Esich,¹ desirng him to give you twentie Pound Ster., and to take your Bill on me for the same payle. twentie days after dait, which I asure you will be punctually paid. And I desire that you will add to this money ten pounds more of your own. And, if you are not to goe to Dunibrustle, I desire that you forward the same to James Maul by the Bearer, and gett his receipt for it, which will be good to me, being in all £66 : 3 : 10 sterling. But if you think of going to Dunibrustle your self it would doe better, and deliver the money to Mr. Maul out of your own hand upon his receipt, which will be made good to me; and so may return the Bearer from Creif, with a full acct. of which you gett done for me, after you have kept him as long as you think necessary. I earnestly intreat that you be very pressing wt. my Brother in Law Ebost to retire from Mr. James Stuart my ffather in Laws accepted Bill for £59 : - : - Sterling, and his son Mr. Alexr. acceptance for £7 odd money

¹ Essich near Inverness.

sterling, since I asured said Gentleman that both these Bills would answer this market, and received value for them; and his disapointment will be an affront on me. So wishing you a good market, etc.

Capt. John Reid, Commander of the *Adventure* of Cromarty.

DR. SR.,—I have shiped on board of your shipe, the *Adventure*, for London 32 barrells salmon and grilses, marked §, of which there is one barrell on account of my Daughter Marion, to purchess her a gown; and the remaining Thirty Tearces you are to dispose of for my account, as you doe your own. But as I have lairge Demands to come one me this Martimass I incline, if possible, you can dispose of them all att London. And from the proceeds, after the freight and charges is discounted, you are to retain Eleven pound Nine shilling and Ten pence 2 thirds Sterling, the ballance of the acct. curt. of this dait, and remitt the rest to my freind Mr. James Steuart, merchant in Edinburgh, or send me Mr. Joseph Fakenie receipt for the same. And notice that the freight hence to London is Three shilling and four pence Sterling p. Tearce. When, please God, you came to any port in the Mediteranian, pray buy me a barrell of rice, about 200 wight, and a dozen flaskes of fine eating oyle. So, wishing you a good safe Voyage, etc.

[Fragment of letter without name of addressee, but written in April 1735, shows Donald Macdonell of Scotas's Bill for £28 : 2 : 8d still due.]

For Coll McDonald of Barastall.

Inverness, 28 Aprile 1735.

DR. SIR,—I received yours of 20th curt. desireing sixtie bolls oat Meall. I can not positively promise you 60 bolls, but I can furnish 50 bolls; but it must be payed precisely the 15 of July nixt at our Merket, and at Creif

market, by equall halves. So may send for the meal when you please; and send two Bills for the price at 10sh. sterl. pr. Boll—that is, for £12:10 shillings pr. Bill—and Ile grant my obligation for delivery of the meal; that is, what is not delivered of it when the Bills come. And *nota*, I deliver the meal by weight att Eight and $\frac{1}{2}$ Stones pr. Boll, which is better to you than measure the meal, being small ground. . . .

Ins., 10 May 1735.

Mr. Francis Russall.

SIR,—I am much concerned for my unluckie son, that he should be so much indebted to you. I know nothing of any fund he has in this Country, in my hands or any others, to answer near the sum you mention. If I am due him any money, it is not half the sum you mention; nor is it due till after my death.

Inverness, 16 May 1735.

Mr. Alexander Steuart.

SIR,—I received your very acceptable favour of 29th last past pr. the bark *Christian*, John Baillie master, and also the parcells of Tea you shipt for me in good order; the price and charges as pr. invoice ammounting to £178:17 hollands, which sume will take care to remitt you very soon. I have trayed the severall quallities of the severall kinds of tea sent. The Bohea and Soatihian are exceeding good, and the green tea is pritty good; for which I thank you. And, if I can, Ile see to gett some good Chaps¹ from this place to call for goods from you; and if youll deall only with such as Ile recomend, or otherways well recomended or known to you, youll be safe. I wish the finest behea and green tea had been in pound canasters, such being hardly to be found here. Ile be glad to hear from you some times of the course markets for all sorts of goods; and, I am, etc.

¹ See footnote, p. 374.

Inverness, 6 August 1735.

Mr. John Faiknie [London] from Mrs. Reid [the Bailie's Daughter, and wife of Captain John Reid of the *Adventure of Cromarty*].

I RECEIVED your favours of the 17 June and 19 Jullie last. The last brought me accot. of goods sent me pr. George Anderson, extending to £8 : 7 : 7 Sterling, which goods are come to hand. But I must complain that the shipmaster did not take the proper care of the Silk Stuff, both the green Damistz and the Satine, by being kept in some damp place. I observe what you write annent Insurence made of £500 sterling for my husbands Accot., from Cette to Amsterdame, which is weell, and of remitting me any money. May complay with my Fathers orders to you from Edr. to retire his accepted bill from George Achterlonie; I say, his accepted bill drawn by George McLeod for twenty seven pounds Sterling; and draw on him to me for like value, when you send his acceptance retired; and send me pr. David Rose, who is ready to saile for London, three and $\frac{1}{4}$ yards scarlet Cloath for Cloakes, and a Black velvet Cape for rideing, of the Laitest fasation for my proper use, and one quarter of hundred double refind suggar, and a noat of Leather which I have given to David Rose, which please buy and ship, and charge all to my husbands accot. ; which is all from, etc.

Inverness, 6 August 1735.

Mr. Wm. Carmichaell [Edinburgh].

I HAVEING gott a sudain Call over the water to the Earle of Morray,¹ I found it convenient to return home. I find my Lord Lovat hase gott about 120 Barrells Salmon, and I have bespock as many more as youll want. I belive theyll come some cheapper then what you gott from Lord Lovat, so may dispatch your ship as soon as you please. And, if you please to allow Wm. Lesslie in Leith to ship some Spanish salt for my accot., Ile pay the freight as he agrees. If you please to send me the hogshead mountain

¹ That is, from Edinburgh to Donibristle.

wine [whisky] you was talking to me of, if really good, at £12 sterling, payable in 6 months, may do as you please. If it come I'll take it; which is all from, etc.

Inverness, 6th August 1735.

Mr. James Steuart [Merchant, Edinburgh].

SIR,—I wrot from Kingshorn to those to whom I am Creditor, and desired Rodrick McLeod [W.S., Edinburgh] to call for your assistance in bringing these gentlemen to Comply with my request. So I long impatiently to know what is done; and I entreat your best endeavours for me. I am looking over your Account, and I observe you charge £1 : 5 sterling for 50 lb. powdered Sugar, in which Grant has imposed much on you, as I can buy a single pound here at the same price; and a groat per pound had been enough. I spoke to John Coutts and partners against the bounty of the reloaded Coals per the *Cabistoar*, John Mackenzie master, of which I sent you a Certificate amounting to £5 sterling, and said Messrs. Coutts and Company promised to give you a Letter on Demand to the Collr. of Kirkaldie, to make good the said Certificate to you, which pray notice to recover; and mind my affairs with David Greig of Dundee. I noat from James Sutherland in Leith of what slait he sold, being 14000, for which he said he gott £22 Scots per mille, and says he could sell all at that price, but would not allow him, and mad an offer of 30 shillings to me per mill of what is on hand; so pray lett this part of our acct. be ended as soon as possible; and I am, etc.

Inverness, 30 August 1735.

Mr. Alexr. Mackintosh of Kelachie [in London].

SIR,—I find among the effects disposed to me by my Father an obligation from your Father to him for about twenty pounds Scots, of which I forgott to speake to you when in this Country, about which you'll please give

orders to your Doer here. Your Brother Lachlan was apprised of this small Debt and promised me payment, which I made no doubt had been done or now if God had spared him some longer time ; but you may order it with your convenience. Meantime may send me by David Rose, who I suppose is with you ere now, as much of a Drab Cloak, about ten Shillings pr. yaird, not too light cullored, as will make me a big Coat. I suppose three yairds and half or three quarters will doe, and I shall account to you for the value, or pay the same to your order, as you please ; and, I am, etc.

Inverness, 6 Septr. 1735.

To The Laird of McKinnon, younger.

I HAVE seen your Letter of 31 past to my son Johnie, who has been very Ill since he came home, and is now in the Country with his mother. I fear he has blundered as to your orders annent James Glass ; but Simon Mackenzie assured him that your order on Gruinard was good as to his salmon, he being fully paid for them. I mind Glass absolutely denied having any Salmon in the South Highlands undisposed off. So Baron Taylor prevailed with the boy to give up your Bond, as did Simon Mackenzie ; and I shall be very vexed if you incur any loss by this step. Mean time I send you inclosed Mr. Glasess Back Bond, and a letter open for yourself ; and I have sent by the Express a Sherrive warrant of arestment to John Mackleod at Achnacarie, cost 18d. ; which will be as valid for securing Glass effects in this shipe as ane admirall precept. But in case there be of his effects without this Shyre I have sent pr. this post for ane admirall precept. Alexander Watt would not allow my draught on you for 33 shillings Sterling I paid the Taylor on your accot. two years past. However, we will adjust that at meeting, which I hope will be nixt week at Glainelge. I have something to tell you will be very agreeable that I heard from a freind laitly, etc.

Inverness, 13 Sept. 1735.

For James Steuart [Edinburgh].

SIR,— . . . Please advise me what proportion the sack of Corn or white [wheat] at Leghorn bears to the English Bussell, being advised last post from thence that Corn was risen to 16 Livers pr. sack. Now I want to know how much that will be the English Bussell of Sterling money. Pray send me pr. David Rose a Watlin Cradle for a child, of the best kind, and place the value to my accot. ; and advise if a parcell of 200 barrells of fine Leuie [Lewis herrings ?] will sell with you, or at what rate ; or if will sell for hom consums., cured with home salt, etc.

Inverness, 13th Sept. 1735.

Mr. John Baillie [Master of the *Christian*].

I HAVE shipt on board the sloop *Christian*, of which you are master, fourteen Last herring cask, in which is packed fiftie bolls Spanish salt, that is, in four last, 2 barrells herring. You have likways one thousand hoops. Three bolls meall backen in bread, three barrells Beef, and a boll oat meall in a cask, 21 pounds Candles, a half stone butter, four pecks peese, thirty six pound Roll Tobacco, and five Gallon whisky ; with all which you are to make the best of your way to Lochbroom in order to make a full loading of herring. And at your arrivell you are to write me pr. Express that I may dispatch Alexander Layon the Coupar, and to apply yourself to Alexander Mackenzie, younger of Coull, and deliver him my letter. And, if he will undertake to furnish me wt. herring in the terms of my letter, in that case you are to deliver him what salt and cask he calls for, and take his receipt for the same. You will likways deliver him ane anker of the whisky, the Tobacco and hoops. And in case you be straitned for meall its fitt you buy a boll or two more meall in the Orknies. In short, if Coule make your herrings, youll give out of the stores what Alexr. Layon will advise, on his receipt, and according as he makes herrings and is customary in such

cases. If you return with the bark here you are to have six pounds Sterling Wages. If you goe to the Sound, you are to have Nine pounds Sterling. And Duncan Mackenzie is to have three pounds here, and Baine thirty shillings. I give you two Guineas in hand to account, and what further necessarys will be sent by Dougald and Alexander Layon or either of them. So, wishing you a speedy voyage, etc.

Inverness, 13 Sepr. 1735.

Alexander McKenzie, younger of Coull [at Lochbroom].

SINCE I had the pleasure of seeing you here I informd my self by Andrew Munro of the terms that was promised for making of herrings at Lochbroom for his Account; and, after haveing considered seriously of that affair, I agree to give you three pounds Sterling for every last of herring you make for my account, and will furnish you salt, cask, and hoops here for that purpose, likways any other stores such as Bread, meall, Tobacco, Whisky, at the same rate they cost me. And likways you are to pay the Couper, and to have the cask well packed, fitt for shipping at a convenient fourland for that purpose, and that with outmost dispatch. If you agree to this proposall youll acquaint me, how soon this comes to hand, and deliver your letter to John Baillie, by whom this goes, and who is to send me ane Express. And, whether you agree to this proposall or not, I hope youll order Boats to Mr. Baillie, who pay them as well as any others doe. *Nota* that I am to allow three boll salt to each last of herring, being strong Spanish salt; which at present is from, etc.

Inverness, 19 9ber 1735.

Dougald Stuart [the Bailie's 'Servant'].

I RECEIVED your letter pr. Express, without dait, which gives much surprise; but I find you have been much impos'd upon, or surly you are not the honest Servant I took you to be. For why, I pray you, did you adven-

ture to transact any affair of mine but in the shape I order'd you? For, as to McKinnons obligatory Letter, promising to make good £100 Ster. when the ship returns, is only a Conditionell Security, and will never doe me any service with the principall Cr., Mr. Russell, who, by a letter this day sent me with D——. But, above all things, how could you venture to give up John McLeod's obligation to me annent the salmon without my special order, which was equally good to me as this Letter with John's other Letter's since sent me? And, abouve all, how cou'd you leave your service without liberty and clearing for all your intronissions? But, as you are engaged, I wish you good success, and that you give satisfaction to your employers. Ive sent you a letter to Mr. Charles Smith, of Bulogne,¹ my good freind; and if you goe to St. Valerie or Deep [Dieppe] he will advise to whom youll adress; but, if to Haver de Grace, you may adress to Jacob Ferrie. But take care that whosoever you medle with undertake to furnish you credit at Burdeaux or St. Mertins, where, I suppose you will take in your homeward cargoe for the full proceeds of the salmon. For, if you leave your salmon in the factors hands unsold, it may be long enough before your Employers see these or money. So you must be very cautious what you do, and Mr. Smith will give his best advice, who is a very honest man. When you come to Orcany you are to call for Sir James Stuart,² and he will gett some trustie to exped your Debentures; but be sure to clear with the Collector, and leave money to Sir James to pay the fees when the Debentures are exped.

Ins., 19 Nov. 1735.

Mr. Charles Smith, Bulogne.

THIS will be delivered you by Dougald Stuart, my freind and lait Sert., hes sent by the Laird of Mckinnon and some near freinds of mine with a parcell of Salmon to be sold in your nighbourhead, or att your port. I begg

¹ A noted Jacobite. His wife, *née* Paterson of Bannockburn, was aunt to Clementina Walkinshaw.

² Of Burray, Bart.

you give this young man your best advice about the disposall of his cargoe to the purpose for his Employers Accts.

Ins., 13 10br. 1735.

The Laird of McLeod.

HONLE. SIR,—I received your last favour, and, as I wanted money to pay Mr. John Clark for your Broysrs. Board, and as Baillie Gordon coud furnish none, I was obliged to take £10 ster. from Robert Chiviz, for which I gave him a bill on you of this dait payll. eight days after sight ; and Ile bring you Mr. John Clerks receipt and proper vouchers next week, when I hop to see you ; and then will satisfy you on evry point. I had a letter last post from the Doctor, which I've sent to Annie. He writes the money is reddy att Lon: ; and I hope in consequence of my last letter to him there will be orders with Rod: McLeod for me to draw against I come to Edr. I much lament Sir Alexr. McDonalds loss of his good, virtuous Lady.

Inverness, 30 August 1736.

Mr. George Udnie [London].

SIR,—I received yours of 14th curt., which gives me but verie bad encouragement as to the seall of my iron ; but I hope youll make better of it in some short time, which shall be glad to hear off. This serves cheefly to advise that how soon this comes to hand you inshure on my sloop the *Cristian* of this pleace, John Bailie, Master, and her cargoe of salmon from Lochduich to this pleace, and Muntrose if needfull, £300 sterlin ; and I hope youll doe it as frugally as possible. And I am expecting your punctuall complyanace, and answer in course, Sir, Your most humble servant.

This bark was at Lochduich in Kintail the midle of last week, but know not if has sailed as yet or not. You did not mark the price of cornes in your last Letter.

11th September 1736.

Mr. Patrick McHattie [London].

SIR,—I hope James Reay will be with you long or this comes to hand. I spoke to Baillie Gordon about that money you wrot me he was due you and received for your Accot. ; but he says he received no such money, and that he had wrot you to that purpose, so that I was obliged to draw directly on Mr. Backshell for the freight of the goods pr. Hugh Inglis to Baillie John Hossack and Co. ; but I hope again next post to send you a bill for what I am due you ; but *nota* that Mr. Reay paid me no money for your Accot. Pray, dear freind, enquire what my son John is adoeing, and if there is any probability of his getting soon into bussness. If not, I have taken a resolution, for certain reasons, that he come by James Reay, who, I hear, is to come down very soon to this firth ; or by the ship that Mr. Backshell is sending down to take in passengers for Carolina. So pleas introduce my son to Mr. Backshell, to whom I wrot this post, that he may recommend him for his passage down if better cannot be, or perhaps find some good bussness for him. Advise of your corn marcat, and how you think they will turn out again Spring. Barly is good and plentiful in this country, but the oats scrimp in Morray ; but the price will depend on the demand, which, I belive, will be very great from the south of this country, the cropt being very bad, and I don't know how it is with you. Give my humble service to Mrs. McKattie.

I have a parcell of fine Salmond to sell, about 115 Tearces, and, if I gett them not sold, I am thinking to send them to north France or Bilboa. I could sell them at £2 : 10 ster. pr. Tearce ; and, if James Reay come down, perhaps may freight him ; and, if you please to hold a share, youll be welcome.

Inverness, 18 September 1736.

Mr. John McLean, of London.

DR. SIR,—I received your kind oblidgeing letter of 7th August last, which I could have answered long ere

now, but that I waited some franks I expected from the country, being loath to put you to the expence of postage without recite of any advantage to you. The carактер you give of my son [John] is very agreeable, and I give you hearty thanks for the kind concern you take about him. I shall for my part be very thankfull to any that will help to put him some busness by which he may gett bread, and qualifie himself creditable. He wants a small trifle of cloaths—I think britches and a vest. If you please to help him that way, may draw on me for value, and will take care to pay the same; and wherein I can serve you you may always command.

Inverness, 18 Septr. 1736.

Mr. Patrick Mackattie.

I WROT you last post to which refers, I now send you my freind John Stewart,¹ quarter master of the Royal Dragoons, his bill of this date on Captain John Wilkinson of said Regiment, and agent to the same at London, for £20 ster., payle. the 10th nixt month; but my freind, being to goe for London nixt week, begs that you may not apply to said Mr. Wilkinson till he come, and that then he will see to gett it paid, which I doubt not, having a good sume of money in his hands at present; so that I doubt not this bill will be paid. However, if my freind John shoud not appear with you before this bill fall due, it will be necessary that you present it in order to doe the needfull, which I hope will not be the case, but that it will be honourably paid, which I heartily wish for your sake and my. I will say nothing as to the ballance.

Inverness, 23 Oct. 1736.

Mr. Patrick MacKattie [London.]

I HAVE your acceptable favour of 21 last month, and give you most hearty thanks for your kind concern about

¹ John Roy Stewart, afterwards Prince Charles's famous officer.

my son John, and I shall rejoice to hear from you that he behaves well, and give any content to his new master. I know he is a good humoured honest lad, and does not want a good capacity; so I hope patience with him may make him an agreeable servant. I sent about a moneth agoe a bill drawn by John Steuart, the quarter-master, on his Agent at London, for £20 Sterling, payable the 10 of this moneth, and I long much to hear if it be paid. If it is, you may apply the ballance will be due me towards paying some money my son John is due to his laite master, with whom he was at school; of whom he will Inform you. But, if the bill is not paid, I hope my cousine Mr. Steuart, who is now at London, and of whom my Johnie will gett you notice, will retire the bill, as he faithfully promised. If not, I must say he used me very ill, and cannot expect any forbearance, being now much in cash to my knowledge. I observe both your ships are comeing this way. You may depend Ile doe all the service in my power to their Commanders, and will provide two barrells of good pork for the *Hope* as you desire. And I belive James Reay may have a chance of a loadning of Barly very soon for London, if not of something else for London or France. May advise me of corn markets frequently with you. Deliver the inclosed to John, and lett him pay half postage. I hear Salmond sells well just now in Holland and Flanders, and I am just about to send my parcell to Campheer. Advise if you woud take a concern.

Inverness, 28th Octr. 1736.

Mr. John Mackleod [Glenelg, the Bailie's brother-in-law].

DEAR BROTHER,—I received yours of the 23 instant, which gave your Sister and me a great deall of pleasure, in that it advised of your being in a way of recovering. But then a shock so terrible ought to guard you how to keep a sober regular dyet hereafter; and above all things that you forbear drinking that poisonous drink, I mean

drams of brandie and whisky; for certainly your lait maladie has been fostered that way, and by cold mixed with it. I have caused repack most of the salmond p. John Baillie, and must all of it, as your Coupar has, I find mixed salmond and grilless together, which will not doe in the northern markets, as it would condemn the whole cargo for grilless, the last being commonly sold a fifth part or more cheaper than the salmond. And, when yours are all repacked, youll find but very fue salmond among them, not I suppose the third part, which is the reason I cannot get them sold at home, where, had they all been salmond, I coud have fetched 50 shillings p. barrell including the bounty; but, as they are mostly grilless, will not draw 40 shillings at home; so that its a greater loss to you that the bark was stopt so long in the Highlands and Orknies, for, if they had arrived about 20 days soonner, all had gone of at 50 sh: p. barrell for the Mediteranian market; but, as that is over, must now goe Camphier, where I hear that salmond is in demand at present, which I hope may bring a tolerable price for your grilless. But, if can sell some at home, shall rather doe it then run the risque of an uncertain market. And the bark will saile nixt week, and I will advise fully pr. nixt what is done. Mean time, I most earnest and pressing with Mackinnon about his accepted bills; for, if that shoud faile, you be ruined with my Lord Seaforth, since I cannot promise to raise money for your salmond to pay my bill of £72 sterling to him, which will fall due soon. Receive inclosed Accot. of cloaths and stockins sent you in one bundle p. bearer, amounting to £3 : 15 : 10 sterling. The furniture are in the bundle. And I sent 3 dozn. buttons for your coat formerly sent, and the note of drogs from Duncan Munro, which will amount to, as p. Accot. sent you, £1 : 5 : 2½ ster., which is put to the debit in account. The bearer refuses to carrie the wine, but he shall have as much as he can carry, and your shoes and black buttons; for the vest shall be sent p. first occasion, since could not be got readie this time. . . .

Inverness, 28 October 1736.

Mr. John Somervell [Renfrew].

I HAD laitley a proposall made one of getting a large quantity of Roll Tobacco from your pairts to be entered for exportation, and landed in a certain Island inby, which my freind tells me ther might be 50 p. ct. gott. I am utterly a stranger to such matters, and would by no means medle unless such a friend as yourself woud a third concern in it. The gentleman, my freind that writes me, says he would get Gentlemen of very good credit woud take it at a tollerable good price, suppose it were delivered them in February nixt, and grant ther bills, payable for the same at Michaellmass market of Creef thereafter. I am well aware that dealling in this manner is a much greater risque than formerly, and therefor I submit to you how farr such a project is practicable or not, or if you woud incline to be concerned, and furnish the goods on our joined security; as to which I entreat your answer in course. I would not venture to write on this subject but to a shure freind like yourself, and therefor I beg you preserve this from being exposed. And please advise of the price of meall and bear with you and in Irland; and please know that wee have here an excellent well ripen'd cropt, and particularly of Barly, and no scarcity of oat meall; so that if thers no foreigne demand, of which I find little appearance, if will be prittie cheap. If the Tobacco affairs woud doe I woud send a freind, a young man, to goe along the ship, and take in about 150 bolls foreigne salt, to be entered likways for exportation in the same bark. I mean our boll of 4 bushells. But all this I submit to your better judgment. Mean time, let me know how the Tobacco and salt would be purchased for this purpose with you; and I am.

I am determin'd not to medle in the above project but according as youl advise me.

Inverness, 6th of November 1736.

Mr. Patrick Mackattie [London].

I RECEIVED your favour of the 16 last past, and doe observe your orders annent delivering the cargo of goods on board James Reay, who, I hear, is at Portsoy, this 10 days past; and how [soon] he arrives here shall doe him all the service in my power. I am glad to find that you have gott payment of John Stewarts bill of £20 ster. on Captain Wilkinson, and desire you give up my acceptance for £15:10 Str. to my son John, which he is to forward to me here. And give you most hearty thanks for the kindness you show, and pray furnish him with your best advice, and lett me know he behaves with his new master, and how you think that service may answer his expectation. I desired him apply the ballance of Mr. Steuarts bill in your hands towards payment of his school-master, and quarters where he stayed; and beg you notice he doe. Whatever money James Reay pays me a rising from his freight shall be immediatly remitted you. I have got most of my parcell of Salmond sold here, and now is dispatching my sloop with them to Camphier in Zeland, where, I understand, they 'le sell prittie well for the Flanders market, there being few or non gone from Scotland for that Country or Holland this year, all being sent to France and the Mediteranian. As I advised you in my last, we have a very plentifull cropt well win, but the proprietors are very upish, and expect great matter, at least 8 merks pr. boll. However, may have me advised how it rules from time to time with you. I give you the trouble of the inclosed bill and Indenture. The bill is for £1:15 ster., and, as it is protested, and a horning raised and execut on it, the interest and charges will amount to 20 shillings more, in all £2:15 str. I hear Charles Peip, the drawer, is now in London; he is laityly come home from the East Indies, where he served as a midshipman. He is a near Cousine to Doctor Ross, who frequents the Rainbow Coffee house near St. Martain's Church; and no doubt youll be inform'd from said Doctor

where to find him ; but need not let the doctor know what you want him for. I have indors'd the bill for your recovering the payment, but woud not willingly put the poor man in Gaol, he being a near relation of mine ; but may threaten hard and areast his wages. The Indenture is from one Donald Mackenzie, a fellow was very ungrait to me, he being only my footman, and I out of favour sent him to sea without any consideration of reward, in order to serve him. If can get notice of this blade, which probable youll get from this towns lads, pray try what can be made of him. You see the penalty in the Indenture is £20 ster., but would compound for the half of it, besides the penalty of a shilling p. day during the time he was to serve, which, if I am not mistaken, is at least 18 moneths. So may inform yourself in these matters, and advise me. Pray, how soon this comes hand, insure on the sloop *Christain* of this place, John Baillie master, and her cargo of Salmond from this to the harbour of Camphier in Zeland, £160 str., and advise of your compliance in course. The said sloop will saile in 8 days ; and place the premium to my Acct.

Inverness, 4 Febr'y. 1737.

Letter to John MackLeod [Glenelg].

AFFT. BROTHER,—I Received yours of 31 past, but hade the sad news of young McKinons Death before it came to hand. I am truly much consernd for this sad event, which is a great loss to all his freinds, and your Brother Sanders in particalur. I am assured you will be sufferer by his death, as to his accepted bills in my hands ; and, in the meantime a vast Dissapintment to me with respect to his bill of £50 sterlin to Lord Seaforth, who, I find, is realy intended to put you from the salmon fishing of Kintea. And this day your Nairn fishermen are sent for to ingadge with him, tho I assured them you would have bussiness for them tho you gott not that fishing. But it sems they are of a piece with all of there kind, unsensible of good usage, and ungratfull. Since my last I hade

advice of John Bailies arival at Camphere the 15 Decer. last, and yet not one word have I from the Master nor the factor ; so I can not tell how matters will goe as to the salmon. The letter come here is from a boy to his Master David Rose. The news growes better everie post, as you will see by the unclosed prints came the tuo last posts. I belive honest McKinon thats dead will be much missed when ever your freind has to doe, and I supose that will be verie soon. I send not you the pownd of snuffe you wanted in your last, since you asked but for one pownd, and I sent it and asked no more. I have sent you the quair of paper, the stockins, Medicinsens, etc. as p. anexed account ; but Duncan Munro and Docter Cuthbert are surprisid much what you doe with all the Medicins sent you of leat. They say it would serve six men ; so I suppose you are imposed on. I saw your bill on me to John McKilvray, payable at ten days sight, and accepctd the same ; but must take care to draw no more on me for your acct. I am dificult much to gett clear of Lord seaforth, who duns me every day, as he does all Mortalls. The reason why I have not heard from John Baillie is that my letters have been in on of the several paket boats have been lost this winter ; so that I realy belive my letters from this Country have never come to hand.

Inverness, 25 March 1737.

I WROT of this dait to Peter MacKattie of London, advising that George Urqhart in the *Hope* sailed this day with 70 passingers and servants aboard, and that I hade shipt for our joynt Acct. on boord the ship *Adventure*, John Reid, Comander, 503 bolls 2 firlots bear of Cromarty Farmes [ferms], and desireing him to inshure £250 sterlin on our sd. Cargoe joyntly from Cromarty to London, or £125 sterlin on my proper Account, and that I drew on him for £25 sterlin to the order of William Hogg, Junior, of Eder., payable 20 days after dait, which I sent to Andrew Munroe to be forwarded to Mr. Hogg on granting receipt for the same pr. J. S.

Inverness, 9 Aprile 1737.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. William Backshell, of London, adviseing that his shipp, the *Hope*, sailed the 25 Last Month, and was at Carsetown in Orknie the 28, and would sail nixt day with a fair wind; advised likeways that would send him my Acct. of Debursements pr. nixt post, and draw on him for the ballance; and likeways sent a list of the Passengers and servants gone for Carolina aboard the sd. shipp; and Mr. Keneth McKenzie obligation relating to the freight of the Passingers and Declaration annent the indented servants.

Cromarty, 15 Aprile 1737.

I WROT to Peter Mackattie adviseing of my Draught on him of 12th Curt. to James Kinaird for £50 sterlin, 14 days after sight, which is in pairt of my accepted bill to Lord Seaforth on John McLeods Accts.; also wrot to him to speake to Mr. Backshell on my son Sanders his account, to be employed in South Carolina.

23 Aprile 1737.

I WROT to Mr. Backshell [London] adviseing that his shipp the *Hope* saled from Kerstown [Orkney], and Capt. Avorie went alongs the end of last month, and I hope is now gott near to Carolina, and adviseing to pay Keneth Mackenzies bill on him to William Davidson, £2:12 sh. ster., for maintaing some servants some weeks at his house in Cromarty.

23 Aprile 1737.

I WROT to Petter Mackattie desireing advice about Esdale slait, and adviseing that Capt. Avorie went along with his ship the end of last month.

Inverness, 30th Aprile 1737.

Mr. William Backshell [London].

SIR,—I wrot you of the 9th and 23 Currt. since which I had non from you. In the first I sent you an account of

the passengers and servants went aboard of your ship the *Hope*, with Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie Obligation relative to the same ; and in my last I told you that Capt. Avorie went along with your ship from the Orknie about the end of last moneth with a fair wind, which continued about 24 days, and I hoped the said ship was gott near her port [in Carolina]. Now I send you inclosed my accot. of Debursments for your accot., in which is included Mr. Mackenzies accot., which is likewise sent you, as is Capt. George Urquhart, the masters, receipt for £5 sterling of stock purse I gave him at sailing from Cromarty, and his bill on me to the pilot went with him to the Orknies for twenty-five shillings sterling, for which I have taken credit in the inclosed accot. curt. So you 'l see the ballance due me is £5 : 1 : 8 sterling, for which have valued on you of this date to Mr. Duncan Munro of this place, at three days sight, to which no doubt you will comply. I have likewise sent you a Notariall Coppie of Mr. Avorie's power to his broyr in Law Kenneth Mackenzie to act in his absence as his Agent, which will subject Mr. Avory to account to you for any thing said Mr. Mackenzie has transacted in his absence, and for what money he has received of yours. And now I have no more to say on this subject, but that the money I have drawn on you was fairly debursed for your accot., and I have not charged a pennie for my trouble I was put to about your affairs, nor for the time I spent about them, and shall be mightie glad to know you are satisfied with my conduct. I Confess your ship was long detain'd in this Country after parting from London, and I belive your charges are come very heavy, but is all owing partly to accidents of contrary winds, and partly to the blundering of your Manadger befor I had any thing to doe with your affairs. Thers a large copper still and a big tub of wood belonging to it left here, which I suppose must be returnd to London ; or, if you please, it may be sent with the first ship that goes to Georgia from hence ; as to which may advise. Capt. Urquhart had no room in his ship for the machine. Ile expect to hear from you in course acknowledging receipt of the acct. and vouchers

now sent you. With all submission I think Kenneth Mackenzie bill for £12 sterling in favour of Alex. Davidson should be paid. The poor man paid that for his passage tho left behind, and its hard he should lose it. Mr. Avory will be lyable to you for it.

Inverness, 30 May 1737.

I WROT of this dait to Sir James Steuart of Burray, advising that the Meall he hade bought for his Brother from Mr. Francis Sinklair could not be bartered for Lead at Strontian, but that, if the same was purchased at 4£ 10 sh. scots pr. boll of 8½ ston, I would take the half of it for my proper Acct. and send my sloop to load the same, being 450 or 500 bolls; and wrot likeways of same dait to Mr. Francis Sinklair desireing to be advised of the price of sd. meall, and desireing to forward my letter under his covert to Sir James Steuart pr. express, etc.

Inverness, 28 June 1737.

To the Honble. Mr. Francis Sincklair, Brother to the Earle of Cathness.¹

HONBLE. SIR,—I Received your favours of 6th and 21 curt., and doe observe that Sir James Steuart of Burray has actually bargained with you for four hundred and sixtie bolls oat Meal of last cropt, to be delivered to my order. I gott a letter from him about a month past, desireing I might send a shipp for sd. meall, but I wrot back of something ocured was like to dissapoint the project then in wiew, and beged his answer pr. first; to which haveing no return, and fearing much that the Meall might ly on hand in case it was not now shipped off, the season being far spent, I have sent the bearer, Donald Urquhart, in my bark the *Christian* of this pleace to load sd. meall for account of Sir James; so I beg you may give him outmost dispatch, good Meall, and good Weight, for

¹ Brother of Alexander, ninth earl of Caithness, and son of John Sinclair of Murkle, the eighth Earl. He died issueless in 1762.

the season is now far spent, and merkats are low, and can not wait longer for Sir James his answer, as it might prove of verie bad consequence to him and his freind; besides, have waited his answer verie long. Howsoon I gott your last I dispatched the bark without waiting anie timber that could be shipped from hence. May take the ship-master Donald Urquharts receipt or bill of loadning in Sir James name for the Meall, deliverable to me or order at Glainelg and Fortwilliam, ffreights according to Agreement, and mention that each boll weighs eight and half stones; and may take tuo bills of loadning of the same tenor, and send one of them to me pr. post howsoon the Meall is loaded. fforward the inclosed immediatly to Sir James, which is to acquaint him that the vessall is sent to receive the meall, since he writes me he would send one to see it shiped; but as the passage is uncertain the bark can not wait his return but must be immediatly dispatched; which at present is all from, etc.

Inverness, 24 7ber 1737.

I WROT of this dait to Normand McLeod of Drynach, my Father in Law, by Thomas Yeoman, and sent him the following bills to procure me payment viz., bill accepted by Donald McLeod, per Balamainach, payable 1 8ber at Ster.

Alexr. Cues [?] house in Creef	£21 : 19 : 6
Do. Accepted bill Rodrick McKenzie of Achavanie [Lohcarron] payble 4 8ber. at Muirhead's Coffee house in Eder. for .	17 : 10 : -
Do. Bill accepted be Andrew McFarlan payable at sd. Coffehouse	7 : - : -
Do. bill Alexr. McLeod on sd. Andrew McFarlan for	6 : - : -
	<hr/>
	£52 : 9 : 6

and I Desired Drynach to remitt by the bearer the value of the sd. bill, or to return them, etc.

24 7ber 1737.

I WROT to Alexr. Wederburn, my son in Law, and sent him bill of loadning for 18 barells tarr, which was all I could procure clearance for, and promised to send him the other 5 barells by next occasion.

1st 8ber 1737.

I WROT to George McLeod, of Burdeaux, desireing he might writ to George Ochterlounie, of London, to superceed the payment of his bill on me to sd. Ochterlounie for £47 : 14 : 4 ster. till Candlemas nixt, tho it fell due the 6 of nixt month, haveing only given commission to ship the goods payable in six month, I mean the tuo tunes of wine by George Smith of Aberdeen.

1st 8ber 1737.

I WROT to my son John a long full Letter to St. Lucar, and promised to send ample recomendations in his favour to Mark Pringle, the Consull there, etc.

1st 8ber 1737.

I WROT Likeways of this dait to John Reid, my son in Law, to the care of Mr. Thomas Kay at Ostend, adviseing him of his wife and children's health, and of my own family and Marian, and thanking for his kindness to my son John.

1st 8ber 1737.

I WROT David Gregorie of Campveer, begging him to send me acct. of sealls of 26 barells salmon consigned last winter by John Bailie in the sloop *Cristian*, and to send my account Curt.

1st 8ber 1737.

I WROT to Petter Mackattie, of London, adviseing of my barks arivall here, and that I was pleased no insurance was made as pr. his letter of 3d Septer., and sent the above letters inclosed to be forwarded under his covert and his letter under covert to the Laird of Grant. As also advised

sd. Mr. Mackattie to put a new Miror in the Miror frame I sent him last Aprile by Hugh Ingles of this pleace, and that the lose glass of it was intire, and to return the same by Hugh Ingles or Charles Steuart.

8 8ber 1737.

I WROT of this Dait to My son Alexr. Steuart, and sent him Bailie William McIntosh his accepted bill for £6 : 17 : 6d. sterlin indorsed by me, being for salt sold sd. Bailie McIntosh on his account. I Likeway sent him John Clerk, mercht. here, his obligation for £4 : sterlin on Acct. of on Adam Taylor in Cateness, etc.

Inverness, 17 Octer. 1737.

For the Leard of Mckinon.

I RECEVED your favour of 10th Curt., and I am sorie to find that your Uncle and you are so averse in setteling ane affair that in it self just equal, since I ame persuaded, as were all your freinds met in July last at Dunvegan, that John McLeod hade a verey just cleame to £100 sterling ; so that after alowing the Salmon, being but five full Barels after repacking, and McKinon your sons bill of £34 sterling in my hands, their is only fortie pounds due, for which I desid no more than a reasonable security in consequence of your own and Uncles obligation to that purpose ; which, being refus'd, I must for my own releef from the debts I stand bound for John McLeod put all the bills and the Documents I have realeatin to that affair in the hands of Creditors at Edbr. imediatly, who I bleive will look out wtout delay to secure themselves. I ame sorrie it should come to this, but I canot healp it, being much pressed at present.—I am, Honourable Sir, your humble Servt.

PS.—Pay my Humbe respects to Lady McKinon.

Inverness, 17 October 1737.

For Mr. John Mckinon of Mishish.

SIR,—I recieved your favour of 29th last month, and I am sorie to find that the setleing the Just Ballance Due

me on John McLeod's account is put to such time as I cannot determine: I made out an exact Acot. of John McLeods account with the late McKinon annent the Hundred pounds sterlin found to be due him by the freinds met at Dunvegan July last, and for which you have given your obligation in my neame to grant a reasonable security for the same; and as the Ballance due still of the sd. Hundred pounds appears to be but fortie pounds, after allowing all the payments made by the leate McKinon anie maner of way, I only asked a reasonable security for that sum, but, being refus'd, and I much pressd for Debts for which I stand engaged to the sd. John McLeod, I canot help giving up such bills as I have of the leate McKinons and your obligation and other Documents imediatly to John McLeods Creditors at Eder. for my releefe, which measure I would not purshue but that nessesity has no Law, so that I cannot be blamed if this affair should in the event be attended with a heavie charge, which, with my Humble Duety to your son and Ladie, is all from Your most Humble servant.

Inverness, 22d 8ber 1737.

I WROT of this dait to Rodrick McLeod, Writer in Eder., and sent him inclosed a letter to the Laird of McIntosh, and ordered him to read, seall, and deliver it, and sent him likeways a bond granted be Lachlan McIntosh of Daviot, the sd. McIntosh his Father, for 50 Merks to Bailie Robert Rose, My Father in Law, with anual rent on the same since Candlemass 1707, which extends in all now to about 7£ sterlin, which I ordered McIntosh to pay to or transact with sd. Rodrick McLeod, and sent likeways with sd. Bond sd. Daviots letter to me promiseing payment. I likeways desired Rodrick to send me the Inverlochie mens account, and to insist in ane admirall process against Tam Robertson.

22 8ber 1737.

I WROT to Alexr. Gordon of Burdiaux, and promised McKinons bills by David Munroe, and sent him tuo bills

with protests drawn by Old Borlim ¹ on his brother Lachlain, 1724, payable to Charles Gordon for value received, from sd. Alexr. Gordon with his Letter of Advice relating to Do., and send inclosed a Letter for Doctor Coutts at Buloigne, and, if gone, to be forwarded pr. post to the care of Charles Smith there.

12 *Nover.* 1737.

I WROT this dait to Leonard Urquhart [Writer, Edinburgh] annent my affair with [Urquhart of] Brealanguall [Ross-shire] and Likeways to Bailie James Steuart of Eder., desireing the Acct. of seall of my ten barells salmon sent him last year, and of 20500 slait consigned him *in Anno* 1734.

12 *Nover.* 1737.

I WROT to Petter Mackivar, perwigmaker in London, bid him call for John Roy Steuart, to whom I hade given orders to pay my son's bill on me for £3 : 10 sterlin.

12 *Nover.* 1737.

I WROT to Mark Pringle, the British Consul, thanking him for his Civilitys to my son, and desireing advice of Merkets at San Lucar, and desireing to inform my son John that I would writ him nixt post, and his mother was to provid him the cumlet he wanted, and I received his letter of 30 7ber last.

Inverness, 16 Decer., 1737.

Mr. Alexr. Gordon, at Bouloigne.

SIR,—My Last to you was of 10th curt., to which I referr, since which I received your verie acceptable favour of 12 Do. N:S: ; and, as it verie kind and wrot like a freind, it must certainly ty me down by all the tys of Gratitude to doe you justice among the first of my Creditors, and to doe you by my advice and influence all

¹ Brigadier Mackintosh of Borlum, near Inverness, the hero of the Rising of 1715.

the good offices lys in my power. I must in the mean time complain again of your Agent Mr. Chalmers, who has certainly, by aresting that pitifull sloop of mine at Lieth, given my credit the most mortall blow that ever it gott, whereas, hade he wrot me to yeeld that sloop by way of vendition in a privat way in pairt payment of the debt I am due you, I would have certainly done it, and endeavoured to fforward the seall all I could. But, far from useing me in that civil maner, he sumondsed me to the Admirall Court at Eder., in order to roup her ther, where I don't believe she would yeeld £30 sterlin, being quit run out and old. The bark happened to be freighted with a few goods for this pleace when arested, which imbarassed him so much that he lett her come to this pleace and took the masters obligation to deliver her here and her aparell to a brother writer of his here, which was done ; but, as you have been so good as to writ him of your dislike of this step, I suppose by nixt post he 'll send orders to pass from his arestment, as truly she may rot here befor she can be sold for your account, and will not be worth the while to carie back to Lieth. However, as I have sent some bills of McKinons as will pay the gross of what I am bound for the MackLeods, I will next doe my out most to clear a pairt of my own particular debt. But I most earnestly entreat that you order my bills out of Mr. Chalmers his hands unto anie other honest gentlemans hands, for the writers Agents take generaly a pleasure in harassing, and considers generaly ther own interest more than there imployers. And Ile willingly transact matters by bonds, and pay at certain termes as I am able. And, as I have now no prospect of ever recovering a shilling from the MackLeods, I expect a composition of that debt, which I must Leave to your self, and a com-pitent time to pay my own, as to which Ile expect to hear from you in course. Andrew Munroe did speake to me about that affair belonging to John Dunbar, and I told him I was willing, after that affair was examined and it was known how it stood, I would most willingly accept a bill for my proportion of the compounded sum, and concur

all in my power to forward your interest. If Captain John Steuart, lait of the Gray Dragoons,¹ be with you, pray give him my service, and tell I much wonder I never heard from him in answer to what I wrot him in 8ber last to London under covert of Sir James Grant.

Inverness, 20 Decer. 1737.

Mr. Alexr. Fraser, Bishop of Cathness.

SIR,—I presume on our old acquaintance to give you the truble of the inclosed noat writ by Mr. Francis Sinklair, that is, that you call for Alexr. Keith, mentioned in the within noat, and inquir if he has sold the barell of pitch and the barell of tarr which was left with him in the Moneth of July last by Donald Urquhart, master of my sloop; or, if he has, you will please call for the price, which is 18 sh. for the pitch and 12 sh. for the tar at least; but, if these barells be not sold, youll please call for them and sell them as above. But if can fetch more its the better, and remitt the Mony to me pr. first by the post; and I am, etc.

20 Decer. 1737.

I WROT of this dait to the Laird of McLeod, and sent him severall letters inclosed, and sent a patern of his new found out Lead mine in Glainelg to Rodrick McLeod, and desired McLeod [the Laird] to advise me annent the expence of working Sir Alexr. McDonald Coall Mines, and about Mr. Alexr. McLeods bill of 17£ sterlin in my hands, etc.

20 Decer. 1737.

I WROT likeways of this dait to Mr. James Stuart, Dunerns son, Mercht. in Eder., in answer to his of 25 Janry., and sent him inclosed his bill on me, payable at his shop at Whitsunday next, for £9 sterlin, accepted; I say £9 : - : 6 sterlin in full of my account to him.

¹ John Roy Stewart.

Inverness, 7 Febr'y. 1738.

To Mr. Alexr. Fraser at Scrabster near Thursoe [Bishop of Caithness].

I WROT to him of this dait in answer to his letter of 31 Janry. last, ordering to sell my barell of Tar and one of Pitch left at Thursoe by Donald Urquhart in July last, at the curt. price in that pleace, if could not fetch the price sett on these goods, that is 18 sh. sterlin for the barell pitch and 12 for the tar; and to remitt the price to me pr. post. etc.

8 May 1738.

I WROT to Messrs. William and John Davidsons, Merchts. in Rotterdam, and sent them pr. Donald McKenzie in the sloop *Christian* of this pleace, a patern of the Laird of McLeods Minerall of black tinn in Glainelg, and desired to be informed of the value of the same, and desired them send me a piece of 16 yairds of the broadest and finest white Caligoe for womens use, and to call for payment from sd. Donald McKenzie, etc.

8 May 1738.

I WROT to them likeways by sd. Mackenzie the 8 of May curt., and ane other lairger piece of sd. Minerall, with advice about it, and desired Donald McKenzie give them what mony of mine remained of my share of the freight over and above what payed mens wages, etc.

8 May 1738.

I WROT to Alexr. Steuart, mercht. in Amsterdam,¹ and desired Messrs. Davidson to send him a piece of sd. Minerall, and desired him advise me of the value of the same, advising him what was told me of the severall uses to which it was applyed.

¹ Probably Alexander, brother of Sir James Stewart of Burray, Bart. His testament, as merchant in Amsterdam, is recorded at Edinburgh 23rd January 1744. He was, like his brother, implicated in the murder of Moodie of Melsetter in 1725.

Inverness, 15 July 1738.

To Mr. Rodrick McLeod, Writer [Edinburgh].

SIR,—I received your favour of 6 curt. and doe return you inclosed my Discharge to the Laird of McIntosh for fiftie merks, by which I find I have lost my interest for 32 years past, whereas, if I hade not been too tender of the Laird befor he was Laird, I needed not lose a farthing; and so much for my simplicity. I wish you woud send me back the pappers relaiting to Andrew McFarlin, I mean his accepted bill and diligence on it, with his letter to me relaiting to that affair, since I may chance to see him soon. I pray mind my affair with Harrie Rose, I mean the bond granted by his Father to Janet Carr my wife's Grand Mother, and to which my wife has made title for herself and brother and sisters, etc.

Inverness, 8 August 1738.

Coppie of Instructions to Donald McKenzie, master.

DONALD,—You are to proceed with all possible Diligence to Thursoe in Cathness, and, when you arive there, you are to deliver my letter to Mr. Francis Sinklair, and show him the other letter from Loduick Brodie, writer in Eder., ordering to deliver me four hunder bolls meall at eight and half ston pr. boll, which meall you are to receive and is to be put free aboard in the River of Thurso; and my Cousin Mr. Alexr. Pope, Minister of Rea,¹ is to assist you to receive the same, so send my letter howsoon you arive, And when you receive the Meall, make the best of your way for Portree in the Isle of Sky, and adress to Alexr. McDonald of Kingsborrow, and give him what meall he calls for, and to Sr. Alexr. McDonald at eight ston pr. boll, and the price at ten shilling, and sell all you can for reddie Mony. And, after you have stayed tuo days there, you are to proceed to the Kyle to Glainelg, and sell there all you can for reddie Mony, and give to the order of Drynach

¹ Mr. Pope was related to the poet Pope, whom he visited at Twickenham in 1732—riding his pony from Caithness.

what meall he calls for, and take receipt for the same ; and give Sr. Alexr. McDonald and Kingsborow, and take there receipts if you gett not Mony. And, if you put in to Stornway, sell what you can for redie Mony, but trust non there. So pray make all possible dispatch, and I hope to meet you in Glainelg. You are to receive from Mr. Francis Sinklair a barrell of tar and one of pitch, the tar to be sold at 12 shillings, and the pitch at 18 shillings. And, if can not gett that price, carie the same to the Highlands. I have sent with you ane iron balk, with brod, barell and weights, to weigh out the Meall, viz. two 52ths of lead, tuo iron ston weights, half ston of iron, and a 4th and 2th of brass, which must be carfully returned. And keep ane exact acct. of the Meall, and take care that non be stoln nor imbasled. You are to grant receipts for the meall, when shipped, to Mr. Francis Sinklair ; and my Cousin, Mr. Alexr. Pope, will supply you with anie Mony you want. The mens wages as follos :—to Will: Munroe 25 sh. ster. pr. month, and to David Miller 22 sh. pr. month, and to Alexr. McLeod 20 sh. pr. month, and your own wages as Master is six pounds sterlin for the whole voyage ; and I have given you at this Dait half a Guenie to account, and seven shilling ster. more. I have shipt of provisions tuo bulks Mutton and a syde of young beef salted, tuo lairge cheeses, and half ston butter, and half boll meall baked, and tuo pocks groats, and 12 lbs. candles ; and have ordered Mr. Francis Sinklair to provid you with tuo barells beef. And I have shipped a gallon of Whiskie, and given five shillings to David Millar in pairt of his wages, and given Donald McKenzie 17 shil. sterlin to account to pay the Whiskie, etc.

Inverness, 11th August 1738.

For Mr. John McLean, Mercht. in London.

SIR,—It is a long time since I had the pleasure to hear from you, but I am mightie glad to hear you are verie well. This serves cheefly to advise that howsoon. this comes to your hands you 'll please inshure for my Account

in the bark *Christian* of this pleace, Donald McKenzie, master, from the Harbour of Thursoe in Cathness, with her cargoe of oatmeall aboard, £240 sterlin : I say on sd. bark and cargoe of oat meall, with liberty to call in the Isle of Sky to dispose of pairt of sd. cargoe. The sd. sloop is not yet sailed from Thursoe in Cathness. I earnestly beg your care in this, that this inshurance be made howsoon this letter comes to your hands, and that you draw on me for the premium to your Father, which will be punctually honoured, etc.

Inverness, 8 May 1739.

Mr. Alexander Andrew [Rotterdam].

SIR,—I received yours of 7 Aprile last only last night, which is pretti harsh and so gives me very much Pain. In the first pleace, I must tell you sincerely that I take God to witness I never meant to defraud you nor any man of what I am justly resting, and, however you may judge of my conduct with respect to yourself, yet I assure you it is my missfortune more than my fault that I am so long and so much in your debt. And, as to what you insinuat of having it in my power on a certain occasion to do you justice, you are certainly misinformed in that matter ; for, though I own there was £500 sterlin appointed to me of that mony by the Gentleman that gave it, yet such was my situation at that time that it was attached at Edbr., and torn away by some creditors there before I could touch a pennie of it ; and than I firmly purposed to have mead a devision of it amongst my creditors, and to have mead you principally easie. But that was not in my power ; but still I have the Pleasure to think you are better situat in your claim than anie perhaps I am in debted to, as you have a gentleman bound with me in a bond of coroboration for what is oweing, whose effects I hope will answer near your claim very soon, if your agents follow my advice. And, as this is the case, I can see no advantage can arise to you by chassing me from my habitation, or throwing me into a nesti gaol, which last, as I am now old and prettie infirm, I must avoid as much as I can. I wrote you twice on this

subject before, to which you did not favour me with anie answer, or, if you did, it did not come to my hands. And now I am to tell you ingeniously and upon the faith of a Christian I am not able to pay you, but by the effects of Mr. Rose, who you have bound with me and owes me more mony than that. I wrote to your agent Mr. Taylor begging he would not push me at the rigorous rate he did, but that he would allow me to gett that affair with Mr. Rose so to bear as that your mony might be recovered, and to be at freedom to look after my affairs; which he absolutly refused without your orders, so that realy, Sir, as the case stands, it will be your interest that application be mead by Mr. Taylor in the legall way imediatly to recover your mony from Mr. Roses funds rather than distress me further; and it will not take long time to bring that affair to a period, as adjudications are now carreing on against him and his esteat sequesterat and put into the hands of a Factor for the behalf of his creditors untill the same be put to seal, which I hope will be very soon; and I am much mistaken if it does not come out to pay all the principal sumes he owes. In which case youll be prittie safe. I wrote last post to Mr. William Taylor, your agent, upon this subject, and have offered such documents of my debt as I am possessed of to be lodged in his hands, so as he may go on in diligence as others do; to which I expect no right answer untill this reach you and you send your orders. And if he will not medle with those obligations, I mean Bonds and bills I have, then let him adjudge on the Bond of Coroboration he has in my behalf, but I am no Lawier, and Mr. Taylor is best judge what is proper for him to do; and I'll concur chearfully with anie thing lys in my power, and, as I told you above, I solely declare this all I can do at present. As to my retiring to strong holds you mention, you have not got that storie right; but it was so, I am sorrie to tell you, that others, in consequence of the example your Agent gave, are now verie heavie upon me, to whom alas I can make no satisfaction comparable to what I do you.

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29 June 1739.

I WROTE to Leonard Urquhart, Writer to the Signet, in Eder. and have sent my acct. against Tom Robertson and all the vouchers relating to the same as pr. Inventorie, of which I have the coppie, of this dait ; as soe I advised that James Morrays willing to buy Hendrie Roses house, and that Mr. Rose should be oblidged to send orders annent the seall of the same to Baron Taylar or Brea Languall,¹ etc.

Inverness, 5 10br 1739.

To William Fraser, Writer to the signet.

DR. SIR,—I received yours of 29 Last November, acknowledging the reset of my assignation in favour of Alexr. McGilivray of the debt due me by Thundertowns exequitors, and now I send you inclosed Translation in favours of Mr. John Shaw of the debt due me by the late Drumuir² and others, and which I payed to John Baillie, writer to the Signet ; and I wish success in it for our mutual benefits. It was by mistake that my last to you was sent in the bag by the Post Office, which cost so much postage, but shall hereafter take care to avoid such expence. I observed what you write me annent the debt I am due to David Deas ; but I'm sorry to tell you that its not in my power at present to pay or find security for the Ballance due him, and must therefore treat your good offices for me in getting him to superced payment of the ballance till Whitesunday next. I have a prospect against then to be able to pay him, which indeed I cannot do at presente. But that which pinches me cheefly at present is the debt I was due George McLeod, Cadbols brother,³ who refuses to meddel with that assignment I offered him of the debt due me by Termit,⁴ tho the Laird of McLeod, my good freind, interposed with him in the

¹ Urquhart of Braelangwell, Ross-shire.

² Duff of Drummuir.

³ George, second son of Eneas Macleod of Cadboll, and brother of Roderick, second laird ; died *s.p.*

⁴ Mackintosh of Termit.

most earnest maner in my behalf to no purpose ; for he has given the strickest orders to his trustie here to execut the Captian against me, so that I am not in safety to walk the streets, so that last shift I can think on is that you and my other freinds apply Cadbols brother, and agent, Mr. Davit Scot at Edinborough, and try if can prevail with them to advise Cadbol to take an assignment to the debt due me by Termit.

Fragment of Letter

. . . and is a find sprightly virtuous Ladie. I have got lately into the acoquaintance of her sister the Countess of Sutherland, who is a charming fine Lady and a mightie honest woman ; and my daughter Annie, who is very much in her esteem, goes over next week to Dunrobin to stay with her some time, and the Earle of Murray and the Countess are to be North the end of June next, and then I beleive these two Ladies will be much together, and I hope will produce some good effect as to me.

I hear there is no setlement as yet made with our friend John the Earle's brother, and his conduct is generaly blaimed in assuming his Ladie before that setlement was made. He was offered before then £6000 Sterlin, but how maters will goe now I can not determin ; only I must tell you I expect no friendship from that quarter, but I forgive all mine Enemies, and trust in God while I Live. My Brother in Law, James Russell, died about 14 days past of a high fever and Pleurecie, and of 4 days illness, without time to setle his Affairs. He has left about £3000 sterlin, of which my Nephews will fall the largest share. I beleive his son James, who is a good prettie lad, will succeed In his business with the Earle. This a seekly mortall time here. McBain of Faily and honest Dummaglass died last week (two honest prettie fellows) of the same as Russel did. There is in this Country at present the greatest scarcity of Corn and bread has been for 40 years past, all being bought and carried to the South of this Country, and to London, where it was much wanted ; but we have

fine weather, and a fine appearance of a cropt on the ground, and our Highlands are much better provided in bread this year than the Low Countrys. All in my Family do salute you; and your friend James is doing finely, the most assiduous student I ever knew of his age; and John is doing well at London, who no doubt writes you. I beg to hear frequently from you; and, with all becoming respects to be remembered to my most dear friends Messrs. Munro, Edwards and Carrick, and honest Mr. Sinclair. May God Almighty bless and prosper you all and grant me good and comfortable accounts of you. This being holy day I have only time to add that I am, etc. No Doubt you have heard of the death of our friend old Apine.¹ I wish he may be well represented.

Inverness, 28 June 1740.

I WROTE of this Dait to Mr. William Steuart, member of Parliament, to my son John, and to John Roy.

Inverness, the 12 July 1740.

To David Munroe, writer in Eder.

DR. SIR,—I bleive you 'll remember that amongst the severall Gifts left by Mr. Robert Jamieson, laet Episcopall Minister here, by his Legacie, there was £100 Scots left to my son James, who goes now sixteen years, and has made good proficiencie in the Latin and Greek, and inclyns very much to prosecut his studies. And for that purpose he and I want very to gett that little sum payed. And, as you imployed in asertaining the Legaties titles to the Defuncts effects, Baron Taylor told me laitly you was ordered to pershue in this session a Decreet of furthcoming against the person in whose hands the money is arested; therfor I beg you advise me in course what steps are taken to gett that money recovered, and whow soon you think it may answer, as my young man wants it very much, and it were a pitie he were not supported, for he

¹ Stewart of Appin.

promises well. I want much to know if you gave Mackinons Bills due me to William Chalmers, Alexr. Gordon of Burdiaux his agent, and what Voucher he has given in exchange of these bills. If William Forbes refuse to asigne McKinon's Bill, accepted to Lord Seaforth order, or to him as his Doer, to him who payed the same, or to Mr. Chambers for my Account, lett him indorse it to James Kinaird, to whom I payed the same, and he promises to assigne the same to me or order; as to which I beg like-ways to hear from you, and verie much oblidge.

Inverness, 18 August 1740.

For the Laird of Appin.

DR. SIR,—I happen to be resting your freind Dougall Stuart, my old servant, £20 ster., pr. bill accepted, which indeed I am not able at present to pay, but I am hopefull that in some time after this I will. I find Dougall has fallen in debt to his lait Master, Andrew Munroe, about £16 ster., which, it seems, he cannot now pay him but by indorseing my bill, which Mr. Munroe refuses to accept; so that to make all matters easie I take the freedom to propose to you what I would acknowledge as a verie great favour, and by which you would be no looser in the event, that is, that you would grant your own bill to Mr. Munroe, payable about 12 Months after dait, and take ane indorsation to my accepted in pleace of it, which I hope I will be able to pay befor your bill to Mr. Munroe fall due. I am much ashamed to make this proposeall, but it is in confidence of your freindship, and that at long run youll be no loser by agreeing to it. Ile be mightie glad to hear from you.

Inverness, 10 8ber 1740.

To Mr. James Paterson, Surveyor of the Customs at Keith.

SIR,—I received your favour of 2d instant, with the inclosed afidavit, which I herewith return; and for clearing what difficulties occur about the foraigne salt bought by the lait McKinnon from Lachlain McLain of Glasgow,

I send you inclosed a certificat for 120 barrells Salmon exported and entered outwards at the Customhouse of Kirkwall in Orkny in Septbr. 1736, which makes out 240 Bushells of said salt ; and I bought from John McLeod and exported from hence in the Bark *Christian* of this place, John Baillie master, in the month of 8br. 1737, an 100 Barrells more, which will make out more than the whole quantity for which McKinnon was engaged, and, if needfull, I can get you a voutcher from this place to that purpose ; but I judge you can be as well furnished in that from the quarterly acct. at Edr. ; but wherein I can serve you or McKinnon command, Sr.

Inverness, 25 8ber 1740.

I WROT of this Dait to Bailie Robertson at London open under covert of my freind, Mr. John MackLean, in which I have acquainted sd. Bailie that I have demanded from Lord President ¹ payment of a hogshead Claret wine at 15£ sterlin, price due by the deceast Laird of Culoden, his Lops. Brother,² and which the sd. Bailie Robertson uplifted on pretence I keped him mony, without anie Mandat from me, and that now I wanted he should writ me declareing I gott no payment, nor gott he anie Mandat from me for uplifting that mony, that and so I may recover the same of the Lord President, which his Lop has agreed to.

27 Decer. 1740.

I WROT to my cousin the Captain,³ and acquainted him with the situation of affaires in this Country, and of McIntoshes ⁴ death, and of other particulars as to Anne, and sent his letter under cover of same dait to Charles Smith at Buloigne, which went under cover to John McLean at London, to whom I wrot annent the Black Lead Myne in Glainelg, and desired him call for Thomas Avre at Peter Mchatties house in Waping, who would bring him to Merchts. wer willing to buy a quantity of it.

¹ Forbes of Culloden.

² Known as Bumper John.

³ John Roy Stewart.

⁴ William Mackintosh of Mackintosh, died 24th September 1740.

13 *Febry* 1741.

I WROT of this Dait to my cousin the Captain, and advised of McIntosh his Marriage with Innercauls Daughter,¹ and that Mr. Jameson and Messrs. Cambell and Forbes longed to see him ; as alsoe of fine wather, and the prices of Victual were begining to fall, etc. etc. This letter went under cover to Mr. Charles Smith [Boulogne] and under covert to John MackLean in London, forwarded by his Father, all of this dait.

Inverness, 11 Aprile 1741.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. John McLean, Mercht. in London, and sent him Hugh Ingles, Master of the *Pledger*, his receipt for a barell, marcked I. S., containing 270 lb. weight of black Lead to be sold to the best advantage for my account ; and in case the same was sold I desired him send me a box of pouthered white sugar, to contain 50 lb. weght, and a hyde of best bend leather and four dressed calves skins, etc.

Inverness, 27 June 1741.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. John MackLean, mercht. in London, adviseing that I wrot to him the 1st May last, which went to Eder. by James Burn and put in the post office, in which was one inclosed for my cusin J: Roy,² and now desired to know what merket he found for the barell wt. 270 lb. black lead sent by Hugh Ingles. As wrot to George Strachan, bookseller in Cornhill, under his covert, desireing to send me a Description of the Kingdoms of Chili and Peru in America done by Monseieur Frazier, Ingenier [Engineer] to the French King, *in annis* 1712: 13: 14. As also to send the sermon called the Crisis, inscribed to the Right Reverend the Bench of Bishops.

¹ Angus Mackintosh of Mackintosh married Anne, daughter of Farquharson of Invercauld. She was the noted 'Captain Anne' of the 'Forty-five.

² John Roy Stewart.

27 June 1741.

I WROT likeways of this dait to David Munroe, writer to the Signet, desireing to advise me in course what was yet done about the Legacies left by Mr. Robert Jameson to my son James, etc. ; as also to send me the lait McKinons tuo bills in his hands.

Inverness, 31 August 1741.

John McLeod, son to Drynach.

DR. BROTHER,—I received yours of 24 curt., which came so late on Staturdy to my hands and requires so much time and attention to answer every paragraph of it that I must delay writing fully till next post ; only it appears by the inclosed acct. that you labour under mistakes, of which I am persuaded I'll convince you clearly ; and, if not you, I am certain I will any other reasonable man. I only take notice of the surcharge you make on your Salmon of five shillings p. barrel more than they were sold for, as to which I can show you that you have aggreed under your own hand to every step I made in disposing of said Salmon, and the account of seals of what were sent abroad, and my account with John Lesslie for what was sold here. So I see no room for a surcharge on that head. It is true that I might have wrot that I expected fiftie shillings p. barrel, and its possible I might had they come here sooner than they did, and if the quality had proved equally good with those of this Country ; but it was otherways, as the Salmon and Grilses were all packed together promiscuously, and several barrels spoild, and all forced to be repacked and washed with clean salt, as I can instruct by severals here. And, to tell you the truth, both Couppers and Merchants here that saw the fish thought they were well sold, and I think so to this day. And, as for McKinnon's five and an half barrels salmon, it was by your own advice that I gave credit in his account for them when we made up his account at Shandeik, when I'm certain you propos'd the ballance then due should be pay'd to me, as your brother Alexr. can inform you. However, poor as I am.

the dispensing with it is not what sticks to me just now, but how to bring about matters so as to preserve my character with Mr. Alexander Gordon for the reason I told you in my last ; for I take God to witness I would do any thing in my power to forward your interest, and therefore I think you ought to be more guarded against passion when you write your letters, and not to treat me with insinuations, as if I had ruin'd you and done you the utmost injustice, which God knows I never meant. As I am to write you fully in my next I shall only add, etc.

Inverness, 11 Septbr. 1741.

Baillie William McIntosh, senr.

DR. SR.,—There have of late come such a run of demands on me that I am quite out ; therefore I must entreat your help. I have got from you before now eleven pound sterlin, so, if possible, send me thirty shillings more, which will make twelve pounds ten shillings, and the same will be accounted for, and you 'll oblige yours, etc.

Inverness, 18th Sept. 1741.

DR. COMISARE,—I have writ you some letters in these last two years, but I doe not remember that I was favoured with a return to anie of them ; and yet I have the charity to think that this neglect is not the effect of contempt of me in my present Low Circumstances, nor can I think it proceeds from anie just cause of disoblidgement I have given you, as I am not conscious to my self that I have ever made anie wrong step that way. And theirfor I must give you with freedom, as your friend and Cusin German, ane Account of what your frends in this country doe generally say of you with regrait, that is, that they are extreamly surpris'd that a man of your sense and understanding should be so long absent from your Family in this Country, as they are positive you could live here with much less expens then at Edinborow. And, if you enclyn to follow your business of writing, you would ingross the most of all in this Country, which alone might enable you to live verie comfortably, besides the Perquisits of your

office as Comissar, which, I am assured by some people of the quill here that know that affair, would yeeld you at least from £40 to £50 sterlin yearly. And I was told and assured by some of our Magistrats that they long much for your coming to reside here, and would willingly setle a handsome Anuity on you for your advice and deration when they asked the same. So that I think I dare venture on verie just and resonable grounds to conjure you not to slight and neglect so fair a prospect, but that you'll immediatly resolve to come hither to your virtuous wife and Family, and contribut to make the remainder of your days easie and happie, and at some time vindicat your conduct from the generall censure you have incured for being so long absent from this place, where your expence hade been Less and your business much better then it has been for some time past at Eder.

When my son in law, John Reid, went to Eder. in spring last I gave him orders to speak to you about some particulars, particularly about the ballance of reversion on David Stuart our Cousins Esteat may be due. Jam. Stuart, the President principall servant and trustee here, says that the ballance due on the seall of the house is still in the Presidents hands, so that I bleeve, if you were here, wee could easily persuad Evan Baillie ¹ to yeeld up his pretensions that way; and, besides, that I fancie ther are other funds resting of our sd. Cousin effects to which wee have just title; and God knows I for my part want very much at present help and support of that kind. But Ile forbear these particulars till meeting, which I hope and wish may be very soon. Wy wife and Anne give you their best wishes, and I am, Your most affectionat Cousin and Servant.

Inverness, 22 September 1741.

John McLeod, son to Drynach.

DR. BROTHER,—I received yours of 19 Currt., and it vexes me much that you are about to leave the Country

¹ Evan Baillie of Abriachan, lawyer in Inverness.

without seeing me, as it likewise your sister and niece Annie vexed. However, I pray God bless and prosper you. I send you inclosed a letter to David Munro, writer to the Signet in Edr., desiring him to give you up your accepted bill drawn by the late McKinnon for fiftie pounds ster. However, I think in justice you ought to send your accepted bill to me for this ballance of the accot. currt. which is about £40 pd. ster., payable in a year after this, as I really think it is due me ; and, if you cannot pay me a year after this, I hope you will when you can. I have an apprehension about me that my letter may miss David Munro at Edr., as I hear he is coming north. In that case I send you the Declaration you wanted relating to McKinnon discharging him of your bill drawn by the deceast John, which I hope will do your business and procure you payment ; and if David Munro be come off or my letter reach him Ill get up your bill and send it to your father. This step will expose me much to the anger of Alexr. Gordon, but Ill run annie rusque rather than be an impediment to you at present.

I wish I had seen you and known a little of your project ; and my advice is you come North from Criefe, since my son in law, John Reid, will in ten or twelve days be ready to sail from this to Dunkirk with a loadning of salmon, which would be a noble occasion for you and save you a deal of money, and you could stay with Lord Lovat until the ship was clear to sail, and not the worse for you that you saw him and me before you went, and then your sister and Niece would see you if you come North. Tell no mortal of your design, and Ill keep all whist for my part.—I ever am Yours, etc.

Inverness, 26 October 1741.

Mr. Rodrick Mackleod, writer at Edr.

DR SIR,—This letter will be delivered you by Charles Urquhart of Brealanguel, to whom I am indebted, and who has accepted bills of mine to the extent of about £70 ster. And, as I have no way at present to satisfy him for the same, I have made a proposal to give him that bond resting

by Baillie Robert Rose, Father to Henry Rose, to Janet Carr, my present wife's grandmother, to which she made title by your manadgment. But, as the expence of making title is not payd, I suppose Brealanguel will pay the same; and on such payment you'll please give him up the bond on getting his obligatory receipt promising to account to me for what he recovers by the said bond in part payment of my bills in his hands, the dait of the bills and sums in them to be mentioned, as I suppose he is to indorse them to others, being due to him as trustee and factor for Sir George Mackenzie's creditors,¹ for a part of whose rents these bills were granted. So I must depend on you to order this affair as you find most safe for my interest; but I think it will be proper this bond be put in such hands as will do the meedful on it lest longer delay occasion the loss of the whole subject; which at present is all from, etc.

Inverness, 26 Oct. 1741.

Mr. John Mackinnon of Scalpay.

DR. SIR,—I take the freedom to give you the trouble of this letter to request that howsoon it comes to hand you speak to the second Laird of Mackinnon, I mean your mother's Cousin Muchernish, and give him my most humble service, and tell him that, as I am at present prettie much in straits, he will much oblidge me by ordering payment against Martimass next of one of his Cousin's bills, I mean the defunct John Mackinnon of that Ilk, particularly of his acceptance to me for thirty four pounds three shillings and four pence Ster., which was payable at Martimass 1736, and which was regularly protested, so that next Martimass the principal and Interest amounts to £42:17:8d ster. Notwithstanding my straits I shunn'd all along, from the great regard I bear to that family, to put these bills unto hands might raise diligence and accumulate expences on that Gentleman, to whom my wife has the honour to be so nearly related; but now my own necessity requires a supply from anie friend to

¹ Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, Lord Advocate.

which I have a just title, and therefore I hope my friend will comply with my just demand. And if the presure of the family debts be such that he cannot pay the full extent of within mentioned bill, in that case I will content myself at present with the one half at this Martimass, being £21 : 8 : 10ster. and grant my receipt for the same, or take his accepted bill payable against Candlemass or Whitsunday for the other half, and give him up his Cousin the late Mackinnon's bill ; as to which I beg your answer as soon as possible, and that you persuad the Laird to comply with this just demand, as it will be his real interest so to do ; for, if these bills be once assigned to any of my creditors, he may depend there will be real diligence immediately.

Mr. Roderick M'Leod, Writer, Edinr.

20 *Novr.* 1741.

You forgot in the acct. anent my bill to give me credit for 50 Merks Scots that was paid you by the late Laird of McIntosh's Agent about two years ago, being the principal sum in a bond of his father's I sent you, and which you advised me was paid. . . . I trouble you with the inclosed summons given me before the Lords at the instance of James Wemys, late postmaster, for news papers, and your friend, Kenneth McKenzie, Mercht. here, has got such another charge, and tells me has sent the same up to you. I believe neither he nor I can be justly liable for any money on that head, as I am positive neither of us ever called for any such papers, and I know not to this hour by whose order they were addressed to me for a year's time tho very oft they were taken out of the post office by the Lady Assin's friends and never came to my hands. So I hope you 'll notice to prevent trouble to me in this affair, as you do to Kenneth McKenzie.

Inverness, 6 March 1742.

I WROT of this Dait to Mr. John McLean, of London, under cover to MackLeod [of Macleod], and sent him in-

closed to be delivered and forwarded a letter to William Steuart, Esqr.,¹ and other to Doctor Coult at Buloigne in France, and advised that my son James was to go with John Reid for London, etc.

Inverness, 21 May 1742.

I WROT of this Dait to my son James under covert John Mackay, addressed to Master John Stuart, member of Parliament,² and desired him call for a letter I sent him under covert to Sir James Grant [of Grant] about the 22 of Aprile last, in which was a letter to Miss Manet Delamer, etc.

Inverness, 19 June 1742.

I WROT of this dait to William Fraser, writer to the signet, and sent him Decreet of Adjudication and Decreet of Mealls and Duetys against Cumings houses in the East street,³ and my conjunct bond with Termitt, and Discharge and assignation by Mr. Donald Taylar to me as ground of sd. debt, in order to discuss the suspension raised on my diligence against the tenants of sd. houses. I likeways sent him letter John Ingles, writer in Eder., to Lord Lovat annent his Lops. engadgement for me to Cadboll, with my last bond of presentation on the Caption at sd. Cadbolls instance, and his letter to me on the subject, and his memoriall by Alexr. Rose relaiting to the security he agreed to take, and my pretestation against Alexr. Clerk, his Agent, at getting up my last bond of Presentation, with orders to oppose anie process against Lord Lovat, etc.

Inverness, 2d July 1742.

To Mr. John McLean [London].

DR. SR.,—I received your much esteemed favour of 19 last month, and you may beleive that the good Character you gave my son James gives me very great pleasure and joy, as it does to his Mother and all in my Family, who

¹ See footnote p. 10.

² Brother of the Earl of Moray.

³ Now High Street, Inverness.

are all, as well as I, much oblidge and indebted for your Great and Undeserved kindness to My Children John and James. I hope, if God spare their Lives, they will most gratefully acknowledge the freindship you doe them. And when you [get] particulare accounts of John pray let me know. As to James going to Giberalter, I leave that intirly to yourselfe and Mr. Gordon, to whom I have wrot of this dait; but, if any business would be found out for him in London could bring him tollerable subsistance for some time, I would choose it, as I trust in Almighty God his brother John may come home in some months to England in safty, in which case he may be of use to James.¹ But, notwithstanding this prospect, I would by noe means have James dissoblidge or disapoint his good freind Mr. Gordon, but conduct himself conformed to his orders and direction. I gave your comendation to Mistris Newton,² who gives you her humble service. Her husband, Ruchard Newton of Newton, Esqr., accepted two bills laitley, the 18 of last month, payable at your house in London 40 days after dait for £34 ster. in all, the one for £12 payable to my order and indorsed to Robert Cheviz,³ Mercht. of this place, and I understand is indorsed to yourself; the other for £22 is drawn payable to John Fraser, writer in Edr. So I beg you 'll suffer no affront on these bills, as Mr. Newton assures me he will order the money to your hands much about the time the bills fall due, and will give orders by this post about it. John Gray, of Rogart, who came with Mr. Newton here, wrot you last post under William Fraser, Junior, Mercht., his cover, about the payment of these bills. He is the person got your bill for £100 sterlin on you Father and Company in favour of Mr. Newton when he came here, which duely

¹ John was purser on Lord Anson's *Centurion*, at this time on her famous voyage round the world. She did not return to England till June 1744. John subsequently settled in Carolina. Sir John Stuart, Count of Maida, was his son.

² The Bailie's daughter Anne married Richard Hay Newton of Newton, East Lothian.

³ Robert Chevis of Muirtown, near Inverness, a witness in Lord Lovat's trial for high treason.

accepted. I am sorie my Daughters Indian sewings are not like to sell to anie purpose. It is a loss to me, as, if that fund hade answered, she was to pay the things you sent me last year. However, I trust in kind providence you 'll not want the same long. I heartly salut you, and wish health and happiness ; and I ever am, Dr. Sir.

Inverness, 25th August 1742.

For Comissar Stuart.

THIS will be delivered you by your Daughter Marjorie (who is a fine sensible prudent Girl). In it you have my Daughter Anne's Contract of Mariage with Mr. Newton, which I send you that howsoon it comes to hand you may exped ane infeftment in her name and for her behoofe on the said Mr. Newton's Esteat of Newton in East Lothian, and that you doe every thing els necesarie. Newton will thankfully pay you for your truble and Expence, as is usuale in such cases, either here or when he returns south, which he proposes to doe in October next. But I hope we shall all have the pleasure to see you here befor then. Mean time, let the Contract and the sesin be return'd to me howsoon the infeftment is exped, by our post, yourself coming not soon, which at present is all from, etc.

PS.—If you think fitt lett the inclosed Contract be Registrat, and ane extract of it, with the infeftment, be sent me.

Inverness, the 2d Novbr. 1742.

For the Laird of Mackinon, Junior.

I WAS advised last month that you and the Old Laird of Mackinon hade given orders to the Laird of Macleod to setle with me about the Bills due me by your predecessor John Mackinon younger of that Ilk ; which gave me pleasure untill such time as McLeod came to this Country and I discoursed with him on this subject, when he told me to my verey great surprise that you hade only given orders to him to setle with me for the Mackinon's bill of £34 : 3 : 4 str. principle, providing I would discharge all the rest,

and that you insinuat to him as if you hade payed his other Accepted Bill of £50 str. principall, which was indorsed to Lord Seaforth (and which I payed to sd. Seaforth on your Cousin's behalf) to John Meleod who hade no maner of title to that money. But I am certain in this you are mistaken, because John Macleod could not in justice ask payment of that Bill, which he knew I payed, and it would be a verie great blunder to pay such a Bill without getting it up discharged. But I am certain you have not payed a shilling of this bill, and I doe suppose you mean another Bill which your Cousin drew on John Macleod for £50 str., and which I passed from, and you payed him the value last year, which bill is not now In the question, as you will see by the annexed Account ; so that I only charge you with the two bills you are realy due, which with intrest and charges amount now to one hundred and near fifteen pound ster. And it is verie strange if you fancied or imagined I was to quit such a sume for payment of about a third part of it. Now, Dear Sir, I beg you think better what your doeing, for delaying my payment is but to heap interest and Expences on your self to no purpose ; for, if you payed John Macleod money by no means due, you was in the wrong to yourself in doeing so. But I am perswaded that is not the case, and therefor I expect your orders in return of this to Macleod to setle with me, which, if you doe, Ile give a discount of the interest due on the Bill payable to my self, and perhaps a part of that due on Seaforth's bill likways, tho God knows my present situation will verie ill spare anie discount on any debts justly due me ; and therefore, as I have said, Ile expect that, immediatly on return of this, you 'll send your orders to the Laird of Macleod to transact this affair with me under my covert ; which most reasonable demand if you refuse I think fitt to tell you that I have a freind in Argile-shyre, in your nighbouhead in Mull, will take this debt of my hands by assignation ; and if that is the case, which I shall be sorrie for, you will have yourself to blaim if expose yourself to all reall and personal Diligence, and after all not gett a happenie dis-

count, so, Dr. Sir, I intreat you prevent such truble and unconveniency to yourself by doeing what I require, which flows from my great regard for you and Family; and you 'll extreamly oblige, Dr. Sir, Yours, etc.

Account of Bills Due to and Excepted [accepted] by John McKinon of that Ilk, Junior, Deceast, to John Stuart, Mercht. in Inverness, October, 1736, etc.

To his accepted bill, payable the 11 of Novr. 1736, and daited at Glainelg the 5th October, 1736	£	s	d
	34 :	3 :	4
To interest on the same from Martimass, 1736, to Martimass 1742, being six years.	10 :	4 :	—
To protesting, registrating, and postage	— :	3 :	4
To Charging Mackinon at Kilmarie to the sherive Court there, in May last 1742	— :	7 :	—
To Expencc of Decreet of Constituion	1 :	18 :	4
	<hr/>		
	£46 :	16 :	2

To accepted bill to John Macleod and in dorsed to William Forbas, writer in Edr., for account of My Lord Seaforth, and payed by me, which bill was payable the 1 of Janry.	50 :	— :	
To interest of the same from 1st January, 1736, to Mert. 1742, being 5 years 10 Months	14 :	13 :	8
To protesting, registrating and horning, etc	— :	8 :	—
To Murdoch Mackay, Messr., for excuting horning agaist the Deceast Mackinon at Scalpay	3 :	— :	
To postages	— :	1 :	4
	<hr/>		
	£114 :	19 :	2

PS.—It were fitt that in the letter you writ me in answer to this you acknowledge yourself to be Debtor for the £50 sterlin bill accepted by your predecessor to Lord Seaforths Agent, which will prevent a Decreet of Constitution against you, which will fall verie Dear.

Inverness, 3d November 1742.

For the Laird of Macleod.

I HOPE this will find you safe at Edr., and serves to advise you that I have wrote to Mackinon in the strongest meaner, and made out ane Account to him in such a light as that I beleive he 'll be convinced that he was mistaken as to his thoughts of haveing cleared with John Macleod annent the £50 bill his predecessor accepted to Lord Seaforths Agent, William Forbes, which I payed, and the sd. William Forbes has or will assign to me, as the accepted bill, with the Diligence and Receipts for payment, lie now in the hands of Rodrick Macleod, writer, our freind. I have told Mackinon the hazerd he will run if I should be obliged to assigned these bills of his to freind of mine in Argiles-shyre, who certainly will use all real and personal Diligence against him and Esteat in Mull, and not discount him a halfpenie at long run, wheras, if he but doe me justice by giveing his orders to you to transact with me, Ile abate a great pairt of the Anual rents due, which are very donsiderable, and so he may gett easily free of a debt which, by being transferred to a strangers hands, may prove of very bad consequence at least to him and his family; so that I flater myself he will now at last find it his interest to comply with my reasonable and Just Request.

Sir, I told you of my verey great streats, and that my dependance of the payment of at least the smallest bill at this time has run me into a good deall of truble and dificulty, and therfor you was so kind as to alow me to draw on you for ten pounds sterline on the credit of this debt due me by the family of Mackinon. I have sent to my Brother in Law, Alexr. Rose, your acquaintance, a Receipt for sd. ten pounds sterlin in part payment of the bill of £34 : 4 : 4 sterlin principle accepted to me by the leat Mackinon, payable at Mertimass 1736, and I earnestly intreat give him that sume to be sent me in consequence of receipt, which will in all events be good to you for this sum, and be a great relif to me in my present situation. I have now to aquant you that my Brother in Law, poor

Sanders Macleod, dyed the week before last and is buried. I am sorie for him, and my wife is in great greef for him, but for my part I thought him a gone man of a long time. I belive his affairs will turn out very poorly. My son James wrot me last post that he has a good offer from James Fraser, Reelicks son,¹ to goe with him as his clark to Surat in India, where he goes soon with on of the Company ships as Factor to the East India Comp: at that important place. Every body tells me that it is a verey handsome offer for my young man, and therefor I have advised him to accept of it, and so will beg your recomendation of him to Mr. Frasers care and freendship when you come to London, as no doubt he is your acquaintance. So, wishing you prosperous happie jorny and safe return, I ever am Yours, etc.

Inverness, Novem. 3d, 1742.

For Mr. Alexr. Rose.

I GIVE the trouble of the inclosed letter to the Laird of McLeod (who will be with you befor this comes to hand), which reed, seal with black wax, and deliver; and I likewise send inclosed a receipt which you are to give up to the Laird on paying you ten pounds sterling in my name, which sum you 'll please send me under your cover in small noats by the very first Post; only notice, if you shipped the barell of flour I told you in my last Mistris Newton desired you send us from Lieth, may stop the payment of that, and send by the post one Pound of the finest Duram Mustard, which is sold by Archibalde Eagale in Smiths Lands. If the Laird of McLeod should seem to shift the payment of this small sum, you may use your own discreet way to persuade him to it, and conceal not my very great straites, and let him know that the want of this litle money will be a grievous disappointment. Which at present is all that I will say on this head; only that I depend youll not fail to send me this money pr. first post, if you get it; if not, return me the receipt for 10£ sterlin. I refer you to McLeod's letter for News.

¹ Son of Alexander Fraser, of Reelig, near Inverness.

Inverness, 25 June 1743.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. John McLean, Mercht. in London, in which I sent him coppie of my son's letter of 3 Decer. last from Macoa in China,¹ for his perusall, and sent him likeways inclosed under a frank cover a letter to Jo. Roy at Buloigne, to be sent by shipp; and a letter likeways inclosed for my daughter Marian, liveing near the Hermitage Dock.

Inverness, 27 June 1743.

For the Laird of MackLeod.

HONBLE. SIR,—Your freind Mistris Newton, who is now prettie well recovered, gives you her humble service, and begs that again the 15 of nixt Month, or sooner if possible, you remitt her one hundered pounds sterlin of her mony, and the state of the last clearance with her, which may transmitt to the hands of Baron Taylar, who will take her discharge or bill for the same, or may send a new bond for the ballance will be due her, and that in her hands will be given up. Mr. Newton, her spouse, purposes to goe from this home to his own house about the 20th of nixt Month, and his wife gett this money to pay her pressing debts here and at Eder. She thinks she'll be much affronted and exposed to censure, which she earnestly wishes to avoid, and depends much on your freindship.

I am sorie to tell you that my straites are verie great, in so much that I have been oblinded to impignorat some of most usefull husold goods for supplying my pressing wants, and therfor I have sent William Tolme your acceptance for £25 sterlin, payable the 25 of 7ber nixt, with a new bill for £20 sterlin payable at that time for your acceptance, and beg you 'll send me the £5 sterlin difference in course of the post, as my wants are pressing and great; otherways, I doe asure you, I would not take the freedom or confidence to ask this favour, and therfor I

¹ See footnote, p. 433.

hope you 'll forgive. On second thoughts I send you your acceptance inclosed, and the new bill to be accepted for £20 sterlin, which I beg you send me accepted with the £5 sterlin in mony by the first post after this comes to your hands. I offer my humble duety to all freinds, and have only now to put you in mind to send me with the new bill and cash my receipt and bill for the ten pounds sterlin I drew on you at London, etc.

Inverness, 2d July 1743.

I WROTE of this dait to Alexr. Rose, and sent him inclosed a sumonds execut against the persons under written to be purshued and decreeted befor the Lords of Session, and desired that Rodrick McLeod may be imployed in the affair, or Comisar Stuart, or John Fraser.¹

The Claim is Against

Alexr. Berkly, mercht. in Cromarty, by his accepted bill payable in Novr. 1722	£3 : 13 : 4
John Clerk, Cupper, Deceast, his widow Ann Smith for his accepted bill, payable 1721, for principall	4 : 15 : -
Charles McCullach, Gunsmith, for a pair of brass pistolls I gave him to dress, which he disposed off ; cost me	4 : - : -
James Ross and crew, fishers in Pettie, for boat rent since Anno 1735.	1 : 10 : -
	<hr/>
	£16 : 4 : -

I sent the sundrie documents along with the sumonds.

Inverness, 2d Sept. 1743.

To Provest John Coutts, Mercht. at Edr.

I GIVE you the truble of this to advise you that, being indebted to Will: Cuming, mercht. of this place, I sent up to Mr. Alexr. Rose, of this, a Bill accepted by the Laird

¹ Writer, Edinburgh.

of Mackleod, for £20 str., payable the 25th instant at the Exchange Cooffee house, to be negotiat for money on some reasonable disscout, and drew on Mr. Rose for £7 str., payable to sd. Cuming, which I understand is indorsed to your order ; but, as Mr. Rose did not get my Bill negotiat, he could not accept my Bill for the £7 str. Will: Cuming informs me that owes you about eleven pounds ; so, if you please to take this Bill of Mackleods and pay the ballance to Mr. Rose, it will be a favour done me, and I can asure you wt. certainty that it will be pay'd in a month after this. And for your advance I 'm willing to make a reasonable discount. So, if you please to agree to this proposal, it will be very oblidging ; and may give up Will : Cumings bill to Mr. Rose, to be sent me pr. post. Yours.

Inverness, 5 Nover. 1743.

I WROT of this dait a verie long letter to My Cousin John R.,¹ which went under covert to Sr. Hector Macklean, to whom I likeway wrot a short letter. And I wrot them by post tuo letter in 8ber last, in answer to one I hade from John of 9 Septer. last. I wrot likeways of this [date] a letter to Alexr. Gordon, of London, desireing to send me by Hugh Ingles shipp 6 yds. Yorkshyre broad Cloath, to be tuo coats to Normand and myself, and 3 hatts at 4 or 5 shillings each for Normand, Frank, and Allan :² and desired to send 4 duzan mettall Buttons for mounting these coats.

Inverness, 7 Nover. 1743.

I WROT another letter of this Dait to my Cousin John R[oy], desiring him shipp for me 5 or six ankers of Brandy on board the *Helen and Margret*, Donald Urquhart, Master, at Dunkirk, to be marked thus \$, and adressed to John Reid at Cromarty, and promised to allow the value in pairt of his accepted bill in my custodie.

¹ John Roy Stewart.

² Sons of the Bailie.

Inverness, 12 9ber 1743.

I WROT of this dait to Mr. John McLean, of London, in which I entreated him to enquir about my son John at the captains of shippes come laityly from China, and sent him inclosed a letter for William Steuart, Esqr., lait Member of Parliment, without adress, to be backed by him with a proper adress, and forwarded to Twitinham, where he lives. I wrot likeways a letter of this dait to my Cousin John under covert of Sir Hector Macklean, in which I desired him shipp for me 10 ankers Brandy in the *Helen and Margret*, Donald Urquhart, Master, to be shipt at Dunkirk.

Inverness, 23 Decer. 1743.

I WROT of this dait to John Roy, and gave him ane account of the state of my Family, and in answer to his letter of 4 Nover. last N: S: from Buloigne, which was sent under covert to the Laird of McLeod at London, with my request to put the same in the post office. In Jo. Roy's letter was a letter inclosed from his nephew James in Kinchardin to his brother Donald in France.

Inverness, 13 January 1744.

To Mr. Allexr. Gordon, Mercht. in London.

SR.,—I received your acceptable letter of 30 Novr. last, wt. the envoyce of the cloth and hatts sent me by the *Pledger*, ammounting to £2 : 13 : 5 str. ; and I have now the pleasure to advise you that sd. goods are come to hand in safety, and I return you my hearty thanks for your compliance wt. my little comission, and hope that in a short time you 'l be honestly payed. I wish six yeards cloath had been sent, as I desired. I am afraid the five yeards will not make two coats for me and Normand, as I proposed ; but must now doe the best we can. I thank you for enquiring for my son John. I had laityly a letter from Mr. Tassel, who, I beleave, knows as much about Commodore Anson as any bodie, and he says he expects

the ship *Centurion* in England by the end of Aprile or early in May next, and its not to be imaged that she can goe on any new Expedition, as she is not half maned, there being no more then 200 men now remaining in sd. ship. But its possable there may be some men of Warr to go out to meet them as far as St. Helena in case of a French warr, as she happens to be a very Rich Ship and very weakly maned.¹ I wrot latly to Mr. John Macklean, and sent him inclosed a letter for my son James, to goe wt. the first ship going to Bombay, and to be adressed as he thought most proper. Give myservice to him, and tell him I received his letters by two last posts ; and, as expect to hear from him next week, I propose to delay writting till next post. I heartly wish you all a happy new year, and I am with much esteem, Sr., etc.

Inverness, 2d March 1744.

To Mr. Patrick Urquhart.

SIR,—I received by the bearer, Andrew Ritchie, your favour of 27th Decer. last, desiring me accot. wt. him for your three half chists Glass and 4 lb. Tea. For answeare, know that the Glass is sold to a Gentleman in this place, but not payable before the end of June next ; the two half chists Crown Glass at £3 : 10 sh. str., and the half chist ordinar at 17/, in all £4 : 7 sh. str. As to the Tea, no body here would look on it at your price, besides, I think your hoysong is much decayed in the flavour, so have returned that two pounds per bearer. And for the other two pounds of Congoe Tea, it was used in my Family, but I doe not think it worth above 6/sh. pr. Lb. ; and I can buy as good Tea any day I please for less money, as there is great quantityes to be had here of exceeding good bohea Tea under 5/ sh. per Lb. This is the best accot. I could make of this Glass and Tea, and I hope your money will answeare punctually again it fall due ; so, wishing you all happiness, I remain Yours, etc.

¹ Anson brought home treasure, taken from the Spaniards, to the value of £500,000.

Inverness, 17th March 1744.

To Mr. Alexr. Gordon, Mercht. in London.

SIR,—I wrote you the 10th instant under a frank covert to the Laird of Mackleod, and inclosed was a letter for Mrs. Richard,¹ which I intreated might be soon delivered. And, if you would procure me soon ane answeare to the same, as I told you the import of it, and I flater myself you will notice my request, and may tell Mrs. Richard, if she procure me my demand in that letter, that it will be doing me a seasonable favour and such as will be extremely obliging. I have a letter from on John Pope, a Cousin of mine, laily, dated the 27th of January last from on board the *Buckingham* Man of War then in Admiral Mathews fleet, lying at the Island of Hieres near Touloun. In this letter my freind, forseeing that immediatly ane engagement would happen with the French and Spanish Squadrons in sd. Harbour, apoints me his Exiquitor, and impowers me to uplift and receive what wages is due him on board the sd. ship in case of his Death, which, he says, will amount to £80 str., haveing received non for 4 or 5 years past. He says the Cpts. name of sd. ship *Buckingham* is John Towerie, who will, on presenting his letter, assist and deret me how to receive his wages in case of his Death. Now the favour I am to request of you is to enquir if my sd. freind and Cousin, John Pope, has survived the sd. bloody battle, which I heartly wish he may have done. But, if it has hapened otherways, that you 'l stop at the Navie pay office any wages due to my sd. freind, which may happen to be falsly claim'd by any acquaintance of his at London or any other. And I will, when ever you advise, send you his letter, with power to me only to uplift his money, with a power from me to you negotiate the same. I am in hopes to hear soon of my son John's arrival wt. Comonder Anson in England. Meantime pray let me hear from you in course wt. any accots. you can pick up anent the sd. Comodore and how

¹ The Bailie's god-daughter.

soon he is expected home, and if any Ships of Warr are gone to escoort home the ship *Centurian* and other ships from India in case of a French warr, which I look on to be declared on both sides or now. May likeways let me know any acots. of my son James.

Inverness, March 23d 1744.

To Mr. George Udnie [London].

SIR,—You'll no doubt be surprised that I take the freedom write you, as I am your debtor, and unable at present to doe you justice, as I sincerely wish I could, and purpose to doe howsoon Providence puts it in my power, and this you may firmly depend on.

My designe now is once more to intreat your freindship in a point that nearly consirns me, and the execution of wh. I hope will secure your money due, and what further may be due beyont dispute. You know, Sir, that my son John went in Commodore Ansons ship, and on his Expedition to the South Sea, and I have letters from him and Mr. Tassel, the Gentleman that imployed him to goe that uglie Voyage, advising that he was well, and in health on board the Ship *Centurion* in the month of Febr. 1743, and expected to be in Brittain next month, or May next at futhest. Unluckie as this Voyage has proved, I find my son, if please God he come safe, will be intituled to a good deal of Money; so that, as the times look cloudie, and that it is probable a French War may commence soon, I think it is reasonable for me, in case the worst event should happen, to see and secure for my said son or his nearest heirs some part of his money; and therefor I send this to desire the favour of you to ensure on the sd. ship *Centurion*, a 60 Gun Ship, Capt. Anson, Commander, either for my accot. or my sons, as you'll judge most expidient, against all hazards from Maccao on the coast of China to some port in the Brittish Chanel, two hundered pounds sterlin; and place the premium to my sons accot., who, I am certain, will pay the same thankfully, or I will in failure of him. I rely on your compliance, and beg to

hear from you in course ; and I am, wt. much sincere respect, Sir, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 6th Aprile 1744.

To Mrs. Richard.

I RECEIVED your very kind and acceptable letter of 24th last month, in which you inform me that you could not prevail wt. Mr. Tassel to advance the small sum on my bill to him on my son John, which I want very much at present, which sum I am absolutly certain my son would pay wt. pleasure and thankfulness. And I am likewise certain it will be no strait on him to doe it, notwithstanding the missfortunes attending the Voyage, as I suppose he will be entituled to some share of prize money, besides what wages may be due him by Mr. Tassel ; so that I realy cannot see how the payment of that money I want could fail to ansvere at his arrivall except in the case of the ships being taken by the Enemie, of which I think there is no great hazard. But, in case that or any other missfortune should happen, I wrote to a freind at London some time agoe to insure for his acct. on the *Centurion* man of Warr against all hazards from Maccao on the Coast of China to England, £200 str., which I hope is but a small pairt of his intrest in that ship. So that, if any freind could but procure me at present the sum I want, or but £20 str., on my bill on my sd. son, I would willingly pay five pr. cent of intrest for the use of the money ; that is, I would make my bill for twentie Guinies for the £20 to be advanced, and I don't think it possable that the money can fail. So, my Dr. God Daughter, I beg you try if you can get me accomodat in this matter by any freind, and advise me of your success as soon as possible, as, to tell you the truth, if I had this money I have some thoughts of going to London about the beginning or midle of next month, and I am incumbered with so many little small debts that I cannot offer to go from this without I get some money to pay poor people I rest trifles to. My wife, and Daughter Meg, and Normand join wt. me in our best respects to your Mama, sister,

yourself, and Mr. Richard And, I must tell you, old as I am, I have yet a prospect to be able some time or other, and perhaps ere long, to serve a freind, and to acknowledge wt. gratetude that I am, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 2 June 1744.

Mr. George Udnie of London.

SIR,—I received but verie laitley your favour of 14 Aprile last, and I observe in it your kind wishes towards me, for which I thank you. I alsoe observe what you say with regard to the proposall I made of makeing insurance for my son Johns account on the *Centurion* Man of Warr, from Macao on the Coast of China to London, for £200 sterlin. And on serious thoughts I agree to your judgement in that mater, as I doe suppose such a shipp of force, and such others as may come in company with her, which wee may beleeve will be ships of Force, will not easily be made prises to anie Enemie; besides, that I am told there are ships of Warr sent out to St. Helena to atend the trade from India homeward. Mean time, you forgott to mark what premium the insurance I proposed would cost. I beleeve your observation anent the devision of prise mony may be just; and, by my son's letter to me from Macao, there were no more than 400 Men in life when the prises were taken betuixt the tuo shippes of the squadron, one of which, the *Glocester* man of Warr, of 50 Guns, was sunk for lake of Men to naviget her in ther passage of 19 weeks over the great otian from America to China. So that when the *Centurion* arived at China ther were only 220 alive of all the men went in to the South Sea, so that as I find by a letter I hade laitley from Mr. Tassell, who is returned to England, and who engaged my son to goe that voyadge, that he was of great use to that Expedition, and in great esteem with the Comodore by his knowledge in the Spanish Language etc.; so that I flatter myself he will have title to a good deall of prise mony. Besides, you'll observe he'll have 4 years wages due him now at £100 sterlin yearly, from the Gentlemen

engadged him to goe that voyage as ther Clark and Linguist, besides a small adventure in goods. But what that last affair will turn to I can not determin, but I hope it will not be lost.

I wish you would take notice to me in your nixt how much the ballance I am due you will amount to after discounting the mony payed you by Mr. John Steuart, the Earle of Morrays brother, now Member of Parliament, which from your last acct. sent me I take to be 16 to 18 £ sterlin. Now, Dr. Sir, my intention by this, is, as I am at present straitned, to propose to you to furnish me credit on yourself for as much mony more as will make £30 sterlin, or £32, and Ile draw bill on my son to pay you that sum soon after his ariveall in England, which I hope may be soon after this Letter reaches your hands, as Mr. Tassell wrot me he expected sd. ship in the last month or this at furthest.¹ And I am absolutly sure my son will honour my bill at his ariveall thankfully, if in life; if otherways (which God forbid) I will have title to his effects. I beg your answer to this in course, and I have some hopes you will grant me this favour, and writ me howsoon this comes hand. And in that event I will draw on my son to your order, and writ him in the strongest maner under your covert. I have been still sensible of your honour and freindship, and I much regrat that I ever hade the missfortune to dissappoint you in a halfpenie. But, then, I can not accuse myself of anie base unjust designe; for, if the cargoe of Iron I ordered to your hands from Hamburg hade not come much short of what I expected, I hade not falen a halfpenie indebted to you. But now in the schem here laid down I hope you 'll find full justice and all odds even; which is the ardent wish of, Dr. Sir, etc.

Inverness, 5th July 1744.

To Mr. George Udny, Mercht. in London.

SIR,—I have your very acceptable favour of the 19th last month, which is very kind and oblidging, and do

¹ The *Centurion* arrived at Spithead on 15 June.

return you my hearty thanks for the same. And likewise I observe your postscript annent my son John, whom you have seen at Portsmouth, which gives me very great joy and pleasure. As I am to writ you fully by this post, under Andrew Munros frank covert, I only advise you in this that I have drawn on you of this dait to the order of Mr. Andrew Murray, of this place, for twentie pounds sterlin, payable ten days after sight, to which I doubt not you will give due honour, and place the same to accot. as pr. the above mentioned advice.

Inverness, 6th July 1744.

Mr. George Udny, Mercht. in London.

I RECEIVED wt. pleasure your acceptable favour of 16th last month, and doe observe the contents, and in consequence of it send you the inclosed bill on my son John for £30 str. at a month after dait, which, I am absolutly persuaded, will find due honour, as I have advised by the inclosed letter in the strongest manner to comply wt. it, and you may rest asured he'll do it. And yesterday drew on you to Mr. Andrew Morry, mercht. of this place, for twentie pounds sterlin, payable ten days after sight, and gave wt. it a letter of advice of the same dait. And I make no question but you will honour my Draught; and, then you will have by this bill on my son, only ten pounds str. of the Ballance I am due you, so ther will remain due you still a balance of £4: 14: 9d sterlin conform to your letter to me, which ballance I will advise my son to pay likeways how soon I have a return to the inclosed Letter, which pray forward to him if he is not come to Town, and, if he is, you will then have an opportunity to deliver it out of your own hand, and no doubt tender him your best advice about the manadgement of his affairs, as I have recomended him to depend on you, a man of honour. The postscript to your letter advising me you saw my son gave my wife and I unexpressable joy, for which we bless and adore the mercy of God to us in preserving and restoring our Child in health and prosperity after passing

throw so many Dangers, and so great a schen [skein ?] of Mortality and Distress. I have a short letter from himself, by which I find he was much imployed and busied in the affairs of the ship *Centurion*, but promises to send me a full acct. of his affairs when more at lesure, and come down soon to see his freinds, where he'll find heartie welcome. I am, wt. much esteem, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 6 July 1744.

I WROT of this dait a long letter to my son John under covert of Mr. George Udnie, adviseing that I hade valued on him of said date, payable one month after dait, to sd. Mr. Udnie, for £30 sterlin, and at same advis'd him fully of the situation of our Family, and that under £100 sterlin could not [make] me tolerably easie in this pleace towards paying my verie pressing litle debts, and therfor desired liberty to draw for some more money, etc.

Inverness, 15 7ber. 1744.

I WROT of this dait a letter to Alexr. Rose at Eder., in which I desired him stop the peice of linen of 20 yairds I wanted be shirts at $\frac{1}{2}$ a crown pr. yeard; and desired that the four table cloaths of Inverkeething Manufacture I wanted might be still forwarded as much wanted. And desired likeways that he would end my accounts with Rodrick McLeod, and remitt me the ballance. And I then sent him Andrew McFarlans bill of £7 ster., with diligence on it in name of John Fraser, with his assignation to Donald Shawe, Drover, and begd he would doe all in his power to procure me payment in pairt or whole, etc. I wrot like ways to My Daughter, Mrs. Newton, of this dait, adviseing her of the letter I hade from her brother James, and the contents.

Inverness, 25 January 1745.

I WROT of this dait to my son John under covert to Alexr. Gordon, Mercht. in London, in which I acknowledged receipt of his letters of 5 and 12 Janry Curt., and told him I

approved of his conduct as to McLeod and Messrs. Tassell and Hutchison, and was glad he secured his interest with the lats.

Invr. 2 Febr. 1745.

Mr. Alexr. Coutts [London].

DEAR SIR,—I drew on my son John the 26 Curt. a Bill payable to Hugh Fraser, of this pleace, for £12 sterlin, which he told me he was to indorse to your Cousin, Provost Coutts, for value; so that I suppose it is come to your hands. Now, I writ you this to intreat that, as I fear my son may make some scruple to accept my sd. Bill, that you will use your good offices to perswade him to it, as it was a case of Absolute Necessity made me venture to draw the same. And, for old Acquaintance, I depend so much on your freindship as that you 'l use your Best Endeavours not to let the Bill return, as he is in no strait to pay it, and his not complying will do me much mischeif on sundry respects; and your care in this will extreamly oblidge, Yours, etc.

Inverness, 23 Febr. 1745

I WROT of this dait to my son John, in which I acknowledged receipt of his letter of 12 instant, and in it a letter from my son James, daited 2 Aprile last. I likeways advised of his brother Patricks going from hence the 17 instant by the sloop *Marie* of Peterhead, John Brodie, Master, and sent him inclosed a long letter to my son James, in which I acquainted him with all the occurances of my Family, and that his brother Patrick was as at his brothers desire dispatched to London in order to be shiped with a freind of his brother John in a ship bound to China, and was to call at Bombay. In my letter to John was a letter from John Reid relateing to me, to be answered in course, etc.

Inverness, 24 June 1745.

For John McLeod of Bay.

DR. SR.,—I send this to acquaint you that there is a Gentleman, a freind of mine, that has some fine Moray

Barlie on hand, that woud send it to your Country immediatly, providing he found anie reasonable encouragement of Profit, and that he would promise payment again Michaelmas markets at Creef. There is a part of this Barlie of cropt 1743, and the Gentleman will undertake that if it is skillfully milled, that it will give at least six firlots of Meal each Boll. Now, my opinion is that if your Country wants such a parcel of Barlie as 400 or 500 bolls (which is all my freind intends to send) that yourself, and anie two or three freinds you would incline to be concerned with you, wou'd immediatly on return of this make anie offer for such Barlie, payable at Michaelmas next, except what readie money will be necessary to pay the ships freight, which might be about £50 sterlin; the said Barlie deliverable at Lochbrakdal or Dunvegan Loch once in the month of July next. And, if you thought it not fit to engage in this manner, that you would advise, immediatly on receipt of this, pr. Express, if such a parcel of Barley could be retailed out to the Countrie people for reddie money, and at what rate, or given out on the order and security of the Gentlemen of Credit in the Country till Michaelmas. I earnestly beg you write me fully and particularly on this subject pr. Express, whom my freind will pay, if any immediate occasion offer not, and if anie Express come, advise me how much you have promised him, and it will be payed; but he must go 15 or 16 miles estward of this towards Moray; and the sooner he come the better for all concerned, as the sending the ship to your Countrie or not depends upon your answer, etc.

Inverness, 29 June 1745.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, and to Bailie Gordon at London, and I advised my son that I hade drawn of him of this dait for £5 sterlin to Jonathan Anderson of this pleace, payable 20 days after dait, which bill was sent to Bailie Gordon by Anderson; and I wrot earnestly to Bailie not to lett the bill return, but to use his best influence to persuad my son to pay it, etc., etc.

I wrot of this dait to my Lord Strechen, begging his Lops. kind intercession with Sir Alexr. Ramsay of Balmain to grant one of his Philosophie Burses to my son Francis in the Colledge of Aberdeen or St. Andrew ; as to which I begged his Lops attention and speedie answer.

I wrot of this dait to Master Newton,¹ my son in Law, congratulating with on the good Newes of his Ladie's being safely delivered of a son the 18 instant : wish him much joy of him.

Inverness, 27 July 1745.

I WROT of this dait and 6 instant to my son John. In the letter of 6 instant I advised him of his brothers² death, and that John Reid was to undertake for the funerall charges, which I hopt he would see payed. In my letter of this dait I took notice of his letter to me and his brother Normand of 12 instant, and advised him that Mr. Reid refused to pay me the 4£ sterlin he ordered his brother Normand, tho he left litle debts due be him, and for his account of near that sum, of which I sent a coppie this day to London. As alsoe sent him John Roys accepted bill daited in 8ber 1739, for £17 : 14 sh. sterlin, with orders to enquir of Captain Wilkinson if sd. John left anie mony due him in London, and to arest the value of my bill. I likeway wrot to my son about Sir James Stuart of Burray his proposall that he should come and setle in Orkny for some time, where he might make £50 pr. ct. of his mony yearly etc., etc.

Invsr., 6th August 1745.

DR. SON [JOHN],—This will be delivered you by your Brother in Law, John Reid, who has been very kind and generous to me and family on sundrie occasions when we were in outmost straits. He has payed your worthie Broyr. Normand's Funeral Charges, of which he has the accompt to shew you, and which amounts to about £15 ster. ; and, besides, he has my accompt and receipt

¹ Richard Hay-Newton of Newton ; died 29 June 1776, husband of Anne Steuart.

² Norman.

for £4 ster: due on Normand's account, and which you ordered him to pay to Normand, if he had been in life when your order came here. Ther is likewise a bill of mine he has for £4 : 5 sterl. he gave at sundry times last spring, when the family was sorlie pinched for fewel and oyr. necessaries of life. And, besides, he has given us lately, for our Winter firing, fourty barrells of coals, at two shillings pr. barrel, makes £4 ster. more, which makes in all about £27 ster., which I earnestly pray may be made good to him, and I am persuaded he will do all in his power not to straiten you annent the payment if you will be so good as to give him your security, as I earnestly wish you may. And I still hope, old as I am, I may yet be able to relieve you of this heavy burden I lay on your shoulders ; and, if I cannot, no doubt God, in—

[Remainder torn out.]

To the Bailie's son John—[Beginning torn out].

. . . There was a letter came here last post from Liutenant Menzies, of the Highland Regiment abroad, to his Broyr. Niel, who is a doctor here, in which he advises that his Lady being in Gehent [Ghent] when it was taken by the French laitly, and being attacked in her Lodging by some fFrench soldiers who wanted to plunder her, had the good fortune to light by accident on our acquaintance John Roy St . . . who got her immediatly rid of the Plunderers, showed her great civilities, and procured her letters of safe conduct to go to England, or where she pleased. John was in Highland Dress when this happened. The Lady is Daughter to Campbell of Munie [Monzie], a Lord of Session, so you may return me his accepted Bill in your next. So I believe the story we had of his being killed with old Locheil was designedly given out, etc.

Invr., 13 7ber. 1745.

DR. SON [JOHN],—I was extreamly surprisid that, notwithstanding I wrote you several letters of lait, that I have had no return from you till last post, that your

Broyr.¹ John Reid wrot me that you was at Portsmouth, and was footing out to goe Purser of a 40 gun man of war, but that he expected you soon in London. I wish the Pursership had been let alone for some time untill some impending clouds² were dispelled. In my letter of 15th last month I told you I had laid down a project by which I and family must in a little time recieve great benefit, for the prosecution of which I would want about 30 pieces or Pounds, and begged you to remitt me that summ on sight of my letter and in course of post; and I was much troubled I heard not from you last post untill I got Mr. Reid's letter. But I flatter myself I will by the post expected next week, and, if you knew of what consequence it must prove to me to have this money at present, you would remitt it with as great pleasure as ever you payed money. In the mean time I am under the most pressing necessity of going immediatly southward as far as Eder. and Newtown, and therefore could not avoid borrowing a little money from Alexr. Fraser, Mercht. of this place, in part of which I have drawn on you of this dait for £2 : 14 : 6 ster. to Mr. George Udny, at 3 days' sight, and have drawn on him for like value to sd. Fraser; to which I will not doubt your compli-
ance.

Cousin John I have laitly seen, now extreamply busy and in very good credit and esteem.³ He was like to cut my throat for not paying a certain debt I was due long or now, but I told him it was my missfortune and not my fault I hade not payed it; to which he told me that I must make all possible shift to do it before the middle of next week, or suffer extreamply in my intrest, as my creditor wonders much at my backwardness; of which I beg you may think seriously. My wife and I begin to be extreamply uneasie we don't hear by the last East India ships from your Broyr. James. God grant he may be well and in life. And, if any letters be come, it's cruel not to forward them, as such letters would much alleviate your Mother's Excess of Greif for the Death of your

¹ Brother-in-law.

² The troubles of the 'Forty-five.

³ John Roy Stewart was now one of the leaders in Prince Charles's army.

Broyr. Normand. I reffer you to the News Prints for news,¹ as I care to write you none. May Godd bless and derect us and all our dear freinds ; which at present is all from Yours, etc.

[No letter booked after this till 14 October. 1748.]

Inverness, 14 8ber. 1748.

I WROT of this dait a letter to John Fraser, writer in Eder., beging he would, without loss of time, extract the Decreet he obtained in my name *in anno* 1743 against John Clerk, Cuper, deceast, his Widow, Alexr. Berkly, Charles McCullach, smith, and James Ross, fisher in Pettie, for £13 : 18 : 4d., principall sum.² I also gave him a letter to Mr. Patrick Cuming, Minister in Eder., open, as also ane obligation granted by sd. Ministers Father Robert Cuming of Relugas, for £10 sterlin principall, daited *anno* 1700, to Alexr. Stuart, my Father, with instruction to sd. John Fraser to give up sd. oblidgeant, and take anie thing for it he could gett.

Coppie Letter to my son John, at London, 1 7ber 1749.

DR. SON,—I received yours which came to hand only last post, tho daited the 19 of July last, which I find to be a mistake, as I find it marked on the back by the London stamp the 19 of August ; and in it I am surprised you take no notice of a verie long letter I wrot you under a frank cover the 21 of July last. I wrot likeways the 19 August, in which was inclosed a letter for your sister, Mrs. Wederburn, and another for my old servant Dougall Stuart in Jamaica, which I hope came safe to your hands ; and in it I advised you of my draught on you, at 3 day's sight, to Hugh Fraser, Junior, of this pleace, for £2 sterlin for value given, mostly to your brother Allan, which I wuld not pay and for which the poor Lad was strongly dun'd.

¹ News of the Rising. The Bailie was an ardent but cautious Jacobite.

² See letter to Alexander Rose, 2nd July 1743.

In your last I observe you impower me to draw on you for eight pounds sterlin, and I have accordingly drawn on you for that sum of this dait, payable to the order of our freind Mr. Andrew Munroe, one month after dait, which no doubt you 'll punctually pay, it being some little releefe to me in my great necessity, as I formarly advised you.

I am due Andrew Munroe the ballance of a bill I drew or accepted to him above 2 years agoe for £5:16:6 sterlin, and I have the outmost anxiety it should be payed, and I beg you would take course with it befor you return to Carolina. Mind to return me William McKullach his bill, with the protest, etc., on it, which I sent you in May 1745, as he is now in good business, and I may recover my mony, etc.

8 7ber. 1749.

To my son John.

DR. SON,—My last to you was of 1st instant in answer to yours of 19 July. In it I advised that I hade drawn on you of that dait in conformity to your order for eight pounds sterling to the order of Andrew Munroe, payable one month after dait at the house of Alexr. Gordon. I tryed severalls of our London Traders befor I applied Mr. Munro to lett me have mony for my bill on you, but could find non here to take my bill; and the reason why I did not apply directly to him was that I forsoaw he would make stopage of that small sum in pairt of what I was formarly due him, which accordingly happened, for, as I told you in my last, he retained 40 shillings in his own hands; so that I only gott £6, which I was oblidged to give out immediatly among my litle poor creditors, as I hade swarmes on my back how soon they smeled I hade gott a litle mony. So that just now I am not master of 6 shillings, nor, when that is done, doe know anie bodie here will give me a shilling. It is true my freind John Reid is now here repairing his ship; but then I know he is prettie much stratned for mony at present, and I have run verie laitley so much in debt to him that

I am ashamed to trouble him anie more, especialy as realy he has been verie kind and generous towards the maintainance of my house of lait years, besides the lending a litle mony at some times. So that, comparing this letter with the long one I wrot you the 21 of July last (which I hope came safe to yours hands), you must have a full view of my present situation. But, as I observe in your last that by some great dissappointments you laityly met with you labour under some difficultys at present, it gives me the outmost pain that my strait condition oblidges me to apply to you for your assistance to help me in some measure out of my present difficultys. I assure you it is the effect of verie great necessity ; so that, if possible, I must entreat that on receipt of this letter you make me some small remittance as you can spare. But, then, I rather wish it may be by bill on some person here or at Edinburgh than by ane order to draw. And pray let the bill, if drawn on Andrew Munroe, be payable to some other than me, with a blank indorsation. Your Mother is in some better health than ordinar at present, but in very great anxiety and fears that she will not have the pleasure to see you ere you return to America. And I must own I wish I could for manie reasons have the pleasure to see you once before my death, which I must now look for verie soon, as I was 73 years of age the 2d instant, and my Father was not 3 years older than I am now when he dyed, and kept health verie well all his life untill the time of his dissolution came. And I realy can not complain of want of health, nor of anie failure in my senses ; but have strugled under many troubles and difficultys that my Father never knew ; and yet I have verie great reason to bless and adore my God for manie mercies I have enjoyed beyont thousands better and more deserving than I am ; in particular that I am blessed with a good virtuous wife and verie good dutiefull and hopefull children. Yesterday the Gramar School here was indulged the harvast vacance, when the boys haranged as useall, and among them your tuo Brothers William and Henrie, who perform'd exceeding

well. Your Mother has been for severall days most anxiously busied about getting decent cloaths to our tuo boys again there appearance at this exercise, which with much to doe wee gott effected; only that they wanted hatts, and are now so grown up that there bonets doe not well become them. So that, as ther is one David Alan gone now for London with a ship belonging to Andrew Munroe, the young men hope you 'll suply them that way. I think such hatts as they 'll need may be purchased at 4 or 5 shillings a piece. Your acquaintance and schooll fellow, Mr. Alexr. Colbert, Castlehills son,¹ is now here, and is a verie polit, fine, learned Gentleman, and is ane abot in France, and is come over to look in to the state of his Family with a wiew in some time to pay the debts of it, which are verie large. He has been so kind as to call at my house to see your mother and me, and I designe to have a conference with him about one of your young Brothers, as I would willing have one of them educat in France, at the Scots Colledge there, providing I find it can be done without going in to the religion professed generaly in that Countrie—I mean to what is rekoned corrupt of it; but of this Ile acquaint you more fully hereafter. I have no more to say at present; but give my best wishes to your spouse, who is due me the answer of tuo letters.

To Son John—[First Part Missing].

. . . Poor Mistris Wederburn² was laityly delivered of a child that is since dead, and that she is on the way of recovery (for which I bless God), and that she hade a letter laityly from her husband from Newfoundland, daited the 30 of July last, when he was reddie to sail with a loading of fish for Naples, and that he and your brother

¹ Members of the family of Cuthbert of Castlehill, near Inverness, settled in France where they changed their name to Colbert. Colbert, the famous minister of Louis XIV., was descended from the Castlehill family.

² The Bailie's daughter, Marion, married to Alexander Wedderburn, a sea captain.

Patrick were in good health. But I hope you have seen your sister, and had this good newes from herself. Mr. James Fraser of Relick was laity here, and is the other day gone from hence for London. I beg that when he arives there you wait of him and thank him for the kindness shown your brother James.¹ Mr. Munro of Culcairn,² your sd. brother's great freind, who was laity here, advised that I and all concerned in James should wait of Mr. Fraser and thank him for some lait great favours done James, as sd. Mr. Fraser has payed him the half of the mony he furnished to outrig James for India. Marion your sister advises that a letter I sent under your covert for her the 1st of 7ber last is not come to hand; which surprises. Your mother, who is in low spirits, gives you and spouse her blessing, as does Your etc.

P:S:—On second thoughts, as your mother lives mostly on Tea, may send by David Allan, now in London, half a hundered wght. white pouthered sugar in a box.

Inverness, 25 8ber 1749.

For William Mackullach, barackmaster at Fort Augustus.

SIR,—I hope you remember you are due me since the year 1728 a ballance of your accepted bill indorsed to me by Mr. John Coutts of Eder. for value, £11 : 15 : 10 sterlin, of which you payed and which is marked on the bill £6 sterlin; so remained due 21 of March 1728. £ 5 : 15 : 10
 To Registrat protest - : 2 : 6
 To interest for 21 years and half to this dait 6 : 7 : 4

£12 : 5 : 8

So you see there is now due me tuixt principals and interest £12 : 5 : 8 sterlin at this dait. I have severall letters of yours now befor me entreating my patience, and not to raise a diligence, and promising me payment verie soon. And no doubt you must be sensible that I complied with your request, and have not in the least distressed you,

¹ In India.

² Culcairn in Ross-shire.

tho' God knowes great and manie have been my strates and trubles since your bill became due. And therfor, as I beleive you are ane honest man and my freind, I hope you will, in return of this letter and by your next post who comes hither, remitt me a pairt of this mony, four or three pounds sterlin at least, as I am extreamly stratned at present, and Ile send you my receipt for the same. And lett me know when you can pay the ballance, and Ile transact with you and take your bill payable some time after this. Therfor, I hope you will in return of this show your willingness to doe me justice. In which, if you fail, I am sorie to tell you I must assigne your bill to some one or other of my creditors who, I am affrayed, will be more peremptor than I enclyn to be, as am I, Your well wisher, etc.

Inverness, 27 8ber 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my son John adviseing that I have drawn on him of this dait to the order of Hugh Fraser, Junior, Mercht. of this pleace, for £2 : 10 sterlin, at 8 days sight, and sent him my bill of this dait on John Dallas of this pleace, now Mercht. in London, for £1 : 14 ster., at 3 days sight, being half years sellar rent at the shoar due me since Whitsunday 1735 ; and sent a letter open, inclosed to my son, to be delivered to sd. John Dallas, importing the ground of debt for which have drawn on him, and the sd. Dallas his letter to me of 4 Aprile 1735, giveing up possession of sd. sellar, and a document to instruct the debt. I have likeways advised my son to compromise with him the interest on the 20 sh. rent, if he should scruple to pay it. I have also advised the reason has induced me to draw for this mony, which [is] to provid some necessarys for ane officer [who] is to take a pairt of my house at 8 shillings pr. week ; and requesting his Complyance. And have likeways sent him inclosed a letter from Mrs. Mackgilvrays, William McGilvrays widow, to her son Alexr., to be forwarded to Carolina pr. first ship ; and have acknowledged receipt of William McKullach's bill, etc., that lay in his custodie since *Anno* 1745.

Inverness, 4 9ber 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, acquainting him of my strates, and sent him inclosed a letter to my Cousin John Roys widow at Buloigne in France, on which I desired him forward with a proper adress. I sent him likeways inclosed a letter of the 2d instant from John Gollan in Pettie to his son James Gollan, Taylar in Barbados, being one of those transported for appearing for the P. . . .¹ This letter is adressed to the care of Mr. Mackay, Tavern keeper on the Wharfe at Barbadoes, and beged him to forward it pr. first.

Inverness, 6 9ber 1749.

I WROT of this dait to William McKullach, Barack-master at ffortaugustus, by the post, entreating him to send me part of the money due me pr. bill by ane express, howson my letter came to his hands, on my charges.

Inverness, 25 Nover. 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, acquainting him of my indisposition, and of my dissapointments sundrie ways, and great strates, etc.

I likeways wrot of this dait a long letter to my Daughter, Mistris Newton.

Inverness, 30 Nover. 1749.

I WROT of this dait a long letter to my son James, which was to goe to India with my Grandson, William Stuart,² who goes Surgeons Mate of the ship *Norfolk*, Capt. Hencaupt, Comander. In this Letter I have advised my son James of all occurances relating to my self and family, and of the death of my son in law Alexr. Wederburn; that I hade laitly seen his freind, Mr. Munroe of Culkairn, and thanked him and Mr. Fraser of Releck for there kind-

¹ Prince Charles.

² Son of the Bailie's son Alexander, merchant in Leith, who was married to a daughter of William Cumming, merchant, Edinburgh.

ness to him. I likewise advised of his Brothers John, Francis, Alan, and Patrick, of what accounts I hade of them. I Likewise advised of his Mother health, and my own health and cituation, and begged to hear from him by everie ship comeing from Bombay to England, etc.

Inverness, 30 November 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my grandson, Will: Stuart, and sent him inclosed a long letter for my son James at Bombay, and a letter to my Daughter, Mrs. Wederburn, condoling the death of her husband, and tender her my best advice on such a sad event.

Inverness, 8 Decer. 1749.

I WROT of this dait a long letter to my son John, in which I have given a full account of my present situation ; as alsoe that the reason given him by John Dallas for not accepting my bill of 34 shillings is a sham, for that he has no obligation of mine to his father in law, Murdoch Fowler, for £4 sterlin, as he pretends, the sd. Murdoch being dead near 40 years ; and sd. Dallas his wife says she knowes of no such obligation. I wrot him like ways of the death of Mr. Wederburn, requesting he might writ me fully ane acct. of that sad event, and see his poor sister frequently and render her all the assistance in his power ; and to let us know pr. first what accounts he hade of his Brother Patrick, etc. ; and entreated his assistance to pay some poor people were helpfull to my Family in our necessity. And likewise desired him enquir of Alexr. McIntosh, Kelachie, about a debt Hugh Crawford his agent at Eder. has laity wrot off to me, as due to sd. McIntosh and Walington in Compy., about £5 ster., of which I am not sensible, as he hade wrot me befor he went to the S: Sea that he hade satisfied Mr. McIntosh for anie debt for aparell due be him or me ; and that I hade no dealling with him ever since. I desired him likewise to make my compliment to Mr. James Fraser of Releck, and to thank him for his civility to his Brother James, etc., etc.

Inverness, 16 Decer. 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, in which I advised that I have drawn on him the 12 instant for 40 shillings sterlin, to the order of Francis Knowles, of this pleace, payable 20 days after dait, which I requested him to pay, as I was necessitat by my great straits to draw the same, and for suplying necessars for Crissmass, etc. I likeways wrot him annent William Mackullachs bill, that he told me he hade surrendered all his effects to pay his creditors in London, among which he named him as haveing right to my bill by indorsation, and beged his thoughts on this subject; as alsoe to be advised pr. first of what lait accounts he hade of his Brothers Frank and Patrick, and what related to Alexr. Wederburns death, and his sister Marians situation, etc.

29 Decer. 1749.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, and sent him inclosed a letter to William Stuart, Esqr., Late Member of Parliment, at Twitenham, in which I desire the lend of 20 £ sterlin for 18 months. And I have sent my son inclosed my bill on himself to sd. Mr. Stuart, of this dait, for £21: 10 ster., being principall and interest for sd. 18 months, and Mr. Stuart letter, open, to be forwarded under his own covert pr. express to Twitenham, so as I may have his answer. And desired my son to remitt me sd. mony, if payed him. I sent Mr. Stuart inclosed a strong letter of freindship he wrot me *in anno* 1721, to remember him of his strong professions then. I acknowledged receipt of his letter 16 instant, with the inclosed from my son Francis; and sent him of this dait a letter inclosed to his sister Marian which I desired [remainder amissing].

Inverness, 27 Janry. 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, acknowledging receipt of the goods he sent me by David Alan, and sent him inclosed a letter to my Cousin, Captn. Donald Stuart

of Ld. Lewes Drummonds Regiment, and of 19 instant dait another letter of yesterdays dait to his brother James at Bombay, both which I begged he would forward carefully; and told him my anxiety about the success of my letter to Will: Stuart, Esqr., at Twitenham, of 29 December last. I gave him a hint of a storie talkt off here annent the imbazlement of a great deall of housold goods belonging to the lait Bailie Dunbar were loked up in his house in tuo roomes, now found open and emptie, to be communicat to Captn. Dunbar.

I wrot likeways of this dait to Henrie Rose, Merkinch, at Eder., by Donald Jack, post, and sent him inclosed Munroe of Leamlaers¹ bill on his brother for £10 sterlin to his order, and desired Henrie to send pr. post a coper plate coppie book for asisting my boys in ther writing, value of which I promised to send next post.

Inverness, 3 Febr. 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son John adviseing that John Reid, his Brother in Law, was come here to fitt out his ship for London, and would sail once in this month, and entreated him to speake to Mr. Fraser, Relick, to secure all his housold goods, etc., comeing to this plect to be shiped in Mr. Reid's ship; and alsoe beged of him to send us anie lait acets. of his Brother Patrick, and the maner of Alexr. Wederburn's death, etc.

Inverness, 23 Febr. 1750.

Coppie Letter

For John Stuart My son.

DR. SON,—My Last to you was of 3d instant, since which I have non of yours, nor anie answer to my letters of 8, 16, and 29 December, nor of my letters of 6 and 27 Janry. last, in all six, which gives your Mother and me great uneasiness, as wee now suppose you either are not well in health, or that you have some verie weighty reason

¹ Lemlair in Ross-shire.

for so long a silence, as some of the letters writ you were of such import to me that ane answer befor this time would have prevented manie anxxious perplexing thoughts I have felt since some of them became due. But I hope that by nixt post I shall have such a letter from you as will dissipat my fears, and clear up matters fully. Referring you to my letters abovewriten, I have now cheefly to advise you that your Brother in Law, John Reid, is just now here, and getting his ship reddie to goe with the first tolerable wather to Cromarty to load Corn etc. for London. Wee have hade here of lait the most blowing tempestuous wather I ever remember, tho hardly anie frost or snow all the last winter or what is come of the spring. Your Mother and all in this house are prettie well at present, but the first so run out of linin for her own person and other necessars, that for her releef, as well as others in my house, I have been oblidged to draw on you of yesterdays dait tuo pounds sterlin, payable 20 days after dait, to the order of Hugh Fraser, Mercht. of this pleace; to which I must still beg you compliyanse, as this draught is the effect of extream necessity; and, if the mony I expected from Mr. Stuart answer, may stop it of that, etc.

Inverness, 3 March 1750.

I WROT a long letter to my son John, in answer to his of 16 Febry. last, and owning receipt of Mr. Forbes his bill on William McIntosh, Lienwielg,¹ for £12: 12 sterlin, which is accepted; and adviseing of my bill on him of this dait to Hugh Fraser, Mercht., for £5: 8 ster., payable 20 days after dait, which, with my former bill of £2 to sd. Hugh Fraser, is in full of the £20 sterlin he received on my acct. from William Steuart Esqr., Remembrancer of Exchequer for Scotland; and wrot to sd. Mr. Steuart of this dait under a frank covert to my son, giving him thanks.

¹ Lynwilg in Badenoch.

Inverness, 10 March 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my Daughter Marian with my advice about her future conduct, and, under her covert, a long letter to my son Francis, in answer to his of 26 Decer. last, in which I advise him of all occurances here, and that I expected to see my son John here befor he returned to America, which would not happen befor the month of July nixt.

I wrot Likeways to my son Allan at Perth, in which I desired him speake to his Master annent the mony due his sister Marian for dying his bed curtins, and pay the same to Mr. Wederburn's sister at Perth.

Inverness, 16 March 1750.

I WROT of this dait a long letter to my son Allan at Perth, by James Gilmar, post, and sent by him a pair of new britches made for myself of fine Drab ; and gave my advice about writing to his Brother John ; as alsoe of Mrs. Munroes present condition, etc., etc.

Inverness, 24 March 1750.

I WROT of this dait a letter to my Daughter Mrs. Newton, in answer to her last to my wife.

And I wrot likeways a letter of this dait to William Stuart at Fort William annent my bill to Dugall Steuart, my old servant, now in Jamaica, adviseing of sd. Dugals order to give me up sd. bill, and likeways adviseing him that I wrot a letter to him about six weeks past annent the sd. bill, and wanted much his answer.

Inverness, 31 March 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son John, in which I entreat he may alow me to draw on him for £12 sterlin again the first of May nixt, and entreating his answer to the letter I wrot him about his Mothers proposeall to have ane interview with him in some pleace of Scotland befor his return to America, etc., etc.

I wrot likeway of this dait to my daughter Mrs. Wederburn, adviseing her to come down with her child and effects with her Brother in Law John Reid, in order to reside here; and desired she should advise me of her resolution, if she was to come down, that I might look out for a proper house for her in this pleace; and gave my reasons for adviseing her coming down, etc. etc.

Inverness, 7 Aprile 1750.

I wrot of this dait to my son John, in which I have advised him that as his Mother has this last winter and spring been prettie much imployed in Linin Manufacture, which our house greatly wanted, and that weavers and others have pressing demands on her on that acct., I was obliged to draw on him of this dait for £2: 5 sterlin to the order of Hugh Fraser, Mercht. in this pleace, at 6 days sight; to which I requested his compliance, etc.

7 Aprile 1750.

I WROT likeways to John Reid inclosed in which I requested him to bring 12 piece of painted paper for 2 rooms in my house, and to procure from John some sugar, flour, and cheese, etc.

I wrot likeways of this dait to my Daughter Marian, and desired her come down with John Reid, and to bring down a quantity of lump sugar, a chist bitter oranges, $\frac{1}{2}$ du. Lemons, 200 lb. rasins for making wine.

Inverness, 14 Aprile 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son John in answer to his letter of 31 March last, and desired he might send his Mother by John Reid from 20 to 30 lb. of cotton wool of the longest and best kind, and some pounds of fine cotton yairn; and that she promised to pay the same again anie time he appointed and to the person he ordered it, and begged he would advise us timeously when he was to be at Newton, because his Mother purposed to see him there;

and put him in mind of that letter I wrot him the 31 of last month, and begged his attention to it, etc. etc.

Inverness, 28 Aprile 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my Daughter Mrs. Newton, advising her that I hade advice of her Brother Patrick's arival in Holland, and that I hoped he was or now arived in London; and likeways that her Brother John hade advised me that sometime in June nixt he proposed to come with his wife to Yorkshyre, and from thence to Newton, where he would expect his Mother and me, etc. etc.

Inverness, 1 May 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son Alan by Robert Calach, Carier, and sent by him tuo boxes of sea shells for Mrs. Menzies, one of which I gott from Andrew Morray, sent by Ladie Mackleod, directed for sd. Mrs. Menzies, etc. I advised him of Brother Patrick's ariveall in Holland, and of Johns desyne to come to Newton sometime in June nixt, etc.

Inverness, 5 May 1750.

I WROT of this dait a verie long letter to my son John in answer to his of 14 Aprile last, in which I sent him a full account of my present situation, with a full account of all my debts, and what would be necessar at least to support myself and family in time comeing, and desired him send me 3 comon prayer books by John Reid, etc. etc.

I wrot likeways of this dait to William Fraser, Balinain,¹ at Eder., and to Andrew Stivenson, perwigmaker ther; to the first annent my papers relating to Cumings houses in this pleace, and to the last relating to the debt I am due George Duncan and children; which tuo letters I have sent under covert to Henrie Rose, with full orders to compromise for my debt to Duncan with sd. Stivinson;

¹ William Fraser of Balnain, Stratherrick, W.S. in Edinburgh. His daughter Anne married Alexander Tytler, Lord Woodhouselee, and one of her sons was Patrick Fraser Tytler, the historian.

and to advise pr. first what he does. As likeways to gett my papers from William Fraser, and send them me pr. first.

Inverness, 23 June 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my son John congratulating his wifes safe delivery of a hopefull Daughter, and desiring him to give my blessing to his Brothers Francis and Patrick; and likeways wrot him at lairge annent his Uncle John [Macleod], his entering to the possession of Drynach; of getting his letter, etc.

Inverness, 13 July 1750.

I WROT of this dait to James Steuart,¹ writer in Edinburgh, in which I complained that I wanted a return to tuo letters I wrot him in relation to the settleing my accounts with James Steuart, lait Bailie of Eder., and beged he would let me know in cours if he was to doe anie thing in that affair, as I was much trubled about it, as was my freind Andrew Munroe, whose bill and mine is now indorsed to Alexr. McGilvray, Carolina, for £50 sterlin, tho the half of that mony is not realy due. I likeways lett him know my acquaintance and freindship with his Father, Charles Stuart, and his Cousin, William Stuart, Esqr., to whom I have done service, and would thank him for anie service he did me. I mean the last named Gentleman would.

Inverness, 14 July 1750.

I WROT of this dait to my daughter Marian to the care of William McLean, under a frank covert, and sent her inclosed a Declaration made be Robert Gordon in Cromarty befor Urquhart of Brealanguall, as being witness to her Mariage with Alexr. Wederburn in Aprile 1737, which I hope will, with Andrew Munroes Declaration annent her

¹ Eldest son of Charles Steuart, Stewart Clerk of Orkney, and Marjorie Traill of Westness (1718-1802); married 1747, Alison, daughter and heirsch of Mr. Thomas Ruddiman.

mariage, sent her the 7 instant, doe her business ; and in her letter is one inclosed for my son Patrick.

Inverness, 11 August 1750.

I WROT of dait to my son John at Newton, adviseing that I hade drawn on him for 25 shillings sterlin, payable to the order of David Gordon, 14 days after dait, at the shop of David Brown, Mercht. in Eder., and that I designed to sett out the middle of nixt week, etc. And likeways I wrot of this dait to William Macklean, Mercht. in London, adviseing that by order of my son John I hade drawn on him for £6 : 6 sh. sterlin, payable 20 days after sight, to the order of Mr. William McIntosh, mercht. of this town, and desireing him to advise me pr. first if anie ship was goeing soon to Bombay, etc. etc.

Inverness, 8 Nover. 1751.

For Mr. James Steuart, Writer in Eder.

DR. SIR,—I only received this week your verie kind acceptable letter of 24 Septer. last, which came under cover from London, which please I left much about the time your letter came there. I saw your cousin Mr. Steuart¹ soon after my ariveal from France, who received me verie kindly in his useual way, and hade a prettie long conversation together on various subjects, but no particular relating my son William, as I hade been frequently on that subject with him before I went to France, and was loath to teise him about it after he once told me he would take care of the Lad. However, as his Family was then in the Country, and he verie seldom and only by starts in London, I did not see him a 2d time while I was there ; but, at my comeing away from thence, or about 8 days befor, I wrot him a strong letter, in which I expressed fully my anxiety to have his Godson William settled for some time with you at Eder., and that I was certain that a recomendation from

¹ See footnote 1, p. 10.

him to you in behalfe of my sd. son would effectually bring that project to bear as I wished, and beg'd his answer, which is not yet come to my hands; but yet I don't despair of success that way; and by this verie post I doe designe to refresh his memorie on this subject by a letter; and, if anie answer come to it, Ile acquaint you, and in anie event I doe not despair but kind providence will provid for me and my children. I received the bill of £4 ster. I drew on my son John to your order last 8ber, which did not overtake him, and for which I sent you 1st and 2d bills on him in S. Carolina for £4: 4 sh. sterlin, which I dare promise will be punctually payed, and advice of which will give me great pleasure. As to Stivenson, the Perwigmaker, I observe what you say about him and noe doubt his offer is advantageous for me, but, alass, its not in my power to grant what he desires, as I happen at present to be prettie much stratned, nor have I anie other security to offer him but that I left with you on William Cumings houses in this brught [burgh], which is certainly worth the mony Mr. Stivenson desires of me. And if I live some time I hope to make much more of it, as McIntosh of Holme the present posessor is secured or payed alibie [?], which can be proved. And, if you hapen to see him, may endeavour to persuad him that it will be needless to distress me at present, as I offer him the best security in my power. And, if I live a year longer, I doubt not it will be in my power to pay him more mony than he demands at present. But mind to talk to Stivenson as if I was still abroad. Meantime, I must entreat you speake to William Fraser, Balinain, to gett and give up the Adjudication I sent him relating to my claim of the sd. houses in this brugh, for which I have his receipt, and were sent him in a Debat tuixt the lait Lord Lovat and McLeod of Cadboll, to be presented in Process. I am sorie you never could yet recover my Daughters papers from Walker in Lieth. I am affrayed he has played the Rogue, and given them up to her rivals about the subject in Debat; about which I beg you enquir and advise the poor Widow, my Daughter, who depends much on your freindship, and is a verie honest woman, etc.

9ber 30th, 1751.

To Mr. William Stuart, Esqr.

I PRESUME to give you the trouble of this letter to let you know that I have got home safe to my house and family, and had a verry agreeable passage from London hither, and that I do and will ever retain a just sense of your generous kind favours done me in my necessity, and will ever pray that Heaven may reward you for the same. I had laitley a letter from your freind, James Stuart, writer, in which he makes mention of my son William, and says he expected or then to hear what I hinted to him last year about him, that is, about going to serve as a prentice. I am sory to tell you that it is not in my power to forward my son in this service, nor even to equip him in a decent way without dificulty. But I [cannot] find the obligation for prentice fee, and yet I am greatly ashamed to incist on your doing me this favour after the experience I have laitley had of your generosity ; but what urges me to write in this manner at present is that my young man, having got, while I was abroad, some reason to hope he would be dispos'd of in this manner, gave up his gramatical learning and aplayed himself wholly to writing and figures, in which he has made good proficiencie. Sir, if you please to honour me with any answer to this letter, send it to Charles McIntosh, Mercht. in London (who is every day on change), and who will forward it to me under his covert, or may send it by the post office ; and this will determin me about the disposall of my son. Greatly oblige, etc.

10ber 7th, 1751.

To Mr. Charles McIntosh [London].

I WROTE to you the 30th past under covert to my Daughter, Mrs. Waderburn, and in your letter was one inclosed for Mr. William Steuart in Cavendish Square, which I hop you caus'd deliver carefully, as it related to ane affair of importance, and desired the answeare might be returned to you, who woud forward it hither. In my last to you I exposed fully my very strate condition at

present, and desird to know what lait advices you had from my son John, as I am extreamly anxious to know that he has reimbursd you the little money you generously pay'd by his order to me and my wife, which I hope he has done, as by last post my wife had a letter of the 21 7ber last, in which he gives a very agreable accout of himself and Brother Francis, and promises to remit a little money in a few weeks after that dait. But, alass, that is only releif at present and in the mean time our necessitys are very great. Verly, I have been raking my invention about finding a little money for our present necessitys, and one of the expedients I have thought of is to try if any of the Captains, our Countrymen, that are engaged by the India Company to go soon to Bombay, where my son James now resides in good business, would give me £5 ster: for my Bil on him for the same and the usual exchange. These Captain George Cumming of the Ship *Royal Duke*, and Capt. Lindsay of the Ship *Pellam*, which Bil I am absolutly sure my son will pay with pleasure and thankfulness. Capt. Cumming is my Daughter Mrs. Waderburns acquaintance, and I sent her 2 bills on my son, payable to him some weeks past, but she writes me he is not dispos'd to grant me this favour. But, as she has not return'd my Bills, I flatter myself she has some hopes of success, in which I beg you enquire, and give her your best advice and assistance in the affair. And if the money should answer, you'll remit me the same by a bill on your Brother, John McIntosh, but not on Hugh English. As for Capt. Layon, he is not my acquaintance, but has the character of an honest pretty fellow, and, if you know any gentelman of my acquaintance and his would speak to him, I think he wou'd grant the favour. I bleive David Falconer or Capt. Krighton, who are both my good acquaintances, and are daily on exchange, would be the proper persons: I say, either of them, without leading them into my urgent necessitys, but that this mony is designd for my son James use in this Country; and if this last project succeeds I will send you my bills on my son, payable to the sd. Capt. Lyon on first notice, as youl advise. Dr. Cousin, I beg

pardon for this too great unprofitable trouble given you, which, with my best respects to my Cousins Keluchy¹ and John McIntosh, Dalmigavie,² is at present all from, Your much obliged humble servant.

PS.—Your getting the affair recommended above exped will be a singular act of freindship. On second thoughts, if any mony can be got from the scheme mention'd in this letter, may draw on any good man here, payable to my freind, Mr. John Shaw, which bill send.

[Undated, and not addressed.]

LAST post there came a caption here at the instance of Andrew Stevenson, perwigmaker, against me, with positive orders to execute the same, but it is directed to a discreet man here who allows me time till the return of a letter from Edr. that goes by this post; so must intreat the favour of you to try if can prevail with this Stivenson to stop any execution against me for 2 months, as it is possible in that time I may find some method to secure him the compound sum he is willing to take, which in his letter to Messr. he name £16 sterlin, if I mistake not him. However, I beg you enquir and let me know in course his minimum.

Inverness, 17 January 1752.

To my son James [in India].

MY last to you was of 3d January 1751. I do not remember the ships name it went by, but Mr. John Layon, an intimat acquaintance of your Brother John, was first mate of the said ship, and it was writ from London, where I then was, and in it I acquainted you fully with my project in comming thither, and the schem I was to project. And now I have to advise, in prosecution of my son Johns propossall that I and family should goe over to France and resid at Bulloigne, and that he was to afford

¹ Alexander Mackintosh of Kyllachy, merchant in London.

² Dalmigavie in Strathdearn.

£20 sterling yearly for that purpose, which, with what might arise from our house rents, would do much to mantine us in a low way there. In consequence of this concert I went over to Bulloigne in the month of March last, where I was most kindly received by severall freinds and acquaintances, and lodged with my freind and townsman, Robert Rose, who lives now there, and I lived at little expence, having eat mostly at the houses of my freinds there, such as my Cusine, Capt. Donald Stuart, and Mrs. Stuart, his unkles widow, and my verie kind freind Capt. Baillie, etc. I was not long there when I was advised to apply a certain freind of high carактер in Italy for a proper recommendation to get a share of the pention setled by the Court of France for certain Gentlemen in distress, to which I got a verie kind answere in the course of 6 weeks, but found my request could [not] be comply'd with, as I wanted certain qualifications without which my project could not doe,¹ but at the same time assurance that at a proper time I wold be provided for, and that I was in great esteem with my freind. Upon receipt of these answere, not only to my own letter but to letters of Gentelmen of carактер and in great esteem with my freind, wrot in the strongest manner in my favour, I found it was not practicable for me to think of bringing my family into that Country, as I found, upon due inquiry, I could not subsist myself and family in that place under 50 or 60 £ ster. yearly. And besides, as I found any sum promis by my son John would be precarious and not to be depended upon, as his affairs in England, I mean his credid, was at a verie low pass, I determind to return home and rather undergo hardships in my own Country than be exposed in a strange Country, the language of which I could not speak nor understand, with the bad prospect of being in that case despised by Gentlemen with whom I was then in very good esteem. I stay in France till the middle of Agust, and then returned to London, where I have stayed with my poor kind Daughter Mrs. Waderburn the winter and half of the

¹ The Baillie, although a Jacobite, had not actively supported Prince Charles.

spring befor, and stay'd till I got a proper occasion of a ship to Inverness, which did not hapen till the beginning of 8ber last. Whil I was at London the ship *Ilchestester* arived from Bombay, by which I was in great hopes to have had the pleasure of a letter from you, but to my great surprise I found there was non but had the pleasure to see your letter to William Mclean, who has last sumar stopt payments, and bank-routed, which I much regrate ; but think fit to let you know so much for your government. I saw likewise your letter to your sister Marian, and yours to Hugh Ross, which gave him and me great pleasure, as in it you advise of som preferment you have gott to pleaces of profit and great trust. This letter goes by the *Royal Duke*, Capt. George Cumming, Commander, who in my very great strates I applyed before I left Lond. and since to know if he would do me the favour to let me have £5 sterling for my Bill on you, payable 14 days after sight, as did likeways my Daughter Maria apply him on the same score ; but he refused to grant the favour, which was unkind. I suppose this letter will be delivered by your nephew William Stuart,¹ who arrived from India while I was at London, where he had been out a surgeons mate, and now goes out surgeon with his Uncle, Captain Cuming. While I was with him at London he cam very seldom to see me, the reason of which I take to be he fear'd I was to ask money of him ; but I rather think that it was because he was then taken up with some rakish companions. I pray God direct him aright. When I came to London in 8ber last year I found your brother Patrick then at Hector Fraser's boarding school, where he had been for some months ; but his brother John, being obliged to leave London hastily, left him without money or credit, and recommended him to sd. Mr. John Lyon to carie him out with him to India, which I found he could not doe ; so that I was oblig'd to do all in my power to get him into some good business, which I got at last very well effected, getting him out 2d mate with Capt. Tolme, our country-

¹ See footnote, p. 462.

man, in the ship *Avant* gellie to Italie and Turkey at 40 shillings per month, from which voage he lately return'd to England, and the ship is now laying quarentine. And I had a letter from poor Patrik, good write and good sens, in which he informs me distinctly of all the occurances of his voage, and many dangers by Sheerness and otherways he escaped, and that the Capt. was exceeding kind and civil to him, indeed, as he promiss me he would. So I hope honest Patrick will doe well, and Mr. Tolme, who has a great deal to say with the Italian and Turkey merchts., says he hopes to get him a ship soon. I pray God bless him. He is a fine, solid lad. Your brother Alan is at the Colledges at Edinburgh, after serving 4 years as aprentice to Mr. Neil Menzie.¹ He has been help'd to Edinburgh education by his brother and Mcleod, but principaly by his worthie sister Mrs. Newton, who lives now in Edinbr., and mantains him, which is a great article. Alan is a fine, virtous, handsom young man, about 6 foot high, and will now be looking out to get into business. I pray God bless and direct him. Your sister Mrs. Newton was laitley delivered of ane untimely child. The child dyed, but she is recovered, bless be God, as are three of her children of the small pox. But the eldest child, Christie, a verie fine girle dyed in Nover. last of that Fatal Disease, to the great greef of your Mother, who was greatly anamourd with that fine Child. I hade laitley a very agreeable letter from your brother Francis in Carolina. His brother and partner have sett him up in a warhouse at a pleace called Port Royal, 80 miles south of Charlestown, where he has had great success, and sold in 12 months goods to the extent of £1500 sterling value, and write he was to be asumed a copartinar for that branch of bread, as does his brother John to his mother, who writs her a long letter in answer to one she wrot him from Newton when laitley there, in which she took him strongly to task about any misunderstanding seemed to subsist betwixt you and him. In his letter he declares it was all over with him, and that he had wrot

¹ Niel Menzies, doctor in Inverness. See p. 454.

you so by a letter he sent to William McLean to be forwarded to you, which Mr. Mclean told me he did forward ; so I hope we shall never more hear of any quarall subsisting betwixt you. Your brother Franck has a most charming character in Carolina, and greatly esteemed as a young man of fine parts, good sens, and strick vertue. May God, I pray, bless him, his brother, and all their concerns. John had a most dangerous, tedious, and expensive passage with his spouse and daughter to Carolina, where he only arived in Aprile 1751, where, I hope, he will still do well, as he is well esteemed in that Country. Now I come to advise you of my own and familys present situation. I bless God wee enjoy a pretty good share of health, and the full exercise of our reason and senses, but greatly pinchd for the necessarys of life, and oblig'd to have recourse—I say, to have recourse—for assistance to freinds and nighbours for little trifles untill it please God to enable us to pay them ; and even that method has now allmos quit faild, as we have so long troden in that way. What gives most pain at present is that your two youngest brother, William and Henry, are still with us, tho grown up to be allmost men, and have a good genious for anie bussiness, but at present cannot stir out of doors to attend any school for want of nessesary apperal. And what I had in view for both, of which I wrote you last year from London, has faild ; but ane offer I had in France to send them both over to be educat at the Scots Colledge of Dowie, in which case might be temped to goe in to the religion of that pleace, which I do not love ; but still I have some hopes it may please God to open a door for them soon. They both write well and have a great genious for drawing and painting, and some of their works in our house are verie prittie and well esteemed, particularly Land skips. Your brother in law, John Reid, spouse, and family are all tolerably well and in health ; but honest John is much concerned at present about some losses he has laitly sustained in the way of trade ; which is a loss to my family, as he has been kind on sindrie occasions. All I think now proper to add is to inform you that severall of your

acquaintances have laitly dyed, viz., my Cousin, Comissar Stuart ; Doctor McLean and Ladie, my kind neighbours ; as also Baillie William McIntosh, Coach, and Baillie Gilbert Gordon, Archibald Geddes, and severall others. Your freind Miss Pegie McIntosh asks frequently for you. Your Mother, sister Meg, and brothers joyn me in their prayrs to God for your health and prosperity ; and wee all beg that after this you omit no occasion for writing to us ; and I ever am, my Dear Son, your most affect. Father,

Inverness, 11 July 1752.

Mr. Charles Mackintosh, Mercht. in London.

DR. SIR,—I received yours of the 20th last month, as I did at the time a letter from my son Francis from Portroyal in S. Carolina, in which he advises me he had remitted you £10 sterling pr. bill of exchange, to be remitted me here. I expected to heave heard from you about this mony by last post, for I wanted it extreamly, as this week we have had a merket here which has given me a great deal of truble by the dunnes of poor people to whom I am due litle trifleing sumes for the support of my Family, which has oblided me to draw on you the 9th instant for thirtie shillings sterline, to the order of Hugh Fraser, mercht. in this place, payable 20 days after date, to which I entreat your compliance. And, if by nixt post or before this letter comes to your hands, the money you are to remitt me come to my hands, I faithfully promise to remitt this 30 shillings, for which I have now drawn to your brother in law Baillie John Mckintosh, and send you his receipt for the same pr. post. And you may bleive it was great necessity made me draw for the same ; so I hope you will pardon this freedom.

Inverness, 4th 7ber 1752.

A Copie of a letter to my son Allan [Medical Student at Edinburgh University].

I RECEIVED yours of 27 last month and doe noat the contents. I observe your sister and family are gone to

the Country in order to stay there. I pray God bless them wherever they are. I fear their removal will not be quit convenient for you ; but keep your courage and patience. God is all sufficient, and I hope will provide for you. I had by last post a letter from your Brother James, daited the 9th of December last, in which he gives a verie agreeable account of his present situation, and that by the ship my letter came the Governour and Council of Bombay recomended him to the Company in England in very strong terms ; so that I doubt not he 'll be advanced by them to a higher station. He makes kind mention of you, and says that by this ship last arrived he wrote to McLeod a letter of thanks for his kindness and generosity to you, which I hope will have a good effect. He likeways bids me tell you that he was to write you fully by a ship that was to saill next month for England, and to remitt you 5 pounds sterlins, which gives joy to your Mother and me. And, if McLeod remitt you the other 5 pounds he is due by promise, I think, with the assistance of other freinds you might be enabled to goe in person over to see your kinsman Generall Stuart¹ with such recommendations as you could purchass, particularly from the phisitians and surgeons of Edr., which I am hopefull will doe your affair, providing the place of surgeon to the Regiment be not fullid up or then, about which you ought to write immediatly to your cousin John McLeod. James, your brother, has made no remittance of any money to me, but has sent two pieces of cotton cloath or linin for his Mother, which I hope will come by Robert Munro, who is daily expected. We are in extream straits and want, which, with the torment of little duns, gives your poor Mother and me great uneasiness ; as does the miserable condition of your poor brothers, who are still confined for want of cloaths and losseing their time and education. I wish you would cast about and try if Rodrick McLeod would take your brother William to his service, for I know not how to dispose of him at present. He's a fine, good, virtuous

¹ Of the Dutch service. See next letter.

lade, and it 's a pittie he were not now put to some bussness. As for Henry, I am thinking to send him nixt year over to his brother Frank to Carolina, where I fear not his doing well. Your freind George Munro is verie well, notwithstanding Dr. Munro was plying him hard with various medicins to no purpose. Your Mother perswaded George to give over takeing anything from him, for till then she would not cure him, which at lenth he was perswaded on to doe; and then in ten days he came to his color, and is now quit well. She says shall comunicate this secret to you, which I dare say may be of good use to you.

I observe what you write about Ld. Lt. I 'm sorie he 's oblinded to take such a cours, and [he] will repent it. If my kind freind, Capt. Donald McDonald, be yet at Ednr., give him my kind respects, and tell Ill be verie glad to see him here; and I am heartely sory for my kind freind Robert Rose. I pray God help him. Try if you can learn a proper derection for my freind young Glengarie,¹ and write to me per first. I send inclosed to you a letter for Dowgal Stuart at Jamaica, which give your acquaintance, Mr. McDonald, who told me he was to goe soon for Jamaica, and give him my kind respects. Advis likewise if any letters for you or me by Mr. Cowan of Lieth from Carolina, with anie news you can learn of your brothers there.

Inverness, 12th September 1752.

To My Daughter Mrs. Waderburn [London].

LAST week I received yours without dait, which was write the last week of the last month, as I observe by the post office mark. I have considered all the particulars of your letter. First, as to the pieces of calico came from your brother James, which he mentions in his letter of 9 December last, which is come to hand. I think your

¹ Alexander Macdonell, younger of Glengarry—Mr. Andrew Lang's 'Pickle the Spy.' He was at this time in France, where he had resided for many years.

schem of getting the pieces in the lenth of sheets is the best way to gett them ashour by the asistance of the purser of the ship to whom they were recommended, without givinge the extravigant price of 5 Guenies to a waterman, which you know the subject cannot bear. So, my Dear Daughter, I depend on your care in the affair, and will be verie glad you can gett on of the pieces sold to Mr. Keith at £8 sterling, to whome give my humble service. And the other pice may send by Alexander Bain, and take his receipt for the same, which send in-closed pr. post. And as this is the only remittance made us by your brother James since he went to India, it will be verie luckie if it come safe to hand, as I assure you we are sore pinched by our little creditors here at present, and the wants of our Family in several respects. So I recommend this affair to your prudent manadgment; only notice, if you can sell a pice of the caligo, my wife and I entreat you from that fund to buy two second hand cloath coats for your brother's Will: and Hendrie; I mean of good strong cloath. Let them be so lairge as they woud near fitt me, and put them and the caligo in one box by Sandie Bain or the first occasion of a ship comeing to this pleace; and cause insure the value, which James Clerk or Charles McIntosh will doe for you for verie little money, as now the season of the year is turning stormie. And may gett a bill for what mony will remain payable to me here, or send me an order rather to draw on you for the sume, which will doe better. I beg you see to gett the two second hand coats for your brothers as cheap as possible. I know you are no stranger to wher the best penieworth can be found.

I blive what you write about Mr. Munroes offering to lodge with you to be true; so need not truble your head about it. I am affrayed your brother Patrick was too rash in quitting Mr. Tolmie and going to Carolina, as I would rather he hade stayed and gone Mr. Tolmies 2d mate. However, I hope God will bless and prosper him, and that he'll doe verie well in Carolina; but I wonder he did not writ me at his goeing off. Robert Munro

arrived here about 5 Days agoe, and gives a fine account of our Patrick. Now as to your proposal about your daughter Nellie, Ile write verie earnestly to your sister about it by this post, and bid her send an answer directly to yourself by first post. But I fear much your schem will not hold, because I understand Mr. Newton is turned wearied of the town of Ednr. and returned to the country to stay for good. But I blive if you inclyned the child should stay with her aunt in the country, I dare say she 'll make her welcom ; but for any bourd I must leave yourself and her to adjust that betwixt you, as I have not confidence to write to her in the shape you propose, as she is of herself verie generous and kind to us all ; and I pray God bless her. Wee have verie good schools of all kinds here, and a vast manie young girles sent here to be educat ; and, failing of your project at Newton, what would you think of sending Nellie down to us here, where she might lodge with her aunt, and be tenderly cared for ? But this I leave to your own better judgement. I am verie glad you corespond with your brother Allan, and that you are endeavouring to gett him in to business. He is a fine sensible lade, and I hope will doe well, and I blive will please you when you see him. I have been using my poor endeavours for him to gett him surgeon of General Stuarts Regiment in the Dutch Service, but it has failed me as yett. However, I hope God will provide for him. The greatest obsticul that I can think to your daughter Nellie's being settled with your sister Newton is that Mr. Newton has refused to take anie of his own unmarried sisters into his house, notwithstanding his being applyed by all his relations on that head. And yett he proves comonly kinder to his wifes relations than to his own. But your sister will clear that point fully. I am sorie for the misfortune befalln the parat, of which I will writ her pr. first post. Your freind Rodrick Mackullach was married the 29th of last month to Miss Munro, Culrains' only Daughter, who has only a weak sillie lad to her brother, not like to live ; and in anie event shell prove a rich match, and its said is a prittie young woman.

Inverness, 28 7ber N.S. 1752.

To my son John [in Carolina].

It surprises me very much that I have no letter from you for 12 month past, tho severall from your brother Francis, in which he informed me of some considerable disappointments you met with from your corespondents at London, and that you and partner were resolved to change them, and had fixed on one who I am told is a very rich man, and I hope will use you better than your freinds the Udnies have done. Meantime, I am extreamly pleased to understand that you, your spouse, and daughter continue in health since they went to that country, and that your partner, Mr. Read, is come over to London to negotiat your affairs, which I hop will turn out much to your advantage, and will retriive the damp on your credit incurred by the failure of your first corespondents ; and to his care I send this letter. Your brother Francis wrote me of his success in your affairs at Port-royal and that you and partner had assumed him as partner for $\frac{1}{3}$ d of your business at that place, where, I hope, he 'll give you contentment in his management. And I pray God grant you and him health and prosperity. I had a letter laityly, daited the 9th 10ber, from your brother James at Bombay, which gives me great joy, as he says he has had better success since he went last to that country than he expected, as he was in great favour with the Governour, and trusted with the management of the factory books, and was appointed Comptroller of Accompts, and that the Governer and Counsill had by the same ship his letter came, write in strong terms, to the Company at London, recommending him for preferment. And Marian writs me from London that she understands by Mr. Home, the Director, and Mrs. Cuming's uncle, who is James his great freind, that his character gives great satisfaction to the Company, who will prefer him soon ; so that, blessed be God, he is in a hopefull way of doing well.

He complains he never had an answer to the last letter he wrote you, nor any since he went last to India, and

untill he had a return from you he would not write any more ; so that your mother fears the last letter you wrote him has miscarried, and that you should renew a copy of it, and forward the same as soon as possible. The last letters I wrote you dated 25th January and 15th April. The last mention'd I sent under covert to your cousing John Stuart, shipmaster, with my orders to forward the same imediatly, and served to advise that he was so kind as to pay a bill I drew on my daughter Marion, in my extream necessity, for 30 s : as it seems she had not then money to pay the same ; which I entreat'd you might pay him. In these letters I told yow of the very great straits of our family and bad cituation. And nothing gives me greater pain than that your 2 brothers William and Henry have been for almost a year confin'd in the house for want of cloath and linnins, and, which is still worse, quit idle for want of proper education, tho both have good capacities, and have taken a fancy of draughting landskips and pictures to very good purpose. And no doubt you have heard what I projected to them has fail'd. However, I trust that kind providence will soon carve out a way for them.

Your Brother Allan is still at Edr., labouring under difficulties, as McLeod has only pay'd the half of what he promised for his subsistance at Edr. He is a pretty young man, and has made a good progress in his trade ; but as he has laitly writ you by a Leith ship, one Captain C. Commander, I think I need say no more about him at this time. I understand your brother Patrick has ship'd himself for your Carolina, where I hope this will find him safe and well. He is a very good, vertous young man, and Captain Tolme, with whom he was at sea last voage, gives him a large, good character ; so I hope he'll prove usefull to you in his way ; and I pray God bless him. He has lately escap'd great danger by the most violet storm of wind happen'd of a long time, in which many ships were lost, and abundance of people parished.

Your sister at Cromerty is well. Her husband Mr. Reid had had considerable losses in the way of trade. His ship,

the *Helen and Margret*, was sized at Harwich last winter coming from Dunkirk with a great deal of wine, spirits, and prohibited cash and tea, etc.; and after a very expensive process at Law the ship was got back, but the cargoe very much damaged; and the ship sold there for a trifle. However, honest John has got another brigg, about 90 tun, built at Cromarty, and is going now with a loading of salmon to the Mederanian @ 30 £ pr. month, 6 month sure, and got 2 partners to his ship, which coast him 550£ sterlin, being all good oak outsid and inside. He breeds his son John, your nephew, to his oun bussiness, who, I hope, will turn out very well.

No doubt Allan has writ you fully about Mrs. Newton and family. They are laitley gone from Edr. back to the country, which is a loss to poor Allan.

This have I given you an Account of all our family, so have only to add that your mother and I have laboured under great troubles of late years, and only subsisted by the bounty of our children, and few or non other of late; and our schemes have missgiven. May God sanctify every dispensation of his providence to us, and prepare us for death and eternity, which I may dayly look for, as I am now very old, and of late feel the effects of it. Your mother, Meg, and brothers give you their blessing, and to your spouse and child, in which I join.¹

¹ This is the last letter in the Letter-Book.

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