

**Letter from Richard Napier, Linford, Buckinghamshire, to unidentified recipient, 1631/1632 January 1: autograph manuscript signed. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS X.c.24, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

Thrice honored lady. It is not my use, to be  
troublesome to my much honoured friends.  
but when I am much importuned & that  
by mine own minister, of whose learning  
& preaching I and my, good neighbors  
have had good experience, I am Informed  
that the last minister Mr Pon is very lately  
departed out of this vale of misery. & by that  
means, you are destitute of one that can  
supply the place, these are therefore to entreat  
this favor at the ladyship's hands  
that at my request you will be pleased to  
admit of Mr Ruddle my minister  
into the vacant place, if you shall find  
him better qualified for learning & preaching  
then any other that happily may be offered  
unto your choice, I do hear that your ladyship  
doth affect some other,. but no way comparable  
for ought I can understand with Mr Ruddle  
as you may easily find, if it shall please  
you to make trial of him, I make no  
doubt but Mr Ruddle will not only show  
himself A serviceable, but also very thankful  
to them that shall gratify him in this his suit  
thus hoping that your ladyship will vouchsafe  
him some favour in this first petition that ever I  
motioned to your ladyship, I will cease to be more troublesome  
unto you & will ever rest

Your ladyship's ever to be  
commanded  
Richard Napier  
Linford January the first  
1631

leaf 1 verso