

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 125

Fort Augustus 9th June 1746.

Dear Sir.

A few days ago I had the Pleasure of yours of the 29th May. Your Nephew is now at Fort William, Inverness. Regiment being sent to that Garrison about 8. days ago, where it will probably remain till next Year according to the usual Custom: and in 4. or 10. days more I believe we shall all (except what is destined to Garrison this Fort, which H. H. intends to repair for that purpose) leave the Highlands and March into Quarters of Refreshment, which you may easily believe will be necessary after so long a Campaign as ours; but more particularly so at present, as it has rain'd pretty hard for these three days; tho' in all other respects we have plenty of Provisions for the men, thro' the great care and Vigilance of H. H. who is an Excellent Provider as well as a General, which Qualification, you know by Experience, is absolutely Necessary in a Commander in Chief; but more particularly so with us, as this weighty and Troublesome Branch is annexed to the Employment: whereas in France, the Intendant of the Army, has the entire Management of it, and by that means leaves the General at full Liberty to think of the military Operations only.

At present all things are as quiet here as if no Rebellion had happen'd, — and the Detachments H. H. has sent thro' the Heretofore inaccessible Mountains, as they were supposed to be and so call'd by the Caledonians, has struck such a Terror amongst these Brutes, that they are entirely dispersed, and fly at the sight of a Red Coat. Such is the happy Effects of the Battle of Culloden. This Ascendant over them may be easily maintain'd, if we are not wanting to ourselves, and reduce them to such a State as will put it out of their Power of raising any future insurrections, and even make them in times, — useful Members to the State, tho' at present they are quite the Reverse. This

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will depend on the Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament: and they have
the finest opportunity that ever offer'd, and the means in their Hands to enforce
the Law they shall make, I can't suppose they will let it slip thro' a childish
Tenderness, or the Solicitations of the Gentlemen of this Country. Besides what you
mention, that of destroying the dependance of the Highlanders on their Chiefs, —
others must be added; such as disarming them forever, making it Death, or im-
mediate Transportation, to any who shall be found with Arms, by which they
will in time lose the use of them, as in Ireland, and instead of being Dangerous,
may become usefull Subjects to the Common Wealth. In order to keep the Poor
People here in an entire Submission and Dependance on their Chiefs, they sell their Lands
only from Year to Year; they should therefore be oblig'd to grant pretty long Leases,
leaving out all those Clauses of Slavery which oblig'd them to appear in Arms at their
Commands. This will give them a Taste of Property, a thing hitherto unknown to the
Lower People in this Country, which is the surest Pledge I know of to Preserve their
Loyalty. As the Religion that is predominant in this Part, if they have any, is Popery, no
Priest must be allow'd to come amongst them on pain of being Castrated, (a Punishment
those Venian dread more than the Loss of Life) but a proper Allowance made to Presbe-
terian Ministers to dwell amongst them and convert them from the Errors of Rome.
No Episcopal Meeting Houses must be permitted here, under pretence of the
Church of England, as they been only Seminaries of Jacobitism and Rebellion:
and if they can't be saved by the means of the Kirk of Scotland, they shall be
damned as Heathens, for I would allow them no other. This may appear harsh in the
Ears of a Divine, and make him conclude that we Tories have no Religion at all.
To this I shall only make this Reply, that I am for abolishing all Religions that
inculcate Principles to the Prejudice of my King and Country and the overturning of
our happy Constitution. Schools should likewise be establish'd in several Parts of the
Highlands, not with a view of making them Learned, but to Teach them English
and the Rudiments of the Protestant Religion, as the greatest part of the Com-
mon People here are ignorant of both. The Charity Schools in Ireland is an
Excellent

Excellent Plan for them to follow. By this you see I am not so bloody minded as
to desire a Total Extermination of these poor wretches, knowing that the Object
Slavery they are kept in by their Chiefs and the bad Example set by them, is
the Chief cause of their Proquery and Rebellion, being certain that Numbers
of them were Forced in to it contrary to their inclination; and am therefore
for endeavouring to Civilize them and make them Taste the Sweet of Liberty,
and independance on all but the Laws of the Land, neither of which they
ever yet knew, nor any thing but the Sole Will and Pleasure of their Chiefs.
These Reflections have carried me beyond the Bounds of a Letter, to which
a wet day has contributed a good deal as I could not walk out, therefore —
Blame the weather and not me for this tiresome Epistle. In fine, whatever
Laws you make for this Country, if you imagine they can be Executed by
the Sole Power of the Civil Magistrate you'll be deceiv'd: and tho' I am a
Soldier, I am not for investing the Military entirely with it; but would give
each a proper share in the Execution, at least for some Years to come, Bad
Habits of the Mind, being sooner Cured by Correction, than Exhortation.

As a good many of the Highland Estates must now fall into the Crown,
by the Attainders: and as these People are vastly Devoted to their Landlords, I
am of opinion that the King should keep them, giving the Tenants good Pro-
fitable Leases for a certain Term of Years, by which he will not only gain
their Affections, but at the same time, make it their Interest to Support his
Government; whereas, should His Majesty give them to the Leasing Men in this
Country who have not been in the Rebellion, it may be equanimizing them too much,
and make them in some measure independant of the Crown, for Gratitude is not the
Growth of this Country, since the Tenants would then look up to their New Masters
and not to the King. You see that I speak my thoughts freely to you just as they
enter into my mind, without ranging them in proper order, as you Senators
must do before you deliver them to the House, if you expect to be well heard.
Your Nephew is gone on Command to the Ravack of Bemaro, near the
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Isle of Sky, where pleasure will not interrupt his Studies, if he is inclined to follow them. When you see our Friend the Marshal, Express him of my most sincere Respects. The News papers say Lord Nevil has got Leave to retire from Business and is coming down here to spend the remainder of his days. I think he is quite in the Right in doing so, as Age impairs the Mind as well as the Body, and renders us useless either for the Field, or Cabinet. I have looked ^{at} him in this Light for some time past, and am glad his understanding is yet strong enough to convince him of it. Lord George Sackville has been on Command with 800. Men, Ranging over all the Highlands on the Western Coast in pursuit of the Rebels, from Fernald down to Argyllshire. This expedition was for a Fortnight, and succeeds to Manners. Lord Loudoun with the M. Donalds and M. Lees are doing the same in Badenoch; Brigad. Mordaunt is sending Parties from Perth thro' that County, and M. Gen: Campbell with the Argyllshire Men is Employ'd in those Parts and in the Moun. in short H. H. H. will so Effectually subdue this Country before he leaves it, that Rebellion will not in haste raise up its head again. We hear Lord Lovat is taken somewhere in Argyllshire, Lord George having drove him from these parts; and we are in hopes that Sackville, M. Murray and several others will likewise fall into our hands, as it will be almost impossible for them to get off by Sea, as our Ships and Coops of War are very Active. One Sir James Stuart of the Orkneys is taken there. I will now release you, only make my compliments to your Lady, and believe me with much Sincerity

Dear Sir

Your much Obliged and very
Affectionate Humble Servant
H. M. Bland,

M. Bland
In Augustus Juner 1746
1746
No. 1. 725