

31st July 1746. In the Highlands an uneasy
 peace had succeeded the ~~tragedies~~ disasters
 of the past year - Culloden, its ~~tragedies~~
 & its tragic story of reprisals by the
 English government was only 3 months
 away - Prisoners were being rounded up & were
 awaiting trial & condemnation as
 traitors. In the West (Prince Charles Stuart)
~~English soldiers, assisted by~~ was ~~still~~ a
 hunted fugitive dependent on the charity
 of humble people who could have betrayed
 him for a reward that would have meant
 riches for themselves & their families

Salisbury was not suspected of
 harbouring Jacobites, but Earl of Salisbury
 had been a loyal supporter of the English Government
~~He had raised the companies at great~~
 expense & on promise of support of
 the Government had raised two Independent
 Companies & a company of militia ~~was~~
~~raised~~ Now he

31 July ✓
 - August ✓
 7 Aug ✓
 28 Aug ✓
 10 Sept ✓

LETTERS FROM DUNROBIN

1746-----1747

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

31 July ✓
 - August ✓
 7th August ✓

Not done yet. 12 Dec. ✓

19 March February.

2nd April

9th April

26 April

4 May

26th April

28 Aug. ✓

10th Sept. ✓

11 Sept ✓

2 have - 25 Sept ✓

6 pages 6. November

? 12? December

18 December ✓

31 December ✓

29 Jan. ✓

5th Feb. ✓

12th Feb. ✓

19th February

19 March ✓

26 April ✓

DUNROBIN

5th February 1746

I'll do the best I can to secure all the Meall I can from the Tenants and Mr Clunes, which, if My Lord means to go no further into improvements this year than what you mention, I hope may serve this Season. I think my Lord should sell no Vitual till his Lship: first send for as State of what may certainly be expected this Season.

I enclose a note of what came for the family by Captain Reid. Mrs Butler says that a great many of the necessaries she commissioned for is not come. For example, cotton, which she is obliged to get from Inverness at 3d a pound. The Kitchen untesils are neither come and the family is quite out of pewter dishes & plates. By comparing the Enclosed note with the list of necessaries sent last year to Mr Wms, of which Mr Anderson has a copy, it may be seen what the family yet wants. There came so much tea by Capt Reid of which I wrote to Mr Anderson to which refers (?)

no further

DUNROBIN

5th February

1747

5th February 1746

I'll do the best I can from the Tenants and Mr Clunes

I think my Lord should sell no Victual till this season
I have sent for a state of what may certainly be
expected this season.

I enclose a note of what came for the family
by Captain Reid. Mrs Buller says that a great many
of the necessaries she commissioned for is not come.
For example, Cotton, which she is obliged to get from
Lancaster is 5/ a pound. The Kitchen necessaries
she did not come and the family is quite out of
power dishes & drink. By ordering the enclosed
note with the list of necessaries sent last year to
be

DUNROBIN

July 31st 1746

July 31st
August -
August 7

19

12 days

Dr Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 19th inst and the accounts you give of My Lord & your arrival in London in good health affords comfort to us here. I thank you for the pamphlet you send of the Tryall of the Prisoners at Carlisle, and must beg your continuance of transmitting such Papers from time to time as are curious.

I shall observe your directions in writing you every post of what occurs here. on my Lords affairs. A vessel from Yarmouth has arrived here the 17th current: with 550 Quarters of English Bear which measured out here 662 Bolls 3 fir: The Master of the Vessel had some Baggs of Pease that contained 4 Bushells each & I measured one of them with out firLOT and it answered to 9 pecks & scripp 3 lippies. Before this vessel arrived the Country was supplied with vitual what with Vitual Robert Gray brought to it from Orkney and Caithness; what they procured from Caithness themselves and the 400 B. my Lord bought at Wick; so that there is no demand for the English Bear. Several have made a Tryall of it & they all agree that it will not malt, which makes matters still the worse; as a good quantitie might have been Sold ~~that way~~ for that use. I wrote to Inverness to know if there was any demand there, but the place is already overstocked by large quantities brought from England in the Store Ships. We are at a loss, therefore, how to get it disposed of..

As to the Salmond fishings that of Strathnaver is computed to be about three last. That of Helmsdale 4 last and that of Brora two last.

--- The Quarriers, Carters, Dykers and Ditchers are going on as usual. We are at a loss to supply John Sutherland in lime for want of Pick ^{coal} (?) to the new Pick being quite useless as yet with the constant Rain, however he has not yet been stoppd and I know a proposal of gettings a few old Picks (,) for burning sea shells; John, poor man, has been almost despaired of since you left.

I wish My Lord had thought of disposing of his present lott of Horses they are taking a distemper and Sandy Duff attends them. You know Paterson is a very ? about them and I wish my Lord would take thought of having another man in his place as he is given to drinking & very idly inclined

I shall by next Post look out for the Papers you want

Sept 10
4

DUNAGHIN
July 31st 1746

as I had no time since I had yours to do it

Dr Sir

four most abl and aft

Servt

Dugal Gilchrist

August

Dr. Sir,

I have had no accounts from you these three posts agone.--- I have little to trouble you with at this time, only to observe that the family is in great straits for want of the Commissions My Lord sent for last winter by Mr Strode (,). We are obliged to purchase hoaps from Tain at 3/- str: per pound which must be owned to be a very unfrugal method of procedure but its what I cant help. and it must be the case with regard to other family necessaries; if these commissions do not come soon. I wrote to Aberdeen but find there is nothing there of those Commissions except some Cart wheels. Pray put My Lord in mind of ordering the rest of those Commissions. to be sent by Captain ~~Reed~~ Reed who is now in London. Please to desire Mr Anderson to send me my big coat by the same occasion.

I am giving out some of the English Bears as you directed ? ? five firlots of the new Bear the boll.

The Independent Companies are all broke except Culrains ? and Bighouses which are to be for two or three weeks longer in order to entitle them to half pay.

I am

Dr Sir,
Your most aff humble Servt

Dugald Gilchrist.

Dunrobin.

7th August 1746

Dr Sir,

I wrote you by last Post to which refers (,)-
 In terms of your letter of the 19th Ult. I now
 send you Duncan MacKintosh's Bill for £120 (prn ?)
 with registrat Protest thereon at the Instance of
 Coutts & Co ; an account with Duncan MacKintosh
 relative to that bill and a Copy of your letter to
 John Lesly thereunent. These I found in the leather
 Trunk in a bundle but could not find the letter you
 wrote of that you had from Mr Lesly after his coming
 out of prison. I likewise looked at your Book of
 Accounts and Index thereto and could find nothing
 about Mrs Lesly or Mc Intosh therein. Wth regard
 to the Prize money I give in at the Meeting to
 Carrol and Mr Clunes a Memorial for you and your Officers.
 against which some objections were made by the other
 Officers and get answered according to what I knew
 from yourself and others. They seem in general
 jealous of the superior merit ~~xxx~~ justly assumed, by
 your Company and this led them to injurious reflections

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London

17th August 1746

again which I have prepared a second Memorial all which I
against

shall send you by next post as I have not had time
to copy them over. The scheme of Division has been

sent two Posts ago by Carrol for My Lord's
amendments which I hope he'll notice in favour of

your Comp^y and in respect of
Dr Sir:

Your most obt^l Hmble Servt:

Dugald Gilchrist.

write of that you had from Mr. Bealy after his coming

out of prison. I likewise looked at your Book of

accounts and Index hereto and could find nothing

with regard about Mrs. Bealy or Mr. Ince's therein.

DUNROBIN

28th August 1746

20
16

12 days.

Dr Sir,

I have your favour of the 16th Inst. As to the fishings there is ~~x~~ packed at Helmsdale 42 barrels of salmon, that of Brora ~~is not wholly~~ is not wholly packed but is computed to 27 barrels. We have not got an account of what ^{Ma}ver will make but Charles Gordon writes that he computed there might be 36 barrels. I expect by next Post ^Ito be able to send you an exact account of the whole. Our Peats are in a very bad condition this season. for we have had almost constant Rain from the middle of June till the 20th of this month. The Rains have kept back our harvest much, tho' if the Weather continues favourable, we have yet a prospect of some rich crops of bear and Oats and a valuable one of Pease. This backwardness of the Harvest has helped much to the people taking off my hands a good quantity of the English Bear. I have about 200 bolls of it now on hand and expect some more may be got off still. You must own the charge of giving this vitual out is very heavy on me. The other Factors, as I formerly wrote you will not give their

28th August 1746 2

(6)

credit for it even to the Tenant, in the Parishes they are concerned in, nor give themselves the least trouble about it; ^{however let} ~~herewith~~ the consequences with regard to me be what they will, I have endeavoured to make the best of it for My Lords Interest. Off our first crop of Hay we have as large a Stack as last years, built at the Gable of the Stables and two round Stacks besides, all good sufficient hay. We are cutting out second crop of the horse park this week, which is pretty good. We have had no demand for hay from this by the Forces since my Lord went off. Mr Baker (a farmer sent here by Mr Williams) has viewed Mr Williams farm and the most of my Lord's Estate on the Coast that pays farm. (?) He approves much of the whole as good corn land but thinks no part of it is fit for flax but the bottom of Cracaigand (?) Loth. He proposes to return in a few days with a Report to Mr Wms; The Dragoon horse that my Lord sent for to Invss: is adying. I send you by this Post a Copy of the Memorial I gave to Carrol as the Memorial was given in your name it was proper to do all ~~the~~ the justice possible to your Officers or other; employed by you. You may make what amendments

28th August 3

(5)

in it you see cause to do. I shall send you a copy of the second memorial by next post. I should wish to get a suit of Cloaths bought for me in London costing about £5 st: but am at a loss how to get the money remitted you

Dr Sir

Your most obt & aff; servt:

Dugald Wilchrist

Dunrobin 28th August 1746.

On receipt of the men's lists and Directions about them & the Militia Charge sent me last Week by my Brother I despatched Expresses ; to all the Mins/rs and Capts: of Militia with coppies of the Directions sent me. Some of the Mins/rs list are returned me only this day but not in the way they were directed to make them out so that I must return them again to be rectified and some of the Captains have been from Home so that none of these papers are to be sent until next Post You have by this Post three different lists of the Parish of Golspie Compy(?) ~~and~~ sent you by Alex Mackay. I made out a Memorial about the Militia Charges some weeks ago which I gave Carrol to be forwarded my Lord by Mr Anderson

10th September 1746

Dr Sir,

I sent you by last post eight Minr/s Lists of Fencible men and Vouchers of the Militia Charge conform to the Directions sent me; Mr John Munro's List is not yet come to hand come to hand for all the Instructions given him I returned him his list after giving it in(?)) as well as most of the other Minr/s they having ---- them. Tho parlar plain directions was given each of them.

Enclosed you have one of My Lord's Warrants to raise the Militia, which is the only one I could find out.

I gave you a hint last Post of Culrains being shot through a Bush in Locharchaig by one of the Rebels; He was interred Tuesday last in Kilhearn (?) univarsally regretted. It is rumoured here that my Lord proposes to go to Holland for the sake of his health, pray acquaint me if there is any foundation for this story, which we give no credit to and how my Lord keeps his Health as we are in concern about his Lord/p since this was rumoured.

Culcainn, they say, was going in quest of Barrisdale's

*Kilhearn
Culcainn & Culcainn
belonged to the same
family of Munro's
who lived at Culcainn
never taking the
name of Culcainn
(Culcainn and Pepp
ness & then)*

cattle with some of the Independant Companies when
he was shot.-, I have no letter from you this
two Postages. My Lady is to be home this week
from Murray. Lady Betty is very well and remembers
you kindly.

Dr Sr

Your most obt hble servt.

Dunrobin 10th September 1746

Golspy 11th September 1746

Dr Sir,

As I am on my way to the Highlands have received
 Mr John Munro's list of the Fencible men made out in
 the manner directed this list completes the Munr/s
 Parish lists, which I hope will be all found to be
 properly vouched; We have alarms every other day of
 this country being invaded by the Rebels under
 Barrisdales' Command to which we give no credit, as we
 have no good authority for the report.

I am in haste

DR Sir
Yours ever

Dugald Gilchrist.

DUNROBIN

25th September 1746

Dear Sir,

I have your favours of the 11th current. The acct: you give of my Lord's good state of health are most agreeable and satisfactory here considering that we have been amused for some time past by the Reports spread thro' the Country that his Lordp: intended to go to Holland, or had actually gone there for the state of his health. From Ross for some time past it has been confidently stated that his Lop: the P--t and some other great men in S---- d had been disoblged at C-----t and had left it in disgust, to this was given no credit.

By the universal good character given of Lordy we have the joyful prospect of his turning out to be a comfort to his parents & an honour to his family and Country, I hope my Lord will give proper directions for the better management of his Education.

With respect of Mr Gray of Rogart, I believe some in the County might have given Mr Balner (?)

a bad impresson of him while in it which occasioned his giving such a bad character of him to Mr Williams, more than any experience he had of Mr Gray himself. it is certain that it is the occasion of speculation to several how he came to be entrusted, but it may now be reasonably supposed that considering his situation in the County & that his future credit depends on the part he acts at this time that that will enduce him to exert himself in a particular manner for the interest of his Constituents.

Upon Application to the other factors for Cattle for my Lord's acct: we found that they had such large demands upon the Tenants for vitual they had furnished them with these two years past, that we could not expect any great numbers from them fit for slaughtering. in (?) the rents. So that we were obliged to secure the Strathnaver Cattle and some from Thomas Gordon at the Pass mostly stotts and other Cattle not fit for slaughtering with which John Gray has proceeded

DUNROBIN 25th Sept 1746

to the Crieff Fair to make money off in order to be applied for purchasing Cattle for slaughter.

We daily expect the salt and some casks from Leith as also one for cutting the beef from London, whom we are told was to come in a ship from London that was to sail the 12th Current; none fit for that purpose can be had in the North and as great deal depends on a right Cutter we impatiently wait for his arrival.

John Gray on his way from London bought a Drove from Alexander Gray in his way to Falkirk, out of which he has sent the 200 cattle to Mr Willms of the best of the whole there was about 400 for the whole and the rest to be ^{returned} ~~returned~~ to the Country to be grassed for slaughtering and wintering; and had he not secured that parcel he could not get Mr Willms so rightly served this Season; I asked him what the drove cost him, but he declined to tell me that as he said it was a private commission he had from Mr Willms: and did not concern the scheme (?);

DUNROBIN 25th Sept: 1746

as what of that cattle that were returned to the
Country should be valued when slaughtered; no
doubt he has by this time acquainted Mr Willms
of what they cost him. I can get no right information
about it as he and Mr Alex Gray are only in the
secret. Mr Willms may know their value by John
Gray's draft in favour of Widow Munro if he is not
otherwise informed.

As to the cloaths I wrote you about, I'll just
take my chance of Aberdeen^{at} which, as you observe, I
may be as well served as from London.

My Lord's brown mare and the grey mare taken
away by the Rebels are returned here by Captain
Sutherland's men who tracked them in Badenoch. With
such a number of old horses about this place that they
have eat up all the grass already bare and will destroy
double their value in corn and hay before the
winter passes and probably some of them may die
I wish there were orders given to have them dispersed
by roup. My Lady returned from Murray Friday last

15-

DUNROBIN

'ExH

25th Sept. 1746

Mr Bruce died Saturday last and was interred
Tuesday thereafter. What belongs to him shall
be sealed up till my Lord's return .

Acquaint me how my Lord is satisfied with my
giving out the English bear for five firlots if the
new crop.

Dr Sir,

Yr most Obt Hmle Servt:

Dugald Gilchrist

CYDERHALL

6th November 1746

Dr Sir,

I had no letter from you since the one from Tenderinghall (?) and my Lord will no doubt be too much troubled with letters from other hands and otherwise. I write you this to be shewn his Lordship at a propper time with Regard to our Conduct and Success in Slaughtering etc.

John Gray of Rogart arrived in this County the beginning of Septr last, and shewed me my Lord's Order for all the cattle for Rent from the Estate, which was immediately intimated to John Clunes, who said that few or none cpuld be got from him and to Robert Gray, who seemed to think that a good number might be got from him. We appointed the weeks thereafter for sighting the Parishes of Lairg, Rogart and Farr, and proceeded accordingly with Hugh Gray to buy them. We came to the Parishes of Lairg & Rogart but got no Cattle shewn us and when we were on our way to Strathnaver Robert Gray mett us

15

6th November 1746

on his return from thence, telling us that we would see the Strathnaver Cattle at the Pass, when we came there we found that Charles Gordon and Robert Gordon had bought up the whole of the Strathnaver Cattle for Rent in order to proceed Southwards. then or sell them to their own Advantage The Cattle were not for our purpose being Stotts and a few young ~~naimes~~ cows, however, that being all, we had to expect ~~them~~ from Robert Gray's district (we found it absolutely necessary to purchase them in order to make money of them at Falkirk. to buy other cattle which was what we judged best for my Lord's interest. In prosecuting the scheme Mr Gray accordingly proceeded with them and 40 stots got from Charles Gordon. The latter (be the by) we were obliged to purchase at a pretty high rate or not get them at all, to the number of 270 which he sold (all ^{but} to 19) at some loss and was obliged to take bills for most of the money

Cyderhall
6th November 1746

payable by one Mr Eliot at Christmas next. afterwards
Hugh Gray went to buy the cattle of the Parishes
of Loth and Kildonan but did not get one in both these
parishes for rent, the few they had to dispose of
being reserved for paying the vitual they got for
their Seadd Maintenance. Robert Gray appointed us
to go a second time to Lairg & Rogart, but we did
not get as much as one for my Lord's account. only
Hugh Gray bought 74 fat cattle from himself and
some of the Tenants for which John Gray was obliged to
satisfy for the price and a higher rate than Hugh Gray
valued them at. Thus we were wholly disappointed of
Cattle for slaughtering in Rents. The Tenants having
such a burden upon them in bought Vitual, for the last
two Years. That what Cattle they have, which are very
inconsiderable since the bad loss they sustained in the
Spring 1745, they wholly allocate for paying their
bought Vitual. By this may be seen what little
prospect there is of getting in the Rents this year ;
It is true this is very disagreeable truths for my Lord

Cybernet
6th Nov

(20)

to hear, but it is what his Lordship should know. That some way should be fallen on to put the tenantry in a way of living that his Rents might be the more depended on, for it is certain that the Tenants were never poorer than what they are at present. Again the people depend so much for getting allowances for their losses by the Rebels and for their pay in the Militia that it makes them the more lawless in making other shifts for the payment of their debts. I have got cattle as usual from the Parishes of Golspie and Clyne, for the families use, and a few Stots but no cattle for slaughtering.

Thus you see how far my Lord on prosecuting this trade with Mr Willms on the present footing and I presume to give it as my opinion that if my Lord intends to continue the trade it can never be properly managed without his Lordp sets apart a certain sum of money to which access can be had at the proper seasons

(21)

Agderhall (21)
Gen New

~~by the persons~~ by the persons his Lordp thinks proper
to entrust for buying up cattle at a cheap rate and
~~havingzxbamxbtkerzfedzx~~ taking some method for having
them better fed for the London mercat. For his Lordp can
rely on no great Number the best of years for Rent
that will be for slaughtering, and the tenants will never
be satisfied with the price that may be given as they'll
imagine that they'll make a better ~~prizex~~ hand of them
by selling to those of their own choosing than those
instructed by my Lord.. This I believe you yourself have
~~experience~~ of and besides that money is the only thing
that will prevent some of the croft cattle (which usually
goes that way, falling into the Hands of interloping
Drovers. For my part I have already done all that I
could for my Lord's account, but you see it has
little effect.

Mr Gray returned from Crief about the 20th October
and it was but then that he brought money with him of
Mr Willms for purchasing cattle, not being able to

(22)

Cyderhall
6th Nov

(22)

to draw any from Mr ~~Willms~~ Munro sooner, nor had not thought himself safe to advance on Mr Willms credit till he had account that Mr Willms had paid the money first at London to his order. By the time he returned to this country the Barfleure was at hand to Qt(?) several flocks from Inss and Murray which raised the price of cattle much so that by this and the disappointment of the English Butchers not coming up as yet, as none (?) can be slaughtered for the London Mercat till he arrives as we can depend on none in these parts to cut and cure it for it) There cannot be at most two or three hundred slaughtered for this season and the greatest part of them for Leith which may only serve as an Experiment and afterwards a small Experiment made of the Coad and Pork which is all that can be done this season . I am afraid I have been too tedious. I wrote Mr Willms fully this Post

CYDERHALL

I am Yr most obt humble Servt

Dugald Gilchrist

12 December 1746.

I wrote you by G. White; with success respect
to the success of our buying cattle for
slaughtering etc. I delayed writing you
sooner (?) till I could write you more certainly
of what ~~credit~~ ^{credit} or any sort (?) ^{price} given people
in the country for cattle - (etc?) & given to —
and ... you have a note thereof as I
- called it for notes ... information
otherwise.

In your last you assumed that the W^m
takes it (?) unless that - should allow Mr Gray
to - separately by drawing drafts (?) or by
letters of advice without any concurrence
as we are equally entrusted. Further I am
but ~~more~~ ? from him with regard to the
~~re-advance~~ ^{re-advance} sum? for cattle prices I
received from Mr Williams only concerned
the form of Siders when I had in
conjunction with Mr Gray, but more than
him with regard

Woolen mills at New Lanark erected
in 1785, were the first mills in Scotland
to install the spinning machinery of David
Carter's Pat. Another firm associated
with David Dale was ~~James~~ ~~Robert~~ ~~James~~
of Glasgow who

with regard to the undertaking which was
solely vested in Mr Gray but at least
~~we were only~~ such persons as were granted
- Mr Gray's bill - were only verbal directions
to him ~~then~~ ~~Mr~~ ~~was~~ ~~asked~~ ~~Mr~~ ~~Gray~~ ~~about~~ ~~it~~
~~to be~~ ~~hinted~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~credit~~ ~~of~~ ~~an~~ ~~on~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~
turn to buy cattle —

I asked Mr Gray what it'd be prudent
to do

after this I looked every ~~two~~ part of —
for however from the turn which was

All the business I had from Mr Gray (which
was the credit of the cattle of the estate
equally into Mr Gray

8
18th December /1746

Dear Sir,

I wrote you last post to which referrs-----
We are informed from Inverness this week that Captain
Reid's Vessel was taken by a French Prévateer after
parting with the Convoy. I hope the goods aboard of
him for the family were insured---- by Letters from
Leith, Beef gives no price there and by another Letter
to Mr Gray ^{from} ~~to~~ Mr Davidson at Rotterdam by this Post he
is advised that Beef is prohibited there, Copies of
which letters Mr Gray sends to Mr Williams by this Post--
As no sales can be got for the Beef at either of these
two places Mr Gray goes off tomorrow morning for
Inverness Fort Augustus etc, to endeavour to get what is
not proper for the London Market disposed of. amongst
the Military; and of he succeeds he is to advice
Mr Williams. He is also to bargain ~~he is also to~~
~~bargain~~ with any vessel he finds going to London to
carry up the Tallow. Hydes and Tongues with about
60 Barrels of the Beef that we think may pass very
well there for an experiment.. I wrote you last

18th December 1746

Best that not above a dozen Barrels would be sent for the London Mercat for the reasons therein assigned that I only meant, though I did not explain myself of what was then pack~~d~~, but I find that sixty barrels as I have said will answer for the London Mercat. We were much disappointed by English Butchers not coming and were obliged to make use of Mr Paull to give directions for cutting and curing for the London Mercat as he saw it done last year as we could get no Butchers in the North that we could depend on for doing it. There is 290 cattle slaughtered in all what will make 250 barrels or thereby and some more might have been bought if it were not that we waited for the English butchers approbation of what was bought before we'd deal further; which occasioned the drawing on time till the cattle fell low. As for the Cod fishing, you know the fishers in this country have not been used to it and we cannot depend on them for carrying on this affair and to go to Caithness;

3

19 December 1746

the charges for salt and casques there will -- charges
and inconveniences would make that Branch of
Business rather attended with loss than profit for all
the length it can be carried this season adding to this
that there is no cash to proceed with it as to the
buying and slaughtering of swine for the London mercat,
when you consider that these creatures have been mostly
destroyed by the Rebels while in the Country and
thereby rendered very scarce and dear, as two year
olds cannot be purchased under £5 scots or £6 Scots
a head and that they'll need and that they'll need
at least three firlots or a boll vitual to fatten them
anything tolerable for that mercat, which will make
them cost at least 17s or 18s st: each and that it
will take three or four if not five of some of them
to make up a barrel you'll readily conclude with
me that no benefit can be had from that branch of
trade. till they propagate in hence
adding to the inconviency of cash already alluded to

December 18th/1746

Upon the whole I give it as my advice that nothing further be done on this undertaking till my Lord and the squires (,) come to the County and that matters may be more properly digested and that the Returns of the Beef already in their hands tell them; you may observe the Contents hereof to my Lord & Mr Williams when you judge it proper & I am dr Sir

Yr most obl hume servt:

Dunrobin 18th December
1746

Dugald Gilchrist.

Dunrobin 29th January 1747

1

Dear Sir,

I have had no letter from you these four Posts ago. This serves now to acquaint you that there is 60 barrels of Beef, 288 Hydes, two Barrels of Tongues and 2 D/e of Tallow put aboard on a vessel sails in a day or two for London, of which John Gray is to advise Mr Williams by this post and send him the bills of Lading so that care should be taken to make insurance of the same. The rest of the Beef is proposed to send to Leith, if a better offer des not cast up in the North The account likewise of the price of tallow at London, is the reason that the whole was sent up, and this only for Experiment. I hope that you communicate to Mr Williams what you find necessary of such parts of my letters as regard the Undertaking. Mr Gray proposes that Mr Willms should draw the Returns of this cargo ~~as~~[&] the rest of the cargo he appropriates for my Lord.

My Lady Sutherland continues bad of the Jaundice

Dr Fraser and Dr: Gordon attends closs of her Ladp:

We hope that she is on the mending hand. Lady Betty
is in good health. Carrol and Hugh MacDonald go into
Caithness this week to hold and Admiral court to
Secure my Lords properly of the of the cost (?)
cable and anchor of a vessel lately cast away here.
You may tell Mr Anderson that I answered his letters by
the last post with my lists of the Militia Companies
which I sent to the different Captains with the directions
sent me, and how soon I can get them back I shall
transmit them to him.

I am

Dr Sir,

Your most aff: servt:

Dugald Milchrist.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 24th JanY . As to the the circumstances of the tenants my Lord want to be satisfied about. We know that when the tenants were beginning to recover after the bad Crops of 1739 & '40. They sustained a great losso of cattle in the Spring of 1744. this, joined with the bad crop of that year and tho' not above half of their farms paid that year, their being obliged to purchase a great deal of VVitual & some at High Prices for the support of their cattle and their own sustenance, this , you may believe, reduced them very low indeed again..

The crop was so badly put down that season by the weakness of the cattle , that the crop was as bad, if not worse, than the '44-- By which the People being obliged to rise in arms for the Government their affairs were quite neglected at home in their absence & the Rebels afterwards taking possession of the Country consumed their vidual, swine and sheep & poultry in the lower parts of the Country and destroyed & carried off their effects, as Household plenishing and horses from a great many.

Then their absence from their Labourings when the Rebels were in the Country & afterwards, when they proceeded with my Lord to attend the Duke's orders at Inverness made their Labourings to be but indifferently managed in seed time and their crop much the worse.

Thentheir attendance at the Passes in the Country helpt the neglect of their affairs at Home. Thentheir taking Vidual at a high price before my Lord came to the Country in Summer last (& little or none of their farms paid.) putting altogether you may believe contributed to draw a heavy load of debt upon them, which is heavy indeed , considering the poorness of their circumstances. For to my certain knowledge , there are not 30 Tenants on my Lord's estate in the Parishes of Golspie and Clyne, that can labour their possessions wt: their own Cattle. This is but a poor prospect when most of their Cattle have been destroyed,

It may be thought that the plunder and prize

money that has been so much talked of would help them much. As to the plunder, upon Examination it will be found not to be the tenth part talked of, and it is my opinion it will not be of any service ~~that~~ *to them that* ~~have~~ get of it. As to the Prize Money, you know it was given to the people in vidual, which indeed helped to support them the latter end of summer, & beginning of Harvest---- upon the whole, the far greatest part of Payments made by the Tenants for the last Martss; - so far as I can understand to the other Factors were to account vidual sold to the Tenants, and what cattle they had they appropriated them to that purpose.

They got a tolerable good price at the Mercats and was otherwise given the Factors, tho' as I said not sufficient to exhaust the demand on them for bought Vidual. I understand that little more can be got from Strathnaver of rent for Martss last & present than what cattle was got for the Undertaking, and that what Mr Clunes can make is to be applied to pay my Lord's draft of 4000 Merks in favdur of Anderson at Inverness To what will come of ^{less} and other demands on my Lord I know not. The people have such high Expectations of getting allowance for their losses & pay while in the Government Service that what of the English & Caithness Vidual I gave them over and above their shares as prize, they preferred to retain for that account. so that I must prosecute them before I can make anything of them, and even when I do, I can expect not pay till droving time for the most of them. I'll yet have about 50 bolls of the English Vidual on hand, which I mean to servants and workmen. I expect that this year's Vidual rent will be all paid, and I'll secure all I can for former difficiencies. The Bear is not so bad this year, as usual being small bodied, occasioned by the badness of their labouring in spring '46.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you by the last post to which refers to which I shall add some observations more with respect to the Tennants Circumstances & Situation at the present in order to satisfy my Lord as particularly as I can on that head as his Lop: desires. I observed to you in my last, the causes that brought the tennants poverty on them so suddenly; but these and other causes that has all along contributed to bring them to this situation by degrees; as first, the raising of rents for such places of late (that were formerly reckoned the best Possessions) to a higher value than they could even bear; as it is well known that these possessions from being the best formerly are now the worst. Then another great inconvenience is that the small tennants having no leases are removed at pleasure, & sometimes, tho' most industrious turned out to give place Servants; or others, who, out of envy for the Effects of their Industry offer some great acknowledgement or Grassum

and sometimes the tenants themselves were obliged to come into these measures rather than be removed, but which so much discourages them afterwards that they turned the more careless finding that the more ~~xxx~~ industrious they were they weret the more exposed to be removed. Add to this that in several places where Tacksmen had large Possessions, the Tacksmen in good years screwed up the rent & entrys to the highest to make the most of them they could in their time and when afterwards these Racks fell into my Lord's hands these exactions were still continued and the bad effect of this may be now evidently seen in Strathbrora where they are mostly Bankrupts. These and several other Inconveniences my Lord's estate labours under are as well known to you as

to me. but here is the disease and where is the cure. For my part I cannot pretend to lay

31 July ✓
7 Aug ✓
— Aug ✓
25 Aug ✓
102 Sept ✓
25 Sept ✓
11th Sept ✓
10 Sept ✓

X 102 Sept - 17 Sept 46
6 Nov 66 -

6 Nov ✓

X 12 Dec ✓
X 18 Dec ✓
31 Dec ✓

Jan 29
5th Feb.

31 July
Aug. 7th
Aug. (No. Jan)
Aug 28 (46)
10. Sept
11 Sept
Sept 25
18 Dec ✓
31 Dec ✓
62. Feb.

26 April

29 Jan ✓
5 Feb ✓
12 Feb ✓
109 Feb ✓
28 April ✓

X 19 March ✓ Lady S death
26 April

X 14 May ✓

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down directions. But shall beg leave to take an observation or two further on this head. It will be allowed by you that is better to have an Income of £100 a year so secured that one can depend on having it paid against a certain term, Than to have an income of call it £120 a year and in the hands of such persons of whom you cant recover it fully perhaps in two years and some of it perhaps never:

Admitting this Observation to be true and applied in the case of my Lord's estate what naturally occurs upon that is that such methods should be taken as to render the rents as certain as possible by giving the tenants such conditions of the land as will enable them to live and pay their rents ; this may be done by an inquest of honest men and two or three Gentlemen that my Lord can confide in as Oversmen going over the whole estate and giving my Lord in their Report upon oath.

It will be found that ~~though~~ the bad payments made by the Tenants are not owing to their indolence of my Lord's servants so much as apprehended, but really to the ~~bad~~ ~~circumstances~~ tenants bad circumstances and the bad years, for as a convincing Evidence of this is the Instance can be given of any Tenant on my Lord's estate in your memory that broke or lost the ground in my Lord's debt and afterwards was able to take possession elsewhere, so far from that (as they have the land they are immediately reduced to beggary.

It is a very easy matter to take up the tenants effects at any time for what they are due, but if this ~~is~~ done inconsiderate land must be turned waste and none to succeed them as the County was never so scarce of young men of stock or substance than at present. upon this subject I have dwelt too long and particularly as I know it is a very ungrateful one to my Lord, but as

I am required to go to particulars, I think it my duty to conceal no truths from his Lordship, which, on examination, I am certain will be found to be such. However you may give his Lop: hints hereof in such way as you judge best.

As to my Ladies state of health I referred it to the Dr: to acquaint my Lord of it; he tells me he wrote my Lord but now and since her Ladyship promises fair in her Recovery till within these six days past was the occasion he did not choose to trouble my Lord till now that her LaP is now in a very bad way. There is an express sent off this day to Edinburgh with letters about the state of her health. and the Dr: writes my Lord to the same purpose. I send under cover to you and Mr Anderson the three Lists of the Militia Companies attested by the Officers There is two copies of William Sutherland's Company either of which may be used as seen convenient. Roderick Mackay's widow has often desired me to write as to know whether my Lord has got her money ---- General Englethorp; which I wish his Lop would take concern of as I believe the most of it will fall into his Lordp's hands and she must be in a bad case without it

I mus refer other particulars to next Post
and I am Dr Sir

Your most Obl: Sert:

Dugald Wilchrist

DUNROBIN

26th April 1747

Dr. Sir,

I am favoured with your of the 11th current by which I am heartily concerned to understand that my Lord has as yet got nothing done for him by the Government and his Lop/ must be much straitened as to cash, when he gets none of his just demands & outlays that way not any appearance of any remittance to be sent him out of his Estatesooner than Martimass & even then such is the great arrear of Cess and Bishops Rents (to the amount as I am told of about £800 or £900) that a great part of these Rents should go to pay them off. With regard to my Lord Strathnaver, though punctual payments were made me, considering the furnishings to the family hitherto & the payment of several wages & particularly at this time when the most of them leaves this place, together with my outlays as to the funerals etc, you may believe all these Exigencies draws money from me, as fast as I can get it in; clearance however, is what will show things plainly as to the other factors.

Dunrobim

26th April/174726th April/1747.

I suppose they take care to satisfy my Lord as to what they intromit with. I might observe, however, that the Tennants are so much amused with my Lord's promise to them of getting allowance for their losses by the Rebels and their Pay, while in the Service of the Government, that there is no getting them persuaded to the contrary till my Lord gives his full determination about it, which I wish my Lord would soon do.

I am heartily concerned at your own situation and that you have so little prospect of having anything done for you; for your debts in this country nothing can be made of them without the utmost diligence, people being generally so poor and backward.

I am sorry that the accounts you give of the beef that went to London--- as it really was the best of the whole cargo. I have not yet got advice from MR Gray whether the reat of the cargo sold, or what he has done with it. I should be glad how soon Mr Willms/ came to the country and then the whole management shall be laid open to him. I musst break off as the Post

Dunrobin 26th April 1747

is going away.

Yr most obt servt

Dugald Gilchrist.

Lady Betty was to have (set off) this day for
Edinburgh, as the chaise is come, but the day
is bad and her setting out is delayed till tomorrow
in case the day is good. William Campbell goes
~~alongxalong~~ also (?)

We long much for my Ladies orders about the
dismissing of the servants.

Dumfries 14th May 1747

Dr. S.

I have your favour of the 2^d instant
acknowledging Receipt of the Inventories
of Silvers Plate & Linens. These things still
ly with John Finner at Inverness
waiting for the first opportunity of a vessel
from that to London - & how soon they are shipped
he is to send my Lord the Shipmaster's Receipt
for them as I formerly wrote you; when the
receipt comes to hand you must desire his help
to get them insured. The first ship that we
expected to send them by sailed ten days
before they came to Inverness. Mrs Dot
has, as I desired in your letter to Mrs Butler
given up all my daily cloaths & Linens to
Mrs Butler in Inverness in Carols presence
who sent a copy thereof to Lady Strathmore
for her lady's direction and what of them are
to be allowed Mrs Dot who is to wait here till
her lady's comes. John Sutherland
return comes

14 May

Breves says that my Lord promised to
 send orders about him & what he is to do.
 which we have not yet received, he
 wants a house & as Robert Watson is going to
 the South we propose to give him that
 house you'll please inform if this is
 acceptable to his Lordship & what wages he
 is allowed as he wants some of it to
 support his family. You also please inform
 what wages my Lord allows Donald MacAllister
 who wants to be paid as he leaves the
 Service.

I have my Lord's orders by the Patent
 clearing with Rob. Meltray widow relict &
 giving her 8 B. of virtual & Bailie Kennels
 other 8 Bolls. I send enclosed a state
 of her account with her of her goods & believe
 that I have but her word for the contents
 of the less Bill which is in my Lord's