

**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

Sir

This is my second letter to you; that is, my second fault. For letters from this barren place, are well enough accepted, if they be pardoned: we hear from Paris (but I think scarce so soon as you do) that the extreme great Confluence of all the princes and great persons thither, with so great train, as have not been in use before, breed general jealousies and suspicions, though it appear not yet where the sore will break. But one resultance out of all is easily discovered, that the Religion is like to suffer in France. For the Duke of Bouillon is so united to the great ones, especially to the Regent, and her purposes, as he neglects that party, which used to receive favor and heart from his good disposition towards them. The Duke of Sully desperate of return to any greatness. and for his son the Marquis of Rosny, he is yet under the affliction of an importunity and sollicitation to resign his great office, of great Master of the Artillery: and very like to loose it. and his grandfather, Lesdigières, (by a marriage) receives but ill satisfaction, being come brave and strong to Paris to give countenance to the young Marquis his pursuit of his right, for retaining that office. So that I can not perceive but that they are very willing, that those of the Religion should be discontent: that so it might either appear how much they are able to do, and where their strength consists; or that some act of discontent from them, might occasion and justify severe proceedings against them. for in the last Assembly, which was afforded them, when they presented only petitions for the ratifying and due executing of things granted unto them by former Edicts, they found the passages so dull, and dilatory, as their time expir'd before they had any particular answer; and now when they send deputies to the Court, to solicit a new Assembly, they find the same difficulties. And that which affects them ~~me~~ as much, as any of these affronts done to the sword-

leaf 1 verso

men, is, a danger of Servin, the Kings Attorney. He is a Catholic, but a french Catholic. And, Sir, french-papistry, is but like french velvet: a pretty slack Religion that would soon wear out; and not of the three-piled papistry of Italy and Spain. As he doth, in all such occasions, so in this last Arrest which concerned the Jesuits, he used much vehemence against them. And though upon the Jesuit Cotton his importunity, Servin and the Judge, (that is the president)

being contracted by the Queen Regent, gave so good a justification of all that they had done in that pleading, and that Arrest, against the Jesuits, that she then seemed ~~then~~ to desist from ~~hear~~ moving any modification of the arrest, yet a Cardinal hath since that time told Servin, that his best way is, to dispatch himself of that place. which he understands for a liberty to sell it, or a warning that otherwayese he may loose all. So that, sir, as I said at first, all that directly or obliquely might succour the Religion, suffer great diminutions. The Edict against Duels hath been lately infringed much. And will be oftener, if the Queen be not severe in the observing of it; by reason of the very many, and very different sorts of people at this time, at Paris. Two or three have been committed for the breach of it, and remain so; but as yet I have heard of no severer prosecution. I beseech you present my humble thanks and services, where you know they are due. I should not have forborne to have written to sir Thomas Grymes, if this place gave any thing which he desired to know. To him and to his lady, I am bound to do better offices, then words and letters are, if my fortune could express it. When there is any way open to you, to send into the wight, I pray give this letter a passage. If one could not get to that Isle, but by the northwest discovery, I could not think the returns so difficult and dilatory. for yet I have had no return from thence of any letter, since my coming out of England. And ~~thye~~ this silence, especially at this time, when I make account that your sister is near her painful and dangerous passage, doth somewhat more affect me, then I had thought any thing of this world could have done. Good sir, if perchance any letter come to you from thence, do me the favor to send it to Master John Bruer, at the Queen arms, a Mercer in Cheapside, [◇] [◇] anything will safely be brought to your Affectionate friend & servant

Amiens.7.February here.

1611.

John Donne