

IX

Letters from Lord Lewis Gordon, and others, to the Laird of Stonywood.¹

M.DCC.XLV-XLVI.

James Moir of Stonywood, to whom most of these Letters were addressed, was the representative of an ancient family of the name of Moir, who probably settled in Aberdeenshire in the reign of David II, and acquired the barony of Stonywood, situated on the river Don, about five miles from its mouth, from Frazer of Muchals, about the end of the sixteenth century. The Laird of Stonywood was widely connected with the gentry of Aberdeenshire, by which means, and his zealous activity in the cause of Prince Charles Edward, he soon raised a battalion of men, known by the name of “Stonywood’s Regiment.” For the equipment of his men, he received an order, (I.) dated 1st October, 1745, for six hundred stand of arms, with a corresponding quantity of ammunition, and, in the same month, he was called to attend a council of war, with the other officers of the Prince, at Holyrood-House. Mr. Moir is frequently mentioned in the preceding Diary of Mr. Bisset. Before joining the army of the Prince, he seems to have spent some time in endeavouring to collect the Cess in Aberdeenshire, a measure which it required the intimidation of an armed force to accomplish. During this period, the Letters from Lord Lewis Gordon are written. They forcibly exhibit the difficulties which impeded all the exertions of the insurgents. Even in Aberdeenshire, which was one of the Jacobite strongholds, there existed a general disinclination to the cause. Lord Lewis complains, “We have all got most unthankful business, and we have to deal with a sett of low minded grovelling wretches, who prefers their own interest to the good of their country, or the indispensable duty they owe to their lawful Prince.” Again, in regard to raising the Cess, and levying men in Banffshire, he says, “We have been obliged to use great threatnings, although no reall hardships have been used; and, take my word for it, that, in the lasy way the country is in, together with the unnatural methods the ministers and other disaffected people make use of to restrain the people from doing their duty, there is no raising the quotas of men in the country without a seeming violence.” The Duke of Gordon did not join in the rising of 1745, and his brother, Lord Lewis, found that few Highlanders would join him, notwithstanding all the pains he had taken, and the repeated assurances of support he had received, because the Duke had given them orders not to stir.

¹ The miscellany of the Spalding Club, Volume 1 page [79](#).

II.—XII. These are the Letters addressed to Mr. Moir by Lord Lewis Gordon, already referred to. That nobleman was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the Northern Counties; and at the time when they were written, he was actively engaged in raising men and collecting the Cess of Banffshire for the service of the Prince. He describes his success in these measures; and the various steps which were taken to further his views are noticed with considerable minuteness.

XIII.—XVIII. Thomas Erskine, by whom these Letters to Stonywood were written, was Laird of Pittodrie (formerly called Balhagartie), situated in the Garioch, a fertile district of Aberdeenshire. He was descended from Sir Thomas Erskine of Brechin, Secretary to King James V., and having been engaged in the Rebellion of 1715, his experience in that campaign induced him to refuse to take any active share in the “affair” of 1745, although he was willing to contribute as much money as he could afford in furtherance of the undertaking. His Letters strongly exhibit the miserable state in which the country was placed, as well as the general backwardness displayed to the Prince’s cause, and the minute information on this subject which they contain is valuable.

XIX. This is a Letter from the Town-Clerk of Inverury, in which he requests Mr. Moir’s interposition in favour of one of the inhabitants of that burgh, whose horse had been injured in carrying an express to Lord Lewis Gordon.

XX. Mr. Hugh Innes, by whom this Letter was written, appears to have been a Student at King’s College, Aberdeen, and to have been a native of Morayshire. He complains that after he had engaged nine “Servant Lads” for the Prince’s service, they were induced to draw back by “the diabolical lyes of their Priabyterian preacher,” and similar complaints will be found in the Letters of Lord Lewis Gordon. These clergymen were staunch supporters of the Hanoverian interest, and thus excited the wrath of the Jacobites against them.

XXL, XXIII., XXV. Charles Gordon of Blelack, by whom these Letters were written, was a zealous Jacobite, and held the rank of Colonel in the Prince’s army. The fire of his disposition occasionally manifests itself in the impatient expressions used in his letters. He throws farther light on the plans used to raise and arm the country in the cause of the Prince. Of this gentleman’s mother an anecdote has been preserved, characteristic of the times, and of a class of persons long extinct. The minister of the parish of Logy-in-Mar, on a certain Sunday during the insurrection, was engaged in prayer to God that He would scatter the army of the rebels, and bring their counsels to nought, when he was interrupted by the Lady of Blelak, who, with an oath, asked him, “how dare ye say that, an’ my Charlie wi’ them “?”

XXII. This Letter, from the Laird of Pitfoddels, accompanies a note of the money “debussed “by him for payment of twenty-five men whom he brought to Aberdeen to join the Prince’s service. Seven of this gentleman’s sons drew their swords in the same cause at Culloden.

XXIV., XXVI. Mr. Moir of Lonmay, by whom these Letters were written, was a kinsman of the Laird of Stonywood, and was appointed by Lord Lewis Gordon to be his Deputy-Lieutenant, and Governor of the town of Aberdeen. He was active in the cause of the insurgents, and is frequently referred to in Mr. Bisset's Diary.

XXVII. XXX, XXXI. These are Letters from the Duke of Perth to Lord Lewis Gordon. They refer generally to the progress of the Prince's affairs, and especially congratulate Lord Lewis on his success in the skirmish with the Macleods at Inverury.

XXVIII. In this Letter, George Logie, who appears to have been an inhabitant of the Mearns, requests the protection of Mr. Moir, against the attempts of Mr. Garioch of Mergay, who was a zealous supporter of the Prince.

XXIX. This Letter is from Lady Tallasker, regarding medical advice which she was desirous of obtaining for some wounded men. She is probably the Lady referred to in Mr. Bisset's Diary, p. 352.

XXXII. This is a Letter from John, third Earl of Kintore, regarding the demands for Cess made on his tenants by Lord Lewis Gordon.

XXXIII. This Letter, from the Professor of Divinity in Kings College, is also relative to the demands for Cess made on the tenant of certain lands which then belonged to the Professor of Divinity in that College.

XXXIV. This is a Letter from Farquharson of Auchriachan, in which he informs Mr. Moir that his men "declined going by Aberree*" and would by no means condescend to go until they once got to the families." It has been remarked by Sir Walter Scott that the "L is r" is a reference to the skirmish at Inverury, between the Mac

Lord Lewis Gordon's troops, chiefly Lowland men of Aberdeenshire, under Moir of Stonywood and Farquharson of Monaltry, "that the Islesmen, who appeared on the part of Government, were all Highlanders, in their proper garb; and that the greater part of those who fought for the Stewarts wore the Lowland dress, being the reverse of what was usually the case in the civil war.² This statement contradicts the generally received account, and the popular understanding seems to be borne out by a passage in this Letter, where Farquharson writes, "If you want any Highland plaids or tartans for the men, acquaint me, and I'll endeavour to provide in some," and the Proclamation of Lord Lewis Gordon calls for men with sufficient Highland clothes, plaid, and arms. The house of

² [Tales of a Grandfather, vol. v., p. 254.]

Farquharson, at Glenconlass, in Glenlivet, was one of those which were burnt by the Royalists in 1746.³

XXXV. This Letter is from John, fifth Viscount Arbuthnott, to Mr. Moir, and principally relates to the recovery of Lady Nicolson's saddle horse, "which was a blue pownie," and had been pressed into the Prince's service.

XXXVL, XXXVII., XXXIX. The first and last of these Letters are from Lord George Murray to Stonywood; the second is to Lonmay. They refer to the arrangements which Lord George was making for crossing the Spey.

XXXVIII. In this Letter from Lord Lewis Drummond, son of the second Duke of Melfort, he requests the good offices of Mr. Moir to procure a lodging for the bearer of it, who was "wife to a very honest man, sergent of our regiment."

XL. This Letter, from Sir James Kinloch, gives an account of the movements of the Prince's army previous to its passing the Spey. His father married the daughter and heiress of John Nevay of Nevay, by which title he subscribes this Letter, in addition to his own surname. He was taken prisoner after the battle of Culloden, tried and condemned, but afterwards pardoned.

XLI. This Letter is from John Murray of Broughton, Secretary to the Prince, and desires Stonywood to send a hundred of his men to Findhorn, to go on board some boats there, for a search expedition. The object of this order is stated in the note, p. 439.

It is well known how ardently Prince Charles Edward desired an advance on the city of London, and how severely he was affected by the retreat from Derby. The Laird of Stonywood had advised the march into England, and he was of opinion that it should have been persevered in, contrary to the opinion held by the majority of the Prince's officers. Mr. Moir stood high in the estimation of the Prince, and to the warm interest which the latter showed in his welfare at a subsequent period, he was considerably indebted. Mr. Moir had believed in the popular report of the treachery of Lord George Murray; and on his regiment being broken at Culloden, it is said, in that moment of vexation and anger, that he met this nobleman and upbraided him as a traitor to the cause. After that fatal conflict, Mr. Moir reached his house of Stonywood, which had been for some time occupied by a party of English troops. He narrowly escaped detection, and fleeing into the district of Buchau, was concealed in the house of a crofter of the name of Bartlet, in the parish of Cruden. a retreat which had been prepared for him by the exertions of a faithful retainer. He found it necessary to remove his quarters to the house of John Clerk, a cobbler, who led a solitary life in a remote part of the country, and was father to the wife of his late host. Here he contrived a concealment behind

³ [Jacobite Memoirs of the Rebellion of 1745, p. 346.]

his bed, to which he retired on the approach of any one to the house. With the view of amusing himself, Mr Moir made himself acquainted with the humble art professed by his host, in which he soon acquired a skill quite surprising to his teacher. It was the 5th of November, 1746, before adequate means of leaving Scotland could be procured by him. On that day, Stonywood and his brother, Charles, who had also been engaged in the Rebellion, along with Gordon of Glenbucket, Sir Alexander Bannerman, and two other gentlemen of the Prince's army, embarked on board a small sloop, on the coast of Buchan, which was bound for Norway. Having arrived in that country, he proceeded from thence to Sweden, and having reached Gottenburgh, he proposed to enter into trade. In the meantime, he preferred a claim of indemnification on the French Government, for having, at his own private expense, raised, clothed, and victualled his regiment, in the Prince's service, until it was ready to join the army. His claim was not disputed, and he received 1500 livres in payment of it, which, however, was a very inadequate remuneration for his outlay. Mr. Moir had assumed the name of Jamieson, which he deemed it advisable to retain, as he was specially excepted from the Act of Indemnity, which was passed at this time. After a short residence at Gottenburgh, he was joined there by his wife. He now hesitated whether he would prosecute his mercantile intentions or engage in the French service, and he entered into a correspondence on the subject with James Leslie, Secretary to the Prince, who, on the 11 January, 1747, thus writes to Mr. Moir from Paris:

I received yesterday the Letter you did me the honor to writ to me the 17 of last moneth. Tho I have not the good fortune of personal acquaintance with you, yet your name and famely are very weel known to me, and upon that account I shall be always ready to render you all the services lyes in my power, and yet more for the cause you have embraced. As soon as I received your letter, I went to wait upon his Royal Highness, and told him your situation and intentions, he ordered me to make you his kind compliments, and to tell you he left it to your own choice to stay where you are or come here. Now, that you may the better judge what will be most convenient for yourself, I shall tell you, as far as I know, the situation of your countrymen and fellow sufferers here. The Court of France has given gratifications, that is, a certain sum of money, to all those for whom the Prince applyd; but how long they will continue to doe so, God knows. My Lord Ogilvy has obtaind from the King of France, to raise a Scots Regiment on the same footing as Lord John Drummond's, now Duke of Perth. Those who can raise companies in that Regiment will have tolerable good bread. The said Captains will be also pretty weel; and likeways yong men may live pretty weel with the pay of subalterns; but I am affraid that if war continue, those who will not bee in that Regiment (which is dessind alenarly for the Gentlemen engagd in the last affaire), will get but smal pensions from the Court of France, and be but indifferently payd. That Regiment is to be att first but of one batallion of twelve companies, of which Collonel and Lieutenant Collonel makes two.

So in my humble opinion, if you think you can make a tolerable livelyhood in the mercantil way, it will be much surer, then what you can

have here; but if you come, I am confident the Prince will, as it is just, do all his endeavors to provide for you, so you are best able to judge yourself what will be most convenient for you to do; and if you think me capable to render you any service, depend upon it, none will be more willing. In case you determine [to settle in] the mercantile way, you have here a letter of recommendation for the French Ambassador, who I am persuaded will render you all the service he can. If you make use of it, you must fold it in four, and put a cover upon it, directed thus:

A Son Excellence,
Monsieur Le Marquis de Lanmary,
Ambassadeur de Sa Maj^{te} tres Chrétienne,

A La Cour de Suède,

A Stokholm.

I send you this letter inclosed into Mr. Alexander Rosses, for more security.

I am with all sincerity, Dear Sir,
Your most humble and most obedient cousin and servant,

JA. LESLIE.

If you send the letter, you must writ to the Ambassador, and let him know what he can do to serve you.

The offers of assistance which Mr. Moir received from the French ambassador, determined him to adhere to his mercantile projects; but, while engrossed in arrangements connected with these, he received an order from the King of Sweden to repair to Stockholm. On his arrival there, he found that Prince Charles Edward had written to the Swedish Court, strongly recommending him. On this occasion, Mr. Moir received from the Swedish King the gift of naturalization, which, by freeing him from certain taxes exigible from foreigners, materially assisted him in his new pursuits. He was also honoured with a patent of nobility, which, along with other family papers, is yet in the possession of his representative.

Mr. Moir's health began to give way in 1761, and in the course of the ensuing year, after many negotiations, he was allowed to return to Scotland, and he again took up his abode at Stonywood, in 1762. He died in 1782, leaving, of a very large family, only two daughters, of whom the elder was married to George Skene of Rubislaw. In his absence, his affairs had fallen into considerable disorder; and some years after his death, the inheritance of his fathers was sold. The present representative of this ancient family is James Skene, Esquire of Rubislaw, so well known for his taste and skill in Scottish antiquities and the Fine Arts. The Editor gratefully acknowledges the obligations under which he lies to the son of Mr. Skene, William F. Skene, Esq., W.S., of the Register House, Edinburgh, who communicated to him the valuable collection of Letters

from which the present selection is printed, and an interesting notice of the family of Moir of Stonywood, drawn up by his father, from which the particulars regarding Mr. Moir have been gathered. Along with the family papers, there has descended to their present possessor, a relic of a nature so interesting that the Editor cannot refrain from adverting to it. It is said that when Charles I. was on the scaffold, the unfortunate monarch placed in the hands of Bishop Juxon, who attended him in his last moments, a Bible, addressing to him, at the same time, the emphatic injunction, "Remember." Between Bishop Juxon and Patrick Scougal, who was Bishop of Aberdeen from 1664 to 1682, a connexion existed, the precise nature of which has not been ascertained. It is certain, however, that Bishop Juxon bequeathed to Bishop Scougal the Bible which he had received in such awfully interesting circumstances from his sovereign. Dr. William Scroggie, for some time minister at Old Aberdeen, but who was elected to fill the See of Argyle in 1666, married the eldest daughter of Bishop Scougal, and, on the 10th July, 1683, James Moir of Stonywood was married to Mary Scroggie, eldest daughter of the Bishop of Argyle. Through this channel, the Bible, originally given to Bishop Juxon, descended to the Moirs of Stonywood. A short time before the property was sold, this valuable relic was stolen, along with a gold piece, which had been given by the Lady of Frazer of Muchalls to the ancestor of Mr. Moir, who first purchased Stonywood. It was designed as a talisman for the preservation of the estate, so long as the family should keep possession of the coin, and it had been preserved for many generations in the charter chest at Stonywood. After being thus abstracted, it was never again heard of; the thief, who was one of the female servants at Stonywood, found the Bible to be a less marketable article, as its history was well known in the country. She accordingly came by night to Stonywood, and deposited the volume at the foot of a large chesnut tree which overshadowed the entrance of the front court of the house, where it was found next morning. It was not returned altogether in the same state as when it had been abstracted. The depredator had offered the volume for sale to a bookseller in Aberdeen, who, although he declined to purchase it, thought proper to abstract the blank leaf on which the monarch's autograph was thus written, "Charles Stuart, *an. dom.* 1649." This leaf he pasted upon another old bible, which, it is said, he disposed of to a noble collector of rarities in the north, for a large sum, as a Bible of Charles I. The family relic is magnificently bound in light blue velvet, having the royal arms and initials embroidered in silver gilt on the boards. Having been long used as a register of the births, marriages, and deaths of the family, as well as for the daily purposes of domestic devotion, its original lustre has disappeared; but there is no doubt of its authenticity, and of its regular descent to its present possessor. A fine portrait of Bishop Juxon was preserved among the family pictures at Stonywood, and is now also in the possession of Mr. Skene.

JOHN STUART

IX.

LETTERS FROM LORD LEWIS GORDON,
AND OTHERS,

TO

THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

M.DCC.XLVI.

LETTERS TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.
M.DCC.XLV—XLVI.

I.

[ORDER] BY LORD LEWIS GORDON, LORD LEIUTINANT OF THE
COUNTYS OF BANFF AND ABERDEEN.

You are hereby desired and required to deliver to James More of Stonywood, six hundered stand of arms, with ane hundered weight of powder, and six thousand ball, and this, with his receipt to you for the same, shall be a sufficient warrand for so doing. Given att Forffar, the twenty-first of October, 1745.

LEWIS GORDON.

To all captains and masters of ships, or other persons, civill or military, who have the custody of the arms and amunition, *etc.* latly arrived for his Majesty's service.

II.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stoniewood, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your favours of the 24th curant I received about ane hour after my arivall at this place, and aprove very much what you have done, and ame very glade to hear you have such fonds to be raised, for you may belive I shall have use for all the money can be got, having great reason to belive that I shall be very successfull in raising men. You have acted very prudentlie as to the collector of the Bishops rents, and I approve of your secureing him and the books [as] soon as you are in a condition of doing it in the way you propose. It is not in my power to fix the day that I ame to be with you, but you may be sure of hearing from me soon. You shall have the armes you mention with all proper speed. Your good news is most acceptable, and must beg to hear from you often as you think convenient; and as to Mr. Duff of Premna, I shall settle that affair when I go to Aberdeen. Offer my compliments to your lady, and all my other freinds in and about Aberdeen. In hast I ame, dear Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

Huntlie, 25th October, 1745.

III.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James More of Stonywood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

These

Huntly Castle, October the 29, 1745.

Dear Sir,

When I wrote you last, I was fully resolved to sett out for Aberdeen in two or three days, but since that time, I have received intelligence of such consequence from Inverness, that, had it not been that I intended to sett up the standard on Thursday, I should this very day have sett out for the Highlands; but I propose going there on Friday, by day light, to raise a party of chosen men without delay, which I find is absolutely necessary for carrying on my business in the low countries; mean time, I have an entire confidence of your prudence, and make no doubt but you will use all the arguments possible, to convince all the gentlemen of your country of the impossibility of my being att Aberdeen for these six days att least; and as my absense from them is entirely occasioned by a necessity of serving the Prince in another place, I hope they will just make all due preparations as if I myself were present. I would have you make dilligent enquiry for proper persons to supply the different offices under my direction, that when I come myself, I may have nothing to do but to put them to act in their respective stations. The moment I can spare you a proper party, they shall bring you the fifty stand of arms you require. I must recommend to you to spare neither pains nor expence to get good intelligence, which is the life of such a cause as ours, and to exort all the gentlemen from me to show their alacrity to defend their country, when every thing that is valuable to men of honour and honesty is now att stake, should the Prince miscarry. I am sure, when they seriously consider of this, it will be alone sufficient to make them aquiesce in every thing that the Prince or I demand of them. I have one thing more to recommend to you, which is, that I am informed by the Princes best friends in this country, that his affairs have suffered by the vile and malicious behaviour of the Prysbyterian ministers, who abuse his Highnesses goodness by irritating the minds of the common people, in telling them a parcell of infamous lyes. I therefore require and direct you to issue out an order in my name to all the ministers in your part of the country, intimating that if they dare to say a disrespectful word of the Prince, or any of his friends, that I will punish them as the law directs. I have now nothing to add, but to wish you good success. I shall inform you of my motions, that you may meett me at Inverury. I beg my compliments to all the gentlemen, and believe me to be, dear Sir,

Your most affectionate friend and Servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

I beg you'l not forget my pistols.

IV.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Huntlie Castle, 31st October, 1745.

Dear Sir,

Your leter of the 29th I received yesterday about three of the clock afternoon, which is mostlie all answered in a leter I hade dispatched to you that fforenoon. As to searching the Huntlie bag and all strangers, I shall take particular care to have it done. You may belive it gives me the greatest satisfaction the arival of so many ships from France; there is one landed at Peterhead with armes and money, which will oblidge you, or some person you can confide in, to go to that place with such a partie a you can raise, and forward the armes, millitary stores, and money to such places as you can find proper officers that have powers to receive, and forward them, as no time must be lost of haveing the whole transported to Dunkell. Be sure to have the French officers well used, and if they have leters for any of the gentlemen at the Princes Court, let them be forwarded, per express, to Perth, and from that Lord Strathallan will forward them to Edinburgh; if any more ships is arived, you must be dilligent and carefull to have cargos and gentlemen forwarded as above. I cannot fix a day for being at Aberdeen, but shall be sure to writ you befor I set out. To morow I intend to send you the fiftie stand of armes from this place to Inverurie, and you shall have the partie wanted soon as I return from the Highlands. Suppose my cussen, Clunie Gordon, is past the age of action in the field, yet he may be of great use in the countrey, and I hear his son is a very fine young gentleman, and may be of great use; and now when every thing that is valuable is at stake, he never can have a more glorious opportunity. Yours of the 30th I received this morning about three of the clock; when any thing further occurs, writ me. In hast, I ame, dear Sir,

Your humble servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

P.S. You must have some bodie ready to receive the armes at Inverurie. This is writ at eleven forenoon.

V.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James More of Stony wood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

These

Huntly Castle, November the 7th, 1745.

Dear Sir,

I received, in course, both your letters of the 1st and 4th instant. I have been some days past in the Highlands, and returned last night. After a great deal of pains and trouble, I have come pretty well off as to raising men. I write this to inform you that I sett out from this place for Aberdeen, att twelve aclock, and I propose lying this night att Lord Kintores house, so youl meet me to morrow morning at Inverurie, as soon as possible. Mr. Petrie, by the Princes orders to me, is to be continued in his former imployment, and Pittodery, if he will accept, is the man pitched upon by the Council to be Governor of Aberdeen under myself. I shall not trouble you att present with a long letter, since I am so soon to see you. I hope the arms came safe to hand. I beg my affectionate respects to all the gentlemen. I am very happy to think of seeing Aberdeen; I am personally obliged to many there. I have nothing more to trouble you with, and I am, dear Sir, with great esteem,

Your assured friend and servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

Thursday morning, att eight aclock.

VI.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Huntly Castle, November 25th, 1745.

Dear Sir,

I received, last night late, your letter of date Tuesday night. You may be sure the good news it contained gave me great pleasure. Every thing goes on well. I hope the event people wait for will soon come on. I am glad Blelak and some men are with you, and we all think here that you have men enough for collecting the cess of the shire; and as there is not one Highlander come here yet, we shall want fifty men att least, to do the different dutys of Banfshire, and particularly the publick money, which

must be collected with the utmost dilligence. You will easily be convinced that it is impossible for us to march southward, with a body of six or seven hundred men, without a certain fund to pay them punctually; att least, till we join the Prince. All that I can do is to send, by a trusty hand, a full detail of what we have done, and of the situation of this country, to Lord Strathallan; and, in the meantime, to take all possible pains to gather in the money quickly. I set out this day for Achintoul, to have a full consultation with Generall Gordon, and to get his advice; and to morrow I propose geting to Banf, to dinner, where I will take all possible pains to promote the Princes service. I am sorry of the delay of the Highlanders, and you will be much surprised to hear that it is owing to the Duke of Gordon, who has been so rash as to send advertisements for his people not to obey my orders; but Avachys discreet conduct in my absense, and now my own presence, has almost put a stop to the bad effects of so imprudent a step. We have all got most unthankful business, and we have to deal with a sett of low minded grovelling wretches, who prefers their own interest to the good of their country, or the indispensable duty they owe to their lawful Prince. However, we can easily prove that we have and will do all in our power for the cause, and we cannot help the success. You will see, by the inclosed letters, that 50 men were to have marched to you, if the information of Blelaks men being with you had not made us alter our measures, after mature consideration on the affair. I believe none of the lieutenants or governours will think proper to stey behind us. I shall take care not to say any thing on that affair but to ourselves. I hope in God we shall soon be able to leave this country; I assure you there is no body wishes it more than I do. As to the loans, I am fully convinced we shall not get so much as we att first expected; but Meldrum has promised, and Captain Urquhart performed. I stopped a letter going to the Lyon, that says the last troops from the northward that marched to Perth, to join the Prince, consists of 1400 men. I think I have nothing materiall to add, but assuring you and Lonmey of my good wishes; and I shall conclude with being, dear Sir, your assured friend and servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

The express setts out between one and two aclock.

VII.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

The Honourable
Collonell James More of Stoniewood,
at Aberdeen.

Huntlie Castle, 26th November, 1745.

Dear Sir,

I received your letters, dated the 8th, 16th, and 24th current; all which I would have answered sooner, but the weather has been so extremely bad, that it was with the utmost difficulty I got to this place last night. I am sorry your towns people continue so backward, especially that those people who were intended for the council should show so much unsteadiness. As for those violent people, who threaten mobbing, and have insulted the guard, I wish they had been proceeded against with a little more rigour: for, though lenity and moderation is commendable in most cases, yet, in the present conjuncture of affairs, it may only tend to fortify those zealots in their obstinacy, and make them persevere in their tumultuous practices. I am to send you 50 or 60 men from this place, which I hope will be sufficient, with what you already have, to enable you to reduce the outstanding people to reason. If more is necessary, they shall be sent when called for. Meantime, I must intreat you will go vigorously on with the levies of men, in the district appointed you. I find it is the opinion of every body that has tried the recruiting in that way, that there is no receding from demands, or giving the least concessions; and I doubt not but you will find it the best way to threaten a great deal, and even do some strong things to those who are most refractory. I have a letter from Blelack, who has executed his orders to very good purpose, notwithstanding what opposition he met with from Invercauld, whose people, as well as Lord Bracos in that country, he has obliged to comply. I expect them, with Lords Aberdeens and Aboyne's men, here in a few days, which, with Strathdown, Glenlivet, Cabrach, and Achindoun men, that are ready, will enable me to salute Lord Lowdon before he crosses Spey, should he attempt to leave Inverness, which, considering the situation of his troops, is hard to be supposed he will venture. Whatever information I can get of his motions shall be duly communicate to Lonmay and you. On the other hand, I wish you would be at some pains to get all the information you possibly can what is doing at Edinburgh; for though I believe there is little reason to apprehend they will send any troops your length, yet we cannot be too much upon our guard. As to the insolence you mention, of some people laying wagers, I am of opinion the most effectual way to put a stop to that will be to secure these persons, and to transmit them to Captain Ferrier, at Brechin, who will forward them to Lord Strathallan, at Perth. No pains shall be spared to raise the men, as proposed, from the valued rent; and for that end, so soon as I finish this, am to make out letters to the several gentlemen, in ten or [a] dozen parishes round, to have there different here and at Keith, against Friday and Saturday next, under the pain of military execution, which I am resolved strictly to execute against every deficient heritor, though I have reason to believe they will not bring things to that extremity, since Avachie tells me he has conversed with those of greatest consequence, and that they have adjusted the matter. I have only to add, that you'll advert what men you receive be sufficiently furnished with plaids, short cloaths, hose, and by all means swords, with what other arms can be got. Offer my compliments to your lady, and believe me to be, with much regard, dear Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

The express is dispatched at three a'clock afternoon

VIII.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Huntlie Castle, November the 27th, 1745.

Dear Sir Thomas,

As I wrote you fully yesterday, I only give you this trouble by Mr. Patterson, who commands this party under Mr. White. I am sure you will do them all the good offices you can, and they will punctually obey your orders. We are going very well on in this country, and the sooner you give your direction to raise the men, according to our agreement, it will be the better, and you will find soon that all the lenity you can use will be to little purpose, and that some severity will be absolutely necessary. I hope the addition of this party will enable you soon to raise the publick money, of which I begin to be in great want for paying the men. I sett out to morrow for Banf, and I shall spare no pains to gett up the publick money that is owing in that shire. We intend to send you more men as soon as possible, and I will give you all the assistance in my power to carry on the Princes service with vigour. As to what you mention of the Councils not performing their words, it more and more convinces me that there are many men in the world that neither regard their own charachter nor even the common rules of honour and honesty. I have nothing materiall to add; Avachie and Mr. Lessly join with me in wishing you health and success, as also in our compliments to your wife, mother, and all the rest of our friends. And I am, with great sincerity, dear Sir,

Your most affectionate friend and servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

To Stonywood. [N.B.] Youl be so good as to pey Mr. White as a lieutenant, and Mr. Paterson as an ensign.

IX.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Fyvie, December 10th, 1745.

Dear Sir,

I yesterday wrote you a short note by Mr. Gordon, and now, being a good deal nearer you, I thought it proper to send this express to you, to enquire how affairs att Aberdeen and its neighbourhood go on In one of the last letters I wrote you, I desired you would prosecute the levies of the men according to the stint of the valued rent, with all possible expedition;

and as you do not mention that any men have come into you, in consequence of your orders on that head, I am affraid that we have not come such speed as we could wish. Although I have got some voluntiers, I assure you that att least two thirds of the men I have raised is by the stipulation att first agreed on, and all those that have not as yet sent their quotas in, have been wrote too, in very strong terms, and I doubt not but all the complement of men from Banfshire will be att Huntly in four or five days att farthest. We have been obliged to use great threatnings, although no reall hardships have been used; and take my word for it, that, in the lasy way the country is in, together with the unnatural methods the ministers and other disafected people make use of to restrain the people from doing their duty, there is no raising the quotas of men in the country without a seeming violence; therefore, as you have a very strong party in Aberdeen, I earnestly recommend to you to levy the men in the shire as fast as possible; and as I only wait the return of my express to march forthwith, it is Generall Gordons opinion, as well as my own, that where you find any great difficulty to raise the men, you ought to take money in lieu of them; and you see by Lord Strathallan's letter, that it is the generall opinion that money will be our greatest want. I beg that you will have every other thing in readiness for our marching. I hope to be att Aberdeen in eight days, and, in the meantime, shall have every thing in our part of the country ready against that time. Aberdeen is, without doubt, the only place for the generall rendezvous; and as all our wants will be well supplied there, we shall march without hurry or confusion. I am sorry to acquaint you, that we shall have but few Highlanders along with us; since, notwithstanding all the pains I have taken, and the strongest oaths and assurances from them, when I was up in their country of their being down, yet the Duke of Gordons orders to them not to stirr, has had more weight than both my promises or authority with them; but, as I can easily prove that I have spared no pains to promote the service, I must make my self easy, since it is in vain to frett att any misfortune that happens, when one cannot avoid it. I am glad to hear that the collection of your cess goes on so well, and I hope one way or other we shall get money enough to pay our men. I send you inclosed a letter I stopped some days ago, which I think contains some good news. As I shall wait here the return of this express, youl direct your answers to this place, and I beg youl give me all the information you can of Lord John Drumond, and the rest of our friends to the southward. I have nothing more to add of any consequence. I beg my complements to all friends; Mr. Lessly joins with me in this. I beg you will always believe that I am, dear Sir, with great esteem,

Your most assured friend and Servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

X.

LORD LEWIS OORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James Moir of Stonywood, Esq.

Meldrum, 13th December, 1746.

Dear Sir,

When I was within two miles of this place, I met two expresses. The letters is inclosed in one to Lord John Drummond, with a flying seall, which, after you have perused, you must, without loss of time, forward to Montrose, by some gentleman you can trust that will be expeditious, for this will admit of no delay; and when his Lordships answer is returned, be sure to forward it to me at Fyvie; and, in the meantime, call in all your outparties that they may be in readines at ane hours warning. This is my positive orders, and I expect you will not fail to put them in execution; at the same time, I have ordered all the men from Huntlie to your toun, if Loudon attempts to cross the Spey; and, by the time we are all joined, I make no doubt but we shall be able to give the rebells a warm reception, with the assistance of some hundreds from Lord John Drummond. Offer my complements to Lonmay, and belive me to be, dear Sir.

Your most humble Servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

P.S. Forward Lord Johns leter wherever he is. Send me your opinion per bearer.

XI.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Fyvie, 16th December, 1745.

Dear Sir,

The bearer goes express from me to Lord John Drummond, and I refer you to himself for the reasons; only must beg of you to get him provided with a horse, so that he may lose no time at Aberdeen. As I ame to see you soon, have no more to ad, but my compliments to our freind Lonemay. And ame, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

XII.

LORD LEWIS GORDON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD AND
OTHERS.

To Lieutenant Colonell More of Stonywood,

Att Gurgunnock or Tough.

These

Banockburn, January 15th, 1746.

Gentlemen,

This comes to desire you to have all the men under your command in readiness to be in the field to morrow morning as soon as possible. As you are all fatigued, I do not expect you to be att eight a'clock, as the others are, in the field; eleven will do. And, in the meantime, it is my express orders to yow from the Prince, that yow do all in your power to make the men provide themselves with twenty-four hours provision a piece, and if for that, money is wanting, you must give it, and it shall be counted for to you. As these orders are of great consequence, I make no doubt of your endeavours for compliyance. And I am, very sincerely, Gentlemen, Your most affectionate friend and servant,

LEWIS GORDON.

To Mr. More of Stonywood, and Mr. Farquharson of Monaltrie,
Commanding Officers of the Aberdeen and Aboyne Battallions.

After perusing this letter, send it by a trusty hand to Abuchie, who is to follow the orders likewise. Ten a'clock att night.

XIII.

THE LAIRD PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stonewood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

Sir,

I had a letter from your uncle, desiring me to come to Aberdeen Mundaye nixt, he haveing something to saye to me that will do better in convers then writing. I understand he hase writen to a good many to meet him att Aberdeen also, and I hastily, by his bearer, wrate him I would see him the day apoynted. But now, as I begine to think it is to propose my takeing some imployment in managing the toun or shire, I repent that I

vrate I would keep the appoyntment, as I am determined to take no consern in that sheap, for when my Lord Mar wanted me, in the fifteen, to consern that waye, I absolutly refused, and beged to be excused in so strong a maner, that he passed from me. However, since I wrate Longmaye I would come to toun, I resolve to do it, and to call at Stonewood in my waye to see how all is ther; but if you see your uncle befor Mundaye, you maye tell him my resolutione, and I supose he would not desire me to come to toun, least my refuseing to act in the above sheap might ocasione some others to refuse also; and I am so peremtor about this, befor I had to [] with toun or shire, I would go to the armie, notwithstanding of my broken constetutione, though I be shoure, without pouder or ball, the weather and necesarie fatigve would make ane end of me. As for raising of men. I see such a backwardness, it will be the greatest force that will bring them out; and as for my self. I am wors sitevate that wave then any of my neighbours. I have more widow wimen that hase tacks in my intrest then in severale perishes round me; and if I should, or any els, force out the men that holds ther pleughas, the tack must ly unlaboured, and I fancie yow will easelie belive I cannot suport my famelie without rent. Ane other reason that makes me have few or no men to spare is, my intrest is far from the moss, and have no grass men or subsetts in my intrest, and in the year fourtie they redused them selves to as few men as posable, and have continoued so to this time. But I shal be weel pleased to scrimpe my self to give monie to raise my proportione of men volenteers, and from forsed men they will be of no use. I ever am, Sir,

Your affectionate Uncle and Servant,

THOMAS ERSKYNE.

Pittodrie, November 7, 1745.

XIV.

THE LAIRD OF PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stonewood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

I wrate yow yesterdaye, intreating to hare your neus, beeing most anctious to hear what is become of the armie in this hard weather, and now will be as anctious to hear what the rejoysing means in the touns yow mentione, which I hope yow will do me the pleasure to let me know. I fancie it is a landing, for the armies, by all I can imagen, ar not so neir that it can be a victorie; if it var a generale desertione, it would be good as would a landing or a victorie. My hart bleeds for our freinds in the armie in so hard weather; if they be not lodged in touns, it will kill the half of them. I wish it be trew that they are augmenting in number, but I fear hard

winter weather will be a hindrance, though they will have great need for augmentation, if it be neir trew that the Evening Courant yow sent me sayes, that, with what troupes latlie arived, ther is above seventie thousand regular and new raised troupes in Britan; he also mentions ane intercepted letter of Lord Lues Gordon, wherin he sayes he writes that he hase only goot fiftie men, much oueing to the whige ministers discouraging the people; I cannot tell if Lord Lues wrate such a letter. Yow mentione beeing in a hurrie when yow wrate me; yow gave me one proof of being so, yow sent me three Caledoniane Mercuries of the 14th November each, however, they will be of use to send about; but the Courant of November 14th, yow sent me, is a verie od paper, yow should read it. Wee hear the toun of Aberdeen is to give batle befor they ansuer Lord Lues demand of money. I fear three thousand pound is to much. I think I wrate yow in my last, that none that is not ingaidged will pay cess without a pertie. The bearer was much defate by bad traveling, and I took upon me to lett him stave this daye. I hope his absence for a daye will be no loss. God grant yow have good neus to write me by your nixt. Give my kinde servis to your lady, and to the governor, and all freinds. And I sincerely am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate Uncle and humble Servant,

THOMAS ERSKYNE.

Pittodrie, November 21st, 1745.

XV.

THE LAIRD OF PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Dear Sir,

I have yours of December 14th, this afternoon. Your bearer could not, it seems, geat over the water [of Don] till he came to Kemnay; and when he came here, Mr. Maitlen, Mr. Horn, and Mr. Innes, Tillefoure, was with me, and as wee wase two and two, no doubt wee difered in our sentements, but all of us agreed wee saw no servis forsed melitia could do; and, to tell yow plainly, I uonder how any person that allous themselves to think, can imagen they will be good for any thing, as the sanction is five pound sterling for each man. If the gentelmen that proposes it will consider the sitevation of the countrie, that all the monie generalie, and in this corner in particular, is in the hands of the merchants who bought ther wictuale, and that in the present sitevation those merchants cannot paye, and by consequence the gentelmen cannot furnish monie. Let the consequence be what it will, what a handle gives it to those that hase a minde to influence the countrie against yow. Yow know, and I'm sure I do, that men raised in the laich countrie, unless ther vare time to disiplen them, is good for nothing; and it would be the last actione of my life to ventor att the head of such men. To conclude this subject, it is my opinione the party will repent when it is to late, if the present violent method be not dropped; and, for my oune parte, and I judge of others by my self, I cannot advance five pounds

sterling for each man I am dew by the proposale, and leave as much as can furnish bread to my famely; and as the bible tells me, they ar wors as ane infidele that does not provide for his famelie, I most submitt to what hapens; but yow will see if burning vare once begun, they will fecht that will do it upon no other consideratione, and yow will finde yow have not men suficient to putt it in practise; but not to insist, in my opinione upon every acount, the scheme is wrong. In the first place, it loses the good wishes of the countrie, and its idle because its not in your parties poure to make any advantage by it; for the men, if the[y] vent, as they ar forsed, will not staye, and if they did, they ar good for nothing, and will be found so; and to advance five pounds sterling for each lard, on failing of the men, I am sure if all the gentelmen in the countrie vare inclyned to do it, they cannot command the money; but young men is full of spirits, and vants what they are ingadged in to go on swimengly, without giveing dew allouances to the deficulty of the schem. But I wish they would look back to the fifteen, when my Lord Mar was in the feild, and was a man of so much knowledge that I belive none that knew him weel, but will allow that he knew what proper demands to laye on the countrie, and all he demanded was double sess from those judged not weel afected, and I am convinced ther would more monie arise that waye then will come by the present scheme; for as merchants hase not, nor cannot paye the price of bought wituale, as ther is no safe comunicatione, gentelmen hase no monie to spare. In the nixt place, the demand of forsed men is a surprise upon me, and as surprising how any person in this countrie should think of it, and I am as much surprised that any Scots man should staye a moment in this countrie that wishes the Princes suxes, and ar in armes when he is in England, and may be cutt of; if which vare happning, ther forsed melitia here, God knows, would never retriue his misfortune, and if forsed out of England, a disobleidged countrie to reteir to. In short, its my humble opinione double sess is all should be desired, and that will be granted, and a demand of a loan upon rich men, and if not granted, ther persons secured. More then this will prove inefectuale, if I be not mistaken; however, this hastie writen letter may furnish some hints to be thought of, and if your uncle Longmaye and yow agrees with any part of it, yow may wrire Lord Lowis and Lord John what is sujested to yow by a weel wisher, but as I have neither metel, neither taken time to dejest this, I vant not to be named, but still am to your cause, and yow a sinceer though old friend. My land, in the perish of Oyne, that the tenants payes the sess, ther is a party, I am told, of eight men upon them; they ar to send it in the morrow. My sess of the rest of the land is not dew, as I payed the last term. I hope your colector will not exacte to much quartring monie. I beg to hear from yow, and thanks yow for sending me this express, to let me know what is doeing.

December 15th, 1745.

After writing this far, I read your letter a second time, and am obleidged to yow for writing to the oficer, if yow had doon it; but yow have forgott, but the designe is good, the oficer of the party hase not been here yet, but I'm toald his orders is to burn, and to begine with the heritor. If that be a threate not to be execute, there is nothing in it but to be putt in practise;

no man of spirite will allow of it, especialy as I'm toald they ar ordred to begine with the heritors house. I'm sure that shal not be doon, and I in life, baring axedents. This hint I thought fitt to mentione, as I'm sure it will be the generale resolutione. Adive.

XVI.

THE LAIRD OF PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stonewood, Esquire,

Att Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

I vant much to have the confirmatione of the good neus in your last, but if it be trew what is toald in this countrie, it will (unless ther come back a good partie of men from Perth) put a stope to your raising men or sess in this countrie, for they asert that Mackleude, with 400 men, was at Fochabirs Sundaye last, and that a party of Grants was within three miles of it that night, and that Lord Lauden was at Elgen, with 1200, all on ther march to Aberdeen. No doubt yow have ane account of this some time agoe, and surly hase it confirmed by the men came into yow yesterdaye from Strathbogie. What will be Laudons conducte so long as he is in our neighbourhead, I know not; but if he call for sess and men, the countrie will be in a miserable sitevatione, for ther is litle or no money in it, at least my tenants asures me if they should be hanged, as weel as brunt, they cannot raise the money demanded. If the demand had been double sess, it's my opinione that [] been ansuered; and, as the monie is so scarce, I firmly belive ther would come more monie that waye then by the method proposed, and it's not in the tenants poure to geat a man to go without giveing him att least five pound, and I know ther is not one tenant amongst twentie that can in any shape furnish the money. However, I needed not trubled yow with this, as it does not interly depen upon yow, and as I am not sure but yow may march soon, which, with my servis to your lady and all freinds, is from yours, *etc.*

December 19th, 1745.

XVII.

THE LAIRD OF PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stonewood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

I did not expect to hear of your and your freinds being so soon in this countrie; if the cause be as is said by a good many, I'm sorie for it, as many good man and freind will sufer. However, I heartely wish yow and all freinds be in health, for all is not lost that is in hazerd, and all will be acording to the will of haven. If yow ar att fredom to write me what yow know of the sitevatione of afares, pleas do it, but I do not care to propose any thing that is straitning to yow; yow can safely tell the reason for blowing up the Kirk of St. Ringens,⁽⁴⁾ it makes a noyse, and I wish it had not been doon. If your armey march by Inverurie, I wish yow would do what yow can to protecte my intrest; they in Conglass and Balhalgardie have sufered so much already, that I will vant the third of my ferm. No doubt yow have such a coraspondence settled yow will from time to time be advised of the D—s armeys motions; yow will also know if yow ar to march north, or if yow ar to staye att Aberdeen, till it turn too warm for yow. If yow can, without prejudice to your self or the cause, informe if the Prince goes to Inverness directly or higher up. I hardly think he will atempe the takeing in the Castle of Invernes, neither think I he hase cannon fitt for it, and I should think it would be hard work to cary any cannon north, and not posable except it be the repared road. As I was goeing to the meeting house upon Sundaye, as I was crossing the Aberdeens road, I mett three of your people upon horsback; I asked them if desertione was the cause of your comeing north, they said no, ther was other reasons for it, and that all the Clans that had gone home with baggage vare returned, and seven hundred more, befor they left Stirling. This I do not belive; but wee have so many diferent acounts wee know not what is trew or what is fals; and your acounts of the last batel made the defate greatly to large. Give my kinde servis to your lady, and I hartelie wish to hear that yow and all our frem, is and countrie men ar in good health and spirits, for the old proverb is verie trew, Lose hart, lose all. I ever am, yours, *etc.*

T. E.

February 12th, 1746.

XVIII.

THE LAIRD OF PITTODRIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

James More of Stonewood, Esquire,

Att Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

Haveing the oportunety of this bearer, I wish yow joye of your young son, and your lady a safe recovery. I knew nothing of it when I vrated yow

⁴ [St. Ninians.]

last; and yow was not so kinde as take notice of it in yours. I know nothing what the wordle is doeing, and beg yow will write me as much neus as yow think proper, particularly what yow know aboute the armies just now. I finde ther is parties out for levie money and sess. In my opinione yow should begine att the ritche people; besides, as I understand ther ar whole corners of the shire of Aberdeen, and the most of the shire of Banf, that neither levie money nor sess have been demanded from, only presses those that ar neirest. I think the old Shirreff Mure men should be made the last of makeing a demand upon, and I will expect so much freindship from yow; and, to tell yow the plaine treuth, I have been att all pains with my tenants, and severals of them have not goten the first half that was demanded provided yet, and I am so [] that I have not money to do it for them []. If the whole five pound sterling be demanded of each hundred pund of waloved rent, I know not how other tenants ar, but surely myne cannot ansuer it, let the event be what it will, many of them have sufered so much already. And for your French men, as they call them, they have had fine doeings; since they came to the countrie they robed, they stole, and shot sheep and fowls at pleasure; in short, they are liker highwaye men then any thing els, and I am surprised ther officers allous them to opress the countrie so; as for takeing meat without payment, I think not so much of that, and that is a good deall to those that lives neir the publick roads, for ther is many of myne and other peopb tenants that by that means have exausted more meall in ther famelies already then would have served them all the inshouing sumere; as this is facte, it cannot be thought those men can advance money also, and I can asure yow the most of them wishes the cause so weel, they would cheerfully give money if they had it. This yow may think upon, and do me all the favor yow can, as I ever am,

Verie much yours,

T. E

February 19th, 1746.

XIX.

THE TOWN CLERK OF INVERURY TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To the Honourable

Mr. Moor of Stoniewood, Esq.

Sir,

As you have the command of the forces at Aberdeen, at the desire of our magistrates presumes this freedom to advise you that on Wednsday last, one William Smith of Mr. Andersons men, that past here, as he tould, express to Lord Lewes Gordon, calld for a horse to care him to Strath Bogie, which was procurd him on promies to pay hire. He returnd again

Friday night [with] the horse, but as the horse was pressed for his use made [the] man a litle more nice in reciving him again, being informed that he was overroad, untill he shoud be sighted, and damnadge as weel as the hire payed. But Smith pretended that the servant who (was also presed to goe along with the horse) had listed with him, to whome he had given a shilling of bountie money, had diserted him; therefor disired that the magistrates might pay the horse hyre of his elfects, and the ballance to come in to him, and threatnd the poor man to ruine his, or these terms; but the magistrates humblie thinking this ane uncommon method of acting by a poor man, and apt to give a generall dislike to others that have, and are willing to give, any assistance to this just cause that lys in their powr, causd value the horse, and the dammage, with the hire, was estimate at ten shillings sterling, which is too much for a poor man that has nothing but this beast to win his bread to lose, and humblie flatters their selves youl approve thereof, and take such a prudent method in ordering the poor man restitution as you find convenient, which encuradge the magistrates to continew their friendship to this applowsable undertaking. This morning, Mr. Taylor, with a command of the same men, cam here in search of arms, attacked Bailie Fergusons howse. When I and some others asked libertie to pass their centries, used their weapons in the most unmercifull way, so that its with the greatest pain I write you this; the baill[ie] him selfe struck, beat, and bloodid. All we wanted was to pass in and enquire of their warrand; and if they had any such thing, to give them a full search of the place. His wife and familie is so supprised, that I cannot express their present condition, as this was alwise a loyall place, and upon all occasions shewd their regard. Its belived this method will not be indulged, and expects youl be so good to transmit us such a write as may prevent such abusiss in the future. Were there any armes in the place, you shoud commanded them ere now; but realie theres non. And although the baillies howse was rummadged too and froe, not so much as ane sword or pistoll was found, nor know I of any in the place, els I'd caus'd them be delivered up, and olferd them a generall search of the place, as we lie on the road twixt the north and Aberdeen; expects youl be so generows to give such orders, and write to be here that this hostill manner may be prevented in the future. Excuse freedom, and belive me to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GEORGE SCOTT.

Inverury, 2d December, 1745.

Shall expect your answier in course.

XX.

HUGH INNES TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To Colonel James Moore

of Stonywood, Esq.

Honourable Sir,

The constant loyalty I bear towards my Prince, and the regard I have for your large character, though never priviledged with the honour of being acquainted with your person, make me bold to adress you after this impertinent, but I hope not disagreeable, manner.

Upon my first hearing of his Royal Highness Prince Charles's landing in Scotland, I was determined to give him the mean assistance of my person; and resolving to go in company with those few gentlemen who went from Murray to join his army, was detained therefrom by ane unexpected hindrance, too long here to be insisted upon. However, after that disapointment, I privately engaged nine servant lads to go with me, which would have answered, had not the diabolical lyes of their Prisbyterian preacher made such a sudden change on them; that though my friend Captain Tullech came, upon the report of it, among them, for ought I think none of them engaged with him; nevertheless, I'm convinced that was I now among them, by showing my authority from you, I might yet gain ground on a few, as none of their acquaintances or countrey men in the army has ever yet been among them; and, if your honour shall deem it proper to grant me onley ane ensigns commission, since I was not so fortunate as get off with the gentlemen of my countrey, I shall think myself yet happy in the service of my King, look on no labour as severe which can purchas men for your regiment, and make it my peculiar bussines to provide for what your honour shall be pleased to command. I might, indeed, have got recommendations of this kind from severals of my relations, but did not chuse to acquaint any of my friends till I had got your answer. As the writer is the bearer, I shall not weary you here with a relation of my parentage; but asking pardon for this presumption, most submissivly, I conclude, much honoured Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

HUGH INNES.

Kings Colledge, Aberdeen, December 2d, 1745.

XXI.

THE LAIRD OF BLELACK TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To Colonell James Moer of Stonniewid,

At Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

Imediately upon receipt of yours, I set owt for Strathbogie, but, to my great disappointment, I foind he⁵ is at Bamph, or some other way through the cuntrie. I have an express in quest of him, who is not returned, but tor what I can learn hire, his Lordship will not be soon redie, and, by God, its almos sertain we will be left. Whither Lord Luies has coresponded with Lord John Drumman or not, is what I cannot yet learn, but theres wan thing that I most beg of you, in the most earnest maner, that yowl acquaint me when ye have any return from Lord John Drumman, as I am perphitly shour ye have not negleckt to write him, and when or how he designes to march, for if we are left behoind him, our case will be lamentable; in short, the fear of being lift is tormenting me. Let me hear all the news ye can. This bearer promises to deliver yow this to morows night, and I beg yowl let me hear from yow, per express, one of my own men, upon Thursday, and by that same expres I shall let yow know what I dow with Lord Luies. My compliments to Lonmay. And hoping to hear from yow soon, I shall onlie ad, that I most sincearly am, dear Sir,

Your most sincear humble Servant, while I am

CHARLES GORDON.

Huntly, 3d December, 1745.

For God sake, don't fail to write me.

XXII.

THE LAIRD OF PITFODDELS TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James Moir of Stoniewood, Esq.

Att Aberdeen.

Pitfoddels, December the 4, 1745.

Dear Sir,

I send you here inclosed ane account of the five pound sterling I received from you for payment to my men. You will see by the said account, that I have debursed twelve shillings and six pence more than I received. Being bed fast my self, I hope you will remitt to Mr. James Crighton, upon his receipt, money for their subsistance, allowing in the first end of it the twelve shillings and sixpence I am out of pocket, which will mightily oblige, dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

⁵ [Lord Lewis Gordon.]

November,
1745.

26. Received from James Moor of Stonnywood, Esq., the sum of five pound sterling, for payment of twenty five men I brought to Aberdeen. The said money was debussed as follows, *viz.*:

	£ S. D.
The 26. Payd them	0 12 6
27. Payd	0 12 6
28. Payd	0 12 6
29. Payd	0 12 6
30. Payd	0 12 6
December 1. Payd	0 12 6
2. Payd	0 12 6
3. Payd	0 12 6
4. Payd	<u>0 12 6</u>
Totall	<u>5 12 6</u>
Debussed more then received	0 12 6

XXIII.

THE LAIRD OF BLELACK TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James Moir of Stoniewid, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have yours just now with Mr. Mackie, and would very rethely complied with your desair, in giving him the party ye desair, if Munaltry and I had not sent of a good many of the men we had upon fitt with Mr. McGrigar of Inverenzie to Aberdeen, which will be with you befor this comes to your hand; in, short, any number of men in the cuntry are such a plague that its a torment to manage them, and we have just now but scrimply as many as serves to rais Lord Aberdeens men in the cuntrie; and as to the gentlemans project of geting volenteirs, I'm afraid his succes will not be great, for the method of fieing has put an efectuall stop to that; in short, as ye have an inclination to serve the yowng man, the most efectuall method ye can take is to give him an order to rais some perish or other, and a party to assist him, and in that case, he may get a good maney. I'm oblided to you for good news; God increas them, for everey thing goes on most delaitfully. I shall acquaint the gentlemen in this cuntrie of your sess. Munaltrie wrot the Governor to send owt discharges for the sess of severall paroches up and down through this cuntrie, so ye may dow in this as ye and he thinks fitt. I shall write yow fuly in a day or two. And, on great hast, I most sincearly am, dear Sir,

Your most sincear humble servant, while

CHARLES GORDON.

Tarland, December 9th, 1745.

XXIV.

THE LAIRD OF LONMAY TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James More of Stonywood, Esq.

At Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

I got the order, which I shall forward to George Forrest. Youle please cause Mr. Dirom make out ane abstract of the taxation; and to quicken the payments, I think you should cause the officers goe through their severall quarters of the town, with two or more soldiers, as you judge proper, to intimate to the several inhabitants to make payment of their taxation, conforme to last years stent.

Youle please cause quarter on those who were deficient in sending in carts for transporting the French provisions, for paying the carts that were hyred. I gave Mr. Petry the leter sent me from Stonehaven, anent one of the casks of bread being broke open, which youle inquire into; and, likeways, Mr. Dirom has a note of some of the carters that broke one of the parells. I think you should intimate the roup of the provisions on hand, by the drum, on Munday next, to be sold on Weddensday forenoon; Mr. Bannerman and Mr. Forbes will advise the putting them in proper lots.

The above is what occurs to me just now, but if any other thing is neecessary to be done you'le doe it, and any letters to me you'le make open, and. act for me as you judge most expedient. I am, dear Sir,

Yours,

WILLIAM MOIR.

Aberdeen, December 13th, 1745.

Mr. Petry has the order for paying the tax and furnishing the men.

XXV.

THE LAIRD OF BLELACK TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James Moer of Stonieweid, Esquire,

At Aberdeen.

Dear Sir,

At my desair, the Earl of Aboyns tenents sen in their sess by the bearer. They and those conserved for them, incline to have a discharge in terms of the inclosed coppie; therfor, providing the sess be payed, I think its but a mater of indiference how the sess is conceived, so that I expect yowl satisfie them by sending the discharge in terms of the coppie. I have sent the list of the ses Lonmay inclosed to Munaltrie, up the cuntrie, where he is just now, who will certainly ack conform to the directions.

I am just now sending a part of our men of to Aberdeen with a line to Mr. Ross, who will give yow an exact list of their numbers, and receive pay for them, as he does for those thats formerly sent. I was indeed hertely vexed that I could not have the honour of wating of Lord John and Lord Luies Gordon. I'm indeed impatient to know if they have taken any resalutions conserving the time of our marching, which I beg yowl let me know assoon as possable; for, although we were to be hire till Whitsunday, their would be a good dale to dow at the last; onlie I most, in the most earnest maner, guard against our being left behaind, for, by God, I rather almost be a. hangman, or I drove this trade longer.

I have minded your commissions as to your plaids and tartan, which shall be sent yow in the beginning of the week. Pray be so kind as continow to give me what news accurs to yow; its most refreshing hire. I ofer my moat humble servise to the Governor, and I aluays am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES GORDON.

Mill of Giellan, December 14th, 1745.

XXVI.

THE LAIRD OF LONMAY TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To James More of Stonywood, Esq.

Commanding officer att Aberdeen.

These

Colliston, 16th December, Two afternoon.

Dear Sir,

Just as I was taking horse to come here, I saw a letter from Auchmedden, which gave the most agreeable news of the Prince and his

army being within twenty miles of London, on Wednesday last. The way he came to know it was by a son of his, who had come down with a sloop of warr that carried arms to Inverness. He was put ashore at Portsoy on Saturday, and tells that they sailed from Harwich on Wednesday last, and then heard that the Elector had set up his standard and drawn out the guards, and train'd bands, who were reckoned to be 14,000, very ill affected. That the Princes army was within twenty miles of them, and, by the Ipswich Journal, were reckoned 30,000. That the city of London and all England were mad in favours of the Prince, so I hope in God the Prince is now in possession of London, without bloodshed. The Prince marched through Derbyshire, and gave William of Cumberland the slip, who was far behind him. God make us all thankfull for the Princes success.

I have sent you this by express, who promises to be with you against seven o'clock or sooner, in which case you'll give him eighteen pence. Send off this to Sir Alexander Bannerman, who will forward it to Perth by the most expeditious way he can, which probably may be there before Lord John Drummond, and your other friends will hear of it there. You'll acquaint our friends at Aberdeen, and if you think proper send ane express to Lord Lewis by the way of Fyvie; for, though the news came from the north, it is possible Lord Lewis may not have heard of it,

FROM LOANMAY.

XXVII.

THE DUKE OF PERTH TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Sir,

I received your letter, and am very glad to see your recruiting is in so good a way; but as for what you demand of further orders, I think it useless, since, by the Princes letter, you are authorised to rise in arms, and that by the manyfesto, you are allowed to do whatever is for the advantage of the Kings arms; but, in case you want any further orders, let this letter authorise you to do what you shal see most convenient. I hope we shal see you soon, and in the meantime, I remain, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

PERTH.

Edinburgh, the 23d September, 1745.

XXVIII.

GEORGE LOGIE TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

For James Moir of Stonywood, Esq. Aberdeen.

Sir,

The many favours I have received from your family, encourages me to give you this farther trouble.

I have, for thes eight or ten days, been oblidge to abscond from my own home, because Mr. Garioch of Mergay has granted a warrand to apprehend me; for what reason I know not, except because I did not attend a meeting he appointed of the inhabitants of Stonhive, in which every on was ordered to pay five pound sterling, or furnish a man; nether of which I was able to do, and as I was only a lodger in the town, did not think it would have been put upon me.

You must be senceible how great a misery it is for a person to be flying about from place to place, for fear of a prisson, which is my present state; which I begg you'll pittie, and use your intrest with Sir Alexander Bannerman, or who else you think proper, to recall the warrand, and grant me a protection to live at peace in my own hows; and as I never did, so I shall never, meddle with any matters of State, but only mind the business recommended to me, which is suffering much by my absence, and your brothers in particular. I begg you'll send a return by the express who will deliver you this, but who knows not from whom it comes; and, as I suppose, Sir Alexander may be in Aberdeen just now, I hope you'll soon get the affair done, if you are so good as ask it, and, if you have occasion to write him, the bearer will carry your letters. I ofer my respects to your lady, *etc.* and wishing you the compliments of the season, ever am, Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

GEORGE LOGIE.

25th December, 1745.

Pleas cover your answer to Willam Blaber, Writer in Stonhive.

XXIX.

LADY TALLASKER TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Sir,

After giveing you my most hearty thanks for your condensation in alouing me to send ane express north, please knou I got a leter just nou from my son.

I hope youl not take amiss to aquant you that the poor wounded men will, Im afraide, be ill of, by reason the doctors seem to be devoided about there atendance, which I aprehend is ocationd by Airdochs sending Doctor Skene to waite of them, which Im told Lord Lewis dise not admit. Its hard the poor people should be slighted and have no doctor to atend them; on of them hase ten bullets in his arm, who, in all probability, will dy of his wounds, if he be not lookd tou in time. If none of the doctors hear will notise them, I wish I were aloued to take Doctor Burnet from the Old Toun

to atend them, and I would pay him. I beg youl pardon this fridom from her who, for al that hase hapnd, is, Sir,

Your reall well wisher and Cousin,

CHRISTIAN M'LEOD.

Aberdeen, December 28, 1745.

XXX.

THE DUKE OF PERTH TO LORD LEWIS GORDON.

To the Right Honourable

The Lord Lowis Gordon.

My Lord,

His Royal Highness ordered me to writ to your lordship, to congratulate your lordship upon the glorious success of your late engagement with his enemys, and is very glad to see you renew the memory of the honorable actions done by the worthy family you are come off. He also desired me to tell you that, as he was come back again to Scotland, and was going to undertake the seiges of Sterling and Edinburgh Castles, and heard by several reports that some of the English forces would come down to hinder him from taking them, he desired your lordship would come with all convenient speed to join him, as well as all the forces that are in the north of Scotland, and sent me here to forward the junction. As for my own particular, I do assure your lordship that it was with the utmost satisfaction I heard the news of your success, but was not at all surprised that you should have done such a glorious action, because I never expected [less] from Lewis Gordon, Cock of the North. I shal be very glad how soon I have the pleasure of congratulating you by word of mouth, and am, in the meantime, with the most sincere regard, my Lord,

Your Lordships most affectionate Cusin,

And most obedient humble Servant,

PERTH.

Drummond, the 30th December, 1745.

The Prince desires that you would set horses at different stages, within twelve miles of one another, for the speedier forwarding of intelligence, no less then three at evry stage, and carefull people to attend them; the Prince is to give allowance for the ex pence.

XXXI.

THE DUKE OF PERTH TO LORD LEWIS GORDON.

My Lord,

I have already writ one letter to your lordship, but thought proper [to] send you the bearer, one of my aide de camps, as a message more befitting the regard I have for your lordship. The Prince desired me to congratulate you most kindly from him, upon the honorable victory you have obtained; and, at the same time, thinks your presence, with the troops you have amongst with you so necessary, considering that he hopes the English troops will be such madmen as to follow him to Scotland, and that he will get a fair opportunity to fight them, after the junction of his forces, that he hopes you will join him immediately without loss of time. He has sent me here to forward that junction, and ordered me to gather together all the forces be north Forth, and I am perswaded your lordship will, whateter else you have in view, join immediately, and obey his orders, considering whow pressing they were, and of what consequence it will be. As I hope to see your lordship soon, I shal add no more for the present, but that I am, with all sincere regard, my Lord,

Your Lordships most affectionate Cusin,

And obedient humble Servant,

PERTH

Fernton, the 31st December, 1745.

My Lord, As the Prince hears that your lordship has taken several prisoners of the name of MacLeod, he expects that several of them will turn to him, and there are some gentlemen here of the name of MacLeod, they think that the only way of doing it effectually is to bring them here, that they may speak to them, therefore, I believe the Prince will take it well that your lordship brings them amongst with you.

XXXII.

THE EARL OF KINTORE TO THE LAIRDS OF LONMAY AND STONYWOOD.

To Lonmay and Stonywood.

Gentlemen,

I give you this trouble to acquainte you that Captain Lewis Gordon has been quartering here for several days, for cesser, men, and money; and as my factore is from home just now, I can not doe aney thing with the tennants myself untill he returns, which will be in a day or tow hence, and

against Moonday neixt I shall send him into town to clear all the demmands upon my estate as to cess, etc. I understand you wante either men or money, which one of the two will be ordered sometime on Moonday neixt. I hope you'll forgive this sraule, it is wrote in hast. And belive me to be, Gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

KINTORE.

Keith-hall, Jannuary 1st, 1746.

XXXIII.

THE PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN KING'S COLLEGE TO THE
LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Honorable Sir,

The tenant of Cartradlin tells me just now, he is partyd on for levy money. I did not think I had merited any peculiar hardship, as I paid as cheerfully as others the five pound layd on me already, and have no other property than what belongs to that mortification, of which the house [I] live in is a part. You know besides, that mortifications, as Cartradlin is, do not pay any publick dues of cess, etc., nor is it in the cess books, since by Act of Parliament it is free. I need not represent, over and above, the straits I have been in all this summer for subsistence to my family by stoppage of my sallary, it lying all on publick funds, except that poor spot of ground, out of which I have got nothing this twelve moneth of money, but from one plough ffarmed by the bearer, with the miln. If you take these things to consideration, I will expect your sympathy and forbearance, which, with the compliments of the season, is humbly offered by, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

JOHN LUMSDEN.

Kings College, January 4, 1745 [6].

XXXIV.

THE LAIRD OF ACCHRIACHAN TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Colonel Janes More off Stonnywood,

Att Aberdeen.

Honored Sir,

I was sorry to have miss'd you at Bremarr, where I expected to have received orders, as I was within twelve miles of my own country, and wanted to get home to raise more men, particularly my deserters; however, my men declined going by Aberdeen, and woud by no means condescend to go until they once got home to see their ffamilies, and my going without them along was loseing them for good and all, so that I presumed to go along with them, in hopes of makeing some few more, and to keep them together. However, I thought it my duty to run you this express, to receive your orders, and to learn where I am to meet and join the battalion, which I can do at Strathbogy or Fochabers (if you march to Inverness), as both these places are within sixteen miles of my house.

I spoke to Mr. Abernethy this morning, calling for this weeks pay, but he had it not, so that if you pleas to remitt me a weeks pay or so, by this bearer, this shall serve as receipt for the same; ffor as I design to raise men, I must have my men close on duty and on parties.

If you want any Highland plaids or tartans for the men, acquaint me, and I'll endeavour to provide in some. I beg you'll forgive this freedom, and beleive me to be, honored Sir,

Your affectionatt humble Servantt,

DONALD FARQUHARSON.

Invercald, February the 9th, 1746.

XXXV.

THE LORD ARBUTHNOTT TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To Colonel James Moir of Stonywood,

In the Princes Camp.

Sir,

I have putt the inclosed under this cover, which you'l please take the trouble to deliver to Lord Pitsligo with your conveniency. Lady Nicolson has not recovered her own sadle horse, which was a blue pownie, and can be of little use for a camp. I am hopefull youl be able to prevail with Captain M'Innes and Birkenbuss, to return him, which will do the lady a singular favour, as it will not be an easy matter for her to find out any other horse that pleases her so well as this does. The bearer gave me a very particular and distinct account of the late battle near Falkirk, in which the Princes army gain'd a complete victory, and without very great loss on their side, which was a very extraordinary thing, considering the regular army they had to encounter with, and the experienced generals that commanded it; but God has all along, in a very surprizing manner, favoured the Princes cause, and I am hopefull will ever continue to do so to

the end. The town of Aberdeen is in the greatest confusion and disorder imaginable; and, if something be not done soon to preserve peace and order in it, it is much to be feared that the inhabitants will enter into blood with each other, which I wish may be prevented in time. God Almighty preserve you from all the dangers you shall be exposed to in the field and every where else, and keep you alwaies under His special care and providence. I offer my compliments to your uncle and all friends, and am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ARBUTHNOTT.

Arbuthnot, January 31st, 174⁵/₆.

XXXVI.

LORD GEORGE MURRAY TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Old Rein, 12th February, 1746.

Sir,

I find, by reason of this storm, our people will not be gott vp so soon as I expected, and consequently we will not pass the Spey for sevrall days. I'm convinced nothing can be of greater use to the service then staing as long as you can, with safety at Aberdeen, with the regiment of foot and the Hussars; and if once we had dispersed those people with Lord Louden, I believe I shall send most of the horse, and some more foot, back to Aberdeen. In the mean time, be as busy as posible in colecting the cess and militia money. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

GEORGE MURRAY.

XXXVII.

LORD GEORGE MURRAY TO THE LAIRD OF LONMAY.

Strathbogie, 13th February, 1746.

Sir,

I received yours of yesterdays date this evening. I have wrote to Collonel Bagot, to which I referr you, and I am more and more perswaded that the battalion, commanded by Collonel Moir, should continue at Aberdeen till Collonel Bagot, you, and he, shall find it necessary to retire to this place; but I would fain hope that we shall be moveing southwards before that time.

As for Sir William Gordon, Sir James Kinloch, and any of my Lord Ogilvies men, they will proceed, with all expedition, to this place, and follow us into Murray. I find it will be Monday, at soonest, before we reach Elgin, by reason of this great storm, and the many carrages we are obliged to take along with us. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

GEORGE MURRAY.

I leave some men at this place. I hear Lord Loudens men are all retired to Inverness.

XXXVIII.

LORD LEWIS DRUMMOND TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To Mr. Moor,

Commandant at Aberdeen.

Inveroury, 14th February, 1746.

Sir,

The bearer being wife to a very honest man, sergent of our regiment, and not in a condition to march further north, I have sent her to Aberdeen to wait our marching south. I beg you will be so good to cause procure her a lodgeing, and reccommend that the poor woman may be civilly used in whatever she has occasion for. I hope you wil excuse this trouble from, Sir, your most humble and most obedient Servant,

L. DRUMMOND DE MELFORT,

Lieutenant-Colonel of Scots Royal.

XXXIX.

LORD GEORGE MURRAY TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

To Collonel James Moir, or the
Governour of Aberdeen.

The express is paid. Opened and sealed again,
by James Kinloch Nevay.

Castle Gordon, 16th February, 1746.
Eight at night.

Sir,

I have just now your letter of yesterdays date, and I am surprised the Governour of Aberdeen should have been absent upon so criticall [an] occasion. I must referr you and him to the derrections I left you, and what I have since wrote. As long as it is safe to stay at Aberdeen, it is no doubt it will be for the good of the service that you do so. If any ships of the enemys should appear off Aberdeen, as they can have but a few marines aboard, I reckon you will be able to keep them off; but, in the event of your being obliged to come this way, you will take care to come all off in a body, and send expresses to Bamff and elsewhere, in case of any of our troops be in these places, that they may all join here and pass the Spey together.

Lord Ogilvy's tardiness disconcerts me much, for I am pressed by his Royall Highness, who is this night at Moy, to go forwards. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

GEORGE MURRAY.

XL.

JAMES KINLOCH TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD

Cullen, 28th February. 1746.

Dear Sir,

Yours being dated from Torriff, surprised me this morning for I saw orders from Lord John Drummond for you to march to this place. The orders come to be forwarded by Captain Grahame of Goiroch, of the Perthshire Horse, who forwarded them yesternight by one Mr. Blair of his troop, so that I reckon youll march streicht back by die way of Banff. As for our motions, I'm really at a loss to write you them. We were ordered about three oclock yesternight to march back to Strathbogie; I write back by express to Lord Ogilvy, telling him it was impossible at that time of day to take such a march, but should wait the return of the express this morning. My Lord came last night to Rannes, within two miles of this, but as yet no accounts. The Ambassador came here last night, and is this morning returned the way he came, and I find all the army is to cross the Spey, for the French ships have all got orders to stand west for Cromerty Firth and land at Findhorn. The ships we saw yesterday of this and Portsoy, proved to be English that come from Inverness; the Lyon was seen on board of one of them. I am, with regard, dear Sir.

Your most faithfull servant,

JAMES KINLOCH NEVAY.

XLI.

JOHN MURRAY OF BROUGHTON TO THE LAIRD OF STONYWOOD.

Sir,

His Royal Highness desires you may, immediatly upon receipt of this letter, send 100 of your men to Findhorn, where they are to go on board some boats provided there for a search expedition.⁽⁶⁾ I beg you may make all possible dispatch, as the boats are to sail to morrow night. If there are numbers sufficient already att Findhorn, your people will stay there to gaurd the place. I am, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,

JOHN MURRAY.

Inverness, past nine, Monday evening.

⁶ [The order contained in this letter refers to an attempt made by the Prince to transport some of his troops across the Moray Firth into Sutherlandshire. "Two hundred of Stonywood's men, whom they were attempting to embark at Findhorn, deserted." Scots Magazine, vol. xviii., p. 146.]