

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 *your lordship* 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 *which your lordships* displeasure hath dulld in me all tast and apprehension) I humbly beseeche *your lordship*, so much more to slacken my fetters, that as I ame by *your lordships* fauor, myne own keeper, and Surety, so I may be myne owne phisician and Apothecary: *which your lordship* shall worke, yf yow graunt me Liberty to take the Ayre, about this Towne. The whole world ys a streight Imprisonment to me, whilst I ame barrd *your lordships* sight. But this fauor may lengthen and better my lyfe, *which* I desire to preserue, onely in hope to redeeme by my sorrowe, and desire to do *your lordship* Seruice, my Offence past. Almighty god dwell euer in *your lordships* hart, and fill yt with good desires, and graunt them.

Your *lordships*
poorest seruant
Iohn 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 seale of
England.