

Extracts from the diary of the reverend John Bisset

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Extracts from the diary of the reverend John Bisset,
minister at Aberdeen.

M.D.CC.XLV—XLVI.

VIII. Diary of the Reverend John Bisset.

The writer of this Diary was one of the ministers of St. Nicholas Church in Aberdeen from 1728 to 1756. He had previously been minister of the Parish of New Machar from 1717 till the time of his removal to Aberdeen. During the rising in 1745-46, he wrote down, in the shape of a Diary, whatever public occurrences happened under his own eye, together with the reports of events in other quarters, as they reached him. He also made extracts of considerable length from the newspapers of the day, but although he transmitted the Diary to his friend, the Reverend Robert Willox, minister of Echt, yet, from the repeated intimations to that gentleman which occur throughout the Diary, that he would require the whole correspondence to be returned to him, it is evident that his principal design was to preserve an account of those troubled times for his own use.

The Diary presents a lively picture of the innumerable rumours and alarms which were prevalent in the country at that time. The tediousness and difficulty of communication between different parts of the country permitted such reports at that time to acquire a more alarming complexion, in proportion to the distance which they reached from the place of their origin. Mr. Bisset has frequently to express his vexation at the unexpected birth of mice from the mountains of rumour, which he had previously recorded in his Diary. There is preserved in it a considerable amount of minute information regarding the proceedings which occurred in the north during the last rising of the Scotch in behalf of the descendant of their ancient monarchs. Although it may not unfold many facts connected with that memorable campaign hitherto unknown to historians, the writer of the present Diary has preserved many minute sketches, illustrating the state of society in his own times, and has opened up more distinctly some of the scenes enacted in that romantic drama.

Mr. Bisset on all occasions manifests his loyalty to the House of Brunswick, and expresses his detestation of the Rebels in no measured

terms. His keenness, on this and other points, seems to have prevented much sympathy between him and his brethren of the clergy, and he declined an interview with the Duke of Cumberland as a member of the Synod of Aberdeen. He, however, obtained that honour as an individual clergyman, and he describes the particulars of his interview in the Diary.

The Editor has selected the portions of the Diary which appeared to him most likely to prove interesting, and he has to return his best thanks to the Reverend Alexander Thom at Nigg, to whom it now belongs, for his permission to print these extracts for the Club.

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DIARY OF THE REVEREND JOHN BISSET.

M.D.CC.XLV— XLVI.

TO THE REVEREND MR. ROBERT WILLOCK, MINISTER
OF THE GOSPELL ATT ECHT.

Reverend and very dear Brother,

After all our compliments to you, *etc.*, I have hardly any news to send you, after what you got on Thursday night. The news of the rebellion, in the prints, is either like men that have not due intelligence, or who perhaps think not fitt to publish all they know. In the prints there is really nothing in the least worth the writting concerning the rebels, as ye will see, and to write you a rapsodee would serve no purpose. If I thought not that you will have the news by the bearer, I should write you some things in the prints, but that is needless.

Some say General Cope, with the forces under his command, will be here at farthest on Munday, and are to incamp on the level ground beside the Windmill. I am told some officers came yesterday to town, to pitch out the place of their incampment, but how long they will stay here I cannot tell. Every thing here is ransomed. Our bakers are vastly busy, they tell me, at the first instance, baking above an hundred bolls of meal.

I hear many of our countrey gentry are not at home, but people know not where they are. There is an imbargo laid yesterday on the shipping here. There are vast clubbings and caballings among our people. The Pretenders manifesto is in town; I have not yet been able to obtain a sight of it; if I get it this night, as promised, I shall indeavour to send you a copy of it.

Our people, who think themselves the heads of witt, I see making a jest of the whole. I am none of these, though, blessed be God, as yet I find much inward quiet and composure. I must break of, after I have written you nothing; I would not have blotted paper, if it had not been to gratify you.

Tell Johnie to come home on Tuesday. It would be stupid in him not to incline to see a camp. In haste, I am,

Very reverend dear Brother,

Your, *etc.*, *etc.*,

JOHN BISSET.

Aberdeen, September 6, 1745.

I see a strange story from Edinburgh, that, when the presbytery to which Stromness on [] belongs, were going to settle a minister,

the ministers and gentlemen, as it is worded, were forced by the people, who shut up access to the church. A party of thirty soldiers got from Cathness, where I thought there were none, the opposition continuing. Several of the people are wounded, and a woman is killed.

Reverend and very dear Brother,

No Scotch news come, and therefore I can write you nothing but what I pick up, and cannot bid you depend on the truth of every story, which I give you as I get them, without improving upon them.

We are told that one Hickson, the popish vintner in Perth, is apprehended at Newcastle, with letters in the heads of big gloves; that, after a night in prison, he cut his throat, but not mortally. If this be true, great discoveries are expected.

General Guest, governor of the castle, threatens to bombard Edinburgh, if they send not in provisions to him. The Edinburghers laid the case before the P[retender], who sent them the following answer, which some body or other sent me a copy of yesternight:

Gentlemen,

I am equally surprised and concerned at the barbarity of the orders that have been sent you from the castle, and which they who command in it say they have received from the Elector of Hanover, at the same time that they own they have six weeks provision left. If he looked upon as his subjects, he would never exact from you what is not in your power to give; and should we, out of compassion to you, comply with this extravagant demand of his, he might as well summon us to quite the town, and abandon those advantages which Providence has granted us, by crowning the valour of our troops with such signal success. I shall be heartily sorry for any mischief that may befall the city, and shall make it my peculiar care to indemnify you, in the most ample manner. In the meantime, I shall make full reprisals upon the estates of those who are now in the castle, and even upon all who are known to be open abettors of the German government, if I am forced to it by a continuation of such inhumanities.

C. P. R.

Holyroodhouse, September 30, 1745.

The difficulty of getting any news makes me incapable of telling you what motions the Government are making. The governour of the castle,

they say, hath delayed bombarding Edinburgh till Munday, that the city have word from London.

All the men that have yet gone from the shires of Bamf, Aberden, and Merns, by the best information I can have, come not as yet up to six hundred; but the Lord can do his work, whether in a way of mercy or judgement, by most unlikely means. The rebels, as yet, are not by far so numerous as given out, and at the late battell are said to have lost ten times the number they gave out.

Lord Pitsligo, *etc. etc.* came here on Sabbath last; went from us on Tuesday, horse and foot, including a few who followed after, and many of them boys, not one hundred and fifty, or not above that number. John Hamilton, *etc.* who went before, one hundred. Glenbucket, *etc.* not two hundred, or not above it.

There was no sermon Sabbath last in the chappel, or families. I knew nothing to hinder it, unless it was the presence of the enemy, who gave us no trouble. All of us prayed express as before, and [against] the troubler of Israel; [and] ever since this work began, hath preached and prayed more express, if more could be, than before.

The synod have recommended to all their members to pray *nominatim* for King George, and have addressed him, at the present conjuncture, with strong enough expressions of loyalty.

Every day they speak of landings in England; but the truth is, I do not remember all the stories that are talked, nor have I time, being Saturday, to write you more, though I had ought to write. I think you and I need not be afraid of troubles that may never happen; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. I wish I may be fitted at last to seal the testimony, if called to it. I assure you all my care and fear at present is for that time, though I cannot promise how soon other cares and fears may overwhelm, but hitherto hath the Lord helped. AU our compliments as before from

Very reverend and very dear Brother,

Your, *etc. etc.*

Aberdeen, October 5, 1745.

October []. Glenbucket and John Hamilton are got to the camp with their several troops.

The castle fired till Munday, when seven or eight houses were burnt, then desisted. Communication from the town being opened, the Highlanders keeping guard at the [Town] house, below the cross, and retiring by Bells Wynd. It is reported that in the [time of] the firing on some house, by the falling of a stone, Lochell is mortally wounded.

We were amused here on Tuesday, of the landing of one hundred and sixty men at Montrose [that] day from a French privateer of sixteen guns, with five hundred chests of arms, four chests of []; but the 10th instant, it is come down to the Master of Strathallan. two Irish officers, a French Count, ambassador to Charles, and if you will believe some, it is Henry ---; the old gossip, with Earl of M----l, is to follow; now, only fifteen or sixteen hundred stand of arms, ---- pistols, swords, bayonets, three thousand weight of lead, fifty thousand pounds sterling, loading eighty carts all trussed the way of Brichen for the camp; but in the opinion of others, nothing but smuggling goods.

The Fox man of warr is a great grevance in the Firth to the rash adventurers. We hear that many Highland men are deserting, and that the armaments of militia in England continue, besides the Dutch, and troops from Flanders. Field Marishal [] remains in South Britain, commander in chief there. The forces cannot be soon in Scotland, considering the long march; and as the rebels are not moving from Edinburgh, there is not such accessions to them as are talked of.

The President is fortifying and garrisoning his house of Culloden. It is said the Frasers, with Mackinnans, and others west of them, are rising for the Pretender, but not the Mackenzies; however, they are not very quick in their motions.

I hear Laird of Grant, Earl of Finlater, and Lord Braco are garisoned in Castle Grant. O what a pity that Scotland brings such just disgrace upon itself as to be doing nothing for the Government, especially, that had they who pretend to be well affected to the Government done their part, they might have stopped the progress of this rebellion; for by the best and surest accounts I can make, I do not find, including gentlemen, and jack-men, and raw boyes, as yet, at least not above six hundred men, from Bamf, Aberden, and Merns shires.

I cannot tell what progress Marishal Wade hath yet made, but General Oglethorpe is said now, many days ago, to be come to York, amidst the loud acclamations of many friends he hath there. His Georgian expeditions have not raised his military character nigh to what it is for virtue and probity; which last, if true, I hope shall fitt him to be the best soldier. Sir John Ligonier comes for Scotland; he is much talked of. I wish there be not too great a dependence on such things.

[*October.*] Lord Presidents house of Culloden hath been attacked by two hundred men. Those in garison fleing in the night time, raised that seige. The besiegers left a good deal of blood on the road, with one man sore wounded, who, it is said, tells that the party was commanded by Lovats son, or his order.

Earl of Lowdon hath been north in a man of warr with money; and the Earl of Sutherlands, Lord Rays men, the Rosses, and Monros, *etc.*, are like to make such an appearance, as at least to hinder any more from going out of the Highlands to the south cuntry.

The ship that came in at Stonehaven brought for the rebels use some of the canon taken from the English at Fontenoy. Another ship is yet at Stonehaven, the master and the sailers British, came to Aberden on Sabbath night, burnt then the custom house boat; went of on Munday.

James Chalmers is fled for it, refusing to print any more of their declarations. I am afraid we shall have no more of his news schedules.¹

Crichton of Auchingoul, a papist, in the parish of Forgue, now a captain in the Duke of Perth's regiment, is here recruiting.

October 21. Two men of war went by Aberden with arms and ammunition for the Highlanders in the north, to be commanded by Earl of Lowdon, and, it is said, four thousand marines are to be sent him north, how to act I know not.

The very mob in London are high against the Pretender, and a Scotchman is lookt ill on, because of our rebellion, and no wonder.

Seven brass cannon for the rebels were landed at Stonehaven.

October 24. This day, there was a beating up for recruits to Lord Lewis Gordon, for the Pretender. Stonnywood is also at Aberdeen recruiting; they come little speed. I am ravished to hear that, when the drum beats, not a few of the boys cry God save King George. I love an early seasoning against the spirit of Jacobitism.

I have heard of a Whig lady in Aberdeen, stiled Talisker, who, with her two daughters, have been at Edinburgh, who, being kissed by the young Pretender, are returned, proclaiming his praise; were Absalune living, and among us, he was like to do great execution among the Whig ladies, though, if I remember right, his claim was very unnatural.

November 1st.

The rebels are not as yet 6000 men, or above it, for all their boastings; the desertion among them is great, and I am told of a gentleman among them who writes that they are in great confusion, and at the last point what part to act; they boast of a battery of cannon on each side the Forth, at Alloa, by which their convenient passage is secured; they talk every other day of French landings; but all these stories have had such ridiculous issues, that we are hardened with them. I hear, indeed, that on Wednesday last another ship, with arms for them, from France, is landed at Montrose; some say that this is a sign they are to get no other help from France.

¹ [Probably handbills containing the news of the day. They were succeeded in 1748, by the Aberdeen Journal, printed by Mr. Chalmers, being the first newspaper in Scotland of the Forth.]

Lord Lewis Gordon is north for the Pretenders account, they say, he is coming here every other day to act the part of lieutenant; Stonywood, as under him, made the drum go on Tuesday, forbidding all rejoicings on Wednesday, the Kings birth day. There were many resolute persons here would have rung the bells, if they had got access, but Provost Osb[or]n forbad the ringing of the kirk bells, yea, it is said, took up the keys, so that church doors and gates were lockt, and the presbytery neither mett in the church, nor had any bell rung, so excessively prudent is the Principal at all times; but when the eight hour bell rung in the College Kirk, some went up and continued ringing till late. Although the masters of the Grammar School drop King George name out of their prayers, it rather inflames many of the young people, who, when Mr. Howison was praying this week, upon his ommitting the Kings name, cried out King George; and one of the boyes, after prayer was ended, cried out, None pray for King George, God bless him; but when it comes to the turn of one of the doctors to be hebdomader, if he resumes not King Georges name, I shall offer him no more advice.

I never saw so many bonfires, nor so much encouraged, as on Wednesday, by the young people, and I behooved to have one at my gate, with such a covered table as became the youth. The crys through all the streets, that afternoon and evening, were, King George for ever; down with the Popish Pretender; back to Rome with him. This, with many men through the town firing at guns and pistols; and a convention of them on the Castle Street, before the place where Stonnywood was drinking, did, in the open street, drink all the loyal healths, with a discharge of such arms as they had. In a word, we are disgraced that access to the bells was barred up; I shall believe, after this, that many keep the birth day more out of love to the wine, than loyalty to King George, when they discourage a test of loyalty when it was the proper time to give it; for, in the ordinary course of things, I never affect these rejoicing days, but now was the time, and I am rejoiced to find many here at last so animated. Mr. B----t hath the honour to be blamed for stirring up the people, though little hath he done that way, but what he attempts seems more acceptable to some than he expected, when he sees others disposed to be Jacobites or anything.

It is said every hundred pound of valued rent must equip out a man for the Pretender, or pay one hundred merks.

When the valiant men who burnt the Custom house boat were conveyened, I am told some of the ruffian kind in this place, said to the commander of that party, We wonder ye do not chastise Mr. Bisset for what he hath spoken against the Princes late declaration this afternoon; and got for answer, God damn you, what have we to do with him; the Devil a bitt of him will we medle with. However, when Lord Lewis comes, all are to be put to order.

November 2nd. The Thursdayes post came not till yesternight late; brought no English prints, but the Mercury, with little or nothing in it besides reflections on some things in the English prints, boastings of new reinforcements, and two new declarations from the Pretender, one to our

Kings soldiers, another to his seamen, who, I believe, will regard these as they did the former. They say, that some of their armour that was got out of one of their ships from France, was, the week before the last, at the Bridge of Dey for the north; but I do not hear that Lord Lewis hath yet made many men to use these arms.

I hear Pr[ovost]t Osb[or]n took not up the keys of the church door, but, what was the same, laid the key keeper under the strictest discharge. This day it is reported here as if the young Pretender had absconded; some fear if he and his army do not face King Georges army, that he will not go abroad, but ly concealed some where or other till the spring, or till he see what help he get from abroad.

I just now hear Mr. Pollock is come, and that the rebels have taken Mr. Farquhars horses, but they are again returned, being taken by some of Pitfoddels men.

November 5th.

Many gentlemen are come north from the Pretender, as is given out, about business. I believe it will be two weeks before the troops get up to Edinburgh, they are expected to be 20,000 men.

Mr. Charles Dun, being at present hebdomader, prays stoutly for King George by name, and against his enemies. I hear Pitna[] doth so, very much, and I am told that Mr. James Dun hath prayed this morning *nominatim*, it is like after the example of another. I know not what progress Lord Lewis makes, but I am told a good deal of the arms which went north to him, are sent to Aberdeen; which would not have been, if he had gotten men to use them.

November 20.

Whatever hath been reported from Aberdeen, that Lord Lewis Gordon had raised 1000 men in Badenoch and Strathbogy, a letter from Lord Lewis is likewise in the Castle, bearing, that all he is able to make amount only to 50 men, owing to the vile stories of the Presbyterian ministers, but that he had issued out orders forbidding the like hereafter.

November 22.

Yesterday, payment should have been made to Governor Longmey² of cess, taxation, and excise, but, not coming speed, they quartered their men

² [Lord Lewis Gordon was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the Counties of Aberdeen and Banff by Prince Charles Edward. He nominated William Moir of Lonmay, to be his Deputy Lieutenant and Governor of the Town of Aberdeen.]

upon the recusants. I have heard of some of them, such as Premnay, Cairnbulg, *etc.*

Poor Chalmers, the printer, is from home, not yet able to walk on his strained leg he got jumping a window to escape the ruffians, Saturday was eight days. This last night they have committed great outrages in his house, breaking open an outer door, when not let in, setting fire to an inner door, and, when let in, scattering his types, searching his house, burning papers, and breaking presses and drawers.

November 23.

Shetland ship, as they call it, is wrecked near the Hill of Newburgh, on Friday or Saturday last, which is good prey for our new guard. The town being admirals, the new governor manages that affair.

November 25.

I hear some hundreds of rebels are come to Montrose, have rescued ship taken by the Hasard sloop, the storm driving it to their hand; have staved the Hasards boat, [and] killed one or two of their men.

The most of our people without quartering, and others, after quartered upon, pay up the old taxation, which makes it ly the heavier on those who hold it out; eight, ten, twelve, men being quartered on some of them. The tryal will become general, when they shall impose a new taxation, which no doubt will be done shortly. I am told that ships that come into the harbour, must pay the custom to their new collectors.

There are come this day thirty-six more men. If the rebels at Carlisle return not to Scotland, the seat of the rebellion in Scotland is like to be in Perth, Angus, Merns, Aberden, and Bamff shires. We were fools to think of escaping so easy.

I might write a sheet every day, if I wrote you all that is talked, though I pretend not to vouch all that I write you, as I am not the maker of the stories, so I proof them a day or two before I write them down.

This night, after family worship, a man came from the countrey. and told me that he was this day at Stonehaven; saw a French ship come in their with 100 soldiers, Irish, who were in the French service; saw them drawn up to receive their billets, and required to be ready again to morrow, at eight in the morning. There were likewise 50 officers, and it was said there were four or five more ships coming with men and arms.

Likewise, heard of an express from Montrose, bearing that there was come in there, one twenty and another sixteen gun French ship, who had taken the Hasard sloop.

My news are like to swell disagreeably.

November 26.

Carlisle capitulated. I hear not of any battel at Perth, nor of the Carlisle militia being taken prisoners.

Echt is safe at home in his own house. Neither our conveener, nor any other of our trades, have been forced to swear allegiance to the Pretender.

This, with what I had written before, answers all your letter. I have been immediately preaching, and when I have breakfast, am going forth to catechise, and hear not yet of the yesterdayes post being come, nor have I time to enquire till afternoon, but shall write you a journal of what occurs against Friday.

Had your last scroll waited till this afternoon, you had received more news.

This day, Monaltry and Blelack brought 84 men hither, and there is in our harbour a French ship that came in this day with 40 men, and baggage of a greater number, so that at present we are not under 260 men.

It is talked that two transports are to unload at Peterhead, with more men from France, and that a ship came in yesterday, a French ship, to Montrose, with Lord John Drummond aboard, and no doubt some men. The Hasard sloop is taken there.

November 27.

This day came in with Auchinhive, between 30 and 40 men, with some omitted in the above account, sent in by Elsick, make about 320 presently here.

I hear 300 French are landed at Peterhead, that there are 1500 at Perth, and a gentlemen this day was wagering there would be from the north shortly at Perth, 2800, with the Earl of Cromarty, *etc.*

The Hasard is demolished at Montrose. I hear Admiral Bing chased in to the harbour of Montrose the French 24 gun ship, with Lord John Drummond; went not after, but went back to sea and returned again, and is like to revenge the loss of the Hasard.

I was told that yesternight there came an express to Lord Lewis, missing him; Stonewood and Longmey were enquired for. The express said there had been a battell, but gave no other account; either there hath been no battell, or, if there had, the bells had told us if the rebels had gained the day.

November 28.

The masters of the Grammar School now continue praying *nominatim* for King George, excepting the old Doctor, who was lately, in his own conceited opinion, on the road to heaven, with such full assurance. I hear he hath been bullying some of the rest, as a man not to be put out of his measures. Whatever be the issue of matters presently in dependence, I shall not expect to see good dayes, unless the churches and schools be purged of such miscreants.

December 2.

Saturday night there came in here a sloop with more arms, and yesterday 100 of the French soldiers from Peterhead. The ship with arms came from Peterhead. Smith, junior of Inveramsay, and Hary Elphinstone, junior, in Aberden, are taken, and prisoners in Edinburgh Castle.

December 3.

This day, our French soldiers took their rout south.

December 4.

I believe I wrote you before of an English ship which hung out a white flag at Peterhead, and got aboard two young men of that place; I hear it now said that some English ships north in the Murray Firth, acting the same part, have got aboard 30 men and a popish priest.

I have it from a good hand, that the man of warr who chased in the French ship to Montrose, aboard of which Lord John Drummond was said to be, sunk the Frenchmans long boat, full of men, and that since that time, 24 dead corpses are cast in thereabout.

December 5.

I hear the prisoner whom Governor Mergie some time ago took at Stonehaven, and sent prisoner to France, was one of the Pretenders agents, Sir James Stuart, a degenerate plant, in that way to cover his embassy.

I long to hear of the old Pretender his having actually taken on the Cardinals cap. O how honorable and safe will it be for us, our religion, and liberty, to have the son of a Romish Cardinal for our King! Some complain that King George hath a foreign patrimony, that it is hurtfull to Britain; but though the Pope and his Cardinals have lost much of their power, yet nothing of their appetite.

Though the scrapes I send be not much worth, yet designing them as memorandums to my self, as well as informations to you, and not having time to write them twice, I must beg you to keep them, that I may, at a proper time, have them returned; otherwise, I am afraid I find not leisure to send you any more of them.

December 9.

This evening, a gentleman told me that the Papists yesterday had mass publickly at Montrose. I said, I hoped they had it not in the streets or in the church, and if not, it was not more publick than in this town, for I hear it was much noticed yesterday, what multitudes, in the most publick manner, came out of Priest Gordons meeting, besides another meeting of that kind, which made a stranger passing by say, was that Pauls Chappel, it being but a few gates from it. But what need I speak of yesterday, when, before this rebellion, the two popish meetings, openly and without controul, hold, their meetings here, and quarterly pay in their collections for the poor house, which, no doubt, they esteem a taking them under protection; and, though this storm were blown over, I see no appearance of this being remedied, unless the Lord raise up men of another spirit than our late or present managers or professors.

December 10.

I never heard of any hesitation about keeping the fast the 18th. I wish there be will to keep it. I daily have been reckoning with the Jacobites, and think, it my duty then to reckon with my self, and others of our selves. I saw the Kings paper in the news and no other copy, it is common form. I have no paper drawn up, unless I should *mutatis mutandis* read a former draught, which I have not time to transcribe, nor can another do it, in respect of the write and interlineations, but, if I be well to preach on Sabbath, it is like I will do all by word of mouth, which I think may be as well done as preaching by word, and not by reading.

The Governor here, on Saturday last, hath summonsed all who were elected for a new council at Michaelday last, to pay again Thursday next, under the pain of military execution, the subsidy for 1745, amounting to 5700 pounds Scots, which they are not to do. What will follow I know not.

Several men of warr are cruising on our coast.

Yesterday, many cart loads of military baggage went south from this, and, when Lord Lewis comes here, it is said, all are to march south; but I hear that Lord Lewis will not to be here till next week.

December 11.

This day I hear Lord Lewis and Elsieck are come to town, and, what is most wonderfull, Lord John Drummond also. By the news, you have him at Perth, and taken in the Soliel, and this day, at Aberdeen. I have been told, that when the present managers made their French officers burghers, Priest Seaton, in this town, got a ticket also.

December 12.

This day, the towns drum went advertising the Michalmass elected council to meet with a proper number of Burghers, as is usually done in laying on the taxation, and to [] for payment of the demanded 5700 pounds Scots, which must be paid against Wedensday next. This is thought a favour in comparison of the first demand, but it seems to be the same thing, excepting a five dayes delay. Advertisement is likewise made for the inhabitants to meet, and stint themselves for each 100 pounds sterling on trade; and each 100 pounds Scots in rent, a man, or an hundred merks.

I hear there are thirty Macgregors come to town this night.

December 14.

He, called Lord John Drummond, is gone south from this; but, last night, an armed force have oblided Mr. Chalmers boys, himself being on hiding, to print the papers, the one a declaration from Lord John Drummond, commander in chief of his most Christian Majestys forces in Scotland, bearing his orders to attack as enemies all who will not immediately join or assist to their power the Prince Regent, his ally, whom, with the concurrence of the King of Spain, he is resolved to support, dated at Montrose, December 2nd; the other, a letter from the Earl Marshal, dated at Paris, November 1st, N. S., to Lord John Drummond, to use his endeavours to raise his friends in Aberdeenshire and Merns, since he cannot immediately do it himself, being oblided to attend the Duke of York to England with a body of French troops; to which is subjoined a letter from Lord John Drummond to Lonmey, dated Aberdeen, December 11, desiring him to communicate the letter to such gentlemen in this countrey, as are well affected to the Prince Regent, and who retain regard for the Earl of Marishal.

The other is a letter from Lord John Drummond, dated at Perth, December 6th.

December 17.

It is like both town and countrey will soon pay the cess for 1745; but what is doing, or will be done, as to the payment of five pound sterling out of every hundred pound Scots of valued rent, I have not yet heard. The money for men required here, I am now told, in this manner, in proportion as landed gentlemen pay 60 pound for every hundred pound which payes 14 pounds Kings subsidy; so the Aberdens subsidy being above 5800 pounds, they must pay as many five pounds sterling as there are 14 pounds in 5800 pounds. The Old Town have till Thursday allowed them for payment of 200 pounds sterling; and you will see that this town must pay about 2400 pounds sterling; and this, over and above 5800 twice over, for 1744 once, and for 1745 once, all laid together, will considerably exceed 3000 pounds sterling.

December 18.

The fast was kept; but fore and afternoon sundry people were called out of the church to have their houses searcht for arms. In the afternoon, when I was preaching, Provost Cruickshank was called out of the church, telling him fire was set to his gate, but he did not stirr; and they thought fitt to do no more harm. I preach to a very numerous audience, with usual freedom.

Between four and five, after our congregation was dismissed, I hear some scores more of Lord Lewis men, under command of David Tulloch, came in; and, if we shall believe reports, some of their rebel troops are to be brought north to face Lord Lowdon, who is expected here very shortly; but others think these men are come from the north to be out of Lowdons way, and possibly may move south.

We are said to have a sad rant here on Friday, which is said to be the young Pretenders birth day.

December 19.

Yesternight, a poor man, lately at Edinburgh about his business, was sent here under a guard from Stonehaven, and was presented to our governor, for spreading bad news; who, being examined, asserted that he was informed at Edinburgh that the Pretender and his men were killed and routed, and that he heard the castle firing, the bells ringing, and saw the windows illuminated on that account.

December 20.

When the rebels were busy here yesterday, ordering parties on the inhabitants for this years cess, they were put through other with news of some hundreds of Lowdons mens being at Old Meldrum, and many hundreds at Inverury, so that a beat to arms was betimes this morning. All the out parties are called in, and I believe, from what I myself saw and heard of, there are here and in the Old Town about 500 men.

I saw about 300 this forenoon, under arms, at the Heading Hill; about 40 came in afterwards, and 140 went to the Old Town. They had on their wallets and pocks, in a posture of marching; and between eleven and twelve no orders were given for the rejoicing, this being the young Pretenders birth day; but either upon intelligence that Lowdon was not to be here this night, or, as others say, that a great rout from the south, of French and others, are to be up with them, to resist Lowdon, they went to quarters, [and] ordered the bells to ring.

It seems certain, what at Inverury and Kintore, what at Old Meldrum, 2200 of Lowdons men, to be lodged there this night, will be in to morrow.

If I shall believe some accounts, Lord John Drummond is to be here this night, with 700 men; and it is reported that the Highland army at Perth, afraid of a descent upon them from Stirling, are to rout northward. I wish Lowdon be well advised and directed.

December 21.

This day the rebels marched out of town, with five piece of cannon, taken out of ships; pitched at the Bridge of Don, stiled their cannon, set a guard, and returned in the afternoon, when they were joined by 316, partly French, partly countrey men from the south, and would then be near 900 men.

About five or six at night, there was an alarm as if Lowdons men had been at the ports. Then there was a furious beat to arms, and, after watches and guards set, in and about the town, the rest marched out, in a very bad night, as farr as Cottonis parks, and returned, having met with no opposition.

At night, John Dingwall, merchant here, was brought in prisoner; I have not yet learned where he was taken; as was also David Bartlet with him, who was taken at Inverury, providing quarters for such of Lowdons men as were coming there. These two are kept in different rooms in the tolbooth, so straitly, that with difficulty some necessaries are got in to them.

December 22.

By the mornings beat to arms, we expected a present march, but it was delayed till two. Worship was gone about here, without disturbance. After a guard left in the town, the whole *posse* marched towards Bucksburn, were joined by 100 French and country men, so that I believe, including the towns guard, they might be between 1000 and 1100. They returned at night to their quarters.

December 23.

There was an early beat to arms, and they were all marched out before it struck ten, excepting some straglers that followed after, and about 70, who at eleven marched with a few cannon, and some wheel carriages; and a strong guard, not under 50 or 60 men, left in the town.

I am told that the French, with some others, to the number of 300, went the Tyrebagger road, and all the rest the way to Keith-hall, by the Bridge of Don.

This night our guard were very vigilant in the streets, and at the ports, so that I hear some were taken up to the guard before nine, but civilly enough used. I was told that they had five ships cannon planted at the cross, before the guard house; that one of the guard either drew, or threatned to draw, his sword to Baillie Nicol, for looking in about them, between sun and sky. I my self, much about that time, passed through their cannon, and lookt as narrowly as I could both to their men and the position of their cannon, but met with no incivility. They knew I fight with other weapons; and indeed I had no curiosity in the matter, but that I behooved to pass that way.

I think before nine at night, we were alarmed with accounts of a battel,

(page 364 unreadable)

the countrey upon them. Some say he is come to Stonehaven with a force of men, and a young man I hear of, come from Angus to the college, reports that 2000 of the Kings troops are on this syde of Tay; but, till further information, I shall not bid you depend on these things. When any thing more certain of the Inverury action casts up, I shall write it.

This day at one aclock, neither the Thursdayes, Saturdayes, nor Mundayes posts are come; so no news from the south, England, or abroad, is here more than with you.

At three aclock, I saw 150 men, countrey men, come in here from the south, with French officers on their head.

I am told that Lowdon, with his troops, is returned to Inverness; word being brought that Lovat, who was hostage in the Castle of Inverness, had got home, and the event of that was feared. I freely own I was never of opinion that Lowdon should leave Inverness; for this I have many witnesses, and that for two reasons, First, The importance of that post; for though we here might suffer a little, the success of the main cause would bring us relief, and any advantages gained by the rebels at Inverness would retard that success. Second, I feared it would but affront our Aberdens people, who, I was persuaded, would concurr little with any help that might be sent them, and I am sorry I guest so sick, for I am informed that the men who came to Inverury for our relief, expected to be joined by 300 men from Aberden; and a man of warr and two sloops who lay here last week, had arms for our men, if in any proper creek they had been called for. If this had been done, and they had acted the part of the strangers, you had heard another account of the Inverury action; but instead of this, I know not if there was 4 Aberdens people there. So unconcerned have we been, when yesterday morning intelligence might have been sent, yet there was none till the rebels were upon them, some at dinner, others diverting themselves, and not all of them at hand.

I hear it said, that not a few men from this followed the rebels on Sabbath to Bucksburn, as on lookers, but had good arms under their coats; and I hear it likewise said that, as above 1000 rebels went from this yesterday morning, so, when out of town, were joined by not a few from this, so that at Inverury they were not under 1200, and the loyalists that could be got together, scarce half the number.

I am told a merchant from this, rebelliously disposed, is come home wounded. We may afterwards get more particulers.

Our boats that were out the week of Edinburgh are returned, and from the post office here, any more we should be obliged to come; why this is I cannot tell, unless we be thought unworthy of the Government's care or consideration: so that I shall need to send to you for news from the south, and besides that see some private man; but if I were as well laden I should be able to send you news, as long as I were at liberty, I would be from the office from the House and to John A. Groat's House: or an Embassy you shall see it soon.

January 10.

Yesternight some of the prisoners, 26 brave Highland men, who have acquired immortality among Mr. Chambers, Regent; Mr. Gordon, Ardochs and other names, were seen, who were taken, offering the escape of his uncle, Macdonald, and his friend, Mr. Macdonald's brother; your friend Echt, with the other prisoners.

There are more men come here from the south, though called a great many more, yet only 80; I am told we are much stronger than Monday morning, and that we have lost since will not be much more than recruit what have been lost, and wounded, and have deserted from the battle of Inverury.

The brave Highlanders from the north, you may depend on it, were not less engaged, they being obliged to march their men as far as Old Rain, Inverury not being able to sustain them.

January 11.

Those of our Highlanders here, named the Strathgry battalion, went from this yesterday, and this day these named the Dee side battalion, so that there remain not now more than 100 men.

I shall not write you news from the north; some will tell you that Lovell is come the length of Elgin, with 3000 men, and that such a number of Hessians as I shall not name, are landed at Inverness.

I find false news among Whigs as well as among Tories, which is the reason that the one side of the papers I send you do contradict the other.

It is now a very difficult matter to get my news, in respect that, though our posts do now go south, General Guest allows them not to pass the Forth: it seems to settle over past errors, and takes these over from this



(unreadable p. 366) ... over most letters, takes these over from this side, but will allow no person to come from the north to the south side of the Forth.

The gentlemen prisoners from this write from Dundee, that they are civilly used, and are allowed the liberty of the town.

The ministers of Dundee, on the fast day, because they would not engage not to pray for King George, were obliged to leave the pulpit, and several other Angus ministers were hindered from keeping the fast.

January 1th.

Our town is now quite evacuate of men to about 50 or 60; I am told 80 went away this day. Though the Mundayes post were come, as he is not, it will be difficult to get news, in respect they are not allowed to cross the Forth to Edinburgh.

To write you reports would be endless. I hear it this day said that Lord Pitsligo is dead; if so, and his son hath not been in the rebellion, the father dying under no sentence, I judge it may preserve the estate and honors to the son, but I may be mistaken.

I have heard of one Ramsay, in Roshartie, who had a post in one of Lord Pitsligos troops, who went through this town some few days ago, and had escaped from the rout in England, who gives out as if all were lost, and a sad dispersion among the Pretenders men, and this, joined with another report, as if Tonlay had written that they had no more an army in England.

January 8.

The report of this day is that Carlisle is taken, with 900 of the rebels, and so many more of them are taken in Dumfries. It must needs be a prodigious dash to them that they have been able to make nothing in England, and a dash at their future hopes though France should invade England. You may believe I am disaffected to many things in the Union, but had it not been presently subsisting, we had had at this time a Scots king, and, as a distinct nation, been involved in a war with England, who, in the event of conquest, might have given what laws to us they pleased.

Our town is at present quite evacuate of military men, and the guard house door shut.

I hear it likewise said, but believe it is a story, that one, in the habit of a gentleman, came in the Kinghorn boat to Frasersburgh, asking about Lord Strichen, [and] was told he was then at Philorth, Lord Saltons, whereupon he went immediately thither; the Jacobites in Frasersburgh, repenting they had let him out of their grips, came to Philorth, would have the stranger, who, seing that, called Lord Strichen to another room, gave him dispatches; returning to where they were, gave his watch and money to Lord Strichen, then gave himself up to the Fraserburghers, who made him their prisoner, but finding nothing about him, could have been content they had not made him their prisoner. Immediately Lord Strichen horsed for Lowdon. I write you such stories as an amusement for lack of news, but I have seen the day when the Fraserburghers would not have dared to surround Lord Saltons house. It was a pity they did not carry the two lords with them, prisoners also.

It is now said Lord Pitsligo is come to Glasgow, in the Pretenders chase.

January 13.

If you have any news, I shall be fond to hear them; but you are not like, for the present, to be much the better of mine, since the post that should have come on Thursday is only returned this day without any news, not having access to cross the Forth, though he waited eight dayes for that end. There returned with him the two succeeding posts, judging it needless to go forward; and what they are doing south the Forth, you perhaps know more than I.

I hear 150 of the French have stayed at Montrose, having rigged out the Hasard sloop, and put their baggage aboard, she essaying to go to sea, was turned in by the Glasgow man of warr.

January 14.

This day, a man of warr or two have been afore here; we are so cowed that none I hear of from this have essayed to send out a boat, only I hear Mr. M—d—n, and the college people in the Old Town, had sent out a boat, but I have not heard if it got up with any of the Kings ships.

I am likewise tolerably well informed that Echt and the other gentlemen prisoners from here are, on their proll, allowed to come to Forfar and some miles around it.

January 15.

Another man of warr was this day before, to whom a boat went out, but got no news, she having been many dayes at sea; but a letter to a private hand referred to the ships before this yesterday, to whom no boat went out, so that we lost that intelligence. We expect one from the south, on Sunday or Munday, but perhaps with as little news as any of the former posts or carriers. If the rebels be allowed tamely to take Stirling, it is like they will be as strong as ever; so that our rebellion may lengthen out with the lengthning of the day.

Pitrichie, Echt, *etc.*, are actually come to Forfar, but are not allowed to go without the town. It is good to have the open air, in a quiet place, and free conversation together.

January 16.

There is a man of warr who is to cruise on our coast for a moneth, which came from Leith Road, Sabbath was eight dayes, and sayes that a deputation was sent south from Edinburgh to the Duke of Cumberland, inviting him there; that he was to come, but others say he is returned to England.

January 18.

One called Black, a merchant in Foveran, well spoken of, whom I have not seen, came this day here from Edinburgh. Reports that when he came away, which was on the Wedensday afternoon, with a pass from Baillie Dundass, the Castle of Stirling was not then taken; at least, no accounts thereof at Edinburgh. That, on Tuesday and Wedensday morning, there marched out of Edinburgh 11000 regular troops, for the west, and 3000 militia, whereof 1000 Sueders; that the Duke was expected that night in Edinburgh, with 7000 men; that the advanced posts of the King and Pretender were within six miles of other, the one, the Kings, at Lithgow, the Pretenders at Falkirk; that probably yesterday or this day, a battell.

January 20.

All the news I am able to have for this day is, that it being Prince Fredericks birth day, the young people, students, *etc.*, rung the college and church bells, at the usual times on rejoicing dayes, had bonfires, and in crowds huzzad through the streets till about nine at night; after which, I am told crowds of Jacobites made disturbances through the streets, but came not my length.

January 21.

Yesterday we were rejoicing on Prince Fredericks birth day, and this day, at three in the afternoon, our bells began to ring for a compleat victory obtained by the rebels over the Kings troops. I cannot yet tell you whether the battell was on Thursday or Friday last, being since Sabbath confined again with the gout. One Daniel Smith, a rebell merchant here, they say, comes from Perth with this account, adding that more than 3000 of the Kings troops are killed, many taken prisoners, with their baggage and artillery.

It is strange a more particularly vouched account from the rebels is not come here since Friday.

There is some thing in this matter, to us as yet misterious. A post come this day, who came from Edinburgh on Sabbath, sayes, as I am told, that he saw 8000 of the Kings troops come in to Edinburgh, from the battell of Borrowstowness; that they had with them Capoch, and several other prisoners of distinction, from among the rebels, and 300 French, some say 400, with 4 officers.

January 22 and 23.

I hear for certain, that on Tuesday night a good number of men broke Principal Chalmers gate, broke in upon his house, threatning to kill him if they had found him; broke not only the glass, but the timber frames of his windows; were terribly rude in his house. What do I ow to the divine preservation, that, notwithstanding of my continued freedom, unless it was the breaking my street window on their rejoicings for the battell of Prestonpans, and their young Pretenders birth, I never met with a wry look nor a rude word from any one.

I forgot to tell you that, among other reports, it is said their Pretender hath got a wound in the heel.

If you will believe other reports, there were eight Presbyterian ministers killed at the battell; that the Pretender gave orders to bury all the rest of the dead, but forbad to bury them till it should be known to what places they did belong; but this may be as true as the ministers and preachers killed and wounded at the battell of Inverury; but if true, under pretence of knowing to what places they belong, their naked bodies will be exposed to dogs, the fashion in France with the dead Protestants. I wish there be not more of this before long. At a time when French imbarcations were said to

be laid aside, we were never in greater hasard from that quarter, which made expedition, night and day, in fair and fowl weather, against the rebels necessary.

January 27.

Upon Friday last, a French ship came in to Peterhead with money and arms, 3 or 4 French officers, and some gentlemen, who talk of a great many transports, with men of warr, being on the road.

Yesterday sevensnight, Mr. Aikin, I hear, preacht at Montrose, and Mr. Bisset, of that place, having come in about St. Ceres, from an English sloop, was taken by the countrey people and carried prisoner to Montrose. Whether the Hasard sloop got out of Montrose harbour or not, as I wrote you, I have not any further information; I wish it were false, since I am informed that the Shark sloop hath come in to Montrose harbour, is unrigging ships, and hath relieved prisoners, among whom is Mr. Bisset.

The above mentioned French ship, at Peterhead is now called a Spanish ship, and some say it is a smuggling vessel; a little time will explain this.

January 28.

Yesternight came in here 30 men from the south, to be followed by more, no doubt to gather up their Candlemas money.

I hear Governor Mergie had apprehended Mr. Smith, assistant att Garvock, for freedom of speech.

I also hear that, as Lowdons men are increased, there are of them quartered at Nairn, Forress, and Findorn, and all by north Spey is in profound quiet.

I am just now told that the Shark sloop hath gone up to Dundee, but not to Montrose, so that Mr. Bisset will not be relieved.

I hear we have this afternoon got in 80 more men, and that, by their direction, carts are going out to Peterhead for what is said to be brought them in the ship there.

I also hear that Laird of Grant is appointed Lord Lewtenant of Murray, and Earl of Findlater of Bamff, and that we will soon hear of militia being raised in these shires.

It is also told me that the Kings troops kept the field of battell, searched and, I doubt not, stript, of what was worth their pains, the slain rebels, of which they found a thousand.

January 29.

If I should credit the clatters of this stormy day, I should tell you that the Duke of Cumberland came to Edinburgh on Friday night, and that the Pretender and his men are come to Perth, yea, that the Pretender is expected here this week; but as we have no posts, so nothing certain can be writt you, unless it be that the Macgregors we have got go in to houses, and are more homely than welcome. If we have a visit from the Princely army, the absolute hereditary right men will not, I hope, complain if, from an absolute Sovereign, claim be laid to their goods. If I should add to report, I should tell you that some of our new garison, who actually went north this day, and are actually returned, were said to have gone for guarding the ship come in to Peterhead, but had returned upon hearing of a descent of men by order of the Earle of Findlater, now said to be Lieutenant of Bamf shire! But whether so ever these men were bound, I fancy the stormy day hath made them return.

January 30.

We are like to have no more posts, or hastie returns of some said to be gone south for intelligence, nor doth this day furnish with any noticeable story, unless it be that seventy casks, like twenty pint fuces, are brought in from the Peterhead ship, and, as I hear, was to be secured in the tolbooth, said to be powder, but, after all, suspected to be run goods, though attended by a small guard of Highlanders, who possibly might be hired by the smuglers.

Our new guests not only go in to houses of which they are informed, but to others also, demanding, and what they please, and at night, in the streets demand money, and force people to acknowledge the Pretender. In short we are presently under the government of robbers, and shortly expect more of them to extend their dominion by a more general pillage, though, as yet, I myself have not met with any trouble of that kind, but I know not how soon, perhaps this night, such is our uncertain state under these discretionarey magistrates.

Whatever it be that is in the Peterhead ship, besides what is above, a great many cart and packet carriages, in barrels and boxes, are brought in. A little time will discover if it be arms and ammunition.

Our new guests have last night been in quest of my house, and came rapping at our gate at eleven at night, and no doubt will give us a new visite.

February 1

The ship come in at Peterhead came from the Groin in Spain more than three moneths ago, was detained at the Orkneys by bad weather; came out with three more, two of which were taken by the English, and one no account of, at least as yet; some say they came in long ago at the West Highlands.

This day a part of our sweet guests is gone south with the ammunition and arms as yet brought in from that ship.

The engineer who fled first from the battell, and disordered all, being taken into custody, thought to have killed himself by a stab in his arm, but it was tyed up, and he either hanged over the castle wall or to be hanged.

It seems, since the late battell, a countrey man was driving a cart in to Edinburgh with geese, which are pluckt before they come to the market, some of the Argyle militia, quartered about the West Kirk, would buy some of the geese; the driver said he had orders not to sell any of them till he came to such a house, which raising a suspicion in the Argyle men, they ceised all the geese, and found their bellies filled with letters to people in Edinburgh, where Jacobitism is still rampant, and where the people talk loud that way, notwithstanding of all the military men there present.

February 3.

Yesterday, came in here from the south, Lonmay, Tonlay, Robert Sandilands, Charles Moir, and one they call Captain Ferrier, and I am told four more gentlemen came at night, whose names or designations I have not yet got.

I hear our Quarter Master hath got orders to provide billets for 1000 men to come in this day or to morrow, though possibly half that number may not come.

This afternoon, there are come by here fourteen boats from Buchan, loaded with the arms and ammunition in the Peterhead ship. These boat fulls, I am told, will load many more horses then went loaded from this with such goods on Saturday last.

This day, the drum went warning all yet deficient in paying their cess, in the name of Lord Lewis Gordon, to repair with payment to the quarters of one Hacket, impowered to gather it up, under the pain of military execution. I wonder the payment is not to be made to Lonmay, who before acted as Deputy Governor.

I write you whatever occurs, or is presumably told on either side, without pretending to decide what is true or false in the most of it. However little worth this journal is, I hope you will preserve it carefully, since I have no other memorials of this affair. Whether I have written you by way of journal or missive letter, you will preserve both. It will disappoint me some what if you do not.

February 4.

I am told that not only the most of the men from this place are returned, but also many of the gentlemen from the shire.

Echt, Pitrichie, *etc.* have actually been close prisoners in Stirling. Some of their friends told me this day that they are remanded to Perth, to be kept in some gentlemans house there or thereabout.

February 5.

This day, a great many of our gentry are come north, and Lord Pitsligo, with the gentlemen with him, are to be here this night or to morrow.

It is now certain the Duke of Cumberland came to Edinburgh on Thursday morning, at three a'clock, was to march west on Friday, which hath occasioned a hasty revolution among the rebels, some of whom were for fighting, but the general voice was against it, so that they have taken a rout from Stirling, and if the common reports be true, one division of them goes north to Inverness, another to the west Highlands, with the Pretender, and a third to be here with Lord Lewis Gordon, Lord Ogilvie, Lord John Drummond, with the French; but a little time must explain their rout, since they cannot have many men to divide. Three thousand of their best Highlanders having loaded themselves with plunder, deserted after the battell of Lithgow Muir.

February 6.

This day continues the confirmation of what we had yesterday. Whether Pitsligo be yet come, I cannot learn; some say he went through this town yesternight, with twenty horses; but late and air the rebels are passing. I saw this afternoon seven or eight horses loaded on each side with cloak bags. If I should believe some reports, the Pretender, instead of the Highland road, is gone to Slains, but the first is most probable.

Lonmay hath been acquainting his friends to hide their goods for fear of a plunder from men to come in this night; but as no body of them is yet come, it is thought this is given out to frighten them in to present payment of the levy money, about which a grand committee met at three. I have not yet heard what they have done; but as it is strange assurance for them, in present circumstances, to demand it, it will consummate this cities disgrace to give it, especially that by Saturday at the farthest a body of dragoons are expected here.

What is become of Echt and Pitrichie I do not hear; but Gordon, junior, of Ardach, Dingwall, and Bartlett, have plaid them the slip, and are got in to Edinburgh.

I begin to think that Lonmay hath been, since he returned, mocking this place with accounts of hundreds and thousands every other day coming here; for since they behoved to have left Stirling on Friday, perhaps Thursday last, having got intelligence four hours after the Duke came to Edinburgh, at the rate of ten miles a day, they had been here this night, but no word of them, or if any be to come here, I cannot tell who they should be; not the Highlanders, for, according to themselves, they are gone

to the heights again, and our own and Bamf shire men had most of them deserted home before now, and others drop home daily; not the men by south of us, for they will readily take up with their own homes by the way, unless the rebels have some new project, which, if they have, it is strange to find their leaders retiring home. So that if any body of men come here, it must be the French, who, though they were all alive, would not exceed 500; but I hear many of them are killed; yea, Inverury made a slap among some of them. That story that was told of 300 of them being taken at the battel of Falkirk, seems not to hold; no, nor that they were taken the day before near Lithgow.

You must allow me the common privilege of other news writers, that often the one part of my paper shall contradict the other. I am not confident of the most of the stories I write you; but you will easily guess what may be true, or hath some probability in it.

February 7.

I have nothing as yet for this day, but that the gentry are always passing through here. What motions are making hither from the south, either of friends or foes, I am not able to give you any sure account.

I hear the payment from this town of the levy money is delayed till to morrow.

I do not yet hear what our old magistrates and counsellors are doing, but were I in their favour, and would they have taken my advice, my opinion would have been that they should have sent a respectfull deputation to wait of the Duke of Cumberland, though it were as farr as Edinburgh, but my [] of conversation is with a few poor bodies, whom if I wanted, Aberdeen would crush me quite.

I am pretty well informed that last night not under 100 horse passed through the Old Town, and by what I myself have seen, and am well informed of, not many fewer here, and through this place, this day, the great Lord Pitsligo came this night.

Two men of warr being afore this day, one of them anchored, and some of our well holden guests carried some ships canon to the Timber Head, to fire on her, which might be interpreted rather a bravado than what would do any harm to the man of warr.

Lonmay, I hear, hath this day ordered billets for some thousands, when there seems not ground to expect hundreds; this order is like to continue till the levy money be paid. A pity if that be done.

It is observed that the rebels have better horse, and more of them, than when they went away.

The Highlanders who went of after the battel, carried of horses and baggage from their own men, the Lowlanders; so that it is said all Lord Pitligos baggage is taken.

I hear Pitfoddels eldest son was killed at Stirling, and that Balmurrell came right bad to Perth in a chaise.

I also hear that Echt, *etc.*, are escaped, and can assure you, from eye sight, that horse have gone this day very throng from Stonehaven to this, bringing back the arms and ammunition.

It is said that the Pretender, and sundry of the French, went of in the Hasard sloop from Montrose, Munday seven night, and that the remaining French are in Drummond Castle. We are informed that another Spanish ship is fallen into Lowdons hand at Inverness.

I do not think that so many horse men went from this country as have returned this way; there would seem to be many strangers, in respect that many passing through the Old Town, ask the way to the Bridge of Don.

I might have written you before that the rebels had a magazine in St. Ninians Kirk, which was blown up, and severals killed.

I see among the Carlisle prisoners one called John Burnet; I know not if this be young Campfield.

February 8.

No post from whom I can have any news, but still rebels flocking hither and through this place, late and early, and, as I wrote before, many more than at first went south this way; what the meaning is, time must explain.

The motions of the rebels have been, and continue to be, misterious; for ought that appears, we are to have them all, having got, of horse and foot, this afternoon, I am informed, about 1500, and am told before to morrow we are to have as many; and I am sure, since Sabbath morning, there have not under 1000, if not above it, passed this way and through this country together. We have got all the French, Lord Ogilvies men, of himself I have not heard, Lord Elcho, Lord George Murray, and Lord John Drummond, and I know not how many. You may guess what confusion is here, they have been since their rout from Stirling, God and themselves knows, which you will think the more misterious, when I tell you that they have come hither this day from Laurence Kirk and Drumleithie, as I am told.

Whether this place shall be spoiled or not, I cannot tell; but this day, the remaining 500 pounds sterling from this city is paid.

Many of the Pretenders Life Guards are seen here with the rest of their army, which occasions sundry conjectures about their master.

You will perhaps think me whimsical when I tell you, that either Wednesday or Thursday last, about noon. I called up my wife, and told her that I was for a good while that forenoon deafned with the noise and sound of pipes from the Green and Back Wynd. I behoved to put her in remembrance of this, when so many of them were sounding loud in these places this afternoon.

I am informed by an eye witness that, after five a'clock, there came up the Nether Kirkgate above a dozen of horse, finely accoutred: there was riding in the midle a young gentleman upon a fine gelding, and wrapped in a scarlet cloak: all his attendants had their swords drawn, but no sword in his hand; before him rode one well mounted, with a French horn; immediatly before him, with drawn swords, rode some bare headed; at some distance behind, a boy, richly mounted, beating a brass drum: and one lodges at Kirkhill with truste guards, and none got in without a pass. It is easy to guess who is this. It is said the quarters was changed to Hallheads.

If I believe some accounts, we have this night 2000 foot and 500 horse, but I believe we are not altogether so many. This night, Mr. Ogilvie hath got 2 officers to quarter with him, and I hear some got billets on the Principal. Some of them merely sought a billet on me, but I have not as yet got any of them, though I know not how soon, especially if more come. Principal Osborn hath also got lodgers.

February 9.

I preached this forenoon in this ??? church. I had occasion for some usual freedoms both in lecture ???...???, the prayers proceeding as usually. There were many common Highlanders in the church, severals of the French, and not a few of their officers, among them a Life Guard man; they all behaved decently. I feared no disturbance, and I met with none, and I give them no thanks who would endeavour to discourage me by lying stories.

I hear we have got here also Lord Ogilvie. I know not how many the Life Guard consists of, but there are many of them here, and a servant of a French officer told one that their Prince was come along with them.

My wife was made uneasy yesternight by a story that one of the Life Guard was swearing to shoot me in the pulpit; as for myself, I reckoned it a base ly, and, tracing it to the fountain, found it so. You may think I would not have been very easy, when one of the Life Guard came in the time of my lecture, and, not pleased with sundry seats, moved about till planted opposite to and very near the pulpit. But the gentleman behaved decently, as did some other of their officers, though I hear one of them, who lodges with my neighbour, alleged I might have spared some things, especially the insinuation in my prayers as if they were broken, which he said a few days would explain.

February 10.

Yesternight and this day, a good many more of the rebels are come to town, among whom is Stonnywood, in good health. I have not heard of Blelack.

A good many of them went out of town, to guard their baggage; the greatest part of which consists of the arms and ammunition brought from the Spanish ship. I know not if they have come your length to press horse, but they have gone the length of New Machar.

This day, two Life Guard men were billeted upon me. They got a share of our dinner. It seems the one of them was not pleased with the expressions of loyalty he observed with old and young in my house, so that after dinner, I saw him no more; but the other came in at tea time, and stayed in all that night, and would have been a guard to my house if any attack had been made upon it; but he got not that ado. I never was more moved with compassion to one than to this sweet youth, a gentlemans son nigh Dumfries, I believe drawn in to this measure by bad influence, and since their retreat from England. After all the arguments I could use, I hung upon him as if he had been my own, he became very grave and ...

(page 380 unreadable).

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE PAGE WHICH WAS UNREADABLE IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT. THE TEXT IS REPRODUCED AS IT APPEARS IN THE MANUSCRIPT, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS UNREADABLE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.

February 12.

I hear the men who came in yesternight are called Stonnywoodis men, and are said to be 100. It is like Lord Ogilvies are yet to come.

Earl of Kelly is here indisposed, and if Kilmarnock and Nairn have been here, you have them all, except Tullibardin, who they say is indisposed.

February 14.

No post either from south or north, but some people from the countrey report that parties of the rebels are gone to Peterhead, Frasersburgh, the midle parts of Buchan, to Old Meldrum, Inverury, Strathbogie, Turreff, and Banff; and not under, if not above, 500 in this town.

This day, there is brought about here, in a boat from Stonehaven, several arms, two canon, nine pounders, for the rebels.

February 15.

This day, six or seven score of our Highlanders are gone north from this, as I am told, the way to Old Meldrum. I doubt not but we will have about 500 behind. They are at present pretty calm.

I hear the rebels carried their arms and ammuniton to Strathbogie, and again from that to Banff.

Several of the Angus men have this day deserted, for want of pay, and I hear more of them are threatning to do so.

Our hairy caped Hussars are not like to travel so far south as Montrose, in respect a man of war hath landed some marines there.

February 17.

Yesterday, the rebel Hussars came from the south, amusing their own and other people, as if some advanced parties of the Kings troops had been come the length of Stonehaven; but that seems to be as true as if some dragoons, Thursday last, had been at Montrose.

We expected, this day, the remove of them all from this place, their drums beating a march from six to ten this morning, but, as I am informed, only about 100 removed.

I hear daily of deserters, for lack of pay; and they prove rude to severals in the streets, though I own I have never as yet met with ought of it.

February 18.

This day as yet produceth little or no news. We have as yet no post from south or north. Our accounts of the motions of the Kings troops are uncertain; only they, with the Duke on their head, are expected here some time this week. The Duke is to lodge in the Colledge; the hall will admit many to see him. I am told 320 of the rebels went from this north, this forenoon; I dont think we have now above 100, excepting Hussars, who as

yet continue to travel south and north; whether any shall return upon us from the north, as some give out, I cannot tell, only it seems pretty certain that all who have passed this way are as yet in the shires of Aberden and Bamf, and, for ought I can learn, not many of them as yet in Bamf shire.

This day, two large men of warr are afore here; and I am told this evening that a great part of our garison are gone down to the Block House, fearing a landing of marines.

February 20.

No posts as yet from south or north. It is to me a strange thing that when the rebels have their Hussars travelling south for intelligence, the Kings troops send no parties north for intelligence, especially that it were easy for them to make the few Hussars retire.

I wrote you before that this day, as I heard, was to be the rendezvouse of the rebels either at Bamf or Keith, more probably at Keith than Bamf, and I shall make no doubt but then they shall make 4000 strong; and if the West Highlanders come again, they may make up their old number.

To support what I say, of their making 4000 without the West Highlanders, let me assure you that Abachie went through Tarland on Wednesday, last week, with 200 men, and Lord Ogilvie having gathered together his Angus straglers, as did Monaltry and Blelack theirs, they went from Tarland on Sabbath last, with 300 men, and add to these those they will pick again up of deserter.- and others in Strathbogy and other northern places.

The 200 men with Abachie ??? Lord Ogilvie, Blelack, and Monaltrie, marched from T??(page 382)??rummie.

I am informed the Bamf post reports that a great body of the rebels that were at Bamf, moved yesterday from that, as he sayes, toward Spey; but presumably to the designed rendezvouz at Keith this day. I do not think that Keith is above ten miles from Bamf.

I am also informed that a man from Strathdon reports that he hears that the Spanish arms and ammunition, carried about with them, is to be brought from Strathbogie to the old Castle of Corgarf; if so, they infallibly design to wheel south about again from Corgarf, through the head of Glencairn, Crathie, Brae Marr, Glenshee, Strathardle, and Athole, through which places a great body of men can never follow them, if other methods be not fallen upon than as yet.

I must still beg you will carefully keep all I have written you since this affair began, for I must have all again.

February 22.

It is certain that the large ship afore yesterday, from which a landing of marines was expected, is a French ship, from which an officer came in here yesternight, who reports that they have many men aboard, and that there are other five nigh the coast with men aboard, if we shall believe them, to the number, in all, of 1800, though possibly not a third of that number; but if a third of that number, judge ye what incouragment that will be to the rebels, and how that will be magnified in order to influence a new rising. The guests here, immediatly for fear of what they were in little hasard of, of word being sent south, set watches on Dee side, from the mouth of it to a good number of miles up the river.

Our guests who, for certain, were yesterday designed to evacuate this place; after a march was beaten this morning, and all ready for the march, are gone again to their quarters, from which we may conclude that none of the Kings army will be here this day.

I just now hear that a letter is come from Echt, dated at Castle Grant, who is said to have escaped out of the hands of the Highlanders, at Badenoch; more particulars of this may be afterwards heard of. I also hear that Regent Chalmers, John Dingwall, and David Bartlet, are coming along with the Kings troops. I have not yet heard of Pitrichie.

This night, at nine aclock, we have got, as they say, 200 French from Stonehaven, this day landed there from a French ship, and it seems there are more French ships hovering upon our coast.

This night, it is reported, but how true I cannot tell, that the rebel army that went from this and from other places, and rendezvouzed, as is now said, att Fochabers, are got safe over Spey, which I believe themselves expected not, and every body thought would have been disputed with them. This night, there are centries set up Dee side, and all around the town, without the boundary of which none in this place can pass without leave, for fear of carrying tydings south, of which they need be in little fear.

February 23.

The French who came here yesternight made not one hundred in number. This day betwixt two and three, this place is once more clearly evacuated of these rebels, and that in some hurry. It is reported that some of the advanced parties of the Kings troops had this day killed one of their Hussars.

February 24.

I am now beginning to tyre, in good earnest, in writing any more journals; our disappointments are so many, and our informations so uncertain and contradictory.

We expected some of the Kings troops this day for certain; none of them are yet come. I wish any of them come to morrow, and when the Duke and the rest of the army will come, I shall not say till they be at hand.

Boats that have gone out to them, report that two ships afore this day are French, the one of them a large vessel, and the other of them a lesser one, who, being informed that the Kings army was drawing near, said that then they would steer to another port. I hear it is written from Peterhead, that 60 French are landed from a ship there, which hath on board some heavy artillery.

Before I went yesternight to ??? I was informed that one of the ships afore here was ??? and had ??(page 384)?? Frenchman in chace, and now it is taken. As to ??? being taken ??? are not sufficiently assured ???

This afternoon ??? of dragoon??? Three regiments of foot. Excepting a guard here, they are quartered in the Old Town, and parish thereof. Brigadier General Bland is in this town.

February 26.

The three foot regiments that came here yesterday are the Royal Scotch, Puttneys, and Flemings, with two troop of Blands dragoons.

This day we have got Ligoniers, Barrells, and Blackneys regiments of foot, and have a report of another French ship taken.

February 27.

This day came here three regiments of foot. As I am told, they are Wolfs, Blighs, and Batteraus, and the rest of a regiment of black horse. There came, I am sure, at the least, 1000 Argyle Highlanders, pretty men, and in fine order.

There are for certain two French ships taken, but on what part of the coast I cannot tell; but there are in them 300 French soldiers, 5000 pounds sterling, in a military chest, besides the officers privy purses.

Yesternight, some officers wanting access to some rooms in Pitfoddels lodging, for their accommodation, they happened to be Priest Seatons. By special order, I hear, they were opened, and some papers, mistically written, for five or six years back, found.

February 28.

This day, I am told, a very considerable body of horse and foot are marched this morning over the Stockwood head, as are the Campbels the Bridge of Don road.

Though some are confident that the Pretender went by Athole, the [news] in the latest prints begins to be doubted but that he came this way, which is my opinion.

Another French ship, with men and arms, is driven by a man of warr to the sands of Cruden, or Slains, and a party of men are ordered out thither.

I was invited, yesterday, to wait on the Duke, with the ministers of the two towns and the two colleges; but when I found that the message was only sent for access to the colleges, I did not choose to go with them, this day, at eleven o'clock; nor did I go with the synod, but told Mr. Windham, the master of ceremonies, that I had reasons for being alone. He promised to introduce me to the Duke, but wished I would come with the synod. I told him I would not. I went in alone to the drawing room, where was the Duke in the middle. Provost Aberden did me the favour to reach his hand to Mr. Windham, who telling the Duke, who asked who I was, I made up to his hand. He came forward a step, stretched it out; I kissed it, made my speech, and retired back, till I heard the moderator of the synod express himself, in a few words; after which, they came in one by one to kiss his hand, and then retired.

This day we have got three more regiments, Howards, Prices, and Monros.

Mr. Bruce of Kennets son is setting up for clerk to the Assembly.

March 31.

On Saturday evening, two rebels were brought in from Stratbbogy. The one, a spy, was hanged, at the Bridge of Don, on the branch of a tree, with a paper on his breast bearing his crime, for the terror of others. His name is Daniel Campbel, from Argyle, a stupid fellow. I am sick of attending him, as of being, on his account, also at the Gallow Hill, till he should see two of the Englishmen, who robbed Mr. Howie's house, hanged; two men monstrously stupid; denied their crime with their last breath, though the stollin fang was found about them. Four were pardoned.

I stood out by at a side with one Mr. Ross, minister of Fern, in Ross. A regimental chaplain read prayers to the Englishmen; and upon all these am both sick and weary.

April 1.

This day the synod met, chose Mr. Pollock moderator. It seems they made such dispatch as that there was a committee of bills in the afternoon, from which came the case of the settlement of Cushny; Cushny and others complainers, of the presbyteries refusing to make a list at the moderation, but insisting that all they had to do was to ask if they had any objections against the presentee. If any ecclesiastick management at present would astonish me, some of the answers given to the reasons of complaint would.

However, the synod, after a while's hearing of parties, without a vote, confirmed the presbyteries procedure. This is of a piece with the presbytery of Aberdeens conduct in the settlements of Fintray and Belhelvy, last year. What could you or I do in such judicatories as these, unless we were quite to renounce our presbyterian principles. Not one member argued in the contrary.

April 2.

The synod debated some time about a proper censure on Mr. Whyte, who was on tryals before the presbytry of Deer, but since a captain among the rebels. Some moved summar excommunication; in my opinion, a proper censure. Another moved to neglect him, alleging a rope and a tree would be his fittest reward. I frankly own, if I could not have obtained the first, I would have been for the last; but both were overruled; and in the depth of their wisdom and zeal, it was concluded to declare him for ever incapable of a license, and that no presbytry might take him on tryals. This is to be published in the news, which will be matter of scorn and laughter to many readers, when it will afflict others who shall observe such trifling.

April 5.

What shall I write you, when I am told of such a ridiculous story is written from Dundee, that an hundred spies should be taken up at Aberden, in womens cloaths.

April 7.

All was in a great hurry here yesterday, in expectation of the armies marching this day; but as yet no marching, as it seems, was designed.

This afternoon, there came in about 500 men, made up of men who had been tender, or had been upon parties in the south; so that here, and north of this, there will be fifteen pretty full regiments, two of horse, about 1000 Campbels, and the Duke of Kingstons light horse.

(Page 388 unreadable).

Mr. Innes is carried prisoner with the armie; whether the way of Old Meldrum or Inverurie, I do not yet know; there are three with him, but it seems of little consideration.

The priest Falconer, of whom I wrote you, is put on board a man of warr to serve there.

I am told Kirkhill is bailed for 1000 pounds by Skeen, but yet to be kept under guard in his own house.

April 9.

Yesternight, the Duke lodged at Meldrum, and it is said the army that marched that way are to be at Bamff this night; a long march, perhaps they go not farther than Turref.

A good many ships were seen pass by here on Sabbath; it is said that it is the transports with the regiments coming from Lowdon, who, now that the Duke is gone from this, will no doubt land at Bamff, or at any coast place where his quarters may happen to be.

I hear that on Sabbath night, a party of the rebels came as far as the Bridge of Cairnie, three miles north of Strathbogy; such of the Kings scouts that were posted there, retired to their head quarters at Strathbogy, but it is said that one of Kingstons Light Horse sticking in a mire, his rider and another man fell in to the rebels hands.

You have heard that Gordons Hospital is garisoned; a well is made in the closs, ramparts and palisades are made about it, so that they may defend themselves against a good body of the rebels, should they be attacked; but should such a body of rebels come here as that garison could not chase away, I am afraid these crafty rebels let them enjoy their fortification, since, at the same time, they could spoil this town at their pleasure. If any parties of them come here, which God forbid, though I am not without fears of it, it is like I must seek for another lodging, lest if the rebels attack the fort, they possess my house as one rampart to them, or lest, for preventing that, the governor in the fortification be oblided to demolish mine and some other houses.

I beg you will listen to no idle reports to make [you] uneasy about how we shall set about the blessed memorial; for, if I have access to preach, through the Lords grace, I design to set about that work, even should the rebels return. If I should listen to every heedless report, I shall hear it said but I know not how it comes, that some of these strollers expect to hear sermon here on Sabbath; but I hope they will not be so hardy, at lest I earnestly wish they be prevented.

This day came in 200 Marines, who go aboard some men of war in our road there; came along with them 100 of the York Shire Blues, who are to follow the Duke.

Aprile 11.

I hear the Duke was on horseback at Meldrum on Wednesday morning, for Bamff that night, with such of the army as have marched that road, and the whole army will be soon joined, I suppose, at Fochabers, where, if the rebel army advance, we may shortly hear of a bloody action. May the Lord, for his names sake, for the sake of his cause, make it happy and prosperous, and give good counsel and conduct to the Duke. O how much depend upon the issue of this expedition.

Aprile 12.

The reports of this day are very agreeable, may they be confirmed, *viz.*, that the Duke, with the army at Cullen, was to be at Fochabers yesternight, joined by the army from Strathbogy.

That the rebels are not to stand it on the Spey; instead of that, 400 of the Irish Brigade have come and laid down their arms at Spey side, I suppose to the army from Strathbogy, who might be there a day before the Duke, otherwise an account of such an event could not be here as yet.

Unless it be the dragoons that landed at Stonehaven the Saturday before the army came here, to the number of 60, and such as escaped from a ship run in upon the sands of Cruden that week, I know no more troops the rebels had from abroad, besides the few remains after the rout at Stirling, unless there hath been an accession of more; I question if they all would amount to 400, and if not, such a number have not laid down their arms at Spey. I wish there be truth in the story, though there should be some difference as to the number.

Aprile 14.

Yesternight, accounts were brought to town that on Saturday last the Duke, with the army, crossed Spey, without the loss of a man. What number of the rebels might be on the north side of the river, is not certainly told, only that they were not many hundreds; four or five of whom, among whom one Major Glasgow or Gladsmuir, were killed by the fire from the army on this side the river, the rest took to their heels. The Duke came to this side the river all night; whether he lodged in Gordon Castle, or in the ministers of Belly, I am not yet certainly informed.

It is informed by Mr. L---- of Towie, that Glenbuckett was last week above them with some men, and had sent and searched a gentlemans house in Towie for arms. What these unhappy rebels mean to do, I cannot as yet learn, no, not by conjecture.

Last week, the rebels on Spey side went down to Garmouth, thinking to receive a ship, as they apprehended, coming with stores to the army, but were disappointed by a broadside from the Saltash man of warr, which having made some havock among them, they retired with more haste than speed.

Aprile 15.

This is a day of great joy here, as being the Dukes birth day. It is reported to day that the Duke lodged at Elgin, Saturday night.

You see how uncertain our accounts are at a short distance; if he was at Elgin on Saturday night, I believe by yesterday he shall have been at Inverness, and shortly we must expect some important news.

I heard it reported this day, that Glenbucket hath warned the Earle of Aberdens tennants in Cromar, to carry some hundreds of bolls of the Earles meal to some place, but whether I have not been told, and that under the pain of fire and sword.

Aprile 16.

I can assure you that the whole army from this incamped on Sabbath day south of the Kirk of Alves, half way betwixt Elgin and Forress, from which they had only twenty-four miles to Inverness, which they might have reached yesternight, if there was no impediment.

It is not worthy of writting, that after the camp was pitched by Alves, that there was said to be several of the rebels in the Den of Rothies, since I am told that some hundreds of the Grants came to Elgin on Sabbath night, which they could not have easily done, if thousands of the rebels had been in the Glen of Rothies.

As little is it worthy of writting, that the Pretender is dead and buried; he is but a mortal man, but, were he dead, that would be kept an absolute secret, or his rebellious followers would disperse.

I hear one Innes, a dyster in Bamf, for treasonable informations, was hanged there last week, and another at Boyndie.

The boats at Spey, by Fochabers, being all destroyed, the army rode and wade through, and luckily the water was pretty low, so that I hear of no loss but of a dragoon, his wife and child, by the horses falling in the water, and a bread cart that went down the water; whether the horse was drowned, or the traces cut for his relief, I have not been told.

Aprile 17.

It is certain the Duke and the army incamped at Nairn, twelve miles from Inverness, on Munday afternoon; but it seems on Sabbath night the Campbells, Kingstons horse, with some dragoons, went up to Nairn, surrounded that little town, killed 3 Hussars, took 7 prisoners, and so surprised the rebels as to prevent their carrying of a granary they had there of above 2000 bolls of victual.

It is said the rebels are to make a stand at a place called the Claans, three or four miles from Nairn to Inverness, where the highway lyes betwixt a lake and a mossy marishy ground.

Our garrison here is not numerous in the new fort, but our new militia are very vigilant and upon honor, and as they who judge in such matters say, on the Dukes birth day, fired better than the regulars.

If I should write you an idle story of this day, it is that Pretender Charles, or Pretender Edward, or, if you please, the man with the many

names is not dead, but so bad of a flux as to be carried about in a bed with his troops.

We are now abundantly impatient for news from the north.

April 18.

Our town is now pretty quiet, and our houses free of strangers.

The Lady Arnage offers her compliments to you, and expects your lodging with her while you are in town, on our ensuing solemnity.

April 19.

This morning we have got yet a more favourable account of the battel south of Culloden. The rebels having left a garison in Inverness, the Dukes army was in sight of them, the 16th, at twelve at noon, as is now said, half way betwixt Nairn and Inverness. The rebels being advantageously posted, having a strong battery of cannon, the Kings army marched and countermarched, to three afternoon, till the rebels were got out of their advantageous ground. Two lines of the Kings army were formed, when the canonading began. The rebels cannon did little damage, being pointed too high. The Kings cannon soon dismounted theirs. The army discharged thirty coehorns and royals, which did great execution. The Frasers and Macdonalds came down on the Kings left wing, and attacked the regiments of Barrel, Monro, Pultney, and the Fusileers, who gave the rebels two fires, on which they run confusedly, on their firing, and charging them with their bayonets.

The right wing of the Kings army was not ingaged. On the flight of the rebels, the light horse and dragoons pursued, and gave no quarter; by which more were killed in the pursuit than in the battell.

The army arrived at Inverness at five in the afternoon, the Duke and all the general officers well; Lord Robert Ker, second son to the Marquise of Lothian, the only officer killed; Colonell Rich, and 4 subalterns wounded; 53 private men killed, 37 wounded.

The rebels had killed in battell and pursuit, 3752; of private men, about 500 wounded, of which severals dyed before the declarant came away; there are also 1500 taken of the rebels prisoners.

Of their killed, Duke of Perth, Lord John Drummond, Glengaire, and some others; prisoners of note, Glenbuket, Lords Kilmarnock and Elcho, and a large room full of prisoners of distinction.

The cannon and baggage are all taken in the field and at Inverness, seventeen in number.

(page 394 difficult to read)

It is further declared, that not above 2600 engaged with the Pretender, who is wounded in the thigh.

The above account was brought in to the Duke by those he employed for that purpose.

Aprile 21.

Whether all the above account shall hold or not, I cannot tell, but a great victory is certain, as I saw yesternight, in a letter from James Chalmers ???, dated at Inverness the 17th, but so stupid are all the accounts, that they tell us not the name of the place where the battle was, only James Chalmers letter bears that it was four miles on this side of Inverness.

He condescends not on numbers, but that they have more prisoners than they know what to do with.

He says 454 French, in the Castel of Inverness, surrendered on the Dukes approach; so that, reckoning those who would be with the young Pretender at the battle, the army of 491??? laying down their arms at Spey be notoriously false, for they had not near as many to surrender.

He writes that Lowdon hath defeat the Earl of Cromarty with his ??? but tells not when or where, but promises more particular accounts afterwards.

??? make the account to be as above declared; some others come to town, make the killed and dangerously wounded 2000, and the prisoners 3000 ???, but that there are many more prisoners of distinction than in the yesterdays declaration; any of the ways, the event is great. I wish they may soon ??? hard, till, if possible, they catch the mischeivous instrument himself, and render those who have escaped incapable of gathering to any ??? again.

Mr. Chalmers writes that he fell on a granary of the rebels, consisting of 600 bolls of meal, besides bear, wheat, and beef, which will be of great use.

Aprile 22.

I will need give over writ??? more about wh??? of the young Pretender, since I must ??? story. On??? lared before our governors, that on??? He was at ??? Badenoch, with 100 horse, who took??? The Pretender??? Lord Pitsligo, presumably he may be in Buchan, concealing himself in some place near the sea, since it is assured that Lord Pitsligo lodged at Bridge of Gairn, on Friday night, no doubt he would come from Ruthven to Brae Marr, and from that to Bridge of Garden; he went by Craigivar on Saturday, lodged in some friendly house of his on Don side; others say he was seen at Lumphannan on Sabbath. This marching and counter marching, if true, may be to make it less credible where he may be.

Lord Lovats house at Castle Douny is burnt, and there the amazonian Lady Macintosh was taken.

Aprile 23.

Our militia are, upon honor, very alert, daily taking up the rebels as they return here. Our prison is like to be soon crowded; I believe the poor fellows who went from this place expected not such handling at their return.

May 14.

It is said that many of the rebels are going about in the habite of beggars.

The rebellion appears to be effectually quelled, and yet matters from abroad appear vastly misterious, at least in the accounts of them.

A proclamation from the Duke was yesterday read over our Cross, for all in publick trust their apprehending the rebels, and against receiving them under high pains; and for ministers of the gospel giving up accounts of the behaviour of their parishioners, and of the haunts and places of abode of such rebels as may be lurking in their several neighbourhoods.

May 15.

This day were brought in here, under a guard of soldiers, about 63 prisoners from Angus and some places south of this, of whom about 17 or 18 horsemen, who are gentlemen, and had been officers in the rebel army. I have not yet got their names, unless it be Sir James Kinloch, his two brothers and brother in law, and Hunter of Burnside. I hear the prisoners in our tolbooth are to be carried with them, and all of them to Inverness, to be shipped of there for London.

May 19.

I hear two of the Shepherds and Mr. James Lumsden have written to our governors that Skeleter and other gentlemen have some body of men in Strathdon; their letters are sent to the Duke.

Yesterdays afternoon, our militia searched two houses for Romish priests; came on priest Gordons lodging, as his congregation were dismissing from their sacrament; he escaped by a back gate. This evening, his books and trumpery were carried down to the Clerks Chamber.

The Commissioners of Supply having met to choose a Collector, have issued out orders to the Buchan gentry to send in victual to Aberdeen, as ordered by the Duke, but have excused the Countess of Errol, Faichfield, Lonmay, Kininmount, *etc.* I wish you would give in your informations to Sherriff Grant or these noble justices.

May 21.

John Elphingston is walking the streets again, but I have not heard as yet on what terms.

May 23.

If you have occasion to write any letters to Deer, you will remember that the Lady Kinmundy hath given it the name of Dear William.

I hear John Elphingston hath been at Edinburgh, and hath been admitted to bail by the Justice Clerk.

There are sad reports here of the extortion of merchants from this place, who either went to Inverness or sent goods thither; they have been obliged to make great returns of their extortion to the soldiers, so that I am told that one core of soldiers had no less than 30 pounds sterling of compensation money for their share.

The Duke is yet at Inverness.

May 26.

Yesterday, between twenty and thirty transports passed this place, in which were many of the rebel prisoners. Also, came here under a small escort, 26 or 30 French officers, taken with the rebels on their march south.

June 30.

Another instance of the mad insolence of these Jacobites I had from one Mr. Murdoch, schoolmaster at Kinetles, who is not safe to keep his school, because, about five weeks ago, he reprov'd some men whom he saw carrying goods on a Sabbath evening, which he did only as they were guilty of breach of Sabbath; but it happening to be rebels goods, they suspected him, and afterwards, on broad day light, insulted and threatned him. I said he should have continued at his school, and complained of them. He told me he was not safe; and, from the first instance, I see he was not. This Kinnetles, it seems, is not farr from Glamis.

I am told another story, that the Jacobite gentlewomen in Montrose, on the 10th of June, got on white gowns and white roses, made a procession through the streets, where the young boyes had put on bonfires. I hear the soldiers would have been restraining them, but their officers, from complaisance to the ladies, hindred them. It is said the Duke hearing of this, is so offended that the commandant is broke, and he [threatens] because the inhabitants are nourishing up their children to rebellion, to cause them to be whiped at the Cross, to frighten them from their bonfires.

July 1.

John Gordon, younger of Glenbucket, Donald Chisholm, James Drummond, James Davidson, Robert Bruce, Patrick Pattison, rebell prisoners, are discharged. Gordon had ten guineas, and each of the rest five guineas to carry them to Scotland.

Mr. Maul came here on Munday, and I hear hath carried the pole election of magistrates at Brechin, at which the votes of the two ministers were cast, because they were only honorary, and not burghers *ex compositione*.

Thainston and Sir Archibald Grant are now riding the shire.

July 3.

The news are now so much reduced to nothing, that it may be needless any more to put pen to paper on that subject.