Letter from John Donne, "at my poor house," to Sir George More, 1614 December 3: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley Park, Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.b.538, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

leaf 1 recto

Sir
I returned not till yesternight, from my expensive journey
to Newmarket. Where I have received from the King, as good
allowance, and encouragement to pursue my purpose, as I
could desire. Whilst I was there, I found that my Lord Chamberlain,
refused to swear a Gentleman into a place of Grolme of
the chamber, after he had bargained for it, because he
was a Servant to my Lord of Canterbury. This, and some
other lights make me see, that matters stand not so well
between them, but that they are likely to oppose one another's
dependants. Before I go about to seek my Lord of Canterbury,
I would gladly, if I could, discern his inclination to
me, and ~~if~~ whether he have any conjecture upon my relation
to my Lord Chamberlain which ~~he~~ is very likely to have come to his
knowledge, since my going, by reason of his Lordship's more open
avowing me, then heretofore. If therefore, you have taken
any occasion to speak with his Grace, since I desired that favor
of you, and have perceived any thing thereby, which you think
fit that I should know before your coming hither, I humbly
beseech you to let me understand it, when any Servant of
yours hath occasion to come to London: that I may use my best
means of disposing him towards it. My Lord Chamberlain hath
laid his commandment upon the Master of Requests, to forbear
to move the king in the other business, for any man; though I saw
the Bill, for the King's hand, and saw that it was still earnestly
pursued out of York House. His Lordship hath assured me, that
it shall sleep, till I move him to set it afoot hereafter,
when my Son, or any for me may have profit thereby. With
which purpose I will acquaint my Lord Chancellor, and humbly entreat
him, that it may be so. And so, sir, with my humble duty to
you, and your poor daughters, I leave you to our most blessed Savior.

Yours ever to be commanded
John Donne.
At my poor house.
3 December 1614.

leaf 1 verso