

Letter from John Donne to Sir Thomas Egerton, 1602 February: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley Park, Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.b.534, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

leaf 1 recto

The honorable fauor that y^r lp hath afforded me, in allowinge me the liberty of myne own Chamber, hath giuen me leaue so much to respect and loue my self, that now I can desire to be well. And therefore, for health, not pleasure, (of w^{ch} y^r lps displeasure hath dulld in me all tast and ap=
prehension) I humbly beseeche y^r lp, so much more to slacken my fetters, that as I ame by y^r lps fa=
uor, myne own keeper, and Surety, so I may be myne owne phisician and Apothecary: w^{ch} y^r lp shall worke, yf yo^w graunt me Liberty to take the Ayre, about this Towne. The whole world ys a streight Imprisonm^t to me, whilst I ame barrd y^r lps sight. But this fauor may lengthen and better my lyfe, w^{ch} I desire to p^rserve, onely in hope to redeeme by my sorrowe, and desire to do y^r lp Seruice, my Offence past. Almighty god dwell euer in y^r ls hart, and fill yt wth good desires, and graunt them.

Yo^r lps
poorest seruant
I: Donne

leaf 1 verso || leaf 2 recto

leaf 2 verso

To the right honorable
my very good Lord and
Master, S^r Thomas Eger=
ton knight, L: keeper of
the great seale of
England.