

**Letter from John Donne to Sir George More, 1601/1602 February 13:
autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley Park,
Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS
L.b.529, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

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Sir

From you, to whom next to God, I shall owe my health, by enjoying by your Mediation this mild change of Imprisonment, I desire to derive all my good fortune and Content in this world. And therefore with my most unfeigned thanks, present to you my humble petition that you would be pleased to hope, that as that fault which was laid to me, of having deceived some gentlewomen before, and that of louing a Corrupt Religion are vanished and smoked away (as I assure myself, out of their weakness they are, And that as the Devil in the Article of our Death takes the advantage of our weakness and fear to aggravate our Sins to our Conscience, so some uncharitable Malice hath presented my Debts double at least, So; many of the Imputations laid upon me, would fall off, if I might but shake and purge myself in your presence. But if that were done, of this Offence committed to you I cannot acquit myself. Of which yet, I hope that God, to whom for that I heartily direct many prayers, will inform you to make that use, that as of Evil Manners good Laws grow, so out of our disobedience and boldness, you will take Occasion to show Mercy and tenderness. And when it shall please God ~~you~~ to soften your hart so much towards us, as to pardon us, I beseech you also to undertake that charitable office of being my Mediator to my Lord whom as upon your just Complaint you found full of justice, I doubt not but you shall also find full of Mercy: for so is the Almighty pattern of Justice and Mercy, equally full of both. My Conscience and such Affection as in my Conscience becomes an honest man, emboldens me to make one request more, which is that by some kind and Comfortable message you would be pleased to give some ease of the afflictions which I know your Daughter in her Mind suffers; and that (if it be not against your other purposes) I may with your leave write to her; for without your leave I will never attempt any thing concerning her. God so have mercy upon me, as I am unchangeably resolved, to bend all my Courses to make me fit for her; which if God, and my Lord and you be pleased to strengthen I hope neither my Debts, which I can easily Order, nor any thing else shall interrupt. Almighty God keep you in his favor, and restore me to his and yours. From my Chamber, whether by your favor I am Come. 13th February 1601

Yours in all dutiful obedience
John Donne

leaf 1 verso || leaf 2 recto

leaf 2 verso

To the right worshipful

Sir George More knight