

**Letter from John Donne, "at my poor house," to Sir George More, 1614  
December 3: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the More family of  
Loseley Park, Surrey. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online  
(EMMO). MS L.b.538, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

S<sup>r</sup>

I returnd not tyll yesternight, from my expensive iourney  
to Newmarket. Where I haue receyvd fro y<sup>e</sup> Kinge, as good  
allowance, and encoragement to pursue my purpose, as I  
could desire. Whilst I was there, I found y<sup>t</sup> my L: chamber=  
lane, refus'd to swear a Gent: into a place of Grolme of  
y<sup>e</sup> chamber, after he had bargaind for yt, because he  
was a Servant to my L: of Canterbury. Thys, and some  
other lights make me see, that matters stand not so well  
between them, but y<sup>t</sup> they are likely to oppose one anothers  
dependants. Before I go about to seeke my L: of Canter-  
bury, I would gladly, if I could, discerne hys inclination to  
me, and if whether he haue any coniecture upon my relatiō  
to my L: chamberl: w<sup>ch</sup> ^he ys very likely to haue come to hys  
knowledge, since my goinge, by reason of hys Lps more open  
avowinge me, then heretofore. If therefore, yo<sup>w</sup> haue taken  
any occasion to speake w<sup>th</sup> hys Grace, since I desired y<sup>t</sup> fauer  
of yo<sup>w</sup>, and haue perceyvd any thinge therby, w<sup>ch</sup> yo<sup>w</sup> thinke  
fytt y<sup>t</sup> I should know before y<sup>r</sup> comminge hether, I humbly  
besecche yo<sup>w</sup> to let me understand it, when any Servant of  
y<sup>r</sup>s hath occasion to come to London: y<sup>t</sup> I may use my best  
meanes of disposing hym towards yt. My L: chamb: hath  
layd hys commandement upon y<sup>e</sup> M<sup>r</sup> of Requests, to forbear  
to move y<sup>e</sup> k: in y<sup>e</sup> other busines, for any man; though I saw  
y<sup>e</sup> Byll, for y<sup>e</sup> kings hande, and saw y<sup>t</sup> it was styll earnestly  
pursued out of yorkhouse. Hys Lp hath assurd me, that  
yt shall sleepe, tyll I move hym to sett yt afoote hereaf-  
ter, when my Sonne, or any for mee <sup>may</sup>^ haue profit therby. W<sup>th</sup>  
w<sup>ch</sup> purpose I wyll acquaint my L: chancelor, and humbly in-  
treat hym, y<sup>t</sup> it may be so. And so, s<sup>r</sup>, w<sup>th</sup> my humble duty to  
yo<sup>w</sup>, and yo<sup>r</sup> poore daughters, I leave yo<sup>w</sup> to our most blessed Sa=  
uyor.

yours euer to be comāded

I: Donne.

At my poore house.

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