



This letter was sent from Dublin Castle, on behalf of King James II and signed off at the bottom by Melfort (John Drummond, First Earl of Melfort). Interestingly, the letter is dated, 29th of March 1689, almost 334 years ago to the day. The King is requesting/demanding support from the MacDougall's for the upcoming rebellion.

The first battle of the 1689 Jacobite Uprising took place at Killiecrankie and marked the first and only victory for the Jacobites in this campaign. The battle of Cromdale, in April 1690, resulted in a decisive victory for the Government forces, effectively ending the rebellion in Scotland. Attempts to restore King James II came to an end two months later with defeat at the battle of the Boyne. See our transcription of the letter's contents below and pictures of the letter itself on the following pages.

To our trusty and well beloved – The Laird of MacDougall in Lorne.
James R (King James II)

Trusty and well beloved we greet you well, whereas, the wickedness of our enemies has reduced our affairs to the necessity of requiring the assistance of our good subjects, these are to will and require you with all your friends and followers to be ready upon a call to come to our assistance at such time and place as you shall be appointed, and we do, here by assure you that what expenses you may be at shall be fully reimbursed by us and that we will stand to our former declarations in favour of the protestant religion, the liberty and property of our subjects, all which we will fully secure to them and that we will reward abundantly such as serve us faithfully, and such as do not their duty as becomes good subjects, we will punish so as shall petrify others in aftertimes from the like wicked attempts. We expect your ready obedience and therefore shall send you our commission with power to you to name your other officers, in the mean time for what you shall do in obedience to these our royal command and for raising, arming, and training of men for securing us and opposing our enemies with your utmost force these shall be to you and all others a sufficient warrant and so expecting from your loyalty fidelity all the assistance you can give us. We bid you heartily farewell. Given at our court in Dublin Castle the 29th day of March 1689 and in the fifth year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command
Melfort (John Drummond, First Earl of Melfort)



to Our Majesty and
well beloved the
said of Maryland in
America

James R

Dear Sir, and well beloved We greet you
well whereas the wickedness of our
Enemies has reduced our Affairs to
the necessity of requiring the assistance
of our good Subjects, these we to will
and require you with all your Friends
and Followers to be ready upon a Call
to come to our assistance at such
times and places as you shall be
appointed, and we do hereby advise
you that what Expenses you may be
at shall be fully reimbursed by us
and that we will stand to our
former Declaration in favour of the
Protestant Religion, the Liberty and
Property of our Subjects, all which
we will fully stand to them and
that we will reward abundantly such
as serve us faithfully, and such as
do not their Duty as becomes good

Subjects, we will punish soe as —
shall terrify others in aftertimes from
the like wicked attempts, we expect
your ready obedience and therefore shall
send you our Commission with power
to you to name your other officers, in the
meane time for what you shall doe in
obedience to these our Royall Commands
and for raising, arming, and training of
men for serving vs and opposing our
Enemies with your utmost force, these
shall be to you and all others a sufficient
warrant and soe expecting from your
loyalty & fidelity all the assistance
you can give vs we bid you heartily
farewell Given at our Court in
Dublin Castle the 29th day of
March 1689; and in the fifth yeare
of our Reigne.

By His Maj^{ty's} Command
msport

JOHN DRAUGHTON, M.P.
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