

**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

Sir

From yow, to whom next to God, I shall owe my health, by enioyeng by your Mediacion this mild change of Imprisonment, I desire to deriue all my good fortune and Content in this world. And therefore with my most vnfeyned thanks, present to yow my humble petition that yow would be pleasd to hope, that as that fault which 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 our Death takes the aduantage of our weaknes and fear to aggrauate our Sinns to our Conscience, so some vncharitable Malice hath presented my Debts doble at least, So; many of the Imputacions layd vpon me, would fall of, if I might but shake and purge my self in your presence. But if that were donne, of this Offence committed to yow I cannot acquit my self. Of which yet, I hope that God, to whom for that I hartily direct many prayers, wyll informe yow to make that vse, that as of Euyll Manners good Lawes growe, so owt of our disobedience and boldnes, yow wyll take Occasion to show Mercy and tendernes. And when yt shall please <sup>^god</sup> yow to soften your hart so much towards vs, as to pardon vs, I beseech yow also to vndertake that charitable office of beeing my Mediator to my Lord whom as vpon your iust Complaint yow found full of iustice, I doubt not but yow shall also 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, which ys that by some kind and Comfortable message yow would be pleasd to giue 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 leaue wright to her; for without your 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; which if God, and my Lord and yow be pleasd to strengthen I hope neyther my Debts, which I can easily Order, nor any thing els shall interrupt. Allmighty god keepe yow in his fauor, and restore me to his and yours. From my Chamber, whether by your fauor I ame Come. 13<sup>o</sup> Februarii 1601

Yours in all dutifull obedience  
Iohn Donne

leaf 1 verso || leaf 2 recto

leaf 2 verso

To the right worshipfull

Sir George More knight