The Duke of Argyll's Chamberlain's letter to Mr. John Campbell, gave instructions for the supply of sledges and 100 labourers in drainage, but in consequence of the low wages (50d per day without food), sickness, and the rocky condition of the land, the number has decreased to 30.

Before going off from Innesan 50 or 60 people came round me, declaring they had no food for their families, and that the wages given were not sufficient even for their own wants, independent of their families. Considering it my duty to pacify them, and point out the necessity for every man giving his labour, I directed the Sod Inspector to write by the first post to the Chamberlain for instructions in the absence of Mr. John Campbell, detained at Innes for the last three weeks. The absence of this gentleman is the more to be regretted at this time, as he left no directions respecting the sale of the deal belonging to the Duke at Innesan, nor the price it would be sold at to the tenants, who are willing to purchase.
The storekeeper said he had instructions to give meal in small quantities to the families of those unable to work, but as general want prevails and no sales made for want of proper authority, he was fearful the people would carry off the meal.

I trust this will not be the case, and I must state the people retired quietly on being informed through the Poor Inspector that an application to the Duke's Chamberlain would be made immediately.

"With respect to the Duke of S. property in the Curso of Shill the intentions may be good, but the people should be more encouraged in their endeavours, and sufficient food or wages given, so that the labourers may through their exertions supply their families with food. Have no doubt of Mr. John Campbell (the Duke's Chamberlain) was on the property to direct work, but his absence at the present time may lead to a cessation of the work to be done, and much mischief may be the result.

Therefore humbly suggest to you, Sir Edward, whether it might not be advisable for you to communicate with the Duke on the subject.
At present they were working quietly and, he told me, cheerfully, therefore he did not apprehend any more disturbance, although much want prevails, there being no fuel on the island. The people very short of every kind of clothing.

Mr. Campbell proposes to remain on the island until next Sunday, and should an opportunity offer, will return to the Ages of Shill. I saw the Beacons from him to the ground officers at Stannaway which I forwarded by Post from Islay upon last evening, so that matters there respecting the late affair of meal will be settled.

On the Island of Islay there are 420 rents, 700 families of cotters, some of whom possess boats, and the whole population amounts to about 1,000. Out of this quantity 80 people have given in their names to the Free Church Agent for passage to work on Railroads, and a vessel is waiting in the Island to convey them to the south; Mr. Campbell is encouraging emigrations to Canada, and the heads of 61 families had given in their names, who has great hopes more will be inclined to go before the month of May, as the island cannot produce corn for half its present inhabitants.
for 12 tons of meal on his return, and with much to be assisted by a steamer, but should not hold out any hopes to him, although he promised the island boats would come alongside and take the meal on board.

Mr. Maclean being at Reanich informed me that several deaths had taken place on the island from a kind of typhus fever. Many were suffering from a sort of English Ashes. Three persons had died in one house, but not from actual want. There was a medical gentleman on the island but I found it impossible to see him as I was obliged to embark on board the ‘Sheewater’ at 3 o’clock, the weather at the time being very boisterous.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) John Bannatyne

Capt. R. W.
his Chamberlain at Sirnervy to send another
gentleman with authority to act in the
absence of Dr. Campbell on Sicie, who 3pen
may be detained there until a change of
wind and weather takes place.

Copy.

Han. 29 January 1847.

Sir, I have the honour to acquaint you
that I proceeded on Sunday evening the
27th inst. in H. M. Steamer "Shearwater" to the
Island of Sicie which we reached at 1 P.M.
without much prospect of effecting a landing,
the whole Coast presenting one heavy sheet of
breakers, although the wind had shifted to E. By
nearing the point of Kennish (EAST end of the Island) it was considered practicable
to land at the Lighthouse Pier and a boat was
lowered accordingly in which I proceeded
to get on shore in safety. After waiting for
more than an hour Dr. John Campbell (the
Duke of Devonshire's Chamberlain) made his appearance
from whom I received the following information.
That he had been on the Island for more
than three weeks and had succeeded in giving
employment to 135 hands of families in
harvest, although the people has held out.