

**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 their weaknes they are, And that as the Deuyll in the Article of o^r Death takes the aduan-tadge of o^r weaknes and fear to aggrauate o^r Sinns to o^r Conscience, so some vn-charitable 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} yo^w 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 Affec-tion 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. Almighty 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^d
S^r George More knight