

Pope Innocent III, *Letter to the bishop of St Andrews* (Register II,29: 11 March 1199), translated by W.L. North from the edition of J.-P. Migne, *Patrologia Latina* 214, col.559 C–D.

To the bishop of St. Andrews,

Just as your fraternity indicated to us, certain pilgrims returning from the region of the city [Rome] often bring back to the judges-delegate letters with the apostolic seal, and because of their inexperience, many injuries (*multa detrimenta*) sometimes arise in the kingdom of the Scots. Now then, especially because letters obtained in this way present clear reason to suspect forgery and often contain evil-doing which we do not wish to go unpunished, we entrust [this matter] to your fraternity by these apostolic writings, ordering that if such writings should ever come into your hands, you labor with prudence to find their authors. And when they have been found, you should have them kept in custody, unless you think that they should be entrusted to their own faith because of the presence of a *fideiussor* or some other security. [And they should be kept so] until you send us a letter and are able to learn from our response what you should do with their authors and those who knowingly used these [forgeries]. Take most attentive care that people are not unjustly troubled beyond their faults on the grounds of this mandate.

Given at the Lateran, 11 March [1199].