

**Letter from John Donne, Covent Garden, to Sir Robert More, Loseley, 1614
July 28: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of Loseley
Park, Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO).
MS L.b.537, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

S^r

Our predecessors were neuer so conquered by y^e Danes
as I ame at thys tyme. for theyr comminge haue put
my litle Court busines out of y^e way, and dispossessed
me of so neer hopes, as lackd litle of possession.
I must confes my weaknes in thys behalfe; no man
attends court fortunes wth more impatience then I
do. I esteeme nothinge more inexcusable, then to
attend them chargeably, nor any expence so chargeable,
as that of tyme. I ame so angry at theyr comminge,
that I haue not so much as inquir'd why they came.
But they are euen wth mee; for, in truthe, they came
for nothinge. Statesmen, who can finde matter of
state, in any wrinkle in y^e kings socks, thinke that
he came for y^e busines of Cleue. but whether for
hys brother Saxon, or hys Cousin Brandenbourge, I
do not hear that he can tell. And the low-Country
men, thys last year, did hym such an affront, at hys
great Custome-place, the Sondt, that some thinke
he comes to vnderstand o^r kings disposition in y^t busi=
nes, if he ^{shall} go about to right himselfe vpon them. Others
thinke he came to correct o^r enormity of yellow bands,
by presentinge as many, as blew. For my particular opi=
nion, I thinke, he came to defeat mee, and retard my busines.
He came vpon fryday, and he goes vpon monday; and these two
termes limit are his history; for he doth nothinge between.
He hath brought with hym hys Chanceler, and hys Admirall; and
ys otherwise well attended. He ships 100 horse; but sent

leaf 1 verso

them back, after he had been a day at sea. He pretended
to go into Germany; but after he was at sea, he disco=
verd hys purpose; and accordingly left a Commission for y^e
gouernment, to be opened, after he had been certaine
dayes away. The rest of hys history, yo^w may finde, I
thinke, in some part of Amadis y^e Gaule, at yo^r leysure.
I wyll not contribute so much to myne own ill fortune,
nor ioyne w^t her in a treason against myselfe, so much
as to be absent now, when my absence may give perchance
occasion, perchance excuse to others of slacknes in my busines.
therefore I have neglected my pleasure, and y^e litle circum=
stance of my health, (for in good faythe, my lyfe yt=

selfe ys no great Circumstance to mee) w^{ch} I intended by
goinge into y^e Cuntry. Therfor, s^r, I send backe yo^r horse,
in as good case, as so longe rest in y^e Coven garden
can make hym. If I finde yt necessary to go, I wyll
be bold to aske yo^w, by an expresse Messenger againe,
whether yo^w can spare him then, or no. yo^r poore sister
remembers her loue to yo^r selfe and all yo^r company. So^{do} I,
s^r, who ame euer

Yo^{rs} to be commanded
I: Donne.
At my poore Hospitall
28 Iulii 1614

leaf 2 recto

This ~~Mr. Donne~~^{Donne} Married One of S^r George
Mores Daughters
against his Consent

leaf 2 verso

To the righte wor: S^r
Robert More knight
At Lothesley.