

**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

Thys ys my second letter to yow; 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 yow do) that the extreame great Confluence of all the princes and great persons thether, with so great traine, as haue not beene<sup>m</sup> 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 *the Duke* of Bouillon ys so united to the great ones, especially to the Regent, and her purposes, as he neglects that party, *which* vsed to receiue fauor and hart from hys good disposition towards them. The *Duke* of Sully desperate of returne to any greatnes. and for hys sonne *the Marquis* of Rosny, he ys yet under the affliction of an importunity and sollicitation to resigne hys great office, of great *Master* of the Artillery: and very like to loose yt. and hys grandfather, l'esdiguieres, (by a mariage) receiues but yll satisfaction, beeinge come braue and stronge to paris to giue countenance to *the 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 *the 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, *which* was afforded them, when they presented onely petitions for *the 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 awnswere; and now when they send deputyes to the Court, to sollicite a new Assembly, they finde the same difficultyes. And that *which* affects them ~~m~~ as much, as any of these affronts donne to the sword=

leaf 1 verso

men, ys, a danger of Seruin, the Kings Attorney. He ys a Catholique, but a french Catholique. And, Sir, 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 *which* concernd the Iesuits, he used much vehemency against them. And though upon *the Iesuite Cotton* hys importunity, Seruin and *the Iudge*, (that ys *the president*)

beeinge contracted by the *Queen* Regent, gaue so good a iustification of all that they had donne in that pleadinge, and that Arrest, against *the* Iesuits, that shee then seemed ~~then~~ to desist from ~~hear~~ movinge any modification of *the* arrest, yet a Cardinall hath since that tyme told Seruin, that hys best way ys, to dispatche himselfe of *that* place. *which* he vnderstands for a liberty to sell ytt, or a warninge that otherway<sup>e</sup>se he may loose all. So *that*, sir, as I sayd at first, all that directly or obliquely might succor *the* Religion, suffer great diminutions. The Edict against Duells hath been lately infringed much. And wyll be oftner, if the *Queen* be not severe in the obseruinge 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 *the* breach of yt, and remaine so; but as yet I haue heard of no seuerer prosecution. I beseech yow present my humble thanks and services, where yow know they are due. I should not haue forborne to haue written to sir Thomas Grymes, if thys place gaue any thinge *which* 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 yow, to send into the wight, I pray giue thys letter a passage. If one could not gett to that Ile, but by the northwest discouery, I <sup>could not</sup> thinke the returns so difficult and dilatory. for yet I haue had no returne from thence of any letter, since my cominge out of England. and ~~thye~~ thys silence, especially at thys tyme, when I make account that *your* sister ys near her paynfull and dangerous passadge, doth somewhat more affect mee, then I had thought any thinge of thys world could haue donne. Good sir, if perchance any letter come to yow from thence, do me the fauer to send yt to Master Iohn Bruer, at *the Queen* armes, a Mercer in chepside, [◇] [◇] any thinge wyll safely be brought to *your* Affectionate frinde & servant

Amyens. 7. Februarii here.

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Iohn Donne