

and even should they be sold our other creditors would demand their debts for meal. If we are badly treated and compelled to pay impossible rents and arrears, we must all go on the Parochial Board, and thus our last state would be worse than our first. Our potato crops are destroyed by frost this season, and we anticipate a famine next winter and spring. It is to be hoped that the present Government will make arrangements upon a large scale to assist a considerable number of crofters and cottars to emigrate to the colonies. The last attempt was but a drop in the bucket, and there will be thousands who will leave Lewis during the coming winter. We are both thankful and grateful that a generous Legislature has appointed your honourable Court to visit us, but we have no means of employing an agent to represent our cases before you, and few can speak English; consequently, we are at our wits' end as to how we can act, seeing we cannot pay an agent's fees. This is a short account of the situation here, and we will give you a proper welcome to our district as the representatives of Her Majesty the Queen, who has sent you to settle our grievances. How we are spotted and persecuted more than any other township in this island is a mystery to us, which your Lordship should take into serious consideration; and, for and on behalf of the Barvas crofters,

I am, &c.,
 (Signed) ALEXANDER MACLEOD.
