



## The Argyll Papers, Inveraray Castle

**PFV65/05**

MEMORIAL to the Duke of Argyll concerning TYRIE [Tiree]

By

Archibald Campbell of Barnacarie his Grace's Factor thereof.

**p.1**

The Accompts of my Intromissions with the Rents of this Island Stated with your Grace give too convincing Proofs of the miserable Condition thereof. The Inhabitants in former Times, but in moderate Circumstances; are within these few years greatly reduced [and] become really poor proceeding in a great Measure from the unfavourable Cropts [and] Loss of Cattle, in both which, they suffered extremely and were the Arrears presently due out of that Estate with the Current Rents for Cropt 1747 compleatly leyed, I may with Assurance say it there, wo[...] [.....]ain thereafter of Effects near what wou[l]d Stock one fourth part of the Island.

This being actually the Case it makes it the more difficult to propose ane Expedient for putting that Country in any tolerable method for if the Arrears be leyed the Inhabitants presently upon the Island, will thereafter occupy few Lands, nor [al]tho[ugh] they shou[l]d be indulged a Delay, does it mend the matter; seeing thereby your Grace wou[l]d, as you have already for too long a Time, lye out of your money, so that unless Strangers are introduced to the Country there is no Prospect of getting these Lands possessed. But then Strangers will not goe there without ane Abatement of the Rents [and] there is herewith given in a Rental of the whole Country, whereat it is thought it might be gott lett to sufficient Tennents from whom your Grace might depend on Regular Payments; as well as at the same Time that your Factor might without any Hazard of turning the Country Waste, Levy the Arrears.

The present Class of Inhabitants in this Island are the least Mutinous of any have been there for years past, for in the year 1746, the Memorialist got many of the most Turbulent Spirits amongst them turned out of the Country [and] [al]tho[ugh] some of them by his Majestys Indemnity have returned, yet the Memorialist does not admit them to possess any Lands but then they reside in Scarinish, the only Farm in that Island not belonging to your Grace, [and] very bussily spread their bad Temper [and] disloyal Principles

**p.2**

Over the Country, So that it were to be wished your Grace had this Farm for not only preventing its being a Retreat to such People, but that also upon it is the Principal Harbour in the Island.

That this Island is capable of being improved considerably will be acknowledged The Inhabitants [al]tho[ugh] very poor are very numerous [and] quite Idle so that cou[l]d they be turned to Industry it wou[l]d soon give another Face to the Country, nor [al]tho[ugh] Strangers were introduced to possess the Lands wou[l]d it occasion that many of the present Inhabitants wou[l]d leave the Country, since not only their Attachment to it is so strong that

1

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many of them cou[ld] be used by these Strangers to serve them [and] thereby still the Country wou[ld] continue Populous at present by the Minister's Roll it consists of 1500 Besides Children.

Making of Linnen was the only Trade practised in this Island some Years agoe but of late that is quite neglected nor at any Time was it managed to any tolerable Purpose It is thought however they might be brought to return thereto easiest of any other part of Industrie but the Memorialist will not suggest the properest Manner of introduceing or carrying on this Bussiness.

Archibald Campbell of Balemore your Grace's late Factor in this Country is still Tennent of several Farms which now that he does not live upon Them are in great Disrepair. They actually cannot afford, nor did the Memorialist ever see them lett at the Rent he engaged for them, and as Balemore has no Effects on the Ground it makes it the more difficult for the Memorialist to Levy his Rents which is at present in considerable arrears.

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