

ROBERT GARDINER (Brother of Colonel Gardiner) to LORD STAIR.

1745, November 7th, Brunstane.—“My Lady desires me to acquaint your lordship, That by the return of severals from the Highland army accounts is brought, that the advanced gaurd of the main body consisting of a few of the gaurds and some other horse whom they call Hussars were to be [] Lockmaben and the main body itselfe at Molfat yesternight. That another body had after crossing Tweed at Peebles taken a shorter road, but the other could not follow by that road, because they have the whole heavy baggage and the cannon with them. But both are directing their march to Langtown near Carlisle. That a third body of their army, supposed about between two and three thousand of the nimblest and best part of it, have gone by Lauder and arrived at Kelso on Monday’s night last. This body is commanded by the young gentleman, and was to hover thereabout on purpose to bring Marshall Wade down the Wooler road, and is determined when he comes near and has Cheviot hills on his left, then to go by Jedburgh and Hawick to Langtown to join the other bodys that are to assemble there, and then endeavour to penetrate England by Carlisle where they expect, as they give out, to be joined by a great body of Roman Catholicks, and a body of forreign troops to be landed on the west coast. Though probably this may come too late to hand, yet my Lady was desireous it might be sent.

“I wrote your Lordship of the 29th ult., per M^r. Commissioner, as also on the 2nd and 3rd current, per ‘Salton,’ all which I hope came safe to hand. The most matteriall news since they left this neighbourhood is, that their Councill is seldome unanimous in their opinions about their operations, and the desertion from them is extremly great. Mr. Rob, the Minister of Kilsyth, wrote to his son at Edinburgh that on Monday last he counted of deserters some with and some without arms passing that way on their return homo about 500. A gentleman from Lithgow, whom I spoke with yesterday, acquainted [me] that 30 was taken at Whitburn on

Sunday's night and stript of all their arms, and the whole country to the westward of Edinburgh swarms with them, but as the whole country is now up few of them escape. The country people fall on [them] with forks, flails and any arms they have, and bring 'em in dozens and halfe-dozens to the Castle of Edinburgh. The General lets most of them goe, but strips them of their arms and anything that is supposed does not pertain to them. Some of them have had very large sums of money found upon them. I wish this indemnity had come while they lay here. If it had, I'm perswaded many more would have left them.— A son of John Dun's (*sic*) Writer in Edinburgh, and 4 more of the Edinburgh volunteers took it into their head last Saturday to goe to Cramond and demand a sum of money of the town under pain of Military Execution, but the town's people mastered them, took their horses and arms from them, and then carried them to the watter-side where a party of Captain Beavor's crew were with their boat, who carried them all prisoners aboard his ship. I was yesternight informed that a fine horse, belonging to the Duke of Athole, which was taken from this by this young Mr. Dunn (*sic*), might probably be among the horses taken from them, as to which I shall have enquiry immediately, and see if possible to get him back.

“As soon as the General heard of the Highlanders having marched, he sent out several detachments from the Castle, which picked np several straglers and a vast deal of guns, swords, targets, pistols tents, and other military stores, which had been left behind in the hurry of going away. On tuesday last, when a party was searching the house of William Lumisdean (?), Writer in Edinburgh, for arms, several papers were found, which 'tis sayd contained some things treasonable. The party carried both him and the papers to the Castle, and there he remains confined. His sone is one of Mr. Murray's clerks and is with the party's at Kelso. It is sayd he has found means to destroy some of the papers. There happened a tumult on his Majesty's

birthday between some there and a gaurd of Highlanders, wherein a French officer from Minross going to the army was killed. Miss Betty is better. My Lady begs a line from your Lordship how the coast is clear, and to know where Marshel Wade is gone. I am &c. . . . Robert Gardiner.”

Brunstane, from which this letter is dated, was the house which Prince Charles Edward occupied before the battle of Preston Pans.