

Mid Skello. Tuesday Evening.

5

Siberscross. Feb. 5th 1760

I know you must have heard of the melancholy scene acted by the
 dumb of EMBO, I have been for two days taking a ' 8of
 that affair & must be in Dornoch Thursday on the same disagreeable
 task. I need not tell you of the ~~terrat~~ state of our prisons, nor
 yet of the danger that must attend this unlucky creature's making
 his escape. I am unwilling to complain of the prison in such a
 shape as to obtain immediate relief. but application must be ^{made}
 to proper persons to ~~obtain~~ to use interest for getting
 him removed from it. Ever since he was imprisoned there has
 been six men on the watch every night. The town of Dornoch
 is not able to bear this and they will not agree to it any longer.
 The county must assist them in this until he is taken off our
 hands, and it is for this reason that I send you this express;
 that you may immediately come to Dornoch, that some course may
 concerted on this exigency, & I beg that nothing may divert you
 For in case of any further accidents falling out we will justly
 be blamed if any possible precaution is not taken, & it is rather
 a miracle than otherwise that he has not murdered several be-
 fore now. Mr. Sutherland, Minister of Dornoch, the minister
 of Rogart's son, and some others made a narrow escape. If you
 have any iron fetters at Dunrobin I beg you order them to Dornoch.
 I would have gone to Dunrobin if I had not been obliged to
 go directly to Dornoch, & there I hope will plead my excuses
 with you. However I am not ignorant of the need you have of

Shiberscross

24th April 1760

To D. G.

Re Nicholas Sutherland the greive at Torboll. (my greive at Torboll). came to me this morning, and told me he had some business up the country, and would put one Alex. Grant from

the parish of Golspy in his place. This Nicholas is to be married soon, to a sister of this lad's that serves me. I got notice that this Grant-- coming on account of a claim that Hugh McPherson has upon him as a recruit. I told him that as he was wanted for the Earl's regiment that I would have nothing to do with him unless he brought me your letter informing you did not want him to go to the regiment. I told him at same time if you wanted him to go there, he should do it with a good grace, as in the end, he would be sure it would be his fate. He told me he did not scruple going to any part of the earth with the Earl if he desired it, but that he would not allow himself to be imposed on by a recruiting sergeant.

My own opinion of this matter is that the noble spirit that the people discover in obliging the Earls call, should be encouraged, and that no tricks or unfair methods should be used by sergeants, as that discourages the people, and that when men are so wanted, that you should condescend on those that can best be spared, and tell them it's the Earl's desire they should go. This method I think will answer better than any other, and I cannot see the necessity of any other when they can be got with
---- (ease?)

Yr most humble obdt servt
Will Sutherland

Mid-Skelbo
3 / June 1760

Dr Sir.

As Donald Ross, Writer, is now with you, you have no doubt seen the copy of ~~the~~ protests taken by him and me at Dornoch on Friday last, and as I have touched on the article of Droving, I do not doubt but you are offended at me.

(3/ June 1760 cont.)

I do declare that this is a subject I always shunned mentioning but my usage has been monstrous, and in such a case no one can promise what they may be driven to say or do. No man on earth can be worse used than I am, and if this usage will force me to touch at anything in which you may be concerned, Whatever resentment you may have of it, I desire that you may believe it is mere necessity and not choice drives me to it, for upon my honour, all differences with you gives me pain, and for this reason, I will agree to alter this part of the protest.

At the same time, no man can be fonder of the proofs being adduced, ~~than~~ ^{truer} truth will always support itself and lies have their deserts sooner or later.

Please let me know what answer I am to give to the enclosed, which return to me. I meant to have gone to Dunrobin to talk to you of the --(contrabts ?) but the sea being in, and no ferry boat could not get it done.

Dr Sir

Yr most humble servt
Will Sutherland

Copy answer to this by D. G. so badly written as to be almost illegible.

As to this motion made of droving in your protest, I have been so much accustomed of late to get hints of accusations declared to reflect on me, that matters of that nature give me but very little disturbance, being fully satisfied that they can make no impressions on persons of candour till they be fairly examined into, and that when such examination is had, which probably may be at no distant period, things will come out in a quite different light from what they have been represented, ~~to~~ and very likely not have the effects intended by these representations.

And with regard to William McKay's management in the droving, I am confident it will be made appear that no man could have acted a more equitable part-----

-- with the cattle of Lord Sutherland's estate, and none should know more of that than I.

(?) If (however?) -- that the differences twixt you and him, lead you on both (sides?) to misinterpret

sush (offices?) (?)---- and to suspect sinister designs in everything, and I believe designing people do what they can to blow the coals, and to this attribute some warm expressions in your protest, that had rather, or done better to have been more moderate.

I should be sorry if from anything I have said, you should conclude I suspected you really meant any reflections to my detriment. I ~~mean~~----- no grounds for any such suspicion.

But with regard to your making any alteration in the wording of your protest, that is now quite improper, and to ? an such thing would be plainly saying that these things----- and cannot bear an examination, which I am far from thinking.

I have rather been too tedious on this subject.

=,=,=. .=.=.=..

Mid-Skelbo Tuesday 14 June 1760

Dr. Sir

In answer to yours of this date, the complaint given in to me is against the whole as art and part, and whether guilty of not guilty depends on the proof. By law they must be admitted to bail, and I think your letter sufficient guarantee for that purpose, and as such I have ordered them home, though this is also irregular, as they ought first to enter prison, and then to petition to be admitted to bail. As to the man's being on the Earl of Sutherland's estate, both complainors and party complained of, are on a footing in that respect, and that I believe neither Lord S or you will doubt, but I will go all reasonable lengths to accommodate all his people.

I am persuaded neither of you will desire to make that the rule of my procedure as a judge, except as far as the parties have fair play and equity to plead on their behalf, and surely my Lord is more concerned than any other, that irregularities among his people be suppressed, and when they happen that the guilty be punished.

I am -- quite hurried going from home.

Dr Sir.

Yr servt. W. Sutherland

Mid Skelbo
Aug 11 1760

Dr Sir.

Enclosed you have discharge for Lady Evelix's annuity and jointure house rent due at Mart. 1758 and/59.

I want some more bolls bear for my servants and will draw up on you for them, that is for about four bolls and you all please give directions to storekeeper to answer it. I hope you'll give it for meal. Dr Sir etc

Mid Skelbo
21 Aug 1760

(A short note)

----- Rogart told me someting last day that I long much to talk to you of but am so hurried at present attending on Lady's; that I cannot go your length. When do you expect the Earl.

Am in haste Dr Sir etc.

Mid Skelbo
Wed 26 Oct

Dr Sir.

I shall forward the letters for Evelix and Little Torboll immediately by express as you direct. and observe your other directions with all the care I can.....

.....
I wrote you yesterday by an express sent on purpose as the situation of my sick child did not allow me to go from home

Mid Skelbo
20 Oct 1760

Dr Sir.

I got the enclosed from Mrs. Jean Gordon, Friday's night, at a time when you was so busy I could not think of disturbing you. Robert Gordon is keen to have the customs, and I think Mrs. Jean seems disposed to be his cautioner, If Baillie Kenneth will not make a reasonable offer, I daresay you will agree to let Robert -- at £ 12, which he is willing to give, if Mrs. Jean becomes ---- for him. He seems much afraid of B. Kennth's resentment for making an offer, so it will be necessary to conceal his making an offer.

Dr Sir etc.

The next letter dated 20th November 1760 he writes from Skelbo

Dr Sir.

I was told this night that Liut Gray got a sudden call to Inverness with his men, and that his brother Walter held he did not think he would return at this time.

On getting this information I set down and never stirred, untill I made out a resignation from him in the Earl's favour, with the contract and sassinie I send you enclosed, and I think you should sent an express to him and meet with him to end it.

If I could get a tolerable day, I propose going to Caithness, so that that I cannot attend upon you, But there is nothing to do but sign and to cause the witness's to sign, and to keep a note of the date, which I will fill up at any time, and I will do it on my way to Caithness if you have it then ready.

I wish you sent to inspect the ruinous state of the officehouses here. The kiln fell the other day, and the same fate ~~hishourly~~ expected to the G-- (?) and barn. God grant they may not kill someone or other. I will say nothing about the house, as the earl told me to take down the part that threatened to fall. I am making such reparations to the other part as will make it accomodate me. I wish you took a sight of the whole yourself

Dr Sir etc

The last letter of 1760. He had had a letter from Mr. McKay of Skibo proposing the county should send an address to the King from the county. He thinks it should be done "as no county in Scotland will neglect it". He thinks the address should be delivered by the earl when he is in London. A meeting to be called at which as many as possible of the Earl's friends should attend" D. G. is to send notes to these gentlemen, They are mentioned by name as "Brea(?) The two Johns Clunes, Mr McCulloch, your nephew Capt Dan, Capernoch and Mr McPherson,. There are people who will reflect on you and me if this is not properly managed. He will acquaint Cambusavie, Torboll, Fearquhair and his brother, Mr Hugh Sutherland Evelix Pronsie and Tordarroch, he is afraid Clyne is gone south. (52)

A previous letter written in May says he is beginning to work on the Mains at Skelbo next week. Presume therefore Lord Duffus went out 28th May 1760

9

Shiberscross 1761

17th Jan

Dr Sir

He has been at Dunbeath, and only intended to go as far as Navidale that night but receiving a letter from his wife saying there was a letter from the earl waiting for him he hurried home. " The day was so cold that I found great hurt by it, I was ill ever since with a severe shivering and disorder over all my body, I was immediately bled, and am this day a little better. but in no condition to go abroad. . Asks D. G. to attend to it.

Jan 29th His Father dead. he is arranging about the funeral. Asks if D. G. got any word from Delvin about the office houses here

Feb 14th 1761. He has been ill, he was seized with " asore belly the day after his father's funeral, which ended in a flux and continued to grow worse, until on Wed. night he was taken ill with all the symptoms of a raging fever " Reflecting that no assistance was to be had in a hurry in this unlucky county, he bethought himself of a cure he had seen in the October Magazine. He was astonished at the wonderful effect even a few minutes after using it

As he understood John Evelix son had gone in quest of a doctor for his uncle John Rearchar's son. He sent an express after him to Tongue begging him to make this his was with any Doctor he got, and to bring with him any medicines proper for my distemper. It was only yesterday evening he returned bringing with him Dr Forbes from Cromarty being unable to get any other. However he was very much better by then. " I cannot sufficiently express the desperate situation of this county for want of any men of skill

2 Feb 1761

Dr Sir.

I propose to bury my father on Wednesday the tyde answers so very early, that I do not mean that any gentlemen go further than the sands, where I hope we will be by 11 o'clock, . the entertainment is to be at Mr Paul's and I will be obliged to you to order bring the water at Brora for a salmon, to be sent by the bearer.
I am dr Sir etc.

SHIBERS CROSS

Thursday 19th Feb 1761

Dr Sir.

Your boy called here this morning to know if I was going for Dornoch. But he went off in such a hurry that I had not spoken to him to know which way you had past, tho' I imagine it has been by the ferry, as I flatter myself you would have called, had you come by the sands.

Although I am on the recovery these eight days past, yet I am brought so low and thin, that the least cold affects me. I went out to the close some days ago, and it put me in great disorder, so that I did not venture out since, till this day. as it's fresh weather I went the length of the stable for an airing. Had it not been for my indisposition I would have been there at Dunrobin before this time in order to talk to you of some matters, and as you are now on this side must beg the favour of you to call before you pass homewards.

I send the enclosed letter of apology from Evelix, which please communicate to Mr McDonald who acts this day as Sheriff in Sir John's service. I had a message also from Pronsie yesterday, informing me he is not well. This I had also accounts of from two of his tenants. Till meeting I rest

Dr Sir

Yr affecte hm servt

Will Suth rland

Wt Feb 1761

Letter about house of Torbol, one Lauchlan McKintosh will leave Torbol in possession. if he can be accomodated by getting the half of the mansion house of Evelix. He has talked to Lady E. as she had D. G.'s promise of the house and garden, with two penny land, but she has no objection to his having half of the house. This to be a temporary arrangement.

2 March 1761

Poor Willy Dunbar has died of a flux. If he had had simple remedy that W. S. had used might have saved him

5 March.

He wants materials for a cart and cannot get them 'in this end of the country' asks D. G. for an order to get them from Shiness.

6th March 1761 (cont'd)

He is still waiting for a reply from Edinburgh for authority to mend the offices of Skelbo. The one side of the big barn fell some days ago, so that now the three condemned houses have given way

24 th March

John Sutherland "Ausdale's son" he had a good tack from Langwell, but lost so many cattle he was obliged to leave it. W. S. tells D. G. that he was asking for the house of John Mitchel at Helmsdale, who had been warned out of it. He thought that in the hands of a proper person (himself) it was very suitable for a public house. W. S. is asking for D. G.' interest in the matter. says " he There would be little ocasion of using any interest with you for so near a couson of Fforce and Captain Sutherland's " and thinks the Earl would be equally willing for the same reason.

W. S. thinks " it would be a publick advantage and much for the credit of th coutry that such decent people wasthere

2 April

He refers to the order he had asked for for wood for carts from Shiness, as D. G. had refused this he asks for it from the Achinduich woods.

7 April

about the election of Mr Mckay of Skibo. the latter wishes it for the 16 inst. He asks D. G. to dinner to discuss it

9 a notice of the meeting of the council for Saturday next at 12 . He is aquaintaing Torbol and Clyne, and Tordarroch.

10 April

Dr Sir.

I am astonished at your not getting the letter I wrote you yesterday. The moment I came from Dornoch, I gave the letter to the officer here, in order to send off an express, with money to pay for the ferry. The officer told me he would not get one to go till this morning, and this morning he assured me he saw the express off. I suspect the ship has been at the ferry, which must be regulate and put on a better

10 April 1761 (contX

footing, so as to prevent mistakes of this sort, which some day may be attended with bad consequences. The meeting holds to 12 o'clock to morrow forenoon, and this day I despatched expresses to Tordarroch, Clyne and Little Torbol. If Mr Clune's health will not allow of his attendance, there is no help for it, but I think the fuller the meeting is now it's the better.

Dr Sir Yrs affecly.

W.S.

Friday 10 April.

An election with some heated words between the electors Mentions a Col. Scott.

The happy marriage of the Earl mentioned. he expects to see bonfires on the coast.

23 April

Written from Dornoch.

He will be with J. G. to-morrow night, inless Lord Duffus is with him, in that case I will answer your bonfire with one at Skelbo.

" I think a trifling drink to be allowed the Clerk to dispose of will not answer the design. I have been talking to Clyne and several others, and their opinion as well as mine is that My Lord's friends should meet here, and have a very merry night at their own expense. Having at My Lord's expense will not look well, tho' I know he would not grudge it, yet it's a sort of on the country. Clyne proposes Monday next, and I know you will not fail to attend. If Capt Sutherland did not think the distance too great I am persuaded he would incline to be one.

That is all that occurs on the matter to

Dr Sir

Yrs afficly

Captain Lockhart Ross of Balnagowan is addressed to the Baron's roll, and Colonel McKay unanomously elected

3rd May

He is out of potato seed and asks for a firloft for which he will pay any price

11 May

13
re garden seeds from Inverness

1st June

Wants " sough hoops for his "milk coigs "

13th June, he is off to meet Miss Dalrymple and Miss Sinclair at the ferry, " a office much fitter for you than for me"

26 June 1761

Miss Charlotte Gordon has got slaters from Ross to point the house of Embo. He is also employing them to point Skelbo, but there are some holes that cannot be mended without slates, he asks D. G. for an order for slates

28th July

Sends D.g. a "veal which I hope you'll find good"

I had a meeting yesterday with Mrs. Robertson, Robt. Gray, and the Clerk. I believe they are all sensible that my proposals to my stepmother are reasonable, and so I hope you'll have no more trouble in that affair, in which I have been too much a plague to you already.

Q
18 July 1761

..... I am afraid that my stepmother is to give in a clamorous paper against me to Lord Suth. and the Lady's and from the paper I showed you wrote by Mr. (or Mrs.) Francis Robertson I have reason to believe they will not scruple to exceed the truth. You know all my silence in that matter----- and I know your regard for truth, will make you to give a candid and fair account when you are asked it, all I want is that no impressions be taken or stories believed untill I have had a fair hearing.

..... The ladys ~~one~~-aring so clamant a story as Mr Robertson mentioned ~~this~~ ⁱⁿ his impertinent false paper will be apt to from the goodness of their heart to sympathise with a poor woman they imagine to be oppressed, though the fact be that any hardships she suffers at present are entirely owing to herself & those who mislead her, and who at the same time will never give her a shilling to support her, and I

18 July (cot)

and I think it no good office in any one to advise her to give trouble to the only one from whom at least she has reason to expect support

Yr obedient hmble servt

I have troubled the Earl with a letter on this subject and tho' I was unwilling to trouble his Lordship, I could not in justice to myself neglect it.

sevendays later
27th July 1761

Dr Sir

I am informed that this, or tomorrow, is to be the day, my stepmother and Mrs. Robertson with some others are to attack my Lord about her disputes with me, & that by the assistance of Lady Betty's woman, who to gratify Cripple Kenneth's private resentment against me is to whisper storys and falshoods into her Ladyships ear. in order to make an impression to my disadvantage. But this .. and what I would not choose to talk of as it may possibly not be true, tho' told me in strong terms

At same time I cannot help begging of you th caution my Lord against coming under any promise or engagement, until he be fully known to the state of the matter. For tho' I do not take the Matter entirely on my own judgement, yet I have a sort of guess how matters may turn, and as I am willing to do anything reasonable thing that men of business will approne of, I think no more can be demanded, and I am sure my Lord will be of th same opinion. and you easily see how it might hurt my Lord to come under any engagements to them. For if the power of transacting about that place be only in me (which I imagine will be the case) my Lord might well expect concessions from me I would yield to no other. So on the other hand if the right be found in my Lord's person, I would expect preference to any other of a place to which I have so natural a title.

Therefore I thought necessary to hint to you to prevent anythings being done, that men of business might disapprove of.

I am dr Sir Yrs etc
Will Sutherland

Little Torbol is here and will give you a draft on London when you please

Three letters all written on the same day

The next one also dated Monday the 27th July 1761

he writes that Freswick had asked him to give the Earl a letter, but he had to attend a meeting of the presbitry for Clyne about the reparations to the manse of Creich. He had wished also to speak to the Earl about the necessary repairs to the offices of Skelbo these were in a state of ruin, and how he could be expected to work a farm without Kiln, barn, or Gemel. Besides this there are all the byres and stables to put up. but this he proposes to do himself. The repairs could be done out of the rents without any expense to the Earl. The necessary application is to be made this session

the last letter anent one Alex Gun an old man who came to the sherrif to ask him to get his son's discharge from the Earl's regiment. S. says he has told him it is impossible, but he won't listen to him. So he asks D. G. to see if at least he can get the man's 'furlof' renewed. Signed yrs Affecly.

SIBERSCROSS. LETTERS

Skelbo 28th Dec 1761

X
Andrew's Fair, Dornoch
14th (Wed) in Dec. (1806).

..... There is one Hugh McKay miller at Remusack(?)
tha that has done a thing lately, for which he ought to
be taken to task. This Hugh McKay at the Andrews fair
Mercat, fell a-drinking with David Ross McGillandris. and
assured him of some (men- or money) if he would send a
Recruiting sergeant to the parish of Rogart. The sergt.
went accordinly, and called for Hugh Mck. they went all to
N-N-N, and got with him a young fellow, that McK, it seems
knew meant to go to the army, & got this young fellow
persuaded. But one Paul McLeod of the Earls regiment,
happening there, he was at pains to persuade him to go to
the E's reg. which the young fellow agreed to. But McK.
persuaded him to go rather to David Ross, and take the most
money whereever he could get it. This prevailed on. while
McLeod offered him as much money on Gen. Suth's account.
as Ross's seargeant offered. He agreed to go with
McLeod rather than with Ross. But unfortunately McL.
couldn't find all the cash and Hugh McK. persuaded him he
would never get it, and so got the man fixed for Ross.
Practises of this sort ought to be crushed. and you ought
to write yound Rearquhair in the Earls name, to give
McKay no land. for his tack is out. In this shape the
fellow would be made sensible of his folly. Besides
that this fellow is a nuisance in the parish, by constant
tippling. Every door in that parish ought to be shut on
him, and I wish some of your recruiting parties would
anyhow enlist him. I happened to see him & challenged
him for his impudence in this matter, but he was very
saucy.

Yrs Affly.

Will Sutherland.

July 3 QWYWz 1762

..... Poor Evelix is in a starving
condition for want of vidual, his wife came to me the
other day and offered me two tennants in Dalnamain,
as (debtors?) for two bolls bear and three of meal

24th July 1762.

who
Baillie Fraser at Inverness who has the salmon fishings
on the estate of Lovat, has for warded a large strong net
for killing of the seals, & it seems Mr Baillie (Rosehall?),
wrote for them to kill the seals on the Kyle of Melkile
Ferry. In their way here yesterday they were driven in here

SIBERCROSS Letters

by the south winds, and this morning they killed 15 large seals. "

He then asks if the earl would like to see the sport as if so he will try to detain them till he comes.

" The bitch I had from Dunrobin went off on Sunday and swam the ferry. the dog never strays.

Skelbo Wed. night (20th July 1762)

Dear Sir . I am very sorry to hear that you are laid up with the cold. I sent to Inverness for a bottle of ... of honey, by the man that went with Lieut Sutherland's clog bag. I never failed to cure me.

After receiving the enclosed please seal it, and cause it to be delivered to my Lord. and cause Dany (Clerk?) to write me two lines acquainting whether my Lord will be here tomorrow to dine. My lord needs not have any scruple of making any extraordinary preparations, as I know little dines him, and I have veal, mutton and fowls in the house, the only thing I want is bread fit for his eating.

I wish you better health and am

Dr. Sir

Yr. aff. humble servt

William Sutherland

QUYWA 1762

Dec 24.

He has been to Dornoch and finds that Will. Paul (the innkeeper) has 'run out' of prison. He had been confined for ~~some petty misdemeanour~~ or for debt. His wife had refused to supply him with 'meat and drink' and he was in a miserable condition. But however he had no ~~business~~ to break out of prison. ~~Thuxx~~ He should have demanded to be set at liberty, so orders were given to secure him again, as the town might be endangered by such doings, were they to be a precedent for others. Baillie Kenneth was strongly reprehended for 'keeping open doors'

The unfortunate Paul seems to have little benefit by getting his liberty as his wife shut the door in his face, and having already refused to supply him with food, though by law all her goods belonged to him, he may have been better off in the jail

SIBERSCROSS. cont.

28th Aug 1762

he wants D. G. to allow the new furniture he has ordered to be brought up in his boat, from Mr Ferguson the shipper.

6th Aug. 1762.

Alex. Sutherland, alias Clyne wants to get his discharge from His Lop's reg. To do this he must find someone to take his place. W. Suth. thinks the Earl might get home a number of the young men of substance as many as can ' be at the expence of getting someone to take their place '

In this way more men would be trained, the earl would have substantial tennants & would be able to raise his rents and he would get men for his regiment, as they would join it to release their friends and to obtain the gratification given them for taking their places.

LINE 11763

Skelbo. 21st Jan

Dear Sir.

I hope you are returned from Stathnever by this time, You are lucky if you have escaped broken bones.

March. letter from 'old Neil McKay asking to be left in his tack at Clibrig.

April. Letters about lady Evelix. Her demand for meal, and arrangement about her jointure.

April 23. The laird of rearquhair has a petition against removing the tennants of rearquhair by the E. of S.

Scibercross says he feels someone else should take this case He can call on Hugh McDonald to jdge in matters where I am too nearly conected. If D. G. thinks it necessary he can get the Sherriif -depute to attend

May 1763 22nd. about someone wanting a warrant for search ind for smuggled goods. Sc laud up with lumbago ! He thinks they suspect the goods to be stored in the E's storehouses at Helmsdale & Brora, and that his refusing a warrant (because he was too ill to make it out) might increase their suspicions. Warns D. G. as he thinks this would be very disagreeable to the E. and suggests he should give them leave to inspect the storehouses.

19

SCIBERCROSS. 4

A summons against Dr. Cunningham

He asks if he can send his black mare to the E's horse.

21st Aug 1763.

I went to Dornoch yesterday when I was surprised to find the prison doors were open in Baillie Kenneths. As this is contrary to the law, it may be a handle to those who meant to make a demand on the town for the debt, and for fear of any such advantage to be taken I have ordered the doors to be kept shut. - - - - The reason for keeping the outer door open is that the school is kept in the town hall. That house can never answer the purpose of a prison and school house, and using it in that manner may someday be the means of bringing the town into a scrape.

he has viewed another house which he thinks will answer very well for a school untill a public school is built. He has arranged for the school to be held in the kirk till this house is repaired. but the scholars cannot continue in the kirk when the bad weather sets in. He wishes the Town house could be made into a sufficient prison. A Royal Borough is obliged to provide a prison and court house.

Another letter pressing for a prison.

1764.

Black fish are being poached in large quantities at Brora
he has a cold and is confined to the house, and begs for Robertsons history to amuse him 21 Dec.

1765.

1765

His wife a daughter of Lady Evelix, Gray or Sutherland ?
10 Sept 1765. He is angry that an old friend should want to discuss one of his sentences, and says a sherrif that allowed such a thing would disgrace his employment

May 25th 1768

. . . . A posse of friends of one Charles McKay have committed
' afresh insult ' who went and put up a house on Remarcher (?)
Grumby. Were it on any one else's land he would soon
stop his career, but being on his own he does not chose
to meddle. He ~~h~~ sent people to intercept him, but he
had collected so strong a posse they durst not control
him. Appeals to D. G. for support. There has not
been such an out rage or breach of the peace of the
county since long.

The letter signed Dr. Sir. and sounds unfriendly

1786zz 1774

A letter from Cap. James Sutherland asking J. G. for the
state of the wadset of Skelbo, as he much wants to have
the affair settled. Mr. Suth. a Miss McKenzie present
their complements. Written from Dunrobin.

1782- 3 Received from W. Suth. the sum of 9/4 as
the duty of the house of Skelbo, & 10 windows therein.

£70 of meal sold and paid towards arrears.

12 May . Hisz~~e~~ cattle houses etc sequestrated for
payment of arrears of rent for the Barony of Skelbo etc.

~~After his death in 1786~~

By my draft on Captain Gordon of Pulrossie

Minutes of the petition etc and sequestration of Scib.

17th March 1786.

A decree of removal and sequestration of effects obtained
against him. This confirmed.
His defence. That owing to sickness all winter and spring
he could give no attention to the case. That he incurred
£400 in expenses over Charles McKay of Langwell (above)
understanding he would be indemnified by the factor J. G.
Against. That he was heavily in arrears with his rent
and that no payment could be obtained out of him .
Verdict upheld

Torn letter about Scib's executry.

His widow, a sister of Poyntzfield. Her name Janet Munro.
a son John, and Alexander.

Scib. died suddenly on the 28th April. 1786.

His widow and son petitioned to be left in possession of
Skelbo

Copy to Major Baillie 15 Aug 1786

" This day's post brought me a letter from Alexr MacKenzie of 9th Unl (?) enclosing certificate of the bill of suspension at the instance of Sib: son & widow being refused by the Ordinary & his interlogr (?) adhered to by the Lords. Their agent used every device to prevent the bill being advised legal till at length M MacKenzie was obliged to employ a Messenger to apprehend him incap (?) the papers. This with the litigation thereon ? the suspension being so long a discussing ? I apprehend now no other obstacle to your ? possession of Skelbo. This goes under Mr Fraser's favour to whom I send the certificate to be intimated if necessary which it may not be as doubtless their agent has informed them of the fate of the suspension. Mr Fraser will acquaint you whether any further obstruction is to be given to your entry to the possession & who will follow the necessary measures to be taken in such case.

Various accounts of Scibberscross as Sherrif Clerk.

One example :-

To Dugald Gilchrist of Lothbeg.

Feb 1784. To going to Evilicks (with drift of snow)
taking inventories ;

Sciberscross Wife, Janet Munro was one of the Pointzfield Munros.

Letter:- William Sutherland of Sciberscross. Sheriff
Substitute and later Commissary Clerk to Dugald Golchrist
one of the Commissioners of Supply

21st August 1763

-- " I went to Dornoch yesterday when I was surprised to find the prison doors were open in Baillie Kenneths. As this is contrary to the law, it may be a handle to those who meant to make a demand on the town for debt, and for fear any such advantage to be taken I have ordered the doors to be kept shut. ---- the reason for keeping the doors open is that the school is kept in the town hall. Thathouse can never answer the purpose of a prison and school house, and using it in that manner may some day be the means of bringing the town into a scrape.

----- he has viewed another house which he thinks will answer ~~very well~~ for a school untill a public school is built. He has arranged for the school to be held in the kirk till this house is repaired, but the scholars cannot continue in the kirk when the bad weather sets in .

Skelton land of Shikhercross

Letters to D.G. on County Business
this sketch on the Lady Solihoo -

Bundle 58-60.
Marked 99/80.

1758. Mid Skello.

4 Nov.

"a complaint" has been made to me as sheriff
(as a road at Bogart)

24 Dec
1758.

A gang of thieves in Strath Lura - the people afraid to
"discoar their outside" for fear of their cattle - they were
killing deer & black fish. Donald Sutherland a leader
should be first secured.

Wm Sutherland of Shikhercross.

Copy. bill of Suspension - John & Mrs Janet Sutherland

says: - John S: eldest son of Wm S. of Shikhercross -

Janet his widow - & Anne Munn He died suddenly on

28th April (1787) "in possession of the married

Barony of Skello. of which he was Tenant." "We are

threatened to be summarily & cruelly removed

therefrom by Dugald G. factor appointed by your Lord.

He was in arrears of something more than a year's rent

but the widow paid this up. Perhaps she has no where

to go but to Shikhercross - a small grass farm with no

house but a small highland hut. Not fit to accommodate

½ our family.

Letter from D.G. to Major Baillie about the suspension