

**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

Sir

Our predecessors were neuer so conquered by *the* Danes  
as I ame at thys tyme. for theyr comminge haue put  
my litle Court busines out of *the* 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 with more impatience then I  
do. I esteeme nothings 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 with mee; for, in truthe, they came  
for nothings. Statesmen, who can finde matter of  
state, in any wrinkle in *the* kings socks, thinke that  
he came for *the* 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 our kings disposition in *that* busi=  
nes, if he <sup>shall</sup> go about to right himselfe vpon them. Others  
thinke he came to correct our 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 nothings 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 *the*  
gouerment, to be opened, after he had been certaine  
dayes away. The rest of hys history, yow may finde, I  
thinke, in some part of Amadis *the* Gaule, at your leysure.  
I wyll not contribute so much to myne own ill fortune,  
nor ioyne *with* 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 *the* litle circum=  
stance of my health, (for in good faythe, my lyfe yt=

selfe ys no great Circumstance to mee) *which* I intended by  
goinge into *the* Cuntry. Therfor, *sir*, I send backe your horse,  
in as good case, as so longe rest in *the* Coven garden  
can make hym. If I finde yt necessary to go, I wyll  
be bold to aske yow, by an expresse Messenger againe,  
whether yow can spare him then, or no. your poore sister  
remembers her loue to your selfe and all your company. So <sup>do</sup> I,  
*sir*, who ame euer

Yours to be commanded  
*Iohn* Donne.  
At my poore Hospitall  
28 Iulii 1614

**leaf 2 recto**

This ~~Mr. Donne~~<sup>Donne</sup> Married One of Sir George  
Mores Daughters  
against his Consent

**leaf 2 verso**

To the righte *worshipful* Sir  
Robert More knight  
At Lothesley.