

**Letter from Christopher Brooke, Marshalsea Prison, to Sir Thomas Egerton, 1601/1602 February 25: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley Park, Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.b.531, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

May it please y<sup>r</sup> good Lp

What myne offence is, beinge singled out by it selfe, none can better iudge then y<sup>r</sup> Honour, whoe vnderstand what man can vnderstand, & iustly censure greater every day. And perhaps it should bee indiscreetly done, to offer to yo<sup>r</sup> Lps eares (filled necessarily every houre w<sup>th</sup> the complaints of the whole Realme) such circūstances, as might diminishe this poore fault of ~~myne~~ myne. Therefore I spare, yet will bee bold, my Lord, to say, that they are as many, as those y<sup>t</sup> can bee founde out to aggravate the same. My Lord, it was inioyned, y<sup>t</sup> I should make some submission. I haue drawn one out of my hart, & writt it w<sup>th</sup> myne owne hande, & sent it to his Grace, & the Rest of the Comissioners for those causes wherein I have confessed myne offence against the Canon Lawes, & Constitucons provinciall of this Realme, & have testified my sorrowe for the whole fact. What other satisfacōn I (but such an offender as I am) should make, I knowe not, but I allwayes submitt myselfe. ffor S<sup>r</sup> George Moore (my Lord) I knew then neyther his parson nor his Estate, much lesse y<sup>t</sup> worthy favour, in w<sup>ch</sup> (yo<sup>r</sup> Lp wittnes) he standeth w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Honour. ffor, my Lord, if I had (as vnwise as I am) I would have chosen rather to haue vndergone for M<sup>r</sup> Donne some other more apparant daunger. And pardon me a word for him my Lord, were it not nowe best, y<sup>t</sup> every one, whome he any way concerns, should become his favourer or his frind, whoe wants (my good Lord) but fortunes handes & tonge to reare him vpp, & sett him out. ffor my part, my L, besides these other thinges I am held from the sittinge at yorke, already foure dayes since begunne, where (in my silly fortune, such as it is) my profitablest practise lies. And I protest, my Lord, y<sup>t</sup> thereby I am indaungered to loose my mothers favoure, whome I seeme to forsake in her greatest businesses, whose favoure is the best part of my strenght & meanes of well-doinge. Wherefore my humble request vnto y<sup>r</sup> Lp is, y<sup>t</sup> youe would bee soe good L vnto me as to discharge me & my suerties of y<sup>t</sup> Recognisance of 1500 1100<sup>lb</sup>. That when it shall please his Grace & the Rest to deliuer me from the marshalsee, whereof I have hope I may noe longer, my L, bee staid from those businesses in the Cuntry, whereof I have nowe more, then yet in all my lyfe I ever had. Thus I most humbly take my leave, & betake y<sup>r</sup> Lp to Gods protecōn. This 25<sup>th</sup> of ffebruary 1601. from the marshalsee.

y<sup>r</sup> Honours in all humble service  
ever to bee comaunded  
Chr: Bruke

**leaf 1 verso**

**leaf 2 recto**

**leaf 2 verso**

To the Right Honourable Sr  
Thomas Egerton knight  
Lord Keeper of the great  
Seale of England