

Copy letter from Captain Archibald Campbell, secretary to the Duke of Argyll, to Malcolm McLaurine, chamberlain of Tiree, 8 Apr 1803

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Copy
Letter to Mr Mc
Laurin 8th April
1806

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Copy Inveraray 8th April 1803

I send you now by desire of the Duke of Argyll, Mr John Ferrier's answer to your letter of the 22nd ult., of the sentiments convey'd in which, his Grace very much approves, and leaves to you to follow them out in the way your local knowledge may dictate as best calculated to promote the great object aimd [sic] at – that of establishing the new system with as few deviations from the Spirit of that plan as circumstances will possibly admit of – His Grace is perfectly prepared to meet the worst that Emigration can do in Tyree, and will not allow any threats of that kind to induce him to relax materially from a Plan, which he adopted upon the most mature consideration, as the best calculated to promote the Interest and the comfort of the People - There are some partial deviations however from the Original Plan ment^d in Mr Ferriers letter - Such as allowing Two Tenants, (when necessary from want of ability to stock and labour a larger lot) to occupy a Four Mail land jointly for a time, to which the Duke agrees, from a Conviction that there may be many quiet and Industrious Tenants on the Island, who from want of means may be really unable to undertake the Cultivation of larger Lots, and who may in a few years be both able and willing - The Selection of these, and the Number, his Grace leaves to you, who from your acquaintance with the People must now know so much of their Worldly Circumstances, and Characters, as to be able to Judge of those who ought to be included in this Class, as no man who is able to Stock & manage a Four Mail land, is to be allowed a joint occupation

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such as will not remain upon these Terms, his Grace says may follow out their wild Scheme of Emigration when they please - His Grace empowers you to Contract for the Milns as soon as you can; but he desires that the Building of the Schoolhouses may be postpond [sic] till further orders, as both Undertakings require a greater advance of money in that Quarter, than he chuses [sic] to make in One Season – It is not imagined that Dykers or Quarriers can be got from hence, but his Grace will inquire –

I am &c

A.C

Reference: Argyll Papers/PFV65/77, An Iodhlann 2021.53.77

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