

**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 favor that your lordship hath afforded me,  
in allowing me the liberty of mine own Chamber,  
hath given me leave so much to respect and love  
myself, that now I can desire to be well. And  
therefore, for health, not pleasure, (of which your lordship's  
displeasure hath dulled in me all taste and apprehension)  
I humbly beseech your lordship, so much more  
to slacken my fetters, that as I am by your lordship's favor,  
mine own keeper, and Surety, so I may be mine  
own physician and Apothecary: which your lordship shall  
work, if you grant me Liberty to take the  
Air, about this Town. The whole world is a  
straight Imprisonment to me, whilst I am barred  
your lordship's sight. But this favor may lengthen  
and better my life, which I desire to preserve, only  
in hope to redeem by my sorrow, and desire to do  
your lordship Service, my Offence past. Almighty God  
dwell ever in your lordship's heart, and fill it with good  
desires, and grant them.

Your Lordship's  
poorest servant  
John Donne

**leaf 1 verso || leaf 2 recto**

**leaf 2 verso**

To the right honorable  
my very good Lord and  
Master, Sir Thomas Egerton  
knight, Lord keeper of  
the great seal of  
England.