

ARI accepts post of Fortingall  
Sir N Menzies qualifies for govt post by swearing oath  
Dateless ?Drummond announcing daughter's birth to Miss Robertson  
1834 Statement respecting Niel Stewart (Bastard of DS by ARI)  
1835ish ARI to WSI re horde discovery  
1836 Gordon to Jas R re claims to DS's estate  
1838 Alex Stewart Edinburgh to Mrs AI on death of his wife  
1838 ARI Testimonials for Cluny WA ?Howison DD, Perth. David Duff, Kenmore. D McFarlane Prin, Glasgow College. John McDonald, Min of Rannoch, Thos Buchanan, Min of Logierait. Sir N Menzies.  
1838 Copies of testimonials re ARI from local ministers  
1839 DS Irvine (decd) Invoice, John Smith & Son, Glasgow. Books £1 12s  
1842 Trustee of Innerhadden to Sir N Menzies re signing Fortingall Call for ARI  
& other Testimonials  
1842 Culdres curators recommends ARI to Fortingall  
1842 ARI refusing Capt Campbell's offer for Emily's hand (She sister-in-law Amelia Stewart Menzies)  
1867 Fiars Crop prices, Perthshire  
1867-9 Re money from Canada owed. WSI  
1843 Hay & McIntyre to ARI anent Tenandry  
1843 ARI re Tenandry unvacancy X 2  
1844 5 Feb. Jas R, Tobermory to ARI anent Frees etc. Gossipy letter  
1844 Excambion twixt Atholl & Minister of Blair  
1844 Young to ARI anent Tenandry eviction  
1844 Extracts from records re excambions twixt ministers of Dunkeld & Blair  
1844 Blair Atholl stipend  
1845 Atholl Stewart to Blair Kirk Session re indigent Isabella Cameron  
1848 Criticism of ARI's admin of Poor Relief (printed 1985)  
1849 Memo of Marriage Contract twixt Dr WI & Sarah Stewart Black  
1854 Jas A Robertson (Lude) returning DS letter to ARI  
1855 Minister's lack of shooting rights on shealing of Riedorach-More  
1856 ARI to Rev Hutton re St Madoes  
1859 Garth trust papers sent to ARI  
1867 Dr Irvine's Execy inc manse contents  
1867 Memo of property ARI to SR of K on marriage  
1867 ARI Life Policy paid  
1868 Memo re ARI's trust  
1869 WSI to Duncan Robertson re unpaid sum to Dr RSI  
1871 AIR to Clunie minister  
1873 AIR re Kindrochet- leave things as are  
1871 Sir N Menzies recommending ARI to Clunie  
?1875 AIR to Wm Robertson. No more game keeping for you or your son Charlie  
1875 Details of Urrard Stewarts?Alston etc. in WIs  
1880 Copy letter Dr WI anent Garth descendants  
1884 Inland Rev duty on sale Andraigh to Ann Robertson  
1904 Death Cert John Robertson, Blair factor

1825 To Mrs Irvine from Alex Robertson re details post Al's Death. Dunkeld 7th Oct 1825. My Dear Madam, I walked from the Port to this place yesterday and arrived just in sufficient time to write by that night's post for information about Middlehaugh, which I did. Will you require any land, & how much? Before settling the residual duty with the Sheriff, I must ascertain the expenses to which you have been put for Auctioneers, Inventories, Rouns, Advertisements etc since 31st July 1824 - in short all sorts of expense connected with the management of your affairs since that period - Also the medical account and funeral charges including the iron railing - Please send me the Roun rolls. I will also require a list of the debts you paid, I mean such as were due at the period above mentioned whether they be paid since then or are still due including rents, Taxes, wages etc. Whatever comes under the head of legal proceedings I can ascertain myself. Include in your account a year's tax for the house windows etc of the Manse of LD. Every thing you can think of to deduct from the amount of the Inventory recorded with the view of reducing the sum chargeable with duty. The duty, I fear, after all we can do, will be a good deal more than the sum which I named to you by random.

Will you be so kind as make my apology to Mr Irvine for not going over last night to meet him at Inchewan, as I was a little tired and anxious to read the letters which had arrived for me during my long absence.

I shall endeavour to see Thos Stewart tomorrow & talk with him about £20 which Graham still insists on your refunding. I will likewise, as early as possible, have a conversation with Mr Chalmers.

I hope you were not worse for your little jaunt on Sunday - the evening was very delightful when you left Tummel Bridge,

Please to give my best wishes to Miss Irvine, who, I suppose, has returned home yesterday - perhaps gone to see the races at Perth with Culdres and family - unless indeed the rest of her five dresses have been equally unfortunate with frill or flounce in which I took so much interest to have repaired for her.

If you see any person going to or near Invervack, apply to Duncan Robertson, my cousin there, for the Dundee paper printed yesterday week & you will find there a rich treat in the shape of what is termed a 'paper war' between Mr Butter & Henderson regarding one of the expressions used by the former at the Presbytery. If you get the paper I will be much obliged by your sending it to me, as I have not seen it, Henderson, it seems, has got certificates from Niven etc testifying that the exceptionable words (the Latin ones) were not addressed to Mr Henderson himself in the Presbytery, but said during dinner after he was away and this Henderson wishes the Editor to explain in his paper - in place of which the Editor has published his letter & a subsequent one from Mr Butter in which the latter calls Niven a "Joint stock company". Mr Butter is supposed to have been the reporter of the Presbytery proceedings in the Dundee paper - indeed he does not deny it. Mr Herdman (Hardham, as he is called in one of the newspapers) is one of those who certify that the contumelious words were not used in the Presbytery - he farther says that he himself did not use the expressions with which the report of his speech closed - And Niven loudly disclaims having ? himself 'incompetent' to give an opinion respecting the law on the subject under debate in the Presbytery. I remain etc ALEX ROBERTSON. PS Send me all the receipts & vouchers you have for money paid away. State the expense of Mournings for the whole family & servants, & what you paid for magazines, reviews newspapers - you need not take any notice of any payments made by my hands, for I can ascertain them from my own acct of them. Mention also the sum that was due & paid by you to the Widow's Fund in Edinburgh & in short everything you can think of that was due & on the date 31st July 1824 whether it has been paid or not.

1838 Cluny Cottage 5th Sept. Madam, By the assignation of Mr Ritchie the parish of Cluny is at the disposal of the Trustees of the Duke of Atholl. From your Grace's kind interference in behalf of my son when the parish of Logierait was vacant I am encouraged to beg your Graces favourable mention of him to those Gentlemen I shall be most happy if your Grace wishes it to send you such testimonials as will

prove that the favor I now venture to request will not be misplaced, It was a rule I believe with the late lamented Duke of Athole to prefer the sons of Clergymen whom he had patronised to the livings in his gift. I hope your Grace may be disposed on this occasion to do my son in that account the kindness I now submit. I am etc J IRVINE

1842 J Pender to ARI Congrats on arranging Emily's marriage to Capt Campbell. Edinburgh 18th Nov 1842. My dear Sir, I received your letter of the 7th inst explaining for Mrs Pender's information the share you had in bringing Emily into acquaintance with Capt Campbell to whom she is shortly to be married. Your letter explains what had all along been a mystery to Eleanor ?, how they had become acquainted, as she had never by any hand heard the name of the Gentleman from any of her friends, or from herself until she received her letter announcing her intended marriage. And it is so far satisfactory to her to learn that she met him in your house & that he has been personally known for years to you considering your sincere interest in her welfare and happiness. When I read the letter Emily wrote her sister, I confess it appeared as it does still appear to her to be a very inconsiderate step she was about to take, or rather perhaps had taken - and that it was a pity she had so little confidence in her friends however much she was entitled to have in herself. As matters are fixed it is needless to dwell upon the objections which might naturally have weighed with her friends to the connection she wished to form or to enter into any speculations as to the future - they can only now hope that her fondest hopes will be realized & that she will never have the slightest cause to repent or regret the step she has taken. And I agree with you that as matters will not alter, it is for the interest and comfort of all parties that all preliminary arrangements as well as the marriage should be arranged and celebrated in every way suitable to and becoming the partners and their friends such at least would be my advice to them. With regard to Chesthill, I think his feelings in the matter should not be hastily overlooked - It may be true that Emily's feelings & notions may be different on many points, but in matters of this kind it should not be lost sight of, that he is her only brother, the head of her family & the representative of her Father & Mother & therefore I think every conciliatory means should be used to obtain his approval and Consent. I think you have done quite right to make the explanation to Emily's friends you have shown ? as she was with you, she was bound to make the Communication she did, but by departing so soon from the advice you gave her, then she placed you in rather an awkward predicament in regard to Chesthill, who might then perhaps have considered himself entitled to communication from you. We are all well. ? is delighted with his new quarters & I hope will derive much improvement. I have written this in great haste & I have also to apologise in being so long of answering your letter. With best regards to Emily & Elizabeth, I remain J PENDER Did Mr Armstrong get my letter with his receipt & order. Tell him to write.

1831 ARI to mother telling her he's applying for Moulin. Manse of Foss, Jan 24th 1831. My dear Mother, It was not my intention to intimate to you the information I am now to communicate, till I myself knew more of the matter of which I am now to speak. But of course Fame or rather Scandals will carry all over the world whatever she hears the least surmise of. Therefore I will tell you all I know of the matter to ensure accuracy of intelligence. I have applied for the parish of Moulin vacant by Mr Duff's acceptance of Kenmore. My application was made by letter to Lord Glenlyon, to Mr Butter who I believe will have most to say in the matter, thro Sir Niel & Foss. I met Butter at Castle Menzies where I first heard of the vacancy at Moulin. I was not then resolved what to do, but asked Mr B to remain disengaged till he heard from me which he promised to do. I then wrote hi, and on the understanding the report of which I am afraid was well founded that Lord Glenlyon was to give the presentation to the man of his choice I asked Foss & Sir N to write him on my favour both of whom did in the handsomest manner at once comply with my request. I should think B will not refuse his own uncle & his trustees ? when I am the person recommended & if he applies to Lord G for me & shows the letters of Foss & Sir N you may consider the thing as settled. However there's many a slip twixt the cup & the lip & I may not get it -

However I am independent without it & in the mean time let us live hoping. But then there is your part of the ? in settling my ?. Now this will be my ? if you take my advice. Armstrong will be recommended to you by Foss who from his uniform attention & kindness to me & this last act of friendship, is entitled to your gratitude. Armstrong is sufficiently popular as a preacher, is prudent & discreet & is the only young man in this country who has not opposed me in the case of Moulin \_ For ?James's sake I wish well to D Campbell who is very deserving, but ? at Blair has behaved to me in a manner that prevented me doing anything for him or his protege - more of this when we meet, The only person who can ever come in competition with Armstrong is ??[my Cousin] . Now in the first place from his manner, mind & temper which you know he will be a very uncomfortable neighbour for Foss, in the next place from his preaching he will be very unacceptable to the people who declared when he preached here that they did not understand one word he said, in the third place his promotion to this place will do us no credit & will make him an eternal source of annoyance to me on many accounts & especially on one which you know. My only remorse is on his friend's account - His father has been here today, asking me to write you for him which I refused to do but told himself to do so. This lays the burden of refusal on your shoulders which you are best able to bear & your reason for refusing him is good. you were ? to Foss. But in case of this to answer no one till you hear of my settlement at Moulin - of this my ill fortune you will hear first & then you may write to Foss. By the time this place is next vacant you may give it to y coz who will then perhaps have got wisdom & amend all his ? & little understanding, ? & modesty. I had a roup of firewood at Drumcharry the other day at which I sold a quantity of rubbish the greater part, almost the whole of the alder in Hugh's grass park, the Bracklich, which brought about £15 of 16 - you are not to mention this to anyone because it will be a little pocket money to you & Clem. It is payable in March. I can't say when I will see you, as I must be out of the way till this business of Moulin is settled. Lord G is in London & will be down for a fortnight yet - Perhaps he is keeping out of the way & keeps out of ?plague & trouble till the matter is settled. When he arrives I shall call on him & hear the result of my application. I sent an order to provost Stewart for £26 which I hope you have got. This will keep you going till I see you. I got your box of things all right - I shall send you one next week with what I can collect. Robertson sends you one this week with the coffee, tea etc. have you had any word from the west regarding the McGrigor lads, their father is very anxious about them - By the way could you continue to send me a newspaper of which I am sure you must have many at your disposal. You shall hear from me soon again. Remember me to all I am etc ALEX R IRVINE

1835ish ARI to WSI. My Dear Wm, I send my new chap John Campbell (I rather think your runaway herd) for the seed corn tomorrow which pray give him to the extent of two bolls - As you recollect it is the produce of the corn you got from Faskally, or that ?, I forget which. I think the former. Will you see if you can find me kale & cabbage plants which I think the old lady told me she had sown seed to supply both herself & me with - 300 of the former & 200 of the latter & do early cabbage. The poor woman at Daloist died on Sunday evening. She took worse about 2 in the afternoon & sank rapidly. In trenching my old barn yard Donald McKay found 21 silver peices like those now sent you in a hole. There is one of Alexander of Scotland (which of the name I know not) & the rest seem to be various coinages of Edward the 1st of England. I have kept six of the Edwards & send you the remainder as you are curious in such matters. I fancy they have been there since the days of Robert the Bruce. There was a little black powder surrounding them in the hole. I fancy the dust of the vessel or other covering that contained them. It was a very curious place to find coins of Edward the 1st, and it is not very probable that they could have been put there long after his reign without some of the later Scottsih kings being amongst them. Emily is writing the old lady telling of our movments. I go on Thursday to Fincastle with ?himself. The Foss people are to be down on that day to give him a day's plowing. ARI Foss Manse Thurs eveg

Cluny Cottage, 5th Sept 1838

Madam,

By the assignation of Mr Ritchie, the Parish of Cluny is at the disposal of the trustees of the Duke of Athole, From your Graces kind interference in behalf of my son when the Parish of Logierait was vacant I am encouraged to beg your Graces favourable mention of him to those Gentlemen, I shall be most happy if your Grace wish it to send you such testimonials as will prove that the favour I now venture to request will not be misplaced, It was a rule I believe with the late lamented Duke of Athole to prefer the sons of Clergymen whom he had patronised to the livings in his gift, I hope your Grace may be disposed on this occasion to do my son in that account the kindness I now solicit.

I have the honour to be madam your Graces most Obedient J. Irvine

1839 Feb 16 Sir Neil Menzies to ARI. I am sorry from a private letter I have received this evening from Mr Maule that from consulting the Marquis of Breadalbane and from 371 out of 420 of families having petitioned in favour of Mr Dewar that he could not do otherwise than advise Ld John Russel to listen to the prayer of the Petitioners. I regret this much but there is no stemming the - once those in power seem determined to avail themselves of it. The difference between 420 and 371 is I presume the number of heads of families who attend the church at Dull and request to be more competent judges of the canvasser than those who were sated upon by his peregrination on the detached portions of the Parish.

Melbourne, Port Phillip, April 14th 1840

My Dear Alexr, I know not how I am to acquaint you of the melancholy loss which I have sustained since I came on board & the misfortune to lose - It is with feelings of heartfelt pain and deep loss that I have to inform you that God has seen proper to take my beloved Clementina to himself. She died on the 23rd of January after an illness of five weeks & 4 days about 1,000 miles to the westward of the Cape of Good Hope. The immediate cause of her death was Cramps in the stomach. She suffered a good deal from sea sickness during the first fortnight we were at sea, the weather being exceedingly stormy and the wind contrary in the Irish Channel, after then we got into fine weather and she recovered her health and spent a - -. She continued in excellent health till the 14th Dec when she was suddenly seized with a vicious diarrhoea which was accompanied with symptoms of a slight inflammation of the stomach, She was erewhile about the end of Decr as to be only to go her appetite became good and she felt herself improving really fast, on 11th January she was so well that she said she would be quite strong in a few days but alas this happy state of things did not continue long the - - for --& she tasted nothing but liquor for four days after then she commenced pr-- a second time and was able to take a little solid food once or twice a day, on the 21st she asked for some porridge to breakfast which she relished very much and felt very comfortable having taken this, she then - - the Cabin and was able to read and join in conversation, she retired about half past nine & asked well during the night and ? up on the morning she expressed a wish to have some Porridge as they agreed so well the previous morning, I got this for her & she told me that she relished them more than she did the day before, she no sooner finished them than she requested me bring her a Pill which she should have taken before breakfast & at the same time to tell the Steward what to get for her dinner, I went to the cabin for the Pill & was not absent above two or three minutes at most & on ?entering our Cabin I to my horror found her whom I left three minutes before apparently so comfortable now breathing her last, she gasped only twice after I entered, my feelings at this moment may be not easily conceived other than described, I found her wrists and fingers firmly contracted which shewed me at once that she was cut off by cramp, I tried immediately (with the kind assistance of Mr Jamieson a Surgeon from Edinburgh) to administer stimulants but alas

the power of swallowing was gone and in a few seconds her eyes were closed for eternity, She had two or three severe attacks of cramp during her illness and it was with considerable difficulty that she was relieved in both instances. The last attack must have been very severe and from her weak condition she was worse able to breath. It distressed me beyond measure that I was not with her when she was seized but it is a consolation to me to that I left at her own request, I scarcely think that I could have done anything to relieve her even tho I had been present but still it would have been a satisfaction to be near her. God only knows what I have suffered since I came ?. & I fear my trials are not yet over but they ? what ways that I scarcely think that I can suffer more that I have suffered already. I am quite overwhelmed with grief & there is no word ? when I have lost one whom I valued more than life itself. I feel myself now a lonely stranger in a foreign land but when I had her I felt as if all my friends were about me but now it is different I am left above all of a sudden without having any? made up to it my spirits are exceeding low & I feel no inducement to exert myself, everything now appears a difficulty to my but formerly I felt as if could outdo every obstacle, my health suffered very much after her death I feel better now but in act I am quite inconsolable, my only hope and comfort is that ? may yet meet where there shall be no separation, the recollection of the few happy days we have spent together shall not readily be effaced from my memory. This melancholy event will be a severe blow to the whole of you especially to your dear mother. I do sincerely pity any one who may feel the ? of what I have felt since this melancholy event took place. It is to me the greatest trial that I could possibly be called upon to endure, I feel the blow doubly severe on account of all the circumstances of the case. I know not how you are to broach the subject to your mother, I do regret that I was the means of taking her from her. I have sent home all her clothes by the Tomatin, there are three Packages, viz a chest of drawers, a trunk and a square wooden box. The captain does not know whether the Ship will go to London or Greenock to discharge, if not at the latter port he will see the things sent down to Scotland. I have addressed them to your mother to David's care in Glasgow, I think he had better write to someone in London instructing him how and where to send the things. I think also that he should get them insured. The Tomatin goes from here to China & will not likely be home for 6 or 7 months. We were as comfortable on board as it were possible when aboard ship. The captain was very kind to poor Clementina and did all in his power to make her comfortable. He and all the cabin passengers felt her death very much and I may say all on board. Our cabin passengers were very agreeable & we were all very happy together till God saw proper to make a break in our little circle. There was a great deal of sickness amongst the passengers, They brought both smallpox and measles on board the both of which broke out about 12 days after we left Campbeltown, They got the smallpox at Greenock and the measles at Fort William, 8 children & ?4 & adults died of both diseases & 4 children ? ? altho who died got over the enraptured stages very well but were either carried off by secondary fever or dysentery. Were it not that the diseases were brought on board we would not have had more than 4 deaths among the passengers & these 4 were children who were sickly when they came on board. There were no births. It is a sad thing to treat infectious diseases on board, especially under the line. We arrived at Adelaide on the 9th March making a voyage of 120 days from Campbeltown. We left Adelaide on the 28th March and landed here on the 8th April, Adelaide is a wretched place compared to this. provisions & Labour 1/3 cheaper here but still both are very high here. Flour was selling at £100 a ton when we arrived at Adelaide & came down to £75 during the time we were there. The 4lb loaf 3/6, Milk 2/- a quart. Eggs 7/6 a dozen 7 everything else per portion. Stock are also very high, a horse which would cost £18 at home would bring £120 here, sheep from 35/- to 45/-, cows from £10 to £15. Wages are tremendously high. Shepherds get from £65 to £75 a year with rations, common labourers 8/- a day, single people are preferred to married tho there is a preference for married people at home. The ruin of Adelaide is that it is too much cried up at home & when people come out and don't find it as it is represented they either return home immediately in disgust or cut their throats &

instances of both are very common, a young man cut his throat in Adelaide in despair during the time we were there & several others who came out lately took their passage home in a ship which was to sail in a short time after we left. Three Emigrants ships arrived at Adelaide & our passengers were quite pleased with the treatment they received on board, there were serious complaints lodged with the governor by the passengers of the other ship which were not cleared up when we left, James McCrosty had smallpox on the voyage he remains at Adelaide as wages were much higher there than here. Lyon Campbell is leaving here now - I saw Bill Menzies yesterday he is quite well Hugh is coming on his way overland from Sydney with his master's sheep. I like this place much better than Adelaide altho labour proves 1/3 lower here & the land is much more fertile but labour is much more difficult to get here. I have got employment for Dond Stewart in town. He gets 12/- a day. I can get him board for £1 a week. He can pocket £2 12/- of his earnings weekly. I am quite at a loss how to invest my small capital, it is too small by half for commencing here nowadays. N.S Wales is not the place it was four years ago. Convicts are now hoping to be settlers now as formerly they are all sent to Norfolk island or kept at Government work which must effect labour very much & the Squatters licence which used to be £10 is now to be raised to £20 & stations cannot be had now without going far into the interior the difficulty of sending produce to market and getting out supplies produce all obstacles which a man of small capital cannot overcome for instance a person beginning with 200 sheep would require as many hands to manage them as if he had 700 sheep are not taken on third & quoro halves to make them pay and there are many people in the Colony at present on halves no man need attempt Sheep now unless he can commence on a large scale there are about 1/4 of all the Sheep in the Colony of Port Phillip altho hear that at present I believe principally because the latter cannot get hands to manage them. No one should come out with less than £1000 if he comes with the intention of becoming stockholder but if he can come and that he will soon become independent tho he cannot expect to make such a respectable fortune as have been made formerly. The ways which most money is made here now is by speculating land, a number of people do nothing else. I sold my Adelaide at a discount but did not realise par. I am a gain of £50 from the transaction from the way in which I managed with servants Bills on England are selling just over par & are expected to rise shortly, I have not sold mine yet, I am sorry that I did not take out my money If I had done so I would have made £1200 clear person who came out in the Arcadine a few months before us took out with him 300 barrels of stores by which he cleared £2000. I am quite at a loss what to turn my attention to, I am almost afraid to venture from the unsettled state which my mind is, there is no sort of fair dealing here everyone tries to cheat his neighbour & if a man does not keep his eyes open others will open them for him in a very short time, there is great inducement to labourers to come here if they are prudent they will be independent in a few years. I saw the Dyer & his family a few days ago, they are going to the Country next week. Donald Stewart the mason died at Adelaide about two months after he arrived, his family have been supported by the Commission(ers) since his death. Will you have the goodness to ask David to send the Duplicate of my Land Order I left it with Reid in Glasgow and requested him to get it from Reid & to send it by the first ship as I have transferred the land, both copies must be given to the purchaser, You can address me at the Post Office here, I will be glad to hear of you all as soon as possible, you are the only one to whom I write, I now have to ask yourself to inform my father of the contents of this letter, I will write to him by the next vessel, The Glenilly arrived here yesterday with emigrants from Greenock, she is obliged to serve quarantine in consequence of having fever on board. The climate is very here. It is now about the beginning of winter, we arrived at a very good time, we will be quite seasoned by the climate before the heat of next summer commences, I now conclude this melancholy epistle & hope that it will reach you safe & with kindest remembrances to all friends at home, believe me to be for ever affectionately CA MCDIARMID. PS I forgot to mention that the servant we engaged at Greenock turned out a black sheep, she was an excellent servant but so very drunken that we were obliged to turn her

off about a fortnight after sailing. All the other single women on board were bad characters, so we were obliged to do without

Dateless My Dear Captain, I received your letter of Saturday and it is so far satisfactory. At the same time I must enter more fully into this whole business than I have yet done (It is now clearly understood among all parties that this said affair of yours goes no further till a suitable situation that gets you respected in Society is obtained) both in explanation of my own position & intentions & to show you what yours is in connection therewith. Now from Chesthill's refusal to even ? this said affair of yours, or to have anything to do with it, there is much responsibility thrown on my shoulders. I must take care to act in such a way as to be able to hold my face and my share in it, for you must be very well aware that both ? and ? where it will excite no small surprise & create no small sensation when it comes to be known. You have nothing to offer Emily but the price of your commission , amounting I understand to £3000 stg which is entire as you told me & of which you will of course be prepared to satisfy me when called on. In point of fortune then as in many other respects there are very serious obstacles in the way. That one I have said must be removed before I can give any ? whatever to the business & removed in a way satisfactory to me; what this is, it is but fair to tell you. Now the situation to be procured must be one not involving any outlay of capital. Pardon me for saying that I don't think you would succeed in such a scheme as cattle farming or being merchant. Why you would have nothing in a few years on which to live but her patrimony & what comfort could either of you have if reduced to that alternative. Next you are well advanced in life, considerably further I see from the register than I was aware of, or, to pay you a compliment, than you look like - It is not to be supposed that you could for many years prosecute any calling requiring labour & application of mind & body, should you now intend it -And should you get out of it even without loss, why you would then be no better off than you are now, so that such a berth in employment as you ? it, you will I hope perceive and admit will never do. As I said before such a situation as a barrack mastership which with no great labour & requiring the risking of no capital would afford a moderate income & perhaps a retiring allowance when the infirmities of age come on is the only one for which I can see that you are qualified & to that I think you should restrict your whole attention. There may be others of the like description usually bestowed on retired militaires which you know about more more than I can do but whatever it may be I recommend you look out for a vacancy in such a place 7 when it occurs put your influence in operation for that. The mere general application for some place would only be to throw away your influence & would only procure you a general ? that would lead to nothing. You have said it will take much time and trouble to get such a place & why keep your ?. I answer because it would be the height of imprudence that the affair should proceed sooner, I am not ambitious for my sister-in-law, neither is she herself, of a large income, but I know more of the married state than either of you, I am a far more dispassionate judge than you can be at present of what is necessary for your future comfort and I must say that I am fully satisfied you would both in a short time come to see that it had been better for you to remain as you are than to marry on your present means. You have each enough for your wants separately & Emily shall ever have under my roof every comfort that I can afford her, so that there is really no necessity in regard to either of you for doing what would be very unwise to the best of my judgement. Besides this matter, ? my regard for both of you makes imperative.....We shall go south about the middle of October then we can talk further about the business. In the meantime it is best to write no more on this or any other subject as country post offices are proverbially inquisitive & prying - I will let you know when we go that you may take a lodging for us at St Andrews where I fancy you will be at any rate at your golfing. We are all well I am etc ALEX R IRVINE



Dateless ?1842 My Dear Captain, I have received your letter tonight and now have to reply as follows as it is far better I should continue the correspondence since I wrote formerly. Your proposal of retiring to the continent cannot for a moment be acceded to, for the reason already mentioned that procuring a situation of respectability and emolument is an indisputable preliminary. Under the present circumstances Emily desires me to say that she considers it both to herself and you to make the following proposal that if you feel such regard for her, first place yourself to procure a suitable situation and next to undertake the duties of it after it is procured, she will not offer any further objections provided all the preliminaries can be agreed to, if not why let the engagement be broken off altogether and remain good friends as formerly. This is sufficiently explicit & I must say puts the matter on as favourable a footing as you could possibly expect. You will consider this and let me know by Fridays post as the comfort of the parties principally concerned requires that the matter should be put on immediately on a definite and distinct footing. ARI

1834 Statement respecting Niel Stewart. Niel Stewart, natural son of the late General Stewart, was placed under Mrs Irvine's charge when she came to reside at Drumcharry after her husband's death. With her he remained until her departure to Glasgow, the autumn after the general's death when he came to reside with me at Foss> His prospects were of course altered much by his father's death and the unfortunate position in which his affairs were left. he was educated by me with a view to his taking up some trade - this he declined to adopt as he wished to go to the West Indies. From this, considering the state of West Indian affairs I thought it prudent to dissuade him & he then fixed on being a sailor. Accordingly I got him apprenticed on board a merchant ship in the West Indies trade, which he can leave, & adopt the profession of a planter, should such a step hereafter appear to be advisable. Now in his education, clothing & outfit, I expended the sum charged in his account. This, let it be understood, is my actual outlay for him during the four years he remained with me and the grounds on which I charge it against the property is as follows. He was left by his father's deed of settlement £500. To this he would be entitled only in the event of a reversion after paying all the General's just & lawful debts. The step Mrs Irvine was recommended to adopt for ascertaining what are such was the summoning of the Creditors to appear for their interest in a process of multiple poinding. She was advised against this course as a both expensive and dilatory way of settling her Brother's affairs. Had she adopted it, it might have turned out that there would be a reversion applicable to the payment of provision for Niel Stewart. And she is liable to him at ant after time for not having taken this course, which his interest required she adopt. Besides there is a hardship in this boy being without a shilling, which it is hoped the trustees will take into their favourable consideration. I should therefore think it not inconsistent with our duty to the other creditors & but fair towards the boy himself to allow him a sum for setting him up in the world, say £100 in liquidation of his claims against the property & against Mrs Irvine. And it is a supposition of such a sum being apportioned to him that I charge £5 in my accounts thinking it enough that I should have furnished him with bed & board etc without also being burdened with the sums I was obliged to advance from my own funds on his behalf. What has been stated regarding Niel is in all respects applicable to Jean Stewart, another natural child of the general's to whom he left by bond of provision £300 & it is hoped a proportional sum may be awarded to her. ALEX R IRVINE Foss Manse May 27th 1834

1823 (watermark) Tullibody April 9th. My Dear Madam, I have been in Edinr lately by which means Col Abercromby's things were ordered more readily and I suppose would be with him last week - I likewise have brought Linen here with me to get shirts made for him. The piece makes seven and I will thank you to let him know if this number will be sufficient for the present or if he would require a few more so as to renew half his stock. The others will be going on in the meantime and when you have occasion to

write at any rate which will now be soon to Lord Abercromby you can take the same opportunity, if more convenient to let me have a note from you about the number of shirts. I have written to Col Abercromby and mentioned that Event you referred to of Mr Edmonstone's death for it is not the person he supposes, but it was equally mistaken by some friends of the family in Edinr. I am happy to hear both for your sake and his own that Col Abercromby has been composed and comfortable all winter. I imagine you will now make no change of residence during the summer as the Settlement must from present circumstances be most uncertain. Lord Abercromby unites with me in kind compts to yourself and your family I am etc M ABERCROMBY

Measurement of acreage on Loch Tayside

1838 ARI testimonials copied in his hand. Testimonials I have been requested to certify what I know of Mr Alexr Irvine, Minister of the parish of Foss, who is a candidate for the parish of Cluny lately become vacant by the resignation of Mr McRitchie; and I do so freely and cordially. He is the son of one whom I much esteemed the late Dr Irvine, Minister of Little Dunkeld. I have known Mr Irvine from his boyhood & been much attached to him not only for his parents' sake but also & particularly for his own merits. He is possessed of a sound and vigorous understanding & a well-cultivated mind and has manifested from early life and undertsnading practical respect for Christian principles and deportment. As a Minister of the Gospel he is sound in his views of Bible truth, and acceptable in his pulpit exhibition of it. Of his faithful discharge of parochial duty, I have had ample testimony. I know him to be zealous in the great cause of spreading the knowledge of the verlasting Gospel. I am persuaded that if called by the great head of the Church to another field of ministerial duty he will approve himself to his people faithful & diligent W.S. Houron Perth 9th Sept 1838

Kenmore Manse 8 Sept 1838. I have much pleasure in sitting down to express the very favourable opinion I entertain of my friend & co-Presbyter the Revd Alex R Irvine Minister of Foss. This opinion I do not give at random in the absence of sufficient means of observation. I do it from a thorough knowledge of the character, attainments and general conduct of the individual regarding whom I testify whether in his parochial labours or as a member of Persbytery. Mr Irvine has been known to me from his very infancy. I have had opportunities of tracing his progress as a schoolboy, a student, a probationer, the pastor of a congregation & a functionary in his place, and in difficult circumstances in Church Courts. As, in early youth, he gave no doubtful promise of future talent and respectability, so have these promises been in every way pleasingly realised, He has now become a faithful enlightened, animated & most acceptable preacher of the Gospel, engaging to a high degree the confidence & affection of his people. He brings the leading doctrines of the Bble prominently forward while at the same time he fails not to avail himself of these doctrines as his leading arguments for the inculcation of Christian morality. He is exemplary in the probate ministrations of his office, visiting the sick & lecturing & teaching from house to house. He is an agreeable companion in social intercourse, having a mind well stored, not only with the knowledge belonging to his profession but also with the facts & principles of general literature and science so that in this respect as well as from his courteous manners & address he is prepared to appear to advantage in any Society. he has paid considerable attention to the business of the Church Courts & his habits being of an active nature he is therefore likely to take a prominent part as he has already proven himself to be very useful in the management of Ecclesiastical affairs. I should be happy to see him in a situation where his talents and worth would have ampler scope than they have at present & should it be the inclination and privilege of any to bring such an event to pass I think I may venture to say with certainty that they shall never have cause to regret that they have been pleased to favour him with their countenance and patronage. DAVID DUFF

College, Glasgow 8th Sept 1838. The Rev Alex R Irvine, Minr of Foss, is known to me favourably by reputation, and of alte by personal intercourse, but chiefly as the son of a late and lamented friend the late Dr Irvine of Little Dunkeld. The early decease of this very able and distinguished parent has precluded his family from many advantages and especially from his being early acquainted with those who knew and esteemed him - but I have sincere pleasure in expressing my conviction that Mr irvine's character, talents and acquirements are such to be worthy of his parentage, to deserve the good opinion and good offices of his friends 7 to qualify him for the useful discharge of Ministerial duty i a larger more important parish that that at which he at present has the charge. D MCFARLANE DD Principal of Glasgow College.

I hereby certify that the Revd Aleaxander R Irvine Minister of Foss is well known to me, and that during a long and very intimate acquaintance I have formed the following opinion of his abilities and character. Namely that his taents are of a very superior order & highly cultivated so that he is distinguished as an able preacher of the Gospel that his views of divine truth are clear, scriptural & extensive, and are inculcated by him in his Pulpit ministrations with great ability and earnestness, that his zeal in the discharge of his Parochial duties auch as catechising his people, visiting the sick & coutenancing every scheme which has for its object the moral & religious improvement of his Parish is truly exemplary & praiseworthy - that his character stands deservedly high for everything that is correct in principles, honourable in conduct & aimiable in disposition - and that he is admirably fitted for the management of a large & populous parish by the happy union of superior talent, with indefatigable zeal & firmness of purpose in carrying into effect whatever may be calculated to promote the comfort & the improvement of his parishioners. JOHN MCDONALD Minr of rannoch. manse of Kinlich Rannoch 10th Sept 1838

Mans Logierait Sept 12 1838. It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to be applied to for my testimonia in favour of my friend & copresbyter Mr Irvine Minister of Foss, That testimony I do give most cheerfully & I desire to be understood distinctly as intending it for a testimony of the highest and amplest kind that can well be given to a Christian minister of Mr irvine's age and experience. He has now been for some years a labourer in the vineyard of the Lord; and he has laboured zealously, usefully and acceptably. he undertsnads the doctrines of the Gospel thoroughly, gives their due prominence to those that are vital & peculiar, and explains them with a clearness and applies them with an energy which cannot easily fail to recommend themselves to the judgmen and conscience of his hearers. I know that he entertains a very deep sense of the magnitude and importance of minsterial responsibilty & as he has secured the thorough trust of all his friends in his honesty & integrity, there can be no doubt that wherever providence shall remove him to a sphere of minsterial usefulness of greater extent than his present charge, he will be found amply to redeem the promise which his past and present labours hold forth. I must not omit to mention that as a member of our Church Court Mr Irvine has distinguished himself by his knowledge, independence and business talents. His fluency as a speaker and his activity in the department of ecclesiastical duty will be sure to make him acceptable and useful wherever e goes, both in his parish & in his presbytery. I have already in a communication to one of the Trustees of the late Duke of Atho;; stated my impression of Mr Irvine's fitness for the charge of the parish of Cluny in a more extended frm and to that expression of my high value for his character I have great pleasure in adding what I have now said in general terms THOMAS BUCHANAN

1832 Dick of Tullymet to Mrs Al re help for her sons. Tullymet House, 5th Dec 1832, Dear Madam, I have to apologise to you for not replying to your letter of 29th Nov before this, but the fact is I received it just as I was leaving home & could not find it on my return & only this day put my hand upon it by chance. I am sure you will believe me when I say it would afford me great pleasure to be of service to a nephew of my late lamented friend General Stewart but I regret I cannot give you help of any in the profession you wish my interest to be exerted, as I have been for some time under promise to Captain

Dick, a cousin of my own to endeavour to get his son a Captain Surgeon either in the India or the King's Services. Should I succeed I shall be happy to do what I can for your son. I remain etc R H DICK

1840 3 Gloucester place, Edinburgh 23 November.

My Dear Sir, I have to thank you for your letter of 18th cur and beg to say that I am afraid it will be out of my power to visit your part of the country this summer, but I am not the less obliged to you and Mr & Mrs Murray for your and their favourable opinion of my work. As I opine however that there is nothing impossible in my having the power to paint them some time hence, there can be no harm in my annexing my terms which you may communicate to Mr Murray if you think proper. It makes me uncomfortable when I have to proceed with a picture, my patient being ignorant of what he has to suffer in purse, as well as in person; or in other words how far he is to be taken in before he can be taken off, so that I am 'dissolutely dissolved' that the fault shall not be with me if there is a misunderstanding on this point with any of my sitters. I was very sorry to be deprived of the pleasure of seeing you at Cluny Cottage in autumn, but doubly sorry for the cause. I trust your mothers health has not suffered in the midst of these trials - please present my respectful compliments to her I am etc THOMAS DUNCAN. Terms for portraits the size of life Had Size 20 guineas - the same size as your mother's picture. Kitkat 30 Guineas - takes in the hands. Half length 50 guineas - takes in the figure to the knee. Whole length 100 Guineas

1830 Drumcharry 22nd March 1830. Sir, I now transmit the information, on the accuracy of which you may rely, regarding the government living at Foss which you asked me some time ago to supply you with. Your questions are:

1. What is the aspect of the Church and manse & what the storms to which they are principally exposed? Answer: The aspect of the Church and Manse is southerly. The fronts of both being nearly parallel, the manse lying about 300 yards due north of the Church. The storms to which they are exposed are consequently the same, being from the south-west between Schiehallion and the rock of Kynachan & from the north west between the latter mountain and the range of hills which bounds the river Tummel on the north. The Church & manse are so built that the violent gales which blow from these openings beat on the north and south corners of the west gables principally, tho you can easily perceive that the west fronts of both are very much exposed to them.

2. In what state of cultivation is the garden (& glebe if any) improv'd or not since appropriated as glebe. Ans. The garden & glebe amount to two and a half acres and formed part of a farm. Consequently they are in good order as arable land. I have not yet been placed as minister of Foss & have done nothing to either garden or glebe tho I have directed the garden to be trenched & the glebe to be properly laid out which will be done forthwith. I may mention that the soil of both is good & that there is every facility for improving it, there being a quarry of excellent lime within 200 yards or thereabouts of the Manse which the minister will have no difficulty in availing himself of.

3. What was previously the state of the Parish in which the Church & Manse are placed & the number of places of worship within it & the distance from one another? What population & how divided? Ans: The first of these queries being rather vaguely expressed I am at a loss to answer it except by referring you to the answers to the following questions taking for granted that what you mean by 'the state of the parish' is the means of religious instruction afforded to parishioners. I suppose the parish church the centre from which to estimate the respective distances of the chapels of ease or missions within the bounds of the Parish. The population of the parish then is 5,000 very nearly, which is thus distributed. Belonging to the mission of Amulree, the church of which is distant from the parish church 13 miles, there are 350 souls. Grantully distant 7 miles, 1000. Foss distant 10 miles 644. Now at all

these there are churches & at Amulree & Grantully manses. Foss was formerly under the charge of the Missionary at Kinloch Rannoch where he had his residence. But besides these, the Parish Minister preaches 2 or 3 times a year at a place called Fincastle, a secluded glen divided by lofty ridges of mountains from Atholl on the one side & from Strath-tummel & the eastern district of the charge of Foss on the other. The population of that is 400 & the distance from the Parish church by the nearest road, a riding one only, 15 miles. There, there is neither chapel nor manse, the minister preaching in the fields in good weather & in bad, in a byre or stable or barn, as he can procure the accommodation. The rest of the population is provided for at the parish church to which it lies contiguous - My authority for all this as regards the population, is the parish Minister of Dull - except the district of Foss, a census of which was made within the last few days & which corresponds very nearly to what the minister had previously told me, a presumption of the accuracy of his information regarding the other districts. The parish church is on the road from the northern districts of the Parish, viz Foss & Fincastle. to the southern viz Amulree & Grantully. The Church of Grantully is 12 miles from Amulree, the church of Foss is 7 from the station of Fincastle, or taking the shortest road between 5 & 6 - You have now data to calculate any distances which you may wish to ascertain.

4. What is reckoned as the proportion of the parish & population benefited by the Parliamentary Church? What is the usual number of congregation at Church? Also Baptisms & marriages. Ans: The population of the district of Foss I have already stated - the extent of the district I have not been able to ascertain very exactly - but taking Tummel Bridge as the western limit and Dunchaolich at the east end of Loch Tummel as the eastern the length is 6 miles - the greatest breadth is about 2 miles. The greater part of the population lies within sight of the church and manse that is to say nine tenths of it not more distant than one mile and a half or at most two. Dunchaolich is four miles from the church, but there is only one small village between that and the house of the proprietor of Foss which is within a mile or so of the church. The whole of the population is on the south side of the Tummel, except the small village of Dalcroy & Bohally a large & populous village within a mile of the church. I do not know exactly the usual number of the congregation but the church was yesterday almost full & it contains 350-400. You may take 350-370 at least for the average when there be constant worship there. Did the Act allow the ministers of the new churches to keep registers of baptisms and marriages, you might ascertain their numbers; till then it is next to impossible to do so. I cannot discover the numbers as the parish registers make no mention of the district to which those registered belong.

5. What the general condition of the inhabitants that frequent the new establishment, their occupations, habits & morals? Ans: The general condition of the inhabitants reflects equal honour on their honesty, intelligence & on the proprietors by whose encouragement & example & under whose management they are stimulated to useful exertion & live so comfortably. The land is divided generally into small farms which afford employment to a man and a pair of horses & there is a certain proportion of hill pasture attached to each sufficient to keep a few scores of sheep & to summer the young horses and cattle. There is only one large exclusively arable farm in the district & there are two large sheep farms. with these exceptions the people are both graziers & agriculturalists. By these means they are not entirely dependent on any one sort of produce but can generally depend on a deficiency in the price of the one being counterbalanced by a profit on the sale of the other. At present they are rather hard pushed, both grain and cattle being at a very low price. Still they continue to pay their rents regularly & to live comfortably seeing their landlords make every allowance for the badness of the times which they can reasonably expect. There is another class called crofters who have small patches of land from 3 to 4 acres generally, who are besides either day labourers or mechanics, that is carpenters & such, & another still lower called cottars who have no land but are permitted generally to keep a cow. They are in like manners labourers or mechanics. I have not yet lived among them long enough to know the state of their morals particularly, but I have only known one instance in which the exercise of church discipline

was required & that not a very heinous one - On the whole I can confidently say that their moral is not less creditable to them than their worldly condition.

6. What is the state of education & the proportion of children attending schools, the good that has accrued from religious ordinances wherever manifest. Ans: The only permanent school in the district is one at the Kirktown of Foss supported by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge & the heritors of the District. The average number of children who have attended it for the last eleven years is 85 during which time the school has been under the charge of James Robertson who has proved himself a useful teacher. There is another school occasionally & indeed within the last year or two, constantly maintained at Dunchaolich at the eastern extremity of the district, the expense of teaching which is met by the inhabitants, The number of children at present attending it is 25. I have yet administered no sacraments there not being ordained, nor inducted to the charge as I stated. The usual number of communicants is about 300. I may state that the first time that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered at Foss was about 25 years ago by my father, the late Dr Irvine, minister of Little Dunkeld, when missionary minister at Kinloch Rannoch. After his move to another charge, this practice would have been discontinued but for the exertions of the inhabitants, who at a considerable expense to themselves kept it from falling into disuse until now when they are no longer dependent on their own exertions. This shows their regard for religious ordinances, their gratitude to those who have been the means of procuring the government church for their district & their anxiety for the settlement of a clergyman amongst them, no less forcibly reveals the same praise-worthy regard.

1860 John R Banchor to Kindrochet aunts. Banchor 7th June 1860. My dear Aunts, Whatever others may feel I am always sure you are always interested in everything about me & I know I should not neglect to write to you however short a letter to tell you about...his wife seedy, livestock OK, JR, Orkney's wife well pregnant, Irvine on mission to WIs. 'I saw the appointment of Mr Irvine to the West Indies with other three ministers on a massion. Our minister says if he thought irvine would go he would try to get there also but that he would not go without him. I wish he was going for his head with Irvines would be worth a dozen of their best ministers in such a case and country.

Camp Line Drift 2nd Sept 1852. My dear Sophy, The English mail arrived a few days ago but no letters from the Manse however though the mail has reached Grahams Town yet all the letters have not been sent to the different camps so perhaps there may still be one from you. Rob mentions that Duncan intended taking a trip across the Atlantic and by this time is no doubt will be in England, How delighted he will be with everything he sees but it is a great pity it did not take place a year sooner when the Exhibition was open for it was a sight he will never again behold however the pleasure of visiting his relations in Scotland will more than compensate him for that disappointment, you will see by the date of this that I have been removed from Fort Brown very much to my disgust for it is much preferable being in a house than a tent especially during the present season when the heat is almost unbearable on account of the camps attracting the sun. Line Drift is a ford on the ?Kusuma River, seventy miles from Fort Brown and twenty from King Williams Town, the camp is situated about five hundred yards from the drift in a deep valley, the hills all round being round with thick bush so of course it is dangerous to go any distance from the Post by yourself, we see the Caffirs nearly every day sitting on the top of the hills spying and they frequently creep down through the bush to take a shot at any straggler, this is a great nuisance as game is so plentiful but we are obliged to deny ourselves the pleasure of shooting. The above river separates us from Seyola's Country, the chief himself being it is reported within eight miles but as there are only ten sappers under Capt Fenwick RE the same number of cape Corps under palmer and our Company we are unable to make any patrols into his country unless indeed we were

tired of life, for we should be cut to pieces in ten minutes with such a small force, as our only duty is to line the banks of the river and occupy one of the adjacent hills which the post riders pass every Sunday and Wednesday. No wonder, my dear Sophy, the people at home are tired of the Caffir War for it is certainly a most unprofitable one, and at the present moment apparently as far from a end as ever. The hostile caffirs have taken refuge with the friendly as they are called though they have been fighting against us the whole war yet we were not allowed to enter their country. Genl Yorke sits quietly at King William's Town doing nothing while the Governor has returned from Kei expedition after and absence of three weeks instead of remaining two or three months. He has captured 13,000 head of cattle from Kreli who is the Incosa Enkulu or paramount chief of Caffirland, but this is not one fiftieth part of the cattle the savages have stolen from the Colony. Had His Excellency followed Kreli up and obliged him to make peace the war would soon have ended as that chief would have forced the other tribes to cross the Kei. The men here are employed when they can be spared in building a small fort consisting of wattle and daub houses for themselves surrounded by a stone wall seven feet high and when finished all the Caffirs in Caffirland would not dare attack us for the bush within 200 yards of the post has been cleared away leaving no shelter for them if so inclined. When we left Fort Brown, Dundas was obliged to go into Grahams Town on account of a sore knee where he has been ever since, however he expects to be here in about a fortnight, we miss him very much as he is such a nice amusing person. Col Percival and Irving of ours ? to sail yesterday for England, the former having been recommended to go home by a medical Board, the latter on private affairs. Major Horne has now command of the District of Albany, Sophia, I suppose, is by this time in Canada. How delighted she will be to see them all again after so long an absence, tho she appeared in low spirits at the idea of parting with the ?Ross' who certainly have been most kind and attentive to her, indeed her own family could not have been more so. I trust my dear Sophy all at the manse are well, Does Aunt continue as active as ever. By the time I get back I shall not know Bessie and the other bairns, they will have grown so much, but God only knows when that will be for as I said before there is no chance as yet of the war coming to an end though the Caffirs are very willing to make peace, but not on our terms. How are the Aunties Does Aunt Helen still continue as feeble as ever, give them my love and say I intend writing to them next mail. Are Bessie & the Minister of Moulin I forget his name as attached as when I left, is Mr Walker the happy man I remember all the tender glances the latter used to cast her, Happy Bessie to have made such an impression on the poor man. It must have been while she accompanied him on the piano when he used to sing three short and sweet songs which Lizzy so much admires. 14th Sept Last Wednesday eight hundred oxen and sheep arrived here from Peddie en route to the Tamacha but as we could not spare enough men to escort them through Seyola's country, Fenwick ordered me to ride express to that post for a party of the 45th Regt which with five Cape Corps (the number allowed me) was not by any means pleasant as you may imagine, However thanks to the speed of our horses we arrived there in safety, we saw numbers of Caffirs who shouted out to us to stop but of course we were not such fools, they fired a few shots though at too great a distance to do any harm. The day after we heard heavy firing about four miles from this, and on reaching the place found that the Gillman of ours with fifteen cape Corps had recaptured a lot of cattle that the Caffirs had stolen from the Peddie Fingos, two Caffirs, two Totties were killed and two of the former wounded, There is a report that the Governor has offered to pardon Macaino if he surrenders, this is the chief that has given the troops so much trouble in the Waterkloof, it is further reported that the said Chief intends hunting Uthaalder, the Rebel Totty leader for whose head there is a reward of £500. During the skirmish between the Cape Corps and the enemy mentioned above, one of the rebels had his thigh broken by a ball and of course fell, the Fingos rushed up to him and commenced a war dance over him, the unfortunate wretch went upon his knees and asked them to spare his life and bring him to the English, the only answer he received was a dozen assegais through his body, this shows, my dear Sophy, the nature of the warfare carried on here, no quarter being given on

either side. About thirty of the enemy were mounted (there being 80 in all) and the remaining fifty men were so knocked up with the long chase that they clung to the horses tails and were dragged along until they escaped, Our Allied the Fingos are certainly a hardy race only fancy their keeping up with mounted men for twenty miles which they did on that occasion. 18th Sept, I am obliged to close this epistle today, my dear Sophy, as the last batch of letters for England leave Graham's Town tomorrow and the Post will be here in a few minutes, Give my kind regards to all at Findynate, Craigatin and the Manse & believe me, your affect cousin G ROBERTSON

1874 AIR Pres to Aberdeen West Church  
1879 Ld Balfour of Burleigh to AIR  
1877 B of B to AIR. Grats on election to Clackmannan  
1877 B of B to AIR  
1877 Mrs Bruce. Grats on election  
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

MCNEILL TO ARI Edin 28th Sept 1833

My dear Sir,

I should, I fear, subject myself to the misconstruction of being totally incapable of appreciating the value of the fine dog you lately presented me with. Or of a want of courtesy in not acknowledging the amount of the favor conferred, were I to remain silent on the subject of his late exploits. As I am aware that you are not wholly indifferent to those sports I shall offer no apology for laying before you a full, true, and particular account of this interesting occurrence which took place on the 16th Sept 1833. On the above day, being about to visit the Island of Jura, it occurred to me that an opportunity might be afforded me of entering Buscar, so I resolved to take him along with me. During the passage from Colonsay Buscar was very sick & as he was in no training & as far as I know never having previously seen even a hare, I conceived his sickness to have been greatly in his favor, tho' no doubt it must have caused considerable weakness particularly as he received no food previously that day & as the sickness continued for several days.

As I believed him never to have seen either deer or hare I deemed it prudent to take along with me a lurcher who had been bred to rabbit hunting & shore shooting & was thought very swift of his kind. After landing we had not walked above a couple of miles into the Island when a herd of a dozen hinds were descried at a short distance. The Dogs were immediately secured and by creeping for a considerable distance we at length arrived within 200 yards of the herd, when it was found there was no possibility of getting nearer them unobserved, in fact they had even then exhibited symptoms of uneasiness & alarm.

No time was therefore to be lost, a shot of powder was fired to encourage the dogs and they were slipped. The ground on which we were sloped on the one hand with a rather gentle descent to the sea & on the other rose at nearly the same angle to the base of some rugged mountains at no great distance off. Towards these mountains the herd made. The dogs when slipped ran forward together for the distance a hundred yards or so, When Buscar, who seemed totally ignorant of the meaning of all the hollowing & noise turned round and stood for a few seconds but almost immediately catching a glance of



the other dog in pursuit he instantly joined and owing to the ground rising in front both were soon out of sight.

The party followed as the best could & after having run with all the speed they were possessed for a few minutes, Buscar was observed at a short distance on our left returning down the hill preceded by two of the herd about 50 yards ahead of him but nothing was seen of the lurcher or the rest of the herd.

Buscar made quick work of it; he had run but a very short way when he was up with the hind nearest him, & immediately took hold of the hock with such strength of grasp as seemed in great measure to paralyse the limb. Notwithstanding the roughness & declivity of the ground down which he was dragged for the space of nearly two miles & which in many places was steep, he never once let go his hold. The Deer at length from exhaustion & laceration fell when Buscar quitting his hold made for the throat, the animal however recovering its legs he again resumed his former hold. This ceremony was gone through six times in my sight till finally the deer received its last fall. On coming up I found it still alive and moaning but more unable to struggle than any I have brought down my bullet, while Buscar who was literally so covered with blood from head to foot as to render it totally impossible to have discovered his real colour was tearing at his prostrate victim tooth and nail, & so excited that he would not permit anyone to approach him. More than once he vented his fury on the unfortunate lurcher who during the latter part of the case had joined us and followed at our heels.

To close this interesting occurrence the throat of the deer was cut & from that instant Buscar took no further notice of it. On examination it was found that the unfortunate animal had suffered severely from Buscar's jaws. Its tail was torn out and with it part of the back bone, the hocks were without hair & much lacerated, the throat much bruised & perforated as also the great gut.

Considering the youth of the Dog, the length of the chase, the steepness and ruggedness of the ground over which he ran, the tenacity and courage which he displayed in preserving his hold & above all his total inexperience unassisted or encouraged, I consider this feat to be unrivalled in the annals of the chase - for a more critical and philosophical essay I would beg to refer you to the sporting magazine. It was strange to observe the deportment of the different individuals of the party during the period of excitement. Some were waving their hats, others shouting, some throwing aside part of their dress, while others quite exhausted lay stretched on the ground.

For my own part notwithstanding Porter, a quantity of clothes none of which I parted with & pockets full of papers etc also again, I came in second. I have placed this foremost of all the days of my sporting career & for the pleasure that has been afforded me I have to thank you. I could dwell longer on this subject with pleasure but as my paper is nearly filled & you I have no doubt nearly as much exhausted as the Deer I must conclude this very pleasant subject & my letter by requesting you will offer my kind regards to Mrs Irvine. ARCHD MCNEILL

1843 4th Feb 12 Hill St, Edinburgh, My dear Sir, Your favor of the 1st only reached me this morning. I am happy the great event has at length come off and that all has gone so pleasantly in the summing up of the arrangements. We drank a bumper to the couple on Tuesday - and if good wishes can aid in furthering their future happiness they have those of 'No 12' with the most perfect sincerity. I think Miss Emily has exchanged a certainty for an uncertainty on the head of her future home - but she alone was entitled to judge for herself in a matter of this kind. You & I did our duty by tendering our best and timeous counsels. If these have not been favourably responded to, the responsibility lies not at our door, but her own. Seeing the thing must go on - even we have been fools, ? ones into the bargain - not to put the best face we could upon it to the public. Upon this principle we acted - and indeed ?? - and I maintain we have done right, say to the contrary who will. I have never ?heard a ? agt you or myself

on this head. If I had I should have vindicated you manfully because I think you deserve it. I shall be your advocate if ever I find an opportunity to do what I consider but bare justice to you. Mr Pender, I know, approves of the tack I took - for I told him of it at the outset. With Mrs Pender I have had very little conversation on the subject but a reflection agst you I have never heard from her or anyone else. I have your letter but I think it better rest. If it is called for I have it to hand to produce. I hope at least Mrs Campbell will be happy for I have a great regard for her. Much will depend on how their tempers amalgamate. The Capt I never met with so can form no opinion of their future prospects on this main point. We have a desperate cold north wester & a good deal of snow. When you see John say to him I presume his ink is quite frozen over. We are all well here. I am etc JAMES FERGUSON

Extract from letter signed Elizabeth M. Stewart Menzies Irvine to Miss Sophia Stewart, Montreal. dated The Manse Blair Atholl, 20th Aug. 1859.

The writer was the only child of the Rev Alexander Irvine by his first wife, Elizabeth Stewart Menzies of Foss. The family she describes are her half-siblings by Sophia Robertson of Kindrochet. The addressee's father was Col Chas Stewart, born Perthshire 14.7.1793. d in his 82nd year at Clarenceville, Province of Quebec. No known kinship connection with Garth or Shierglas

'...And now to a little of home news, that is to say, a sort of family sketch of our own very selves, as Gran [*Sophia Robertson, nee Stewart of Shierglas*] says she is sure that will interest you. She herself is wonderfully strong and active, looking very much better than she did last year. In short you may tell your father that his aunt is a very wonderful person for her years, both mentally and physically for she is now past 79. Frank, (*the Frank referred to is Frank Cunynghame*) says your father is very like her. The children are in name and age as follows: Sophie 14, Alister 12, Clementina 10, Duncan 8, Robert 6. Sophie your namesake is both tall and stout. She is, we think, more like her Sheirglas relatives than anyone else belonging to her. She had at one time a look of her mama, but that she has completely lost. She will not be the least pretty, but promises to be handsome, what you Canadians call fine-looking, I believe, and lady-looking & she promises to have too, what is of far more importance, her mother's amiable and gentle temper.

Alister has always had a general look of Papa's uncle, General Stewart, whom I am sure your Papa remembers, but he is very big now & instead of being a little man promises to be a very tall one & broad too. He is at school at St Andrews & has been for two years, & when his holidays are over returns there for a third.

I don't exactly know who to say Clementina is like, not much like anyone, but a sort of mixture of all her relatives & a funny old-fashioned piece of goods she is. Duncan is a regular Kindrochet & ridiculously like his cousin Duncan in Canada. Sometimes he moves and laughs so like Duncan I can hardly keep my gravity.

Robert is much stouter than Dochie & is the only one of us the least like Papa, I think. I don't know if your father remembers the appearance of mine, if not the resemblance will not avail much as a description. Papa is much thinner than he used to be, & grey too, but years will tell on everyone. To add to our own crew, my uncle, Dr Irvine's two little boys, one 7, the other 5, are with us, so you may imagine we have a good deal of noise. Uncle is the medical man here, & lives about 9 miles from us. He has a great deal to do, both for himself & for an assistant, but a doctor always lives a very laborious life. His wife was a Miss Black, a step-sister of Mrs Stewart of Balnakeilly. He has let his place for the two current months & gone with his wife & family to Aberdeen for a change.

Mrs Stewart was a Miss Hood, the daughter of a Capt Hood, formerly of the 91st & they have 7 or 8 children. Balnakeilly is a very pretty place, so I am sure that the English family who have come there now cannot fail to admire it. My grandmother, old Mrs Irvine [*Janet Stewart of Garth*], is still

wonderfully well & lives in a little cottage close to her son the doctor. Your father, Gran says, always enquires very kindly after the former family here.

Old Mrs Stewart lives in a nice cottage in the Pass just opposite Mrs Hay's and close to the village of Auld (Allt) Girnaig. Her eldest grand-daughter, Mrs Campbell's daughter Emily, lives with her. All her girls, the Misses Stewart, I mean, are dead, but Mr & Mrs Campbell are still at Moulin. The eldest son is now Colonel Commandant of the Queen's 21st Fusiliers & is stationed at Malta.. The other son alive, Athole, is the free church minister in my father's parish & is neither so sensible nor so peaceable a man as his brother. The Stewarts of Derculich will, I dare say, remain permanently in Perth, as Mrs Stewart's health is so much improved since going to reside there. The education of his children is also a consideration, for it is not easy to manage such matters in the country. General Robert Stewart and his household are so pleased with Derculich that I dare say they will remain there for many years. Did you know his uncle, Captain Stewart, who was Registrar of the Hamilton district up to the time of his death, which took place a year ago, or rather 18 months? His daughters Mrs Harvey & Mrs Campbell are both in Montreal & his widow still lives at Hamilton. Though we correspond I never have the pleasure of seeing them, but I met in London last year Aunt Stewart's brother, Sir Allan McNab, whose name is so well known in Canada.

The ladies at Kindrochet Cottage are very well. Your father will be glad to hear of them for they were old acquaintances of his. He will also remember the Stewarts of Dalchalloch. They left that place several years ago, but lived for some time at Middle bridges, a place not far from Blair. The brothers went to Australia where they are very comfortably settled in the Sydney district, but about a year and a half ago the two unmarried sisters Jane and Betsey, followed them. We have heard of little more than their safe arrival. This, dear Sophie, will not be very interesting to you, nor your mama, but I hope Colonel Stewart may care for all the gossip I have been trying to gather.

Gran desires me to bestow her very best thanks on you for the pictures you sent her & we are all the more pleased to have it from Frank's saying it is very like you.

By the way, Willie is in Edinburgh & as of course he will be here before he returns to Canada, he will be able to give you an account of us all. When you write to me, dear Sophie, what I hope you will do, you must give me the names and ages of the Cunynghames for I am ashamed to say that after Jamie I am quite at sea. I need to remember them but now I have forgotten them. I am ashamed to ask any of their relations, so don't you tell upon me. Duncan sometimes writes to Papa, but gentlemen dont enter on these particulars, & Grace, Maria & Kate have ceased their former good habits of letter writing. I am sorry to hear that George is not yet very strong. He was a very fine boy when he was at home & so were Sophie's boys. I am glad to hear there is some chance of George's getting home on leave. Poor fellow, we shall be happy to see him again. Tell us all about your sisters when you write too. We were happy to learn from Frank that you were all getting on well, but I want particulars from you. If your father remembers the family of Auchleeks Robertson, please tell him that the old laird is dead. His widow and family live in the south of England. The young laird is also obliged to live there as his wife's health is too delicate to live here. General Macdonald's new house, a palace rather, is getting on very fast. He is very lame owing to an accident when hunting, but otherwise in good health. His daughters are all married. His eldest son has some staff appointment at Winchester, & is a major in the army. The second was obliged to sell out owing to bad health. The third was killed at Lucknow & the fourth is captain in the 79th in India.

Strowan, not content with selling Mount Alexander to the General, has advertized for sale all the rest of his unentailed estate, the new house he built at Dall and all the rest. He will still have a corner left with the Barracks at the west end of Loch Rannoch for a residence. "Sic transit" the Strowan estate & the glory of the chief of his Clan Donnochy. It has caused great regret here.

My father desires kind regards to yours. He got newspapers last week, which Gran declared was a hint for a letter.

1860 ARI to WSI Atlantic Ocean, 120 miles off the Azores Oct 24th 1860. My Dear Wm, Although I have not the least idea how or when you may get this, I am so anxious you should hear from myself why I write now rather than by any other channel that I write on this chance of this coming to your hands in some way soon. Yesterday morning at 5 we broke our main shaft close outside the hull & all yesterday & today the Shannon has been rolling about like a log on the bosom of the ocean. The mischief is irreparable till she returns to England. We have only cause to be thankful that we are all alive & well & not in the bottom of the sea. Had the fracture been followed by the complete detachment of the paddle we should in all likelihood have heeled over & gone down. But it hung on till we got it partially secured & today & yesterday have been spent in detaching the floats & so making all as snug as it can be made under the circumstances. Luckily the weather has been fine, the only inconvenience being the long Atlantic swell that makes this large ship imitate the movement of a cradle on an uneven clay floor. The main question now is whether to go on to St Thomas 2500 miles off, or to put back to Lisbon 600 miles & wait for a fresh ship from Southampton. This depends on whether the ship will steer under sail with one paddle working. If she behaves well in trial tomorrow, the captain has resolved to go on. If not then we steer for the Tagus, weather being tolerable; at the worst we will make Madeira 300 miles off & thereafter as we best may. If we go to Lisbon I have not fixed whether to go home from there or to come back in the next ship. We have made 1200 miles of our voyage and as our return will involve the loss of a month which I cannot afford it is likely I shall go home from thence should we really return. In regard to sailing we had two very bad days after leaving Southampton & I was very sick. I was for four days unable to taste anything save Arrowroot & limonade. But yesterday morning I got some oatmeal from the Steward's stores & having given one of the waiters a lesson, had porridge to breakfast yesterday and today & my stomach is coming all right. Three fourths of the passengers were ill & even the Captain was annoyed at the weather we got to start with. It has been only squally since with fine weather in between whiles. The climate here is delightful, soft & balmy, & gratified as I never felt weather before at the same temperature, which is about 70 though higher when the sun is out. It has nothing of the burning oppressive feeling that the same state of the Thermom would cause with us. I will write a bit tomorrow & tell you when we are to go when our course is finally resolved on. One way or other you will receive this from St Thomas or Lisbon. A friend has just come in to say that a notice is posted on the window of the capt's cabin that we are to go on to St Thomas.

Oct 25th 8pm. After an anxious day to all of us & especially to the Captain & Engineer we got all ready for steam this afternoon at 3 and started on our voyage for St Thomas. Without any appreciable wind to help us on, we are making 5 knots with one paddle & as we are going due south to get into the trade winds when our sails will serve us, seafaring men on board assure us we will make 7 or 8 and as the calculated rate for the ship with all steam power is from 9 to 10 we will probably lose 10 days to a fortnight on our outward voyage. We are now proceeding as well as we could hope for, & much better than I did this time yesterday. I never saw or felt anything more delicious than this afternoon from 5 to 8. The air was so balmy & pure that there is no English word that I have fit to express it. We are all in great spirits, though it is not quite satisfactory to have a voyage of 2000 miles to perform with one paddle. But the hurricane season is past & we are getting as fast as we can out of the region of gales & when once in the Trades we will be well out of all ordinary risks. I will add bit & bit now and then till a chance occurs of sending this to England. It is not very likely one will come in our way till we reach St Thomas. When you get this send it to the Manse & bid them forward it to Eliz as I need not write the same thing twice over. Next note will be to Soph or Eliz & the one after to the others of them & they must send it round as above directed. If we stop long at St Thomas which I hope we won't I may write

thence to Edin if not I won't write again till I reach Demerara. There are a good many people in this ship going to Demera & Berbice. When I get back I will have queer stories to tell of the queer people I am now among. There are two parties playing cards & drinking sherry ? cobbler on either side of me, one talking Spanish & the other French & such a jabber as they make to be sure. We have a band on board who play to us morning & evening & very well they do so. Good night. 29th Nothing worth writing about has occurred since writing the preceeding. Our speed is much improved as we made from noon yesterday to noon today 164 miles but still 100 miles under the vessel's rate. The Engineer thinks he will put on more speed when we get into smoother water. The only annoying fact we have in prospect is the probability of our destination at St Thomas, as the Demerara steamer will have left before we arrive & we must await her return before we can proceed to St Thomas is under a very bad name. I will go to St Croix about 60 miles from it & there await the arrival of the Demerara steamer. There is just a chance of a spare steamer being found at St Thomas to take us on & if so our voyage will be the shorter. We are today in 32 degrees lat but the heat is by no means disagreeable. The purity of the atmosphere neutralises the heat of the sun. Every day however is carrying us further south & when we enter the tropics, still 500 miles off, we will have a taste of what we may expect in Demerara. Our speed by log tonight is 8 1/2 knots. I am keeping well, stomachy a little, but not so much so as at home often. They are dancing on deck right overhead so I will go see what they are doing.

Nov 7th We have been progressing well since I wrote you last. We are today within 500 miles of St Thomas where we hope to be the day after tomorrow. No one can tell whether we will be taken on without delay or must wait a week. But the probability is in favour of our not being. I must however close this without telling you in case we go on as they merely move from one ship to another & start directly and the note must be ready for posting without any delay, as it will take all the time I have to spare to attend to the luggage. The heat is today very great. In the shade the thermometer is 86 & the crowd of passengers, the engine fires & the cooking which is vile, fat & greasy perfumes the whole ship & make it not at all comfortable. We shall be better when we get there, The number of passengers is 230 & it is no joke to cook for them. I will finish on Friday morning as we near St Thomas.

Friday Nov 9th 10am. We passed Sombrier a small barren rock 90 miles from St Thomas this morning at 8. The American flag was flying on it & our cute cousins finding there was guano on it took possession and helped themselves leaving us to confound our cruisers in this sea who had never taken the trouble to land and see what was on it. I must finish now, for the only table on which I can write will be so occupied in the afternoon that it will be hopeless to write then. The only thing I would like to tell would be our getting on from St Thomas to night or tomorrow but you must just hope for the best. I will write next from Demerara to the Manse & will expect letters from some of you to be waiting us when I reach or soon after. Thermometer today 82 in the shade but heat not oppressive but for the ship's smell which is a compound of all abominations. Love to all.

1861 ARI to Jas R, Tobermory. As I am to leave home on Tuesday early for St Andrews on my way to Edin & I will be too busy while there to find time to write to you, I send you a few lines before leaving home. You must not suppose that the Duke is the sole or chief sinner in thinning the population of the parish. No doubt he is answerable for some part of the evil, but in proportion to the extent of his property he has done little compared to old Barbour of Bonskeid, Sandeman's son-in-law and successor. He is a sour, ill-conditioned Free Kirker of the strictest sect & cleared off his tenants rich and poor without mercy to make room for men of his own persuasion. Since I came here the whole of the Loch Tummelside part of the property has been reduced from upwards of 20 holdings to one. In Bonskeid he has been going on in much the same way - But besides what is done by the Lairds, the young and enterprising wont remain at home. They rather like the idea of going abroad, and are ready on very slight provocation to pack up & set out for Canada or Australia. And that is the chief cause of the

diminution of the population as regards the Duke's lands. He is by no means an exacting landlord or blind to the evils that threaten us from the decrease of our numbers. But it is a sad state of matters for us, & will ere long work its own cure”l;

I am still at loggerheads with the Railway people & as far as ever from a settlement for ought that has been done.

The agent for the Union bank is Archd Stewart, sometime currier at Balintoul, a very respectable man of his class, and now postmaster, Auctioneer, Inspector of Poor, & bank Agent. The office is under the Pitlochrie branch, managed by a very judicious & useful man, Mr Mitchell, a Writer & Solicitor.

Sir John McDonald is wearing well. He is tough as a withy, & sure to enter his fine new castle, one of the completest houses in Scotland & much too spacious for him.

Mrs Col Stewart & her daughter reside at Strathgarry, & the General and his family at Derculich - the Laird thereof is staying in Perth with his young ones at school.

My mother is wonderful for a woman of 85, never very strong at her best - She is as acute in mind as ever, tho her eyesight & hearing have failed much. Wm & his household are quite well and thriving. The Aunts are in their usual way.

Believe me yours sincerely Alex:R:Irvine.

1880 18th Oct. WSI to John Robertson (Proably Old Blair m to Sophia d of Rev ARI). My Dear Robertson, I have got your paper with the notice of the Garth Stewarts. Of course it is quite inaccurate as regards legitimate Stewarts of Garth, and I don't care to take any notice of the statements as I would only be publishing the scandals of the family. My grandfather had only two brothers, William and Charles, and neither of them was married, although Charles had a natural daughter who was married, but her children are all dead. Beisdes his legitimate childre, my grandfather had a son Alexander who was a captain in the 94th regiment when he left the Army; this he had to do, as he married the daughter of a non-commissioned officer in his own regiment. he had two sons who grew up and i don't know what became of them, and two daughters, one of them was in Edinburgh from Canada not long ago, but I don't know what became of either. This Alexander went to Canada after his wife's death, and there married a daughter of Sir Allan McNab and died leaving an only son. Mt belief is that the Alexander referred to in the paper is the above named man, and possibly his son by his first marriage may be the Father of this mr A.M. Stewart. I know my grandfather had no uncle nor Grand-uncle on the right side of the blanket, by I know that my grandfather's grandfather "Rob dhu Ghart" had a natural son "Rob tigh na dullach" whose son I recollect, and of whose descendants I shall tell you when we meet. You will therefore see that it would be scarcely decent to give the family history, nor kind, to a probably respectable man who may be ignorant of any blot to his family history. Believe me my dear John, Yours W.S. IRVINE