

**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.**

leaf 1 recto

S^r

From yo^w, to whom next to God, I shall owe my health, by enioyeng by yo^r Mediacon this mild change of Imprisonm^t, I desire to deriue all my good fortune and Content in this world. And therefore wth my most vnfeyned thanks, p^sent to yo^w my humble peticon that yo^w would be pleasd to hope, that as that fault w^{ch} was layd to me, of hauing deceiud some gentlewomen before, and that of loving a Corrupt Religion are vanishd and smoakd away (as I assure my self, owt of theyr weaknes they are, And that as the Deuyll in the Article of o^r Death takes the aduantage of o^r weaknes and fear to aggrauate o^r Sinns to o^r Conscience, so some vncharitable Malice hath presented my Debts doble at least, So; many of the Imputacons layd vpon me, would fall of, if I might but shake and purge my self in yo^r p^sence. But if that were donne, of this Offence committed to yo^w I cannot acquit my self. Of w^{ch} yet, I hope that God, to whom for that I hartily direct many prayers, wyll informe yo^w to make that vse, that as of Euyll Manners good Lawes growe, so owt of o^r disobedience and boldnes, yo^w wyll take Occasion to show Mercy and tendernes. And when yt shall please ^{^god} y^e to soften yo^r hart so much towards vs, as to pardon vs, I beseech yo^w allso to vndertake that charitable office of beeing my Mediator to my L: whom as vpon yo^r iust Complaint yo^w found full of iustice, I doubt not but yo^w shall allso find full of Mercy: for so ys the Almighty pattern of Iustice and Mercy, equally full of bothe. My Conscience and such Affection as in my Conscience becomes an honest man, emboldneth me to make one request more, w^{ch} ys that by some kind and Comfortable message yo^w would be pleasd to giue some ease of the afflictions w^{ch} I know yo^r Daughter in her Mind suffers; and that (if it be not against yo^r other purposes) I may wth yo^r leaue wright to her; for wth owt yo^r leaue I wyll never attempt any thing concerning her. God so haue mercy vpon me, as I ame vnchangeably resolvd, to bend all my Courses to make me fitt for her; w^{ch} if God, and my L: and yo^w be pleasd to strengthen I hope neyther my Debts, w^{ch} I can easily Order, nor any thing els shall interrupt. Allmighty god keepe yo^w in his fauor, and restore me to his and yo^{rs}. From my Chamber, whether by yo^r fauor I ame Come. 13^o
Feb: 1601

Yo^{rs} in all dutifull obedience
I: Donne

leaf 1 verso || leaf 2 recto

leaf 2 verso

To the right wor^{pl}
S^r George More knight