

**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.**

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Sir

I returnd not tyll yesternight, from my expensive iourney  
to Newmarket. Where I haue receyvd from *the* Kinge, as good  
allowance, and encoragement to pursue my purpose, as I  
could desire. Whilst I was there, I found *that* my *Lord* chamber=  
lane, refus'd to swear a *Gentleman* into a place of Grolme of  
*the* chamber, after he had bargaind for yt, because he  
was a Servant to my *Lord* of Canterbury. Thys, and some  
other lights make me see, that matters stand not so well  
between them, but *that* they are likely to oppose one anothers  
dependants. Before I go about to seeke my *Lord* of Canter-  
bury, I would gladly, if I could, discern e hys inclination to  
me, and if whether he haue any coniecture upon my relation  
to my *Lord* chamberlain which <sup>he</sup> ys very likely to haue come to hys  
knowledge, since my goinge, by reason of hys *Lordships* more open  
avowinge me, then heretofore. If therefore, yow haue taken  
any occasion to speake with hys Grace, since I desired *that* fauer  
of yow, and haue perceyvd any thinge therby, which yow thinke  
fytt *that* I should know before *your* comminge hether, I humbly  
besecche yow to let me understand it, when any Servant of  
*yours* hath occasion to come to London: *that* I may use my best  
meanes of disposinge hym towards yt. My *Lord* chamberlain hath  
layd hys commandement upon *the* Master of Requests, to forbear  
to move *the king* in *the* other busines, for any man; though I saw  
*the* Byll, for *the* kings hande, and saw *that* it was styll earnestly  
pursued out of yorkhouse. Hys *Lordship* 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. With  
which purpose I wyll acquaint my *Lord* chancelor, and humbly in-  
treat hym, *that* it may be so. And so, sir, with my humble duty to  
yow, and *your* poore daughters, I leave yow to our most blessed Sa=  
uyor.

yours euer to be commanded

Iohn Donne.

At my poore house.

3 December i6i4.

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