

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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1794 University Certificates
1801 Dr Hugh McLeod. Glasgow College 16th April 1801
1801 Alexr Robertson of Struan Rannoch Barracks. Oct 27th 1801
1801 Wm Robertson Luss 25th Feby 1801 anent him going to College
1805 C Macdiarmid. London 12 Rodney Street, Pentonville, August 16th 1805 anent Ossian
1806 John Anderson, Heriots? ? 19th March 1806 anent Ossian
1808 Donald Macgregor Santa Croix. July 22d 1808 anent life in Indies
1809 AI Copy Letter 1809 to unnamed peer anent Church politics
1809 John Boyd. Minr of Forfar 5th Sept 1809 anent storm & gossip
1809 P Dow London April 18th 1809 anent Caledonian Bards project
1810 Rev Archd Menzies Manse of Dull 23rd July 1810 anent local church politics
1810 John Connell Glasgow 27 April 1810 anent Church politics
1810 AI copy Letter to Mrs R Reid, Edinr 12th Jan 1810 anent marital discord
1810 Rev David Duff, Levan near Greenock 11th Sept 1810 anent local church business
1810 Copy letter by AI to 31 Jan 1810 James Boyd, Forfar anent immoral local clergy & death of a smuggler
1811 Gilbert Hutcheson Edin, 2d Jany 1811 anent rebuttal of literary criticism
1811 WL Brown Aberdeen June 1. 1811. anent ack of treatise
1811 Alexr Stewart Dingwall 30th Oct 1811 anent Bards & Church Discipline 1811 McLaurin anent his Gaelic grammar
1811 Wm Rattray Edinr 23rd March 1811 anent Mrs Irvine's aunt's death
1811 Mrs Izett Kinnaird, 29 June 1811 anent AI's Romance
1811 Rev Wm McRitchie Clunie 23 July 1811 anent credit line for architect
1811 John Stewart Crossmount 26th July 1811 anent estate control
1811 Dr G Hill St Andrews April 30 1811 anent treatise on discipline
1811 Alexr Robertson Rannoch Barrack Jan 28 1811 anent Bards
1811 Alex McLaurin Cowgateport, Edinr 7 Feb 1811 anent Gaelic Schools
1811 Dr Andrew Grant Edinr 8th March 1811 anent Gaelic Bibles
1811 John Campbell, Edinr 14 Mar 1811, anent Gaelic
1811 Alexr Stewart Dingwall 19th April 1811 anent Gaelic Grammar
1812 Rev Archd Menzies Castle Menzies Octr 18th 1812 anent gossip
1812 ames Paterson Bannockburn by Stirling 11th March 1812 anent duff horse
1812 Copy letter: AI to Paterson Dunkeld 14 April 1812 anent duff horse
1812 P Dow London March 23rd 1812. 2 Manchester Buildings, Westminster anent nat politics
1812 Lyle Richmond Crieff Sep 20 anent death of Dr Macormic
1812 J Bruce. Forfar 8th Sept 1812 anent grats on DD
1813 Boyd Inch Manse Oct 24th 1813 anent gossip & grats on poem
1815 D. Boyle. Hawkhill Edinr 27 Oct 1815 anent conviction of J Irvine
1816 Thos McKnight. Edinburgh 15 Feby 1816 re mission to Glengarry
1816 Sir J. M. Murray Lanrick Castle 1 Dec 1816 anent Gaelic grammar
1817 Alexr Robertson, Rannoch Barrack, July 27th 1817 anent sermon
1817 D. Stewart (Provost ex Dalguise) Wiseby House 22 Sept 1817 anent gossip & Gaelic
1817 James Hamilton (Highland Soc) London 12th July 1817 anent Gaelic poetry
1817 James Hamilton (Highland Soc) London November 28th 1817 anent hon. membership
1817 D. Stewart (Provost ex Dalguise) Wiseby House, Near Annan 10th November 1817 anent Gaelic, the past & his children
1818 Thos Fleming Edinr 24th Feb 1818 anent Dalguise School
1818 J Campbell (SPCK) Edinr March 12 1818 anent Dalguise School
1818 Alex Fraser (Highland Soc) Lincolns Inn 12th March 1818 anent Bards
1818 Dr G Hill. St Mary's College Nov 28 1818 anent success of AI protege
1819 Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Nov 1819 anent Health & Edinr festival
1819 Copy letter 1819 by AI & to AI anent Sir Neil Menzies anent Eldership
1820 Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Received 4th January 1820 anent Clemmie (AI's daughter) staying with her
1820 Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Moffat. 28th June 1820 anent health & Clemmie
1821 Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Feby 10th 1821 anent health

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1821 Thos Gibson Geneva 8th Sept 1821 anent Continental travels

1822 Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) 10th Princes Street 1822 anent gossip

1822 Copy letter AI to Col Robertson of Struan Dunkeld 9 March 1822 promoting Niven as Min of Gask

1823 J Black Dunkeld 3 Jan 1823 anent young Grantully on Committee of Juvenile Society

1823 Rev D Duff, Moulin Manse 16 July 1823 anent nephew accused of hanky-panky

1824 Rev J Boyd Auchinleck Manse 26 April 1824 anent gossip

1824 Rev J Boyd Auchinlech Manse 6th Dec 1824 to Mrs AI anent condolences

Mr Irvine Certificates

To all whom it may concern This is to certify that the bearer Mr Alexander Irvine has lived in this parish of Fortingal from his infancy till this date excepting the time he was attending the Philosophy Colledge at St Andrews, and that during his residence here he always behaved soberly and inoffensively suitable to his character and views -

The above is certified at the Manse of Fortingal June 3d 1793 by me DUNCAN McARA, Minister of Fortingal

St Andrew May 4th 1793

I hereby certify that Mr Alexander Irvine has attended the Greek Class in the United College of St Andrews during the two Sessions - He has prosecuted his studies with great diligence and success and appears to me to be a young man highly deserving of encouragement HENRY D HILL

St Andrews May 6 1793

These are to certify that the bearer Mr Alexander Irvine has attended a course of lectures on Moral Philosophy at this University that he appeared to me to have good natural parts & to be diligent & attentive Student & that his behaviour whilst at College, as far as it fell within my observation, was regular & unexceptionable JOHN COOK

St Andrews May 6 1793

Alexr Irvine attended my Courses of Natural and Experimental Philosophy during this and the last Session of the College. He behaved always with great decency and propriety GEORGE FORREST

These are to certify that Mr Alexander Irvine regularly attended the First and Second Mathematical classes and that for the Sessions seventeen hundred ninety one and ninety two years - That he gave evidence of diligence in said Classes and that so far as known to me his behaviour was uniformly regular and exemplary

St Andrew's 6th May 1793 NICOLAS VILANSS

St Andrews 6th May 1793. I hereby certify that Mr Alexr Irvine attended the Humanity Class in this University during the two last Sessions of the United College, that he was regular in Attendance & diligent in the Prosecution of his Studies and made very considerable progress in the knowledge of the Latin Language JO: HUNTER

The bearer Mr Alexr Irvine, Student of Divinity, has lived in this parish of Morven for this year byegone - Behaved himself very becomingly - Suitable to his Views & worthy of one intending himself for the Ministry of Christ Jesus. Given at Morven Manse this 30th October 1794 NORMAN MACLEOD Minr

Edinr 12 April 1796 That Mr Alexr Irvine has been enrolled a Student of Divinity here in this & the two previous Sessions, which last he has attended regularly & in the other Session for between two and three

months That he has delivered the usual exercises with approbation, and that his conduct so far as I know has been suitable to his studies, is certified by A HUNTER S.J.P.

From Dr Hugh McLeod. Glasgow College 16th April 1801

Sir,

It is a considerable time since I was favoured with a letter from you of now an old date, which came when I was not in a condition, nor for many weeks after, to write letters, & so fell deeply into arrears to all my remaining Acquaintance. and, if I now presume to acknowledge that Letter, at any Interval of a Quarter of a year, I do so in Hopes of saving myself from the imputation of neglect or indifference which do not belong to me, & also saving you, by the Means of the Gentleman who franked your letter & Prospectus, from an Expence & Trouble which I should be sorry to put you, for such a letter as this.

For, now that I attempt to write, I have nothing more important to say, than to wish all possible success to the work which your prospectus announces. Of this I see one title, to settle the period when Fingal & Ossian flourished; including, no doubt, the determination of the great Question whether such men ever existed. It might be taking too much upon me to suggest whether it might not be worth while to look into John Fordun's Scotichronicon, L.2.c.38 & consider whether Fingal or Feunn Mac Cuthil might not be the Fulgentius who, at the head of the Caledonians & other Britons, fought the Romans, under the walls of York & killed the warlike Emperor Severus & received a mortal wound himself. You are not to be told that Fulgentius is a literal translation of Feunn; nor that the Monks, & indeed all the writers of former times, translated all proper names into Latin, or otherwise Latinized them, down to the days of good G. Buchanan, who followed the practice himself to the utmost licentiousness - This will place the Caledonian Hero 60 or 70 years earlier than Mr Macpherson conjectured, tho on a somewhat more respectable authority. His only Ground, you know, was finding the name Carris in some one of his old ?Darism & hence he guessed that his Hero might be contemporary with the Tyrant Carausius in Britain. Now Severus certainly died at York AD 211; & Carausius came to Britain in, or soon after, AD 204

I well know how a Philosopher, who had formed his theory out of his own infallible brain, would laugh at this, or any other stuff that a poor scholar could pick out of his Books. So I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with it, as one who writes must say such as he has to say. For I certainly never mean to interfere in any of their new philosophic Fingalian Inquisitions; & so have only to beg that you will, after Perusal, apply this paper to any use to which ? are usually applied & do me the honour to believe that I am respectfully Sir, Your very obedient & very humble servant H(UGH) MACLEOD (Dr)

From Alexr Robertson of Struan Rannoch Barracks. Oct 27th 1801

Sir,

I am greatly obliged to you for the pleasure I derived from the perusal of Knox's ? which are, in my opinion, most excellent - As soon as I hear of the 3rd volume being published I intend to commission the whole set. From the name I should suppose the Author must be from our part of the Kingdom and I shall be glad to hear what you know of him when I have the pleasure of seeing you. Have the goodness to present my compliments to Capt & Mrs MacDonald and believe me to be with great esteem, sir, Your most humble servant ALEX ROBERTSON

From Wm Robertson Luss 25th Feby 1801 anent him going to College

Dear and Revd Sir,

I am extremely sorry to learn that you never received a letter written by me on the 20th July last: most assuredly you could not conceive but a very unfavourable idea of me on account of this piece of ingratitude, as to neglect an affectionate and a most worthy well wisher who interested himself so vigorously on behalf of one whom he scarcely knew; I should be recorded the most ungrateful of all men - I am thoroughly conscious of my error, which is my being so foolish as to send it with a private hand instead of Post; which was the cause of its never arriving at the wished for haven - However I fondly cherish the hopes that your generous goodness is such, as to frame an excuse for me, upon my faithful promise never to act such a part again.

I was so amazed and astonished at my never receiving an answer from you, that it is impossible for me to describe it. But now I plainly see that the blame lies entirely upon myself - I have nothing particular to inform you of in the meantime, only that I am thoroughly employed since I came to this place, and tolerably rewarded for my trouble also; There is one thing that renders my situation very delightful; my being so incomparably fortunate as to be situated near the worthy Dr Stewart, his kindness towards me is inexpressible; But, after all, I am determined to apply to Sir James Colqhoun at his return from Edinr to see if he will take a substitute in my place during the winter season and allow me to go to College - I humbly beg your opinion and advice as to this design, or if it shall not be granted to me I am determined to leave them altogether at Martinmas - I beg that you will do me the honour as to write me an answer by post when your reverence will find it convenient, As the bearer is just going off I am under the necessity of concluding. I have the honour to remain, Dear and Revd Sir, your most humble and obedient servant. WILLIAM ROBERTSON You will please to direct me Master of the School of Luss by Dumbarton. The Revd Mr Irvine, Itinerant Minr Rannoch [AI poetic composition scrawled on dorso]

From C Macdiarmid. London 12 Rodney Street, Pentonville, August 16th 1805 anent Ossian

My Dear Sir,

You and I have so long been out of the habit of corresponding that you may be apt to look upon a letter from me as rather coming from a stranger than from an old & intimate acquaintance. But although those numerous cares which attend the life of an adventurer have prevented me from paying due attention to any of my friends in Scotland, yet I trust you will believe that none of your friends have felt more satisfaction at the different piece of good fortune you have met with than myself. Reversing the famous observation of Lucretius in his Suavi mari magna etc, I may affirm that I felt much pleasure at your having got into port while I continue to be tossed about in the waves. Nor do I look upon the possession of a good living as a greater piece of good fortune than the possession of that without which (I am told) no other worldly enjoyment can make the happiness of man complete. Your marriage with my fair friend I had long anticipated & I sincerely hope that you will derive from it all those pleasures which the connubial station can impart. Pray offer Mrs Irvine my best wishes for her happiness. She has indeed the strongest claim on my remembrance, not only on account of our intimate acquaintance but also on account of many attentions and acts of kindness which I have received at her hands - But while I congratulate you upon having attained a permanent station & the prospect of much happiness in life, I anxiously hope that you will not, like many of your brethren of the Church of Scotland, abandon those pursuits which occupied your attention in an earlier period of life. I cannot recollect the many conversations we have had in regard to the situation & antiquities of our native country, without expecting that you will not desert a subject which you are so well qualified to illustrate. My own occupations have, since my coming to London, left me so little leisure to attend to these subjects, that I look upon my neglect of them hitherto as excusable. The only thing that I have hitherto done in the way of a review in a periodical publication of Laing's Dissertation on a subject on which we have formerly conversed. That gentleman, I understand, has been very much hurt by my treatment of him, although I cannot in my conscience think that it was any thing more than his virulence deserved. In an edition of Macpherson's translation of Ossian which he has this year published with the express purpose of defaming our ancient bard by malignant notes, he has taken the occasion to rail at me without mercy in his preface. he has alas thrown out some insinuations against my candour, of which you will yourself be able to judge whether they are well founded or not. In my review of his Dissertation I published a copy of the original of the Address to the Sun which my father last year got from you, stating it to be a copy of that which you procured from Captain Morrison. By accident it appears that you gave my father a copy of the one which was formerly in his own possession, instead of a copy of Captain Morrison's as it agrees word for word with the former, & differs in a few things from the latter which is inserted also in the report of the Committee. This mistake, so natural when both copies were in your hands, Mr Laing has made use of to draw this formidable conclusion that my father did not get his poem from an old man in Glenlyon, but that Captain Morison had two different editions of the Address to the Sun, one of which he gave to you & my father & sent the other to the Society! The whole he therefore concludes to have been Macpherson's own writing. There is also another point in my statement which he asserts was of my own invention. My father stated to me that the copy which Captain Morison gave you had been procured from an old man in the isle of Sky. This Mr Laing asserts to be a mere fiction, & that Captain Morison found it among Macpherson's papers. It is a matter of some

importance to me to know the truth in regard to this point. Whether my father mistook the information which you [tear] him, or whether Captain Morison's memory so far failed [tear] that he made different statements I should wish to ascertain [tear] he acted on some occasions as amanuensis to Macpherson, & may have said he took it down from an old man in Sky, or that he understood it had been originally procured in this manner. Had Morison ever more than one edition of the Address? At what period did he say it came into his possession? In what year did you procure it? You will very much oblige me by replying to me particularly with regard to these points. Besides a desire to procure information on these points, my letter has alas another object. You mentioned an intention some years ago of writing a book on the manners & customs of the Highlanders. Of such a work I have spoken to different persons here, & they all unite with me in thinking that it would be both conferring an obligation on our country, & at the same time prove highly popular. Should you resolve to prosecute this work, I should be glad to do anything in my power to enable you to procure good terms for it from the booksellers, & also to make it known to the world. I should also suggest some thoughts which have occurred to me with regard to the proper plan of the work. I know of no person better qualified than yourself to do justice to such an undertaking. Pray be so good as to write me as soon as possible with regard to these points. With my best regards to Mrs Irvine, I am ever yours very sincerely C MACDIARMID

From John Anderson, Heriots? ? 19th March 1806 anent Ossian

My dear Sir,

What one thinks of doing any day one often does no day. Such has been my situation for some time with respect to the performance of a duty which I owe you by transcribing for your information a passage from the review of Laing's edition of Ossian in the Literary Journal for Sept 1805 in which your name is mentioned in a manner that requires some explanation from you. It relates to the Address to the Sun in Carthon which was transmitted through your hands, to the Highland Society from Capt Morrison. I transcribe the passage which chiefly concerns you.

'He (Mr Laing) indeed asserts that Mr Irvine assured him 'he had given no information whatsoever concerning the authors old man in the isle of Sky' To this we must answer - that if Mr Laing has not misunderstood the information he received from Mr Irvine, Mr Irvine's memory must have failed him on those occasion, for on the very copy which was procured from him for insertion in our review, was written in his own hand - "Taken by Captain Morrison from the mouth of an old man in the isle of Sky in the year 1763" With regard to this part Mr Laing may satisfy himself by applying either to Mr Irvine or to us or to the gentleman through whose hands he understands the copy was transmitted to us. Whether this account of the old man in Sky was merely a conjecture of Mr Irvine's own, or whether he had it from Captain Morrison, we shall not pretend to determine, but we believe no one will allege that the communication was not communicated to us in such a shape as to warrant our giving it to the public. We must however caution our readers against supposing that we would on this occasion make any imputation whatever to the discredit of Mr Irvine. Captain Morrison acted as amanuensis to Macpherson, he also lived in the isle of Sky during Macphersons tour, he may have therefore taken down the Address from an old man's mouth - for Macpherson, or he may have learned from Macpherson that it was so taken down, & he may have given information of this sort to Mr Irvine. That gentleman may have also written the above inscription on a copy of the Address to the Sun without any intention of misleading, & he may have afterwards forgotten that he written this information & consequently denied that he had given it without any intention of prevarication.'

I have delayed making this transcript till I have the pleasure of offering you & Mrs Irvine the congratulations of myself & your fam[tear] friends here, on your appointment to the parish of Little Dunkeld to which I very willingly add our affectionate respects & cordial remembrances.

The meeting of the General Assembly will I hope bring you here & give me the pleasure of taking you by the hand & talking over many things public & private, which I cannot easily write of. Vast changes have taken place & that man has fallen under the stroke of death who aspired to rule Great Britain alone without a rival, a man whose power & influence in the nation was too great for any subject & such as I never desire to see in any hands again.

The Lesleian controversy rages with redoubled violence. Do you read the pamphlets?

I request the favour of you to make my compliments to Mrs Irvine as her husband's friend & believe me to be always very truly, yours affectionately, JOHN ANDERSON

From Donald Macgregor Santa Croix. July 22d 1808 anent life in Indies

Dear Sir,

I often intended to have done myself the pleasure of writing you however something or other constantly prevented me so doing and as I am well assured that you always took lively interest in my prosperity and welfare I sit down to give you an account of my present situation.

Having since I had the pleasure of seeing you become effective in the 1st Battⁿ of the 96th Regiment I of course was ordered to join them in the West Indies; where I arrived some few weeks ago - this island as you must have heard, we took possession of in December last from the Danes and a most charming spot in the highest state of cultivation and in point of beauty far surpassing any other West Indian island that I have yet seen; being near the Spanish colony of Porto Rico, which abundantly supplied us with every thing, & tho a Danish colony the principal planters are Scotch very rich and very hospitable - I am highly pleased with the island having already received a good deal of attention from some of the principal inhabitants, and I also am in daily expectation of a Staff appointment which renders it the more agreeable.

When we took Santa Croix it was found out that His Danish Majesty had lent considerable sums of money to the planters to enable them to cultivate their lands to be repaid out of the produce, The Agents for the Captors seized such estates as were indebted in this manner and confiscated them as public property for the benefit of the captors. One of these estates was advertised for sale for specie only by the Honble Cochrane Johnstone one of the Agents and purchased by himself for 50,000 pieces of eight said to be well worth 300,000 - many other similar purchases were made by those that could command ready money. The Governor has however in the meantime put a stop any more transactions of that kind.

I found here a great number of my young countrymen respectably employed in the humble capacity of negro-drivers or assistants in what they term a Store but in fact no better than a Huckster's Shop, alas little does many a fond mother at home know the drudgery that her favourite child has to go thro before he can get to any thing like a respectable situation. Yet many of them by assiduous attention and patient perseverance realise fortunes but almost always at the expense of a broken constitution - I see that Colonel Stewart is promoted to a Regiment in this country. I however suppose he will endeavour to exchange as he cannot like to remain in a Regiment stationed here for life.

I wrote to our friend Mr Menzies of Dull a short time ago to whom I feel highly indebted for his kind attention to my poor relatives. It would give me the most sincere pleasure could I in return be of service to any of his young sons - I am also extremely anxious to provide, if possible, for my own brothers in some way or other. Archd wished at one time to get into the Excise this I believe I could easily procure him by the interest of Sir John MacGregor Murray with the Duke of Athole - the marriage of Sir John's son and His Grace's daughter must be highly gratifying to both parties on the one side Noble blood and on the other the more substantial comfort of a Noble fortune.

I have enjoyed very good health since my arrival except one day being a little feverish until a rash called prickly heat broke out over my whole body and completely carried away the fever - I mean only to remain here at the furthest two years or until a peace when the Regt will certainly go home as the island will be give up to the Danes. I may then perhaps take the difference of one thousand pounds and retire on Half pay and commence farmer - I am truly distress'd at the accounts I hear from the highlands of the dearth of every necessity of life. I sincerely hope that this calamity will not last long.

It will afford me the highest pleasure to hear from you letting me know how you are and also what literary work you have in hand. I assure you, I find myself not a little in having in the early part of life been the school fellow of one now so much distinguished for ability - perhaps the similarity of our former conditions in life together with our subsequent success in the world (tho in different ways) may have partly occasioned my having always heard of your good fortune and welfare with the sincerest pleasure - I am ashamed of the length of this epistle but since I took the pen I was determined to scribble whatever came uppermost as if conversing with an old friend. I hope Mrs Irvine continues in good health, her affability and condescension when I was at Little Dunkeld made the most lasting impression on my mind, present her my most respectful regards and believe me ever your most sincere friend. DONALD MACGREGOR

AI Copy Letter 1809 to unnamed peer anent Church politics
My Lord,

I crave your indulgence for troubling you with any thing I can say on the subject of the bills brought in to parliament respecting the Clergy of Scotland. But on such an occasion I am of the opinion that no friend of his country or of your Lordship should remain silent. The greatest complaint among the minister of this part of the Kingdom arises from their ignorance of the nature of these bills, not from any distrust that their object is good - as we are not properly speaking represented but as laymen, it might do good if copies of these Bills were sent to the Prebyteries. This would remove one cause of complaint & shew us that no thing is included to affect our Interests but we may know, and candidly considered, approve

I need not inform your Lordship that the sentiments of a ? of the Edinr Clergy are not to be understood as the sentiments of the Scottish Clergy, nor ought any measure of such evident utility be intimidated by any representation they may make.

If riches can be hurtful to the usefulness of the Clergy, poverty is no less so. I have now been minister in the counties of Argyle & Perth & frequently had occasion to remark that ministers urged by family want have been under the necessity of becoming Graziers, Merchts, Drovers, Cowpers & Fishermen which led them to contract all the evil habits connected with these professions, while the moral, religious & political interests of their people were entirely neglected. Wealth may have been acquired by such employment but the evil of them is incalculable. In some parishes the sacrament of the Holy Supper has not been administered for several years in consequence partly of the Minr's poverty. Any measure directed to remedy these evils should have the approbation of every honest man. Regarding the vacant stipends, the abuse of them is proverbial. Formerly collectors were appointed to gather them & they were employed to defray the expense of itinerant teachers in remote bounds or in the vacant parishes. The act in favour of the county of Argyle has been manifestly abused even by the Presbyteries and Synods. It is not uncommon to find parishes under various pretences there kept vacant for a year or eighteen months or may be more, as may be the case I am told this moment. The object of the act has now ? ? & therefore the county of Argyle should be judged by the same law with the rest of the Kingdom. From the progress of our population & prosperity villages are continually increasing. ? the improvements of the country glebes connected with such villages should be feued as well as for the benefit of the minister. The necessity of this appears from the many glebes which have been found in the way of roads, bridges, buildings & canals. If by private acts glebes are so far feued I may say for the public good why should they not be feued for the private? Only I would beg leave to suggest the propriety of feuing them in ?victual rather than ? there may be some situations in which a Landholder has ground to feu himself, this would naturally lead him to oppose every thing which would give the Minr and equal advantage - This is no danger - The operation of feuing will be slow & it will soon correct itself - and though all the glebes of Scotland be feued, the Minr will not hold anything like the rank they held 60 years ago when they were generally second or third in the parish.

From John Boyd. Minr of Forfar 5th Sept 1809 anent storm & gossip

My Dear Friend

I am not quite pleased with myself that I have delayed till now to wait on you with our best expressions of remembrance we shall ever retain of the renewed proofs you have given us of those dispositions and affections which first called forth our warmest regard and Love and Gratitude to you and yours - I ought to have written you soon after our return but sometimes external circumstances, and sometimes the temperament not of the head, but of the body which often beareth down the spirit that it cannot do what it would, contributed to put off the execution of my purpose till the time approached when I expected to see my Logierait friends who will take the charge of this - The morning of the day on which we left you brought us comfortably to Coupar with a promise of fine weather to our journey's end, but just as we were setting out for Glammis about 10 o'clock P.M. the clouds which had been in small detachments hovering about the horizon and discharging volleys of fire and rain on distant spots, assembled their forces as if to oppose our passage and while the sun shone bright from the west on the eastern hemisphere & the thunder rolled and the rain evidently descended in torrents - The Blackness of Darkness and the whole scene presented the liveliest emblem of Sinai that ever I remember to have beheld - at the same time the the contract formed by the clear calm sunshine in which we stood and the prospect which we contemplated - formed for a little no displeasing image of the difference between the Land of Goshen and the other fields of ? during the desolating plague of the warring Elements of Heaven - The sight was

terrifying and shook our resolution, poor Maggy's nerves were trembling while the lightning flashed and the loud approaching roar penetrated her soul with increasing alarm - we had walked on and directed the carriage to follow us out of the town - but we were returning to countermand it till we should see the end of the storm which we thought was too violent to continue for long - it was a weak resolution to be sure and had we been permitted to adopt it, it would have nullified out distress - but providence ordered matters better than we could - The chaise was under weight, the Driver insisted we should embark, adding that Mgt would not hear the thunder for the noise of the wheels - we did embark and he guided us in the way which we went commanded the clouds to separate before us and to form a safe passage between two tremendous columns of fire and rain which spent their forces before they separated in the east, continued long to rage on either hand and united again behind us on the very spot where we had wished to consult our comfort by delay - and had we remained at Coupar we had been in the very midst of the storm which while we pursued our journey, as it was retreated before us and we should have had many inconveniences beside, the pleasure of escaping which added to the causes of gratitude for the mercies of that memorable day - Margaret at first had her head and folded herself up as it were in the back ground of the machine - but soon her fortitude recovered - she beheld the lightning with composure while she did not hear the thunder and we were all gratified by beholding the ramparts around us, observing from the states of the roads that the strength of the storm was spent before we reached the places where it had been most impetuous and that still as we advanced it receded from our view - till at last we arrived at Glammis under a clear serene sky which lightened us in good [tear] on our own door in safety and peace - the agitation in regards panic & spirits and the perspiration into which she was thrown by being pressed into a corner joined to the damp and cold air which she afterwards breathed produced in the following week some days of small distress, which by the divine? were followed by a restoration to as sound a state of health as she has had for some time - in the week after her illness she accompanied her Mother & John & myself to Maryton where we spent 8 days agreeably, I having to preach on one of these days to the Local Militia at Montrose we returned on Thursday was eight days - for eight or ten days past I have had a severe cold occasioned I think by rain on my way home from Maryton - My stomach has too has had some of its old turns - but Blessed be God I think I am getting better and now after all this hasty history of the period that has passed since I bade you a reluctant adieu it is full time today that I was happy to hear of the welfare of you and your family by the Bearer by whom I would have been much gratified by the sight of your hand had it only been sketched out to chastise me for seeming forgetfulness - I hope you will speedily rejoice us all with a sight of you here while the season for travelling continues, the day is yet long enough to enable you to reach this by dinner time and I charge you to arrange matter so that you be able even to find the day on which you aim to walk or ride to Coupar when you may be any day at your leisure by 9 o'clock am and when you may as you please find the wings of a Fly to waft you hither by 12 o'clock noon - but by whatever mode you are conveyed - let us see you on a Saturday to spend a week - and let me hear when the happy day is to be that I may prepare myself to enjoy it - my whole stock join in a hundred wishes to good Mrs Irvine and the sweet little pledges of your love - we greet you my dear Brother and the Church that is in this house - believe me your as ever JB
Let me hear from you soon - and bring with you the No of the review which I forgot - The Review of the Royal Bounty too would be a Treat

From, P Dow London April 18th 1809 anent Caledonian Bards project

My Dear Sir,

I could give you a great many reasons for not writing you sooner - but you will probably think the immediate statement of what I have been doing in your business preferable to a detail of such reasons and under that impression I shall not waste more time in apology but come at once to the point.

One of the first things that occupied my attention on coming to town was your prospectus which I submitted to several literary friends and some booksellers - The bookseller who paid it most attention is a very worthy as well as opulent man - and is well known to myself and some of my particular friends. The doubts however whether the subject would be of such general interest as to render it safe to publish without previously securing a sufficient number of subscribers to cover the expence. Suppose the work to consist of two large Octavos at half a guinea each, the number of copies which must be sold to cover the expence would be about 250 - a number which I imagine you could find no great difficulty in disposing of

to subscribers. Upon every 100 copies beyond this 250, your own profits would be about £60 as nearly as the bookseller can at present calculate.

I have supposed the work to consist of two Octavos and it is the unanimous opinion of those with whom I have conversed on the subject that it ought not to go by and this I shall candidly mention, because it may be useful for you to have it in view. that many judging even from the prospectus are apprehensive that the work may be deficient in point of distinct arrangement - and written in rather a desultory manner - The introductory part it is thought not to extend beyond the third of one of the volumes. perhaps Dr Robertsons introduction to the history of Charles the 5th might be a good model both as to plan and size. For the work itself I have heard Whartons history of English Poetry recommended as a model. It will be worth your while at any rate to examine that work and judge how far the plan would suit. There is another book which I think you might peruse with advantage - I mean Mr Irving's Lives of the Scottish Poets - a book which however you have probably already seen. It seems to be the general opinion of those whom I have consulted that it would be desirable to avoid any long discussions of collateral points. The great object ought to be to give a distinct and concise view of the history of Gaelic poetry - The delineation of the state of manners in the high lands at different periods would be a necessary concomitant - the manners having a constant influence on the poetry - As I have some intention of visiting the highlands once more in July or August next I shall of course see you and state any further particulars bearing upon your subject which my situation here may enable me to collect - My best respects to Mrs Irvine. I am, my dear Sir, yours ever P. DOW

From Rev Archd Menzies Manse of Dull 23rd July 1810 anent local church politics

My Dear Sir,

The acceptable letter informing us of the safe delivery of Mrs Irvine of a son came to hand by return of post & we from the heart congratulate you both on this occasion. May God spare your little man to be useful and respectable in his day and a blessing to his parents. You would have been somewhat perplexed by this short intimation & coming on upon a day when you were both to be engaged, but a true soldier is not easily driven from his post. I am an old soldier who have twice fallen into a similar situation & yet I believe I never did with more firmness go thru every part of my duty. There is a happiness in the mind when a man sees the companion of his life out of danger & a living offspring promising to do well. This animates the mind to laudable exertion & gives the spur to latent powers.

You approved of the circumstance of my not calling Mr McDonald to assist me. I followed out my idea. However I was surprized last week to be favoured by a letter from him regarding my attendance at Fortingal & prescribing certain duties expressing also a regret that the people of both parties would conceive that a misunderstanding subsisted between us & he worked to remove this idea. I returned him I found it necessary to withdraw owing to certain circumstances which had lately occurred in which his character was deeply involved & as I was unacquainted with the truth or falsehood of the Charges, hoped he would not expect me to assist him this season, assuring him at the same time, that whenever the impression on my mind was removed I would cheerfully assist at Fortingal.

Mr McDonald's letter is Orthodox, it is Evangelical but I do not chuse to be made a fool of & therefore did yesterday intimate sermon at Grandtully, next Lord's Day. Indeed I last week intended to become a Volunteer to your parish - to spend the latter end of the week with you & to obey the Commander upon the Sabbath, but I have since resolved to take up my own post.

Mr McVean is not to ask his assistance but from the great number of Communicants which usually attend at Fortingall he thinks it expedient to assist & to distribute tokens. McDiarmid called at the Manse of Kenmore & requested his aid and they are promised the matter as I have mentioned.

You will from this short sketch of our business see the dilemma into which men who lived in good harmony have been brought. It is distressing to the mind of every well disposed Christian. His coadjutor Mr McDiarmid should been treated with similar punishment but he is beyond reflection and correction. Hiss age & apparent decline saved him frequently from the lash.

After a weary travel across Sleamhvai to Blair Athol to preach on the fast day I returned weary and hungry on Friday evening. I saw my worthy parishioner Miss Bill Stewart Shierglas & I am sorry to say that there seems to be little hope of her recovery. Her Brother and sisters are much affected at the idea of an operation which must necessarily take place very soon.

Wednesday morning

By yesterday's post received the subsequent interlocutor [tear] ?having advised the cause for the Pursuer [seal] the defender reply &?Duply. Finds that the order for the Defender to Condescend on his Claims is sufficiently satisfied in these pleadings, therefore recalls the same. Finds the defender under the Pursuers Title deeds now produced is entitled to the pasturage of twelve souns of animals on the Church lands of Dull belonging to the Pursuer. And in regard that both parties have signified an intention to commute this servitude for an allowance of exclusive possession of ground contiguous to the Defender's glebe. ordains the Pursr to put in a specific proposal of what he offers on this matter against the second Box day in the Vacation, And in the meantime recommends to the parties to arrange the matter amicable under the direction of a person skilled in the value of property & to obtain the approbation of the Pursuer to the arrangement & afterwards to state the same to the Courts" signed Allan Maconochie.

I hope to hear soon that you obtain victory over another Bart. he is to be a parishioner of mine during the season & I mean to introduce myself to his honour. May I tell him that you had once been my scholar & a promising young man & that you considerably since you left me. That Law was your favourite study? I will not.

Does not the marlane deserve a ? from the Court divisery law suits.

Mrs Menzies & my daughters offer their kind comps to you, Mrs Irvine, Miss Stewart & your Right infantry & I am, Dear Sir, yours very sincerely
ARCHD MENZIES

From John Connell Glasgow 27 April 1810 anent Church politics
Reverend Sir

Your letter reached me here a day or two ago in the case which you state appears to me of considerable importance to the church and it is proper that it should be brought before the Presbytery & by the Presbytery referred to the general Assembly. At present I decline giving an explicit opinion on the subject but shall merely say that there does or ought to ly somewhere a power of Enforcing the attendance of Witnesses before the Ecclesiastical Court. I am Reverend Sir, Your m obedient servant JOHN CONNELL

Al copy Letter to Mrs R Reid, Edinr 12th Jan 1810 anent marital discord
Madam,

Agreeable to my promise I called upon Mr Reid on Monday last who I am happy to say is much better than when I saw him before though far from being as strong as could be wished. However willing I may be to promote a reconciliation between you and him and the means of procuring your return to your family these desirable ends I cannot at present accomplish. Mr Reid harbours no ill will towards you - nothing but the most painful necessity could force him to separate from a wife. He does not say that he will never receive you back but that must depend in equal measure upon yourself - if by a course of correct conduct you gain his good opinion & remove the prejudices at present entertained against you your return to him will be the more easily effected - Let me then as your friend advise you strongly you keep in proper lodgings, to take care what company you choose & to follow a settled mode of life - not running from place to place. Mrs McDonald's house is very fit for you. She is a decent good woman in whose company you can lose nothing.

I lament your misfortune and that of your husband. You may believe that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have it in my power to serve you both, though at present I cannot do [as you] wish - I recommend it to you to reflect often on the causes which led you to much trouble, that you may afterwards escape the like if ever you return to the family, from which it must have been hard necessity to part, nor do I think it unbecoming that, conscious as you must be of the offence given and the wrong done to your husband you should shew your contrition when you write to him or speak of him - Let me assure you that Dr Robt & McFarlane are well disposed towards you and him & would serve you both in any way consistent with their duty. Wishing all good may attend you, I am, Madam, your most obed servant A
IRVINE

From Rev David Duff, Levan near Greenock 11th Sept 1810 anent local church business

My Dear Sir,

At last Presbytery I mentioned that I had some views of being from home for some time, and asked you, not indeed with any earnestness, but rather in a jocular way, if you would be my substitute for a day at Moulin. I now have to ask you in real earnest if you could make it convenient to favour my people with your presence and good advice at Moulin on Sunday first se'night, the 23rd Sept. You would thus do me a very good favour, and have at the same time an opportunity of seeing your friend Balnakilly, and of gratifying the anxious wish of my people to hear you. I would not have given you the trouble which I now request you to take, but for the most urgent reasons; the least of which are not that I am here thrown among friends who request of me to give them as much of my time as I possibly can, and from whom I am myself most unwilling to be hastily parted. Have the goodness then, to say without a moment's delay, if it is at all possible for you to do me so much service. Perhaps if you cannot yourself, you may have so much influence with Mr Forbes as to prevail upon him to finish the sermon of which on some former occasion he had given my people but only a fragment. My future motions depend considerably upon the nature of your answer. I hope that it shall be speedy and favourable. There is now another to thank you for such a favour beside myself, and it is chiefly at her request that I am indeed to beg your friendly assistance. Sunday the 23rd Sept is the day when I expect you to take my place at Moulin

I hope Mrs Irvine and infantry are well, I be you will offer her my best wishes and believe me, Sir, to be Your most sincerely DAVID DUFF

31 Jan 1810 Copy letter by AI to James Boyd, Forfar anent immoral local clergy & death of a smuggler [I should have written to you or come & seen you but the family have been ill & I've been in Edinburgh with lawyers trying to get my teinds & trying to organise my Caledonian bards]

With all this I spend a day or two every week on the care of my parish. This week I employ three days examining & exhorting from house to house and village to village. Thanks to God who enables me to do so and in part blesses my imperfect labours. Poor Niven has recovered from his very severe illness & is now going about - There is another circumstance which affects me much & I am sure will affect you. My successor the Minister of Fortingall a few weeks ago declared himself married to his kitchen maid in circumstances which have ruined his publick character & I fear his usefulness for ever. We have had no meeting of the Presbytery since & therefore cannot speak with any precision - He says he has a marriage line from the Min of Weem - Report is extremely unfavourable to them both. It is said that there was a child which was smuggled, nobody knows how - In short the story is the worst of the worst - Tuesday first, we meet & fancy will make some inquiry, know not whether we be all zealous for the law, or let compassion cover a multitude of sins _ Your friends of Moulin & Logierait still hobbling about confirmed bachelors. I would have them take warning, which I will give thm when I see them - We have had the mildest winter I ever saw - the crops abundant - Within these few days a girl was burnt, I may say, to death & a boy was drowned. This morning another girl about four years old was so scorched that she is despaired of; both by their clothes catching fire - now my friend I have given you a share of the good and bad news from here. My fireside as going about. Mrs I had a brush but is now quite well. I have not abandoned thoughts of seeing Forfar in Spring guided by my other half - Let me hear from you soon. Overcome evil with good. How is Mgt & John & you two in one - and your friends at Maryton - have the review in safe keeping. The Missions I got a few days ago from Dr Baird & will send them both by the first safe conveyance. You would have heard that Andrew Thomson after a struggle got Edinr. Thomson Dundee is talked of as his successor. I had a ?truck with an honest Edinr don in holy garb, which had I time would give you new ideas....PS I learned that there is a letter from John McGilvie from New York. I have not heard the date, but he arrived safe. last night as some of our Highland Whiskymen were going with whisky to Perth, the excise men met them and one of the smugglers was shot dead. I did not hear whether by a dragoon or a gauger - the poor man of the name of Stewart left a widow and children - such the misfortune of contravening the Law - But it is hard if a Gauger can command military force & deprive a subject of life and liberty without trial - Self defence is the only defence of such an action. The girl burnt the day before yesterday died shortly after - daughter of James Dow the excise man - the mother is scorched a little too - Vive vale I found my letter too small for packing

From Gilbert Hutcheson Edin, 2d Jany 1811 anent rebuttal of literary criticism

Sir, I consider myself obliged when any person takes the trouble to point out to me what appears to him to be defective or erroneous in what I have written. So far therefore. Your communication of 24th Dec requires no apologies, but deserves my thanks.

After speaking of my Labours in handsome and most flattering terms, than, I am sensible, they merit or importance requires, you proceed to mention that you are about publishing a book in which you have occasion to take notice of the "little attention which some of your lawyers pay to Church Discipline as connected with Statute." And by way of proof and illustration of this remark, you are pleased to refer to my chapter on religion

This I must say is sufficiently mortifying. Be the defects of that chapter or of the succeeding one concerning Morality what they may. I certainly cannot shelter myself under the apology of inattention to the Subject or, if those chapters having been hurriedly written. There is no other part of the Treatise on which I bestowed more pains. this was due to the importance of the Subject; which besides, had not, so far as i know, been treated at large by any systematical writer; the Learning concerning the privileges of the established church and the rights of Dissenters having to be gathered from Acts of Parliament and such Divisions as had been pronounced thereon. For the same reason I was not satisfied with submitting those two chapters to the Review of my professional friends, but had them carefully revised and fully canvassed by some clergymen of my acquaintance (on both sides of church politics) who are most eminent for their knowledge of ecclesiastical policy. The acknowledgements I have made to them in my preface regard those two chapters particularly, though not exclusively - All this I readily admit, is no reason at all for not scrutinising those two chapters as strictly as possible and, if they been erroneous, for not exposing the particular error; but it certainly ought to prevent general censure from being rashly hazarded, without due consideration of the subject.

On reconsidering those two chapters and the passage you quote, I am not sensible that anything is stated which is not perfectly correct.

If I live, however, to publish a third edition, I shall certainly correct one error which your letter makes me sensible viz using without sufficient explanation, a technical term of Scottish Law (Nomina juris) in a book meant for general perusal.

The passage you quote is the conclusion & result of what had been previously stated & of course, it cannot fairly be taken apart, but only in connection with the context.

After observing the intolerant tenets of our early Reformers: the persecuting clause in the Coronation Oath; the Doctrine contained in the 2nd Book of Discipline concerning the duty of the magistrate to aid the jurisdiction of the Church; the civil pains and penalties accordingly, that formerly attached on communication; and the obligation the magistrate was formerly under to compel disobedient and contumacious persons to satisfy church censures and to submit themselves to the Discipline of the Church, I next adverted o the gradual improvement of this branch of our law. For example 1st Rescission of all civil pains on Excommunication 2nd Prohibition against Judges from lending their aid to compel and person to appear before a Church Court when summoned in a process of excommunication (10 Anne) 3rd repeal of all acts against Nonconformity 4th Allowing all to meet for Divine Worship without disturbance. These alterations of the old law have in several respects put Dissenters on a footing with the Established Church. For example if Dissenters assemble for Divine worship be disturbed, they are as much entitled to the protection of a magistrate as an established congregation. On the other hand they have deprived the Established Church of several of its ancient Distinctions and so far reduced it to a level with Dissenters.

For example, it is now no more than the duty of the magistrate to aid the jurisdiction of the Established Church than to aid that of the Associate Synod. Its jurisdiction, the Established Church can now enforce only by Spiritual sanctions. If any person is contumacious or disobedient to Church Censures, he cannot now (as he could formerly) be imprisoned by the Magistrate any more than a Seceder can be imprisoned for disobedience to the censures of the Associate Synod.

What then it may be asked is now the distinction of the Established Church? This question I attempted to resolve in the passage you quote.

1st It has a Limited Test by which persons holding office in the Universities must subscribe to the confession of Faith and promise obedience to the Discipline of the Church. 2dly At the Public Expence it is provided in Churches & Stipends 3rdly The Church of Scotland; all its courts from the General Assembly to the Kirk Session & all its officers are Nomina juris. In using this Scottish Law expression, I allude to the distinction between Chartered Incorporations & private Societies. Like an Individual man, a chartered Incorporation can, in its own name, hold property & bring actions or have actions brought against it in a court of Law. The same is not the case with a private Society.

This to the fullest extent is true of the Established Church. But it is not clear that it is also true of any dissenting Sect - I go on to say "Other Bulwark or Prerogative it has none", that is other than those previously detailed viz ! the Qualified test 2 public provision in Churches & Stipends 3 its being Nomen juris or being as much recognised in Law as any Chartered Corporation in contradistinction to private societies. I am still unable to add to these any other privilege or distinction which it enjoys beyond any Dissenting Sect.

This sentence "Other Bulwark or Prerogative it has none", you explain differently. You say the words imply that Church courts have only Nomen juris, these gradations of names, in other words, have only church courts by which they can sue or be sued" Now ! Why do you confine "Other" as referring to Nomen juris only, when it evidently refers equally to the other two distinctions previously detailed - The Test and Public Provisions. 2 i must take the liberty to say that you are not explaining my words but turning them into ridicule by putting a meaning upon them which they will not bear & which is nonsensical "Church Courts have only church courts by which they can be sued" Do my words justify this construction? First these gradations of Names as you call them are no distinction or pre-eminence at all. The Associate Synod, for example, has gradations of court as much as the Established Church. But secondly I certainly do not think it implies any absurdity to observe that it is peculiar to the Established Church, that its courts, high and low & its officers are Nomina juris; names, which courts of Law must recognise; a thing which cannot be so certainly offend concerning Dissenting Sects.

The most surprising part of the business is that you seem to have understood what I meant by nomina juris. You say "I can understand that these courts are established by Law and as such can sue for their rights". this is precisely my meaning. After this meaning (I presume to think the natural and obvious one) had once occurred to you, I cannot help expressing my surprise that you should amuse yourself by torturing the expression & supposing constructions so absurd and nonsensical as "Church courts have only church courts etc."

To prevent mistake I have only to add that what I have said had no connection with question which was agitated in the General Assembly concerning the duty of the magistrate to compel the attendance of witnesses in the church courts. that is quite a different question from compelling the attendance of Parties who are contumacious & disobedient and falls to be resolved on principles altogether different.

It remains for me only to take notice of the argument you draw from my remark, entreating of the Act 1701 that it allows magistrates as before to imprison persons disobedient and contumacious to church censures.

In my own justification I must be allowed to observe that in treating of a multiplicity of subjects it is not possible to discuss every one fully in every place. In the passage you allude to I was merely giving a view of the clauses of the Act 1701 & not considering the general law concerning the Rights of the Established Church as it now stands on the footing of subsequent enactments; Because that subject was reserved for a separate part of the treatise viz the chapters on Religion & Morality. But o prevent others from falling into the like mistake with you, I shall, if I live to publish a third edition, take care, in a note, that this provision of Act 1701 is done away with by the subsequent enactment 10 Anne prohibiting magistrates from enforcing the attendance of Persons summoned before Church Courts in processes for excommunication & thus leaving their sentences to sanctions merely spiritual.

I have only now to express my hope that these remarks will satisfy you of the accuracy of my statements concerning the rights of the Established church, and of the danger you run in founding on old Acts of Parliament without advantage to the Improvement of the Law by subsequent enactments.

I remain, sir, with due regard, yr most obedient & Humble servant, GILBERT HUTCHESON

From WL Brown Aberdeen June 1. 1811. anent ack of treatise

Revd Sir, I beg of you to accept my best thanks for the present of your treatise which I received some time ago. A variety of business has prevented my earlier acknowledgement & the same cause has, hitherto, permitted me only to glance it over. From what I have perused however, I promise myself much instruction from an accurate examination of its contents; & this I propose to begin in a few days.

Mr Menzies never made is appearance. When shall I have the opportunity of knowing him you may be assured that I shall shew him every attention in my powers. I am with great regard, Revd Sir, your obedient humble servant W.L. BROWN

From Alexr of Strowan Rannoch Barrack July 17 1811 anent ack of MS

Dear Sir I have perused your manuscript relative to the late Alexr Robertson of Stowan, with great pleasure, and would have returned it to you sooner, had I not flattered myself with the hopes of seeing you before now.

My Father who had no reason to be partial to the subject of your memoire mentions what follows in a genealogical account of the Family of Strowan with regard to him.

'This Gentleman was much esteemed by all his acquaintances for his sprightly wit and agreeable conversation, and by those of his own principles for his steady adherence to his party. He had a considerable genius for poetry, as appears by many of the pieces found in the collections published under his name after his death, but he wrote carelessly and was seldom at the trouble to revise what he wrote. Many of those who were about him are of opinion that he never intended anything for the press, which was probably the case, for there are a number of pieces in that collection that he would have committed to the flames if he had intended a publication; especially if he could have forseen that his manuscripts were to have fallen into the hands of a mercenary servant, for whatever he might have said or written in his youth, or over a bottle, or in an angry mood, he had too much sense and judgement, in his calm deliberate hours, to give publick offence to morality or decency'

I do not think that you mention any thing with regard to the late Alexr of Strowan but what can, if necessary, be corroborated by authentick vouchers.

Your partiality for the present Alexr of Strowan leads you too far, as he never had any opportunity of distinguishing himself either in the service of the States General or in that of Great Britain, on which account he requests that you will substitute what is written upon a slip of paper inclosed between pages 24 and 25, to what you are pleased to mention with regard to him.

As the the affairs of Europe, I think that there is now some appearance of a favourable change - famine, Pestilence and Conquerors are necessary instruments in the hands of Providence to bring the lowest degree of intelligent beings to a proper sense of their dependence upon their Creator and it is to be hoped that the hitherto ? success of a mean individual, evidently ? ? for that, purpose will have the salutary effects intended.

Have the goodness to express Mrs Irvine of my respects and believe me to be with great estemm,
Dear Sir, Your obedient Servant, ALEXR ROBERTSON

From Alexr Stewart anent Bards & Church Discipline Dingwall 30th Oct 1811

My Dear Sir,

Your frank kind entertaining letter received by Mr P.G. Stewart demanded my first leisure minute to offer you my warmest thanks for that & for the ingenious pamphlet which accompanied it. I am far from denying, my friend, that I might have given you too much reason to suspect me of coldness & reserve from an unaccountable (certainly an inexcusable) absence, dryness or stupidity of manner which frequently seizes and possesses me & which I fear every friend I have in the world has frequently found reason to complain of me for. When I passed your way, my female fellow traveller (Mrs S) somewhat fatigued with journeying, was not in trim to pay her compliments to a stranger, or court the favour of a new acquaintance.

I have given your Pamphlet a cursory perusal, not without a considerable degree of interest; tho less, no doubt, than if the subject had already engaged much of my attention. The general principle maintained in it is obvious & strong, and very clearly & forcibly stated. I have not yet thoroughly weighed the legal details; but I have no doubt of their correctness & pertinency. I was much gratified with the manly independent spirit of the Writer. It is a most valuable talent to be able to form a deliberate decided judgement & then to maintain it with steadiness, without passion or blustering. I shall mention the pamphlet to my acquaintances in such favourable terms as it deserves.

I do sympathize with you in the deep concern & painful perplexity you feel on account of the scandalous behaviour of several of our brethren in the sacred office. Prosecutions are so tedious expensive and unsuccessful that ecclesiastical censures are become a mere bugbear. Generally speaking it is vain to attempt & unwise to threaten the infliction of them. In such cases as those to which you allude, I know nothing that can be tried, with any tolerable prospect of success, except Admonition privately administered by a committee of two members, selected for their prudence gravity and unblemished character. It must be a hardened sinner indeed who will refuse to listen to the faithful friendly

admonition of such brethren backed by the authority of the whole Presbytery; but any thing more severe or more public, a man conscious of very faulty behaviour will commonly refuse to submit to; and he will get many an auxiliary to aid him in his defence against the malicious persecution of inquisitorial fanatical brethren

The several Prebys of this Synod have agreed to support by pecuniary contribution the trial of our right to exemption from the Property Tax. We did so, however, rather from respect and good neighbourhood toward our brethren of the west country who have taken such a load of trouble on their shoulders, than from any great expectation of ultimate success. I did not know till you informed me, that a process on the subject had been commenced.

I am happy to hear that your Bards are in such forwardness. I wait, with all the longing of an amateur for their appearance. As you propose to say something about the language in which these Poets sung I wish you would make some remarks on the genius of the Gaelic, its adaption to poetry, oratory, description, history etc - hardly to science or philosophy - both from its copiousness on subjects of feeling and fancy, from its abounding in vocal, liquid sounds, from the variety of its inflexions without redundancy, as in the Greek, and the striking conciseness of many of its phrases. This did not lie exactly in my way unless I had made a dissertation on purpose ; but it will come with propriety from you, & I am sure it will be tastefully handled. I think I shall get my new editor of the Gaelic Grammar printed in the course of next winter. Sir John M. Murray who is my counsellor in every thing relative to that publication, urges me strongly not to let it go into the hands of a Bookseller. After it comes out, if you can get any numbers disposed of, it will be doing me a substantial favour. Whatever critical remarks you may think proper to make on the work, it is really unnecessary to submit them to my inspection before publication. I know before hand they can be no other than candid. If there be any hazard of your mistaking my meaning, or overlooking what I have said in one place, because you do not find it in another place where you looked for it; then there may be some need of stating the substance of what you may have to say, that I may have an opportunity of rectifying mistakes. But provided I am not misunderstood, I am quite willing to have my arrangements and influences freely canvassed. I have simplified the Declension of Nouns; and introduced several minute alterations throughout.

Be pleased to commend me in the kindest manner to Mrs Irvine. I rejoice to hear good accounts of your rising generation. Higher & higher may they rise, not in their world only but in a better. May a blessing rest on your Person, House & Ministry. I am with sincerest good wishes, Dear Sir, faithfully yours,
ALEXR STEWART

?Ca(r,n)gahport 1811 from McLaurin anent his Gaelic grammar

Dear and Revd Sir,

I have used the freedom to give you this trouble hoping yourself and family have been in good health since I had the pleasure of seeing you. I would not wish to hurry you, but if you have had time to examine the Gaelic manuscripts, I feel desirous to have them back with your remarks, that I may get them printed if you think the translation worthy of it. When are you to favour us with your own interesting work on the Bards, & Gaelic Poetry? To have it would be a high gratification to all lovers of Gaelic & Gaelic Poetry; it would give a renewed spring to all friends of the Gaelic and perhaps would bring new converts. It requires consideration on amount of the expense of printing, but if our Highland Society with the aid of the London Highland Society would exert themselves all difficulties would soon vanish. There are some good people here of consideration connected with good and monied people in England who have it in view to erect a number of Gaelic schools in the Highlands & to teach them from the Bible to read Gaelic only, being fully persuaded that to begin Highlanders in Lochaber, Knoidart & most of eastern isle of Sky & to learn to read a foreign language (the English) is doing comparatively little good. As it appears to them and as it is ?infall. A Gentleman this summer travelled over these countries and visited many Charity Schools but no Gaelic was taught in them, this must be absurd. What is the use of transferring the Bible into Gaelic, when the inhabitants may say are debarred from learning to read it. If this plan succeeds it will have a wonderful effect to favour and benefit the Highlanders. I am importuned to compose a Gaelic Spelling book for them which I think was not to be ?. I shall be glad to receive you answer & your opinion on these matters and remain, Dear Sir, your much obliged humble servant Alexr McLaurin

Wm Rattray Edinr 23rd March 1811 anent Mrs Irvine's aunt's death
My Dear Sir,

I have to request you will have the goodness to communicate to Mrs Irvine the death of her aunt, She died last night at 12 o'clock and I am happy to say with very little apparent distress, her last moments were extremely tranquil the day before she had eat heartily of something it was supposed disagreed with her which occasioned considerable reaching but yesterday forenoon she was considerably better till late when a sudden change occurred which in a moment terminated her existence before Mrs Rattray & Christian could reach the place, towards evening they had left Aunt tolerably easy and apprehending no danger waited the arrival of an Express so much was I of that opinion as to have secured a Seat in the Mail for Berwick, & had gone to the Black Bull for the convenience of starting at five this morning, my brother had just parted with me, in ten minutes he returned in consequence of an express from Miss Simpson but too late for our seeing her - It's a consolation to her friends to know that Aunt was most comfortably situated with Miss Simpson in every respect, and highly pleased with the attention she received, it's only lately she recovered from a severe fit of the jaundice which astonished Mr Law the Surgeon much from her advanced term of life. I hope Mrs Irvine and the children are well, my being here was purely accidental I am happy it chanced to be so, to have an opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to so worthy a friend - My Brothers family join us in best regards to Mrs Irvine and yourself and I am, My Dear Sir, yours faithfully W^m RATTRAY

Mrs Izett Kinnaird, 29 June 1811 anent AI's Romance

Dear Sir,

I owe you a thousand thanks for your kindness and patient indulgence and as many apologies for my great abuse of it. At length however I return your interesting manuscript which I have perused with great pleasure. But since you do me the honour to ask my opinion I will candidly confess to you that amidst great beauties I perceive some faults which though of minor importance would greatly obstruct its usefulness.

These I found chiefly in the style which is often so abrupt and obscure as greatly to perplex the reader and make him pause for explanation when he ought to be listening with interest. The episodes too, though in themselves pretty, appear, to me, too frequently introduced. I think likewise that the story would have been infinitely more interesting if the lovers had made greater resistance to their passion and the hero fewer attempts upon his life. His threats of self destruction are so often repeated that at last they lose their power of alarming the reader and are even in danger of exciting his contempt (for we talk not at present of Christian obligation). This is peculiarly the case when he sinks into despondency upon the loss of his castle which affects him in precisely the same way as the loss of his mistress did.

But I am aware that I am getting beyond my depth and therefore it will be wise to stop in time. I should not indeed have ventured so far had I not been less desirous of proving to you how readily I would if I could assist you in your pious and benevolent labours. Fortunately you require no help but what leisure and patience can afford you. But as it is certainly an advantage to an author to know the impression which he makes (in a work of this nature particularly) on all classes of his readers I have laid before you without any attention to the rules of criticism my ideas simply as they arose. I mean so far as my time will at present permit - for I have thus(?) a great deal to say upon the subject. But this I shall reserve until I have the pleasure of seeing you here which I hope will be soon. Meantime accept for yourself and Mrs Irvine our united compliments and believe, Dear Sir, Yours very sincerely ELIZEE IZETT .

From Rev Wm McRitchie Clunie 23 July 1811 anent credit line for architect

Dear Sir,

The bearer William Killan(r), you know, is our architect for Kitchen & Offices here. He is on his way to Rannoch for wood - as I have not the honour of being personally acquainted with Struan will you have the goodness to give him a line of recommendation for a few months credit for such wood as may be wanted here. The heritors of Clunie & I will come good for payment & Struan runs no risk

With best respects to Mrs Irvine & yourself & best wishes for your young ones - I am, Dear Sir,
Yours Truly, W McRITCHIE

NB The bearer is an excellent young man & deserves encouragement

PS W Killar, I find, sets out for Rannoch early on Wednesday morning, and does not wish to disturb you at that hour - He sends a girl with this, requesting the favour of a line from you by her - McR

From John Stewart Crossmount 26th July 1811 re estate control

Dear Sir,

Margaret would tell you what I suffered for six weeks now past. I continue still to mend and if you can come here agt March we shall make an afternoon of it. I am just like a Schoolboy beginning to write. I understand ?Walker is to give up serving Lassintulloch after Whits next I have been looking out for a ?successor to ?McArthur and Flatter myself I have provided a decent good natured young man that will give satisfaction to all concerned Particularly Mrs Irvine. I mean to send him in due time for Mrs Irvines inspection.

You are not at Liberty to laugh at me for what Follows having spoke so much about it before now - I am to give up talking to Mr Condie who has the charge of the estate I have the charge of the person to whom the estate belongs while in Existence and have a just right to be fed and cled like a human while there is free funds to do it. I am to consult Mr Fletcher advocate who gained me a Plea last summer attached to that Estate - I am to make up a State of the Free Emoluments of the Estate. I will have Mrs Irvine to say what she will take to keep John in Linings cloaths stockings shoes Etc besides board for himself feed and board for his servant also a little money to enable him to go on Sunday to church and put his mite in the Broad also to enable to go to Dunkeld now and then and Pay his passage - very absurd indeed Mr Condie wants to make up for the heir but I shall try to do something for the present man while in Life . I know I will get a hearing at the great Court and if I fail I cannot help it. I am sure I'll gain Part and make him and others more Comfortable. I understand I am entitled to my Expences at least it is the opinion of many able men of ?Skill - you have Dr Greene & Pitscotie I beg you will have the goodness to return both as soon as Convenient, I would not lose Pitscotie for the town of Dunkeld you got a few Leaves belonging to me from old Dalchosnie & you know what these Leaves contain, I am surprized you would keep them so long in your possession containing so much against the character of your darling the Infamous D of C. I hope you will be able to read this scroll. I'll do better next time - Mrs Stewart and Jean cordially unite with me in Comps to Mrs Irvine and not forgetting yourself and ? Believe me to be, Dear Sir, very sincerely yours JOHN STEWART

From Dr G Hill St Andrews April 30 1811 re treatise on discipline

Dear Sir,

I return you many thanks for your letter of the 15th which I received yesterday, and the accompanying treatise which I read with much pleasure.

I think the church is indebted to you for having ascertained, by your own reasoning and by the explicit testimony of Sir Ilay Campbell, this very important point, that in all matters whether of discipline, or of a mixed nature involving civil consequences, the Church Court are entitled to the aid of the civil magistrate by compelling witnesses to appear in order to give evidence. Without this there would be a humiliating & hurtful solecism in our Constitution. For the exercise of judicial power without some effectual means of obtaining full evidence would not only be nugatory, but might in any cases prove iniquitous.

Upon some other points in your treatise there may be a difference of opinion: But all must agree in approving the liberality and enlargement of your views and the manly tone in which you write.

I am extremely sorry to learn that you at any time thought I used you dry. The appearance on my part was unintentional and the apprehension on yours must have arisen from accident. Ever since you came forward in the General Assembly I have considered you as a man of independent vigorous mind, who thought for yourself. I was happy when I had your support: But I respected you when we differed; and I do not recollect any insistence when I felt a disposition to change my countenance, or conceived that I had any right to express dissatisfaction at your using that freedom of judgement which you are so well qualified to maintain and to exercise.

You may say very truly that my book does not descend to particulars. I would not have answered the purpose for which it was written if it had entered into minute legal controversy. Undoubtedly it is far from being perfect; perhaps I am more sensible of this now than at the time of publication: But I rather

think your expression is too general when you say that it has left every difficulty untouched. I am Dear Sir,
with much regard, Your affectionate humble servant GEO HILL (Dr)

Alexr Robertson Rannoch Barrack Jan 28 1811 anent Bards

Dear Sir,

Owing to a very deficient memory, and to have been obliged to attend to business of considerable importance I have not hitherto, as I ought to have done, taken any steps to increasing the number of subscribers for The Lives of the Caledonian Bards. The printed subscription paper you sent me has been defaced with blotts of ink, I therefore request that you will send me another, which shall be made the best use of in my power.

Have the goodness to express Mrs Irvine of my best regards and believe me to be with great esteem, Dear Sir, Your obedient Servant Alexr ROBERTSON

From Alex McLaurin Cowgateport, Edinr 7 Feb 1811 anent Gaelic Schools

Dear and Revd Sir,

Sometime ago I received your very kind favour about the Gaelic Schools which I gave in to the Committee and it gave me much satisfaction and confirmation in their purpose and it has been repeatedly read at different Committees.

Your other letter to them since has thrown great light upon the business.

I have finished the MS of a Gaelic spelling book, and none of the Gentlemen understanding the language, they begged that I would submit it to you, for your impartial opinion as to its execution and suitableness with respect to arrangement, grammar, and orthography which I most cheerfully do knowing your high attainments in that language. If found suitable they mean to print 1000 copies immediately, and therefore it is desirable with your convenience, how soon it is returned, as they are very anxious about it, the Society being now constituted.

When you have deliberately perused it, please return it to me with your opinion under cover of Wm Kerr Esq Secretary general Post Office Edinburgh. I remain with great respect, Dear & Revd Sir, Your much obliged and Humble servant, ALEX McLAURIN

From Dr Andrew Grant Edinr 8th March 1811 anent Gaelic Bibles

Dear Sir,

We have ordered 60 English and 2 doz Gaelic Bibles for your parish according to your desire. You may distribute them as you propose - There is certainly no harm in giving Bibles to those who need them whether they belong to your parish or not. At the same time if you could persuade the Clergy to enquire into the wants of their parishioners and to make the requests themselves it would perhaps be better, as the success of our Society depends upon the numbers who take an interest in it - You may transmit the money as you propose when you have disposed of this second cargo - We reckon ourselves much obliged to you for your activity and attention. I am, Dear Sir, yours sincerely ANDREW GRANT (Dr)

From John Campbell, Edinburgh anent Gaelic 14th Mar 1811 7 Alison Square. Dear Sir, I seize a leisure hour to inform you that I am still in existence, but as to news you are not to expect any as there is so little variety in the life of a private teacher in Edinburgh; and as from the continual routine of business in which he is engaged it may be said that tho he lives in a crowded city, he has less intercourse with his own species than others in the most obscure parts of the country. I send you herewith two copies of the report of the Committee of Gaelic Schools: trusting you will use your influence to procure us donations and subscribers. The report speaks sufficiently for itself. The necessity for some such institution is great, and the grounds on which the Society have proceeded are sufficiently justified by facts. great opposition may be expected from several quarters and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge at first took the alarm. They supposed that we were a rival society and that our object was to expose the futility of the mode of teaching that has hitherto been adopted in their schools. I hope however that our published proceedings will remove their prejudices as well as those that have been entertained by others. I would

have sent Copies to other Clergymen in the Presbytery of Dunkeld but they treated with so much neglect my former applications to them that I did not deem it prudent to trouble them again or to disturb that listless inactivity except in what relates to temporal advantages in which they seem to be creeping through life. I expect that Mr MacLaurin's vocabulary will be published without delay. A Committee must first be appointed, or rather meet to consider of the size of the type and paper. Some members would wish to publish only a part of it, but I am clear that it should be published as it is. As in that case the pupils could be advanced to read the Scriptures without any other intermediate book. I am therefore decidedly against it being mutilated. Doctor Ross of Lochbroom has proposed to the Society to take off his hands the remainder of his edition of the Psalm book in Gaelic, which contains only the Psalms without the Scripture translations. As I have not examined his edition I do not know what merit it has. I should however imagine that it must be inferior to Dr Smith's. It may take very well in the North East Highlands, and within the bounds of the Synod of Glenelg, but I suppose it would be difficult to persuade a highlander of Perthshire or Argyleshire that it is the preferable edition. I intend to propose to the Society to publish an edition at their own expence, and I shall superintend the press without fee or reward, but I am inclined to suggest that it should be printed from Dr Smith's second edition corrected by himself. I would wish previously however to have your opinion, which you can send to my brother and he will forward it with a parcel in the course of ten days or a fortnight. I would also take it kind to have your opinion on the Gaelic word daimh in its present acceptation and I do not believe that it ever meant strangers, in which sense it is never used in the present times. I think it might be taken for granted that no radical word which has been retained in the Gaelic language from time immemorial ever changed their meaning. Quore therefore how are we to reconcile this view of it with Macpherson's translation of Ossian's poems? I cannot meet with a highlander here who can give me an explanation, that is in a satisfactory manner of the word dao. I have not met with it anywhere but in the Gaelic version of the Psalms, and in an edition of Mavina's dream in Gillies' collection of Gaelic poems. From my own observation, I am disposed to conjecture that dao is a word never used but in poetical compositions and that it is the opposite of the word daimh and I have hence been led to infer that in transcribing the poems of Ossian Macpherson mistook the one for the other, and probably as the word daimh was more familiar to his Badenoch ear, for the sake of uniformity of orthography adopted the word daimh where dao should be used and for the sake of uniformity of translation retained invariably strangers in the translation where the word daimh has no such meaning. Your critique will settle my opinions respecting these words. I have not heard whether my Catechisms have been all sold in your part of the country, a few ere left with young Mr Blair in Dunkeld, besides what are in your hands. I have still a few hundreds to dispose of; which I will send to Argyleshire if there be no demand for them in Perthshire. I do not think that I should risque a second edition. The clergy in the highlands do not encourage books. Give my best respects to Mrs Irvine. Mr & Mrs Niven and all enquiring friends, and am with sincere esteem, dear Sir, Yor etc JOHN CAMPBELL

From Alexr Stewart Dingwall 19th April 1811 anent Gaelic Grammar

Dear Sir,

Different avocations among which my attendance on the meeting of our Synod was one, have till now prevented me from acknowledging the favour of your very acceptable letter of the 5th inst. I am indeed much indebted to you for your trouble in sending me remarks on Gaelic; and no less for your frank expressions of personal regard on which I put a high value.

I have been urged and encouraged by Sir John M. Murray, a gentleman of true Celtic spirit, to prepare a second edition of my little work on G grammar and with this in view I have put together whatever of consequence had occurred to me, or what remarks my literary friends had favoured me with since the publication of the first Edition. I have also read two Irish grammars recently published which have furnished some invaluable hints. By these means I have been enabled to supply some omissions, to simplify & correct some parts, & to add a number of the idiomatic phrases of the language. I have also annexed some specimens of original prose composition, which I think is much wanted to exhibit the powers and elegancies of the Gaelic. One of these is an extract from a tale (sgeulachd) which, I think, you communicated to Mr Maclagan - I do not think that I shall meddle with the Prosody. I have never directed my attention to that department & therefore am not prepared to bring forward any thing of value. Besides it appears to be of less importance in Gaelic than in other languages. A composer of verses will be guided by his own ear and taste, and will set at nought our rules for versification. What you suggest concerning the diff't dialects is highly proper. I wish I were able to collect and state the diversities of dialect, at least in

their most prominent features. I shall at least try what can be done.. I should be much the better to have you within my reach to give me the Western Dialect. The Northern I can get here.

What you remark is true, that the inflections of nouns might be classed together under one declension and those of the verb under one conjugation. And for all the difference that is to be found between one plan and the other I should be easily induced to reduce the two to one especially in the case of the conjugations, Yet as in constituting one declension or one conjugation, you must confine yourself to one paradigm, and all the deviations from it must be stated as exceptions if some of these deviations can be more tightly bundled together under the denomination of a second declension, or a second conjugation and as this cannot be reckoned multiplying Declensions & Conjug, there is some advantage gained, tho I confess it is not much.

I am almost ashamed to say that I am quite unacquainted with your publications which you mention. At a distance from Booksellers, I know little of what comes out, except what I may chance to see in a Review. I saw, and read with much satisfaction your animated & reasonable defence of the sabbath printed in the Church Instructor. I am very happy to hear you say that we shall soon have a Vol of your Gaelic bards. I shall long much to peruse it, and shall thank you to put it down as a Subscriber if subscriptions are received. I hope your Lives will at least rival Johnson's; but I fear your materials will be less copious.

As I have several letters to write by a Gentleman who carries a packet for me to Perth, I cannot converse so fully as I could wish on some more particulars which you have judiciously suggested. I hope you will have the goodness to excuse my abruptness and accept of my warm thanks for your obliging offer of aid which I may very probably solicit in the progress of my further lucubrations. Meantime I remain with much regard, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, Alexr STEWART

But pray why did you not give me news from the Parlour and Nursery, as well as from the Study? I assure you I was in my time an admirer in no ordinary measure of Mrs Irvine. Let me beg that you will prevent her my best respects and cordial good wishes. My family which is increasing & multiplying a main, is in pretty good health excepting some Spring Coughs.

P.S. Might I request the favour of you, Dear Sir, to mention to your Highland Brethren my intention of publishing, this season, a new Edition of my G Gram: and beg of them to learn whether there is a probability of any copies being called for among their parishioners, and about what number. It sold, in the last edition, for 2/6. I may have to sell the new edition from 3/- to 3/6 per copy. Any information of this kind which I may get soon will enable me to judge what number of copies ought to be thrown off.

Rev Archd Menzies Castle Menzies Octr 18th 1812 anent gossip

Dear Doctor,

This is a bad day and our minister is confined to his chamber for some cause or other, which perhaps it is not in his interest to unveil, nor my business to conjecture. So I will just cover the honest soul with the guid braid blanket of Charity, and spend a few moments in writing to a character which I have always looked up to with a degree of respect mingled with veneration. There is to me an exquisite pleasure in corresponding with a person whose heart is moved, and whose fancies warmed, by sentiments & feelings which are dear to myself.

The reason is plain. I am then under no restraint, under no necessity of measuring my sentiments in the balance of that long headed old matron Common Sense, nor to adapting my Expressions to the rules of surly-browed Criticism; no, my Imagination is unbridled, Reason dismounted of her back, & off she goes, hop, step & loup, wherever she pleases to wander. I am not forgetful however that I am addressing myself to a reverend Doctor in Divinity, but if it so turns out that you fall in with a thought, or a random word as light as ye fancy that suggested it, let it merely be Sicolin ego. I am one of those harum scarum mortals, who write my sentiments warm as they come upmost. Nor do I accustom myself to the mantua making trade of sentimental busking. A meagre sentiment is like the tocherless Gawky who has nothing but her deeds to recommend her. But a fine thought is like my Sweetheart who sheds more fascinating attractions in her morning dishabille, than in all the brilliance of embroidered ornaments.

What think you of this same author of Rokeby. Notwithstanding the praises of the public and of our periodical reviews, I cannot, for the life of me, assign his practical talents one step higher than a respectable mediocrity. But he is universally admired, & my feeble dissenting voice is drowned in the general applause. He has certainly gained the good graces of two very important classes of human

beings, namely the Ladies & the Edinburgh Reviewers and so could I or any person if we could only practise his stratagems. For, Sir, you must know that before you can have a critic under absolute submission you must steal slyly around him, and grasp him by the snout; and a Lady is like a squirrel, if you once get hold of her by the tail, she is your humble Lieut. Seek Marmion & from end to end & long will you search before you find the fine & the manly energy of Burns, the weeping sensibility of Campbell, or the captivating sweetness of the unfortunate Ferguson. I confess I am encouraged to cultivate the little talent for Poetry that I possess, when the public voice is raised to extol the works of men, on whom Fancy has never shed a ray, to illumine the midnight of their drowsy headpieces.

Do you know if I could have any facility in procuring information relative to the wild clans of Rannoch & the places about it, as far back as 100 years or even more. The scenery of that country is so exquisite, & at the same time so unknown to the world, that I have a great mind to try what hand I can make of it. I cannot expect that any person can give me a continued detail of the history of that country. Even unconnected detached pieces, real or traditional, would be acceptable to me. I always contemplated with rapture the romantic wildness of Caledonia's glens. My Fancy delineates the plains where champions fought & bled; where the strifes of rivalling chieftains, were decided, and the fierce animosities of barbarian tribes steeled their swords with hatred & revenge. I do not deny that I like to see nature be girt with the vestments of mens' making. But oh what are my feelings when I survey her, in my own dear native glens, in all her naked undisguised attractions, bare to the Skin, without so much as a shirt to cover her backside - (You must put up with this expression, for I have no better)

Mr Boyd had the goodness to give me an intellectual banquet last night; in more intelligible language he read me his discourse. Upon my soul I have not the courage to compliment a person to his face, whatever his merits; nor did I express him much of that approbation which the fullness of the Sentiments and the harmonious flow of his language, merited in a high degree. He thinks, correctly, his thoughts are elegantly worded. He aspires to the Epic unity of Blair, and the sententious periods of Robertson. he is the only one of my College comrades who deserves every mark of my esteem. he has already acquired a greater portion of knowledge & good sense that has fallen to the share of some of the holy Bullies that you and I ken.

Now, sir, since I am drawing near a conclusion (and dare say you are saying it is high time) let me ask what in the name of God's earth are you about, or what do you intend to do? Why do you raise peoples' expectations if you have not a mind to gratify them speedily. you may depend upon it that our hopes are elevated so high, that no common doings can give us any measure of satisfaction. far be it from me however to insinuate that your muse would beget any thing that is common or unclean. I hope to see those beautiful touches & that masterly description of character & which will rank you among the classic writers of the day. A certain clergyman insinuated to me not long ago that the work would never be published in consequence of your procrastination. I was so nettled at his splenetic malevolence that the colour of his coat scarcely prevented me from giving him a cuff. You have more highland pride & independence, I know, than to write a flattering submissive dedication to any great Cub under heaven's canopy

O how I scorn that self debasing thing
Who stands & cringes even to a King
Stoops at right honourable heels to trot
And kiss a Lord's posterior for a groat.

Now, sir, good bye, and good health & good speed & spirits to you and who ever wishes that one hair of your head should be hurt, may the witches that curtailed Tam o'Shanter's mare, change his scull into a chamber pot, and his bare peeled Shanks into twa shivels to stir their parritch pots. Yours truly R
ARMSTRONG.

James Paterson Bannockburn by Stirling 11th March 1812 anent duff horse

Sir,
I am sorry to inform you that the Horse I purchased from you at Perth the 6th day of March last, after being a day or two in my possession gave evident symptoms of something being wrong with him but as I considered he would by having good usage and attention paid him, come round again, I delayed writing to you on the subject, the horse however altho every possible care has been taken of him has become worse and is now in the opinion of the farrier and others in a very dangerous state, and they give the

occasion of his trouble as arising from the horse being sometime ago strained in his back and his Kidneys are inflamed and his back all swelled and the farrier tells me he has no hopes of recovery, and even suppose he does recover from his present complaint that the horse will be of no use to any person.

I have only to say that from the way the horse was used since he came into my possession it was impossible he could be strained or indeed meet with any misfortune being kept as well as any horse possibly could be and altho I am far from wishing to have any dispute yet being conscious that the horse must have been ailing when I purchased him, I must in justice to myself insist on you immediately giving orders as to the Horse and expect that you will return me the purchase price I gave you therefore being £32 10/- Sterg. The people under whose care the Horse has been since with me can bear testimony to the usage he has met with, & unless I hear from you in direct course I must be forgiven in putting the business into the hands of an Agent to take legal steps as I consider myself not to have been by any means well used in the transaction. I have been at a considerable expence extra regarding the Horse and will let you know the amount thereof after recovering the different accounts. I am Revd Sir, Your m Obedient servant. JAMES PATERSON

Copy letter: AI to Paterson anent duff horse

Dunkeld 14 April 1812

Sir,

Yours of the 11th ult I only received this moment. You can explain how your letter should have been so long by the way. I regret exceedingly that the poor black horse should have been so unfortunate since he went in to your possession. I certainly sold him to you cheaper than I intended to sell him from an idea that he would be well taken care of. You, Messrs Robertson & McLaren found him sound at that time. I do not mean to enter in to the contents of your letter farther than saying that I know of no such fault as you mention, never heard of any such, and fully believed the horse sound when I sold him - If afterwards he turned out otherwise, that is a misfortune to which any one may be liable & for which I am extremely sorry - Your threat of a prosecution can have no effect as I am fully persuaded you will have to pay the costs and you must have been ill advised before you must have said that you were ill used in the transaction as the only regret I had was that I parted with the horse so easily, and you certainly shew that you deserved not such genteel treatment as getting 10s of luck penny.

On this subject I forbid any further correspondence.

I am Sir your obt servant A IRVINE

PS I have only to add to your consolation that the first horse I ever bought lived just two days after from a strain in the back & an inflammation in the kidneys but I never thought of seeking any redress as I knew not where to find it.

P Dow London March 23rd 1812. 2 Manchester Buildings, Westminster anent nat politics

My Dear Sir, "better late than never" is an old apology which however is in no great danger of ever being out of fashion. numbers will always have occasion for it, as I have at present. But after all when I have resolved to redeem my pledge it is hardly worth the redeeming. All the world here is engaged in writing and talking about the politics of the day such as they are, and the subject has become such a worn out hack that it is almost disgraceful to ride him. Is my pledge worth redeeming then if I can send you nothing but a sheet of paper mounted on this hobby? Yet I am fully persuaded that political scandal forms the subject of 3/4ths of the immense numbers of letters that are sent every evening from this ? city - the facility with which intelligence is circulated in the country and the share which even the mass of the people have in constituting the Commons branch of the legislature naturally turn their attention to the politics of the Day; but since the expenditure of the country has become so large that the ruling party has an army of dependents for collecting and distributing the immense sums annually raised, the interest attached to the subject is infinitely stronger. When the government finds it necessary to take a great deal it has generally a great deal to give - and unfortunately by the same operation those who are obliged to pay much find it the more requisite to ask. It would perhaps be difficult to find a fire side where some of those who sit round it are not contriving how to get a share of the taxes. Changes and rumours of changes therefore carry with them an interest far beyond what they formerly had - every one eager that those with whom he may have most influence should get hold of the loaves and fishes in hopes of coming in for a

crust or the back bone of a herring. A good deal of this feeling lurks probably at the bottom of the cry of "patriotism" as well as "social order" though it would be about to say that it prevails universally on either side. For myself I think I may be pretty impartial in this way, for as far as any private interest of my own may be concerned it is indifferent to me who are the holders of the prizes. I find I have been riding the hobby horse at a rare rate but the road is not exactly the common one - The most sensible part of the community appear to me to be those who steer a middle course between Whigs and Tories, with respect to the two most prominent features of our present politics. I am decidedly of opinion that all civil disabilities on account of religious opinions should be done away, but I also think that the war in the peninsula ought to be prosecuted with the utmost vigour as long as the nation can at all support it and there is the highest chance of success. I was all along of the opinion that the Whigs might split upon this rock - though many of their firmest adherents were friendly to the mode of conducting the peninsula war and all of them approved of it to a certain extent. If they were to unite with Marquis Wellesley who has been considered as the very soul of the peninsula war, an administration thus composed would be the best that could be formed - But the prevailing opinion is that neither Whigs nor Tories are the rulers of our councils - but two favourites Lord Yarmouth and the Marquis of Hartfort. I am at present engaged in the office of a Chancery Pleader to acquire a thorough knowledge of practice - but could spare time to execute any commissions which you might find it convenient to charge me with. If I can be of any use to you with regards to the manuscript which you shewed me or in any other way, you may command me. I had some idea of writing an account of my journey of last summer - but it passed over the ground in much too rapid a manner - and intend to take the line of the Caledonian Canal again next summer. If you should happen to meet with any author whom it would be proper for me to consult with this view, or should think of anything else that might be useful for the same end, you will have the goodness to note the matters in yr recollection. I should be glad to hear from you when you are at leisure. Affairs have been so unsettled of late that I have not yet taken any steps in my bankruptcy business. Give my best respects to Mrs Irvine for me and believe me etc. P DOW

? Lyle Richmond Crieff Sep 20 anent death of Dr Macormic

My Dear Sir,

Agreeably to the intimation of our suddenly deceased & lamented friend Dr ?Macormic I shall be ready to attend the meeting at your church on Friday - I go hence by Killin & Taymouth & hope to reach Dunkeld on Thursday evening, or in good time on Friday morning. Let a letter meet me at the Inn at Little Dunkeld - Also as you are to beat Perth on Thursday be so kind to inquire for & bring me any letters lying at Dr Macormic's house for me - Do you know anything or could you bring to decision the hint given me in his letter of a meeting on Saturday morning at Methven on my way to Perth. Rev Mr ?westoly & my daughter are my companions - I am much affected by this sudden death. Believe me faithfully yours, ?LYLE RICHMOND

J Boyd. Forfar 8th Sept 1812 anent grats on DD

My Dear Good Friend,

I am confident that neither your late elevation in the Scale of Academical Honour, nor any other change, which may have taken place in your external relations or internal impressions nor the absence and silence of your friend nor any other feature or Cause assigned or assignable shall make you look even with indifference on the address of one who though he cannot follow you in the climax of literary attainment in your career, nor fail to participate in that joy which a high authority pronounces to be as natural in every sound member of the Body on the preferment of a fellow member as tender sympathy is & ought to be on occasion of its sorrows. Joy to you therefore my Dear Doctor and long & well may your usefulness & comfort keep pace with every other step of your advancement in fortune & in fame then shall the heart of they Friend also rejoice as it now does and has ever done since our first intimacy in all that can gladden thee & thine - I shall not now enter in to an enumeration of all the perverse circumstances which have interrupted our correspondence so long & robbed of the pleasure I had more than once promised myself of shaking hands with you for the rise of some of these circumstances I should perhaps stand accountable & over others and the chief of them I had no ?control - several notanda in the public pages have brought you into lively view and once and again the inclination to write was repressed by the hope of

seeing you - and of late the intention has been delayed by the protracted expectation of the opportunity which now presents itself - The young gentleman who will deliver this is my most particular friend, learned pious, prudent and affectionate a candidate for preferment in the Church of England for which he is in a course of preparatory study but liberal & catholic in his religious sentiments & views and worthy of every encouragement which belongs to a Christian indeed - A Native of Barbadoes orbus parentibus - he was sent early in life to Aberdeen when in the family of one of my good friends he has lived as a child for 10 or 11 years - delicate of constitution as you will see at a glance he has had severe attacks of those bilious affections which are now very common in Britain which are almost inseparable attendants on those who are born & have lived under a vertical sun, and these affections have gathered strength from close confinement & hard study - Change of air and experience have been recommended and the air of the Hills is among the best and though the season of good weather be far advanced, I hope providence has in store as much fair & fine weather for the good of our suffering country as may give him a fair trial of the air of Dunkeld and Athol - I had occasion to write Mr Brown, to whom I will trouble you with my kind remembrances - I proposed receiving my friend for a few weeks more or less as it should suit as a Boarder in his family - but his rooms are full of scholars - He said perhaps Mrs Irvine might accommodate for the time such a man as Mr Ross who can afford to pay a reasonable reward for what he may require - As to that I can make no motion unless it might be perfectly agreeable - But this I know that Mr S beg his pardon Dr Irvine will give his best advice and assistance in procuring him comfortable Quarters on the one side of the water or the other perhaps in Mrs McGlashan's or some such house. His abstemious mode of living will require no delicacies - but I am sure that an hour now and then of Dr Irvine's lively solid and serious conversation would be to him a medicine of no ordinary power - and wherever Mr Ross may be domiciled within reach of your benevolence I am sure you will not grudge him a portion of the precious composition I have mentioned - Shall we ever expect to see you here? The ?graduation makes me look for the Heroes or the Bards or both & if we cannot see the parent these children of your bright hours shall be cherished at their coming - I long to hear of Birnam too - but more of yourself and your growing family and their willing Mother in group.

We are all in ordinary and unite in warmest wishes for the prosperity & happiness of your whole self and I ever am my Dear Sir Your affectionate and faithful friend JO^N BRUCE PS I am sure you will feel unusual satisfaction in contemplating the progress towards a ? issue of those scenes of carnage on the Peninsula which commenced about the time of our first frequent and pleasing intercourse and about which and all the other scenes connected with them - The anxiety of all the faithful & their incessant prayers have been so long occupied. May we not at last hope we may yet see the rapid downfall of the tyrant and rejoice in the emancipation of the groaning nations from his horrifying grasp.

J Boyd Inch Manse Oct 24th 1813 anent gossip & grats on poem

Dear Doctor,

Col Gibson having sent me a note the other day to inform me that he had got a frank for you, I cannot omit the opportunity it offers to send you my best thanks for your last kind letter.

I was happy to learn that your slight fever went off so easily, and that Mrs Irvine and the children are well - I saw Campbell since his return. Why did he not make his appearance in your pulpit this autumn? I am almost certain some thoughts were previously arranged for such an exhibition.

Your remarks upon the Gentleman "awre the way" threw me into an immoderate fit of laughter. Fretted vanity and disappointed ambition, however distressing to their possessor seldom awake much sympathy and receive much pity. It is not difficult to guess the reason how this spirit is so much directed at you. - A neighbour, you press every moment an the eye - To be possessed of more happiness at home, more popularity in your Parish and more influence in the Presbytery are crimes that cannot be palliated. I am sorry your Presb: were so hard upon Armstrong. I wish you had been present as your usual kindness would direct your questions to those subjects to which he has given more attention and on which he has given more attention and on which his genius might display itself to best advantage. Some people are delighted when they succeed in puzzling a young man - but let me tell them it is no proof they that they possess much information when they can perplex a trembling student, nor very amiable dispositions when their selfish satisfaction arises from the distress of others

But perhaps a selfish feeling dictates this - Indeed I am quite at a loss, whether I shall make my appearance before you in Feby or delay it for another half year - From what Campbell says, I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you in Edinr before Christmas when I will state all my difficulties and fears. Mrs D Anderson has been unwell for some time but is getting better.

Many thanks for your Poem. From the severity with which you criticised it in your letter I expected to read an unfinished scroll, but was indeed most agreeably disappointed. It is excellent - There is a melancholy tendency - an elegiac softness so remote from sentimental affectation on the one hand and /dead insensibility on the other, as impressed my mind deeply, with that artless, expressive and impassioned feeling in which an affectionate Mother must be supposed to bewail the loss, and weep over the grave of a dearly beloved son. The introduction arising from the season of the year is very impressive - Looking from my window I see the trees in a park before the Manse, losing their foliage - and spreading their glory upon the plain - The passing wind sighs amid their trembling branches - and every leaf, as it falls, reminds me of a departed friend.

Such is the influence of external objects upon our feelings, that from the appearance of decay in the natural world that Octr exhibits, the mind is directed to contemplate in sole sadness, the decay of life, of nature, of the [tear]

When a Mother mourns over the son of her [tear] of her affections, fond hopes, there is something so natural but so very touching in sometimes recalling his virtues with all the "Joy of grief" - and then in a more melancholy strain to tell the anguish of disappointed wishes, blasted expectations & perished hopes & these two ideas are beautifully expressed "Dear Youth I see in thy fame etc. etc. In the dream of the moment the imagination recalls the past with all its joys - paints the future as fancy always paints - rises with rapture as it dwells on every event till the fairy vision suddenly vanishing - the irresistible torrent of grief rushes upon the soul and awakens the weeping mourner to all the sense of woe. "But gone alas those flattering beams, You will perhaps laugh at my remarks - I have many more to make - but room forbids - In a word I envy not the possessor of that heart who can, without emotion, read the Elegy you had the kindness to send me.

I beg you will offer my best respects to Mrs Irvine and the children & that you will write soon to your much obliged servt J BOYD

D. Boyle. Hawkhill Edinr 27 Oct 1815 anent conviction of J Irvine

Sir,

I this day received your letter of the 24th inst on the subject of James Irvine convicted before Lord Succoth & me at last Aberdeen circuit of the Crime of Horse stealing, and sentenced to transportation for 14 years. It is perfectly true that he was recommended to mercy by the Jury; but it is equally well known that there are many instances of a Capital Punishment being awarded for the Theft of a Single Horse, and as the conviction proceeded on what appeared to the Court conclusive Evidence of the Prisoners guilt, he received the benefit of the recommendation of the Jury by the mitigated punishment awarded against him of transportation only for fourteen years. As to what may be the result of any application to the Prince regent it is not for me at present to give any opinion, it being my duty to report about the case when commanded by His Royal Highness through the Secretary of State; and if I am so in regard to this case, I shall, as I do in all others, lay the whole circumstances of it as they appeared upon the trial before the proper quarters. I remain Sir, your most obedient humble servant, D BOYLE

PS I have no recollection of it being stated on Irvine's Trial that he had voluntarily surrendered himself: the Ind? I think bearing that he had been apprehended & Examined. The fact however may be as it is stated in your letter. The other circumstances of his being given information to the owner after the Theft, was certainly brought before the Jury.

Thos McKnight. Edinburgh 15 Feby 1816 re mission to Glengarry

My Dear Sir

I am favoured with your letter of the 9th inst inclosing an Extract relative to the case of Mr John Campbell and I shall be happy if the object of it can be accomplished,

As to the Mission of Glengarry the reason of the appointment not taking place was, so far as I can recollect, that the young man proposed for it, shewed great unwillingness to go. However this may be I could not with any propriety propose to call a pro re nata meeting of the Committee when one of the

stated meetings is just at hand - being on the first Thursday of March. Besides it is the uniform & invariable practice that no pro re nata meetings are ever held for the filling up of vacant missions, A similar remark applies to the period from which a Salary commences. This can only be from the time of the service commencing as certified by the Presbytery of the bounds in the usual form, after the appointment by the Committee has been duly notified. We are fully sensible of the importance of the Glengarry Mission, and I have no doubt that proper attention will be paid to what our letter states. Mr Murray will inform you of the result after our next meeting - I may observe in general that we do not consider ourselves entitled to hold any meetings except those which are stated in the Assemblies instructions.

It will be most desirable if you can send up an overture from your Presbytery on the subject of the Act so unconstitutional passed in 1814 respecting the union of offices. Presbyteries would do well to look after their own privileged I wish you & your friends could prevail with the Synod Also to give us an Overture to the same effect. We do not by any means wish not to have a law on the subject - but only that it should be enacted in a constitutional manner and if no individual Overture proposed for transmission can be previously agreed on to the general satisfaction - it occurs to me as the natural result that the Assembly should, after hearing the principle of the overtures sent up, discussed in common form, appoint a Committee of respectable & experienced persons from all quarters of the House, who might prepare an overture to be transmitted for Presbyterial deliberation.

You would hear that it is intended to be proposed as Candidate for the Chair of the Assembly Dr John Cook of St Andrews - an nomination which it is hoped will for obvious reasons be approved of by the Church.

Mrs M joins me in her best wishes and I ever am, with much regard, Yours faithfully THOS MACKNIGHT

Sir J. M. Murray Lanrick Castle 1 Dec 1816 anent Gaelic grammar

Sir,
I wrote a hasty note to you, on the eve of my departure from Dunkeld - I expressed my wish that you would convey your Ideas to Mr Stewart of Dingwall, relative to his Gaelic Grammar; and I shall be glad that you do so as soon as you can, because I am anxious that he should get on with the new edition as early as possible. You may say that I requested the favour of you to commiserate with him on the subject.

Relative to the other matter I noticed that I could with greater care furnish you with my remarks if you were here, for a day or two with your intended works, which I trust may not be inconvenient to you, when you have occasion to visit Edr. I am Sir your very obed Servt JOHN M. MURRAY

Morvern Manse 12th Dec 1816. Light by the ?Sod on the breast of him who first devised the art of letter writing, an artful use of no great or intricate machinery by which a man living on the Banks of the Tay or the Ganges which is a little further off may converse with a person residing on the Borders of the Stream of Altma??? in Morven as freely as if they sat at the same fireside or in opposite sides of a Table drinking the healths of wives and families. Had he lived in our days he would ?tave for a ?Rolind & was my opinion asked he would have one. From this curious outburst (for you must know I write as I speak at Random) you will infer I received your letter -your much esteemed letter & the valuable pamphlet that had accompanied it. For both I return you many thanks. If I did not know you well I would Imagine you thought me vain and did play a little on my Vanity by asserting to me parts & Talents which I know myself to possess but in a very scanty degree. The truth is I appear in my own eyes to be poorer than I would wish the world to know. Yet the wife says I like well to hear myself ?pressed. But the good lady herself takes care not to flatter my Vanity much in this way and I must confess I be oftener in this respect that she does. I am delighted with your pamphlet & the more so that they are completely my own sentiments. - well ordered & arranged and supported by reason, common sense and sensibility- ? - ?t friend to the Bible, who would wish to do away Bible Societies. But the Bible & Bible Societies will prosper & prevail. The Cause as good as the half is Great. You will wonder & with good cause I did not acknowledge your letter

before now. Yours was dated 13th Sept But the Levite by whom you sent it never thought of forwarding it to me when he had weekly opportunities till he came for a Certificate of his Services to our meeting of Presbytery of 5th Nov, a memorable day in the annals of our Island - and not a very Barren day in the minutes of the Presbytery of Mull. Allowances must be made forward of considerational times in young men. We ourselves were once young. Anderson is a good-hearted young man free of vice & Immoralities & has ? - Tho styled a Curate he is Bishop-minded - he would ? be a Bocheah among his people. But the Suinard Boys are not yet superstitious enough to yield to supernatural agents - while in the flesh they are fleshly minded or inclined if you please, he will allow but 2 drams to each man at Interments. But I aver he will as soon prevent the people from dying as from taking but 2 glasses at a Valcho to the friends they are to see no more. By attempting impossibilities the possibilities may lose their effect, [latin sentence not attempted] - and so much for the curate of Strontian.

And where now shall I begin - with the Revd Doctor of Little Dunkeld - or the old Vicar of Morven - With the Doctor to be sure [?latin] - I am truly happy to find you are happily happy in yourself, in your wife, family and parishioners & what more ought a man or even a Minr wish. The picture you draw of yourself pleases me much - your wife the unseen I love as much as I ought but do not covet her. Miss Stewart of Garth was once familiar to my ears - long may you & she live in the happy enjoyment of each other - May your boys live to bless your gray heads. You will be now getting daughters a process I am well acquainted with. [More latin] Now of my Revd self. I am living and alive - Yes Sir - for the dead in Morven never write. You may address me "fortunate ?" I am at times pleased with myself and always with my wife and family. I am on good terms with my parishioners & with the World. The wife you may remember. She is my wife now 39 years and I never had to repent 39 seconds of my choice and she is the mother of eighteen children, she looks fresher than me who ever had any. Of these we lost (as we term it) the first four in the order they were born after becoming almost men and women - my eldest daughter of worms yet healthy and blooming she appeared - my eldest boy at 16 the darling of all who knew him, of bleeding at the nose by a stroke he got across it from his brother by the back of a new Walls ?grammar - God forgive him - my second daughter at 14 of convulsions she got when an infant by a fall from her nurse's arms - and so on. In short, my dear Sir, from sicknes, births & deaths I may honestly say this house was for 20 years in which a candle nor fire were not extinguished - so may say in the words of the honest weaver's epitaph "like checked cloth my webb with love & comforts have been spread but cares and crosses interweaved have furnished half the thread". Yet thanks to God I have still a strong and decent family. Three sons and eight daughters. My eldest Norman you see Minr of Campbelt. He is an excellent character, is everything I would wish him to be. My second son a fine youth and of great promise has been distressed with tumours and excrescences on his hands which are now grown to such a size that his arms cannot support their weight, I sent him to Edinburgh but all the Surgeons and Physicians there could not arrest the progress of their growth. I am now happy I went with him there. Poor man has to do all he can and when he can do no more leave the rest to God. But why should I complain, matters might still be worse with him. One month's derangement of mind would be more grievous than years of bodily pain. He bears his trouble and confinement with a spirit & resignation that would do honour to riper years. It is now year and a half since he left his bed. But I find and often found that the mind likes to dwell on gloomy subjects especially when conversing with a friend. My youngest Boy of 14 is now in his second year at the University of Glasgow where he makes a good appearance. Two of my daughters are from time to time with their brother. The rest are with myself. They are most agreeable young women but want MONEY. This is a great want but they have properties which many monied women have not, and now my good sir you have my family before you and I hear you bless them...Morven is where you left it & every farm in their place but greatly improved & differently managed, There is not one head of a family in it of the whole when I came to it nor are there in the Enclosure Bounds of our Presbytery except more quarries - a wonderful instance of longevity in a man not the most regular in his way of living - he is said to be upwards of a hundred. There are lands in the parish that pay to the 5th proprietor since I became its Minr. But that's nothing to the changes in Europe in that time - A north country gentleman is become the proprietor of Drimmen this Year Mr John Gregorson now our Sheriff and a very respectable character has purchased Invercauld's property and will purchase more if he lives here a few years - I cannot tell what has become of his Cousin James but I can tell you he is not so provident as his friends would wish - The change in Times distress us much - never were we so hard put to - no demand for sheep horses or cows - no cash - no credit - no Confidence to crown all who have had a very bad harvest. The worst weather ever known in this Climate. There is great appearance of a famine. Many dread it who need not whose teeth will lose their office before their Girnels are empty. Be that as Providence may order. it is provident in every person to guard

against the worst. I endeavour to make the best of my farm - without it the living would but ill fall upon my family. Like twopence to each per day - a poor allowance to answer every want & many a want & darn a throng family will have. It is truly cruel to subject us to taxes....[Ministerial gossip] NORMAN MCLEOD

Alexr Robertson, Rannoch Barrack, July 27th 1817 anent sermon

Dear Sir,

I was happy to find by your letter of the 24th that Mrs Irvine has been safely delivered of a Daughter, and that both mother and child are doing well. Have the goodness to apprise Mrs Irvine of my respects and best wishes for her speedy recovery.

Some time ago I had the pleasure to receive your obliging letter containing the translation I requested of you, which shall be engraved, verbatim, upon the formidable Weapon intended for my young friend.

Accept of my acknowledgement for your kind attention in sending me a copy of your valuable sermon, which I have perused with the greatest satisfaction, as, independent of representing in the strongest manner the merits of the Society for propagating our Divine Religion it contains excellent precepts for Christians of all sects, many of whom even in the Reformed Church, do not adhere so strictly as they ought to do, to the plain doctrine of the new testament, which most certainly, was intended to be sufficiently understood by every Mortal, endued with common sense, who studied that sacred book with sincere desire of instruction.

When convenient for you it will give me great satisfaction to have the pleasure of seeing you here being with great esteem, Dear Sir, Your sincere friend and most obedient servant, ALEXR ROBERTSON

D. Stewart (Provost ex Dalguise ?Wyseby House 22 Sept 1817 anent gossip & Gaelic

Dear Sir, I hope this letter will find you, Mrs Irvine and family in good health - My best wishes attend you all

I have to mention a thing which has occurred to me as leading to promote the temporal as well as the spiritual interests of the highlands of Scotland to which I know we are both very partial sons. It is to have a Coarse copy of the Ecclesiasticus printed as the proverbs of Solomon are at present & put into the hands of the youth of both sexes who are learning to read/ It is a much more comprehensive system of morality than the Proverbs and being little known to them, they will have the charms of novelty to induce them to read it and quote it when conveying of moral or religious instruction to others.

It would still be still more universally known and be useful if you could be prevailed upon to furnish a Gaelic translation of that Book. And I conceive if my ideas should be approved by the society for propagating Christian Knowledge that the society would furnish the small pecuniary assistance that would be required to carry it into effect. I merely throw out these hints for your consideration and shall be happy if you sanction them with your approbation. There are some passages in this book which are most sublime - what can be more so than the three first verses of the 41st Chapter. These must strike every reader even although like as I have, he may not have passed the time which Moses has fixed for the endeavour of human life.

I understood our friend the Colonel is still in London, I sincerely wish him success in his present object, he was so good as to say he would ?take this house on his return to Scotland. I can only say it would make me very happy to see a man for whom I have the most sincere respect, and attachment. I hope all the family at Garth are well, particularly the old gentleman - They have all my best respects and wishes. Who is the Librarian of the Library of Dunkeld I mean to send them a few Gaelic books which are not of the common occurrence, and others that are more commonly to be found. None of my children, although some of them are very good linguists, possess that language, of course they could make use of the books in question. I will now conclude with the highlanders farewell. God bless you every road you go. I remain, my Dear Sir, Your most faithful and obedient servant DAVID STEUART (Provost)

In this country we have many Irish catholics who are very desirous of making Proselytes, could their ignorance of the principles of the religion they profess enable them so to do. This consideration and the request of the tenantry over this & the two adjoining estates, made me apply to them for a Schoolmaster to teach the youth to read, write & account, and at the same time to improve them in their knowledge of religion and morality & patriotism. This request was very civilly refused me as not entering into the society's plan. I am at a loss to conceive what their plan is. St Peter tells us God is not a respecter of persons, but the society seem to think otherwise, and although they have derived great pecuniary

advantages from their purchase of land in Dumfries-shire they do not seem to think themselves called upon to the ?curam animarum of its inhabitants.

James Hamilton (Highland Soc) London 12th July 1817 anent Gaelic poetry

Sir,

I was instructed to return the grateful thanks of the Highland Society of London for the very valuable Collection of ancient Gaelic poetry, presented them in your name by my much respected Friend, Colonel David Stewart, who at the same time communicated your interesting letter addressed to him under Date of the 29th march last.

The poems are beautiful and bear internal evidence of their antiquity, of those translated by Mr Macpherson and Doctor Smith were any further Proof necessary . -The Society intend shortly to publish these in the Original, with several; other valuable poems in their possession, and in doing so the Opportunity will not be lost of pointing out to the learned World in general and to the Gael in particular how much they are indebted to your zeal, patience and Industry. To have rescued from Oblivion these admirable productions of the Muse of other days is a glorious, is a patriotic deed and entitles you to the Gratitude not only of your own Countrymen, but of the Literate of every land.

The General Courts of the Corporation being over for the year, it has not been in the power of the Society to confer the most distinguished Mark of their Feeling towards you, by electing you an Honorary Member of the Institution, but at the first court in the Spring, I have no doubt of being directed to convey to you an unanimous resolution to that effect. In the interim the Committee of Management has received the Intimation with much Satisfaction, of your being able soon to bring before the Public your Work entitled 'The Lives of the Caledonian bards ancient and modern with Historical, critical and Philological Observations upon their principal Compositions; accompanied by several Dissertions in Celtic Literature and History in General' and to which they will be happy to render every assistance.

I shall be anxiously expecting to hear from you on the Subject, and with the greatest regard have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant JAMES HAMILTON Secretary to the Highland Society

James Hamilton (Highland Soc) London November 28th 1817 anent hon. membership

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at a Special General Court of the Highland Society of London, holden on Monday the 3rd inst, you were unanimously elected and Honorary member of that Corporation in testimony of the high sense entertained of the eminent services rendered by you to Celtic Literature.

A new plate for the Diploma of Admission from a design of Benjamin West esq, the venerable president of the Royal Academy, is at present in the hands of an Engraver, and as soon as it is finished, your diploma will be transmitted you.

With sentiments of Esteem, and Respect, I remain, Sir, your most humble servant, JAMES HAMILTON, Sec to the Highland Society

D. Stewart (Provost ex Dalguise) Wiseby House, Near Annan 10th November 1817 anent Gaelic , the past & his children

My Dear Sir,

My best respects to Col David - He promised to come this way on his return to Scotland. My best wishes to all at Garth. I enclose a letter for C Stewart received with great pleasure your letter of 29th Oct which I only received today owing to its being directed to Ecclefechan only reached me this day. I am happy to hear that Mrs Irvine & your family are in good health and beg to be kindly remembered to them all - I live here among the Irvines and Bonshaw House is immediately opposite & a little lower down is Robgill Tower the seat of Sir ? Irving Bart a cadet of Bonshaws who is chief of the branch of Irvine sited here I

dont know whether Bonshaw or Drum is the representative of of Irvine of Brengaich of whom Alex Stewart Earl of Mar said

Is ionmhuinn beam am fear a tha' mach

of Irbhin as a Brengaich

Bha mi oidhchi na teach

Air mhoran bidh is air bhegan aodaich

Some of those here have a little of the bidh & aodaich, but 'Is maith'ncocair an t-ocra'.

I thank you for giving me the address of the Librarian of the Library of Dunkeld to whom I shall send my Gaelic books by our carrier who will leave this for Edinburgh in about a fortnight & desire him to leave them at the quarters in Edinburgh of the Dunkeld carrier to be forwarded there. The little I know of the reading of Gaelic I owe to the late Dr Bisset of Logierait who taught me to read in the 1st Edition of the Psalms which is one of the books I am to send to your Library; he was then only a Licenciate, and came occasionally to stay a few days at Dalguise; and in his absence I was assisted by one of my father's tenants. There are none of my own children that understand the language although some of them are capital linguists; and I never hear the language except when I surprise the conductor of a drove of Highland cattle going to England, by addressing him in his mother tongue, which pleases him much. By the By is there not a place near you called Torribal? It should be TorrBhal or Baals Hill whose festival was 1st May called Betuin of La-Bhal-time or the day of Baal fire alluding, as Smith in his Gaelic Antiquities says, to a fire the Druids dedicated to Baal on that day.

I am sorry to see that my good old friend Garth begins to feel the infirmities of age, which is also the case with myself although I have my judgement, my eyesight, & my hearing is as acute as ever and I believe I never shall require spectacles for reading and writing. I can at present easily read the Sedan copy of Virgil which is the smallest printed book I ever saw. We may both of us say with Jacob, ?buteanagusle lai bliadhnachan lai thibh, agus cha d'rainig iad lai bliadhnacha beatha m'aithreacha ann an laithibh an cuirtesan. At least I never expect to see the age of my worthy father, but I am resigned to the will of the Almighty on that as well as on every other score. I have now seen most of my children placed in respectable situations in life - I had a letter from my eldest son two days ago from Santa Cruz, one of the Canary Islands, dated 29th Aug. He was then on his way to Bombay where is to be connected with two of the greatest houses in Britain in the cotton trade, Messrs James Finlay & Co of Glasgow & Messrs Barton of Manchester - houses who on the last assessment for income tax paid in 1815 £19,000 thereby acknowledging their profits that year to have been £190,000. He has a Licence to settle in any of the Company's territories in India, free from the control of all the Company's servants there, the Governors of the 9 Residencies excepted, & he has carried out & there have been goods sent out after him to the amount of £30-£50,000, so that if it please God to continue his health in that hit climate there is not a doubt of him soon making a fortune. He has got the best letters of introduction that were to be got in Britain and is a man of very good talents & address an excellent Gaelic scholar and able to speak and write most of the continental Languages. My 2nd son is in London soliciting the command of a frigate - My third commands a troop of the Bengal cavalry. My 4th has just returned from France & Holland; he is a lieut in the navy; the 5th is in a counting house in Naples & will probably land in Bombay should his eldest succeed there. My daughters are all well married, so that you see my business in the world might now draw to a close. If I can be of any use to my country, particularly in her eternal interests it is my duty & my wish to do so; which leads me to answer that part of your letter respecting a translation into Gaelic of the book of Ecclesiasticus/ The circumstances of it being an apocryphal book is in its favour, as a translator can pass over nay passages in the translation known in Britain, which may not be thought so useful to the Highlanders, which he pleases so as to make it a useful school book for children. When I first mentioned the thing to you, I did not mean that you should not be amply remunerated for your trouble by some society of sufficient opulence & patriotism interested in the concerns. I should think the Highland Society might [support] such a thing - What astonishing sums of money have been sent abroad by the Bible & missionary Society which might have been much more usefully employed at home in promoting the interests of religion morality and virtue among the lower classes of our fellow subjects at home. Dr Bell this famous schoolmaster is of that opinion - He spent a day here lately - He is a native of St Andrews, but a Member of the Church of England, wherein he has several good livings. Liberality of livings, non residence of Clergy, are two things I entirely disapprove of. What is to become of the Scotch clergy when the teinds are exhausted! I fear they will be driven to adopt other pursuits less congenial to their present most respectable situation on society, and which may divert their attention from the duties of their office preaching excepted which I consider the least part of their official duty.

Politics I detest, and have shaken myself free of them many years since. I am sorry to see there is a spirit arising of changing the Sets of Burroughs - this might have been prevented about 15 or 20 years ago had that weak brother, the present chief Baron, done his duty and his father in law, who was really a clever man, & had good points about him, was so immersed in politicks that he was obliged to place many unworthy and weak men on the Bench, to the great injury of the Country. I fear too that the late melancholy event that has so recently happened will increase the present events which seem to be brewing, It is a remarkable thing that she had not a single female relation near her at the time, a comfort which the poorest cottager in the island is not without.

As for the Society for propagating Xian Knowledge refusing a schoolmaster here I cannot account for it. We are surrounded with Irish Roman Catholics who will do every thing to mislead our youth that their superstition can suggest. I remain with great regard, Yours faithfully D STEWART

This letter is sealed with a facsimile of Mary Queen of Scots Diamond Seal now the property of the Prince Regent

You know the French expression when speaking of a Scotsman - fier comme in ecossais - Scot comes from the Gaelic Scod = Paid

Thos Fleming Edinr 24th Feb 1818 anent Dalguise School

My Dear Sir,

I was much obliged to you for the trouble you took in relation to the Extracts. They answered the purpose for which I wished them. The ? was represented as resting on Character; - & an argument was attempted to be passed on that ground. This was met by the Extract. Will you have the goodness to state this to Dr Niven & to thank him in my name. Mr Cargill will pay you 5/6 - which if I recollect (for I cannot at this moment lay my hand on your letter) was what you advanced for me - I should have done this sooner, were I not anxious to send you at the same time an account of the result. - I am now sorry to inform you that it has been unfavourable. The Lord Ordinary refused the Bill of Advocation; & on Saturday the Court adhere to the Lord Ordinary's interlocutor. The Case was in the Second Division.

The ground of the decision was that the Petitioner had not been duly elected Schoolmaster in terms of the Act of Parliament. It was held that the Statutory Notices & intimations had not been duly given; And that the meeting of Heritors being thus informal, the election could not confer the office of Schoolmaster on the Petitioner. The Court, however, were clearly of the opinion, both that there was a vacancy, and that the Heritors had no right to give Mr Miller the Salary at the expence of his successor. They reprobated in strong language the whole conduct of the Heritors as illegal & oppressive to the Petr. They expressed their regret that it was not in their power to give him redress in the present shape of the cause; and one of their Lordships stated that the Heritors would consult their own respectability if they came forward voluntarily & offered the Petr a compensation. It appeared clearly to be the opinion of the Court that the Petr was entitled to an action of Damages against those Heritors who attended the Meetings of Election. From the informality of these meetings, the Petr is not entitled to the Office itself; but as he was led to believe that the Heritors had power to elect him, & that they did elect him, he is entitled to damages as an equivalent for the loss of office. The Court were further of the opinion that Heritors are not entitled to elect from year to year, or during pleasure; that had the election taken place prior to the act of Parlt, the Petr would have been entitled to the office for life; But that as an Act of Parlt altered the common law - the the effect of presenting precise rule for conducting the election & as the rules were not in this case observed, the election was held to be null; reserving however to the petr his claim of damages for having been deprived of the office.

I have given you this statement at large. it was drawn up by a professional man who was present. The Lawyer took Notes of the Judges' speeches (They were unanimous) - with which I am to be furnished as soon as they are extended. I shall give you what my friend who drew up the Statement for me says further. "The Court (says he) having held that there is a vacancy & the petr having been found not entitled to the Office, the Presbytery should now apply to the Commissioners of Supply in terms of the Act of Parly you have the parish provided with a Schoolmaster. It seems clear that the Heritors have nothing to do in the business as Heritors; The Statutory period during which they may elect having long-time expired. the `Presbytery have acquired jure devoluto the sole right to proceed in the matter. The person so elected will have the right to the whole emolument provided by the Act; the Heritors having no power to give Mr miller any part of it. In this way it is probable that the Heritors will, in consequence of their illegal Conduct have

to provide 1. for Mr Miller. 2 for the Schoolmaster elected by the Commissioners of Supply on the application of the Presbytery; and 3 for the Petitioner if he shall succeed in an action of damages" - which is immediately to be raised.

On the whole the Court have found 1. That the Petitioner has no right to the Office of Schoolmaster 2. That have expressed their opinion that he is entitled to damages for having been deprived of it 3. That the election - such as it was, was an election ad vitam ?aut culpam; and this will serve to ascertain the quantum of damages. \$. That Mr Miller resigned his office & that his resignation having been accepted, there is a vacancy. 5 That it belongs to the Presbytery and the Commissioners of Supply to appoint a new Schoolmaster, this business being now out of the hands of the Heritors; 6. That the Schoolmr to be appointed will have the right to the whole salary and other emoluments provided by the Act of Parlt.

When I receive my lawyer's Notes of the Speeches if I find anything further that may be of use to you as a member of the Presbytery, I shall communicate it. Tho we have lost the principal point, The trying of the case is of some importance in a general view. And my Brother's advisers are clear as to the Action of damages; - in which they advise that Mr Herdman shall be included. However there is no cause for hurrying this business, as the Court will be up in little more than a fortnight.

I feel the attention which you & some of your Brethren have paid to this business. Dr Stuart of Luss [Dr John Stewart Minister of Luss Lochlomondside he cannot be called a bad man but hath a good deal of unsociable pride which no Minister should have as their Doctrine is humility & Charity which many of them preach and fewer practice - Stewarts of the South] is just come to town. He was with me yesterday with the second sheet since his arrival. Genesis is not yet finished!!!

I beg that you will offer my best respects & Isabella's to Mrs Irvine. Mrs Fleming is at Cupar, whither she went last week to attend one of her daughters who has been ill of a fever. Our last accounts were favourable. This is our Presbytery day. I am just preparing to go to the Meeting. We are to have Simon Fraser again before us. perhaps you would hear that he has (by means of a Number of Speculators) purchased Mr Alison's Chapel; & that application has been made to our Presbytery to take it into connection with the Established Church as a Chapel of Ease. This application was refused; but Mr Simon has offered it suo jure.

The matter is to be brought before us today. There is an Appeal to the Synod, & a Complaint by one member. But Mr Fraser has not wasted his time; tho he gives out that he is sure of its being favourable.

Believe me to be, my dear sir, your most sincerely THOMAS FLEMING

J Campbell (SPCK) Edinr March 12 1818 anent Dalguise School

Rev Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure of informing you that the application from the Duke of Athole and the different Gentlemen who subscribed the document transmitted by you some time since, has been favourably considered by the Society. They have been pleased to place the school at Dalguise upon their Establishment, and to allow £10 in addition to the £5 offered by the Gentlemen concerned for making up the salary to the Schoolmaster. It is understood that the usual conditions on which Society Schools are erected shall be also applicable to Dalguise, that the requisite accommodations be furnished by the Proprietor, and the nomination of the teacher left to the Society. As the School and Dwelling House are already built, I hope that the garden and croft will be provided, and the necessary orders given to the Tenants for furnishing fuel, with all possible expedition. In consequence of the communication you have had with Dr Fleming, you will be prepared to receive notice of the appointment of M Alexander Fleming as Schoolmaster by the first meeting of Directors. I doubt not he will be found worthy of your countenance, and you will of course be disposed to afford him all suitable encouragement.

I have lately been engaged in transmitting orders for temporary supplies to an additional number of our Schoolmasters. Among these John Fisher of Drumour and John Stewart at Finart have been included. As their cases respectively according to the details you gave me some time ago, seemed to possess peculiar claims on the humane attention of the Directors, they have each of them been allowed £5, the largest sum given as a temporary supply to any of the Servants of the Society in consequence of the late Distress.

I remain always, Dear, Sir, Your faithful and most obedient servant J CAMPBELL

Alex Fraser (Highland Soc) Lincolns Inn 12th March 1818 anent Bards

Sir,
Mr Macrae the Deputy Secy having communicated to me what you had transmitted him I brought the same before the Highland Society and now inclose to you the resolutions which were entered upon the Record on that subject. Mr Macrae desires me to say it will be necessary and material to an Extended sale that you should prepare a prospectus of the Works and by means of your publisher employ some booksellers in this place to circulate the same and procure subscriptions and in particular with directions to a careful person to make personal application to the members of the Highland Society for their Individual Subscriptions pursuant to the Resolutions of the Society. Mr Macrae will furnish such a person with names and addresses. For it is inconsistent with our reputation to be at the trouble of procuring subscriptions for any one. All the members who were resent on the 3rd have subscribed and very well disposed to patronize an undertaking of the kind. I shall present it to Lord Huntly and when in better health to the Duke of Sussex and be ready at all times to render you every Assistance and aid in my power. All this time my professional avocations engross all the attention I can bestow. You should get the Duke of Atholls name to one of the lists and send it to me for communication to his numerous relatives and connections as it will have a good effect. I am sir your most obedient humble servant ALEX FRASER

Dr G Hill. St Mary's College Nov 28 1818 anent success of AI protege

My Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving this night your letter of the 21st and feel at all times the most sincere desire to assist your generous efforts to help forward deserving young men. I shall enquire after your nephew who I think I heard had gained a seat at the College table by competition in a very honourable manner.

I can inform you of Robert Wallace's success; altho at the time we did not know that you took any interest in him. I had a letter from my good friend Mr MacRitchie, to which I was very much disposed to attend. But we had a number of applications, several from old students, whom we could not pass by; but I did not expect we should be able to find a place for him: It happened however that two of these after having got bursaries from us accepted of schools in the Country and thus opened unexpected vacancies. One of these we gave last week to Robert Wallace. It is only half a seat at the table but our seats are now converted into money, and the price of grain, the rate at which they are paid is so much raised above the ordinary standard that half a seat is not less valuable than a King's Bursary, and your friend also will be provided.

I continue very feeble. I am not able for any exertions but my students are very kind and indulgent & accept with perfect good will what I can do. I wish I could do more but I desire to be content and resigned.

Mrs Hill joins me in best compliments to Mrs Irvine & you. Yours with sincere regards G HILL

Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Nov 1819 anent Health & Edinr festival

Dear Sir

or Dear Friend I should rather say as responsive to my feelings towards you & yours, as well as of your own, of the diversity of which I feel well assured. I think we all benefited by our short residence at Dunblane, the freedom and quietness of which pleased us more than the forms & gaiety of a regular wintering place, And the fine old Cathedral overlooking our peaceable Dwelling was no small addition to the Scenery associated as it is with the Sanctified memory of the Archbishop whose works will outlast its ruins, the Girls seemed to reap considerable from the waters, And tho we mist the cheering cordiality & liberal supplies from the Garden which [tear] to come daily from the Manse of Little Dunkeld. We could not expect everything that is useful & agreeable to be contained in one place. I spent a fortnight very pleasantly at Dunblane & was then under the necessity of going west where a very dear & very old friend was so ill that it was doubtful if I should see her at all if I delayed.

I had the pleasure of finding her much better & the additional satisfaction of making out an Annual visit which I generally pay at the Season to a family of Worthies at Jordanhill Where I am if possible more at home than at my own fireside - That is more at my ease & less interrupted. That mansion has long been a harbour of peace to me. And there I have the pleasure of wealth borne with quiet consideration & dispensed with modest liberality. I should gladly have prolonged the pleasure I always feel among friends so long attached & so truly valuable but I was under the necessity of returning home by the 16th to meet a Gentleman from Yorkshire who means to place a daughter with me. She proves a fine modest sweet tempered girl just about Clementina's age. But the worst of it was that my returning at this time threw me into all the harassing bustle of the Festival Week. I was at one Oratorio & concert a little cold & by my going up with the young people to see a Balloon rise over the Calton Hill, got as much more as has confined me for the most part ever since, but I cannot consider myself convalescent & trust I shall be soon entirely so. I write in great confusion with change of servants paying rents for my large house & receiving it for a smaller one which belongs to me so that I scarcely know what I am saying. Only this that I am glad to hear that you have your very promising son established at your own Alma Mater & prepared no doubt to tread your own path. I am much pleased to think that Clementina is coming. She will find a Chamber on the Wall with a bed & a candlestick prepared for her, very comfortable & as warm a welcome as possible for all parties concerned. I wrote to the Colonel about her a fortnight having no great faith in your willingness to part with your pet. She will probably be a sort of pet hen too But that must not appear obvious because justice demands a strict impartiality. She will have much reason to be satisfied with her Companions when she gets recognised with them, She should lose no time that she may join the classes of French & Drawing upon which the rest are just entered. The Colonel may perhaps not come soon, you need only in that case come to Perth with your daughter for there is always some decent person coming in the Coach in whose Company you may trust her & she will be set down at our door but do not make it inconvenient for Mrs Irvine.

I am very sorry for any accident that disables hands so useful as hers but hope she will soon get over this one.

I shall endeavour to get the Magazine which contains the censures you speak of from my friend Dr Hill & send it on to you under worthy Mr Kers Frank.

I have been more than ten times interrupted since I began & therefore lest I make more blunders shall hastily conclude with conveying the warm good wishes of the whole to you Mrs Irvine & all your olive branches. I am sure you are too wise & too good to wish your lovely Jessie back if a wish could bring her. But I know too well the sharpness of a pang which must be felt to be duly comprehended.

I am dear Sir your sincere friend. ANNE GRANT
101 Princes St 12 November 1819

Copy letter 1819 by AI & to AI re Sir Neil Menzies anent Eldership

Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated 29th March on Saturday. Altho I cannot but be gratified by the desire which you are so good as to exhibit to explain the reasons of any apparent opposition on your part towards me I beg that you will be persuaded that it forms no part of my character to presume that any gentlemen who is so kind as to be in general well disposed towards me is to on all occasion to prefer me to all & sundry his friends and acquaintances - your attachment to Sir Niel Menzies & your connection with him & his family are much more substantially founded than was requisite to justify the inference which you most naturally gave him on the occasion alluded to & believe me when I say that I am the last person in the world who would wish to see such claims neglected were there ever very different grounds for hesitation than any which could then be alleged - With these feelings you will not be surprised that I too feel gratified with the zealous partiality of my old & valued friend Mr ? ---ranty. You are perfectly right in the opinion that it was no wish of mine to be pitched against Sir Neil Menzies & I am fully persuaded that he had the same sentiments as to me - I never have & never will ask a vote from any clergyman of the Presbytery if my services can be of use they shall be at the command of the Presbytery while I am honoured with the confidence of its members but I would decline every thing like a canvass & upon the same grounds I fairly state that I should have declined to act upon the system of Alternation which your good wishes towards

Sir Neil Menzies & myself induced you to suggest, as it would have had the appearance of a compromise arising out of the opposition which I never had in contemplation - I have said so much merely for the purpose of assuring you that far from feeling hurt at the conduct you adopted I fully appreciate the value of those motives on which you acted & I am persuaded that if there were more of that spirit of constancy toward the friends & connections of our youth, than it is the fashion to indulge in at present - there would be more harmony and less intrigue. I go over to Meigle for some days but shall make a point to be in Dunkeld on the first Monday of the month after which I shall be pretty stationary for some time - Be aware however that I have my jealousys & that I remember that you have visited me only when you wanted to purchase cows - tho for that reason I could again accommodate you Dear Sir, most faithful & obedient servant A ?MUIR MACKENZIE

Thos Gibson Geneva 8th Sept 1821 anent Continental travels

My Dear Doctor

Often have I reproached myself at having neglected you so long, as I find my last letter to you was in Jan 1819 and to which I received an answer - Since then I have travelled a great deal both by land and water; seen much and hope I have benefited by it. In the month of October following I went down the famous canal of Languedoc from Toulouse to the Mediterranean and proceeded by Montpellier, Nimes and Avignon to Marseilles where I passed the winter. As my plan was to go to Italy and spend 6 months at Florence I proceeded from Marseilles in February along the coast to Nice and there embarked for Genoa; but instead of going straight away to Florence I went to Turin, Milan, Venice, Padua and Bologna and then to Florence which excursion took exactly 2 months from Marseilles. While I resided at Florence I went to Leghorn and returned by Pisa Lucca and Pistoia but the grand object of the excursion was to see Rome and the Beast with seven heads (your confrere) I then left Florence last October, and stayed at Rome until the 25th April two days after Easter, that I might see everything in perfection. I got most heartily tired of it long before the time fixed for my departure, and often wished myself at Dunkeld - a strange falling off you might think. But Rome divested of a few objects the most remarkable in the universe, I say is a nasty hole, badly built, confused and most uncomfortable. And as to the Tiber, it is a dull river and looks like a brown dirty ditch without a bush on its banks. My next object was Naples, where I arrived safe and sound for the journey at that time was hazardous from the roads being infested with robbers, though not so dangerous as it had been. I found Naples full of Austrians and all the decent lodgings occupied, so that after having visited everything in the vicinity Pompeii Heraculaneum etc and among other things beholding the splendid entrance of His Most Sagacious Majesty who passed under my window with fear and trembling as was supposed I embraced the opportunity of a fine Berwick schooner, manned with true Hearts of Oak, and had an astonishing passage to Geneva in three nights two days and a half. And I do declare that the happiest day I had in Italy was the day I left it. From the plan I laid down at Toulouse I have never once deviated; and as it terminated at Geneva here I have been since 12th June, Desirous of crossing the Alps by the famous road made by Bonaparte called the Simplon, from Geneva I went to Milan in place of Turin which is near to Geneva - And such a delightful excursion from Milan to Geneva I never experienced - the journey took me seven days; the roads made by the French all over the S of France and Italy are equal to the finest in the vicinity of London - The road over the Alps by Simplon is more like an avenue to a palace than a high road - At Rome I had frequent opportunity to see the Minister and his fat elders with their red stockings and being very close to him - the Pope is a most excellent character, and I suppose one of the worthiest men that ever lived - I have the highest veneration for him. In his appearance he is the appearance of ? humility and devotion which his conduct does not belie. I did not seek to be presented as I had no full dress, but particularly as he will not speak French from, it is said, his dislike of that nation and I could not speak Italian, One day however returning home from my walk about three o'clock upon the road where he generally takes his airing, I saw the carriage with the Life Guards approaching at a distance, and the good old man trotting away on the foot path at one side with his great red hat and cloak - Being upon the same side I crossed over to the other, but when he approached I returned with my hat off and when he got within two yards of me I fell down on both knees - As he passed he made some signs with his hand which I suppose was giving me his blessing but his look was so mild it made my heart warm - It is not expected that Protestants kneel: all that is required is to stand still with the hat off - But to tell you the truth I did it partly from respect to so amiable a character, but chiefly to have a perfect good look at him. I thought at the time, and have

frequently since 'What will Irvine think of one when he hears I have been bowing the knee to the Whore of Babylon?' Be not afraid of your old friend,. I have studied the Roman Catholic religion much and the more I see of it, the more I hold it in contempt. My vanity leads me to think that I could hold a controversy with H Holiness himself were it to be in English. The first question I would ? should be 'Do you believe the Scriptures to have been as clearly understood 1500 years ago as at the present day?' The accounts of Italy you read are, in my opinion greatly exaggerated - Painting and Music are at a low ebb - The truth is the Arts are / and have taken up their residence in the north. For passion week I heard the lamentation & the Miserere but they had not the effect upon me equal to some of Handel's songs and choruses - A few celebrated paintings excepted you need not go from home to see pictures. No doubt Italy must be allowed to be a superior country to any other, and well worth the attention of a foreigner: but it does not suit me, The climate is more intolerable than that of the W Indies. All the roads in the vicinity of towns are paved and shut up with great stone walls on every side, so there is no pleasure in riding or walking. No fine green pasture No trees but stupid olives. All is vineyards and gardens, and I strongly suspect when I hear our country folk boasting of the pleasures of Rome that it was the society of their own countrymen and other foreigners that captivated them. Lodgings extremely high. Living, for a poor man, very bad. The interior of St Peter's baffles all description: but the exterior (excepting the colonnade) not equal to St Paul's - But of all objects in Rome, the Coliseum is what I most admire. It contained 87,000 people and one half of it is quite entire - All around St Peter's is dull and dreary without anything stirring - I lived about a mile from it and had a long dirty street to go through to get to it - As I used frequently to saunter there (for it is constantly open) it almost made my blood boil to see decently dressed people kissing the feet of St Peter's statue who I was inclined to think had never read his epistles - On Easter day I saw the Pope wash the feet of the disciples, which I call a puerile symbol of humility - But the best of all was the illumination of St Peter's from the globe to the foundation including the arcades, and the fireworks from the castle of St Angelo. They began by letting off 1000 sky rockets in this direct like a fan [diagram] and continued in rapid succession like a peacock's tail till the firmament seemed in a blaze - With all their religion they are sad thieves. You are never a moment secure - I was very much at Sir W Drummond's who shewed me the greatest attention which I beg you will mention to Lady Stewart - I think him a very good man were it not his principles upon Religion: But if I never heard him touch upon the subject in the smallest degree - I got acquainted with the D of Hamilton who was extremely attentive to me - The Dutchess I think the most captivating woman I ever saw - all gracefulness and ease with unaffected affability - On one of those days that I dined there Cardinal Hesch came in the evening - a fine rosy cheeked son of the church and quite a Petit maitre in his dress; but in his manner a plain unaffected good kind of a country minister seemingly without hauteur or presumption. I sat down beside and we exchanged a few commonplace phrases - At Rome the people keep up the Roman custom of counting 24 hours from sunset which I never could submit to - a Woman asked me on the road once if it was 19 o'clock which I could not inform her of. I shewed her my watch, and she was as much at a loss as myself. Among all my friends in Rome there was none of them in whose company I felt so much pleasure as in that of my much respected friend Mr Macdonald, a Priest from Glenlivet whom I knew intimately at Edinr when he lived with Bishop Cameron. He is a sincere good Christian and no bigot. I even used to call him a heretic. He lives at the Scotch College and was brought out to succeed Mr Macpherson the Chief who was thought to be dying - But he recovered and MacDonald still remains - We had Lord & Lady Ruthven at Rome whom I found to be very good people - The English I am certain spend at least £50,000 a year in that place - But none of them lived in so pretty and comfortable a style as Sir W Drummond - He lived in Lucien Bonaparte's palace - Often I used to think, What a deal of good might you not do at Logie Almond and for ten miles around it! What satisfaction, what real pleasure to yourself with a fortune of £25,000 a year; educating the youth of both sexes to be useful to society and never suffering the aged, infirm or distressed to feel the hand of Poverty - Travelling is of great use to the Old as well as the Young. It keeps the mind in perpetual activity forming plans of some sort, either of amusement, travelling or conversing - I do not run about from place to place but I fix upon a Head Quarter and there reside for some months - I shall leave Geneva next week for Dijon, where I propose to winter and from there go to Paris in the spring where I have been already three times but not since the Peace of 1802. When you write to me direct at Messrs Samuel Nicholson & Nephews Cateaton Street London (my Bankers N 15 and they will forward your letter - What I learned at Naples concerning their reformation or Revolution from three respectable men of our country and others, it was going on to the utmost satisfaction of everybody but the Court, and without the smallest discontent or disturbance when the Emperor interfered to put a stop to it and made the King perjure himself, which he did three times - It is a most populous noisy corrupted place and the

clergy the worst part of the community - I cannot see what pleasure an Englishman can find in residing in it as there is no going out but in a carriage and where you are eaten up with fleas - You hear a great deal of the Bay of Naples - In my opinion it is not equal to the view from the Calton Hill - I said nothing about the Vatican which is the most interesting object at Rome - It would require some months to examine it - Everything in it is worthy of attention - such remnants of the Roman magnificence are nowhere to be seen. Among many other good actions of the Pope he has prohibited under the most severe penalties the making of Capons - Cardinal Gonsales Sec of State is everything, and may be called King of Rome - He is a very clever fellow but detested by the Clergy - I met him at the Fr Ambassadors - Milan is by far in my opinion the finest town in Italy and the country about it like the environs of London - Turin I like much. All its fortifications are laid low and it is surrounded by fine walks. The road from Turin to Venice is like the road from London to Greenwich and all done by the French. At Venice Bonaparte by pulling down old houses and useless convents gave them a public garden of 16 acres - That once superb city which weighed deeply in the scale of Europe and gave law to nations is sadly fallen to decay - I lived there a week; my lodgings were upon the harbour and during the whole time I did not see a boat go out or come in, but the steam boat to Triest which place the Emp has encouraged to absorb the whole trade of the former - But of all places my good friend, no place ever pleased me more than Geneva - The environs of it and upon both sides of the Lake up to Lausanne which is 30 miles distant are exactly like the finest part of England - such fine trees particularly huge elms and Horse Chestnuts. The fields are laid out like ours and even the gates in imitation of the English and as to the hedges they are inferior to none in G Britain - The people excellent Douce Folk and very civil indeed. But what may perhaps astonish you they have contrived to amalgamate the forms of Calvinistic worship with the manners of the Church of Rome so that they are neither Protestant or papist. The Lords day is no more observed here than in Paris. Nay it even seems to be the busiest day every party of pleasure and sport - Card playing the common practice; and when there are comedians the theatre more crowded than on any other day - The fault I conceive originated with the clergy - I was informed in France that the clergy of Geneva were become Arians which from their prayers and discourses I verily believe. Their first prayer is from their liturgy but the others composition - And as to their sermons they may be termed very pretty compositions as they certainly are. But instead of the Fall of Man; the corruption of the human heart which I know to be desperately wished; the necessity of regeneration; the remission of sin through the mediation of a Saviour, repentance and death, you hear of the morality of the Gospel and the lustre it confers upon the actions of human life; the amicableness of charity and mercy, the fifth commandment but never the fourth - All which made me observe one day that the clergy preach to me as if I were an Angel, but that I knew myself to be a great sinner - the name of our blessed Saviour is mentioned with great reserve and more as the head of a sect than the Son of God - Of the Holy Ghost never a word - Their service in all never exceeds an hour - But they have charming organs which add great solemnity to the psalms - Why should you who are a bold courageous fellow stand up and propose it in the Gen Assembly? Now what I say is this, that the Church of Rome has suppressed one Commandment, and if the original Protestant church of Geneva thinks fit to grind down and smooth away the sharp corners of the others to accommodate their practices, Moses himself were he to look up would hardly recognise them, but would probably be inclined to commence a prosecution against H Majesty's Royal Printer for publishing a spurious edition of the Laws of G-. What would Calvin and J Knox say to this second reformation - I have lived long enough in the world to feel the necessity of the institution of a Sunday and that necessity teaches me daily of its Divine institution - A hand at cards or a game of chess may appear innocent, but in that apparent innocence the danger consists - A line of demarkation must be drawn, Thus far shalt thou go but no further. A great misfortune has happened to me within these 18 months in a weakness of sight - With one eye I cannot read my signature and the other is not quite as it ought to be. The complaint began at Marseilles and from the brilliancy of the light and the heat got worse in Italy - I have consulted all the most celebrated of the Sages who are divided in their opinion - some say that a cataract is forming, others that there is not - I have been advised to use the cold bath from which I think I have derived some benefit - In other respects I have never been in more perfect health. I have many mercies many blessings bestowed upon me for which I ought to be grateful - And amongst them a contented independent mind - Old Craig may play at ducks and drakes with his guineas I have lived upon my income since I came to the Continent and I believe I have made as good a figure as any of my countrymen. We have here an established English Church and the congregation is never under 100 - It is much to the praise of the most of the English clergy that they frequently in their discourses address and remonstrate with their countrymen upon the impropriety of following the practice of other nations at their neglect of the Lords day - At Florence in

particular in the Ambassadors chapel, Dr Trevor, prebendary of Chester, a friend of mine, frequently spoke very freely and very strongly about it - And also at Rome where we had divine service regularly which the govt winked at - I did not mention Florence to you I found it one of the most comfortable places I ever was in and so cheap that I kept a Pony - Lord Burgherck and I were old acquaintances and he did not forget me - In Tuscany the people are more moral and better dressed than in any other part of Italy.

I was lately at Lausanne visiting my friend J Kemble, and there I met with Mrs Siddons and her beautiful daughter - Mrs Siddons at the age of 72, is as beautiful as I have ever seen her and less corpulent. Kemble I have been intimate with these two years and passed many an agreeable hour with him. He is a man of most extensive information particularly in History and the E. constitution. His table is the only one where I have heard a grace said since I left England - As I mean to go by Lausanne to see Gen W Maitland in my way to Dijon next week I shall again see my friends the Kembles. They have taken a very pretty house here for 5 years. I have also been at the Glaciers of Scury a journey of 2 days from Geneva. They are well worth seeing. The valley of Chamvuni very like Glen Lion except for the snow on the tops of the mountains - There is no part of the banks of the Mediterranean to be compared with the banks of the lake of Geneva for even in the south of France there is no wood nor verdure, I began to learn Italian in France but was obliged to relax in my perseverance of it in Italy as it prevented me from speaking French with ease and correctness; so that I was afraid of losing the one without gaining the other, and the French was of the most importance from being universal - You are told at home that Italian is so very easy because most of the substantives are derived from the Latin. But take my word that the case is far otherwise; there is more to be learned in a language than names of things - I think it is as difficult as German with the verb sometimes five lines off from the nominative or Regime And then there is such a redundancy of pronouns of all descriptions with an infinity of adverbs & conjunctions abbreviations and contractions that there is no end to them. I read the papers quite at my ease excepting the political discussions and I continue to study it more than ever as there is no fear of it corrupting my French. It is a very rich and copious language. I forgot to tell you in its proper place that I had a letter for a Mr Reily a Surgeon at Naples who had Lord C Murray under his care who was living with him. Reilly spoke most feelingly of Lord C as a most superior young, and that in his lucid intervals his conversation was most interesting from his extensive knowledge - That he was perfectly sensible of his situation and often would not consent to have the strait waistcoat taken off for fear of accidents. he seemed sorry for the mischief he did in breaking the windows and striking R and his keepers said he could not help it. He mentioned being very harshly treated on board of some ship. Reilly seemed much attached to him. How I pity his poor mother to have an only child, and so promising a young man in that state - Now my dear friend I have send you a sad Hotch potch letter, an omnium gatherum, for owing to my lame arm which prevents me from holding and [tear] the paper together with my weak eyes writing is a tedious employment - But what with Popes, Cardinals, Play actors and ministers you have got enough to vary your usual intelligence - I beg my kindest compliments to Mrs Irvine, to Garth and his family - To Mr & Mrs Brown, to J Robertson and his wife, to my friends W Robertson & D Carmichael - If it pleases God my intention is to be home next year, for I have not been in Paris for 18 years and I mean to stay there 6 months at least, for there is a great deal to be seen - Write to me soon and do not spare your paper. Tell me about Boyd and when you have an opportunity remember me to him - I have been extremely fortunate in every respect since I came upon the continent particularly in a French servant who is the only one I have ever had since Novr 1818 - and I dare say we will not soon part - He only knows two words of English - Water & bread but he picked up Italian so soon that I do not despair of him picking up Eng: though more difficult. If the D of Athol or any great family were going abroad he would be a treasure to them and I would give him up for his advantage. When I took him he did not know the alphabet but now can read the Bible and write an excellent hand - I pay him well and he deserves it, for he has saved me much money and much trouble - A Frenchman never drinks and they are too restless to sit idle. My man employs his whole spare time in reading and writing which I encourage to the utmost. His name is Jean Montbrun which I mean to translate into John Brownhill.

When I look over my letter I find it more like a schoolboys theme than a letter to a Revd Dr of Divinity - But when I sit down to crack with you I find there is no end to it - Be assured then of my utmost regard and believe me to be, My Dear Doctor, ever most truly and sincerely, Yours etc. THO GIBSON

My Dear Sir,

I am very much ashamed to have been so long without acknowledging your kind letter and Mrs Irvine's too profuse liberality. I was confined with a very bad cold which however did not prevent me from writing occasionally & of consequence did not afford a valid apology. But I daily expected thro Mr Maclaren that I should have an opportunity. I went only for two or three days out till I was induced to accompany an old friend of mine, the Honble Mrs Henry Erskine to Amandell there I carried with me a shameful number of unanswered letters hoping there to do a great deal in the epistolary way there as She I know was to be much occupied with the examination of a selection of family papers. But a whitlow on my finger which was succeeded by a smart attack of the Erresiphelas in my knee broke through my good intentions & after a stay of three weeks in the Country I returned last Wednesday was confined to bed for two days & I am thankful to say that I am now quite convalescent if that be a proper phrase. Now after having said much more about my personalities than I usually do I shall speak a little of your concerns. And first I sincerely congratulate you on seeing your family safe from the measles, a disorder which I can hardly mention without a pang, it having deprived me of a most promising & uncommonly stout boy of four years old which was the first severe sorrow I ever met with & which no subsequent calamity has entirely obliterated.

Now your Clementina who should by rights hold the first place in the letter comes in at last. I can only say of her what you might with much reason anticipate. That she is the best of good girls and a very general favourite in the family. I hope her letters to you & her mother indicate the satisfaction which persons of all ages feel when conscious of being liked & approved of spending time to good purpose. Her health is perfect & her industry about her lessons most commendable. Now what I regret is that Mrs Irvine takes me too literally. When I told her that a Ham & a couple of Cheeses would be all the recompense I meant to take for my young guests. But she seems determined to be very profuse whereas I only meant to conquer her reluctance to part with her daughter by making these stipulations. I am seriously sorry that she should deprive herself of so many good things at this time particularly when she has in a manner to keep a table in the wilderness for I cannot suppose your markets at this season well supplied And you have an inmate accustomed to more luxurious tables that you or I would much care for if we could get them. I am well aware of all this & therefore grudge exceedingly that Mrs Irvine should be so good to me just now. I would rather defer till next year some of her liberality. The last articles were all admirable of their kind. The whisky I hear praised by while any symptoms of Erresipelas remain I have not permission to taste it. I hope to write to you at more leisure & write with a steadier hand. Mrs Shearer asks me for letters for her husband to frank I think I shall give her this one & therefore will briefly conclude with the kindest wishes of all the family every one presses to be mentioned Isabella & Moore more particularly the latter is not worse & is very fond of Clemmie

That young lady who is sitting on a stool behind me warming herself & reading the newspaper sends her duty & love to you both & to your brothers. I fancy she is looking for terrible stories about the Radicals who now supply the place of Spectres and Goblins to young imaginations

Some think this disease in the Commonwealth is to be cured by bleeding others that it is better to feed than bleed the patients or rather impatient. It is hard to say, Feeding I fear is best for inflammatory complaints. In their present ferocious & Godless state the Glasgow and Paisley would consider any aid given to them as a bribe to be quiet and an acknowledgement of their power. I must conclude with kindest regards to Mrs Irvine who must needs have been on very hard duty with so many invalids & your late acquired inmate who must however little she may see him increase her Household cares. I am, Dear Sir, your sincere friend ANNE GRANT I wish you all many happy returns of this Xmas

Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Moffat. 28th June 1820 anent health & Clemmie

My Dear Sir,

I received your letters at a time when my whole mind was engrossed by concern for the apparent danger of one very dear to me but even then I felt the most painful sympathy & felt it as a kind of unallowed assumption to compare any less I could sustain at this advanced period of life with that which had seemed at one time impending over you. I humbly hope that you too may with me have cause to look up with gratitude to the mercy which is inexhaustible & that your truly amiable wife is by this time making speedy advances towards complete recovery. I am very sorry to differ from you on a point so momentous but I should greatly dread the sea air especially on the Eastern Coast where it is sharpest. If there is the

smallest pulmonary tendency I would not wish to see Sea air resorted to in any other way than a short voyage & then it is not supposed to be the sea air that affords relief but some mysterious effect the motion produces upon the lungs. In your present anxious state for which I feel exceedingly I should not have thought of troubling you with details about my patient did I not think that you might derive encouragement from hearing of most alarming symptoms now thank God in a great measure removed. She (Moore) had often in former year been troubled with a cough, frequent & clamorous but without danger being entirely derived from her. Since those repeated slow fevers have attacked her she has had none of these coughs. My intention of coming here where the peculiarly warm soft air is considered salutary was very much quickened by finding a cough attack her at a stated hour at night. & what was worse that this cough was preceded by a rigour & shivering & followed by a feverish state & perspiration. Little of this appeared in the day But it came regularly on at night. I brought her here in a day at her own earnest desire. The journey was too long for such an invalid and was followed by a week of cold & wet, weather very rare here at this season, her cough grew daily worse. At last it became almost incessant with paroxysms of shivering & fever. All this time she took the waters which so far agreed with her that they always produced the usual effect. Meantime her chest or side did not seem affected yet there were evident symptoms of inflammation. Much against her will I called in the Surgeon here. She had a vomit & he looked very doubtful about her. At length however it was discovered that there was a topical inflammation at the bottom of the throat or wind pipe rather, a blister was applied opposite to the affected place which tho very painful relieved the cough very much. About the same time the sun broke out and the hot weather commenced & now there is very little cough remaining. The paroxysms of shivering have disappeared & the only thing remaining that gives any concern is the feebleness of her appetite which is said to be owing to the excessive heat. I have told you all this for your encouragement. To tell what I suffered in these dark days were impossible indeed very needless for your own wretched feelings on your late alarm must be too well informed you of the nature of mine. I think what Mrs Irvine very much needs & what I find you are about to give her is a total abstraction from family cares The hard duties of last winter must have been a severe shock to a constitution that has had so much tear and wear in producing & rearing such a family. My constitution is uncommonly good Yet during my married life tho without any very decided complaints I had nearly fallen victim to mere toil of the body & mind The evening never came without finding me nervous & feverish Yet in the morning I had not the patience in bed. I think this must be pretty much the case with everyone who has a large family or sensitive mind & a burden of worldly care - little do our children know what they owe to us. Once a year, and only once, Mr Grant and I used to make a round of visits of ten days perhaps in the Parish. I was sure to return with my pulse quiet & my hands cool the same when I paid a month's visit to my parents. I greatly fear if all her children are with her she will be anxious about them as if she were at home. What if she were at her father's and some prudent friend with the children at the Sea. You cannot think how Isabella & Moore lament her illness. They were greatly taken with her, So natural & artless, so much heart & so much Gentlewoman about her. But why do I tell this to you. merely that you know how others were impressed with her pleasing qualities. Clementina is a creature of so much steadiness & composure of mind, has such good principles and such a good understanding that I hope these advantages will peculiarly fit her at an earlier age than ordinary to be a companion and assistant to her mother & relieve her of some of that burden the weight of which I can so well understand. I think you should write to Dr Gregory the [seal] general of all things Clerical and stating Mrs Irvine's case ask his opinion in regard to the Sea you know inflammatory complaints are his peculiar province. Do not mistake my anxious sympathy for interference. I hope in return for the good accounts I send of my patient's you will soon send accounts at least as favourable as yours I shall hope too that this finds you quite recovered from the disorder which no doubt originated in personal fatigue and an overwrought mind.

This place is much to our taste, so neatly clean and rural looking. The spirits of the late good Earl of Hopeton may well look down with complacency on a place which owes so much to his memory. Every night three score large fullfed and very udderd milk cows parade the street returning to their several homes to be milked, the walk in long procession thro the wide rural-looking streets & retire to their several dwellings in the back lanes till morning when again they walk out to their plentiful meadow. This has been for ages common to the village not properly common but the inhabitants are permitted to keep their cattle their for a very modest consideration. The late earl resisted all the tempting offers of the neighbouring farmers to take this ground at an advanced rent & the result is that milk and potatoes are easily acquired & one sees nothing like abject poverty. I wish other great people would come & see what good can be done at no very great expence/ poor Mrs McLaren has met with this severe visitation when one should

have hoped that she might have set down in tranquillity. I think it must be Robert whom she knew less than her other children he having always been at Blairs I knew a great of Mrs Hemans. She is a Lady very young beautiful & highly accomplished the Daughter of an officer married to a Capt Hemans who totally lost his health at Walcheron. She lives in Wales & writes to enable her to support a young increasing family. She has much merit in every way. Remember me affectionately to Mrs Irvine & Clemmie. The Moral Chair is still dubious [seal] a heavy affliction threatens the Wilson family in the illness of their Brother James. I am, dear sir, your sincere friend, ANNE GRANT [of Laggan]

Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) Febry 10th 1821 anent health

My Dear Sir,

When I wrote last to you I had not the most distant idea of Mrs Irvines alas too serious illness. I was exceedingly alarmed and affected by the accounts in your letter to Mary of the danger which impended over you of losing your most valuable earthly possession. May God in his mercy restore her to you & too her family. I have hardly known any one that on so short an acquaintance interested me so much. There is a charm of spirits candour and simplicity about her manners very winning besides the goodness both of her heart and understanding. But why should I tell all this to you to whom her worth is so much better known. There is no need to aggravate your present fears or anticipate an affliction for which earth has no balm tho the Divine Author of all the benefits vouchsafed to us is not appointed for you Yet I would not have you flatter yourself with every gleam of amendment but you should be thus encouraged to neglect the vigilance of precaution which the case requires. She will flatter herself undoubtedly Company or amusement is bad for her. Every thing that interrupts the still life necessary for her hurries her pulse & carried her blood to her lungs with fatal rapidity. She must for a time devolve her Household cares on some one else She will now happily have a dry house to reside in. I have not a doubt of a cordial welcome from you and her were I to come to Dunkeld for some days as I once hoped. But under the present circumstances tho she should be much better no consideration would induce me to be yours guests this year. I am now convinced I was right in bringing Clemmie when I did, I had a kind of presentiment that she might be worse ?spared afterwards. With her steadiness & capacity how much she may do to save her mothers anxiety & care. Give my love to her & tell her I hope & trust to hear that she is not taken up with any one pursuit or object but that of being useful in the Family & that she would earnestly supplicate the Father of mercies to vouchsafe that spirit of warm affection which will induce her to devote every thought & every action to those family care which affliction has hurried on prematurely but which are of vital importance to all that are dear to her. Much much even at her age may she do to relieve her Mothers cares & add to her comfort, One rule she should lay never to tell her mother of any of the pretty vexations of daily occurrence in every large family. You will advise her on such occasions but her Mothers tranquillity must be held secured.

I am led to say more than I otherwise would on this occasion being just now grieved & indeed provoked with the influence of a friend & relation for whom I have a great value. Christina Stuart whom I think you know (I am sure Colonel does very well) was affected by a cough & inflammation last year to a degree that was thought dangerous. She was ordered to the Continent to which there was no objection As she had no ties or cares & expence was with her no object, she got much better as the weather grew warm & was induced to pass the Summer with her friend at a most pleasant cottage they have on the West Coast. In Autumn they set out with the intention of wintering in France & returning to the Cottage in Summer, Christina however went down to see a family of old friends She had in Bath & finding herself tolerably well settled herself there for the Winter, with the precaution however of never going out in the evening, This was not enough, A gay family seeing a great deal of company would furnish abundance of excitements at home. The result of all this is that she is again alarmingly ill & ordered abroad as a last resource. Now my dear Sir I have been I fear cruel in my intended kindness but knowing my motive you will forgive me.

I suffer at night a great deal from Sciatica which has succeeded the severe bruise from which I date my confinement I walk a little with crutches & hope soon to do better. I thank that my health otherwise has not been in the least impaired by all this pain & want of exercise. You may believe I shall be anxious to hear of Mrs Irvine, But knowing how very much you have to do & think of at present shall merely require a bill of health of half a dozen lines; That you may not scruple postage direct said bill to me under cover to Wm Kerr Esqr Post Office who is my good friend on all such occasions. This should have

gone by Mr Brown but I could not make it out that day. I hope you need no assurance of my doing all in my power to of use to your friend but I fear that all is little. Give my kind love to Mrs Irvine in which her friends in this family cordially join. Believe me, dear Sir, with all possible sympathy & goodwill, Yours sincerely ANNE GRANT

I well know that one of the evils attending ill health is being [plagued by others' cures] I am therefore reluctant to offer my simple prescription. Yet I am so convinced of its efficacy as well as its perfect innocence that I cannot withhold my recipe. Get the best raisins of the Sun, the large ones in ?Chesters for Mrs Irvine let her eat as many as she can without disagreeing with her & to prevent them cloying take them often but few at a a time, If they prevent her eating other food she must not therefore give up they will nourish her tho she took nothing more but bread. They are balsomic & cooling doubly remarkable not that fruit cannot be had & I implore your attention to this.

My very Dear Friend, When I look at your most affectionate 7 most welcome letter of 13th Nov last now before me unanswered, I am ashamed of myself, I evidence my ingratitude and I am afraid that I shall be forbidden to use any longer the appellation of friend. I fear that I am long ago consigned to oblivion and banished from that regard to which I thought I had some feeble claim

Mrs Anne Grant (of Laggan) 10th Princes Street 1822 anent gossip

My Dear Sir

It is high time I acknowledge a very kind letter inclosing poetical compliments such as seldom come in the way of such venerable gray hairs as mine. compliments too, valuable for a degree of sincerity not always to be found in those that sing to females. Gratitude had nearly shown itself but I waited for the tardy inspiration too long & now write upon the Spur before my worthy friend Mrs Kerr resigns that pen by whose magical touch I have so often ? ? is no knew when the Rhyming fit may serve me & when it does you shall certainly hear of it, I have indeed been very much engrossed of late first with shoals of morning visitors & next with Volumes of American letters which I have allowed to accumulate till I am ashamed to look them in the face. So I have sworn by all the kindly recollections of childhood to write at least a dozen to New York, Philadelphia & Boston before I write to anyone except yourself & Mrs Fletcher to both whom I feel much indebted on the Epistolary score, I have till within these few days lived quietly at home. My daughters who never go out to parties with the visible signs of mourning for a dear relative have refused all invitations this winter & I have given no parties. But all this has done nothing for the saving of time. Everybody knows I am to be found at home and everybody thinks it very kind to visit a person confined as I am. Then for the evening I tell people I have no parties this winter But if they will come quietly and drink tea with me they will be welcome. They do come which is kind because they have nothing but what is very Humdrum to expect. Thus fifty people whom formerly I should have received in one night and have done with them drop in by couples or small groups for if they did not come I should say they had forsaken me in my Adversity. It is to check this and many other such evil spirits that you & such as you are appointed. And you all find your work too heavy for your hands. This is particularly the case with Dr Mure of Glasgow who as you would hear is coming to succeed old Mr Thomson & leaves Glasgow where he is idolized & where all his own & his wife's relations reside because his bodily strength is unequal to his labours there among nine thousand Parishioners of which we may all six thousand Sinners to make or past poor sinners I mean who continually make various claims on their minister besides the demand for Spiritual food. Dr Mure has endeavoured in regard to his Parish management to tread in the steps of Dr Chalmers & has almost killed himself by a laudable emulation of that extraordinary man's labours. Dr Mure will be much followed in Edinburgh as besides the earnestness of his zeal & the soundness of his doctrine there is a chastened elegance about his manner of delivering the truths so important to his hearers that will have much influence among Lady & Gentlemen hearers. Dr Chalmers too we think will come when Dr Ritchie is no longer able to fill the Profs Chair & he declines fast.

It is time I should congratulate you & more particularly Mrs Irvine on the distinguished success of the Colonel's book. A success far beyond my expectations which are in general abundantly sanguine. That it would be much relished where the Author was known and the subject understood i took for granted But the universal feeling about a production so ? in its objects so little regular in its construction & so free from all the paltry arts of Book making really fills me with agreeable surprise. And likewise flatters my self opinion by confirming a theory of my own in regard to composition Viz that whoever speaks from the heart

will also speak to the heart. And that pure impressive truth like a beautiful Quaker loses none of its attractions by the simplicity of its garb provided that be free of blemish and well arranged. Without a metaphor the Colonels style is clear manly & peculiarly suited to his subject.

'He speaks plain soldier' If he carried his old military habits so far into his new literary attempt as to preserve one subordination among the various topics his work embraces & make them stand at ease with the same regularity that his men did on parade, there would be nothing left for criticism. As it is I hear no faults imputed to the work but those of negligence or perhaps I should say inexperience in the habits of composition everyone is entertained many are interested and not a few deeply affected by this over true tale. I wrote to the Colonel lately and could not withhold from myself the pleasure of telling him of the impression his book made on my ci-devant charge Lady John Campbell. She has a very warm heart with great strength & decision of character, a lady who is just come from a visit there says she never saw a creature so delighted as she was with this book. She could hardly take time to eat & was continually reading passages aloud to her Lord & her ?parents. She is now gone with the Duke & Duchess to Inveraray where I am sure she will give them a good dose of it. It is not however on the score of being a bad landlord that the Duke is faulty. He is very indulgent But by his extravagance is verily diminishing his own power of being so. the periodicals all speak kindly of the book. Among the many obligations to the Man in the Mask is that of giving a powerful interest to Scotch manners & scenery as well as to the finer features of human nature which discover themselves 'Like flowers that grow the wild' in the humblest condition of life. to this influential author it is that we owe a comprehension & appreciation of Scotch character & manners which has created a partiality for every work of merit in which they are delineated which is quite new among our southern Neighbours. You would be I am sure very much concerned to hear of the fatal duel which has given rise to so much affliction. And I grieve to say such undissembled triumph among a certain class of persons.

You can have no idea of the sensation it has created in the West Country where Sir Alex Boswell was much beloved for you will hear about it hereafter than I would tho I could tell you at present.

I nearly forgot one subject to me of no small importance You must know my son John has passed his private trial with much approbation is about to pass his public trials & will set up regularly in July. Under his masters name he is now permitted to do any jobs for him that may occur till then, You I know are not litigious but you may some of your neighbours to send a little job his way & will greatly oblige me by so doing depend on it the new broom will sweep clean with affectionate regards to Mrs Irvine & Clemmie

I am, dear sir, very truly yours ANNE GRANT

Copy letter AI to Col Robertson of Struan Dunkeld 9 March 1822 promoting Niven as Min of Gask

Dear & ever esteemed Colonel,

I made an effort last Oct to do myself the honour of waiting upon you & went as far as Garth. But to my great mortification & disappointment the weather got so boisterous that I could not get forward and my engagements at home were such that I had not it in my power afterwards to gratify my wishes. From D Stewart & Mr Condie I lamented to have heard bad accounts of your health. I intended once again to write you & confer upon me the great favour to let me know some way or another how you are. May I be permitted to crave that favour now. To you I owe more that would ever express. I wish my love and gratitude could be equal to the favour you bestowed upon me. They shall however be recorded.

You will perhaps by this time hear from Garth that Mr Robertson the minister of Gask is to be the Minr of Forteviot in the room of Mr Henderson lately deceased. Upon the appointment to Gask you will likely be consulted I therefore ask leave to mention that in all probability Mr Alexr Niven, son to Dr Niven Minr of Dunkeld My friend and neighbour will be recommended by Dalguise & Dr Stewart of Bonskeid. Mr Oliphant is personally acquainted with him. Dalguise is intimately so, and by his mother is neatly connected with that family.

I hope you will allow me to say that having known him from his infancy, and having examined him during the whole course of his tryall before our Presbytery, I should think Mr Oliphant most happy in having it in his power to provide for a young man so deserving a gentleman, a scholar etc I am certain will inclined to be a useful Christian Minr - having five sons of my own who will be trusted to the fund of providence I feel anxious for my Brother's children, where I can speak a kind word for them or help them

onward & in addressing a benevolent heart like that of him who loved us & gave himself for us, I know you will pardon me, if I should feel interested in the success of this son of my brother of Dunkeld.

Your name son A Robertson is bachelor at St Andrews, doing well. This is the third year of his course. He is fond of the army I am for the bar. However he must choose for himself. Mrs Irvine whose health is still precarious joins me in begging leave to offer our fervent prayers for your health and prosperity & I have the honour to be with the most profound respect, Dear & Honoured colonel, your most grateful servant & friend. A Irvine. Dunkeld 9 March 1822

Rev J Boyd Auchinleck Manse 26 April 1824 anent gossip

My ever dear and much esteemed friend, I cannot tell how happy your last kind letter made me. You were well, Mrs Irvine was quite recovered and getting stout and the children were in good health - and Heaven's blessing, I hope, crowned every other of your lot.

I trust you will have it in your power to send me the same joyful news at this time.

I go on in the old way, writing, preaching, visiting etc., enjoying good health, and much comfort amid all my labours from the affectionate regard of a kind hearted people.

I was in Glasgow lately assisting at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, and attending a meeting of Synod, where the Presbytery of Ayr did themselves much honour by coming out an unanimous body in support of Dr Auld, who was elected Synod Clerk - Dunoon managed his cards with great policy and address in the arrangement of St Johns. He contrived to secure Rothesay. Peter McFarlane is understood to be the person fixed upon for presiding over Dr Chalmers' schemes. I fear he has no strength for the burden. I am glad, however, that he comes to St Johns. It is a situation I would not like to occupy, and there was a movement in my direction which at some future period may be of the greatest importance, should I fix my regard on a Glasgow living. At present I am not disposed to think very highly of such appointments. I have two or three young friends settled there, and they have no appearance of comfort and happiness. The labours and the interruptions are, they say, truly overwhelming! If I were well married I would prefer a quiet country life. You will then ask what I am doing with the view of escaping the dull state of Bachelorship? Nothing. It is such a serious step, that one must proceed with caution; and one of the defects of my character is the want of decision. This want was completely discovered to myself, in making up my mind to go to London, and then to leave it for Auchinleck and I find the same indecision and procrastination at work, when my thoughts turn to married state! In the mean time years pass away, and opportunities are lost. I must summon up resolution - but enough of this. When I do come to a proper determination, you and Mrs Irvine will be immediately informed of it.

There are some points in your last letter that I do not understand. You speak of being 'a tenant in Fortingall or something else' and with respect to politicks up the country, you say 'you made a bad job for yourself and a worse one for me' Mcfarlane's case will be very interesting. I hope you are a member. At present I don't expect to be in Town. How do you stand affected in Perthshire! Any questions from your quarter? Are you done with the Dictionary? What a melancholy account you gave of poor McDonald of Glengarry! Any prospect of a church for Anderson Strontian? Does Campbell 'Kilininver' son go to Weem? He has good interests in Ayrshire, and I would not be surprised to see him settled in my immediate neighbourhood. My young friend Alexr may be Minister of Weem. I hope you have been pleased with him this winter & that he is fond of the Theological Studies. Did he attend Dr Chalmers' class? What are the other boys doing! Clementina will be a stout gay young lady now. With kindest regards to Mrs Irvine & my young friends. May God bless you all. I am, my dear doctor, yours truly affectionately JAMES BOYD

J Black Dunkeld 3 Jan 1823 anent young Grantully on Committee of Juvenile Society

Dear Sir,

It has been talked about among the members of the Committee of the Juvenile Society here - that it may be a proper thing to ask Mr Stewart younger of Grantully to become a patron of that institution.

It is thought by some that he being a young man and well reported of & whose name may probably have considerable influence - make it desirable that the Committee should apply to him for this purpose - Lady Stewart having shewn herself friendly already marked the attainment of the thing the more probable.

All that I have heard speak of the thing cordially approve of it - among the rest Mr Cargill

He and you are our patrons & I write this to ask you if you have any objection to this attempt to make the patronage a triumvirate. I hope you will let me know your mind without unnecessary delay, as it would be desirable to write him as soon as possible that there may be abundance of time for his answer before our Annual Meeting.

I recollect I told you that was proposed on Wednesday 22nd currt at 6 evening - I still indulge the hope you may have returned from [tear] then. Will you have the goodness to remind your young master to have his collection ready - & do anything else you can for us on your side of the water. I am, Dear Sir, yours truly, JOHN BLACK

Rev D Duff, Moulin Manse 16 July 1823 anent nephew accused of hanky-panky

My dear Sir, I send you a case now before the Kirk Session of Kirkmichael on which I would be glad to be favoured with your advice. I have two reasons for giving you this trouble & for thinking that you will not hesitate to take some interest in it. One is that you were well acquainted with the father of the boy, (I may call him boy since he is but 17) most calumniously, as I think, accused before that session, being the late James McDonald in Fortingall. The other reason is that he is as I dare say you are now aware, a nephew of Mrs Duff; And therefore while I am perfectly satisfied that he is grossly injured in the present case, I wish to be backed in my opinion by your cooler judgement, who can feel less partiality in the matter than perhaps I can do. The accompanying paper will give you the proceedings so far as they have yet gone. The paper is both a regular document, having been given to me as a friend by Mr McDougall Session Clerk for my information; so that we can merely inform ourselves from it & no more. And at the best, it is but scanty information it contains, The young man John McDonald was sent by me as a boarder to Mr McD for education under him, as his brother had been before, and with the same view of being ultimately sent to the same destination Demorary. He was there as his Master will cordially testify, an industrious scholar as he was irreproachable in his demeanour. The woman who accuses him might, for age, be his mother, being, as I am told, about 36 and has, for a long time, been of bad fame. If the reports be true, the minister bears neither me nor Mr McDougall any good will, & it is said, would not shun an opportunity to give us uneasiness. That, however, is a delicate subject & it is as well to say no more of it. Certain it is that though he knows the connection between me and the young man, he has never once opened his lips to me on the subject which a friend & neighbour would surely be anxious to do. You will observe, by the minute of 6th July, what I have directed John to do: as also the deliberations of the Session. Be so good as to tell me if you think me quite in form by so doing. On the supposition that I am, I have it in view to send the young man to Kirkm on Sunday, first with a petition to the following effect: "To crave that the Session would be pleased to proceed in his case, in terms of his petition, of 5th July; stating, that while it is injurious to him, it is likewise most painful to have an accusation so very false, kept from week to week, suspended over his head; & that though, from the sense of his own innocence & from the known character of his accuser Margaret Robertson, he might be justified in requesting the Session seriously to admonish & rebuke her for the rash unfounded & calumnious charge against the Petitioner, yet he is satisfied, in the meantime, with simply demanding what is due to himself as an innocent man, & with humbly but most earnestly craving that he may have the means of speedy indication of his injured character.'

If the Session comply with the Petition so far as to take exculpatory evidence, then must the young man crave an early day to be fixed for that purpose & be prepared. I should suppose with a list of witnesses whom he means to call, that, if necessary, he may have a warrant for that purpose Quere? Would it not be right to send an agent with the young man to conduct the examination for him, as he is himself not up to that business?

If the Session refuse the prayer of the Petition in all its parts John McD is to be directed, in that case, & on hearing the sentence of the Session to protest & to appeal from said sentence to the Presbytery, stating instanter some such reasons as the following.

1. That, as he is innocent of the crime laid to his charge, so he is anxious to be as speedily as possible released from his present disagreeable situation, & that he considers an appeal to the Presbytery as the most expeditious way of arriving at that event.

2nd That he thinks that the impartiality essential to the purposes of justice has not been shown towards him in any part of the proceedings - because the declaration of the woman was admitted before there was a scandal, or it could be known that she was pregnant - because there was no private dealing with him after the woman's declaration was omitted, or indeed any Sessional Notice that there was such a charge against him; the circumstances having been communicated to him privately, which induced him, of his own accord, to appear before the Session of Kirkcaldy on 15th April 1823, for the purpose of entering his solemn denial.

3. That putting points of form, such as these, entirely out of the question on which he is far from willing to rest his defence, he appeals to the Presbytery, & throws himself on its protection, because he is persuaded that the Presbytery will find on considering the evidence, that not even the shadow of a proof has appeared against him, & will therefore either absolve him of their own proper authority, which he would greatly prefer, or direct the Session to do so without delay.

Taking it for granted that this is the turn which the business might assume, it will of course be required that John appears with his appeal before the Presbytery; but the question is, if the first meeting be not rather too soon, as there hardly intervene ten free days between Sunday first & the 24th of our day. What say you to this point? I should imagine that as the proceedings in Kirkcaldy have been very irregular throughout, this circumstance would be no serious objection, as the Presbytery may be glad to have the case before them in any way. My servant, who takes this down, will remain for two or three hours, & if you be at leisure to peruse the papers & make up your mind upon the contents before he leaves Dunkeld, I should be glad to hear from you by him. But if you should not, you can let me have your packet (I wish the Extract returned by one of our carriers, who pass up to the North from Perth early on Friday, or by post on that day. The young man's mother is in the greatest distress on account of this business & nothing will satisfy her but to be down to speak to yourself. I have induced her to wait till I hear from you but I suspect you may lay your account with seeing her on Saturday.

If there be any other thing which may not have occurred to me that you think should be done, it will be obliging if you mention it. Meanwhile I am, my dear Sir, with the utmost regard, Yours DAVID DUFF

1817 Oct Dr Irvine's children

Alexr Robertson born 30 Jan 1806, Clementina Anne Stewart 29 July 1808, Robt Stewart 22 Feb 1809, David 14 July 1810, William 23 May 1812, James John 26 May 1815, Janet 18 July 1817, - and died 20 January 1819 twelve minutes before noon of a consumption. She was a most lovely child. 18 months & two days old

[This is on a scrap of paper, the handwriting would appear to be contemporary, but I know it not]

Rev J Boyd Auchinlech Manse 6th Dec 1824 to Mrs Al anent condolences

To Mrs Irvine, Manse of L. Dunkeld

My dear Friend,

Your last kind letter interested me very much. It breathed the very feelings of sorrow and resignation that the remembrance of a meaningful bereavement, and a trust in a kind providence, were calculated to inspire. I sincerely sympathise with you, when you dwell on the departure of a dearly beloved husband. and to that melancholy event, I know, everything around you too often turns your thoughts. But I am thankful to remember that your thoughts also turn to Him the Compassionate father who has afflicted you, but who has afforded uncommon support and consolation under your heavy & severe affliction. Oh may he continue to watch over you and yours with unwearied care - to comfort, to protect you, and to bless. I am also, my ever dear friend, much pleased to find that the many comforts left and the important duties encumbered on you so properly occupy your attention. All the arrangements which bear upon the welfare of your children now require more care and anxiety on your part than before - and it is right that every endeavour to procure from the Heritors what Justice & Honour should lead them to pay. I am very much disappointed that they have manifested such carelessness in not meeting to settle the claims to which, as Heritors and gentlemen, they are bound to attend. I trust, however, the written statement sent to them will call forth a favourable answer. About two weeks ago I received a letter from Alexr - he says he is as well as ever, and Robert also, of whose classes he gave me an account enjoys good health in St Andrews. I find that there many changes have lately taken place and others are expected. Poor Dr Cook seems to be in very bad health and in very low spirits.

The sentence of the Presbytery has done them honour. It is indeed more than I expected. Alexr writes to me that Mr Butter's speech was one of the most convincing, powerful and eloquent ever delivered in a Church Court. I hope he will be able to attend the meeting of Synod at Stirling. How did the Highland ministers act? I trust they stood firm to their countrymen. I suppose Dr Niven addresses his long rogation regularly now - for after his exertions in the Presbytery I do not see how he can leave his pulpit unoccupied.

I take the liberty, My dear Friend, to send a Black silk plaid, of which I beg your acceptance. Your many kind attentions ever live in my memory associated with the character of one whom I shall ever remember with feelings of gratitude and respect. I regret that I am at such a distance - I hope however to hear from time to time. I beg to be kindly remembered to Clementina and my other young friends. Write soon as I shall be anxious to learn if the parcel shall reach you.

Heaven preserve and bless you, my dear friend

Yours very affectionately JAMES BOYD

'Sketches of the Antiquities and the Local Scenery of Fortingall In a letter to a friend'

By Rev A Irvine c1805

Dear Sir,

I am not certain that I shall give you pleasure or satisfaction by describing what is commonly called the Roman Camp of Fortingall or Dalraoich, as proper records are wanting & no inscription remains - Anything however which throws light on the ancient state of the Grampian vallies may interest the curious though it should not instruct the wise.

This Camp then lies at the west end of the beautiful & romantic valley of Fortingall in a plain two miles long and, in some places, nearly a mile broad. The River Lyon winds round the right and front. Altour, a mountain stream flanks the left, and Craigmor a very high mountain gradually rises in the rear.

You cannot conceive a station more formidable, or rather more perilous and embarrassing. It is almost embosomed among the mountains and rocks. The approaches are from the east through Appin, interrupted by the Keltney, a deep and frightful torrent, from the south by the Banks of Loch Tay through the pass of Fernan, & from the west through the pass of Glenlyon, still more difficult and confined than the other two. The hills of Drummond, a considerable height covered with forest trees and black heath interspersed with jutting rocks rise in the front. On the south west the mountains of Fermancrief swelling to formidable inequalities and overhanging prominences terminate in the clouds.

Let me now give you some idea of the Camp itself as I surveyed it on the 2nd of August last. In the middle or nearly so there is a square rising about 100 feet. This square has the appearance of a parapet wall mostly covered by moss and herbs - It is surrounded on all sides by a Ditch 56 feet broad on the north side & 91/4 deep on the east side - We could not with any degree of accuracy ascertain the height or breadth of the mound on the outside of the ditch - the gate of this square faces the east 171/4 wide - on the west side, we could plainly discover two planes or sections separated by broad streets evidently hollowed and lower than the sections or rising flats - the whole camp was regularly fortified by a mound and a ditch - a piece of the wall on the west side remains 29 paces long about 12 feet broad and 7 feet high - from the western extremity of this rampart the form of the southern is perfectly distinct, one of the curtains or the space betwixt the two angles measures 190 paces and the next 119. We calculated the height at 16 feet - the whole wall seems to have been earth - a part of the Ditch on the south east side remains 10 paces broad & 16 feet deep - Between the south walls and the River there is a flat 92 paces broad, in some places narrower, which has the appearance of being also fortified - From this flat you have a full and striking view of the vallum, From the square first mentioned a curved way leads to the river, probably for water, the bank is not very deep and was probably fortified. On the upper west division stood a rude pillar of whinstone about 8 feet long and 2 feet 4 inches Diameter at the top. It was inclosed in a circle Though something like an inscription remains it was so defaced I could make nothing of it - Another pillar or obelisk stands on the flat betwixt the walls & the river of the same nature and dimensions but more mutilated by time and accident. A great number of small pillars or stones on end are scattered here and there - Also many graves or tumuli and some round enclosures - one of which at the back of the

middle square is 18 feet diameter. Other lesser ones lie round it. Such is the Camp of Dalraoich or Fortingall.

As I am of opinion, that this camp was occupied by the ancient masters of the world, it is incumbent upon me to give the reasons which have led me to form this opinion, submitting always to the judgement of those who are better informed.

Before however I adduce the reasons, let us see what was the ordinary form of the Roman encampment..

Polybius gives the most satisfactory (an) account of this subject. He says that when the Romans chose a place for encamping - they first pitched the General's tent in a spot the most convenient for view and Command; having fixed the standard or signum; that they measured round it a square space of 100 feet, so that each side was equidistant from the standard and then divided the whole in four quarters - upon one side and in one view of this square called the praetorium or Commander-in-Chief's station the most suitable found for foraging and materials was staked out for the legions and auxiliaries - First the tents of the tribunes were ranged in straight line parallel to the praetorium at the distance of 50 feet - Before them at the distance of 100 feet were placed the legions - the cavalry were 50 feet from the infantry in square spaces of 100 feet each - the intervening plane or distances were raised up somewhat like ridges or strigg - then from the last tent of the tribune in the same order were arranged the evocate the electe equities the sozi & extrardinarii commanded by their respective officers in the same manner as the legions -

one the right side of the praetorium stood the quaestorium and the Forum- and on the left the tents of the Lieut generals - In the open space between the two partitions opposite the praetorium and equally convenient for the whole army stood the principia or chapel for the altars and statues of the Gods, and sometimes where ensigns were placed - 200 feet from the last line was the vallum called agger & sudes that is the mound and wooden stakes and along that the Ditch or Fossa.

Without being more minute let us apply this description to the Fortingall Camp. The square divisions though they cannot accurately and minutely be traced are visible enough to justify the appellation of Roman. The principia still remain a little above the praetorium - the watering place the forum the quaestorium the post of the allies also correspond - the praetorium almost exactly measures 500 feet, and is large enough for the General's pavilion, for the augurale or oratory and for the Contubernales or those young noblemen that attended to learn the art of war - The empty space between the lines & the rampart is marked - and the vallum and Ditch, though mostly ploughed down, remain distinct enough to shew what they have been - the pillars and heaps of stones and earth evince the same thing - Hence there is a strong probability in favour of its Roman origin - The praetorium indeed has not usually been surrounded with a ditch, but in such a situation contending with fierce and warlike Caledonians, such a precaution would be readily suggested or perhaps the praetorium may have been converted into a fortress by some succeeding warriors - In the successive revolutions and contests which agitated Scotland during every period of its history it may justly be inferred that the face of the country must have suffered many alterations.

We may now however adduce a more positive proof in favour of its claim. At the request of the late Earl of Breadalbane, the late Col Campbell of Glenlyon found two urns in the camp. He admits no question that these urns had been deposited there by the Romans themselves & they contain fine black or grey dust.

Roman coins have also been found along the course of the Tay, the road as we shall see afterwards which the Romans took when they ascended from the Plains of Fortingall. Some of these coins of Titus have been found in the poor box in the Church of Logierait (These facts were communicated by the Rev Mr Macara, the present minister of Fortingall) - This last circumstance at least furnished a presumption that the natives and Romans had some intercourse farther north than is commonly imagined.

The two pillars had probably some inscriptions though they are worn away - For we know that the Romans generally erected such monuments either to establish their conquests, to commemorate their victories, or point out their encampment to their successors.

Now though nothing is known for certain that they have been erected by the Romans, it is at least presumable because they are evidently for the work of art - though the native Caledonians erected such pillars for reasons which I shall state in another place they were rude and unpolished, in which state their monuments continued long after the introduction of metal,

We may notice before we dismiss this part of the subject that tradition makes this camp Roman. Though I would receive tradition with as much Caution as any man, yet it must be admitted in the rank of collateral evidence.

This tradition then must have had some origin different from the invention of the Bards or Senachies, who generally record the history of their respective tribes and patrons to raise their fame by victory - I remember of having heard in my youth many tales respecting the transactions of the Romans in this country, which though I cannot now relate with accuracy sufficient to justify their insertion convince me that such tales could not have been altogether fictitious. Let us now give a short sketch of the Roman conquests in the Highlands...

(and decides that Blairish was the field of Mons Graupius and the legions camped at Fortingall but Constantine built the Camp)

...From these imperfect sketches it is proved that the Romans carried their arms all over north Britain, though they could not maintain their conquests for any length of time, and that they may have encamped at Fortingall is by no means inconsistent with their history. Though this statement of Roman affairs may appear digressive I thought it necessary to justify my opinion of the Fortingall Camp. If this opinion, however shall afterwards be proved wrong by any one better acquainted with such subjects I shall be always open to conviction - indeed what I have advanced must be treated with lenity, for I have sometimes quoted from memory sometimes upon second hand for I did not think the subject of such importance as to deserve a particular reference especially as it will be come again under my attention in another shape - nor would the variety of my other more useful pursuits spare such time as minuteness and accuracy might require.

If your patience is not now exhausted I shall now give you some idea of other ruins, of an origin different from the Roman Camp. Upon the north side of the River Lyon is first Port na Gael already noticed. It stands on the top of a high rock, called Craigmor, or great rock, commanding the pass below, a view of the plain of Appin and a great number of surrounding towers. It is accessible only in the rear descending over a steep precipice to a beautiful green flat or shelf about 300 feet square looking over a height of nearly 1000 feet perpendicular - It is said that here the Caledonians posted themselves to annoy the march of the Romans along the Lyon & by rolling down large stones killed great numbers. Note: The plain below still retains the name of Blairish that is the field of Troops. Blair signifies a field of battle & eis Troops or bands. Of the same import with the Latin agmen or field of slaughter eis slaughter

South west from this fortress is another on the summit of a rock overhanging the Camp called Dungeal or perhaps Dungall, the former signifying the white mount & the latter mount of the Gaels. It is 24 paces in diameter built of large rude stones, and appears never to have been roofed

on the south side of the Lyon, on the highest part of the hill of Drummond east south east from Dungeal and of larger dimensions is another round tower called Dunmactual (Tual is said to have been a son of a king of Scandanavia and cousin to the famed Garbh the son of ?Slarno - Garbh the Sevaran of Mr Macpherson) commanding the view to the north east and north and nearly opposite to Port na Gael.

Between Dun mac Tual and Dungeal on the north bank of the Lyon is another ruin of the same nature with the rest but not so large. It is commonly called the Castle of Drumcharry, commanding the plain of Fortingall - in the neighbourhood of which there was probably a pillar as the name Drumcharry, that is the back or ridge of the pillar, seems to indicate.

Those round towers were the first rude efforts of Architecture evincing the manners of a warlike people, serving as occasion required, for defence and signal posts. Their construction does honour to the strength and perseverance of the Caledonian.

I must not omit to mention another collection of circular ruins in the north east of Fortingall for the honour of the Fingalians who are said to have resided there - There is one large circle in the middle surrounded by a great number of smaller ones. The large circle is supposed to have been the residence of the chief and the rest that of his followers - This is the - in which the ancient highland chiefs always kept their ?cocert, and holds true of the roving arabs to the present day. There is no vestige of cultivation round these ruins, at least to any extent.

In the neighbourhood is the castle of Garth which from its romantic situation deserves some notice. It is among the first erected of stone & lime. Some refer its date to the middle ages. Its form is nearly square, three stories high, roofed with a stone arch - the ground flat arched in the same manner - It was accessible on the north side by a Drawbridge over a ditch cut in the hard rock with incredible labour. On the other sides fortified by steep precipices or rather channels formed by the mountain streams; so that before the use of Artillery it was no contemptible fortress - From the number of Balls found round it, it

appears to have been the scene of several encounters during the civil wars which divided the highlanders, as will be noticed in its proper place.

Talking of the ancient State of Fortingall and the Banks of the Lyon, I should not pass over the religious monuments of antiquity.

At the west end of the plain of Appin near the junction of the Keltney and the Lyon is the most entire cairn or round heap I have seen anywhere, 72 paces in circumference and about 16 feet high in the form of an obtruncated cone - Round the base there is a way 6 feet broad defended by an outer wall which seems never to have been high - on a height above is a circle of stones which commands the view of the adjacent ground - If this heap be Druidical of which I have no doubt, the space round the base served for the circumvolutions of the votaries according to the rites of Druidical worship.

Having said so much of the ruins of Fortingall it might be expected that I should say something of its ancient inhabitants and their manners. This part of the subject partakes of that uncertainty and obscurity which pervades the ancient history of Caledonia.

It is however delivered by tradition that the Fins or Fingalians dwelt in Fortingall on the west side of the Burn of Keltney, that this burn was the march or boundary betwixt them and the Picts called the Cruithnich or Cruthneans who tilled the ground and lived by agriculture as the Fingalians lived by war and hunting. Both sides of the Keltney are said to have been the scenes of their mutual quarrels and depredations which ended in the total extirpation of the latter.

The Fingalians, to rival their neighbours noted for robbery and pillage & remarkably numerous, at last applied to agriculture without any great success, impeded and interrupted by the constant aggressions of the more opulent and industrious Cruthnians.

Their mutual animosities are still proverbial and the fate of the Fingalians in this part of the country form entertainment for the winter nights - The house is pointed out in which the last Fingalian was murdered, after this manner.

The Fingalians had a secret of making beer or as it was called curm from heather when in full flowers. This race being slain except a father and his son, who were offered their lives upon condition of divulging the secret which the father promised to do if they would kill his son. This being done, he refused to fulfil his promise and fell beneath the disappointed rage of the conquerors. The secret remains buried buried with them to this day. That beer was the common drink of the first race of Caledonians is however an incontestable fact.

The use of Metals and working of iron mines seen in several places, is ascribed to the Cruthneans. They also altered the form of the habitations from being round to oblong. Having thus conquered the inhabitants of Fortingall they were induced to extend their veins towards the north, and by a succession of ?cruelty and victory drove the Fingalians everywhere before them in the plains of the north and north east leaving the Fingalians only in possession of the mountainous parts of Argyleshire, Inverness and Ross shires - such the first inhabitants of our valleys - *prisca fides facto sed fama perennis*.

The natural productions of Fortingall next claim our notice. Among these an aged yew tree is the first object. It is perhaps the oldest and most remarkable which can meet the traveller's eye - It is now divided into two by a space 9 feet broad - Its circumference or girth as accurately as could be measured is 42 feet, but it must have been formerly much more - Its height between 40 and 50 feet - It must have been also formerly much higher; for until it was inclosed by the piety of the present proprietor and consecrated to the Dead it suffered the depredations of the wanton and profane who concealed themselves among it boughs or broke them to please their fancy - the warrior a piece of it for his bow - the musician for his instrument and the virtuoso for his ornament - hence the disjunction of the yew tree.

Its age is beyond tradition but from its present appearance as well as from the silence of tradition, it may perhaps be a thousand years old - If the yew be not an indigenous plant, which I am far from doubting, it may have been brought by the Romans from Italy & gradually scattered through the highland hills

The mineralogy of Fortingall is by no means uninteresting to the naturalist. Lime and free stone abound -Incrustations and Carbonates of the former somewhat resembling stalactites and ?had ?reproves by water, though having the appearance of being calcined and fused by fire are found in every variety of shape on the estate of Garth - In the Den of Keltney on the same estate is a rock of cream coloured marble, tinged with iron, capable of the most beautiful polish though extremely hard. Symptoms of native sulphur are observed contiguous - A little above these on the same estate I have met banks of Aluminous and gypsous earth near which may be seen small veins of lead - In the same place iron abounds in a considerable quantity which at some unknown period must have been enough for the

situation of a smelting furnace is marked by the great quantity of dross or scorig still remaining -In the west end of Fortingall in the same property another mine has been some years ago opened which from the specimens I have seen appears to be lead - At least I could see nothing about the aperture but ?--yds of lead or rather galena. It could not however be prosecuted without risking a capital which it was not deemed able to bear. Such appearances of iron, copper lead & marble in this advanced state of arts and enterprise should be made generally known; for anything that serves to improve our internal resources should be an object of public inquiry. Talc ? Jasper, quartz calcareous spars and most beautiful red and green granite, the last resembling porphyry, with various combinations of other earths and metals which, for want of proper means I have not had time to examine, are met in the different places.

This valley with its hills and mountains furnishes as might be expected great abundance of mineral wells - Some of these have retained their character of sanctity since the days of Druidism and popery especially such as have been fortunate enough to rise near the sanctuary of a titular saint or titular divinity.

One of the Chalybeate kind I may mention because it is yet treated with Divine honours being the only one which escaped usurpation of any saint. It flows out of a steep bank at the foot of Schiehallion, one of our primary mountains once the seat of Dr Maskelyne's observations, and seldom suffers any diminution from the severest droughts.

On the first day of May O.S., the great festival of its Deity, young people resort to it in great numbers. He that offers the first oblation that is gathers first the foam and pays his vows claims the particular regard of the invisible agent and succeeds in his wishes and enterprises till that day revolves again. There is great competition to gain so important an advantage. He that drinks of it for the first time must present some offering according to his piety and ability to conciliate affection and prevent the anger of the Divinity. To pilfer this offering is sacrilege and hence scrupulously avoided even by the profane and infidel.

The attachment to these innocent observances is so strong that the eloquence of the parish minister exerted for nearly 50 years has not been able to abolish it. The Deity of Schiehallion triumphs in the possession of his ancient honour.

Superstition and jesting aside, this well has been known to cure phthisis, gravels,, complaints, dyspepsia and many chronic diseases when other means have failed. It has sometimes been found subservient to the cause of Lucina as well as Hebe which deservedly extorted the animadversions of the pious veteran. The salubrious qualities of such a well should be known because they who waste their time and money and not infrequently sacrifice their health by labouring to acquire it at Bath & Spa might succeed here at a much cheaper rate. If the surrounding heath and towering mountains should not remove the glooms of melancholy, the purity of the air, the influence of exercise, and the murmurs of the streams might have that effect.

The Keltney is good for fishing, the adjacent hills would amply reward the toils of the sportsman. And he who can be struck with sublimity or wishes to enjoy the pleasures arising from mountainous scenery & distance bounded only by the horizon, may climb the top of Sichallin, and imagine himself the highest of men.

Among the natural productions of Fortingall the human species should not be forgotten - In a farm near the Roman Camp lived and died one of our Bards - His compositions are preserved. His genius was original and taste correct - His diction pure and classical. Suavity and smoothness are the general character of his style. His wit was always ready, never revengeful. His thoughts natural and easy. His invention was remarkably happy, capable of embellishing any subject descriptive or didactic, gay or serious - From the degraded name of Bard, he opposed with reluctance the bent of his genius & before his taste arrived at maturity, resigned his muse and dropped in silence to his grave - yet he shall not die - As I am describing Fortingall I shall give you an abstract from one of his descriptive pieces which has for its object the wisdom to be acquired by contemplating the changes and beauties of nature - he invokes his mistress as his muse and lamenting the follies of men, the narrow limits of human knowledge, the perplexities of his own mind, and wondering why such a profusion of beauty and pleasure should be scattered in vain, he continues "All is a dream, dark, the dwelling of my soul - The end of all things beneath the sky is concealed - The varying seasons roll, their laws are firm - Full perfect the mild beam of youth. soon it returns to the dark dwelling of the turf - By the Spirit of the Storm and frost, all things that

grow decay, they revive with the spring - they assume a new dress, the boughs unfold their leaves, and the juice climbs from the dust. The tops of the trees are clothed in Beauty - Soft comes the primrose of the woods, thick grassy turns the grove - The heath resounds with his long rustling bent and the daisy beams on the plain - the clover, the sorrel and thistle mingle their varying hues - The cold retires and sunbeams rule the day. The desert smiles with a thousand flowers, when the warmth of the first month prevails. The rose and the lily brighten the garden - the tender virgin in the robes of youth and blush of modesty enjoys the rich perfume - How pleased is my mind when I awake. The cuckow sings on the spray, the black cock mutters his hoarse sounding notes - They come - They come to the plains from the dark shadowy grove"

In this manner he describes the changes of the seasons, and then in appropriate terms compares the life of man in its origin to the primrose of the spring in its end, to the dark dwelling of winter, and glancing at the final doom of all, he concludes with enforcing the important instruction they are fitted to convey.

If I thought I could do justice to the Romantic scenery of Fortingall, I would give you a description of it. It is no sin to fail in the attempt.

Standing in the Roman Camp and turning west you behold the Lyon foaming with rage between two rocks which almost meet each other - the sound of its Streams is that of distant thunder. It pours its floods along the plain, over a succession of falls, sometimes rapid, whirling, sometimes slow and equable. Its banks are finely diversified by various trees, its windings wild & irregular - In one of its angles is Duneaves (the seat of Mr Menzies of Chestle) notably, if the back ground had been planted, or the uniformity of the heath broken or partly concealed, to correspond with the lawn along the river - - But beauty disdains confinement or littleness: to be pretty is only the first stage of her progress - the house of Duneaves is well shaded, but contiguous nakedness aggravates the contrast without yielding pleasure.

'From Duneaves the eye soon turns to Drumchary (the seat of Mr Stewart of Garth) when the beauties of Fortingall are seen to great advantage. It is adorned by lofty firs covering the ruin of an old circular fort or castle already mentioned and by rows of planes and elms of a most majestic height. When the tempest rages, the noise of these trees is terrible beyond description, and rendered more so by the screams of the owl. Nature has beautifully varied Drumchary and art has not been idle. The lawns are edged with rows of laburnum, willow, ash and other trees in every variety. The banks varied with birch, fir and other forest trees, the streamlets concealed by their shade and the corn fields drawn to the scene, the ground divided, and the cattle grazing to favour the intentions of nature - the overhanging cliffs interspersed with trees, herbs, flowers, and the retiring heath rising on the mountains capped by the clouds presents a group of objects equally remote from the meanness and uniformity where the imagination is allowed to range and colours are admirably controlled, shade lengthening into shade and the sunbeam tinging the groves, dimpling in the streams, blazing in the cascades, or dazzling in the spangled rocks' How fruitless the effort of language to describe the grandeur of Craigantairig and the terror of Craigmor. How difficult to clothe the conceptions of mind, and select without confusion.

The permanent beauties of Fortingall consist in variety arising from the opposition of hill and Dale, from the contrast of rugged heath and fertile fields, of gray rocks and overhanging woods - Uniformity is carefully avoided and order seems to be set at naught. The eye is not fatigued by redundancy, nor the mind dejected by meanness - the ear is delighted with the melody of the woods - The roars of the cascades rivalling that of the tempest prevents the lassitude of dullness - All is beauty grandeur and sublimity - Though the scene is complicated simplicity is preserved. Every object is in its own place. The pencil has little to reject and what may appear offensive is obscured by the shade of the impending cliffs - As greatness is the prevailing character, the mind is so elevated that it either overlooks small objects or passes them so rapidly as to return no impression. The imagination has free range for though the whole scene resembles a vast amphitheatre yet the height of the mountains is so immense the vanishing windings of the vallies, and the clouds revolving round the horizon prevent the whole from being seen, so that the imagination may pursue its conquests without end.

When the sun darts his early beams on the Lyon and its overhanging rocks, the shades preserve the eye from injury. When he rolls his chariot over the mountains, the serenity of the evening ray composes thought, soothes the mind with a sort of pleasing melancholy as the solemn stillness of the Landscape the gloom of the mingled shades inspires veneration and ? the idea of repose after the bustle and confusion of the Day - Then is actually felt what the immortal Milton so concisely described -
Now came still evening on, & twilight grey,
Had in her sober livery all things clad,

Silence accompanied, for beast and bird,
They to their grassy couch, these to their nests,
Were slunk, all but the waking nightingale.
She all night long her amorous descant sung
Silence was pleas'd -

When the empire of Darkness is confirmed nothing can be more solemn and awful than the gloom of the woods, the stupendous height of the cliffs, the rustling noise of the trees, the dying sound of the streams mixed with the rattling notes of the snipe - the morn ascending behind Craigour throws her feeble ray over the valley and makes darkness more dark, and alters the appearance of every object, so that you look in vain for what formerly gave you pleasure - The twinkling stars half seen behind the contracted horizon as if afraid to give their light, transport the mind to the region of Romance & call forth every religious sentiment.

When one is satisfied with the contemplation of these objects, sufficient employment is found among the mountains - rising one above another to prop the skies in every shape which fancy can require - Their bare is diversified by cottages, fields of corn, plantations of firs, & the ?scions of ancient forests, their sides broken and channelled varied by the creeping heath, birch & ask - Their summits gathering the clouds which wheel round as if unwilling to quit their hold, but sport themselves in their undisputed empire - To view these towering hills without surprise is impossible, one may see them from his youth & see them always with emotion - When they are wrapt in tempest they strike the native peasant with terror, When they smile in sunshine, they invoke the song of mirth.

Such are some sketches of the permanent beauty of Fortingall - But - See winter comes to rule the varied year sullen & sad, with all his ?icing train, vapours, clouds & storms - Be these my theme, these that exalt the soul to solemn thought. And heavenly musing, Welcome kindred glooms, Congenial horrors hail! With frequent foot, pleased have I in my cheerful morn on life, When nursed by careless solitude I liv'd And sung of nature with increasing Joy, Pleased have I wandered through' your rough Domain

Trod the pure virgin snows, myself as pure,
Heard the winds roar, & the big torrents burst,
Or seen the deep fermenting tempest brewed
In the grim evening sky

The Lyon then no longer glides with those soothing strains which please the lovesick swain. His notes are fierce & hoarse. his streams become towers of Crystal. His pools are bound in ?filters. His banks cease to linge his floods - Desolation sits on his throne - Freedom sounds his horn. the Spirit of the mountain shrieks - Disorder reigns. The astonished sun retires - The lightning illuminates the rocks which echo to the peals of thunder - The heavens & earth are mixed - the mountains move - Wrathful, ?fierce, destructive bound their thousand streams. Trees, stones, sheep, wild beasts are swept away by the floods of Death - The raging torrents or cataracts provoked by the cumbrous ice, flash fire impatient of control - The Lyon is alarmed. he struggles to repel the rude repeated terrific assaults of the mountain troops disdaining to forego his case at their command - He sends forth a hollow sounding voice swelling like the plaudits of a crowded theatre - At last he bursts his chains, proud & majestic as if the natives of Asia regained their liberty - He rolls his icy mountains along, shakes his boundaries, and fills the spectator with terror - He boils and wheels and foams & thunders thro'. Thrice unhappy the shepherd who trusts too near the deceitful bank, or ventures over the ice when dissolution issues his dread command -

To relieve this terrible turbulent scene which Salvator would attempt in vain, I shall give you some idea of the hoar frost scenery, which often arrested my youthful steps, and pleas'd my fancy, when I knew not whence my pleasure came - The air is still - The world is buried in darkness - The fog thick and fleecy settles on every object - The sun appears, purple and vere'd, At length he overcomes - The fog slowly climbs the hill along the channelled slopes - It attempts to lose its hold, and fall from the mountain tops dark like an island in the wide abyss - It then lifts its head, bending backwards, winding round in spiral forms, majestically high - The forests wave their shaggy heads proud of their borrowed honours - you look in vain for their wonted variety - What are powdered assemblies to this - Every hill & vale share the glory - The fatigue of uniformity is removed by the darkness of the ground, and pleasure derived from rustic melody - The Rocks of Drumchary rear their towering columns, like polished Basaltes - superb and gorgeous far beyond the compass of human art. Among the immense cylinders of ice the eye is dazzled -

Sometimes you behold the finest mosaic, Sometimes the most finished fretwork - every Species of Grecian and Gothic architecture is presented without confusion. The rocks and woods covered with snow are dreadfully luminous assailed by the sun. No eye can bear the blaze more dazzling than a thousand lamps in the temple of the sun scattering their rays on pillars of parian marble - Nature benign strews a tree here & there, a rock or humid shade. The wreaths of winter triumph encircling the mountain brows. At last tired of their stations roll down the precipice, and present an object awfully grand - destruction marks the course - The humble cot falls, the innocent sheep bleat in vain - Their protector stretches his hand but who can help? -

Having given these sketches of the scenery in the west end of Fortingall, I shall lead you to the east end where the falls and woods of the Keltney meet the ravish'd sight - The den of Keltney deep and dark, formed by the floods of ages, presents every object which can adorn the face of nature. It is shaded by various forest trees such as oak elm and ash intermingled with plants and shrubs - They sip the proud cascade they contend with the gray mossy rock, which will not be concealed - The mavis and blackbird sing to the warbling falls, secure from the hand of the spoiler -

The three falls of Damag are the most interesting - The first is rather broken and small to engage much attention - Its soft though confused murmurs however prepare for the second - Tumbling its waters into a capacious bason supposed unfathomable, there they foam & wheel in all the giddiness of revolution like the mystic dance of their country - Recollecting themselves, they start on a sudden, and bound over an immense ledge of rocks into a second bason, in which they rage in all the violence of tumultuous faction angry that they were so long detained above, Then dispersed into showers and smoke, spreading into sheets of brilliant transparency, or dashing from shelf to shelf with diminished forces, and divided wanderings, they cease their toil, proclaim repose and hold their course beneath the shading oaks, where the eye willingly resigns them -

When the Keltney collects his tributary streams and swells with the rains the thunder of these falls is dreadful, rocking the adjacent ground and inspiring the traveller with terror - This terror, however, is lessened by the varied colours produced by the refraction of light, and the majesty of sound gives dignity to thought and arrests admiration. Aged rocks conceal in some measure their fury, and a projecting rock lends some aid - As you ascend, cascades multiply in every possible variety - and the lofty ruin of castle Garth overtops the whole - The beauties of the Keltney would not lead the traveller from his road - To bring the whole in to one group would require genius to arrange and skill to execute which are seldom found - A succession of hills rising over one another in one view form the background & Sichallon's gray cloudy summit terminates the prospect - pasture and cornfields interspersed with trees rise on the sides - The Lyon with its varied banks and the hill of Drummond planted with firs sink before. Corregio perhaps might comprehend the whole from the venerable ruin of Comrie, and Lady Randolph might address the woods and wilds with more effect - I leave the colouring to imagination, for I am so ill pleased with this sketch that I am at a loss whether to blame the penury of language or the impotence of my own genius - The valley of Fortingall appears to great advantage from the top of Craigmor already mentioned - The curvatures and broken falls of the Lyon, the embroidered & woody banks, the sloping heights and gently sinking vales. the fine contrast of light and shade, the inimitable variety of colours and softly flowing tints produced by the heath mixed with rocks trees shrubs pasture, with a cot here, and a country seat there altogether present a combination of objects which no pencil could embellish.

The pleasures of Fortingall scenery are not even confined to itself but are colinaid by the views to be enjoyed from the summits - Taking your station on Dunmactual what a stupendous range of mountains, what lengthening vales, what winding floods, and diversified prospects, yet you are only at the foot of the cloudy ethereal Tops -

So pleas'd at first the tow'ring tops we try
Mount o'er the vales and seem to tread the sky:
The eternal snows appear already past,
And the fleecy clouds and mountains seem the last;
But those attain'd we tremble to survey
The growing labours of the lengthen'd way:
The increasing prospect tires our wand'ring eyes
Hills peep o'er hills & Alps on Alps arise.

Mr Pope having described what I could not do myself, let me turn your eye below if not to such magnificent yet no less gratifying objects -

The the east then the fertile plain of Appin with the picturesque rock of Dull, the woods of Bolfracks, and the winding of the Tay engage your sight. Advance farther the Romantic rock of Weem covered with aged trees, save where a gray cliff raises its fearless front, some summer houses, the castle of Weem - The varied plain still washed by the Tay with its magnificent bridge distinguished by lofty pyramids all of gray freestone offer a prospect which never fatigues, where grandeur studied without excess and variety without consistency -

Beyond the banks of the Tay gradually extend, and a tumultuous multitude of mountains insensibly vanish into air - Proceeding a little south from your station the policies of Taymouth almost obliterate the impressions of the former view - Beauties lie so thick that I am at a loss where to begin, which to make the principal figure - A most sumptuous castle of gray freestone to rival the celebrated castle of Inveraray is a-building - The lawns are happily divided, & varied by solitary trees, by groves, by avenues & Walks, by temples & summer houses, by cows, oxen & fallow deer and the Tay winding round the castle dividing the landscape and concealed at intervals - On the south a forest of aged oaks and other trees climb the hills, in the middle of which stands a structure resembling a Sepulchral monument the whole skirted by new plantations covering the heights, some water falls present themselves here and there through this wilderness - The steeple of the church of Kenmore bound the immediate scene on the west - then the Lake of Tay surrounded by rugged & heath covered hills stretch to the west & present all that is beautiful & great in Alpine scenery - This lake with its elevated and well cultivated banks extends sixteen miles, diversified by promontories and angles in every requisite variety - I dont mean to give you even a faint idea of the Breadalbane scenery, but touch them only so far as connected with Fortingall. For nature has not divided her empire by the lines of the Map. Sporting with human polity, she despises such aid. Ben Lawers towers on the north wheeling in its bosom the eternal mist, and the distance of thirty miles Benmore terminate the prospect - The solemn majesty of those mountains. The empire of perpetual snow. the glooms of their caverns and shades impervious to the sun spending his glory at a distance. The contrasted verdure of their base where art struggles for precarious subsistence, defy the utmost efforts of human imagination. The mind is kept in awful suspense - Distance offers so many deceptions, that nature here seems to sport with human credulity or form such scenes for human fancies - The torrent rush down in thunder. The clouds pass in such rapidity that they seem determined never to return, The Lake rolls his impetuous billows. The rocks retain the noise of these tumults which re-echo in perpetual recoils so that the earth shakes to her centre -

If I have not satisfied you with this medley of ancient & modern disquisitions, I have not satisfied myself - mine is the fault - In Fortingall I was born and attachment founded on this circumstance must excuse my attempts to bring it beauties to light though in a faulty manner

Me nectam patiens lacefeemon

Nec tam Laresset percussit campus opemet;

Quam domus albeenet resonantis

Et praeceps anio & Liburni Lucus & uda

Nobilibus, pomatea rivis

Nor lib 1 ad. 7

Life of Alexander Robertson of Struan

Alexander Robertson thirteenth baron of Struan in Athole & county of Perth descended of Donald lord of the Albudae Isles whose history is already given, the son of Alexr twelfth Baron of Struan & Mariann daughter of General Baillie of Torwood head progenitor of Lord Forrester chief of Clandonnachie or the Robertsons, a numerous and powerful clan scattered over the kingdom.

This remarkable chief was born in Carie in the parish of Logierait in the year 1670. The brevity of this work and the want of proper records prevent us from detailing the winds of his life at full length though distinguished by more vicissitudes than that of any other who supported the interests of the unfortunate Stewarts.

As his character has been differently estimated by different men, being by some accused of every vice and denied almost all the qualities of humanity and by others held up as a paragon of excellence, it will not perhaps, be possible to please either side.

But surely at this distance of time, when the passions and violence of the Revolution, and of the events which followed it, may be supposed to have subsided, we may view the lives of those engaged in them, without prejudice, & be heard without offence. if it be found that the subject of these remarks acted from principles which were deemed sacred by him in common with many other distinguished characters, however much we may be supposed to pity his fortune, we must give him the credit of sincerity.

Alexr Robertson at an early age discovered those literary talents which afterwards gained the esteem of some of the most celebrated men in Europe, & entitle him to a place among the Caledonian bards.

He received the rudiments of his education in the grammar school of Perth a seminary long eminent for the ability & success of its teachers and when very young was sent to the college of St Andrews then one of the most distinguished schools in Europe. Here he was placed under the tuition of John Menzies regent of the college whose worth he recorded in these lines -

Possessed of uninterrupted faith & constant love,

The serpent's sense and meekness of the dove,

Thou ledst my tender dawn of youth

To search the dictates of eternal truth

And by thy spotless practice didst disclose

How morning virtues mark their evening close.

Of this man I know nothing, save what the poet tells. Yet we may suppose that he was a man of such worth, as he is described, and deserved the attachment expressed in these words.

Dear friendly shade, how happy should I be

Could my material substance sleep with thee.

Under the tuition of this man, young Struan laid the foundation of that classical knowledge and poetic taste which appear throughout his writings, There he wrote some of his Greek and Latin translations and some of his imitations of Horace which sufficiently prove his early attainments, and do him great honour.

His father died in 1687, when he was only seventeen years of age, an event which materially affected his future fortune, as he was placed without knowledge of the country or of its language at the head of a restless, active, valiant and potent tribe, whom instant resolution led to immediate actions. In this eminent station, then more than a title of honour, he would soon acquire experience and be able to guide the tumultuous decisions of men nursed in the storm and hardy as their rocks, had he lived in a less turbulent period.

But the Revolution happened the year following. The kingdom was torn asunder by the friends of freedom & of despotism. Scotland for a time enjoyed doubtful tranquillity. Men held their judgements in suspense, and could scarcely believe that a king once reputed brave & wise, could be so ill advised as to lose a crown for the empty friendship of the Roman pontiff, or the poisoning juice of Jesuitical adulation.

James however fled from the just resentment of an injured nation, while his friends strove in vain to support rights which he was unworthy to exercise & wanted courage to defend. Scotland could not be neutral, She had to provide for the ? of the Royal authority, and though a better opportunity could never occur, the experience of the past convinced her that liberty was most secure under the Government of one man limited by the laws.

James whose right was supposed divine by the doctrines of the unfortunate Doron Basilicon had many friends and adherents in Scotland. Capt Grahame now Viscount Dundee by his unshaken attachment and military skill was soon placed at their head and had he lived would render for a time doubtful the issue of the contest. Clandonnachy declared for James and joined the standard of Dundee.

Upon this, their chief left the college to act the part which the principles he inherited from his father hasten, required. James and his ill fated advisers knew the value of securing the support of the young chief and accordingly in the beginning of 1689, before the crown was declared forfeit by the Scottish Convention, he gave him a commission to raise a Regiment of Foot for his service. This Commission was extremely flattering to a young mind inheriting the eminent qualities of his fathers, and fired with the love of fame, after surveying the laurels of the heroes of Greece and Rome.

I mention this circumstance because it will enable us to appreciate his political conduct; to shew the futility of those aspersions which have been thrown upon his character, while we can understand the high esteem, in which at the age of eighteen, he was held.

Knowing no king but James, attached from principle to his family. believing in the doctrine of passive obedience & non resistance, which his father inculcated on his death bed, & which was yet far from being successfully refuted, this Commission decided his future conduct. His belief in this doctrine is often expressed in his poems as may be seen from the ode Britannia to her beloved in Spain his stanzas on the Revolution and several other pieces.

Though his clan joined the cause of James, he does not seem to have as yet taken any active part in the movements of the hostile parties. His principles however were suspected. He did not declare against the grievances of James' Government, nor espouse the claim of right which now began to be agitated.

His youth and inexperience would not allow him to stifle his convictions, or to restrain his animadversions on the measures which were discussed and adopted by the Scottish Estates. In Sept 1689, he was taken prisoner in Rannoch, and brought to the castle of Blair where General McKay lay with the army to secure obedience to the estates, watch and overawe the motions of the clans, and prevent their irruptions into the low country. After remaining some time with the General who to his honour treated this elegant and accomplished youth with marked distinction, he was conveyed to Perth, and delivered to the Earl afterwards Duke of Argyle their commander in chief. This renowned nobleman received him with great kindness and respect, admired the vigor of his genius, the extent of his erudition and the sprightliness of his wit.

While prisoner here he probably composed these extemporary verses to himself which breathe the ardor of a youthful mind yet firmly resolved to maintain the principles once adopted.

Had Strephon bent him to the faithless nods,
Of strutting courtiers who defy the Gods
Had he submitted to the fraudulent cause
Of perjured tyrants, & their impious laws,
he had not now been plagued with puny knaves,
Who'd fain be Rulers, but were born his slaves.
Yet soon to them the cursed light he'll give
To see their crimes, but not repent & live
So tumbled down were natives of the sky
From heavens fair mansions when they sought too high

The family of Argyle next to the Percies of Northumberland suffered as many vicissitudes of fortune as any recorded in British history. The first Earl of Argyle, 1681 whose fate & history are well known in the annals of Charles the second experienced the kindness of the poet's father when pursued by almost all the clans of the Highlands. His successor was mindful of the obligation. He procured the release of Struan for Sir Robert Pollock of that ilk, a prisoner in the castle of Duart in Mull. Struan solemnly engaged that if he could not get Sir Robert exchanged to return to prison. Sir Robert however was exchanged and Struan considered himself free to follow his own principle. His gratitude to the Duke of Argyle, he expressed in these lines which will be understood by adverting to the fact above mentioned.

Since we remember how in days of yore etc....

These verses have no poetic merit, though they record a fact illustrative of the history of the poet. I doubt much if they were composed by him for they speak sentiments which do not accord with the rest of his political conduct.

Struan, now in the bosom of his family and his kindred, considered himself under no obligation to obey the commands of the Scottish council. A less youthful mind would have acquired wisdom from experience, and at least suspended its judgement and for a time watched the motions of the two parties which divided the kingdom, before it would decide. But the poet was only inspirited by his late misfortune. He misunderstood the leniency of the government and prosecuted his sentiments of loyalty to the tottering throne of James, in a manner which could not fail to give offence.

But though liberated by the interest of Argyle he was not, in the opinion of the council, nor, as we shall find, in that of the parliament, released from those obligations which they imposed upon the friends of liberty, nor beyond those penalties they inflicted upon her enemies. They were anxious to gain his support by gentle treatment, for he was at the head of a powerful clan & connected with some of the first families in the nation. Besides his poetical effusions were as much dreaded as his sword, they supposed that thus they might obtain his neutrality if not procure his cooperation.

They were disappointed. Despising every motive of selfish policy & acting upon principles which disaster would not shame, because prepared to meet it, he continued his measures of opposition to the Scottish convention. His eloquence daily gained proselytes to the cause he so warmly expounded. He was the oracle of wisdom to all who entertained the same sentiment.

Therefore though under age he was forfeited in 1690 by the parliament along with Viscount Dundee and all others concerned in what was deemed rebellion.

By the death of Dundee in the battle of Killiecrankie the affairs of James rapidly declined in Scotland. The highlanders commanded by Cameron of Lochiel a young man of fire but of no experience after the battle pursued the enemy to Dunkeld. Having tried in vain to dislodge him from the Cathedral, and lost a great many men, they judged it prudent to retire to their woods.

The poet lamented the downfall of the cause and sought consolation from his muse. He composed an ode to himself against disquietude and despair which is one of his best compositions; the following lines shew its merit and bespeak the poet's sentiments
'and when you stand on ruin's brink.....'

I am rather inclined to suppose however that this ode was composed in a later period of his life probably after the 1745 from the lines 'O Strepheon, no disquiet shew.....which thou hast toil'd for all thy life.'

This last line does not seem to accord with the age of twenty.

Finding no safety in the wilds of Rannoch and well knowing the consequences of Rebellion, he escaped to St Germain's whither he was not unwilling to go to perfect his education & see the king for whom he deprived himself of country, friends and fortune.

If we advert to his age, nothing more clearly evinces his integrity and sincerity than this exile. Nothing could be easier for him even yet than to reconcile himself with the new Government & to arrive at the highest honors of the State, for men of talents were not then so numerous.

But suffering & hardships tend rather to confirm the principles of the mind, whatever may be the cause for which they are endured, Courage gathers strength from frequent dangers and the desire of revenge & of victory perpetuates the influence of the opinions once adopted whether right or wrong. The conflicts of passions and interests prevent the soul from seeing with clearness real duty.

Struan was thus actuated. He was deeply impressed with a sense of Duty. Danger only confirmed his first determination. The injuries he suffered or imagined, prevented him from reviewing his opinions. Little souls would not have bidden a long farewell to scenes tenderly loved, when they could remain in them with safety & honors. Yet he cheerfully left such scenes though he could then praise them 'With this diversity of view, Oft have I waded my anxious pain...'

This ode is one of his best pieces. The personification of the well, now in a handsome garden under the name of Argentinius, alluding to its name which is called the silver well is beautiful and interesting. The poet then addresses the favourite fountain 'And thou my lovely fountain.....'

Notwithstanding some imperfect lines, and the mixture of politics, the ode is one of the happiest productions of his genius. Indeed whoever sees the scenery of Mount Alexander and of the whole of Rannoch must join in the praise & feel with the poet on being forced to leave them.

In France he composed some verses to King William and the Revolutions advantages which might have been suppressed without injury to his character. He made several translations from Greek, Latin, French & Italian, which rank his name among classical scholars, and men of taste. He wrote also the protestant club and some other political pieces of some merit. The character of the protestant club he coloured from his fancy yet, perhaps, there was ground to complain of it. he means by them the leading men in opposition to James.. He gained the esteem of every one with whom he conversed. And his learning and manners astonished those who supposed that nothing dwelt among the Grampian wilds but naked savages, ignorance and barbarity.

At St Germain's King James treated him with marked distinction. He was indeed the brightest ornament of his court.

In 1693 he among others was by the Scottish Government commanded to return home. This placed him in peculiar embarrassment. His country he passionately loved, though he could not bring his mind to bear the sudden transition of allegiance to the new Government. This Government required of all subjects the ? of assurance and allegiance to the exclusion of James and his children unless protestants under the pains of rebellion.

This the poet knew and to this he could not submit. Besides he was already under forfeiture for treason and rebellion and consequently he was aware that if he obeyed, he might be tried and hanged. No assurance whatever was given him of life or remission. He was not included in the Act of Indemnity. He therefore refused compliance and certainly circumstanced as he was, he acted wisely for his songs had exasperated the friends of William beyond measure, and in the violence of revenge might have cost him his life if he fell within their grasp. he remained in France cultivating his poetic talents, extending his knowledge of literature and mankind, and gaining the admiration of the first wits and courtiers of that kingdom, till 1703, when Queen Anne more indulgent to his principles, was pleased to pardon him & restore him to his estates and country. But by some negligence or inadvertence, this gift never passed the seals, so that the forfeiture was never legally repealed.

He however peaceably enjoyed his estates and his muse. His numerous friends and retainers rejoiced to congratulate his return. On the occasion Argentinus thus addressed the Hermitage of Mount Alexander 'Expand thy Gates....'

This poem has some excellent lines. It is marked by the same attachment to the cause of his misfortunes which pervades all his songs 'And to his lovely fountain swells...remember James.'

In Carie or Mount Alexander Hermitage he lived in peace and felicity until 1715, and here composed most of the lesser pieces & some of the didactic poems which are published under his name. He still retained his attachment to the abdicated family and contributed in no small degree by his correspondence & Sonnets to diffuse this attachment through the Highlands. The Measures of the Queen encouraged the friends of her brother. The papists were active and zealous. The difficulties of the nation were daily increasing from the folly or the weakness of the Government. Taxes were were then not so patiently born as in our days. The continental powers were then, as they have always been, jealous of the power of Britain and willing to embrace her affairs. France was and probably will be her hereditary enemy.

Although party in the three kingdoms headed by men respectable for talents and virtue was not reconciled to the Act of Settlement, and could not believe that the son of James the seventh and the Brother of the reigning Queen notwithstanding the infamous attempts to question the legitimacy of his birth had no right to succeed, especially as the parliament might limit his power as they chose or insist on his adopting the religion of the State to prevent the turbulence of the papists. These & other circumstances in 1715 revived the hopes of the Stewart family, and encouraged the son of James the seventh to assert his right to the crown. The poet joined the Earl of Mar and brought his numerous tribe to the field to promote the views of the pretender & in 1716 he was taken prisoner in which condition he probably composed the Wheel of Life and some other pieces which exhibit a ruffled mind. He had no reason to expect mercy and he would certainly have been executed, had he not been released by the artifices of his sister Margaret who risked her life for that of her brother.

He was named among the crowd summoned this year to stand their trial under the pain of attaindred. But the truth was that he was already attainted and condemned in law.

Willing to justify himself from the charge of disobedience, he addressed a letter to General Sabine who commanded in Scotland, expressing his readiness to surrender himself prisoner upon receiving the same terms with his friend MacDonnel of Glengarry, that is at least security for his life. The General very cautiously informed him that he might expect the same terms with others in similar circumstances. It is possible that the General might not have perceived the reservation or duplicity in this answer, as applied to the Bard, from not being acquainted with his peculiar situation. But a man who knows that his life is forfeited in law is more feelingly alive to the import of words, on which his life is to depend.

There was none in similar circumstances and therefore this answer contained no promise of safety from submission. He accordingly very prudently retired a second time to France where he continued till the accession of George the first, solacing his mind as usual with song. During this period he composed the Wages of Sin inscribed to Scotia [?the avarice to the painters] an ode in answer to a friend who desired him to write on a love subject, his odes to Celestia and besides some songs in imitation of the French and several other pieces of inferior note. He travelled through Italy, France and the low country. In Holland he became acquainted with Dr Pitcairn with whom he lived in habit of friendship all the days of his life.

On the 11th October 1723 George the first restored the estate of Struan to Miss Margaret Robertson, the poet's sister. Three years after she disposed it in trust for her Brother. In 1725 he received pardon, and got possession of his estate which he continued to enjoy as long as he lived.

It was alleged that he joined the young pretender in the last effort of the Stuart family to regain the crown from which the folly of James the seventh banished them. But though tried before the court of Oyer & Terminer no act of rebellion could be proved against him, and consequently he was honourably acquitted.

There is no doubt however that though the feebleness of age and the experience of misfortune prevented him from engaging personally in this unfortunate struggle he employed his influence with his family and followers to support the designs of Charles Edward and that if one may judge from his poetic compositions, his attachment to the house of Stuart remained inculcated to the last moment of his life.

He died at Carie in Ranoch on the 18th April 1749 in the 79th year of his age & was buried at the church of Struan in Athole.

he was never married. His heir was Duncan Robertson of Drumchine, descended from Robert the tenth Baron of Struan.

One should suppose that upon the death of his cousin, he should quietly succeed to his estate. This however was not the case and the hardships which he and his innocent family suffered, deserved to be explained. By his agents indeed he got possession of his estate at the sight and under the protection of the Sheriff of Perthshire who restored him all the papers of the family.

He was however excepted by name out of the Act of Indemnity for reasons that remain to be accounted for. The sentence of forfeiture 1690 was never formally reversed. In the grant of George 1st 1723 a faculty of revocation was reserved to the crown. And accordingly Duncan was dispossessed, and in 1752, the estate was formally annexed to the crown. The cause of this is by tradition ascribed to the Earl of Breadalbane who expected a grant of the estates. He bought a part of it which the family still holds but which in justice should have been returned with the rest upon repaying the trifle for which it was bought. The story may be true but does not rest on any sufficient evidence. The next year he and his family were forced to quit their home and retire to France. This Duncan in 1739 married Mey daughter of William Lord Nairn, son of John Marquis of Athole by whom he had two sons and one daughter. Alexander now Baron of Struan & Walter Philip Collier both living & Margaret married to Laurence Oliphant of Gask who died some time ago. When the annexed estates were restored Alexander obtained possession of the Barony of Struan after distinguishing himself first in the service of the States general and in that of Great Britain and now lives in philosophic retirement in Ranoch esteemed by everyone who knows him. But to return from this digression to our poet. He was held in universal esteem, and considered as the counsellor of his friends & neighbours. His life was one continued scene of vicissitude and disappointment but he found consolation in his verses and his friends, he seldom studied economy in personal expenses or the arrangements of his family, which increased the embarrassment of his circumstances. he was moreover so devoted to the service of the principles he inherited that he swelled his debts to support them. His hospitable board was the resort of strangers, for everyone found welcome. He was not naturally addicted to extravagance or excess. His table was simple and plain, and though sometimes the guests exceeded the bounds of moderation, they were not encouraged to do if we may judge from the verses over the dining room door 'Let no excess....' He was of great firmness of mind. Indeed from this proceeded in some measure his misfortunes for when he once resolved and fix'd his opinions nothing could change them. His conduct certainly ? a great mind but requires much judgement. For it is folly to pursue measures, leading to ruin, for no reason but merely because we once resolved upon them without adverting to the consequence & wish from pride to avoid the charge of inconsistency. There is a species of inconsistency which is the offspring of wisdom, otherwise the profligate would never reform. But if once a line of wise & upright conduct be well marked, it ought to be pursued against every danger and difficulty. We cannot command success but we ought to command integrity. The poet thought he was right, and inheriting those manly & heroic qualities which characterise his family, he thought it beneath the dignity of a chief to conform his principles to sordid gain. This appears from several parts of his compositions. In a song composed after the Earl of Mar gained the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715 he then begins "Since loyalty is still the same.....James the eighth to settle.'

In a ballad composed shortly before he died, he thus speaks, 'Even let them plunder.....as justly so we may'

In winter 1746 & spring 1747 all Ranoch was burnt and plundered, and some people were killed by the king's troops. They indeed extended their devastations over all the adjacent vallies without any

distinction of friend or foe, the innocent or the guilty. The inhabitants were thus deprived of home & shelter during an inclement season and reduced to wretchedness and despair, and the name of the Duke of Cumberland became associated with every enormity which could excite or deserve the execration of mankind. These facts I had from eye witnesses. Struan's houses in Carie & at Mount Alexander shared the common calamity. Yet such scenes if distress never could reclaim his mind from the family which was the cause of them.

'Let wretches, he observes....pull down to raise again.'

His courage and patience naturally flowing from this stability of principle were conspicuous on all occasions. Disappointment and affliction soothed their pain in song. And danger whatever way it came secured the natural exercise of his valour & had he chosen the cause of limited monarchy & united his fortune with the illustrious house of Brunswick, he would have attained the highest military honours which all who knew him agree he was eminently qualified to deserve.

His generosity to the needy, his kindness to his dependents and gentleness to his inferiors, with his forbearance to his adversaries, though none more tenacious of family honor, nor more resentful when his favourite cause was decried are still proverbial.

In a short poem addressed to him, though perhaps composed by himself on his intending to leave the country and go to Court, his friends and dependents among many other arguments to alter his purpose, thus speak 'Mark how they all unite.....quite forget his own.'

He indeed would rather suffer himself than allow another to suffer if he could relieve. His friendship once formed was ardent & permanent, not to be cool'd by trivial occurrence, nor shaken by ordinary ingratitude. He considered himself born to do good, though limited by the changes which afflicted his country & for a time, banished him from it. He received money, not that he might hoard, but that he might have the pleasure of spending it. That captivates, he observes himself, all hearts & eyes, but Strephon who that evil craves, to send it those who are its slaves.

Though severe in his judgement of those who promoted the Revolution, he was not forgetful of obligations of Gratitude, imposed even by some of them. Thus he composed a pangyric on the Duke of Argyle in 1716, which certainly deserves remembrance and would not disgrace any contemporary poet on the south side of the Tweed.

'By gentle means.....the impious sword.'

While these last lines and the rest of the ode shew his political principles they prove his gratitude & a liberality of sentiment to his political adversaries which no ordinary merit could extort. These and some other passages of his works evince that he was not altogether misled by the doctrine of passive obedience, that though he held the right of the Stuart family sacred, & as such entitled to defence, he was not for giving them powers to rule contrary to law.

His benevolent mind indeed could suffer no power employed to harass and afflict mankind. Poets are generally found the advocates of Liberty: and their efforts in her cause have generally been found not unavailing. The heroic Fletcher of Saltoun cared not who made the laws if he had the making of the ballads, knowing well their effects upon the human mind. But poets have been sometimes found on the side of despotism, and Dryden & Robertson could occasionally bring their minds to the hazard of inconsistency by maintaining principles which they themselves condemned, when the recollection of suffering and the agitation of party passion allowed.

The brightest geniuses are seduced from liberty by the mildness or the splendour of tyrants and consequently Augustus Caesar and Lewis the fourteenth owe no small share of their fame to the poets whom they caressed & by caressing blinded to the evils of slavery. But while these poets could flatter their masters, they could inculcate principles of freedom and teach mankind the lessons which they themselves despised.

had Struan been fully persuaded that the restoration of James' race would only entail misery on his beloved country, he would have been the last man in the world to promote it. This he could not believe. He could not believe that they might not be limited by law as well as any other race, that the progress of society the refinement of the human mind, the extension of human knowledge, and the necessity of conforming to the demands of social relation might not render them unfit to govern as any substituted in their room. he could not understand how those who confessedly had the right to reign, might not be allowed to reign upon the terms prescribed by the parliament to regulate the conduct of others, or how their religion the most formidable barrier might not be rendered harmless as protestants lived happily under men of different religious tenets.

These opinions in the time of Robertson were subjects of action, with us they are merely subjects of speculation. It is not easy for us to calculate their force, nor to pass a fair judgement upon the conduct of those actuated by them.

Yet it is impossible not to mark the inconsistency of the Bard in maintaining Dogmas which in his sober moments he would have reprobated. Everything good and great shines in James and his race, everything base and abominable stains the character of William. William was then understood by all the friends of James as an usurper or Conqueror, Their notions of Government were crude & Undigested. they allowed almost no right to the people, but to obey. And what made their error the more dangerous was that they founded it on religion.

This was eminently the case with Struan. he was addicted to many of the vices of a social ?temper but he was deeply impressed by a sense of religious Duty. And consequently deeming his happiness in a future state inseparably connected with his Duty to a lawful king, we need not wonder he should with such strenuous and persevering exertion have maintained his allegiance to the last.

His character has been even in my own memory supposed destitute of every religious and moral principle and held up as a reprobate worthy of eternal execration. No judgement however would have been more unfounded.

he never conformed to the established church being by principle an Episcopalian, and consequently he considered the Presbyterians as intruders without recollecting that presbytery was the first state of the reformed religion in Scotland and received from them the retaliation of acrimonious abuse and malignant censure.

We by no means intend to apologise for the follies and vices of Struan, except to far as circumstances will bear us out. Poets are generally fond of company - and consequently there a danger of irregularity & excess. When the song circulates and the mind is disposed, not from any habit of intemperance, or any love of liquor, but from mutual friendship, from negligence of thought, from a desire not perhaps attended to to banish for a moment care and sorrow & have at least a few hours of enjoyment.

These principles may and often do ultimately lead to habitual excess, and therefore they are to be watched.

The poet as much as any poet had experienced the vicissitudes of life. In France where his songs & his manner gave him universal esteem, his morals which appear to have been well formed by the tuition of Menzies, received a deep tinge of the elegant voluptuousness & vicious propensities of that unfortunate people. In the days of Lewis the fourteenth and his grandson religion was the common topic of ridicule and a man acquired respect from the great in proportion to his dexterity in laughing at every thing sacred. Thus the poet in the flower of youth was led astray but still he shunned every sneer against religion, though he uttered sentiments on the ? of festivity shocking to decency & sound judgement.

From 1725 to the hour of his death, he lived in a manner recluse, ruminating over past misfortunes and past follies - and remove the bitterness of disappointment & satisfy the demands of hospitality indulged the social cup more than temperance would commend. His ?temper was soured. Debts were contracted which he could not discharge and the singular fortune of his estate prevented Government to apply the rents to that object as they did with the other annexed estates

But though we grant that he sometimes indulged the song and the feast, this was not his natural disposition. He was of a social but serious temper as his meditation on the nature of man and many other pieces evince. he paraphrased some of the psalms and his prayer published at the end of the volume under his name would not dishonour the archbishop of Canterbury - and this prayer shews fully the ground on which he adhered to namely 'James. Let me remember...thy ordinance.'

Thus it would appear that his political attachments were interwoven with the most sacred Duties of religion and not directed by any views of temporal advantage.

Whatever may have been the follies of his youth and the errors of his life, he lived in his retirement with true philosophic piety. He lived to lament what the most perfect man should lament, the transgressions of his conduct and these he deploras in language which is characterised by sincerity. 'Even I', he nods, ' the most unworthy...the name of the Lord.

It would be worse than skepticism to doubt that his repentance was real when we read sentiments like these, and therefore charity must forbid the severity of censure from Others when such censure comes from oneself.

From his ode called the Invitation we may judge how he spent his time in his retirement. 'Soon as Auroras...catch the feeling hours.'

These lines exhibit a favourable specimen of his employments and his powers of description, and certainly discover a cultivated mind.

As he enjoyed almost unbroken health, and by the duties of religion consoled his soul, & looked for heaven, he expired in a tranquillity which evinced that his hopes were those which make not ashamed. He ranked among his acquaintances some of the first men of age. Carlyll, Wicherly M Stafford, the well known marquis of Stafford's son, Dryden, Dr Pitcairn and several other literary men who commanded respect by their talents & their tastes. The Duke of Argyle and the Duke of Albermarle though of opposite sentiments esteemed his friendship. And Lewis XIV pronounced him the most accomplished Gentleman in his court. Indeed he went under the name of the Scottish Gentleman. And by the readiness of his wit & the elegance of his manners surpassed most of those who frequented that polite court. But he esteemed none more than the accomplished Mrs Alicia Mackenzie whom he praises in answer to some verses she made in reading the inscription over the gate of Mount Alexander.

Her verses seem extempore &, though one line is coarse, shew that her fame at the time was not ill deserved. As she made some figure it may not be improper to inform the reader that she was the daughter of Kenneth MacKenzie of Suddy a man of some note under Cromwell and Charles the second. She was first married to John MacDonald only son by the second marriage of Sir James McDonald of Slate, and secondly to James McLean a physician at Inverness, and was considered a miracle for her poetic taste and elegant accomplishments, when the ladies of Scotland were scarcely emerging from the barbarism to which the manners of the age confined them. She was among the first in the north of Scotland which confuted that silly opinion that Ladies should not aspire to the polite arts, for fear of making them unfit for social intercourse. She combined genius, taste, literary acquirements with those female accomplishments & graceful manners which heighten the charms of a beautiful face & a polished mind,

Thus she could describe natural beauties, and the effort seems extempore, 'There shady tree...own their happiness.'

The Bard, though he never entered wedlock was a fond admirer of the fair, And I fancy a poet without the affections of love would be a singular phenomenon in the world. According Struan answers 'Fond of the soft delusions...God of Day.'

To conclude this sketch of the poet's life, I shall transcribe an extract from his epitaph written by a gentleman who seems to have been well acquainted with his character

After describing what the nine muses bestowed upon him he proceeds. (p351 in Book)

Though I have thus dwelt long on the moral, political & religious character of the poet in order to shew that the calumnies he suffered were not well founded, it is with his literary accomplishments we have most to do.

That he was intimately acquainted with the Greek & Latin classics & with French & Italian belles lettres, appears from his works. he followed too much indeed the form of the French & Italian odes which to the mere English reader renders his verses stiff & sometimes inelegant. His translation of the fifth book of the Aeneid & his imitations of Horace and other poets clearly prove that had he devoted his ample genius solely to literary pursuits he was fitted to rival any of his contemporaries.

In judging his works whether original or imitative, we must always bear in mind that he wrote not for fame or subsistence - that he seldom revised what he wrote. He pleased the humour of the moment or the demand of his friends, and thought no more about it. He resorted to his muse as a happy recreation from pain or disappointment. He poured forth his political sentiment and attachments as they happened to preponder in his mind & left them on the sheet till succeeded by the next afflatus of political ferment. he never suppose that such detached & often careless composition should be transmitted to posterity.

His house steward without any authority got hold of his loose papers and published what is now called Struan's poems, otherwise they would indeed probably have been committed to the flames. This Steward enjoyed his master's confidence & though we may admit that he supposed any thing that came from his master however coarse and obscene might be given to the publick, we cannot help condemning his judgement, though perhaps he did not mean to abuse the confidence reposed in him.

In the volume under Struan's name are verses which were the offspring of negligence, of vexation or of resentment which he himself would have consigned to oblivion, for he was too much a gentleman to offend either morals, delicacy or refined taste. It is true in his day the publick mind could bear indecency of thought & Expression which would now be consider highly offensive.

While we must lament that a mind possessed of the best moral qualities should indulge in occasional improprieties we must applaud where applause is due.

From the specimens long before the publick, judging by the fashion of the time, we can discover much taste, copiousness of expression, wit occasionally refined, and that expression of soul and force of feeling which characterise true genius. He tried almost every species of English verse, and though he did not excel in them all, he seldom sinks below mediocrity.

It cannot be expected that the limits of my design should permit a minute or particular enumeration of his merits or his faults. I shall then content myself with some general remarks occasionally illustrated by quotation.

His lower compositions as the acrostic the epigram and the epitaph which should be distinguished by neatness, simplicity & feeling seem to have cost him little or no trouble. They are like the most of his productions mingled with politicks.

The acrostic called the choice addressed to the town of Edinr in praise of George Drummond the provost of that town is the best of the kind. It is probable that this gentleman agreed in opinion with the Bard, and therefore he is highly praised.

His epigrams are short & in general happily conceived. That on an atheist does the poet honour as a Chieftain & a gentleman & concludes in these words. 'And as for Jesus, tho no friend of thine, Yet spare him in good manners, for he's mine.'

The two last lines of the preceding epigram are also worthy of notice as they shew his strong attachment to Athole his natural spot.

Athole or Heaven must be the Mans retreat who would not hear a lie, nor see a cheat. This is certainly praising Athole beyond its desert. But whoever delights in Alpine scenery & will admire woods, rocks, lakes & waterfalls in every form to please & captivate should see Athole.

Struan avoids the quaint conceits of Martial & the appearance of art. Freedom & fluency of style characterise his epitaphs. They should not suffer in competition with those of Dryden or pope's. And though I do not wait to examine the justness of the characters he draws, making a due allowance for the colouring of friendship, I know enough to free him from the imputation of flattery. His best epitaphs are one to a son of Colonel Duncan Robertson, a cousin of his own, another to Allan the captain of Clanranald killed at the battle of Sheriffmuir 1715 from which I shall select the following lines. 'This tomb contains.....powers the less'

The two last lines are imperfect, the emphasis falling on the 'would' and the other line has too many elisions to permit harmony. ?Another is composed to Mr Menzies the regent already mentioned and making every allowance for the impressions which the fatherly care of this Master made upon the young mind contains perhaps more incorrect sentiments than any of those productions which are guided by the adage De Mortuis nihil nis bonum,

These words support the Doctrine of superogation
 'So when the dead are summoned to repair
 To reap the product of their worldly care
 Thy works of more than efficacious kind
 Might save thyself, not leaving me behind.

This is carrying praise and gratitude beyond all bounds of truth and propriety. This Teacher, however, led the tender dawn of Struan's youth, to reach the dictates of eternal truth

The poet could be severe in censure, as well as lavish in praise. In an epitaph to John Robertson, younger of Lude a cadet of his own family whose father he describes as a son of Eve without a Gall, he says

'Here madness, calumny & pride,
 with thee in nature dist reside'

The offence which the young gentleman gave him makes him forget the usual charity of his mind, for he consigns him to the Devil. 'Proud Lucifer takes care of thee.' Yet the offence seems to have been that he deserted the side which his father & the poet supported. Indeed such an offence was sufficient in his estimation to obliterate every virtue, for attachment to the family of Stewart constituted in that estimation, the essence of every virtue.

His epitaph on the Duke of Marlborough cannot be justified on any principle & should never have seen the light, as it was probably composed to pacify the humour of a hostile party.

He composed four other epitaphs, one to the Queen of James the seventh buried in the church of the nunnery of Chalicace; one to Angus MacDonnell of Keppoch, a Colonel in Charles Edward's army, killed by accident on the streets of Falkirk in 1746, One to Alex Macdonell of Glengarry who died in 1720 and one to the Earl of Mar, all which possess nearly the same merit.

Mar's worth, he observes, shall endless in those grateful lays
Shine through the longest stretch of future days
And idea common to every panegyric

Semper honos nomenque tuum laudesque manebunt

In two of these epitaphs a thought occurs, which shews that the author had not lost his popish notions in that to his friend Robertson, he says

'Sweet lovely shade repose in peace.....the profanest ground'

The same sentiment ends the epitaph to the Regent of the college of St Andrews. It alludes to the practice of consecrating burying places with earth brought from Rome. Every burying ground not so consecrated was deemed profane, that is unfit for Christians. After consecration the place was named from some saint who was entrusted with the protection of the bodies deposited in it till the day of Judgement, and had an active hand in aiding the priest to bring their souls out of purgatory. The formalities of this ceremony are dictated, as I am told in the Roman Missal or book of Service. It contributed to enrich the hierarchy whose great object was to devise means to draw money from the living & for the dead.

Next to his epitaphs, his Elegies claim notice. They are in general composed without care or study, though they want that tenderness of sentiment which mark those of Gray, they would gain compared with those of Propertius. In an Elegy or sonnet composed to himself he thus expresses his view of human life.

Poor Strephon sees with grief at last.....has now a score.

This piece though it has like all his compositions some defective rhymes, contains many excellent sentiments. The brevity of human life is happily expressed in these lines, an answer to his own argument.

'Think on the smallest drop...without a bound.

There is nothing new in this comparison but though perhaps it be common to compare eternal time to an ocean, it may to a sober critic be an overstrained figure. It is however so long adopted that it would not be safe to condemn it. His odes & songs & sonnets and Rhapsodies next deserve notice. They are in every measure and characterised by love and politicks. The incidents of social life, not destitute of genius or sentiment, generally speaking the offspring of the moment, and therefore sometimes careless and unfinished.

As Petrarch had his Laura, Swift his Stella. Struan has his Celestia. His praise of this beauty who rivals in excellence any prais'd in song is often expressed with elegance and spirit. She was most likely a French lady, for his best verses are those made to her when bathing in the Seine. This pendaric ode entertains as many hyperboles, as even Sasso or Aristo could claim, yet it discovers some degree of poetic inspiration.

A lover whether in earnest or not is sure to make all nature and see all the beings of poetry adore his mistress. accordingly all mankind are vanquished by Celestia. The river in which she her snowy limbs is enraptured the sand which seems to open itself & meet the gentle touch of her tender feet with what unusual haste it takes The well proportioned print she makes
In vain it...lovely fleeting joys.

This is certainly giving life to the sand with a boldness which I never saw tried before; and would make one suspect whatever joys the sand might feel Celestia was not very easy in such sinking steps.

But the lover does not stop there. The God of day retires to bathe in the sea

'While fair Celestia does expose....first he rose'

Thus she surpasses the sun, in his most engaging splendours, and Lephysius also must do her homage. Perhaps this imaginary being is rather oddly mounted when

A gaudy ray from Phobus.....descending chair.

Be that as it may, he comes to worship Celestia and 'Instead of a sceptre in his hand he bears a fan bedewed...common air

And singing 'the sweetest fondest heavenly..sole embrace'

It is not easy for a cold critic to enter into the ecstasies of a lover but certainly this ode which exalts Celestia above all deity real or imaginary might perhaps be accused of extravagance, though it be intended to resemble the phrenzy of Pythia or the irregularity of Pindar.

An Italian lover would think nothing of this extravagance ' Fioro.gemme, Donne belle
sole e Stelle

Di mirar pice non mi curo

Che ogni bello ale bello cede

Che resiede

In quel vestro reuro scuro

Celestia however though a goddess dies and the reader will be curious to know how the lover lamented her Death, his curiosity is gratified by an elegy, if I may so call it, of some merit, still maintaining the immortality of Celestia

‘Quickly peace...of fair Celestia’s glories’

Then an angel descends to comfort the lover, tells him that Celestia is not dead:-

‘Can an untainted beauty fade Or deathless virtue die?’

Then her character is given which shews she was more than beautiful. ‘The wicked vulgar...can never, never die.’

This the lover readily believed & was comforted, adoring the cherub of light more, that he did before. All the songs of Celestia are above mediocrity though too much in the French style and now not likely to gain admirers or be sung.

If he adores the lovely Celestia, he condemns the vices and lewdness of Chloe whose character though perhaps intended to be contrasted with that of Celestia might have been spared from the publication as by far too indelicate, except for the age of Horace’s Lydia, or the dissolute reign of Charles the second. His convivial songs were admired in his own days. They are in general now too stiff to be sung or remembered. The careless good fellow is the best of them to the tune of *parlez plus de politique*.

His political songs are the most numerous. They are composed in every kind of measure. They are all distinguished by his own political attachments and though they now excite little interest, they are fair specimens of the poet’s powers of description. His misfortunes as already observed soured a little his temper and his hatred of the friends of William & liberty led hi to indulge an asperity of diction which was not his usual character.

These remarks will appear just to any one who reads the song called the Revolution advantages which begins.

I long to rehearse in dutiful verse the joy our deliverer’s gave us

And the protestant club written at St Germain’s shews his ideas of the men in power at the Revolution of whom he says

‘A knot of caballers whom if I should name, I, for my own sake, should be hugely to blame, Consequently he describes their leaders as Booby & Bluster. The advice to the painter is characterised by the same acrimony. His political lyrics however are not all distinguished by the same violence. His ode to James in Spain breathes an ardor of attachment which shews that the writer was in earnest, while it is remote from everything indecent. The wages of sin inscribed to Scotia shew his opinion of the evils which his country suffered, and the principles which guided the contending parties. perhaps he is too severe against the ?Norn order & the Crispin knights. had they appeared in that more harmless age When Heaven or Sodom....escape the flame.’ The principle he ascribes to their conduct is not proved by History

“And swelled with machiavellian wisdom boast there is nothing wicked where there is nothing lost.’ None of the friends of William or of freedom held such opinions.

It would be tedious to consider all the political odes and fables ascribed to the poet. Some of them should be consigned to oblivion as they were the expression of a momentary passion and never meant to tell the world those pains which his hardy mind would never stoop to tell.

There is no reason to think that there are some pieces in the collection published under his name not his. Some of them I am told as the ?Holy ode were composed by Mr D Robertson of Drumchuine, the present Colonel Robertson of Struan’s father a gentleman of elegant manners and great accomplishments.

Of Struan’s fables the hare and the ass deserve the first place. Indeed all his fables will lose nothing in comparison with those of Dryden, Gay or L’Estrange. When he left politicks he could be serious and instructive. Accordingly his didactic compositions are worthy of attention. The length to which this article is already carried will not allow me to multiply examples. But I refer o the consolation an Eclogue. Mutual love, a melancholy midnight thought which last has some excellent sentiments. And his verses to Mr Stafford on the death of his wife prove how well qualified he was to indulge tenderness of sentiment, reason justly & communicate the soothing strains of friendship.

of his meditations and translations it is sufficient to say that they prove his attainments as an elegant scholar. His paraphrase from ?pastor ?Fedo, Amarillis lamenting his fortune and separation of her lovers is far superior to the original. which begins thus

O Mirtillo anima mia

Se videsti qui dentro

Come sta il co di questa

Che chiami cuidelissima Amarilli

So ben que tu di lie

quella pieta, che da lie chiedi, haviente

& the paraphrase

O my little Mirtillo! My beloved swain

Author of all my joys and all my pain

Think not thy wretched wretched shepherdess unkind

Nor call it choice in her, what is by fate decreed.

O were my tender bosom open laid

And my interior grief displayed &c

Struan seems to have read the French translation

Cher object pour qui....

According to the political sentiments of the poet this translation or rather his imitation of Anacron in his ode concerning Bathyllus is of the same kind. Both Martello & Bathyllus are intended to represent King James and his son.

His imitations of Horace, his favourite author, fully equal the original, witness to his fountain in ?Blandusia & Horace & Lydia

His translation of the fifth book of the Aeneid rivals Drydens, and in some places may be said to surpass it. One cannot keep regretting that he should employ some of the psalms to answer his political views. His paraphrase of the 139th psalm however excellent I regret that the limits proposed will not suffer a more minute review of his merits as an imitator & paraphrasist. Any one however ? can satisfy himself by doing as I have done consulting the originals.

But while we think Struan equal to most of his contemporaries in force of sentiment and correctness of language, we must allow that the structure of his verses is not always correct. Imperfect rhymes meet one in every point. His love of pedameters & Alexandrines at the end of the stanzas though common in his day sometimes disgust. He did not seem ?[to study] either pauses or accents - and the recurrence of triplets which Dryden used but which Pope nearly banished is not consistent with modern ideas of poetic excellence. They always hurt the ear which expects to hear the sound alter as the doublet is finished.

Thus have I endeavoured to shew that a poet long consigned to oblivion deserves to be remembered, when at least the Highlands of Scotland could produce few gentlemen who exhibited such characters of classical elegance & polished taste, and it is probable that this poetic chief had no idea that that task should be performed by a presbyterian

The Well of Schiehallion, written by Rev A. Irvine c. 1805 (NN 540746)

This valley with its hills and mountains furnishes as might be expected great abundance of mineral wells - Some of these have retained their character of sanctity since the days of Druidism and popery especially such as have been fortunate enough to rise near the sanctuary of a titular saint or titular divinity.

One of the Chalybeate kind I may mention because it is yet treated with Divine honours being the only one which escaped usurpation of any saint. It flows out of a steep bank at the foot of Schiehallion, one of our primary mountains once the seat of Dr Maskelyne's observations, and seldom suffers any diminution from the severest droughts.

On the first day of May O.S., the great festival of its Deity, young people resort to it in great numbers. He that offers the first oblation that is gathers first the foam and pays his vows claims the particular regard of the invisible agent and succeeds in his wishes and enterprises till that day revolves again. There is great competition to gain so important an advantage. He that drinks of it for the first time must present some offering according to his piety and ability to conciliate affection and prevent the anger of the Divinity. To pilfer this offering is sacrilege and hence scrupulously avoided even by the profane and infidel.

The attachment to these innocent observances is so strong that the eloquence of the parish minister exerted for nearly 50 years has not been able to abolish it. The Deity of Schiehallion triumphs in the possession of his ancient honour.

Superstition and jesting aside, this well has been known to cure phthisis, gravels,, complaints, dispepsia and many chronic diseases when other means have failed. It has sometimes been found subservient to the cause of Lucina as well as Hebe which deservedly extorted the animadversions of the pious veteran. The salubrious qualities of such a well should be known because they who waste their time and money and not infrequently sacrifice their health by labouring to acquire it at Bath & Spa might succeed here at a much cheaper rate.

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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Accounts relating to estate of late Rev. Irvine, Parish minister of Little Dunkeld, transcribed by Sylvia Robertson

Underlined number in brackets indicates the number of the document, followed by underlined title written on outside of each folded document. These appear to all be in the same hand, perhaps a member of the Irvine family, with the exception of a few papers which have a name or address of the person to whom the bill was sent. Square brackets [] indicate uncertainty over writing. Items in italics indicate my lack of ability to find some of the special characters on this computer!

1) Oct. 1824 Dischd Account D Grant Innkr Dunkeld
Dr.Irvine to D Grant
1823 June 5 To a Seat to Dr.& Miss Irvine £10
Novr 15 To a Seat to Perth & Back 8
1824 April 16 To [sev] to Perth 4
July 2 To [sev] Mr A Irvine 4
Aug 6 Miss Stewart of Garths [Men]
Subscribeth not the hall
for Dr [Xdr] A Irvine 1. 3. 10
£2.12. 10

9th. Act. all Settled at Ale Seat
(signed) D Grant.

2) 29 Nov.1824 Disd Account. The Revd Dr.A Irvine to John Stewart 1824
The Revd. Dr.Alex.Irvine Little Dunkeld to John Stewart Builder Dunkeld.
1819

Augt To 2 fork shafts 10 feet long each foreign wood £ - 3 -
.. Jobing by James Robertson & others at different
times in the Byre etc - 8 -
.. Glass put into the kitchen windows - 1. 6
November ..Do into the skylights of old manse - 3. 6
.. a Pane of glass put into Mr.Davidsons room window - 1. 3
.. a Shelve 4 feet long and brackets put up in said room - 3. 6
1820
June .. a New door for stable - 15. -
.. a Seat for a bee scape of 2 inches hard wood - 2. 6
.. Boxes made by the men to go to Edinburgh - 3. 6
£2. 1. 9

By Cash in part 5. -

(in a different hand)Dunkeld 29 Novr.1824. Received from Mrs.Irvine Little Dunkeld by the hand of Mr.Alexr Robertson Writer here full payment of the above ammount.
(signed) John Stewart.

3) Acknowledgement Jas. McDuff for 10/-

The sum of Ten Shillings Due to John McDuff has been received by his father. (signed) James McDuff.

4) 1st.October 1825 Receipt for the Rent of Little Dunkeld Park for grass 1823 & corn 1824 -£65
Dunkeld 1 October 1825

Received from Mrs.Dr,Irvine for Settlement of account with her the Sum of Sixty five pounds sterling being a years rent due to the Duke of Atholl for Little Dunkeld Park for Grass 1823 and Corn Eighteen hundred and twenty four. 65 Stg.

(signed) [-]habane.

5) 4 March 1825 Disd Account Jas.Robertson Taylor.
The Revd.Dr.Irvine to James Robertson.

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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1823 May 9 To a pair of Dark gray trousers £1 4. 6
 pair for your son Robert 9. 6
 1825 March 4 Received payment £1. 14. -
 (signed) James Robertson.

6) 28th.Dec,1824 Receipt David Black, Meikle Trochry-for dressing lint
 Meikle Trochery 28 Decer.1824

I received from you one pound seventeen shillings and 4 sterling being payment for dressing lint at the
 Mill of Trochery. To Mrs Irven Little Dunkeld (signed)David Black.

7) 2 July 1825 DischdAccount Jn.& P.Donaldson Little Dunkeld
 The Rev.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld. Acc. up to July 1824 £5..1..11

The Revd Dr Irvine To John & Peter Donaldson Little Dunkeld.

1818

March 30th 260 York Cabbage 2/6, 230 Late do 1/10 £ - 4 4

1819

April 2nd 6 Gooseberries of sorts 1 6

May 17 400 Late Cabbages 2/-, 60 Early do /3. 2 3

March 6th 30 fine Gooseberries of sorts 7 6

22nd. 400 Curled Greens 2

April 16th. 200 Small Transplanted Spruce 2

June 1st. 100 Cauliflowers 1

Aug.1st. 10 oz.Cabbage seed 3/4, 1 oz.Ditto for Garth /4 3 8

1821

March 27th. 6 Rhododendrons Ponticum 3

April 21st. 400 Greens 1

Aug.9th. 800 Ditto 2

1822

Feb 25th 13 Dif Apples of sorts 10/6, 6 Ditto Pears 6/ 16 6

April 15th. 500 Late Cabbages 1 3

June 24th. 500 Curled Greens 1 3

Aug.5th 300 Ditto Do 9

15th. 4 Oz.Cabbage seed 1/4, 300 Curled greens /9 2 1

24th. 2000 Common Greens 2 6

31st. 500 Curled Do. 1 3

Sept.4th. 600 Early Cabbage 1 6

30th. 400 Late Do. 1

(Second page)

1822

September 30th. Amount Brought over £ 3. 19. 2

1823

Nov.10th. 3 half trained Peaches of sorts 9

1824

March 27th. 6 oz.Strasburgh onion 1/8, 4 oz.Blood Shed 2/4 4

.. 4 oz.Portugal Do 2/-, 4 oz. Destpond 2/- 4

.. 4oz.Globe 2/6, 2 oz.Jilac Leek 1/- 3 6

April 6th. Carrot seed 6

May 15th. 200 Curled Greens /6, 60 Savoy 1' 6

July 1st 200 Curled Greens 6

26th. 500 Ditto Do. 1 3

£ 5 1 11

3 2

£1. 19 11

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc
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Contra 2 Bolls of Oats £2. 7. -
Two beds of onions 15 Sh.
3. 2

J.Irvine settled the above July 2 1825 (signed) John Donalson

8) 1823 & 1824. Dischd. Account Alex.Robertson Saw Mill Inver
The late Revd.Dr.Irvine Boght of Alexr.Robertson Inver Sawmill
1823

Decr.15	To a piece of Larch wood	£0 6 1	
	To 1 Do	1 6	
	To sowing	7 '	
Feb.16	To 6 ft. 9in. of lath at 6d.	3 4 '	£0 11 7

Received payment (signed) Alexr.Robertson.

9) 17 Feby 1824 Disch.Account Jas.Kennedy Dyer Foss
(addressed to) Mrs.Irvine Little Dunkeld
[---]Febury 2 1823

Mrs.Irven to Jas.Kennedy Dyer

1823 Nov.4	To 10 lb.Woole	£ 4 3	
Dec.23	.. 14 Do	3	
1824 April 27	.. 20 yds.Blue cloth	£1 10	
	Do 16 Ū yds Do.	19 6	
		£2 18 9	
May 16	By cash	1 -	
		£1 18 9	

Febry 17th. Received the above for James Hendy Alexr.Stewart for James Kennedy

10) 23 March 1825 Receipt John Wright Perth

£8 6/4 Sterlg. Perth 23rd.March 1825

Received from Mrs.Dr.Irvine by the hands of James Bissett Esq. Eight Pounds & Six Shillings and four pence being in full of her Account for Beir for up to this date.

For John Wright Robt.Currie

11) Novr. 1824 Dischd. Account The Edr.Observer

The Revd.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld

To the Proprietors of the Edinburgh Observer, Dr.

For the Edinburgh Observer, from the 22 day of May 1824

to the 6 day of Aug 1824 and postage /8 ' £.. 17 10 '

Dunkeld 6 Nov.1824 Received payment for the Proprietors Robt.Barlas

From No.321 to No. 348 inclusive.

12) 6 Novr.1824 Dischd.Account The proprietors of The Literary Gazette

The Revd.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld Dunkeld

To the Proprietors of The Literary Gazette, Dr.

For The Literary Gazette from the 13 day of Aug 1823 to the

31 day of Decr. 1823 £.. 17 6

Dunkeld 6 Nov 1824 Received payment for the Proprietors Robt.Barlas

From No.28 to No.48 inclusive

13) 22 March 1825 Dischd Account Chas.Sidey Perth

The Executors of the late Dr.Irvine, Little Dunkeld

To Chas.Sidey & Son Perth

1823

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc
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To the New Edinburgh Review Nos. 7.8.9.10 at 6/- 1 4 -
.. Philonthropical Journal Nos. 16.17.18.19 at 7/ 1 10 -

1824

.. Do Do Nos.20.21.22 at 7/6 1 2 6
.. Universal Review Nos. 1.2.3.4.&5 at 5/- 1 5
£5 1 6

22 March 1825 Recd. (signed) C Sidey Jnr.

14) 4 August 1825 Acknowledgement Izett Duff for £5

I hereby acknowledge that I have this day received the sum of five pounds Sterling being the last moiety that I have to get of the £45 given to the late Dr. Irvine on my account.

Signd. Izett Duff Little Dunkeld August 4th. 1825

15) 20th. April 1825 Dischd. Accounts R Morrison printer Perth.

Executors on late Rev. Dr. Irvine's Estate Perth. To R. Morrison & Co.

To Advertising in the Perthshire Courier,

1823

Aug 22 Fruit at Little Dunkeld 6/6 post 1d. £ .. 6 7
To Copy of Courier of 19th. Decr. 7

1824

To Courier from No. 865 to No. 895 19 -
1 6 2

1825 April 20 Recd. Payt. (signed) C O Hair

Dr. Irvine

To R Morison

1823

Aug 22 To Adv. of Fruit at Manse of Little Dunkeld 4/-

Dunkeld 20 April 1825 Recd. payt. C O Hair

16) Oct. 1823 Dischd. Account Chas. Murray Jeweler Perth

Rev. Dr. Irvine [---] of Chas. Murray Perth

1823 Jany. 17 Mending snuff box punch spoon etc. £0 5 0

Oct. 8 Mend earrings & Cornelian Cross 2 6

£0 7 6

Settled by Cash (signed) Chas Murray

17) 17 Sept 1825 Dischd. Account Edr. Weekly Journal

Mrs. Dr. Irvine

To the Proprietors of The Edinburgh Weekly Journal, No. 251 High Street, Edinburgh.

For The Journal from the 24 Sepr. 1823 to the 15 Sepr. 1825 £3 5 6

Edinburgh 17 Sepr. 1825 received payment for the Proprietors (signed) D. McGregor

18) Sept 1824 Receipt Danl. Fisher Innkr. Dunkeld

Dunkeld 24 Sept 1824

Receivd from Mrs Irvine of Little Dunkeld the sum of ten pounds three shilings & sixpence Sterling being the Ammount of Account rendered for Horses & Hiring in full to this date. (signed) Daniel Fisher

19) Settled Account with The Perth Bank

(addressed to) Alen Robertson Esq. Writer Dunkeld

(following page is printed with none of the spaces filled in)

Perth June 18

Sir, Inclosed is a copy of your Cash Account with the Perth Banking Company, balanced 3 --- ult. by --- in --- favour, continued to your --- in new Account. I hope you will find the same right upon examination; and I have to request the favour of your calling to exchange the Vouchers, and sign the Company's books, or

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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to authorise some person to do this for you as soon as convenient. I respectfully am, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

Dr.Irvine in accd. with the Perth Baking Company

1824		1825	
May31	To balce.due of this date	£150.19.11	July23 By Cash preet £ 26.- . -
June 9	To Cash P order	80	Dec20 By do 210.15.2
Decr20	To Interest	5.15. 3	
		£236.15.2	£236.15.2

1824		Mrs.Irvine	1824
Nov30	To Cash P order	£20.	Nov17 By Cash preet £220
Dec20	To do	200.9.5	Dec20 By Interest - 9 5
		£220.9.5	£220.9.5

20) 14 March 1825 Acct.Dischd. Revd.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld to D Carmichael Saddler Dunkeld
The Revd.Mr Alexd.Irvin Late of Little Dunkeld to Duncan Carmichael saddler Dunkeld
1824

Mar 9	To puting a new hand Latch to the apron of the Gig	£- - 8
	To puting a new Chape to a saddle Girth	2
20	To repairing a Cart Bridle To 2 new Chapes to the sides of the Bill 1/2 To a new throat Latch 8d.	1 10
	To puting a new side to the Rein	10
	To repairing a Britchen. To 2 new saifs & Mending the Linning over do. 1/8 Mendin done of 3 ends	1 11
	To a New Berar 1/- Mending the Turn back & hangers	1 4
	To takinn a Cart Collar & Mending the Breast	1 6
	To a new Cart Collar the Flaps bound and put up with Whalebone	11 6
	To a pair Cart Hames 5/- To 2 new hame straps 1/2	6 2
	To mending the apron of a Gig & puting a New Hand Latch to Do.	1 4
Apr24	To mending a Crupper 2d. mending a Bridle 4d.	6
	To mending a northern Bridle	5
	To a new Chape to a Gurth	2
Aug26	To a new Linning & Stuffing a Cart Collar	3 6
Oct28	To a new Crupper to a saddle	1 6
	To mending a snaffle Bridle	2
Nov14	To a new Iron Cart Back band	2 4
1825 March 4th.	By Cash in full £1. 15.10	£1. 15. 10

(signed) Duncan Carmichael

21) 25 Augt.1824 Dischd.Account for pontage at Dunkeld Bridge.

Mrs.Dr.Irvine Bridge Toll Dunkeld 14/-

Mrs.Doct[a] Irvine to Alex Conacher for Bridge Toll Pontage

1824

July 30 & 31 & [tugt or aught]	1 & 2 & 9 Foot Passing	£- 3 11
July 30	Carts 8d. = 31 Chaise 1/4 Gig & [tugt or aught] 1 Gig 8d.	3 4
For 3 Boys at School	2/6 each	7 6
		14 9
Absent from School	9 days	9
		14 -
Miss Stewart	6 Weeks at School	1 6
		£- 15. 6

Dunkeld Augt 25 = 1 & 24 Recd. the Same (signed) A Conacher

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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22) Dischd.Account Thos.Duff, Park for Whisky
Park 3rd.July 1824

Mr.Alexr.Irvine little Dunkeld To Thos. Duff
28 pints Whisky at 3/- £4. 4. -
[-i--ed] for Thos. Duff (signed) Chas.Law

23) 30 Sept.1824 Receipt Christian Gow & Margaret Gow
Little Dunkeld 30th.Sepr.1824

Received from Mrs Dr Irvine the sum of Seven pounds 12/- sterling being the balance of Bloodmoney (left in the hands of the late Revd.Dr Irvine for our brother Daniel Gow of 92 Regt. who fell in Battle in the Service of his King & Country) which is discharged by us.

(signed) Christian Gow Wm.McAra witness
.. Margaret Gow Chas.Law ..

24) Augt.1824 Receipt James Paton Upper Obney for the price of a "Widder"
Upper Obnie Augt.17th.1824

I have receiv7474ed from Donald Mcintre£1 Sterling as the price of the widder that was sold to Dr.Irven
Little Dunkeld. (signed) James Paton

25) 18 Sept.1824 Receipt C Blair [Sevt.] Dunkeld
C Blair Sevt

Dunkeld 18 Sepr 1824 Recd. from Mr Irvin Little Dunkeld Three Pounds Nineteen Shillings & 9 pence for sundries as per acct. of Late Dr.Irvin.

3£. 13. 9 (signed) Chas.Blair.
& 6. -
£3. 19. 9

26) 7 Decr.1824 Dischd.Account R & G Andersons Smiths Dunkeld
The Deceased Doctr.Irvine Little Dunkeld to R & G Anderson Smiths.
1824

Feb 19	To cutting a key for a desk lock	£. - 6	
	.. footing a key for a stock lock}		
	.. fasoning the Bridge }		6
	.. repairing urin lock		8
Mar 29	.. 4 new shoes Powney	2 6	
May 1	.. 3 handles for Pales	2 -	
		£-. 6. 2	

7 December 1824 Received Pay by the hands of Mrs.Irvin for Rob. & Geo.Anderson
(signed) Robert Anderson

27) Augt.1824 Dischd.Account A.Small Baker Dunkeld

Mrs Irven
Little Dunkeld
Mrs Irven

1824	Bought of A Small	S	D
August 3	Roles	12	-
	Biscut	3	-
	13 Dishes	5	5
		£1. -	5

Received the above (signed) A Small

28) 25 Decr 1824 Dischd.Account David Peat Stationer Perth
Mrs.Irvine Little Dunkeld

Mrs Irvine Perth
To David Peat

1823 To Christian Instructor 1823 £-. 18 -

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1824 .. Christian Observer 1824 19 6
£1. 17 6

Der 25 Received Payt for David Peat (signed) Peter [Whiton]

29 1st.June 1825 Receipt Wm.Gray Perth for Railing

Received Perth the 1st. of June 1825 from Alexander Irvine Esq. the sum of Twenty seven pounds nineteen shillings and sixpence Sterling being the amount of account for Erecting a Cast and Maliable Iron Railing round the Burying Ground of the Reverend Doctor Irvine of Little Dunkeld as p particular account annexed.

(signed) Willm.Gray

£27. 19. 6 Stg

30) 11 Novr.1824 Acct. & Receipt D.Morrison Bookseller Perth

29th. Perth

Revd.Dr.Irvine To D Morison Jun. & Co.

1823

Oct 1 To Hunters Livy, first five books £-. 5 -

1824

March9 .. Esdarles Theology 10 6

.. Gibbons Rome 8 vols. 8 [vobd] 2 - -

.. 24 .. Devights Theology 5 vols. 8 [vobd] 1 6 -

£4. 1. 6

1824 Nov.11 By Cash per Stamp for D Morison Jun. & Co. (signed) P.Cochrane

(on enclosed paper stamped Two Pence)

Perth 11th.November 1824 Received of Mrs.Dr.Irvine by the hands of Mr.Patrick Stewart Stewart Junr. Four pounds 1/6 being payment in full of an account of Books commencing 1st.Octo.1823 & ending 9th.March 1824, due to the late Doctor Irvine.

£4. 1. 6 for D.Morison Junr.& Co. (signed) P.Cochrane

31) 4 Augt.1824 Dischd.Accountt Alex Robertson Carpenter Dunkeld

Dunkeld 4th.August 1824

Mrs.Irvine To Alexr.Robertson Carpenter Dunkeld

To a Coffin covered with Black Cloth & best Mounting
for the Revd.Dr.Irvine

£4. 18. -

£4. 18. -

Received payment (signed) Alexr.Robertson

32) 2d.Augt.1824 Dischd.Acct. Wm.Tindell Perth

Mrs. Irvine Little Dunkeld

Dr. to W.Tindell Perth

1824

2 Augt. To Sundries per Act. £13. 10. 4

By Cash a[-] Sa[ml--] 15. 10. 4

(signed) W.Tindell

33) 21 Sepr.1824 Receipt Pat.Stewart Junr. Perth

Received Perth 21st.September 1824 from Mrs.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld the Sum of Eight pounds Seventoon Shillings & P Sterling, being payment in full of the annexed Account which is discharged by (signed) Pat.Stewart £8. 17. 1. Stg.

34) Dischd.Account James Fyfe Gellyburn Stones

1825

Act. of Stones from gulley burn

For the Railing of the leat Doctor Irvin Monument

April 21 To 66 feet lend At. /9d. £2. 9. 6

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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Gulley burn April 21- Red. payment of the above Som of two pounds nine Shillings And Six pence Sterling by Mrs.Irvin (signed) James Fyfe

35) 26 Sept.1824 Dischd.Account Willm.Murdoch Shoemr. Perth.

Perth Dr.Irvin

To Wm.Murdoch

March 15	1 pr Shoes	£0. 9. -
Apr 15	Mrs.Irvin 1 pr	6. -
..	Miss Irvin 1 pr kid	7. 6
May 17	Do 1 pr Shoes	6. -
		£1. 8. 4

1824 Sepr.26 Settled (signed) Wm.Murdoch

36) 4 March 1825 Acct.& Receipt Jas.Spark Tin Smith Dunkeld

1822 Mrs.Irvine To Jas.Spark

Decemr.16	To 30 feet of pipe to the pump at 1/8	2. 10. -
..	14 feet of small Do.	- 8. 5'
..	a new pump box the cistern of the } pump md. & put in }	1. 4. -
..	8 lb. of solder work etc }	
March 18	.. a coffee pot md.	4
Oct.	.. a tea pot md.	3
.. 3	.. a large coall scoop	6. 6
..	one Do.repaired	1. 10
..	a bottom for a cheese toaster	8
..	a steam pan repaired	3. -
1823		
Feby. 14	.. 6 Dozn of corks	1. 3
..	a Kettle & oil bottle md.	5
..	2 tea pots repaired	1. 3
1824		
Feby	.. a copper ovell kettle & stand md.	1. 1. -
..	a coag md. 3d. a snuff box md.6d.	9
..	a wafer stamp md.	3
..	a tin ovell Kettle	3. -
..	a Milk Churn Lined with tin	4. 6
..	a coall scoop md.	6.
		£6. 7. 11'
	By Old Lead £1. 16. -	1. 16
	Ballance	4. 11. 11'

Settled pr.Stamp receipt (signed) James Spark

(on enclosed paper stamped Two Pence)

Dunkeld 4th.March 1825

Received from Mrs.Irvine the sum of four pounds eleven Shillings & eleven pence halfpenny Sterling being payment in full for Plumbing tin & other work done by me up to this date. £4. 11. 11' (signed) James Spark

37) 25 Augt.1824 Dischd.Account Willm.Campbell Confectioner Dunkeld

Dunkeld Augt. 2nd.1824

Revrd.Dr.Irvine To William Campbell

Died Loaf	£-. 3. 9
Italin biscuits	2. -
6 lb.Seed Cake at 18d.	9. -

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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3 lb. Sugar biscuits at 16d.	4.	-	
6 Shrt Cakes at 9d.	4.	6	
1 Doz. Terts	1.	-	
1 Doz. Cheese Cakes			1. 6

£1. 5. 9

1824 Augt.25th, Reced. £1. 5. 9 (signed) William Campbell

38) 5 Augt.1825 Dischd. Account Wm.Robertson for painting railing
 Dunkeld Mrs.Irvine Little Dunkeld
 1825 Augt. To Painting the Iron Railing round the Burying ground,
 in the Churchyard of Little Dunkeld £1. 10/-
 Augt.5th.1825 Receivd Payt. (signed) Wm.Robertson.

39) Dischd. Account Jn. Duff Dunkeld
 The Revd.Dr.Irvine To Jn.Duff, Dunkeld
 1824

June28	2" yd. Rob Roy Tartan a 2/10	6.	4'	
July12	nine-sixteenths fine net a 4/6, 1yd.Muslin 2/6	7.	-	
	a pair of gloves 1/8, a pair a 1/9	3.	5	
	silk 2', cotton [---] 4d.	6'		
..	26 a fine silk hat	18.	-	
..	31 for his funeral			
	19 yd. very fine Buriel Crape a 2/9	£2.	12. 3	
	12 yd. blk. saunet Ribn.a 4d., thread 2d.		4. 2	
	2yd.blk Saunet Ribbon a 7d., 3yd.hat Crape a 2/		7. 2	
	3 pair cotton gloves a 8d., Û Crape 9d.	2.	9	
	2 yd. Hat Crape a 2/-, 3yd. Scarlet tape a 2d.			4. 6
	a pair large blk kid gloves 2/6, a pair habit a 2/2		4. 8	
	2 Û yd. fine 4/4 wide Crape a 4/6		12. 4'	
	8' yd. fine blk Bambazett a 1/8		14. 2	
	yd. dyed callico 6d., thr.& silk 6d., cotton cord 1d.		1. 7	
	a large black Silk Handf. with Crape & Trimming			12. -
	2 Caps fine Muslin a 3/6, p[o]. for quilling pins 3d.		7. 3	
	a fine Stuff hat for Mr.Alexr. the 15th. inst.	£1.	5. -	
Oct.5	Û Suprfine black Casrimere 6/, five eights Shalloon 1/4		7. 4	
	1" yd. 4/4 white callicoe a 1/, canvass 4d., linen 4d.			1. 11
	buttons 8d., twist thr. & silk 7d., tape 1d.	1.	4	8 Silk
..	8. furnishing for a Coat, 'yd.canvass 8d., twine thr. & Silk 1/4	2.	-	14 big Silk
	buttons a 1/6, 4 Small 4d.	2.	1	
		£9.	17. 10'	

By Cash (signed) Jn Duff.

40) 15 Sept. 1824 Receipt C Blair Junr. Dunkeld
 The Late Dr.Irvine of Little Dunkeld
 [-]o[t] of C Blair Junr. Dunkeld
 1823
 & 1824 Sundries as per account rendered £5. 18. 6
 .. September 15th. Received payt. by A Irvine Esq.
 (signed) C Blair Junr.

41) 7 Jany.1825 Dischd.Account A.Mcfarlane & Co. Perth
 Perth Founary
 Dr.Irvane To A.McFarlane & Coy.
 1823 Decr.8 To 1 Black [-]regist[-] £2. -. -
 By Account 15. -

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc
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£1. 5. -

1825 7 Janry. Settled per Mr.Bissett
(signed) A.McFarlane & Co.

42) 5 Octr.1824 Dischd.Account Robert Dow Burnside
Burnside 5th.Obr.1824

Revd.Dr.Irvine Bought of Robert Dow
June 1823 To 16 lb. of E Clover Seed a /7d. per lb. 9. 4
.. 30 lb. Dutch /7' 18. 9
.. 11 lb.Turnip seed a /6' 5. 11'
£1. 14. '

Obr. 5th. Settled in full. (signed) Robert Dow

43) Dischd.Account Jas.Moncur Brewer£1. 17. 9 9 Feby.1825
Dunkeld 16th Augt.1824

Mrs.Irvine L.Dunkeld To Jas.Moncur
1823

Dec.2 To 2 galls. Beer 1/9 £-. 3. 6
1824
Jan.3. 2 galls do 3. 6
Feb.6 2 galls do 3. 6
March 3 2 galls do 3. 6
.. 29 2' galls do 4. 4'
May 2 2' galls do 4. 4'
July 3 2 galls x Beer 3/6 7. -
Augt.2 9 galls Beer 15. 9
.. 4 7 galls do 12. 3
£2. 17. 9

1824 April 5 By Cash £[1]. 17. 9

Feby.8th. Received Payt. (signed) J.Moncur (signed) J.Irvine

44) Dischd.Account The Representatives of the late Dr.Irvine

To Jas.Duncan & Coy.£10.

Dunkeld Distillery 30th.April 1824

Dr.Irvine To James Duncan & Coy.

1824 30th.April To 2 Lots Dung purchased at our Cart last summer £10.

(signed) J.Irvine Received the above (signed) David Duncan

45) 21st.Decr.1824 Account & Recept Mrs.Irvine Little Dunkeld 1824 £8. 16. 8

The late Revd.Dr.Irvine Little Dunkeld

J & Charles Angus Baker

To Bread and Bran from April 18th.1821 to September }

the 23 1824 Both days included as stated in the pass } £34. 14. 2'

books. The amount of the sums in full }

To 4 bolls 3 firlots of wheat in 1822 at 30/-

7. 2. 6

£27. 11. 8'

Decr. 25 1822 Cash to Acct.

5. -. -

£22. 11. 8'

Feby.11 1824 Cash to Acct.

7. -. -

£15. 11. 8'

Novr. 1824 5 bolls of wheat at 27/-

6. 15

£ 8. 16. 8'

Dunkeld 21st. Decr.1824 Received the above in full of all Demands as per Stamp Recpt. (signed)
Charles Angus

(on enclosed paper stamped Three Pence)

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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Dunkeld 21st. December 1824 Received from Mrs. Irvine, by the hands of Alexander Robertson Writer in Dunkeld the sum of Eight pounds sixteen shillings and eight pence halfpenny, being the balance of an account for Bread and Bran from 18th. April 1821 to 23rd. Sept. 1824, both days inclusive, after deducting payments in wheat and money to the account of Twenty five pounds seventeen shillings and six pence as stated in the account under my hand herewith delivered up (signed) and Discharged by me Charles Angus.

46) 1824 Dischd. Account Robt. Ballantyne

Mrs. Doctor Irven To Robt. Ballantyn

1824 22 April	Cow and veals heads	2.	6
31 July	1[Ston] 10 lb. Biff	11.	11
		£-. 14.	5

Received payment (signed) Robert Ballantyn

47) 29 Jany. 1825 Receipt Rob. Stewart Inchewan for £2. 5/-

Doctor Irvine Little Dunkeld

1823	Augt. 18th.	to one Boll of oats	£1.	-.	-
	Oct. 12	.. ' Boll Ditto	10.	-	
1824	Sepr. 12	Û Bolles Ditto }	15.	-	
	To Mrs Irvine		} £2.	15.	-
1825	Jany. 29	(signed) Settled Robert Stewart			

48) Account. The Representatives of the late Revd. Dr. Irvine To the Trustees of the late James Robertson W.S. 1824

Account The Representatives of the late Reverend Irvine D.D. monister of Little Dunkeld To The Trustees of the late James Robertson W.S.

1812

Aug 7	Postage from you	£-. -.	7
	Writing in answer with excerpt from my letter of 7th. Seopember 1809 respecting decret arbitral about Strathbran	4.	4
Nov. 3	Having received a letter from you desiring me to send you for a particular purpose copy of the interlocator of augmentation of Dunning, Calling at the Teind office and afterwards on Messrs. Cranstoun and Veitch W.S. and getting copy of it.	6.	8
	Paid clerk for writing copy	2.	
	Copy therefo sent to you	2.	
	Writing you therewith	3.	4

1816

Jany. 11	Postage from you regarding a complaint against Dr. Brewster as Editor Encyclopaedia, and desiring me either to take legal measures or to propose a submission to the proprietors	1.	
13	Writing Dr. Brewster proposing a reference to the proprietors	3.	4
Feb 5	Attending meeting with Dr. Brewster when he informed me that he himself was the principal proprietor of the Encyclopaedia, refused to admit any claim on your part and threatened you to prosecute for defamatioan and damages on some grounds stated.	6.	8
	Writing you the result of the meeting with Dr. Brewster and advising you give up your supposed claim of damages against the proprietor.	3.	4

1818

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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March 26 Postage from you 8'
£1. 13. 7'

49) Account Current Between The Revd.Irvine D.D. and The Trustees of the late Mr.Robertson W.S. 1824
 (I have split this account ,which was written on double width paper.)

Dr.Irvine Dr.

1814

Nov.2	To amount of account for your process of augmentation	£52.	.4.	2
..	do. for Declaration agt. Sir George Stewart	59.	13.	8
..	do. for Advocation at Sir George's Instance		10.	6. 11
		£122.	4.	9

1814

Nov.2	To balance brought down	87.	4.	9
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1818

March 26	To amount of account from 7th.August 1812 to this date	1.	3.	7'
----------	--	----	----	----

Contra Or.

1809

June 22	By cash from you to Account	£20.	-.	-
---------	-----------------------------	------	----	---

1810

Jan 15	.. from James Miller Teind clerk, fee returned- -£3. 3. not charged
--------	--	----	----	----

1812

June 3	.. Cash from you to Account	15.	-.	-
--------	-----------------------------	-----	----	---

1814

Nov 2	.. balance carried down	£87.	4.	9
		£122.	4.	9

1816

Jan 16	By cash from the Commercial Bank on your account	£30.	-.	-
--------	--	------	----	---

1818

Apl 15	.. do from the Commercial Banking Coy. p. dft. on you of this date at one days sight p£20.	£20.	-.	-
--------	---	------	----	---

1820

Apl.15	By balance due at this date- the day of Mr.Robertson's death.	£38.	17.	9'
		£88.	17.	9'

50) Account The Revd.Alexander Irvine D.D. to James S Robertson 1824

Account The Revd.Alexander Irvine D.D. Minister of Little Dunkeld

To James Saunders Robertson.

1822

Feb.2	Postage from you disiring Information regarding the payment of vicarage teind or commutationn to the Incumbent of Little Dunkeld from the particular district of the parish for the Clergyman "coming once a year to visit the parishoners and baptize their children, and also regarding a new augmentation	£-	-.	8'
	Paid for access to Teind record	5.	-	
	Trouble perusing the Minute Book of Court, and the Localities 1792 & 1810	6.	8	
	Writing you fully in answer regarding this supposed claim for vicarage Teind and also in answer to your enquiries regarding a new Augmentation.		6.	8

51) Sent General Stewart for Recvt. payt. in Edinr. 15 Octr. J.A.
£500 Perth Octob 1825
Debit my Curr.Deposit Account with the Bank of Scotland with Five Hundred pounds Sterg. now paid me.
To the Agent of the Bank of Scotland Perth. (signed) I.Irvine
Pay J.A. 15th.October

52) 12 April 1826 Accot.& Receipt John Duff Mercht. Tartan Furnished to
Colonel Abercromby
Colonel Abercromby Ba.of Jn.Duff, Dunkeld
1826
Feby 1st. 30 yds. fine Tartan Prince Charle's pattn a 2/4 £3. 10
Dunkeld 12th.April 1826
Settled by stamd.Rect. of this date (signed) J.Duff

(enclosed on papre stamped Two Pence)
Dunkeld 12th.April 1826. Received from Colonel Abercromby by the hands of Mr.Alexander Robertson,
Writer in Dunkeld, & by desire of Mrs.Irvine, Three Pounds Ten Shillings Sterg., as payment of goods
furnished on the 1st.Feby. last, of which all concerned are hereby discharged. pp Jn.Duff
£3. 10/-

52) Accot. Affidavit an Receipt for advertisements in the Inverness Journal
The Late Rev.Dr.Irvine, Dunkeld
To the Proprietors of the Inverness Journal 1820
Advertising Letter to Dr.Ross @£7. 2/- ps. 2/6 Jourls. 2/4 Aug 1825 7. 6. 10
.. Do .. @£3. 16/6 p 2/6 Journal 7d. Jan.5 1821 3. 19. 7
Postages respecting Acct. 1. 8
Interest to April 1824 1. 15
£13. 3. 1

At Inverness the sixth day of September 1824 in presence of R Smith Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices
of the Peace for the County of Inverness
Compeared Norman Mackenzie, Bookkeeper Inverness Journal Office, who being solemnly sworn,
examined and interrogated, depones that the late Rev.Dr.Irvine of Dunkeld is justly indebted, testing and
owing to the Proprietors of the Inverness Journal Newspaper, the Sum of Thirteen Pounds Three Shillings
and One Penny Stg. for Sundries Particularly specified in the above Account- Depones that no part of the
said sum has been compensated or paid to the said Proprietors nor the Deponent, nor do the said
Proprietors nor deponent for them hold any security for the said sum. All which is truth as deponent shall
answer to God. (signed) N.Mackenzie

(signed) R.Smith J.P.

(Enclosed paper stamped six pence)
Sent from Inverness Branche Novemr. 1825
[Rh] 13L 15 2204 Inverness 26th.Oct.1825
Received from the Heirs of the late Revd.Dr.Irvine of Dunkeld, by the hands of Alex.Robertson Esq.Writer
in Dunkeld, the Sum of Twelve Pounds Twelve Shillings Sterling, being payment of the Account
particularly specified on the other side of this receipt.
£12. 12. (signed) Jas.[M]asen

The late Rev.Dr.Irvine of Dunkeld
To the Proprs. of the Inverness Journal
A doz. Letter to Rev.Dr.Ross ps.2/6 [lls]2/4 Aug.18 & 25 1820 £7. 6. 10
.. Do. Do. ps 2/6 [lc] 7d. Jan.5 1821 3. 19. 7
Postages respecting Acct. 3. 7'
Periodical Interest to 8 April 1825 2. 5. 6

Dunkeld April 1826 Received payment of the above account by the hands of Alexander Robertson
 Writer in Dunkeld pr.pro Margt.Campbell
 (signed) Peter Williamson

56) 12 April 1826 Accot.& Receipt Margt.Campbell Shoemr. Dunkeld £12.5.10
 Mrs.Irvine Dunkeld

1825 To Margaret Campbell

Feb.2	To a pair mending for David	£-	1.	-	
.. 16	To a pair Shoes for Mr.David		7.	6	
.. 25	To a pair Cloth Shoes patched				9
March14	To a pair patched for Jas.John			2	
.. 17	To a a pair Soled for Miss Irvine		1.	8	
.. 19	To a pair Soled for Miss Irvine				1. 6
April1	To 2 pair Cloth Shoes at 4/6		9.	-	
.. 5	To a pair of Shoes for Mr.Jas.John		5.	-	
.. 14	To a pair Satin Shoes for Miss Irvine		5.	-	
.. 21	To a pair Shoes for Mr.William			6.	9
.. 30	To a pair Shoes for Miss Irvine			6.	3
May21	To a pair Soled etc for Mr.David		1.	10	
.. 23	To a pair Stout Shoes for Mr.Alexr.		10.	6	
.. ..	To a pair for Mr.Robert			9.	6
June 10	To a pair Soled & heeled for Mr.William		2.	-	
.. ..	To a pair Shoes for Mr.Alexr.		9.	-	
.. 13	To a pair Toepist & heeled for Mr.David				1. 4
.. 20	To a pair Shoes for Mr.David		5.	-	
.. 21	To a pair Toe & Weltpieced for Mr.Robert		1.	-	
July2	To a pair Bottomed for Mr.Jas.John		2.	-	
.. 15	To a pair Soled & heeled for Mr.David			2.	-
.. ..	To a pair heeled & Toepist for Mr.William		1.	-	
Aug3	To a pair Stout Shoes for Mr.David		8.	-	
.. ..	To Do Do for Mr.William		7.	3	
.. ..	To Do Do for Mr.Jas.John		6.	6	
.. 8	To Do Do for Mr.Robert		9.	6	
.. 9	To a pair White Kidd Shoes for Miss Irvine		7.	6	
Sept10	To a pair Shoes for Mr.Alexr.		9.	9	
Oct22	To a pair Boots for Mr.Alexr.	£1.	7.	-	
.. ..	To a pair Shoes for Mr.Robert				9. 9
Nov6	To a pair Soled & heeled for Miss Irvine		1.	10	
.. ..	To a pair Dress Shoes for Mr.Robt.		8.	6	
.. 12	To a pair shoes for yourself		6.	6	
.. ..	To a pair for Mr.William		7.	6	
		Over £.9.	19.	4	

1825

Nov12	To a pair for Mr.Jas.John		6.	6	
Decr.1	To a pair Strong Shoes for Mr.David		9.	6	
.. ..	To a pair Dress Shoes for Do.		7.	6	
.. 29	To a pair Shoes for D[-] Dewar				9. 6

1826

Feby 7	To a pair Shoes for Miss Irvine				6. 6
.. ..	To a pair pri[n-]llie Shoes for Miss Irvine		7.	-	
		£12.	5.	10	

1826 Ap.12 Settled per Stamp Receipt
 pr pro M Campbell (signed)Peter Williamson

57) 12 April 1826 Accot.& Receipt John Duff Mercht. Dunkeld

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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Mrs.Irvine Bo[-]. of Jn.Duff, Dunkeld

1825

Aug.29 Mr.Irvine for trowsers 1¹/₂yds.f.fine blk cloth a 24/-, £1. 10. -
 Û blk.linen 1/-, cotton 3d., butts.5d., twist thr.& silk 8d. 2. 4
 furnishings for a coat Û blk.linen 1/-, canvass etc 1. 8
 14 big florentine butts. a 1/6, 4 sm.3d., twist thr.& silk 1/7 3. 7

Sept.8 Miss Irvine 1¹/₂y. waterd band Ribbn a 1/8 2. 1

Nov.29 2yd.blk.silk firret 5d., 1yd.Ribn.6d., Silk 6d., foundatn.muslin 2d. 1. 7

1826

Jan 14 Miss Irvine 1yd.fine Nett 7/-, 2yd.pinksa[im]jet Ribn.a 3d. 7. 6
 3yd.pink sattin Ribn.a 3d., 3yd.blue do.a 3¹/₂d. 1. 7¹/₂

Feb.23 9yd.green ground printed Cotton a 1/6, Miss I. 13. 6
 2yd.black band Ribn.a 1/- 2. -

£3. 5. 10¹/₂

April 12th. The above settled pr. Stamped Rect. of this date. (signed) Jn.Duff

(on enclosed paper stamped two pence)

Dunkeld 12 April 1826 Received from Mrs.Irvine by the hands of Alexander Robertson Writer Dunkeld the sum of Three pounds five shillings and ten pence half penny, being the amount of her account from 29th.August to 23rd.Feb.both last, inclusive.

£3. 5. 10¹/₂ (signed) Jn.Duff

58) Bleaching Accot. Season 1825 p[-] 3rd.Decr.1825

Mrs.Irvine Bleaching Season 1825 p.J.Duff

1 p[-]. 32yds. 13[ae]	15.	1 ¹ / ₂			
1 p[-]. 31yds. ..	14.	8			
1 p[-]. 31yds. ..	14.	8			
1 p[-]. 25yds. 11[ae]	8.	9			
1 p[-]. 24yds. ..	8.	5			
1 p[-]. 24yds. ..	8.	5	3.	10.	0 ¹ / ₂
1 p[-]. 27yd. 12[ae] Mrs.Anderson				10.	6

£4. 0. 6¹/₂

By Cash from Mr.Robertson £4. 0. 6¹/₂

31st.Decr.1825 p.Stampt Rect. of this date. (signed) Jn.Duff.

59) 31 Decr.1825 Dishd.Account Peter Donaldson for Vegetables

Mrs Irvine

1825 To the Heritors of the Parish of Little Dunkeld.

To Acct. Rendered for vegetables & fruit £1. 15.

Settled (signed) Peter Donaldson

Glen Mark Landslip

At Little Dunkeld Manse. 12th Sept 1818

I, Donald Stewart, aged 71 presently residing at Dalpowie Toll Bar, was about 47 years ago with my father and family residing at a shealing in Glen Mark, part of the Duke of Atholl's Forest in the parish of Blair in Atholl and county of Perth. At the time there was fine weather in the spring till about the end of March, then came a dreadful storm of snow and wind. About a gunshot north of the house, on the north side of the burn that runs through the glen was and is a small knoll or hillock. On the north side of this hillock there was and is a moss. Great lumps of the moss were suddenly scooped out of the moss, and rolled along scattered by the whirlwind. A number of stones some of them very large size and weight were driven up the knoll or hillock, over it down the south side, crossed the burn, and ran up the hill on the

south side of the valley a considerable distance. The pits or holes made as they bounded, were long visible and maybe visible yet for aught I know. There was one of them square and small pieces were broken off it. Another large stone that was standing near where they stood, was uplift and tumbled a piece down the knoll.

Many people went to see and examine the removal of the stones, as the Duke of Atholl & family, the Laird of Lude & Urrard & many others. I state the fact as I saw it. I knew where the stones stood and it was ascertained to a certainty that they did not come from any of the neighbouring rocks.

Signed Donald Stewart, before me, A Irvine, Minister of Little Dunkeld.

Questions put to Donald Stewart with his answers

1. Did Donald Stewart live with his father at Auchmarkmore at the time the stones were thrown across the burn from one side of the flow to the other?

Donald Stewart did live with his father at Auchmarkmore at that time

2. Was it the burn of Glenmurich or Glendey(?)

It was the burn of Glen Murich

3. Was the sides of the burn or Den it formed broad, or what may be the breadth?

Does not recollect exactly the breadth of the Den, but thinks it was between 60 and 100 yards and very deep

4. What month, day of the month and year did this happen - how long was it before the Duke of Atholl's death?

It happened about the last day of the month, but does not recollect what year, and thinks it was not quite two years before the Duke's death

5. Was any noise heard before they observed this extraordinary flight of stone?

No noise was heard the night before

6. Was the weather clear or stormy?

The weather was so dry that they were burning heather the day before but it came such a storm that no person could venture out of doors.

7. Does he recollect whether there were a great number of stones thrown across and what was the size?

There were a great many stones thrown across the burn but does not know the number. One of the largest stones he could not reach the top of with his hands when standing on the ground. This stone appeared to have been dragged for about 40 yards and not turned over. Many others were tons in weight.

8. Did he see the marks on the place where the stones had been before they were moved?

He saw the marks and a hole from where the stones were moved, and also the pits made by their being turned over, some nearly 3 feet deep.

9. Did the Duke of Atholl or any other people examine the ground?

The Duke of Atholl had a tent pitched near the spot and went up with his whole family and took lunch, and examined the ground.

10. What did people think of the cause of this extraordinary circumstance? Did any person attempt to account for it?

Never heard any person attempt to account for the circumstance, but understand some suppose it to have been done by an earthquake

11. Did he ever see or hear of the like happening in any other part of Atholl?

He never heard the like happening in Atholl.

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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Dec 8, 1814. 70 Pall Mall London.

Dear Madam, As I make no doubt but that you will have - about your grandson, I lose no time in doing myself the pleasure of informing you that he is appointed to an Ensigncy in the 88th Reg to which I first recommended him in order to be with and under the charge of Captain Duncan Robertson. The young man is now in a manner settled for life, and altho I fear that fain the prospect of a ?war with America before the next year is - in end

IRVINE BOX (Location of docs)

1798 Printed exhortation by General Assembly to fight the French

1799 Petition to Preb of Dunkeld from Rev AI

1804 Jessie S to AI, her future husband

1810ish Poems AI Logierait, a prophetic vision & song at dinner of Athole Volunteers

1811 March. Printed details of meeting anent Gaelic Schools

1819ish Stipends etc Little Dunkeld AI

1824 Transcript of Rev AI obit in Caledonian Mercury

1824 Death of Dr AI & list of children

1825 To Mrs Irvine from Alex Robertson re details post AI's Death

1830 Mrs Irvine Receipt Pat Stewart. Inver

1833 Mrs Irvine's purchases at Drumcharry contents sale.

1838 Alex Stewart Edinburgh to Mrs AI on death of his wife

1839 DS Irvine (decd) Invoice, John Smith & Son, Glasgow. Books £1 12s

1843 Hay & McIntyre to ARI anent Tenandry

1844 5 Feb. Jas R, Tobermory to ARI anent Frees etc. Gossipy letter

1867 Memo of property ARI to SR of K on marriage

1875 Details of Urrard Stewarts?Alston etc. in WIs

1842 Trustee of Innerhadden to Sir N Menzies re signing Fortingall Call for ARI
& other Testimonials

1844 Young to ARI anent Tenandry eviction

1844 Excambion twixt Atholl & Minister of Blair

1849 Memo of Marriage Contract twixt Dr WI & Sarah Stewart Black

Ossianic tales esp Glen Lyon in AI's hand

1854 Jas A Robertson (Lude) returning DS letter to ARI

1749 Printed legal opinion Alex Lockhart for Presbyteries of Perth & Linlithgow v Magistrates & Council

1781 From Eliz Hall, Lincoln, to Fear Gart. She Kynachan kin

1782 N Stewart to Fear Gart from Dublin. Regimental news

1785 Jas Macpherson in London to Home of Kilduff anent US trade & Jhn Macpherson

1795 Cameron of Fassifern to Home of Kilduff anent Chief's numbers, a Glencoe storm

1800ish Gaelic poem & translation on visitng Wolf of Badenoch's tomb

(1823) Copy letter Jas VI anent Grantully

1820ish Provision by Fear Gart for his daughters

1822 Case for DS over Uncle Chas's will

1824 State of Legacies left to Clementina Stewart

1824 Discharge Anderson, smith, Dunkeld to DS

1873 AIR re Kindrochet- leave things as are

1880 Copy letter Dr WI anent Garth descendants

1884 Inland Rev duty on sale Andraigh to Ann Robertson

Dateless ?Drummond announcing daughter's birth to Miss Robertson

Life of John Roy Stewart

1776 Emigrant's Gaelic poem & others

1799 Account to AI for cloth, buttons

1801 AI notes re attack on Macgregors by McLeod of McLeod

1806 20 Feb AI Minister Little Dunkeld

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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1809 30 Nov J Bruce to AI

1810ish. AI to Inverness Chronicle re criticism of Gaelic Grammar by Dr Ross of Lochbroom

1810 Grant to AI anent bibles, Gaelic & English for parishioners (Part printed)

1810 3 March. Highland Soc of London recommend AI's Caledonian Bards for publication

1816 12 Dec. Rev N McLeod of Morvern to AI anent family & gossip

1817 25 Mar Inglis to AI anent MS on pluralities

1817 AI to Ld Jas Murray re discovery of a camp kettle, said to be Roman

1820ish Populations of Scottish parishes

1821 AI to Rev Macdonald, Crieff re translation of Fingal

1824 Notification of Dr AI's death to Capt DR

1829 Memo by DSI to Customs & Excise re late DS's goods from St Lucia

1848 Criticism of ARI's admin of Poor Relief (printed 1985)

?1875 AIR to Wm Robertson. No more game keeping for you or your son Charlie

1904 Death Cert John Robertson, Blair factor

1811 Strwan to AI re MS about Poet Chief

1819 Struan Kirk closure question. Minutes of Pres meeting

1820 MP asking AI about pupils in school

1822 Bond of credit B of S to DS

1823 AI cautioner for debt now due (rent to D of A by farmer)

1824 Roup Rolls. AI decd

1824 Receipts Dunkeld Rev AI decd

1833 Extracts of memo to Counsel by Garth trustees

1836 Gordon to Jas R re claims to DS's estate

1843 ARI re Tenandry unvacancy X 2

1844 Blair Atholl stipend

1844 Extracts from records re excambions twixt ministers of Dunkeld & Blair

1845 Atholl Stewart to Blair Kirk Session re indigent Isabella Cmaeron

1855 Minister's lack of shooting rights on shealing of Riedorach-More

1859 Garth trust papers sent to ARI

1867 Dr Irvine's Execy inc manse contents

1871 AIR to Clunie minister

ARI accepts post of Fortingall

Sir N Menzies qualifies for govt post by swearing oath

1809 Printed purposes of Scottish Hospital

1810 AGM printed Deaf & Dumb Institution

1810 printed purposes of Scottish Corporation

1830 ARI Info on Foss for as for New Stat Account

1831 ARI to mother telling her he's applying for Moulin

1831 Sir N Menzies recommending ARI to Clunie

1832 Dick of Tullymet to Mrs AI re help for her sons.

1838 Copies of testimonials re ARI from local minsters

1840 Thos Duncan to ARI re portrait prices

1842 Culdares curators recommends ARI to Fortingall

1842 ARI refusing Capt Campbell's offer for Emily's hand (She sister-in-law Amelia Stewart Menzies)

1842 J Penderto ARI Congrats on arranging Emily's marriage to Capt Campbell

1856 ARI to Rev Hutton re St Madoes

1860 John R Banchor to Kindrochet aunts

1867 ARI Life Policy paid

1868 Memo re ARI's trust

1869 WSI to Duncan Robertson re unpaid sum to Dr RSI

1874 AIR Pres to Aberdeen West Church

1877 B of B to AIR. Grats on election to Clackmannan

1877 B of B to AIR

Rev Alexander Irvine 1773-1824. Transcripts of correspondence etc

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1877 Mrs Bruce. Grats on election

1879 Ld Balfour of Burleigh to AIR

1882 Lady B of B to AIR

1883 Mitchell to AIR re Kindrochet delapidations

1883 Tod Murray to AIR Duke of A will buy Kindrochet for £16,000

1883 Atholl to AIR. Thanks for Kindrochet

1903 B of B to AIR

1913 B of B to AIR re heritor's meeting