

**Letter from John Donne, Amiens, to Sir Robert More, 1612 February 7:
autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley Park,
Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS
L.b.535, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

Sr

Thys ys my second letter to yo^w; that ys, my second fault. For letters from thys barren place, are well inough accepted, if they bee pardoned: we hear from paris (but I thinke scarce so soone as yo^w do) that the extreame great Confluence of all the princes and great persons thether, with so great traine, as haue not beeneⁱⁿ use before, breed generall ialousyes and suspitions, though yt appear not yet where the sore wyll break. But one resultance owt of all ys easily discovered, that the Religion ys like to suffer in france. For y^e D: of Bouillon ys so united to the great ones, especially to the Regent, and her purposes, as he neglects that party, w^{ch} vsed to receiue fauor and hart from hys good disposition towards them. The D: of Sully desperate of returne to any greatnes. and for hys sonne y^e Marquis of Rosny, he ys yet under the affliction of an importunity and sollicitation to resigne hys great office, of great M^r of the Artillery: and very like to loose yt. and hys grandfather, l'esdiguieres, (by a mariage) receiues but yll satisfaction, beeing come braue and stronge to paris to giue countenance to y^e yonge Marquis hys pursuite of hys right, for retaininge that office. So that I can not perceiue but that they are very willinge, that those of y^e Religion should be discontent: that so yt might eyther appear how much they are able to do, and where theyr strength consists; or that some act of discontent from them, might occasion and iustify seuere proceedings against them. for in the last Assembly, w^{ch} was afforded them, when they presented onely petitions for y^e ratifyenge and due executinge of things granted vnto them by former Edicts, they found the passages so dull, and dilatory, as theyr tyme expir'd before they had any particular awn=swere; and now when they send deputyes to the Court, to sollicite a new Assembly, they finde the same difficultyes. And that w^{ch} affects them ~~me~~ as much, as any of these affronts donne to the sword=

leaf 1 verso

men, ys, a danger of Servin, the Kings Attorney. He ys a Catholique, but a french Catholique. And, S^r, french-papistry, ys but like french veluet: a prety slack Religion that would soone wear owt; and not of the three-piled papistry of Italy and Spayne. As he doth, in all such occasions, so in thys last Arrest w^{ch} concernd the Iesuits, he used much vehemency against them. And though upon y^e Iesuite Cotton hys importunity, Servin and y^e Iudge, (that ys y^e president)

beeinge contracted by the Q: Regent, gaue so good a iustificatiō
of all that they had donne in that pleadinge, and that Arrest, a-
gainst y^e Iesuits, that shee then seemed then to desist from hear
movinge any modification of y^e arrest, yet a Cardinall hath
since that tyme told Servin, that hys best way ys, to dispatche
himselpe of y^t place. w^{ch} he vnderstands for a liberty to sell
ytt, or a warninge that otherway^ese he may loose all. So y^t, s^r,
as I sayd at first, all that directly or obliquely might succor y^e
Religion, suffer great diminutions. The Edict against Duells
hath been lately infringed much. And wyll be oftner, if the Q:
be not severe in the observinge of it; by reason of the very many,
and very different sortes of people at thys tyme, at paris. Two or
three haue been committed for y^e breach of yt, and remaine so; but
as yet I haue heard of no seuerer prosecution. I beseech yo^w p-
sent my humble thanks and services, where y^w know they are due.
I should not haue forborne to haue written to s^r Th: Grymes, if
thys place gaue any thinge w^{ch} he desird to know. To hym and to
hys lady, I ame bound to do better offices, then words and letters
are, if my fortune could expresse yt. When there ys any way
open to yo^w, to send into the wight, I pray giue thys letter a pas=
sage. If one could not gett to that Ile, but by the northwest
discouery, I ^{could not} thinke the returns so difficult and dilatory. for yet
I haue had no returne from thence of any letter, since my com-
minge out of England. and thye thys silence, especially at thys tyme,
when I make account that yo^r sister ys near her paynfull and dange=
rous passadge, doth somewhat more affect mee, then I had thought
any thinge of thys world could haue donne. Good s^r, if pchance any
letter come to yo^w from thence, do me the fauer to send yt to M^r Iohn
Bruer, at y^e Q: armes, a Mercer in chepside, [◇] [◇] any
thinge wyll safely be brought to y^r Affectionate frinde & servant

Amyens. 7. Febr: here.

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I: Donne