

**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<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>r</sup> lps displeasure hath dulld in me all tast and ap=  
prehension) I humbly beseeche y<sup>r</sup> lp, so much more to slacken my fetters, that as I ame by y<sup>r</sup> lps fa=  
uor, myne own keeper, and Surety, so I may be myne owne phisician and Apothecary: w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>r</sup> lp shall worke, yf yo<sup>w</sup> graunt me Liberty to take the Ayre, about this Towne. The whole world ys a streight Imprisonm<sup>t</sup> to me, whilst I ame barrd y<sup>r</sup> lps sight. But this fauor may lengthen and better my lyfe, w<sup>ch</sup> I desire to p<sup>r</sup>serve, onely in hope to redeeme by my sorrowe, and desire to do y<sup>r</sup> lp Seruice, my Offence past. Almighty god dwell euer in y<sup>r</sup> ls hart, and fill yt w<sup>th</sup> good desires, and graunt them.

Yo<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Thomas Eger=  
ton knight, L: keeper of  
the great seale of  
England.