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The Cockburn Letters

The Letters of Charles Cockburn,
Deputy Keeper of the Signet, to
Colonel Cornelius Kennedy
Edinburgh 1714-1715

Transcribed for the Society by Dr. Kit Baston, 2024

The Cockburn Letters

Signet MS 106

Presented by John D. B Campbell, WS, 1937

[front pastedown: Charles Cockburn 2nd son of Adam Cockburn, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Ormiston, he was admitted advocate on 17th November 1705 and married Margaret Haldane d. of John Haldane of Gleneagles. see Records of the Cockburn Family by Sir Robert Cockburn and Harry A. Cockburn, 1913.]

Letter 1

30 September 1714

[Address: To Cornelius Kennedy Esquire (received 6 October)]

E^{dr} Sept: 30th 1714

Dear Corie

I was heartily glad to receive yours of the 29th by the last post by which I understood that his Grace the D. of Montrose had been pleased to appoint you his secretary, and since he has done me the honour to name me to keep the Signet here, there is nothing I shall be more desirous of than of keeping a good correspondence with you. There are usually two underkeepers appointed for keeping the Signet under the keeper who are all the servants that are employed depending on the Secretary of State belonging to the Office, the keepers have now since the Union no sallary allowed them, which was only one hund. pound Sterl: betwixt them when there were two keepers, what the keepers have now is the tenth of the dewes of the Signet and a small share out of the dewes that are payed for any publick paper or signatures that are sent down here having past the Sovereign's hand, and some other small dewes that they get upon the entring of a writer to the Signet or the like. The underkeepers never had any perquisites off the Secretary nor keeper nor any sallary's, what they have is some casuality about the Signet office, which may amount to about 40 or 50 pound sterl: to each of the two yearly as I believe. I leave it entirely to my Lord Duke to name what underkeepers he shall think fit for no doubt there will be some persones recommended to his grace by some of his friends or doers. I waitted of my Lord Advocate your brother this day as you desired me. I am Dear Sir

Your most obedient
And most humble servant
Cha: Cokburne

Letter 2

2 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct 2^d 1714

Dear Corie

I have yours of the 28th by the post which is just now come, and I take the freedom to trouble Coll. Cathcart with this because I don't meddle with the Signet office till I have my got my Lord Duke of Montrose's commission, it is certainly a considerable loss to the Duke that he has no body for him in the Signet office, for now E: Mar's people are thronging in

business very hard. I need say little more to you about the Signet office, I wrot in my last that the underkeepers had no sallary and had nothing allowed to them out of the Signet money, but what had creipt in by custome over and above the common Signet dues, and some casualities of drink money and the like all the letters I have got by this post shall be taken cair of as directed. I am

D: C:
your most humble
and obedient servant
Cha: Cokburne

Letter 3

5 October 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy at his Grace the Duke of Montrose principall Secretary of State's Office Whitehall London]

D: Corie all the letters that come under cover to me are taken cair of. Mr Mitchell being gone from His, the letter I got for him was given to Mr Hamilton the professor of divinity here, Coll:^s Ja: Campbell and Jo: Hope give their Service to you. I am. D: Corie Most humbly yours.

Cha: Cokburne

E^{dr} Oct: 5th 1714

Letter 4

12 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct:^r 12th 1714

Dear Sir

I had yours of the 7th instant by the last post and likewise my Commis^{sn} to be keeper of the Signet, which E: Mar's people will have no regaurd to, till once my Lord Duke's commis^{sn} as principall keeper has pass'd the Sealle, which in my opinion might be Sent down and pass'd the Sealle here, it being entirely a distinct Commission from that of principall Secretary of State. So therefor I Should think that the one Commis^{sn} needs not delay the passing of the other here, but I have written fully of this matter to my Lord Duke himself. Since I have not yet entred to the Signet Office I have not written to you So regularly as I may do afterwards, and whatever directions you please to give me Shall be carefully observed by

Dear Corie
Your most obedient humble Servant
Cha: Cokburne

I Send any letters I have for the Duke, directed to himself. These letters inclosed are come to my hand which I must give you the trouble to inclose under your cover, one is from my Lady Lauderdale, another is come from E: Hyndford.

Letter 5

13 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct^r 13th 1714

11 at night

Dear Corie

I had yours of the 9th instant early this morning by an express and this goes by an express from this with a return from the D: of Douglas and E: Marishall's doers, I have little thing else to trouble you with at this time So this will be very Short, I am with great Sincerity.

Dear Corie your most humble Servant
Cha: Cokburne

Letter 6

14 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct^r 14th 1714

Dear Corie

I wrot a Short line to you last night by an express, and all I Shall desire of you at this time is only to acquaint my Lord Duke that I entred to the Signet office this forenoon, and I Shall writ to his Grace next post. These inclosed come from my Lady Rothes. I am Dear Corie with the greatest truth

Your most humble Servant
Cha: Cokburne

Letter 7

16 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

D: Corie

The post is not come in this night. This town is in great tranquillity at this time So I have little thing to writ, believe the direction on the outter cover will be the proper direction for the packet after this. I am D: Corie

Your most humble and obedient Servant
Cha: Cokburne

E^{dr} Oct^r 16th 1714

Letter 8

19 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct^r 19th 1714

D: Corie

I have yours of the 12th, I own that most of mine to you have been abundantly Short hitherto, I have been in use sometimes to writ to my brother any Storyes or clatters that I heard going here which I did not think were worth while to trouble my L^d Duke or you with them, but I left it to my brother to judge if there was any thing in them worth the noticing and to communicate it to my Ld Duke or not as he found it proper. And now Since my L^d Duke thinks it necesar that we enter upon a correspondence in relation to every thing that is

either done or Said here, I Shall lay myself out to know Something of what is doing here and I Shall inform you as exactly as I can of what turns people of different kinds give to present management. I think I wrot both to my Ld Duke and to my brother that in all appearance it had been better for D: Ar---ls interest in this country that his brother E: I-----y had not been Register at this time, for their friends here are really asham'd to hear people of all kinds cry out against that family, that they cannot be contente when that family has one way or other more then all the rest of the country men have besides, and few of the favourites of that family whom they would advance are acceptable to people here, their being so positive and Selfish does not at all take, the jacobites also complain of them for their manner of bebehaviour, but perhaps that may be on purpose to promote a difference betwixt our friends and these two brothers, and a certain freind of ours has gain'd more by being even'd to be Register then if he had got it, for no Sooner doens the post from London come in but immediatly the question is, what has E: R: got, is E: R: to get nothing, and people wish as it were with universall consent that E. R: were well provided for. I think I wrot also Something of the letter from the Chiffans of the Highland Clans to E: Mar which is in the postboy of the 7th instant, for this letter is thought very odd, wherein they not only acknowledge what they did in Q: Ann's reign wereby his Lordships direction, but they are also ready to follow his Lordships advice how to Serve K: George, So it must be constructed that whatever these people do after this must be by his Lordships direction. I understand that E: Mar's people are very buzy and So are all our [?] against next elections by Lord Balmenino's advice who I beleive may have been Sent down here for that end, and we are told that most of all our jacobites are to come in and qualify, especially in the Shires of E^{dr}, Stirling, Perth, and Ffife, So K: George Shall have a great many more honest loyall Subjects then either King or Queen has had Since the revolution. I leave it to Glenogill to give my L^d Duke an account of what is doing in perthshire and in that District of tonne, where I hear Charles Kinnaird is gone over to his interest again at next elections. E: Rothes wil also let my L^d Duke know what has been done at Kirkaldie, my father was in town this day giving his assistance to the passing a bill of Suspencion for Setting their Deacon conveener a libertie whom Provest Ozet had imprisoned illegally. Lord James Murray Sone to his Grace of Atholl arrived here last night and is gone this day for perthshire designing to Stand amongst the multitude a candidate for that Shire next elections. Our jacobites endeavour to persuade Some of our foolls here that M^r Baillie is not a fit man to be on the Admiralty because he is not a good Seaman. I tell them that may be, for he does not Sail well about with every wind. Now whatever fault you may find to this letter I pray you don't quarell it for being Short. Supposing by this time you may be sufficiently acquainted with my hand, I Shall use no futher ceremonie with you.

Dear Corie Adeiu

I had by this dayes post a Short line from Mr Stanyan of the 14.th I don't writ this night to my Ld Duke. I think the provost of E^{dr} bids fair to carry the election now for this town. I Shall consider of it, how to get persons who are fittest to be employed to give intelligence, and I Shall not fail to write when there any thing occurs.

Letter 9

21 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct:^r 21st 1714

D: Corie

I had a long letter from you of the 16th by last post, and I Shall make the best use of it I can, ~~of it~~, to give people here a right impression of the cair had been taken of the claims of our countrymen and of the regard that the King and privy Council has had to them in

determining their pretensions, and I can assure you what is determined takes very much with our folks here and confounds the enemies to the present Settlement, who have not one word to say on this account. The more fully you write of me, I shall be the better able to fall on ways to give matters a right turn here. We have two Edinburgh news papers printed here which come out twice or thrice a week, one of them is designed to be on the Whig lay, tho' it is very stupidly writ, the other comes from the Exchange Coffee house and is something Tory. Now if my Lord Duke inclines to it, these may be methods taken to give the author of the paper that is designed on the Whig side of it, hints to make him put things in his news paper in a right manner, which would go in this news paper over the whole country. There is one Mr Mcgregoire here the antick traveller, (certainly my Lord Duke knows something of him) who is a prodigious newsmonger, he came here last Summer, I lookt upon him to have been sent down here as something of a spy by E: Oxford, but that Earls Court failing very soon after the Mcgregoire came here, he pretends now to keep as close correspondence for news and about all that is a doing at Court, and has fallen in with a good many people both in town and country whom he furnishes with his written news, and this he does now I believe your fellow for bread, he has always a great deal of news but nearer the one half of them does not hold true, however they being news you know our folks are always glad of them. His news appear to be generally Whiggish but yet there is always some [some] damned thing about them and some curs'd Tory insinuation into the all of them, which makes me suspect him very much that he still keeps a correspondence with some underling dependent about E: Oxford, and he endeavours to persuade some of our foolish people who are no enemies to the government into something of a favourable opinion of his Lordships, and in the strain of the White Staff, but that does not take much here, and its observable that any Whig he speaks ill of are those to whom E: Oxford has most aversion, his news have always the appearance to be something Whiggish on purpose that his malicious insinuations may go down the better, he tells us this day that we must certainly have a new war, and what takes Mr Stanhope to Vienna is on account of some secret articles concluded at Baden betwixt the Emperour and the French, and that E: Stair is to require of the French the demolishing of Mardyke, and three separate articles in the treaty of trade with Spain must be reformed, or then we are to have a war. Many people grumble here that there should be so many peers of Great Britain made since the Union, and many of them Irish peers, whereas our Scot peers are in a manner debar'd from being sitting peers of Britain. I forgot when I wrote to you in my last about the Highlands Clans letter to E: Mar this (which no doubt my Lord Duke heard of long ago) near this town with Campbell of Glenderwell, where was present Mr Alexander McCloed the advocate, and this letter to E: Mar is lookt upon to be the product of that meeting, for the tutor of McCloed brother to Mr Alexander McCloed is a subscriber of this letter. Our Jacobites still fancy to themselves some hopes that matters may some way or other take a turn to the Tory side which may prove to their advantage and they are very busy in matters of elections, which I hope will also excite those that are friends to the government to do the like. We are told that there is no man so much in favour with the prince of Wales as Duke Argyle, and that his Grace is to have the disposal of all things here belonging to the prince as prince of Scotland. I know that Robert Campbell writer to the Signet had been for some time looking out the records in the lower parliament house or where ever else he could get information about what belonged to the principality here, and I believe he has sent an account of what he has found to the E: Ilay. I believe I could direct where there could be some information of that matter fallen on, which I doubt much if Robert Campbell has met with. I find E: Ilay is a man much worse beloved here than D: Argyle, for its thought he gets much of the blame of what the Duke does. I hear Duke Athol's folks give it out that his Grace is very well pleased and that he is to get a pension of two thousand pounds a year, and also E: Findlaton's people tell

us that his pension is to be continon'd on the post office. I am sure you will complain no longer of my letters being Short. I writ to no body else this night.

I am D: Corie most Sincerely Yours
Adeiu ----

Letter 10

23 October 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

Edr Oct:r 23^d 1714

Dear Corie

I Shall not trouble you with a long letter this night. Sir James Steuart arrived here yesterday morning but Stayed very Short time in town having gone west to his interest in Clidedale Soon after he came here, you may let my Lord Duke know, that it is giving out here that Sir James tho' he was but very Short time here in town, yet he waited on our provost and told him, that he was told by the King himself that he behoved not to Stand any where for member of parliament next elections his Majesties business requiring his attendance here in absence of the Advocate, and also told the provost in name of his Grace, the Dukes of Aragyle and Roxbrugh, The Earls of Rothes Hadinton and Ilay, that all of them recommended it to the provost to let his interest for this town to go in favours of B: Campbell. I have been enquiring a little into this Story, I find it indeed that Sir James Spoke a little at Some peoples desire to the provost in name of Duke Argyle and E: Ilay, but I don't find that he certainly Spoke also in name of my Lord Duke and the other Lords above named, however some people to advance their own ends Stick at nothing here, but more of this in my next.

I am D: Corie Most humbly Yours

Letter 11

26 October 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

Edr Oct:r 26th 1714

D: Corie

I have yours of the 19th. The letters Sent down here for the coronation were all put into the post house to be given out in the usual manner that other letters are Sent to these Noble Lords when call'd for. I have received the dues for Sir Ja: Steuart ~~and~~ Commissⁿ and my fathers, which are the only papers that have come directly directed to my hands (excepting my Lord Dukes own Commissⁿ) I Shall keep an account of all that I receive. do me the favour to tell E: Rothes if he iis Still with you, that I don't trouble him to writ to him because I expected to See him So Soon down here. I don't writ to my brother this post. I know [^]not what must be become of him for we have not heard of him these tow posts. I have written this night to my Lord Duke which makes this to you the Shorter.

I am D: Corie Your most obedient humble Servant.

Some of our ffoolish people here quarrell at the printed paper by order of the Lord Marshall, because there is no mention made of the rank given to any of our Scots men who claimed to have their presentations taken notice off [sic] at the coronation.

Letter 12

30 October 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Oct:^r 30th 1714

Dear Corie

Some of my letters to you have been pretty long, but this I beleive Shall be pretty Short. I believe we are So happy just now ^{^here} as to have little news amongst us. E: Kinnoull and also Lord Grange come to town Some dayes ago. A great many people have come in with these few dayes to qualify befor our Lords of Justiciary. I wrot last post to my Lord Duke, and I have written this night to my brother. So I Shall trouble you no further. I am D: Corie Sincerely your most obedient humble Servant.

Letter 13

2 November 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 2^d 1714

Dear Corie

I have two of yours to acknowledge, that of the 26th and that of the 28th of the last month, for now the post comes in very late on Saturdayes night or Friday morning So that lettes are not got out till the Sunday morning. Again next post I Shall Send a list of what Commissions necessarily pass your office, and will want to be renewed, and I hope in a post or two to Send you the best information I can get of every thing relateing to the principality. I fancy you must have mistake what I meant in a former letter of mine wherein I wrot that there might be wayes fallen on to give hints to one of our news writers to make him give right turns to any thing that Should occure. That I mean't was, that when any thing occurred with you worth the noticeing, I Should take the prudentest method to make this news writter give a right turn to things as I Should be directed from you, and when you thought any thing necessary, the more fully you wrot to me, I Should get hints given him for to insert in his news papers. I did not mean that it is possible for me to take upon me the entire direction of our Stupide new writers. I Shall be Sorry if I yet express myself So ill that you don't take what I mean. All I design'd was only when my Lord Duke thought any thing might be Servicable for the interest to give it Something of a right turn in one of our newspapers, which I may get done without it being observed how it comes about. I wrot to you sometime ago of one M^r M^gregoire that is a great newsmonger here. At first I did Suspect him to be one of E: Oxford's creatures, but now I rather Suspect the poor fellow must be a little wrong in the head, whether it is that he really was Sent down here by E: Oxford last Summer as Some did Suspect, and now his L^dShip being out of Court, that manner of [of] of Subsistance has now failed him, and is now reduced to Straits how to make his bread, and you know men never become greater politicians then when matters go wrong with them. However it is, he undertakes a great deall more than he has Sufficiency for. There are a good many people here who are not jacobites yet are So Silly as to hearken to every idle Story, and Some are really So weak as to take him aside and closet him to hear his news and politicks and to hear him reason on the maxims and politicall intrest of the msot part of the Courts of Europe, he pretends to keep a very considerable correspondence and will talk a deall of nonsense with a deall of positiveness and assurance. He told us Several weeks ago of a Catholick league betwixt the Emperour, the Kings of ffrance Spain and Sicilly, the pope, and Severall other princes, by which, their design was, to have the pretender who was to marry one of the Emperours Neices, restored, Kign George's peacable accession to the

throne he Sayes has done much to defeat this project, yet it is on account of this Catholick league, that is Mr Stanhopes errand to Vienna. This Story is propogate with a great many particulars and takes here wonderfully and is Spread about by the Jacobites. Storyes are easily propogate here providing they be news, by Some Sort of people. The harm that this M^cgreoire does is that the idle Storyes that he talks, the jacobites make use of and give turns to for to Serve their purpose, and this they Spread over all the country, and he has establishd a correspondence with a great many persones through the country from whom he get money at So much in the month both from jacobite and not jacobite, for his news. Seldome much of his news holds true, but no matter for that, its alwayes news and we never enquire further. The post befor this he told us that D: Marlebrough was So chased that he was forced to retire of the country, for he Said D: Argyle had hounded out not only the prince against him, but E: petterbrough was Set upon him on all occasions, and they have also got E: Wharton to appear against D: Marlebrough So he made it go here that it is D: Argyle that works all this, and at the Same time he told to those that listen to him that D: Argyle is very unequally matched with D: Marlebrough. This day again he contradicts much of what he told last post and Sayes there is not So much in that of D: Marlebrough's being out of favour as was at first talkt. Since Dyer the news writer dyed they get now two written news letters down here, both of them highly Tory. It was Said on one of these letters the post befor this, that it is whisper'd about that D: Marlebrough is already out of favour with one of the Royall family. What was Said in this written letter and what M^r M^cgreoire Said about it made the Story Spread very fast. In another of these written letters we were told that my Lord Chancellour Couper's Chaplain was will used by the Mobb for a Sermon he preached lately. The use that the enemyes to the present Settlement make of this is, to Show that this Ministry have not at all the Mobb on their Side, and however the people may be pleased with the King himself, yet this Ministry can never last long, for the Church must prevail, which does further appear to be the inclination of the people by the many Mobbs that have been through the Kingdom in favours of the Church on the day of the Kings coronation. M^cgreoire also asserts to tell that the Church party is very much allarm'd with the the thought that the Church is very much in danger from the present administration, it is Strange to See how the lyes and clatters that are in His news papers which are much more Stupidly written then Dyers letters was, together with M^cgreoir's Storyes, Should be the only news regaurded here, for almost every body runs upon them. Tho' Some Servicable people laugh at M^cgreoire very much. You [^]may tell my Lord Duke that we are getting a new Squadrone here. There are in town the Earls of Linlithgow, Wigton, and Kinault, the Lords Blantyre and Balermine, E: Eglinton and Several others as I am told are expected to town. Those are in town hold meettings under the [the] direction of E: Kinnoull and L^d Balmerino, but I hear E: Kinnoull goes out of town very Soon.

There were for two posts befor this, pretty large packets directed for Andrew Kinneir, Sent to me to be inclosed under my cover, but the Servant that brought these packets went immediatly away without letting me know from whence they came, for which cause I Sent them to the common post, and I'll take in Such letters unless I know from whom they come.

I am almost ashamed of this long letter and to trouble you with So many clatters, but it were to make my letter yet longer Should I being to make you an apology.

D: Corie Adeiu

Letter 14
 4 November 1714
 [Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^dr Nov:^r 4th 1714

Dear Corie

I have this night inclosed under my cover D: Roxbrugh's Commission which is inclosed in a white Iron box and directed it after the usuall manner I direct all my letters for the D: of Montros's office. This I have done at the desire of D: Roxbrugh's doer here, D: Roxbrugh having ordered his Commisⁿ to be Sent to London to him. I got also a letter for D: Roxbrugh from his doer which I Send here with inclosed in the ordinar packet. I take the design of D: Roxbrugh's ordering his Commisⁿ to be Sent to him, to be either with a design to qualify befor Some of the Courts at Westminster, or with a design to get his Sallary fixed. I presume to desire you to acquaint my Lord D: of Montrose that if his Grace is not to come Soon for Scotland I beleive it will be necessary for him to qualify also as principall keeper of the Signet befor Some of the Courts at Westminster.

I here Send you inclosed a list of Some Commissions which pass the Secretary Office and are only during pleasure, So will want to be renewed or changed as Shall be thought most proper. The first of these I got out of our Exchequer office ~~as they of~~ of the present establishment as they Stand here at present. This Alex^r Brand of Castlebrand is a man of M^r Lockharts in this Shire of Ed^r whom he got on lately to be underfalconer and So to get 50 pound a year. This James Baird was once Servant to E: fflinlator whom [whom] he he [sic] got in to this litle post Some time ago. Oliphant of Langtown is brother to D^r Oliphant, M^r Lockhart also got him in this post, but now Oliphant of Langtown appears to be on M^r Bairds Side of it for the next elections against M^r Lockhart on purpose to See if this may preserve to him this little place. Walter Murray Clerk to the Stores, I don't know him. There are Several other little posts which I have not troubled you with, either because they are inconsiderable, or because they have no Sallary's. There are Some which are So well known that I have not named ^{^them} here, Such as Cavers Douglas generall Receiver, pittmedden Collector of the Bishops rents &c:

I hope John Montgomery will not forget his being Master of the Mint.

This other lsit of Sheriffs during pleasure, is the most exact I could get at this time. If there is may mistake in them you may get Some information about them hserre you are.

I wrot to you a long ^{^letter} with an account of all our clatters last post. We don't hear So much now of our new Squadrone as we did two dayes ago. We never want Storyes of differences amongst our great men, and I assure you, Such insinuations as these, are made very bad use of through the country.

D Corie Adeiu

Letter 15

6 November 1714

[Address: To L^t Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^dr Nov:^r 6th 1714

Dear Corie

I have just now yours of the 2^d. I can give you no news. The meeting of peers here htat we had So much talkt of for Some dayes is like to come to nothing. One day they dinn'd publicly this week, and had a full meeting of their freinds in town, but Since that I have heard little thing of them. I Sent to you last post an account of our Sheriffs during pleasure. I find that the Earls of London wre formerly heritable Sheriffs of the Shire of Air, but Severall years ago resigned it in the hands of the Crown for payment of a certain Sume,

which Some having never been payed, this E: of London Some years ago got again the heritable Sheriffship with a Nova damus. Coll: Dalrymple is present Sheriff of Clackmannanshire.

D: Corie Adeiu.

I Shall Send to you in a Short time the best information I can get about the principallity, but I am afraid the best information I can get Shall be imperfect, as all the information was (as I hear) that was Sent to E: Ilay, however I am Still in expectation of Some thing I know not if it will answer expectation. I need not trouble you any further with the clatters we have here. Our Toryes are alwayes ready to improve Storyes to their own ----
- advantage.

Letter 16

9 November 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 9th 1714

D: Corie

I had yours of the 5th this morning, and the instrument with the Kings oath for Security of our Church governemnt is recorded by order of the Lords of Session. I am Sure you cn'at be but wearie of the clatteres I have written to you for Some time bygone from this. The Memoriall which our Court have made Mr prior give in to the Court of ffrance in relation to the demolition of Dunkirk vexes our Toryes very much, and they tell us little more of the Catholick ---- ^{league} or of our religious war that we were to have. I have written a line this night of my Lord Duke So I Shall not trouble you any further.

D: Corie Adieu

Letter 17

11 November 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 11th 1714

D: Corie

You'll acquaint my Lord Duke that it will be necessary for his Grace to appoint a new Commission for Some of the writers to the Signet to be his Commissioners for overseeing the other writers. I Shall Send to you next post a copy of a Commission for that purpose.

I hear of little thing that is a doing amongst us just now, tho' our Toryes are jacobites never want Storyes which they beleive themselves and Spread, be thye never So great absurdities providing they think they make any way for their purpose. D: Atholl Since he came down here has been all goodness, he'll be for whatever K: George pleases, for this land he Sayes never was blessed with a finner prince, only he being yet a Stranger does not know men perfectly, but he is mighty civill to every body.

All the informations I can get concerning the affairs of the principality as So imperfect that there is nothing worth Sending to you, and I beleive the erection of the principality cannot be well instructed, however I Shall yet try what can be got. Dear Corie Adeiu

Generall Wetham went for London this morning. We have Something of a Story here, that our peers are resolving to attempt a project that we heard talkt of about three or

four years ago, of getting an act of parliament pass'd declaring a certain number of our peers to be hereditary peers of Great Britain, and all the rest of our peerage is to be Sunk, only they are to be declared capable or being Commoners and So may become members of the house of Commons, for which reason as I am told there are circular letters Sending about the country by [by] way of advertisement and unsubscribed, amongst our peers, desiring they may take care whom they choice or to whom they give their interest next elections, and assuring them that the peers who at present have the manadgement, have Such a design, and So to get ^{^a} choice Sett of peers made hereditary, these circular letters desire that the peers may choice none but Such who will give there word of honour not to go into Such a project. if I hear any certainty for this Story of Such circular letters, I Shall writ more of it. If the Story proves to be true, its probable these letters have been concerted last week, when there was a meeting of Some of our peers and of Some other folks here in town.

Letter 18

16 November 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 16th 1714

Dear Corie

I have written this night both to my Lord Duke and to my brother, So this is to be very Short. I expect to know none of your Secrets neither do I desire to know any of them, only we Should be glad to know Somethings that are going with you that we may be able Sometimes to answer Something to the many lyes and Storyes atht are Spread here. When you can't have leisure yourself it would be a favour done us if M^r Stanyan would be at the trouble to writ, that we may know a little what right turns can be given to matters here.

Dear Corie Adieu

Letter 19

18 November 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 18th 1714

Dear Corie

I had no letters last post from any persone. I have written So much to you about the Storyes that are continously Spread here that it is needless to be Still troubling you with Such like clatters, by what I have written formerly you may Sufficently understand that we never want Such Storyes. I find Visc: Bullingbrook is now our Toryes great favourite, he is a brave fellow, nay their hero. Sir Andrew Home presented his letter to the Lords of Session this day, having delayed doing it on tuesday last. I forgot to tell you in my last that the letter that came two posts ago for Generall Wetham was given to Capt. John Aiken our Secretary of war here, which was done according to Gen: Wetham's direction befor he went from this. I Shall add nothing further this night. E: Mar has written himself Sometime ago to all our peers for their interest next elections.

Dear Corie Adieu

Letter 20

20 November 1714

[Address: To Lt Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:r 20th 1714

Dear Corie

I can give you now news. I am here with Sir Jo: Anstuther who must either drink or Sleep, So I can get no more written to you this night.

Adieu

Letter 21

23 November 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:r 23^d 1714

Dear Corie

I return to you the warrant for the gift of Sheriffships of the Shire of Hadinton to the M; of Tweeddale because there is a mistake of his name. His name is Charles wheras in the warrant he is called John, which you know is a nullity in the warrant, So it must be amended and a new warrant Sent down again.

I return to you also a letter for Capt: Dury he having gone in coach for London on Saturey last. Let me know my Lord Dukes opinion whether that M^r Hamilton is to pay the usuall dues for the warrant of his gift as Almoner. I am informed that his former gift did not pay dues to the Secretary. M^r Hamilton engages to pay the dues if others of the like nature payes. So let me know whether I am to require the dues from him or not. I am informed that the Barons of Exchequer Scruple'd this day to pass the gift to Mr Mitchell for being Kings Chaplain in which gift he has a Sallary and which has passed the privie Seall without the gifts bearing to be with advice and consent of the Lords Commissioners of Treasury and not bearing Signed by Some of the Commissioners of Treasury. If a gift bears a warrant for a Salalry to pass the privie Seall it Seems the gift must pass the Treasury as well as be countersign'd by the Secretary. There is a letter come this day by the post with [with] the declaration form ffrance to Generall Wightman here which is Said to be Seall'd with my Lord perth's Seall, which I think is a demonstration that the declaration is genuine and no Whig contrivance. it makes noise here with us as it does with you, but I beleive it will do them little Service. The peers Address to the King is very pithy and Strongly worded. If I am not mistaken I fancy my Lord Duke ought to Send down here an attestation of the having qualified as a principall keeper of the Signet to be recorded here in our books of Session, if his Grace comes not down to qualify himself in time befor our Christmass vacance commence, which is the 19th of December. I beleive George Robinsone my Lord Dukes doer here, Sends up to his Grace by this nights post a large account of Commissions and gifts that have been in use to pass the Secretaryes hands, but many of them are just now enjoyed during life. Some of them I beleive will be found to depend on our Exechequer and Customes and some on the board of Ordinance, and So will pass other offices then the Secretary Office. Only there is this good in Such a large account, that it gives a view of what may come to be renewed by the Secretary when they fall, altho' they are just now enjoyed during life. I received my Lord Dukes letter of the 16th, I need not trouble his Grace to writ to him this night. I find M^r Lockhart is Still very busie about his election but I doubt much his being able to carry it at this time.

Letter 22

25 November 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:r 25th 1714

Dear Corie

I had yours this day with a cobby of the declaration. A good many people here look on it as no better than another Band bon plot.

There are few of our new Squadrone peers in town. However our Toryes never want Something or other to keep up their hearts. I hae written So many Storyes and clatters to you from this, that Should I continow to do So, you would find them to be Still all of a peice. So they would be but troublesome to you. Yet whenever any thing matteriall occurs I Shall not faill to writ. I have written this night to my brother. Let me know if the Commission to M^r Walter Stirling to be keeper of the Wardrope [sic] is to pay dues.

D: Corie Adieu

I Shall Send a new list of Commissions for the Signet next post. And I Shall writ Something further about M^r Mitchell's Commisⁿ as Chaplain and M^r Hamilton's Commisⁿ as Almoner, to what I wrot about them in my last, which I cannot get So distinctly done this night, as I expect to get done next post.

Some of our Toryes are mightily pleased with the declaration, others of them cry it down, yet its generally beleived to be a true paper.

Letter 23

27 November 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:r 27th 1714

Dear Corie

I Send you here inclosed D: Mar's last Commission of writters (which you'll be pleased to return to me) by which you'll See who are on the present Commission. I Send you also a list of Sixteen to be Commissioners if my Lord Duke think them fit persones. I have reduced the last list which I Sent up to ~~you~~ ^{my Lord Duke} which I got from M^r Robertsons my Lord Dukes doer here, to the one half. I did complain to M^r Robertsons that the last he gave me was too long, and I think the number that I now Send to you will be Sufficent. Severalle that are in E: Mar's Commission don't attend the Session house So I have kept them out of this new list.

You may let my Lord Duke know that there is a most vigorous opposition to the Court designed at the next election of our peers, and even great pains is taken on our nonjurant peers to them persuaded to qualifie, but I hear of few of those that never qualified that they are like to prevaill upon.

The declaration has different effects on people here. Our zealous upright jacobites are mightily pleased with it and look on it as a true and genuine paper. Our Toryes (and Some of our foolish whigs who are always ready to be led a wrong Sent) call it a Silly contrivance, but people of better Sence have a true enough notion of the paper, and think it designed as a Sort of an apology to his freinds in Brittain that he is not able to do more for them, and it looks as if he were taking leave of them and were designed for his last farewell to them.

My father writes this night to my Lord Duke So I refer to him for an account of what has happened befor our Exchequer about M^r Hamilton's Commission as Almoner &c:

Dear Corie Adieu

Letter 24

30 November 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Nov:^r 30th 1714

Dear Corie

I have very little to Say to you this night. I Shall writ next post to my brother. Your Clerk E: Rothes arrived this evening who gives his Service to you. It is now late So you'll pardon me that I have time to Say no more.

D: Corie Adieu

Letter 25

2 December 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:^r 2^d 1714

D: Corie

I have heard nothing from my Lord Duke nor you these two posts. E: Rothes is gone home this day, his is to writ to you very Soon and he desires that M^r Stanyan and you would take cair of his Commission.

I Sent you Some dayes ago E: Mar's Commission to the Commissioners of writers to the Signet with a list for new Commissioners. I Send here inclosed a Scoll [sic] of a Commission from the admission of writers to the Signet, where I have Scor'd this Scroll is Should be left blank. It is usuall for to have blank Commissions for the admission of writers to the Signet lying by the keeper of the Signet Signed by the Secretary, to be made use of when there happen'd to be occasion for them. There is just now one desiring to be admitted writter to the Signet, So if my Lord Duke pleases to Sign first a Commi^{sn} for Commissioners, and then Some blank Commissions for the admission of writers to the Signet (at least one Commission blank for this gentleman that is desiring to be admitted) and Send all down here, all Shall be taken cair off. I pray you Send me down again E: Mar's Commisⁿ that I may return it back again. I beleive the Commissions must be on Stamp'd paper. My father wrot two posts ago an account to my Lord Duke of the Stop that was put to the passing of the gifts that have been lately Sent down, by the Barrons of Exchequer, and of the privie Seall. Some dayes ago I understand, the Barrons of Exchequer call'd for M^r James Baillie the present keeper of the privie Seall under the Marques of Annandale, and made him give a Memoriall or declaration under [under] his hand, of which I Send you a cobby which I got from M^r Baillie himself. This declaration owns that all gifts must be Supersigned by the Sovereign and countersigned by the Secretary. And that they very gifts which are now Stop'd by the Barrons have passed in the Same manner Since the union. I Send you also a cobby of a gift which I have taken from amongst the records of the privie Seall where there are Severall more of the like nature, which has been revised and passed by our Barrons of Exchequer within these few years, in which it is indeed Said to be with Consent of the Chief Barron and Barrons of Exchequer, but not one word of the Lord High Treasurer. Besides the Brittish acts of parliament Setting our Exchequer Shows ^{in the preamble} that the design of the Exchequer by the Union was, that there Should be a Court of Exchequer in Scotland after the Union for deciding all questions concerning the revenue &c: having the Same powers as that in England, and that the Said Court have the power of passing Signatures, gifts, Coutories [?], and in other things as the Court of Exchequer in Scotland had befor the Union. Then a

little after it appoints the Barrons in absence of the Lord High Treasurer to put in execution all powers belonging to the Said Court, and then near to the end of the act, at that paragraph which begins / and whereas by the aforesaid recited article of the Treaty of union / it narrates these powers more fully. By all which it may appear that the Treasury has nothing to with the Countersigning of gifts or Signatures, which ought to be countersigned by the Secretary and Sent down to be pass'd of Course by the Barrons of Exchequer. What ~~depends~~ concerns indeed the payments of their Salleryes may depend on the Treasury, but not the gift itself. We are told that his affair was debate some days ago, and that there is a determination of the privie Councill in favoures of the Treasurere, but in the first place, there is mention of the Commissioners of Treasury but only of the Treasurer in thei British act of parliament. And then in the next place, the privie Councill cannot determine contrary to what is Specially provided to be decided according to the forms and customes of the Exchequer of Scotland befor the Union, and which has been also practised Since the union, an example of which you See by the Cobby of this gift which I here Send to you. But its thought all this is occasion'd by Barron Scrope who first and last its Said had a design to make himself more Significant in all Scots affairs than any Secretary of State of this country. I Send you here a long Story, I wish it may be So distinctly writ that you understand it, or that it may be of any use now that I have troubled you with it. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 26

11 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:^r 11th 1714

Dear Corie

I pray you don't think it is because I am meane of writing ~~of un~~ clatters to you that makes this letter So Short, but I assure you I hear of nothing worth the noticing. I Shall See to gahter all the clatters I can get and Shall writ next post, So I hope you'll excuse me this night. D: C: Adieu

Letter 27

14 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:^r 14th 1714

Dear Corie

I have yours of the 9th. I have been this evening with the advocates Sir Ja: Stewart and M^r Graham, and next post you Shall hear more fully from them. The Advocate has not been well Since he came to this country and desires my Lord Duke would excuse ^{^him} that he does not writ to him this night. I Shall writ more fully next post an account of all is Said here about our new Commissions of Customes and Excise. The great noice that is made of the danger of the Church is much laugh'd at here for people of Sence tho' they be Toryes think it but a foollish bit that will not take a Second time. I am now to make an apology for So Short a letter, for next post you Shall have the trouble of a much longer one.

Letter 28

16 December 1714

[Address: Free Collonell Cornelius Kennedy
at His Grace the Duke of Montrose
principall Secretary of State's Office
Whitehall London]

Edr Dec:r 16th 1714
past 12 at night.

Dear Corie

I am plagued with letters which I must either take in or disoblidge people. This inclosed I must yet Send to you now after I have Sent my other letters to the post house. It is from Sir James Stewart.

*Kisse My Cunt Kinghorn
Ille Ego qui Quondam Clencus*

Letter 29

16 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

Edr Dec:r 16th 1714

Dear Corie

I have yours of the 12th, the Blank commission for writter to the Signet was for a Sone of Mr John M^cKenzie's the Clerk to the Session, who is to be admitted writter to the Signet to morrow and is to pay the ordinary dues. I Shall keep the other two Blank Commis^{ns} by me, till there is occasion for them. I beleive I wrot formerly when I Sent E: Glasgow's Comⁿ for the Regality of Glasgow that M^r Robertstone told me that it was a cobby of the last Comⁿ he could find amongst our records, I Spoke again this day with M^r Robertstone who Sayes Still that he could find out none granted Since the Union. M^r Robertstone has been in Search at all our records in relation to the Exchequer affair these two dayes. I have also been making all the enquiry into the warrants of the privie Seall that I could. We are to meet again with the Advocate and Mr Graham to morrow and I hope again to next ^{^post} you Shall get a full and particular account of the whole affair. My father writes to my Lord Duke this night, and So does also E: Rothes who is come to town this night, So I refer my Lord Duke to them. Some people find a great deall of fault with our new Commissioners of Customes and Excise, but they are Such people as are ready to find fault with every thing that is done. I tell people that this affair depends entieresly upon the Commissioners of Treasury, and it is also observeed by Some here that thir new Commis^{ns} are just as the first Commis^{ns} were after the union, viz, Three English and two Scotsmen on the Customes, and three Scots and two Englishmen on the Excise, and besides this there has been a great deall to Say of the [the] ill manadgement of our Customes, in particular, So it is no wonder that we get new Commissioners brought in there. I make you here a packet for yourself apart in which I Send you all the letters that are put in my hands for any of our freinds, and I burthen my Lord Duke with none but Such as are for his Grace or Some of his family. Let me know particularly if I do right and I Shall after this observe your directions. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 30

18 December 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

Edr Dec:r 18th 1714

Dear Corie

I have written this night to my Lord Duke and Sent him the Advocate's and Solicitors opinion concerning the Stop put to the passing of Signatures here. I Send you here inclosed two presentations for the Ministers of Dumfreis of which I beleive Sir James Stewart writs this night to my Lord Duke.

Letter 31

21 December 1714

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:^r 21st 1714

Dear Corie

I had no letters this last post from any persone. My father writs this night to my Lord Duke an account of his yesterdayes conference with Barron Scrope, and about Some toher things ^{^that are agoing} here. I had not time to writ to you last post, but from all that has been hitherto represented about the affair of the privie Seall and Exchequer, I beleive it will appear, first, that all warrants for gifts Signatures and every thing that pass'd the Sovereigne hands for upwards of 40 years befor the Union, have alwayes been presented to the Sovereign and countersign'd by the Secretary. And the act of parliat establishing our Exchequer after the Union, has not only made no alteration in these matters, but does also expressly appoint, that Signatures gifts &c: Shall be pass'd in our new Exchequer in the Same way and manner that was formerly used in passing of these things in our ^{^Treasury} and Exchequer befor the Union. The articles of Union and this act establishing our Exchequer makes a great alteration indeed as to the revenue the customes and excise, but none as to Signatures gifts &c: So that the practice befor the union must be the only rule in this case.

There is an old act in Middleton's parliament in the year 6^{1st}. It is the 60th act parl: 1st Charles 2^d, on which Some pretend to found, that other officers besides the Secretary may present warrants to the Sign'd by the Sovereign.

But that law is thought was offered in parliament by the influence of Some great men at that time, and even by that act the Secretary is [is] appointed to be a Sort of cheque to all others that Shall procure any warrants Sign'd by the Sovereign. But that act never took effect So has ever been in desuetude. And it appears that the Secretaryes only have been in an uninterrupted possession of presenting all warrants to be Sign'd by the Sovereign from the time this act was made, till the Union.

In the next place I beleive it will appear, that befor the Union, warrants for gifts wherein no particular Sallary was expressly conteen'd, Such as Mr Hamilton's to be Almoner and Mr Wal: Stirlings ot be wardrobe keeper, needed not bear that clause (with advice and consent of the Lords of Treasury and Exchequer) but were directed to and pass'd the privie Seall without being presented in our ^{^Treasury} and Exchequer. But were there were any warrants for gifts concerning express Sallaryes, these usually bore to be with advice and consent of the Lords of Treasury and Exchequer, and were presented in Treasury, revised, and pass'd in Exchequer. Anad by ~~the~~ the act establishing the Exchequer, page 397, the Cheiff Barron and Barrons come in place off, and are expressly authorized with the Same powers that our Treasury and Exchequer formerly had in these matters.

When a gift or grant conteen'd any thing that was extraordinary, remarkable, or illegall, or any way oppressive, then these might be Stop'd at the Exchequer, or at the Sealle, till the matter was represented to the Sovereign, but it never was usuall to Stop things that pass in common form.

A gift passing the Sovereigns hand and countersigned by the Secretary passing the privie Seall, is warrant good enough Still for the place or office, tho' not for the Sallary.

I Sent you Some time ago a copy of a gift passed Since the union to one of the trumpeters, conteining a Sallary tho' it is but Small. Which I judged might be proper exemple how to adjust this matter.

I hope the matter Shall be sasiely adjusted, and neither the Treasury nor Exchequer right to encroach on what is by right the Secretaryes office.

I received yours of the 14th by Sundayes post.

Letter 32

23 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:r 23^d 1714

D: Corie

I had this day a line from Mr Stanyan of the 18th which is the only letter I have had these two posts. Having had occasion for Some time by gone to writ to you ^{^on} Some thing of a grave and Serious leg, I Shall now take the liberty to return to what is more diverting which is to give you Some of the clatters in our town. Its Surprising to find what odd wayes of thinking Some of our people have here. One man the other day ask'd what that was to Say a Commission of police, was it not to Say a Commission for policy and improvements, then Sayes another we Shall Shortly have all our grounds in Scotland impark'd and enclosed for hedging an ditching Shall be taken particular cair off after the manner of England, through this country. And this was gravely Said by two men here, neither of which think themselves foolls. Another man who intended to be witty Said, the reason why the parliament was not like to be dissolved till after Christmass appears to be, that the candidates for next elections might Still have the liberty to feast and treat during the Christmass time over the whole country, to which if ther was a Stop put by the dissolution of the parliament, then the Toryes mgiht Say from that, that the Church was in danger. Now must we not have a Sett of very pretty fellows who can furnish us with innumerable Storyes Such as these, dayly.

After all I hope our Toryes Shall meet with an effectual disappointment in their address which they thought they had So artfully contrived for to catch the presbiterians, especially the highflown Sort of people, that they were become very confident about it, but I believe it Shall come to nothing at this time. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 33

28 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec:r 28th 1714

Dear Corie

I had yours of the 24th by the flying packet this morning. I Sent out one express to M: Tweeddale with the letter from this day, and I expect his Lordship will be in town to morrow. I have written a long letter to my Lord Duke So you'll pardon me that I writ no more this night. Adieu

Letter 34

30 December 1714

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Dec^r 30th 1714

D: Corie

I have yours of the 25th. M^r Arbuthnot is not in town this day but I Shall endeavour to give you a particular answer to what you desire next post. I have given in the new Commission to be expedie, and M: Tweedale is to be in town ~~next~~ the beginning of next week. I Shall then writ to you what is done.

I wish E: Hindford would direct his letters to you, for Corah [sic] Dathan and Abiram.¹

You certainly will have Seen the placet that was affixt on Some publick places here threatning to Sacrifice the provest and all that would refuse to Sign this address for dissolution of the union, now must not this undoubtedly be a popish design Since they threaten to Sacrifice men.

Letter 35

1 January 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 1st 1715

Dear Corie

This being now an idle time, M^r Arbuthnot has been out of town all this while, So I could not get you So exact an account of what you desire as if he were in town, he is expected into town this night, So next post you Shall have the best account I can get from him.

I Send you here one of our printed papers which are Selling through this town. It is writ inded a little in the humour of the times, and with Something of Cant. The design of it is to perswade our high flown presbiterians to delay addressing for dissolution of the union till the King has once had tryall of a parliament. There is no preswading of Some zealous ^{people} otherwise then by delays. I hope our Toryes Shall not be able to make any thing of their present address notwithstanding all of the pains they have taken, in which case they will be very much disappointed. You may show this paper to my Lord Duke if he'll be at the trouble to look to it. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 36

4 January 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 4th 1715

Dear Corie

¹ Korah, Dathan, and Abiram: Leaders of a revolt against Moses and Aaron (Numbers, xvi).

I have yours of the 28th Dec^r. I Sent to you Severall weeks ago a Short account of Some few places that were during pleasure and So must now be renewed or changed, and M^r Robinsone Sent along account of all that he could find at the Sealls that were either during life or during a pleasure. However I am making enquiry for a more exact account, and Shall only burden you with Such as I find to want to be renewed at the time. I expect again next post I Shall be able to give it to you. I have been with M^r Arbuthnot auditor of the Exchequer. I find him a little Shy to let me know by whom all their Commis^{ns} about the Exchequer are countersign'd, for he tells me that can only be found at the Remembrancers office to which he has not access. I find at the great Seall the Barrons Commis^{ns} countersign'd by the ~~Treasurer~~ Secretaryes in 1708, as also the Kings ^{two} Remembrancers, the Treasurers Remembrancer, the two Clerks to the pype's [?] Commis^{ns}, bearing Salleryes, during life, all of them countersign'd by the Secretaryes. In May 1709 the Commis^{ns} to the two auditors of Exchequer with a Sallery during life, is countersign'd by the Treasurer. This is all that is to be found about ^{the great Seall of} [?] the constitution of our Exchequer, at the great Seall, and I find nothing concerning the Exchequer at the privie Seall. It appears that no other Commis^{ns} [Commis^{ns}] about the Exchequer must have pass'd the Sealle. I Shall yet endeavour to fall on a way to See at the Remembrancers office for the Commis^{ns} to Smaller offices about the Exchequer. All I can Say at present is that I find there is one William Montgomery who is Mareshall of Exchequer, the place is 80 p^d Sterl: Sallery. I Shall enquire particularly whether it is during life or not, and by whom his Commisⁿ is countersign'd. This Will: Montgomery did carry the Mace befor E: ffinlator while Chanellour.

The following Lords names are,

Alexander E: Caithness
 ffrancis L^d Semple
 Alexander L^d Elibank
 Robert L^d Rollo

M: Annandale is arrived this evening. M: Tweeddale is come to town this afternoon and I believe their new Commisⁿ will meet to morrow. I have Sent to E: Rothes and I expect him over here to town to morrow. This in hast. D: Corie Adeiu

Letter 37
 6 January 1715
 [Cockburne to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 6th 1715
 past 8 at night

D: Corie

I have yours of the 1st Janry. This goes by a flying packet. The occasion of it is, to Send up to you the new Commission to M: Tweeddale and others, and the attestation of E: Rothes having qualified befor the provest of E^{dr}. I have written to my Lord Duke So I Shall not give you any further trouble on this head. Next post you Shall have a long letter from me, for this night I have not time to Send to you what I promised in my last. M: Annandale desires that favour to have his news letter Sent down to him in my Lord Dukes packet of which he Sayes he Spoke to my Lord Duke befor he came from London.

E: Rothes is to present his Commisⁿ that it may be recorded, in the Admiralty Court to morrow. I find M^r James Graham takes it a little ill that E: Rothes was appointed ^{by the} Commissioners of Admiralty to qualifie befor the provost of E^{dr}, and not befor him in the Admiralty Court, as usuall.

Letter 38
11 January 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 11th 1715

D: Corie

I had this morning my Lord Dukes letter of the 6th by the ordinary packet, and also my Lord Dukes and yours of the 7th by the Express, and immediately delivered the boxes with the Commissions to the two boards. M^r fforbes one of the Commissioners of Excise is thought to be fast a dying.

The packet of letters that was in the bag with the two ~~letters~~ boxes, I suppose has not be cairfully enough Secured in the bag, for the outter cover of the packet of letters was entirely chatter'd and broke, and the covers of most all the letters were tore and abused, however I got htem put together the best way I could So that none of the letters have Suffered any considerable harm.

Geo: Robertson has this day again made all the Search possible about E: Glasgows Commission to be Baillie of the Regality of Glasgow, and he is positive there is none to be found Since the year 1706 which is a Commission during pleasure, and by the best information I can get, his Lordship has had no Commission Since. So I am to forward my Lord Dukes letter to E: Glasgow this night, and I'm to give in the warrant for my Lord Dukes Commission to be pass'd the Sealls to morrow. You'll be pleased to acquaint my Lord Duke of this, and that I need not trouble his Grace with writing to him this night. I am uncertain if my brother will be Still with you when this comes to your hands, for which reason I don't writ to him. I pray you be So kind as to let him know So much if he is not gone.

turn over

There is here with inclosed in your packet a letter for M^r Haldane which is about a particular concern from a freind of his. So I take the libertie to beg of you to cause take cair to get it delivered to M^r Haldane as Soon as possible.

Letter 39
13 January 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 13th 1715

D: Corie

I wrot to you this evening by ~~the~~ a flying packet. I judge my Lord Duke will be gone from London befor this comes to your hands. I am not at home just now, but I must desire the favour of you that you would order these inclosed letters to be delivered which are Sent to me Since the flying packet went of.

Adieu

Letter 40
15 January 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 15th 1715

D: Corie

I don't writ to my Lord Duke because I reckon he will have left London befor this comes to you. Our E^{dr} news are that Capt: Simon ffrazer of Beufort having come from ffrance is gone to the highlands. We are told that the address for the dissolution of the Union is to be reformed So as to make the presbiterians to into it, and Some considerable towns people here in E^{dr} are like to be perswaded to Sign it on pretence that it Shall be lodged in the provests hands only to be made use ^{of} as he Shall afterwards find it proper.

This is thought to be a contrivance only to Set the address once fairly agoing, for Some people will Stick at nothing to accomplish their own designs. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 41

18 January 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 18th 1715

D: Corie

I have this day yours of the 13th. So Soon as Gorthie comes to town I Shall obey what my Lord Duke desires about the Signet accounts. This day being a Sort of head Count for the Shire of E^{dr}, M^r Lockhart got about a dozen of his folks conven'd with a design to propose an address for the dissolution of the union, but they mismanaged their affair, for they did not propose the address till the Court was in a manner over and the Sheriff Deputes were leaving the Court, and So the address came out of time. However the most part of those present Sign'd it, which were but very few. It can't be Said to have been agreed to, at a head count Since the Court was over, and they allowed the Sheriff Deputes to go away befor the address was proposed, and especially Since there was So Small a meetting of the freeholders present. Whether they intend to hand about this address through the Shire, or not, will Soon appear. I hope it Shall have no better Success then the other attempts of this kind have had hitherto. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 42

20 January 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 20th 1715

D: Corie

I have yours of the 15th. This is our thanksgiving day and I have heard of no news to give you. If there ocures any thing I Shall writ to you next post. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 43

22 January 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 22^d 1715

D: Corie

What I am now to writ to you is to give you Some account of what happened yesterday in the meeting of our faculty of Advocates. I think I wrot Some time ago that there was a congratulatory Address to the King proposed in ^a meetting of the faculty about the beginning of this winter Session. The consideration of which was part of that time, till our Anniversary

meeting, because Some were of opinion that the faculty had done themselves no Service by meddling formerly in publick matters, and if the faculty Should engage themselves in a custome of addressing it might bring in the faculty to meddle too far in politicks and So open a door to propose Addressing on every turn of State, and these might also be Some out of the way ~~clases~~ clauses brought into their Address which would be very improper. Therefore many were against Addressing at all on any account. Our Anniversary meeting was put off till yesterday afternoon. We came to understand that the Toryes of the faculty (Some of whom had opposed addressing when formerly proposed in the faculty) designed to press an Address in which they desired the dissolution of the Union. Great pains was taken by the Toryes and they brag'd that certainly they would carry their Address. There was a pretty full meeting of the faculty there being about one hundred and ten advocates present. The Address was proposed which occasioned a warm and long debate for near three hours. Sir David Dalrymple who is Dean of the faculty, told them that he could not Subscribe any Address as Dean because in the year 1702 the parliament of Scotland found that the Dean's Subscribing an address in the name of the faculty concerning matters of politicks [politicks] at that time, was meddling in matters entrisick of the powers of the faculty, and So was unwarrantable; but the debate continowing, the vote was desired, (Address or not) others proposed the vote to be (read the Address proposed or not) So it came to a previous vote, which of the two votes Should be put, (first or Second) and it carryed, the first, (Address or not) 65 to 45, then the vote was put (Address or not) and it carryed (not Address) 58 to 42, for Some had gone away after the first vote was over. It was very mortifying to the Toryes that they could not get their Address read, till first the faculty Should determine whether they would address at all or not, So M^r James Murray and M^r Carnagie and others are very much disappointed, in this design, for great use was to have been made of it, had the faculty gone into this project, and it would have made a great noise over the whole country.

You See what a restless Sett of people our Toryes are, and what a deall of trouble they give both to themselves and others, which as yet has mett with verry little Success. I have written this Story fully to you least that this matter might be misrepresented, as if the majority of the faculty were So disloyall that they refuse to Address the King, whereas I may Safely Say, they were those that are the firmest in the present Settlement, that opposed this manner of Addressing most, and the majority of the faculty are of that Side, however great the expectations of Some were, that this affair would have gone quite otherwayes in the faculty, yet now they See this project also defeat to their great mortification and confusion.

There are twelve or thirteen meeting hosues here in E^{dr}, and I don't hear that the thanksgiving was observed in any of them on thursday last, unless it was on one.

Letter 44

25 January 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 25th 1715

D: Corie

The writs came here this morning. So Severalle of the Elections will come on very Soon. Some of them will be over befor my Lord Duke comes here. I writ a Short line ^{^this night} to my Lord Duke to let him know this, which I expect will come to his Grace's hands upon the road.

I Send here inclosed a letter for a young brother that I have ~~for~~ with a Merchant at Bristoll, I desire the favour of you get it put into the post house for Bristoll. Duke Roxborough came to town last night.

Letter 45

27 January 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} Janry 27th 1715

Dear Corie

Every body is now taken up about elections. I Shall be able in a few dayes to give you an account how they are like to go in those places, where in appearance there will be the greatest Struggle. I hope the defeat of our Addressers met with last week in the faculty of Advocates, will make those gentlemen So wise as to give this country no more trouble about their address at this time. When the elections comes on, if their address meet with any Success in any part of the country, I Shall let you know.

Letter 46

1 February 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} ffeb: 1st 1715

Dear Corie

I have both yours of the 25th and 27th janry. I hear of no elections appointed in this country except that for the Shire of Hadinton which is to be on friday next, where I hope my brother Shall meet with no opposition. My brother gives his Service to you and desires me to tell you that he ^{is} not resolved to Stay in this country above a day or two after my Lord Duke arrives here. We Shall probably have more elections in this country next week. I Shall alwayes give you an account of the elections as they happen. My father writes to you this night So I Shall trouble you no further at this time.

Letter 47

3 February 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} ffeb: 3^d 1715

D: Corie

I have not much to trouble you with this night. My Lady Stairs came to town this afternoon. E: Hadinton gives his Service to you and desires you to tell Mr Kineir to Send him down no more Spectators for they are become very dull.

Letter 48

5 February 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} ffeb: 5th 1715

D: Corie

Yesterday my brother carried his election at Hadinton without opposition. The election for the Shire of ffife comes on thursday next where Sir John Anstruther Stands against the Lyon. I believe we Shall also have Severall other elections next wek. John Montgomery arrived here last night and Earl Selkirk this day.

Letter 49

15 February 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} ffeb: 15th 1715

D: Corie

My Lord Duke went to Glasgow yesterday morning but he designs to return here to morrow. I had yours of the 8th on Sunday, I am Surprised that you have not got the letters were Sent to you from this of the first of this month.

I have written none to you for two or three posts bygone, but I wrot last post to Mr Stanian by my Lord Duke's order, and Gorthie wrot to you a full account that night of our elections, Since which time there has been little thing new happen'd. Again next post I hope then Shall be able to give you a good account of Several elections for the districts of our Towne. E: Ilay came to town last night. Jo.^s Montgomery is gone to the West about his election, and E: fforfar is also gone for a few dayes to the country. My brother is gone from this and will be with you very Soon. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 50

18 February 1715

[Address: To Collonell Cornelius Kennedy]

E^{dr} ffeb: 18th 1715

Dear Corie

This will come to you by a flying packet, which I reckon will be at London as Soon as the ordinary packet that went from this last night. My Lord Duke wrot no letters last night because he designed to Send this flying packet, So there were no letters Sent to you last post. Gorthie is to writ a long letter to you this night. E: Rothes writs to my brother who I hope will be with you befor this. And I also have written to my brother, to all which I refer you. Elections go hitherto even beyond expectation. Earl Rothes has made a prodigious affair of if, he has carried every thing all ffife over, and I may freely Say I beleive that no man in Scotland could have done it but himself. His Lordship gives his Service to you. He has written to Coll: Ker, and these are two Burges Tickets Sent under cover to you to be delivered to Coll: Ker. And do me the favour to give my most humble Service to him. D: Corie Adieu

Letter 51

22 February 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

D: Corie

My Lord Duke would have wrot to my Lord Townsend and to you this might but his Grace is taken up Sending expresses both to the West and the North for proxies. The news continows of the disorder in the highlands, and it is no Secret for it is the talk of every body with the whole particulars. But our knowing of these things befor hand, together with the elections going on So well in this country hitherto, is Some Sort of a guarantie to us in the mean time. His Grace has received your of the 17th, and the flying packet with your of the 16th came here on Sunday morning. All the proxies and certificates you mention came in good order as also Earls Rothes and Mortons Commissions and the Six Commissions for Justices of the peace, for all which his Grace gives you thanks, and expects you'll remember Lord Mordintons proxie in time.

Yesterday was the election for the town of E^{dr}, where the provest carried it by four votes in the town Councill, but its Said D: Campbell is to petition. Its thought that M^r Murray will be returned for the District of towns of Elgine &c: Notwithstanding of what has been formerly Said that he would not carry his election, for in Short the Story is, there were two competitions for the town of Elgine viz: Dumbar of Grangehill and Dumbar of Thunderton, neither of [of] which two would yeild to other, So Earl ffinlator gave his two towns to Coll: Campbell, and Earl Kintore gave his two towns to M^r Murray, and one of Earl Kintor's Towns being the preceeding town made the two competitions for Elgine Signifie nothing, and the Earl Mar being Sheriff of that Shire (which is Aberdeenshire) it is not doubted but M^r Murray will be returned. Altho' Coll: Campbell has good ground to petition, for the two that pretended to be electors for Elgine divided, and its is Said that the legally elected one joyned for Coll: Campbell. My Duke desires me also to tell you that yesterday the Duke of Atholl, the Earls of Mar, Eglinton, and Lord Balermينو, came in name of themselves and other peers to propose to his Grace a draught of ane Address to the King, the Substance of which address landed in the last clause of it, which was desiring that So long as the Union continowed, the peers of Scotland might Still have their freedom of election of 16 peers preserved to them, which they hoped would not be taken away by appointing an hereditary peerage. ~~However~~, his Grace ^{^Said} gave [illegible] that the peers of Scotland by the articles of Union had expressly the law on their Side for preserving their priviledge of election, and he did not See ~~after that it had been Said in these former Addresses on this head to the late Queen~~, why any man Should be jealous of Such a thing, for his part he had no reason to Suspect himself. By next post my Lord Duke will writ himself, betwixt and which time it will be known what they intend to make of this address, for my Lord Duke expects that few of our peers will be prevailed on to go into this address at this time.

I don't pretend to give you this Story exactly. My Lord Duke will do that himself. The upshot of all was in desiring a meetting which my Lord Said he Saw no manner of occasion for, Since almost all the peers of Scotland had Signed one of the three Addresses to the late Queen and to the present King.

There is a letter from his Grace to my Lord Newhaven which he desires you to take care of.

Letter 52

26 February 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

Edr ffeb: 26th 1715

D: Corie

My Lord Duke has been taken up this whole afternoon in Mr James Grahm's house about his own private buseiness, So does not writ this night. His Grace desires you to give his Service to my Lord Townshend and tell him that there has nothing new happen'd Since last writing.

I am Sorry to tell you that Earl Marshall Seems to be in a very wrong way. I wrot to you Some dayes ago that our Tory peers were propogating and Address which they have prevaill'd on Earl Marshall to Subscribe, as also E: Linthgow notwithstanding of his fair professions, but these measures must unavoidably turn very much to the disadvantage of these two Lords. We have a great many peers in town, but this Address does not take much, for yesterday they had got only fourteen hands to it. Duke Atholl Still talks Something Smoothly but its thought he will go into all the Tory measures. Earl Mar appears to be a little chagrin and out of humour. But they Still Seem resolved to Stand it out to the last. Tho' there is no probability that they can make any thing of it. There is no diswading of poor old Earl Marchmont from Standing to [to] be one of the Sixteen. But its thought he will go into fifteen of his list right enough, but himself must be the Sixteen.

Lockhart of Lee has carried the election for Clidsdale, there was a designe to have brought in Daniell Campbell for that Shire but it would not do, So Lee was chosen without opposition. There is one Capt: Urquhart who is Cousine to Sir Will: Gordon of Dalyhollie and who used to be much about Earl portmore, chosen for the Shire of Cromartie. John Montgomery is chosen again for the Shire of Air and Brig: Grant for the Shire of Elgine, and Capt: Abercrombie of Glaseck for the Shire of Bamff. And Coll: Vans for the District of towns of Wigton &c: And Will: Stewart for the towne of Inverness &c:

The election for the Shire of Edenburgh is on tuesday next, and account of which you Shall have next post. We have very good hopes that Mr Baird will carry it.

The Storyes from the Highlands are Still fresh, and this evening I hear Some more talk about ~~R~~ preparations. What Some folk would be at by this God knows.

Letter 53

5 March 1715

[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

Edr March 5th 1715

D: Corie

My Lord Duke went from this yesterday morning. I can add nothing that is new to you, to what was written by the flying packet on thursday last. I beleive Ld Elphinston's proxie (which I think was given to Marq: Annandale) was forgot to be mention'd in ^{all} the lists of votters at the Elections of peers. ~~In all the lists~~ that were Sent from this to you, So there were 22 proxies and 43 peers present, in all, which is 65, besides Earl Marchmont's Signed list.

Letter 54

15 March 1715

[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

Edr March 15th 1715

Dear Corie

I have not heard from you now of a long time, and that I we may not wear out of acquaintance I writ this. I am Sure you can't expect much news from this, unless our Jacobite create up Some disturbance. Earl fforfar goes from this in a day or two. And I am hopefull you Shall See Earl Marshall with you Soon, for he talks of leaving this, next week with Phillip Anstruther, and So will go back to London without going to the North country. I am Dear Corie yours. Adieu

Letter 55

22 March 1715

[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

E^{dr} March 22^d 1715

D: Corie

I am to acknowledge two from you, one of the 15th and another his day of the 17th with the Commission for the Equivalent. I can writ little this night having been these two or three dayes out of town, but next post I Shall writ more fully, So I hope you'll be So good as to excuse me for this time.

Letter 56

24 March 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} March 24th 1715

D: Corie

I Spoke with my father about the warrants, who tells me that he can Say little more on the head then what happen'd when my Lord Duke was here himself. As I understand the matter it Stands thus, befor the Union, almost all warrants bore to be with advice and consent of the Commissioners of Treasury and Exchequer, but the reason of that was, because the Commissioners of Treasury were essential members of our Exchequer, but now our Barrons of Exchequer Say that they are a Court of themselves, and the Commissioners of Treasury are not now essential members of the Court of Exchequer. So ^{^they can pass} no warrants that bear to be with advice and consent of the Commissioners of Treasury and Exchequer unless they are countersign'd by the Commissioners of Treasury, or that the Commmissioners of Treasury Some way or other Signifie their consent to them. There were Severall warrants ^{^passed} of late countersigned by the Secretary, that did bear only with advice of the Cheiff Barron and Barrons of Exchequer, which its probably many in time comeing be the easiest way to adjust this matter.

John Baird is married this might to M^{rs} Dalrymple, and that whole family are to Set out from this for London on Saturday next.

Letter 57

2 April 1715

[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

E^{dr} April 2^d 1715

Dear Corie

Earl Rothes having gone from this this morning, I hope he will be with you long befor this comes to your hands. I refer my Lord Duke to his Lordship so I need not trouble his Grace to writ, my Lord Duke will hear by Earl Rothes that Generall Maitland is at lenth dead. Our politicians are become very sober of late, and we are not now troubled so much with their storyes and news of one sort or other as we were about four or five months ago. I wish we may be so happy as to have them to continow so wise.

Letter 58
7 April 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Aprill 7th 1715

D: Corie

I send you here inclosed a memoriall for John Knox Chirurgion, (which is truely drawn by the man himself) to be presented to my Lord Duke, his Grace knows something of the man of his case.

Gorthie is gone out to Timminghame for some dayes, and Sir John Anstruther is also gone there this afternoon being so far on his journey, I refer to Sir John for any clatters from this country. We have got this day vies: Bolingbroke's letter from Dover, which is pretty much jested at here by some, who think that his Lordship should have said only, that we were delivered from a war, and not said from an expensive war, since the expence still continued after the war was given over.

I received yours this day of the 2^d with the cobby of this Barron Ogilvy's boorebreif, which is recommended to me by my Lord Duke, I shall take all the care about it I can, and you shall hear from me about it again in a short time.

I had also this day Mr Stanyan's of the 2^d.

Letter 59
30 April 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Aprill 30th 1715

Dear Corie

I own to you the reason I writ so Seldom is, that there is So little to be Said from this, I send here inclosed three warrants, of those, that were ordered to be returned,

I am sure since there is so little to be said I need not give you the trouble of a long letter. As to the affair of Barron Ogilvy's boorbreif, I have had Six times at Mr Harry Maul writer to the Signet who is the Lyon's Depute in the Lyon office and he will neither explane himself one way nor other, whether I can get out this boorbreif or not in these termes in which I wrot to my Ld Duke, but pute me off from day to day, but I shall soon be at an end in this matter.

I have yours this night and also Mr Stanyans of the 2^{6th} there is nothing I need to trouble Mr Stanyan to writ to him this night.

Letter 60
5 May 1715
[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

E^{dr} May 5th 1715

Dear Corie

This is to be very Short, for my Lord Commissioner is to send off a flying packet to morrow which I reckon may be with you much about the Same time with this.

The Generall Assembly met yesterday and M^r Carstairs was chosen Moderator by a great majority, I may Say it was almost without opposition. Its hoped that all will go Smoothly on altho' there are Some hot headed brethern to be got manadged. His Holiness writs none this night. ~~Both~~ the King and his Holiness get both great compliments -

Letter 61
10 May 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} May 10th 1715

Dear Corie

I have yours of the 5th, people here are very well Satisfied that the officers of George Hamiltons regiment are to be put on half pay and I assure you such little favours as this gains freinds to the government.

I Send you here inclosed a memoriall which George Robertson and I have at lenth got from Harry Maule about Barron Ogilvy's boorbreif you see now they are satisfied to give out an extract of the boorbreif, but want to know the persone's name and designation that desires it, that it may be insert in the attestation ^{^ to be} given by the Lyon office and for all this they ask 50 pd Sterl: let me have my Lord Dukes directions in this and I shall do accordingly.

I refer you to a long account I have written this night to my brother of the proceedings of the Gen: Assembly in deposing two ministers for not praying for King George nor ~~for~~ observing the thanksgiving in janry last.

Letter 62
12 May 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} May 12th 1715

Dear Corie

I send you here inclosed a Scroll of a Signature in favours of my Lord Elibank, about which I beleive his Lordship has written to my Lord Duke himself, my Lord is desirous to have it exposed if possible against the sitting down of the Exchequer.

There is little thing materiall happen'd in the Gen: Assembly since last post, his Grace our Commissioner writs regularly to my Lord Duke so I need not trouble you with Saying much, I hope again next post you Shall hear that all is like to go very peaceably, and that a few dayes will put an end to them.

I had last post a box with 4 Commissions of peace, and a letter from M^r Stanyan with a copy of a letter of attorney, to whom I shall writ an answer next post.

Letter 63
17 May 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} May 17th 1715
near 12 at night

Dear Corie

The occasion of this flying packet is to give an account that this day their Generall Assembly is at an end. An account of which Earl Rothes write to my Lord Duke. The Flying packet to Earl Rothes with the letters of the 12th, arrived here on Sunday evening about 7 a'clock, I have seen yours to Earl Rothes, and his Lordship desires me to tell you that he has not time to answer it this night, but you may expect an answer to it such as it deserves very Soon. I can assure you now that his Grace is over, that he is still the Same graceless person that ever he was.

I am to Send this night by the post in the ordinary packet under my Lord Dukes cover, a very large packet of papers directed to one M^r Macdouall, it is at the desire of my Lord Arniston and his son Mr Robert Dundas advocate who have asked this favour and hope that my Lord Duke will forgive it, it contains paper relating to an appeal that is appointed by the house of peers to come in the beginning of june next, betwixt the Laird of Saughton and Watson of Muirhouse, my Lord Arniston's Sone, M^r [M^r] Robert Dundas is married to a Sister of this Watson of Muirhouse, who is the defender in this cause, you'll be pleased to acquaint my Lord Duke of this. This M^r Macdouall is to call at my Lord Dukes office for these papers.

Letter 64
2 June 1715
[Address: To Collonell Kennedy]

E^{dr} June 2^d 1715

D: Corie

I had yours of the 26th of May by the post befor the last, and I am only now to tell you that I'm glad sometimes to hear from you. I received last post M^r Stanyan's of the 28th of May, to which I shall be able to give an answer next post. D: Corie Adieu.

Letter 65
21 June 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} June 21st 1715

Dear Corie

It's hard to tell when I heard from you; and I believe on the other hand it may be as hard to tell when your heard from me, and I writ this only to provoke you to writ sometimes, Earl Rothes proposes to Set out from this Some time to morrow, So it is probable he may be with you before this.

Your brother has got the last letter of attorney that I got for him.

Letter 66
7 July 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} jully 7th 1715

Dear Corie

I received last post M^r Stanyons letter of the 2^d with your postscript and the little box with the ring for Earl Marischall which I delivered this day to M^r Corser. I am also to acknowledge yours of the 30th june, in which you desire to hear of any thing diverting that happens here, but this place is so very dull and barren of every thing except idle politick Storyes, that I fwear there is nothing I can find worth writting to you, even Sir Tho: Dalzyell himself is at present out of town, and there is very little that is entertaining to be procured from our Ladyes. Whenever any thing happens I assure you I shall let you hear of it.

I don't writ this post to M^r Stanyon, do me the favour to let him know that I received 3 commissions of the peace with their Dedinnes's last post, which were delivered this day to Sir James Stewart.

Letter 67
26 July 1715
[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} july 26th 1715

Dear Corie

Altho of late you and I have not kept much correspondence, yet now in this throng time of news I pray you do me the favour sometimes to let me hear from you.

Our jacobites make very merry about the news you send us down of the pretenders making ready to cover over to pay us a visite, they gladly would perswade us that this is all a Whig plot and that there is nothing in it. This is indeed the best turn they could have fallen on to give it, least by the vigorous resolutions of the government, their projects may yet come to misgive it is a little impudent in them, after the preparations that many of them have made and the expense that many have been at in arming and equipping themselves and are ready to appear for their master so soon as he comes to Britain, that now if their designs come to be disappointed, by the care the government takes to provide for the defence of the country, that they are at pains to give the turn to, that it is only a Whig plot. however I wish we had a few more forces here, and then we need not be much afraid of any turn they shall be able to give.

Generall Wightman who always loves action, thought fit yesterday forenoon [forenoon] to carry down from the castle of E^{dr}, the train of artillery to St anns yards, consisting of six or seven cannon and some mortars and about a dozen or twintie waggons with ammunition &c: where he has encamp'd Lord Shannon's regiment of foot which was lying in the Cannongate, but after the necessary guards are set at Leith the Cannongate and the abbey this formidable encampment consists of about 160 men. I believe the artillery had been ~~still~~ as safe ^{^ still} in the Castle till he had got more forces, for if there comes any Stir in this country the first thing done will be to take this artillery from him. This country is still peaceable for any thing we yet hear.

There is a Story that I forgot to writ to you, which is a little diverting. Some weeks ago some gentlemens sones and boyes of the high school of E^{dr}, in imitation of the company of archers, having a mind also to erect themselves into a company got themselves dressed

the nearest they could to the archers habite with blew bonnets bows and arrows &c and marched through the Streets of E^{dr} in great order with all their different officers most formally and with a deall of Solemnie, to the great joy of their mothers and of all the women and the Satisfaction of every one that beheld them; but to make the burlesque on the company of archers yet the better, after they had convoyed their Captain to his house, he gave them a bottle of wine where they drank with great Solemnity King George's health on the Streets on their knees and there happening to be Some jacobites amongst them they threatened to expell them the company. You must know that the company of Archers have a Councill for determing all their weighty concerns, So the boyes thought it was proper to Send a deputation to make their compliments to the Councill of Archers and to desire to be taken under their protection and to ~~have~~ ^{^desire} a cobby of the Archers laws. The Councill of Archers deputed one of their number to return the boyes compliment, who made a long harangue to the boyes, commending their early appearance with Such virtuous inclinations and hoped they would all be usefull in restoring the glory of the Antient Kingdom &c: when the boyes perceived that this Speech tended a little jacobitish, they laught at him, upon which he Sticked his formall Speech and all the boyes run ~~and~~ away laughing at him. There could not be a greater banter on their truely Loyall men of the company of Archers, then all this together.

Coll. James Campbell gives his Service to you, who after having ordered the Gray horses to be Shoed, and after that to March to Hadinton, came yesterday to town from Kelso.

I hope you'll make my excuse to my Lord Duke that I don't writ to him, for I can Say to more then what I have here written.

The express with the letters of the 21st came here Sundayes night betwixt twelve and one.

Letter 68

3 August 1715

[Address: To Colonell Kennedy]

E^{dr} August 3^d 1715
12 at night

D: Corie

I have written to my Lord Duke that this express brings offers and proposalls by a number of the inhabitants and others about E^{dr} of their Service to the government at this time, to which they desire his Majestie approbation, and have applyed to the president and other Lords of the Session here in town, at whose desire this express goes. A great many people would joyn heartily with the few forces that are in this country if they could get arms &c: or allowance and orders from the government for that purpose. I have just now received yours of the 30th july by the ordinary post.

Letter 69

11 August 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Aug: 11th 1715

Dear Corie

I am heartily Sorry for what has happen'd, and no man can regrate D: Montrose laying down, more than I do. He has had indeed a good deall of provocation and Some men

here have made it their business but too much to make him uneasie, but I wish for the good of his country and his freinds his Grace would have born these things a little longer. however a man is left judge himself when he things his honour concern'd, for it seems he thought that tho' he was Secretary of State, their design was to make him appear to have as little interest as possible, but it being now over there is no more to be Said. I believe there never was Statesman went out more regrated by every body that D: Montrose is here, whereas on the other hand their is a universall outcry against the two brothers. I assure you Dear Corie that on all occasions you Shall Still find me to be with great Sincerity

Your most obedient humble Servant
Cha: Cokburne

My letters are not free, however you Shall be very welcome to use all freedom with me, if there is a Secretaryes packet to be continowed you can Send your letters to me that way.

Letter 70

25 September 1715

[Cockburn to Kennedy]

E^{dr} Sept: 25th 1715

D: Corie

The affairs of this country are like to fall into So much disorder, that every body that wish their country well must be concerned to think of them. It is probable they may distroy this country tho' without any Success to this mad undertaking at the long run. You'll be Sorry to hear that So many whom you wish well to, are So far gone a wrong way. I will not name their names but live you to think, I wish I could give you news that would be more agreeable to you, however there are many that keep yet the right way. And Earl Mar is much blamed for engadging So many good families and especially Some young people on this desperate measure. By all the accounts we ~~accounts~~ have, the Rebels are Still assembling about perth and are gathering all through the country they can, and force many to joyn them who will again desert them upon the first opportunity. We don't hear that they are form'd yet into a regular army but are ~~lying~~ lying around the country that they may Subsist their men and horses the more easily. Its thought the Clans are to joyn E: Mar So Soon as he advances with the disaffected gentry that he has with him, towards Montieth.

They have proclaimed the pretender in almost all the towns benorth Perth and Set up new magistrats. It is Surprising to us here that they Still go on with their designs, notwithstanding of all the disappointments they [they] meet with, the ffrrench Kings death, the miscariage of their design on E^{dr} castle, and now the news from ffrance of the unloading of the Ships with arms at Havre de Grace. And also that the Season is now So far advanced. I Shall be glad to give you a better account of things from this in a Short time, and that matters are like to take a better turn, for there is no pleasure in giving you an account of the present State of affairs. beleive me to be D: Corie with the outmost Sincerity

Your most obedient humble Servant
Cha. Cokburne