# First-Line Index and Complete Text of the 1654 Prose Letters

## First-Line Index

For convenience of reference, we have numbered the letters in the volume consecutively, from 1 to 129. This list gives each letter's number, its first few words, its addressee, and the page numbers on which it appears in the volume. The list of addressees is not regularized or corrected, but rather reports what is given in the text except that when the addressee is implied (as in "To your selfe"), the name of the addressee has been supplied in brackets. For those letters for which no addressee is either specified or implied, the bracketed name has been supplied by the editors of the forthcoming Oxford edition of the letters.

Note: in this index the first line of each letter is a hot link; left-clicking on it takes the user to the beginning of the letter in the complete text below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter #</th>
<th>First Words</th>
<th>Addressee</th>
<th>Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I could make some guesse</td>
<td>Bridget White</td>
<td>1–2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I think the letters which I send to you</td>
<td>Mis. B. W.</td>
<td>3–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>This letter which I send enclosed hath</td>
<td>To the same [Bridget White]</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I have but small comfort in this letter</td>
<td>Mrs. B. W.</td>
<td>5–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>These things which God dissolves at</td>
<td>Lady Kingsmel</td>
<td>7–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I make account that this writing of letters</td>
<td>T. Lucey</td>
<td>11–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I make accompt that this book hath</td>
<td>Edward Herbert</td>
<td>20–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>I had need do somewhat towards you</td>
<td>Robert Carre</td>
<td>21–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Amongst many other dignities which</td>
<td>Countesse of Bedford</td>
<td>22–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Of my ability to doe your ladiship</td>
<td>Countess of Montgomery</td>
<td>24–26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>If a whole year be but Annus ab Annulo</td>
<td>Sir H. R.</td>
<td>26–31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>This letter hath more merit, then one</td>
<td>Sir H. G.</td>
<td>31–37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>I Am sorry, if your care of me have made</td>
<td>George Garet</td>
<td>37–38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>I have not received that Letter, which by</td>
<td>George Garet</td>
<td>38–39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Though there be much merit, in the</td>
<td>Martha Garet</td>
<td>40–41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>It is an ease to your friends abroad, that</td>
<td>Thomas Roe</td>
<td>41–42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>I am not weary of writing; it is the</td>
<td>H. Goodere</td>
<td>42–48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Every Tuesday I make account that I turn</td>
<td>H. Goodere</td>
<td>48–54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>If this which I send you inclosed give me</td>
<td>H. Goodere</td>
<td>54–57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>It is in our State ever held for a good sign</td>
<td>To the same [H. Goodere]</td>
<td>58–60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>It should be no interruption to your</td>
<td>Sir H.G.</td>
<td>61–64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Though my friendship be good for</td>
<td>[Goodere]</td>
<td>65–66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>I do not remember that ever I have seen a</td>
<td>Countesse of Bedford</td>
<td>67–68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Because things be conserved by the same</td>
<td>H. Goodere</td>
<td>68–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>I hope you are now welcome to London</td>
<td>Sir H.G.</td>
<td>70–73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>I writ to you once this week before; yet</td>
<td>Sir G. F.</td>
<td>73–78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Because I am in a place and season where</td>
<td>Sir H.G.</td>
<td>78–80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>You may remember that long since</td>
<td>H. Goodere</td>
<td>81–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>You husband my time thriftily, when</td>
<td>Sir H.G.</td>
<td>82–85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>This Tuesday morning, which hath</td>
<td>Sir H.G.</td>
<td>85–88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>If this Letter find you in a progresse, or</td>
<td>To your selfe [Goodere]</td>
<td>89–93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
32 I am near the execution of that purpose  
33 Nature hath made all bodies alike, by  
34 At some later reading, I was more  
35 If you were here, you would not think  
36 I send not my Letters as tribute, nor  
37 Sir Germander Pool, your noble friend and  
38 In the History or style of friendship  
39 Because evenness conduces as much to  
40 I would not omit this, not Commodity  
41 That which is at first but a visitation  
42 If I would go out of my way for excuses  
43 All our moralities are but our  
44 I write to you out of my poor  
45 When I saw your good Countesse  
46 This 14 of November last I received  
47 Though you escape my lifting up of  
48 Your Son left here a Letter for me  
49 I love to give you advantages upon me  
50 I gave no answer to the Letter I received  
51 I have but one excuse for not sending  
52 To you that are not easily scandalized  
53 This evening which is 5 October, I  
54 I receive this 14 your Letter of the 10  
55 After I have told you, that the Lady  
56 It is true that M. Gherard told you, I had  
57 At your conveniency, I pray send my  
58 I heard not from you this week  
59 I receive this heare that I begin this  
60 Between the time of making up my  
61 I would have intermitted this week  
62 I have scarce had at any time any thing so  
63 Since I received a Letter by your sonne  
64 The Messenger who brought me  
65 I writ to you yesterday taking the  
66 Your Letter comes to me, at Grace after  
67 It is one of my blinde Meditations to  
68 Agreeably to my fortune, and thoughts  
69 I cannot obey you, if you go to morrow  
70 I have bespoke you a New-years-gift, that  
71 I speak to you before God, I am so much  
72 The little businesse which you left in  
73 I send you here a Translation; but it is  
74 Because in your last Letter, I have an  
75 This is a second Letter: the enclosed  
76 I live so farre removed, that even the ill  
77 I cannot yet serve you with those books  
78 I had destined all this Tuesday, for the  
79 This first of Aprill I received yours of  
80 As you are a great part of my businesse
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Word Count</th>
<th>Character Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>This 25 I have your letter of 21, which</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>I can scarce doe any more this week then</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>I have the honour of your Letter, which</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Our blessed Saviour, who abounds in</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Neither your Letters, nor silence, needs</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>I should not only send you an account by</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>This advantage you, and my other</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>I am not come out of England, if I</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>The first of this moneth I received a</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Though I have left my bed, I have not</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Age becomes nothing better then</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>It is one ill Affection of a desperate</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>I cannot chuse but make it a presage that</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>This is the fourth of this moneth, and</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>All your other Letters, which came</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>I would I were so good an Alchimist to</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>The dignity, and the good fortune due</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Because to remain in this sort guilty in</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>I had rather like the first best; not onely</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>I have often sinned towards you, with a</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Perchance others may have told you</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>I make account that it is a day of great</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>If I would calumniate, I could say no</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>The same hour that I received the</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>This is but a Postscript to the last</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Your letter was the more welcome to</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>I know not which of us wonne it by the</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>I thank you for expressing your love to</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>I do not make account that I am come to</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>When we thinke of a friend,we</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>I am come to that tendernesse of</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>After I was grown to be your</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Lest you should thinke your selfe too</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>I make shift to think that I promised you</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>I have always your leave to use my</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>I sought you yesterday with a purpose</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>I amend to no purpose, nor have any</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>When I was almost at Court, I met</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>I was loth to bee the onely man who</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Your mans haste gives me the</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>If I shall never be able to do you any real</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>A few hours after I had the honour of</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>I humbly thanke you, for this</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>I was this morning at your door</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>If I should refuse the liberty which you</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>I pursued my ambition of having the</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>This morning I have received a</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>I have obeyed the forms of our Church</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>But that it is sweetned by your</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To the worthiest Lady M%2%5rs%6. Bridget White.

DAME

I could make some guesse whe-
ther souls that go to heaven,
retain any memory of us
that stay behinde, if I knew
whether you ever thought of
us, since you enjoyed your heaven, which
your self, at home. Your going away hath
made %1London%2 a dead carkasse. A Tearm, and
and keep it from putrefaction, but the soul
went away in you: and I think the onely
reason why the plague is somewhat slack-
ed, is, because the place is dead already, [cw:and]
and no body left worth the killing. Where-
soever you are, there is %1London%2 enough: and
it is a diminishing of you to say so, since
you are more then the rest of the world.

When you have a desire to work a miracle,
you will return hither, and raise the place
from the dead, and the dead that are in it;
of which I am one, but that a hope that I
have a room in your favour keeps me alive;
which you shall abundantly confirme to
me, if by one letter you tell me, that you
have received my six; for now my letters
are grown to that bulk, that I may divide
them like %1Amadis%2 the %1Gaules%2 book, and tell
you, that this is the first letter of the second
part of the first book.

DL %1Strand S.%2 Peters/ %1day at nine.%2
Your humblest, and affectionate%2/ %1servant%2 J. D. [cw: %1To%2]

To the worthiest Lady M%2%5rs%6. B. W.

Think the letters which I send to you single lose themselves by the way for want of a guide, or faint for want of com-
pany. Now, that on your part there be no excuse, after three single letters, I send three
together, that every one of them may have two witnesses of their delivery. They come also to waite upon another letter from Sir Herbert, of whose recovery from a Fever, you may apprehend a perfecter contentment then we, because you had none of the former sorrow. I am an Heretique if it be sound Doctrine, that pleasure tasteth best after sorrow. For my part, I can love health well enough, though I be never sick; and I never needed my Mistris frowns and disfavours, to make her favours acceptable to me. In States, it is a weakness to stand upon a defensive war, and safer not to be invaded, then to have overcome: so in our souls health, an innocence is better then the heartiest repentance. And in the pleasures of this life, it is better that the variety of the pleasures give us the taste and appetite to ken our stomack; for then we live by Phy sick. I wish therefore all your happinesses such as this intire, and without flaw, or spot of discontentment; and such is the love and service of

His letter which I send enclosed hath been yours many moneths, and hath languished upon my table for a passage so long, that as others send news in their letters, I send an antiquity in mine. I durst not tear it, after it was yours: there is some sacriledge in defacing any thing consecrated to you, and some impiety to despare that any thing devoted to you should not be re served to a good issue. I remember I should have sent it by a servant, of whose diligence I see I was too confident. I know not what it says: but I dare make this letter no longer, because being very sure that I always think the same thoughts of you, I am
afraid I should fall upon the same words, and so send one letter twice together.

November 8.

Your very affectionate servant, J. D.

To the Honourable Lady Mrs. B. W.

I have but small comfort in this letter; the messenger comes too easily to me, and I am too sure that the letter shall be delivered. All adventures towards you should be of more difficulty and hazard. But perhaps I need not lament this; it may be so many of my letters are lost already that it is time that one should come, like Jobs servant, to bring word, that the rest were lost.

If you have had more before, this comes to ask how they were received; and if you [p. 6] have had none, it comes to try how they should have been received. It comes to you like a bashful servant, who though he have an extreme desire to put himself in your presence, yet hath not much to say when he is come: yet hath it as much to say as you can think; because what degrees soever of honour, respect, and devotion, you can imagine or believe to be in any, this letter tells you, that all those are in me towards you. So that for this letter you are my Secretary; for your worthiness, and your opinion that I have a just estimation of them, write it: so that it is as long, and as good, as you think it; and nothing is left to me, but as a witness, to subscribe the name of Your most humble servant, J. D.

Though this letter be yours, it will not misbecome or disproportion it that I mention your Noble brother, who is gone to Cleave, not to return till towards Christmas, except the business deserve him not so long.
To the Honourable L. the Lady Kingsmel upon the death of her Husband.

Sal MADAME,
T hose things which God dissolves at once, as he shall do the Sun, and Moon, and those bodies at the last conflagration, he never intends to reunite again; but in those things, which he takes in pieces, as he doth man, and wife, in these divorces, by death, and in single persons, by the divorce of body and soul, God hath another purpose to make them up again. That piece which he takes to himself, is presently cast in a mould, and in an instant made fit for his use; for heaven is not a place of a proficiency, but of present perfection. That piece which he leaves behinde in this world, by the death of a part thereof, growes fitter and fitter for him, by the good use of his corrections, and the entire conformity to his will. Nothing disproportions us, nor makes us so incapable of being reunited to those whom we loved here, as murmuring, or not advancing the goodness of him, who hath removed them from hence. We would wonder, to see a man, who in a wood were left to his liberty, to fell what trees he would, take only the crooked, and leave the streightest trees; but that man hath perchance a ship to build, and not a house, and so hath use of that kinde of timber: let not us, who know that in Gods house there are many Mansions, but yet have no modell, no designe of the forme of that building, wonder at his taking in of his materialls, why he takes the young, and leaves the old, or why the sickly overlive those, that had better health. We are not bound to think that souls parted, have devested all affections towards them, whom they left here; but we are bound to think, that for all their loves they would not be here again: Then is the will of God done in Earth, as it is in Heaven, when we neither pretermit his actions, nor
resist them; neither pass them over in an
inconsideration, as though God had no hand in them, nor go about to take them out of his hands, as though we could direct
him to do them better. As Gods Scriptures are his will, so his actions are his will;
both are Testaments, because they testify his minde to us. It is not lawfull to adde a schedule to either of his wills: as they do
ill, who adde to his written will, the Scriptures, a schedule of Apcryphall books: so
do they also, who to his other will, his manifested actions, adde Apocryphall conditions, and a schedule of such limitations as
these, If God would have stayed thus long, or, If God would have proceeded in this or
this manner, I could have born it. To say that our afflictions are greater then we can bear, is so near to despairing, as that the
same words express both; for when we consider %Caines% words in that originall tongue in which God spake, we cannot tell
whether the words be, My punishment is greater then can be born; or, My sin is greater then can be forgiven. But Madame, you
who willingly sacrificed your self to God, in your obedience to him, in your own sickness, cannot be doubted to dispute with
him, about any part of you, which he shall be pleased to require at your hands. The difference is great in the loss, of an arme, or a head; of a child, or a husband: but to them, who are incorporated into Christ, their head, there can be no beheading; upon
you, who are a member of the spouse of Christ the Church, there can fall no widowhead, nor orphanage upon those children, to whom God is father. I have not another office by your husbands death; for I was your Chaplain before, in my daily prayers; but I shall enlarge that office with other Collects, then before, that God will continue to you, that peace which you have ever had in him, and send you quiet, and peaceable dispositions in all them with
whom you shall have any thing to do, in your temporall estate and matters of this world. Amen.

At my poor house at S. Pauls. Octob. 26. 1624.

Your Ladiships very humble and thankfull servant in Christ Jesus. J. Donne. 

To my honoured friend T. Lucey.

I Make account that this writing of letters, when it is with any seriousness, is a kind of extasie, and a departure and secession and suspension of the soul, which doth then comminate it self to two bodies: And as I would every day provide for my souls last convoy, though I know not when I shall die, and perchance I shall never die; so for these extasies in letters, I oftentimes deliver my self over in writing when I know not when those letters shall be sent to you, and many times they never are, for I have a little satisfaction in seeing a letter written to you upon my table, though I meet no opportunity of sending it. Especially this summer, when either by my early retiring home, or your irresolutions of your own purposes, or some other possessions of yours you did lesse reveale to me your progresses, and stations, and where I might crosse you by letters, then heretofore: I make shift to lay little fault upon you, because my part might be easier, if I transgress into a longer and busier letter than your Countrey sports admit; but you may read it in winter: And by that time I may more clearly express my self for those things which have entred into me, concerning your soul: for as the greatest advantage which mans soul is thought to have beyond others, is that which they call Actum reflexum, and iteratum, (for Beasts do the same things as we do, but they do not consider nor remember the circumstances and inducements; and by what power, and faculty, it is that they do them) so of those which they call Actum reflexum.
the noblest is that which reflects upon the
soul it self, and considers and meditates it,
Into which consideration when I walke
after my slow and unperfect pace, I begin
to think that as litigious men tyred with
suits, admit any arbitrement; and Princes
trawailed with long and wastfull war, de-
send to such conditions of peace, as they
are soon after ashamed to have embraced: so
so Philosophers, and so all sects of Chri-
stians, after long disputations and contro-
versies, have allowed many things for po-
sitive and dogmaticall truths which are not
worthy of that dignity; And so many
doctrines have grown to be the ordinary
diet and food of our spirits, and have place
in the pap of Catechismes, which were ad-
mitted but as Physick in that present di-
stemper, or accepted in a lazie weariness,
when men, so they might have something
to relie upon, and to excuse themselves
from more painfull inquisition, never exa-
ined what that was. To which indisposi-
ton of ours, the Casuists are so indulgent,
as that they allow a conscience to adhere to
any probable opinion against a more pro-
bable, and do never binde him to seek out
which is the more probable, but give him
leave to dissemble it and to depart from
it, if by mischance he come to know it.
This, as it appears in all sciences, so most
manifestly in Physick, which for a long
time considering nothing, but plain curing
and that but by example and precedent, the world at last longed for some certain
Canons and Rules, how these cures
might be accomplished; And when men
are inflamed with this desire, and that such
a fire breaks out that rages and consumes in-
finitly by heat of argument, except some of
authority interpose. This produced Hippocrates; and the world slumbred or took breath, in his resolution
divers hundreds of years: And then in
time, which was not satisfied with
the effect of curing, not with the knowledge to cure, broke out another desire of finding out the causes why those simples wrought those effects. Then Galen rather to stay their stomachs than that he gave them enough, taught them the qualities of the four Elements, and arrested them upon this, that all differences of qualities proceeded from them. And after, (not much before our time) men perceiving that all effects in Physick could not be derived from these beggarly and impotent proper- ties of the Elements, and that therefore they were driven often to that miserable refuge of specific form, and of antipathy and sympathy; we see the world hath turned upon new principles which are attributed to Paracelsus, but (indeed) too much to his honour. Certainly it is also so in the Physick of our soul Divinity, for in the Primitive Church, when amongst the Fathers there were so divers opinions of the state of the soul, presently after this life, they easily inclined to be content to do as much for them dead as when they were alive, and so concurred in a charitable disposition to pray for them; which manner of prayer then in use, no Christian Church at this day having received better light, will allow of. So also when in the beginning of St. Augustines time, Grace had been so much advanced that mans Nature was scarce admitted to be so much as any means or instrument (not only no kind of cause) of his own good works: And soon after in St. Augustines time also mans free will (by fierce opposition and arguing against the former error) was too much overvalued, and admitted into too near degrees of fellowship with Grace; those times admitted a doctrine and form of reconciliation, which was to be so much as any means or instrument of the world. /n
rent and dispassioned men of that Church
see there is no possibility in it, and therefore
accuse it of absurdity and almost of heresie.
I think it falls out thus also in the matter of
the soul: for Christian Religion presum-
ing a soul, and intending principally her
happiness in the life to come, hath been
content to accept any way which hath been
obtruded; how this soul is begun in us.
Hence it is that whole Christian Churches
arest themselves upon propagation from pa-
rents; and other whole Christian Churches
allow onely infusion from God. In both
which opinions there appear such infirmi-
ties as it is time to look for a better: for [cw:who-
soever will adhere to the way of pro-
agation, can never evict necessarily and
certainly a naturall immortality in the soul,
if the soul result out of matter, nor shall he
ever prove that all mankind hath any more
then one soul: as certainly of all beasts, if
they receive such souls as they have from
their parents, every species can have but one
soul. And they which follow the opinion
of infusion from God, and of a new creation
(which is now the more common opinion)
as they can very hardly defend the doctrin of
original sin (the soul is forced to take this in-
fection, and comes not into the body of her
own disposition) so shall they never be
able to prove that all those whom we see in
the shape of men have an immortall and
reasonable soul, because our parents are as
able as any other species is to give us a soul
of growth and of sense, and to perform all
vitall and animall functions. And so with-
out infusion of such a soul may produce a
creature as wise and well disposed as any
horse or Elephant, of which degree many [cw:whom]
whom we see come far short; nor hath [p.18]
bound or declared himself that he will
always create a soul for every embryon, there
is yet therefore no opinion in Philosophy,
nor Divinity, so well established as con-
strains us to beleive, both that the soul is
immortal, and that every particular man hath such a soul: which since out of the great mercy of our God we do constantly beleeve, I am ashamed that we do not also know it by searching farther: But as some-times we had rather beleeve a Travellers lie then go to disprove him; so men rather cleave to these ways then seek new: yet be-cause I have meditated therein, I will shortly aquaint you with what I think; for I would not be in danger of that law of Moses, That if a man dig a pit, and cover it not, he must recompense those which are damnified by it: which is often interpreted of such as shake old opinions, and do not establish new as certain, but leave consciences in a worse danger then they found them in. I beleve that law of Moses hath in it some mysterie and appliablenesse; for by that law men are onely then bound to that indemnity and compensation, if an Oxe or an Asse (that is, such as are of a strong consti-tution and accustomed to labour) fall there-in; but it is not said so, if a Sheep or a Goat fall: no more are we, if men in a sillinesse or wantonnesse will stumble or take a scandall, bound to rectifie them at all times. And therefore because I justly presume you strong and watchfull enough, I make account that I am not obnoxious to that law, since my meditations are neither too wide nor too deep for you, except onely that my way of expressing them may be extended beyond your patience and pardon, which I will therefore tempt no longer at this time.

From Micham, my close prison ever since I saw you, Octob.

Your very affectionate friend and servant and lover I. Donne

To the Noblest Knight Sir Edward Herbert L. of Cherbury; sent to him with his Book Biathanatos.
nough performed that which it undertook, both by argument and example. It shall therefore the lesse need to be it self another example of the Doctrine. It shall not therefore kill it self; that is, not bury it self; for if it should do so, those reasons, by which that act should be defended or excused, were also lost with it. Since it is content to live, it cannot chuse a wholsomeraire then your Library, where Authors of all complexions are presented. If any of them grudge this book a room, and suspect it of new or dangerous doctrine, you who know us all, can best moderate. To those reasons which I know your love to me will make in my favour and discharge, you may adde this, that though this doctrine hath not been taught nor defended by writers, yet they, most of any sort of men in the world, have practised it.

Your very true and earnest friend and servant and lover, 

J. Donne.

To Sir Robert Carre now Earl of Ankerum, with my book Biathanatos at my going into Germany. 

Had need do somewhat towards you above my promises; How weak are my performances, when even my promises are defective? I cannot promise, no not in mine own hopes, equally to your merit towards me. But besides the Poems, of which you took a promise, I send you another Book to which there belongs this History. It was written by me many years since; and because it is upon a misinterpretable subject, I have always gone so near suppressing it, as that it is onely not burnt: no hand hath passed upon it to copy it, nor many eyes to read it: onely to some particular friends in both Universities, then when I writ it, I did communicate it: And I remember, I had this answer, That certainly, there was a false thread in it, but not
easily found: Keep it, I pray, with the same jealousie; let any that your discretion admits to the sight of it, know the date of it; and that it is a Book written by Jack Donne, and not by D. Donne: Reserve it for me, if I live, and if I die, I only forbid it the Presse, and the Fire: publish it not, but yet burn it not; and between those, do what you will with it. Love me still, thus farre, for your own sake, that when you withdraw your love from me, you will finde so many unworthinesses in me, as you grow ashamed of having had so long, and so much, such a thing as

To the Countesse of Bedford.

Amongst many other dignities which this letter hath by being received and seen by you, it is not the least, that it was prophesied of before it was born: for your brother told you in his letter, that I had written: he did me much honour both in advancing my truth so farre as to call a promise an act already done; and to provide me a means of doing him a service in this act, which is but doing right to my self: for by this performance of mine own word, I have also justified that part of his Letter which concerned me; and it had been a double guiltiness in me, to have made him guilty towards you. It makes no difference that this came not the same day, nor bears the same date as his; for though in inheritances and worldly possessions we consider the dates of Evidences, yet in Letters, by which we deliver over our affections and assurances of friendship, and the best faculties of our souls, times and daies cannot have interest, nor be considerable, because that which passes by them, is eternal, null, and out of the measure of time. Be-
to convey my best wishes, and all the effects [cw:of] of a noble love unto you, (which are the [p.24] best fruits that so poor a soil, as my poor soul is, can produce) you may be pleased to allow the Letter thus much of the souls privilege, as to exempt it from straitnesse of hours, or any measure of times, and so beleive it came then. And for my part, I shall make it so like my soul, that as that affection, of which it is the messenger, begun in me without my knowing when, any more then I know when my soul began; so it shall continue as long as that. om

%1Your most affectionate friend and servant%2 J. D.
%1To the right honourable the Countess of%2 Montgomery.

To your Ladiship's service, any thing may be an embleme good enough; for as a word vanisheth, so doth any power in me to serve you; things that are written are fitter testimonies, because they remain and are permanent: in writing this Sermon which your Ladiship was pleased to hear before, I confesse I satisfie an ambition of mine own, but it is the ambition of obeying your commandment, not onely an ambition of leaving my name in the memory, or in the Cabinet: and yet, since I am going out of the Kingdom, and perchance out of the world, (when God shall have given my soul a place in heaven) it shall the lesse diminish your Ladiship, if my poor name be found about you. I know what dead carcasses things written are, in respect of things spoken. But in things of this kinde, that soul that inanimates them, receives debts from them: The Spirit of God that dictates them in the speaker or writer, and is present in his tongue or hand, meets himself again (as we meet our selves in a glass) in the eies and hearts of the hearers and
readers: and that Spirit, which is ever the same to an equall devotion, makes a writing and a speaking equall means to edification. In one circumstance, my preaching and my writing this Sermon is too equall: that your Ladiship heard in a hoarse voyce then, you read in a course hand now: but in thankfulnesse I shall lift up my hands as clean as my infirmities can keep them, and a voyce as clear as his spirit shall be pleased to tune in my prayers in all places of the world, which shall either sustain or bury.

Your Ladiships humble servant in Christ Jesus J.D.

I%+F a whole year be but Annus ab Annulo, because it returns into it self, what %1An%2- %1nulus%2 shall be diminutive enough, to express our weekly revolutions? In chaines the least linkes have most curiosity, but that can be no emblem of us: but they have also the most strength, and that may. The first sphere onely which is resisted by nothing, absolves his course every day; and so doth true friendship well placed, often iterate in act or purpose, the same offices. But as the lower spheres, subject to the violence of that, and yet naturally encouraged to a reluctant against it, have therefore many distractions, and eccentricities, and some trepidations, and so return but lamely, and lately to the same place, and office: so that friendship which is not moved primarily by the proper intelligence, discretion, and about the naturall center, vertue, doth perpetually chance sometimes, some things, somewhat like true friendship; but hath many deviating tions, which are strayings into new loves, (not of other men; for that is proper to true wise friendship, which is not a marrying ring; but of other things) and hath such
trepidations as keep it from shewing it self, where great persons do not love; and it re-
turns to the true first station and place of friendship planetarily, which is uncertain-
ly and seldom. I have ever seen in London and our Court, as some colours, and habits, and continuances, and motions, and phrases, and accents, and songs, so friends in fashion and in season: and I have seen them as suddenly abandoned altogether, though I see no change in them, nor know more why they were left, then why they were chosen. To do things by example, and upon confidence of anothers judgment may be some kind of a second wisdome; but it is but writing by a copy: or indeed it is the hardest of all, and the issue of the first wisdome, for I cannot know that this example should be followed, except I knew that it is good, and so I judge my Judge. Our assent therefore, and arrest, must be upon things, not persons. And when we are sure we are in the right way, for great persons, we may be glad of their company, if they go our way; we may for them change our place, but not our end, nor our way, if there be but one, us in Religion. In persevering in it, it concerns as much what our companions be, but very much what our friends. In which I know I speak not dangerously nor mis-applicably to you, as though I averted you from any of those friends, who are of other impressions then you or I in some great circumstances of Religion. You know I never fettered nor immured the word Religion; not straitening it Frierly, (as the Romans call well their orders of Religion) nor immuring it in a Rome, or a Wittemberg, or a Geneva; they are all virtual beams of one Sun, and wheresoever they finde clay hearts, they harden them, and moulder them into dust; and they understand and mollifie waxen. They are not so contrary as the North and South Poles; and
that they are connaturall pieces of one cir-
cle. Religion is Christianity, which being
too spirituall to be seen by us, doth there-
fore take an apparent body of good life and
works, so salvation requires an honest
Christian. These are the two Elements,
and he which elemented from these, hath
the complexion of a good man, and a fit
friend. The diseases are, too much intenti-
on into indiscreet zeal, and too much remis-
ess and negligence by giving scandal: for [our]
our condition and state in this, is as infirm [p.30]
as in our bodies; where physicians consi-
der only two degrees; sickenes, and neu-
trality; for there is no health in us. This,
Sir, I use to say to you, rather to have so
good a witnesses and corrector of my medi-
tations, then to advise; and yet to do that
too, since it is pardonable in a friend: Not
to slack you towards those friends which
are religious in other clothes then we; (for
%Amici vitia si feras facis tua%2, is true of such
faults) but to keep you awake against such
as the place where you must live will of-
ten obtrude, which are not onely naked,
without any fashion of such garments, but
have neither the body of Religion, which
is morall honesty, and sociable faithfulness,
or the soul, Christianity. I know not how
this paper scaped last week which I send
now; I was so sure that I enwrapped it then,
that I should be so still, but that I had but
one copy; forgive it as you use to do. From
%Micham%2 in as much haste, and with as ill
Pen and Inke, as the letter can accuse me [of;]
of; but with the last and the next weeks [p.31]
heart and affection.
%om
Yours very truely and affectionately%2
J. Donne.

To Sir%2 H.G.
Sal %SIR%2,
His letter hath more merit, then one
of more diligence, for I wrote it in
my bed, and with much pain. I have occasion
on to sit late some nights in my study,
(which your books make a pretty library)
and now I finde that that room hath a
wholesome emblematique use: for having
under it a vault, I make that promise me, that
I shall die reading, since my book and a
grave are so near. But it hath another as
unwholesome, that by raw vapors
rising from thence, (for I can impute it to
nothing else) I have contracted a sickness;
which I cannot name nor describe. For it
hath so much of a continuall Cramp, that
it wrests the sinews, so much of a Tetane,
that it withdraws and puls the mouth, and [cw:so]
so much of the Gout, (which they whose [p.32]
counsell I use, say it is) that it is not like
to be cured, though I am too hasty in three
days to pronounce it. If it be the Gout, I
am miserable; for that affects dangerous
parts, as my neck and breast, and (I think
fearfully) my stomach, but it will not kill
me yet; I shall be in this world, like a por-
ter in a great house, ever nearest the door,
but seldomest abroad: I shall have many
things to make me weary, and yet not get
leave to be gone. If I go, I will provide by
my best means that you suffer not for me,
in your bonds. The estate which I should
leave behind me of any estimation, is my
poor fame, in the memory of my friends,
and therefore I would be curious of it, and
provide that they repent not to have loved
me. Since my imprisonment in my bed, I
have made a meditation in verse, which I
call a Litany; the word you know imports
no other then supplication, but all Churches
have one forme of supplication, by that
name. Amongst ancient annals I mean [cw:some]
some 800 years, I have met two Letanies [p.33]
in Latin verse, which gave me not the rea-
son of my meditations, for in good faith I
thought not upon them then, but they give
me a defence, if any man; to a Lay man, and
private, impute it as a fault, to take such
divine and public names, to his own little thoughts. The first of these was made by Ratpertus, a Monk of Suevia; and the other by S. Notker, of whom I will give you this note by the way, that he is a private Saint, for a few Parishes; they were both but Monks, and the Letanies poor and barous enough; yet Pope Nicolas the 5, valed their devotion so much, that he canoned both their Poems, and commanded them for public service in their Churches: mine is for lesser Chappells, which are my friends, and though a copy of it were due to you, now, yet I am so unable to serve my self with writing it for you at this time, (being some 30 staves of 9 lines) that I must intreat you to take a promise that you shall have the first, for a testimony of that duty which I owe to your love, and to my self, who am bound to cherish it by my best offices. That by which it will deserve best acceptation, is, That neither the Roman Church need call it defective, because it abhors not the particular mention of the blessed Triumphant in heaven; nor the Reformed can discreetly accuse it, of attributing more than a rectified devotion ought to do. The day before I lay down, I was at London, where I delivered your Letter for Sir Ed. Conway, and received another for you, with the copy of my Book, of which it is impossible for me to give you a copy so soon, for it is not of much less than 300 pages. If I die, it shall come to you in that fashion that your Letter desires it. If I warm again, (as I have often seen such beggers as my indisposition is, end them selves soon, and the patient as soon) you and I shall speak together of that, before it be too late to serve you in that command. At this time I onely assure you, that perchance you thought, and grounded your request thereupon. A Gent. that visi-
ted me yesterday told me that our Church hath lost Mr. Hugh Broughton, who is gone to the Roman side. I have known before, that the Jesuit was an instrument from Cardinal Baronius to draw him to Rome, to accept a stipend, only to serve the Christian Churches in controversies with the Jews, without endangering himself to change of his persuasion in particular deductions between these Christian Churches, or being enquired of, or tempted thereunto. And I hope he is no otherwise departed from us. If he be, we shall not escape scandal in it; because, though he be a man of many distempers, yet when he shall come to eat assured bread, and to be removed from partialities, to which want drove him, to make himself a reputation, and raise up favourers; you shall see in that course of opposing the Jews, he will produce worthy things: and our Church will perchance blush to have lost a soldier fit for that great battle; and to cherish only those single duellisms, between Rome and England, or that more single, and almost self-homicide, between the unconformed Ministers, and Bishops. I writ to you last week that the plague increased; by which you may see that my Letters—opinion of the song, not that I make such trifles for praise; but because as long as you speak comparatively of it with mine own, and not absolutely, so long I am of your opinion even at this time; when I humbly thank God, I ask & have, his comfort of sadder meditations; I do not condemn in myself, that I have given my wit such evaporations, as those, if they be free from prophaneness, or obscene provocations. Sir you would pity me if you saw me write, and therefore will pardon me if I write no more: my pain hath drawn my head so much awry, and holds it so that mine eye cannot follow mine hand: I receive you therefore into my prayers, [cw:with]
012.L54.138 with mine own weary soul, and commend [p.37]
012.L54.139 my self to yours. I doubt not but next
012.L54.140 week I shall be good news to you, for I
012.L54.141 have mending or dying on my side, which
012.L54.142 it two to one. If I continue thus, I shall
012.L54.143 have comfort in this, that my B. Saviour
012.L54.144 exercising his Justice upon my two world-
012.L54.145 ly parts, my fortune, and body, reserves all
012.L54.146 his mercy for that which best tasts it, and
012.L54.147 most needs it, my soul. I professe to you
012.L54.148 truly, that my lothnesse to give over now,
012.L54.149 seems to my self an ill sign, that I shall
012.L54.150 write no more.
012.L54.0DL om
012.L54.0SS %1Your poor friend, and Gods poor patient%2,
012.L54.0SS Jo. Donne.

013.L54.0HE %1To my worthy and honoured friend M%2%5r%6 George/ Garet.
013.L54.Sal S%9IR%0,
013.L54.001 I%+ Am sorry, if your care of me have made
013.L54.002 you importune to any body else; yet I
013.L54.003 cannot be very sorry because it gives new
013.L54.004 testimonies of your favour to me, of which
013.L54.005 I shall ever be very glad, and (that which[CW:is]
013.L54.006 is my onely vertue) thankfull: so despe-
013.L54.007 rate fortunes as mine, may well make
013.L54.008 friends loth to doe curtesies, because an in-
013.L54.009 ability in deserving or requiting, takes from
013.L54.010 them the honour of having done a curtesie,
013.L54.011 and leaves it but the poor name of an alms;
013.L54.012 and alms may be given in easier proporti-
013.L54.013 ons, and more meritoriously. Bur S%5r%6, by
013.L54.014 what name or weight soever you esteem
013.L54.015 this kindnesse which you have done me, I
013.L54.016 value it so, as might alone perswade me of
013.L54.017 your care of me; in recompense of which,
013.L54.018 you must be pleased to accept new assuran-
013.L54.019 ces that I am
013.L54.0DL om
013.L54.0SS %1Your very affectionate servant,%2/ J. Donne.
013.L54.P01 %1I pray let my service be%2/ %1presented by you to%2/ %1M%5%2r%6
Roope.

014.L54.0HE %1To M%2%5r%6 George Garet.
014.L54.Sal S%9IR%0,
Have not received that Letter, which by this, I perceive you sent to London; if there were any thing in that, by which I might have taken occasion to have done you service before this time, I have a double reason of grief for the want of it. I came from thence upon Thursday, where I left Sir Roe so indulgent to his sorrow, as it had been an injury to have interrupted it with my unusefull company. I have done no thing of that kinde as your Letter intimates, in the memory of that good Gentlewoman; if I had, I should not finde any better use of it, then to put it into your hands. You teach me what I owe her memory; and if I pay that debt so, you have a part and interest in it, by doing me the honour of remembring it: and therefore it must come quickly to you. I hope not for your return from Court, till I come thither; which if I can be master of my self, or servant to my self, which I think is all one, I hope to do some ten daies hence, making it my way to the Bathe. If you find any there that have not forgot my name, continue me in their favour, and hold in your self a firm assurance that I am Your affectionate servant J. Donne.

To M\\u00ADAME,

Though there be much merit, in the favour your brother hath done me in a visit, yet that which doth enrich and perfect it, is, that he brought you with him; which he brought you with him, as well by letting me see how you do, as by giving me occasions, and leave to talk with you by this Letter: if you have any servant, which wishes you better than I, it must be because he is able to put his wishes into a better frame, and express them better, and understand proportion, than I. I am willing to confess my impotencie; which is, that...
I know no wish good enough for you; if any doe, my advantage is, that I can exceed his, by adding mine to it. You must not think that I begin to think thus, when you begin to hear it, by a Letter; As sometimes by the changing of the winde, you begin to hear a Trumpet, which sounded long before you heard it; so are these thoughts of you familiar and ordinary in me, though they have seldome the help of this conveyance to your knowledge: I am loth to leave; for as long as in any fashion, I can have your brother and you here, you make my house a kinde of Dorvey; but since I cannot stay you here, I will come thither to you; which I do, by wrapping up in this paper, the heart of your most affectionate servant,

To Sir Thomas Roe. 

Sir, it is an ease to your friends abroad, that you are more a man of businesse then heretofore; for now it were an injury to trouble you with a busie Letter. But by the same reason I were inexcusable if I should not write at all, since the lesse, the more acceptable; therefore, Sir, though I have no more to say, but to renew the obligations I have towards you, and to continue my place in your love, I would not forbear to tell you so. If I shall also tell you, that when this place affords any thing worth your hearing, I will be your relator, I think I take so long a day, as you would forget the debt, it appears yet to be so barren. Howsoever with every commodity, I shall say some thing, though it be but a descant upon this plain song, that I am your affectionate servant,

J. Donne.
To all my friends: Sir H. Goodere.

I am not weary of writing; it is the course but durable garment of my love; but I am weary of wanting you. I have a minde like those bodies, which have hot Livers, and cold stomachs; or such a disposition as travelled me at Paris; a Fever, and dysentery: in which, that which is physiologically sick to one infirmity, nourishes the other.

So I abhor nothing more then sadness, except the ordinary remedy, change of company. I can allow myself to be Animal social, appliable to my company, but not gregarious, to herd myself in every troupe. It is not perfectly true which very subtil, yet very deep wit Averroes says, that all mankind hath but one soul, which informs and rules us all, as one Intelligence doth the firmament and all the stars in it: as though a particular body were too little an organ for a soul to play upon. And it is as imperfect which is taught by that religion which is most accommodate to sense (I dare not say to reason) because none may doubt but that that religion is certainly best, which is reasoningest.

That all mankind hath one protecting Angel; all Christians one other, all English one other, all of one Corporation and every civil coagulation or society one other; and every man one other. Though both these opinions express a truth; which is, that mankind hath very strong bounds to cohabit and concurre in other then mountains and hills during his life. First, common, and mutual necessity of one another; and therefore naturally in our defence, and subventions we first fly to our selves; next, to that which is likest, other men. Then, natural and inborn charity, beginning at home, which persuades us to give, that we may receive: And legal charity, which makes us also forgive. Then an ingrafting in one another, and growing
together by a custome of society: and last
of all, strict friendship, in which band
men were so presumed to be coupled, that
our Confessor King had a law, that if a
man be killed, the murderer shall pay a sum
%1felago suo%2, which the interpreters call, %1fide li%2-
%1gato, et comite vitae%L%2. All these bands I willingly receive, for no man is lesse of himself
then I: nor any man enough of himself.
To be so, is all one with omnipotence. And
it is well marked, that in the holy Book,
wheresoever they have rendered Almighty,
the word is Self-sufficient. I think some-
times that the having a family should re-
move me farre from the curse of %1Vae%L soli%2. [cw:But]
But in so strict obligation of Parent, or
[p.45]
Husband, or Master, (and perchance it is
so in the last degree of friendship) where
all are made one, I am not the lesse alone,
for being in the midst of them. Therefore
this %1oleum lae%Ltitiae%L%2, this balme of our lives, this
alarcity which dignifies even our service to
God, this gallant enemy of dejection and
sadnesse, (for which and wickednesse the
Italian allows but one word, %1Triste%2: And
in full condemnation whereof it was pro-
phesied of our blessed Saviour, %1Non erit%2
%1tristis%2, in his conversation) must be sought
and preserved diligently. And since it
grows without us, we must be sure to gather
it from the right tree. They which place
this alacrity only in a good conscience,
deal somewhat too roundly with us, for
when we aske the way, they shew us the
town afar off: Will a Physitian consulted
for health and strength, bid you have good
sinews and equall temper? It is true, that
this conscience is the resltant of all other
particular actions; it is our triumph and [cw:ban-]
banquet in the haven; but I would come [p.46]
towards that also, (as Mariners say)
with a merry winde. Our nature is Mete-
rique, we respect (because we partake so)
both earth and heaven; for as our bodies
glorified shall be capable of spirituall joy,
so our souls demerged into those bodies, are allowed to partake earthly pleasure. Our soul is not sent hither, only to go back again: we have some errand to do here: nor is it sent into prison, because it comes innocent: and he which sent it, is just. As we may not kill our selves, so we may not bury our selves: which is done or endan-
erged in a dull Monastique sadnesse, which is so much worse than jolity (for upon that word I durst----
--And certainly despair is in-
finitly worse, then presumption: both be-
cause this is an excess of love, that of fear; and because this is up, that down the hill; easier, and more stumbling. Heaven is ex-
pressed by singings, hell by weeping. And though our blessed Saviour be never noted to have laughed, yet his continuance is said ever to be smiling. And that even moderate mirth of heart, and face, and all I wish to my self; and perswade you to keep. This alacrity is not had by a general charity and e-
quanimity to all mankinde, for that is to seek fruit in a wildernesse: nor from a sing-
gular friend, for that is to fetch it out of your own pocket: but the various and abundant grace of it, is good company. In which no rank, no number, no quality, but ill, and such a degree of that as may corrupt and poyson the good, is exempt. For in nearer then them, your friend, and somewhat nearer then he, in your self you must allow some inordinatenesses of affecti-
ons and passions. For it is not true that they are not natural, but stormes and tempests of our bloud and humours: for they are na-
turall, but sickly. And as the Indian priests expressed an excellent charity, by building Hospitalls and providing chirurgery for birds and beasts lamed by mischance, or age, or labour: so must we, not cut off, but cure these affections, which are the [p.48] bestiall part.
To Sir H. Goodere.

E%+ Very Tuesday I make account that I turn a great hour-glass, and consider that a week's life is run out since I writ. But if I aske my self what I have done in the last watch, or would do in the next, I can say nothing; if I say that I have passed it without hurting any, so may the Spider in my window. The primitive Monkes were excusable in their retirings and enclosures of themselves: for even of them every one cultivated his own garden and orchard, that is, his soul and body, by meditation, and manufactures; and they ought the world no more since they consumed none of her sweetnesse, nor begot others to burden her. But for me, if I were able to husband all my time so thriftily, as not only not to wound my soul in any minute by actuall sinne, but not to rob and cousen her by giving any part to pleasure or businesse, but bestow it all upon her in meditation, yet even in that I should wound her more, and contract another guiltiness: As the Eagle were very unnaturall if because she is able to do it, she should pearch a whole day upon a tree, staring in contemplation of the majestie and glory of the Sun, and let her young Eglets starve in the nest. Two of the most precious things which God hath afforded us here, for the agony and exercise of our sense and spirit, which are a thirst and inhiation after the next life, and a frequency of prayer and meditation in this, are often envenomed, and putrefied, and stray into a corrupt disease: for as God doth thus occasion, and positively concurre to evill, that when a man is purposed to do a great sin, God infuses some good thoughts which make him choose a lesse sin, or leave out some circumstance which aggra- vated that; so the devill doth not only suffer
but provoke us to some things naturally
good, upon condition that we shall omit [cw:some]
some other more necessary and more obli-
gatory. And this is his greatest subtilty;
because herein we have the deceitfull com-
fort of having done well, and can very
hardly spie our errour because it is but an
insensible omission, and no accusing act.
With the first of these I have often suspected
my self to be overtaken; which is, with a
desire of the next life: which though I
know it is not meerly out of a wearinesse
of this, because I had the same desires
when I went with the tyde, and enjoyed
fairer hopes then now: yet I doubt worldly
encombrances have encreased it. I would not
that death should take me asleep. I would
not have him meerly seise me, and onely
declare me to be dead, but win me, and
overcome me. When I must shipwrack,
I would do it in a Sea, where mine impo-
tencie might have some excuse; not in a
sullen weedy lake, where I could not have
so much as exercise for my swimming.
Therefore I would fain do something;
but that I cannot tell what, is no wonder. [cw:For]
For to chuse, is to do: but to be no part of
any body, is to be nothing. At most, the
greatest persons, are but great wens, and
exccrescences; men of wit and delightfull
conversation, but as moales for ornament,
except they be so incorporated into the bo-
dy of the world, that they contribute some-
thing to the sustentation of the whole. This
I made account that I begun early, when I
understood the study of our laws: but was
diverted by the worst voluptuousnes, which
is an Hydroptique immoderate desire of
humane learning and languages: beauti-
full ornaments to great fortunes; but mine
needed an occupation, and a course which
I thought I entred well into, when I sub-
mitted my self to such a service, as I thought
might imployed those poor advan-
tages, which I had. And there I stumbled
too, yet I would try again: for to this hour
I am nothing, or so little, that I am scarce
subject and argument good enough for one
of mine own letters: yet I fear, that doth
not ever proceed from a good root, that I [cw:am]
am so well content to be lesse, that is dead. [p.52]
You, Sir, are farre enough from these de-
scents, your vertue keeps you secure, and
your naturall disposition to mirth will pre-
serve you; but lose none of these holds, a
slip is often as dangerous as a bruise, and
though you cannot fall to my lownesse, yet
in a much lesse distraction you may meet
my sadnesse; for he is no safer which falls
from an high tower into the leads; then he
which falls from thence to the ground:
make therefore to your self some mark, and
go towards it alegrement. Though I be
in such a planetary and erratique fortune,
that I can do nothing constantly, yet you
may finde some constancy in my constant
advising you to it.

Your hearty true friend
J. Donne.

I came this evening from M%2. Jones %1his house%2
in Essex, %1where M%2. Martin %1hath been, and left%2
a relation of Captain%2 Whitcocks %1death, perchance it is%2
no news to you, but it was to me; without doubt want%2
[cw:%1broke%2]
[broke him; for when M%2. Hollands %1company by%2 [p.53]
reason of the plague broke, the Captain sought to be at%2
%1M%2.5ris%6. Jones %1house, who in her husbands absence%2
declining it, he went in the night, his boy carrying his
cloakbag, on foot to the Lord of%2 Sussex, %1who going next%2
to hunt, the Captain not then sick, told him he%2
would see him no more. A Chaplain came up to him,%2
to whom he delivered an account of his understanding,%2
and I hope, of his beliefe, and soon after dyed; and my
Lord hath buryed him with his own Ancestors. Per-
chance his life needed a longer sicknesse, but a man may%2
go faster and safer, when he enjoys that day light of a%2
clear and sound understanding, then in the night or%2
twilight of an ague or other disease. And the grace of%2
Almighty God doth every thing suddenly and hastily,
but depart from us, it inlights us, warms us, heats us,

ravishes us, at once. Such a medicine, I fear, his incon-
sideration needed; and I hope as confidently that he had its

As our soul is infused when it is created, so created when it is infused, at her going out, God's

Lest your carrier should cousen me, I send my man with this letter early to London, whither

this Tuesday all the Court come to a Christening at Arondell

To Sir H. Goodere.

I this which I send you inclosed give me right intelligence, I present you a way by which you may redeem all your former wastes, and recompense your ill fortunes, in having sometimes apprehended unsuc-

cesfull suits, and (that which I presume you affect most) ease your self from all future inquisition of widowes or such businesses as asko so over industrious a pursuit, as de-

vest a man from his best happiness of en-

joying himself. I give you (I think) the first knowledge, of two millions confiscated to the Crown of England: of which I dare assure my self the coffers have yet touched none, nor have the Commissioners for suits any thing to oppose against a suit founded upon this confiscation, though they hold never so strictly to their instructions. After you have served yourself with a proportion, I pray make a petition in my name for as much as you think may be given me for my book out of this; for, but out of this, I have no imagination. And for a token of my de-
sire to serve him, present M. Fowler with 3 or 4000 li. of this since he was so re-

solved never to leave his place, without a suit of that value. I wish your cousen in the
town, better provided, but if he be not, here
is enough for him. And since I am ever an
affectionate servant to that journey, acquaint
M. %1Martin%2 from me, how easie it will be
to get a good part of this for %1Virginia%2. Upon
the least petition that M. %1Brook%2 can pre-
sent he may make himself whole again, of
all which the Kings servants M. %1Lepton%2
and master %1Waterouse%2, have endamaged
him. Give him leave to offer to M.
%1Hakevill%2 enough to please himself, for his
%1Aurum Regina%2. And if M. %1Gherard%2 have [cw:no]
no present hopefull designe upon a worthy [p.56]
Widow, let him have so much of this as
will provide him that house and coach
which he promised to lend me at my re-
turn. If M. %1Inago Jones%2 be not satisfied
for his last Maske (because I hear say it
cannot come to much) here is enough to
be had: This is but a copy, but if Sir %1Ro%2.
%1Cotton%2 have the original he will not deny it
you; if he hath it not, no body else hath it,
nor can prevent you; husband it well, which
you may easily doe, because I assure my self
none of the children nor friends of the par-
ty condemned will crosse you or impor-
tune the King for any part. If I get no
more by it, yet it hath made me a Let-
ter. And Sir (to depart from this Mine)
in what part of my Letters soever you find
the remembrance of my humble service
to my Lord of %1Belford%2, I beseech you ever
think them intended for the first, and in that
ranke present them. I have yet received but
one Letter from you which was of the
10 of %1December%2 by M. %1Pory%2, but you see that [cw:as]
as long as there is one egge left in the nest, I [p.57]
ever leave laying, nor should although
you had sent none since; all at last will not
amount to so good a testimony as I would
gain give how much I am
\[019.L54.0DL om\]
%1Your affectionate servant and lover,%2
%1J. Donne.\]
%1Sir, I write this Letter in no very great degree of a%2
convalescence from such storms of a stomach colick as kept me in a continuall vomiting, so that I know not what I should have been able to doe to dispatch this winde, but that an honest fever came and was my phy-sick: I tell you of it onely lest some report should make it lit worse, for me thinks that they who love to adde to what news should think it a master-piece to be able to say no worse of any ill fortune of mine then it deserves, since commonly it deserves worse then they can say, but they did not, and I am reprieved. I finde dying to be like those facts which denying makes felony: when a sicknesse examines us, and we confess that we are willing to die, we cannot, but those who are ------ incur the penalty: and I may die yet, if talking idly be an ill sign. God be with you.

To the same.

Sal SIR,

I+T is in our State ever held for a good sign to change Prison, and mi, I will think it so, that my sicknesse hath given me leave to come to my London-pri-son. I made no doubt but my entrance-pain (for it was so rather then a sicknesse, but that my sadnesse putrefied and corrupted it to that name) affected you also; for nearer Contracts then generall Christianity, had made us so much towards one, that one part cannot escape the distemper of the o-ther. I was therefore very carefull, as well to slack any sorrow which my danger might occasion in you; as to give you the comfort of having been heard in your prayers for me, to tell you as soon as my pain remitted what steps I made towards health, which I did last week. This %Tues moring your man brought me a Letter, which (if he had not found me at Lon) I see he had a hasty commandment to [w:have brought to %Micham]. S%r%, though my for- [p.59] tune hath made me such as I am, rather a sickenesse and disease of the world then any part of it, yet I esteemed my self so far from being so to you, as I esteemed you to be far from being so of the world, as to measure
men by fortune or events. I am now gone
so far towards health, as there is not infir-
mity enough left in me for an assurance of
so much noblenesse and truth, as your last
Letter is to work upon, that might cure a
greater indisposition than I am now in: And
though if I had died, I had not gone
without testimonies of such a disposition
in you towards the reparation of my for-
tune, or preservation of my poor reputati-
on; yet I would live, and be some such
thing as you might not be ashamed to
love. Your man must send away this hour
in which he visits me; and I have not yet
(for I came last night) offered to visit my
La. Bedford, and therefore have nothing to
say which should make me grudge this
straitnesse of time. He tells me he sends again [cw:upon]
upon Thursday, and therefore I will make an [p.60]
end of this Letter, and perfect it then. I
doubt my Letters have not come duly to
your hand, and that I writing in my dun-
geon of Michim without dating, have made
the Chronologie and sequence of my Let-
ters perplexed to you; howsoever you shall
not be rid of this Ague of my Letters,
though perchance the fit change daisies. I
have received in a narrow compasse three
of yours, one with the Catalogue of your
Books, another I found here left last Sater-
by your man, and this which he
brought me this morning. Sir, I dare sit
no longer in my wastcoat, nor have any
thing worth the danger of a relapse to
write. I owe you so much of my health, as
I would not mingle you in any occasion of
repairing it, and therefore here ask leave to
kisse your hands, and bid you good mor-
row and farewell.

Your very true friend and servant
J Donne. [cw:To]

To SIR,
I%+T should be no interruption to your pleasures, to hear me often say that I love you, and that you are as much my meditations as my self: I often compare not you and me, but the sphere in which your resolutions are, and my wheel; both I hope concentrique to God: for me thinks the new Astronomie is thus appliable well, that we which are a little earth, should rather move towards God, then that he which is fulfilling, and can come no whither, should move towards us. To your life full of variety, nothing is old, nor new to mine; and as to that life, all stickings and hesitations seem stupid and stony, so to this, all fluid slipperinesses, and transitory migrations seem giddie and featherie. In that life one is ever in the porch or postern, going in or out, never within his house himself: It is a garment made of remnants, a life ravelled out into ends, a line discontinued, and a number of small wretched points, useless, because they concurre not: A life built of past and future, not proposing any constant present; they have more pleasures then we, but not more pleasure; they joy oftner, we longer; and no man but of so much understanding as may deliver him from being a fool, would change with a mad-man, which had a better proportion of wit in his often %Lucidis%2. You know, they which dwell farthest from the Sun, if in any convenient distance, have longer days, better appetites, better digestion, better growth, and longer life: And all these advantages have their minds who are well removed from the scorchings, and dazlings, and exhalings of the worlds glory: but neither of our lives are in such extremes; for you living at Court without ambition, which would burn you, or envy, which would devest others, live in the Sun, not in the fire: And I which live in the Country without stupefying, am not in darknesse, but in shadow, which is not no light, but a pallid, [CW:wa-]
waterish, and diluted one. As all shadows [p.63]
are of one colour, if you respect the body
from which they are cast (for our shadows
upon clay will be dirty, and in a garden
green, and flowery) so all retirings into a
shadowy life are alike from all causes, and
alike subject to the barbarousnesse and in-
sipid dulnesse of the Country: onely the
emploiments, and that upon which you
cast and bestow your pleasure, businesse, or
books, gives it the tincture, and beauty. But
truly wheresoever we are, if we can but tell
our selves truly what and where we would
be, we may make any state and place such;
for we are so composed, that if abundance,
or glory scorch and melt us, we have an
dark fortunes, we have within us a torch, a
soul, lighter and warmer then any without:
we are therefore our own umbrella's, and
our own suns. These, Sir, are the sallads
and onions of %1Micham%2, sent to you with as
whole- wholesome affection as your other friends 
[p.64]
send Melons and Quelque-choses from
Court and %1London%2. If I present you not as
good diet as they, I would yet say grace to
theirs, and bid much good do it you. I
send you, with this, a Letter which I sent to
the Countesse. It is not my use nor duty to
doe so, but for your having of it, there were
but two consents, and I am sure you have
mine, and you have hers. I also
writ to her La%5p%6 for the verses she shewed
in the garden, which I did not onely to
extort them, nor onely to keep my promise
of writing, for that I had done in the other
Letter, and perchance she hath forgotten
the promise; nor onely because I think my
Letters just good enough for a progresse,
but because I would write apace to her,
whilst it is possible to expresse that which
I yet know of her, for by this growth I see
how soon she will be ineffable.[CW:S%9IR%0]
Though my friendship be good for nothing else, it may give you the pro-
fit of a tentation, or of an affliction: It may excuse your patience; and though it can-
ot allure, it shall importune you. Though I know you have many worthy friends of all rankes, yet I adde something, since I which am of none, would fain be your friend too. There is some of the honour and some of the degrees of a Creation, to make a friendship of nothing. Yet, not to annihilate my self utterly (for though it seem humblenesse, yet it is a work of as much almightinesse, to bring a thing to nothing, as from nothing) though I be not of the best stuffe for friendship, which men of warm and durable fortunes only are, I cannot say, that I am not of the best fashion, if truth and honesty be that; which I must ever exercise, towards you, because I learned it of you: for the conversation with wor-
thy men, and of good example, (though it sow not vertue in us, yet produceth and ripeneth it. Your mans haste, and mine to cuts off this Letter here, yet, as in littell paterns torn from a whole piece, this may tell you what all I am. Though by taking me before my day (which I accoun-
ted Tuesday) I make short payment of this duty of Letters, yet I have a little comfort in this, that you see me hereby, willing to pay those debts which I can, before my time.

First Saturday in March. 1607.

Your affectionate friend
J. Donne.
To the Countesse of Bedford.

Happiest and worthiest Lady,

Do not remember that ever I have seen a petition in verse, I would not therefore be singular, nor add these to your other papers. I have yet adventured so near as to make a petition for verse, it is for those your Ladiship did me the honour to see in Twicknam garden, except you repent your making, and having mended your judgment by thinking worse, that is, better, because juster, of their subject. They must needs be an excellent exercise of your wit, which speaks so well of so ill: I humbly beg them of your Ladiship, with two such promises, as to any other of your compositions were threats: that I will not shew them, and that I will not believe them; and nothing should be so used that comes from your brain or breast. If I should confess a fault in the boldness of asking them, or make a fault by doing it in a longer Letter, your Ladiship might use your style and old fashion of the Court towards me, and pay me with a Pardon.

Here therefore I humbly kiss your Ladiship's fair learned hands, and wish you good wishes and speedy grants.

Your Ladiship's servant

J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir H. Goodere.

Because things be conserved by the same means, which established them, I nurse that friendship by Letters, which you before me, and pay me with a Pardon. Here therefore I humbly kiss your Ladyship's fair learned hands, and wish you good wishes and speedy grants.

Your Ladiship's servant

J. Donne.
frowardnesse: which words, I am glad to
observe that the holy Authors often joyne
as expressers and relatives to one another,
because else out of a naturall descent to that
unworthy fault of frowardnesse, furthered [cw:with]
with that incommodity of a little thinne [p.69]
house; I should have mistaken it to be a
small thing, which now I see equalled
with the worst. If you have laid papers
and books by, I pray let this messenger have
them, I have determined upon them. If
you have not, be content to do it, in the
next three or four days. So, Sir, I kisse your
hands; and deliver to you an intire and
clear heart; which shall ever when I am
with you be in my face and tongue, and
when I am from you, in my Letters, for I
will never draw Curtain between you and it.
From your house at Micham friday morning.
Yours very affectionately
J. Donne.

When you are sometimes at M. Sackvills, aske if he have this book, Baldvinus de officio
pii hominis in controversiis; it was written at the conference at Poissy, where Beza was, and he an-
swered it; I long for it.

To Sir H. G.

I hope you are now welcome to London, and well, and well comforted in your Fathers health and love, and well contented that we ask you how you doe, and tell you how we are, which yet I cannot of my self; If I knew that I were ill, I were well; for we consist of three parts, a Soul, and Body, and Minde: which I call those thoughts and affections and passions, which neither soul nor body hath alone, but have been gotten by their communication, as Musique results out of our breath and a Cornet. And of all these the diseases are cures, if they be known. Of our souls sicknesses, which are sinnes, the knowledge is, to acknowledge.
we are not dieted by drams and scruples, for we cannot take too much. Of our bodily infirmities, though our knowledge be partly extrinsco, from the opinion of the Physician, and that the subject and matter be flexible, and various; yet their rules are certain, and if the matter be rightly applied to the rule, our knowledge thereof is also certain. But of the diseases of the mind, there is no Criterium, no Canon, no rule; for, our own taste and apprehension and interpretation should be the Judge, and that is the disease itself. Therefore sometimes when I find myself transported with jollity, and love of company, I hang Leads at my heels; and reduce to my thoughts my fortunes, my years, the duties of a man, of a friend, of a husband, of a Father, and all the incumbencies of a family: when sadness dejects me, either I countermine it with another sadness, or I kindle squibs about me again, and fly into sportfulness and company: and I find ever after all, that I am like an exorcist, which had long laboured about one, which at last appears to have the Mother, that I still mistake my disease. And I still vex myself with this, because if I know it not, no body can know it. And I comfort myself, because I see dispassioned men are subject to the like ignorances. For divers minds out of the same thing often draw contrary conclusions, as Augustine thought devout to be therefore full of the holy Ghost, because not being able to read, he could say the whole Bible, and interpret it; and Thyreus the Jesuit for the same reason doth think all the Anabaptists to be possessed. And as often out of contrary things men draw one conclusion. As to the Roman Church, magnificence and splendor hath ever been an argument of God's favor, and poverty & affliction, to the Greek. Out of this variety of minds it proceeds, that though our souls would goe to one end, Heaven,
and all our bodies must go to one end, the earth: yet our third part, the minde, which is our naturall guide here, choses to every man a severall way: scarce any man likes what another doth, nor advisedly, that which himself. But Sir, I am beyond my purpose; I mean to write a Letter, and I am fallen into a discourse, and I do not only take you from some businesse, but I make a new businesse by drawing you into these meditations. In which let my openness be an argument of such love as I would fain expresse in some worthier fashion.

To Sir G. F.

I Writ to you once this week before; yet I write again, both because it seems a kind of resifting of grace, to omit any commodity of sending into England and because any Pacquet from me into England should go, not only without just freight, but without ballast, if it had not a letter to you. In Letters that I received from Sir H. Wotton yesterday from Amyens, I had one of the 8 of March from you, and with it one from Mars Danterey, of the 28 of January: which is a strange disproportion, But Sir, if our Letters come not in due order, and so make not a certain and concurrent chain, yet if they come as Atomes, and so meet at last, by any crooked, and casuall application, they make up, and they nourish both dies of friendship; and in that fashion, I mean one way or other, first or last, I hope all the Letters which have been addressed to us by one another, are safely arrived, except perchance that pacquet by the Cook cept perchance that pacquet by the Cook be not, of which before this time you are cleare; for I received (as I told you) a Letter by M. Nat. Rich, and if you sent none by him, then it was that Letter, which the
Cook tells you he delivered to M. Rich; which, with all my criticimes, I cannot reconcile; because in your last Letter, I find mention of things formerly written, which I have not found. However, I am yet in the same perplexity, which I mentioned before, which is, that I have received no syllable, neither from her self, nor by any other, how my wife hath passed her danger, nor do I know whether I be increased by a child, or diminished by the losse of a wife.

I hear from England of many censures of my book, of M. Drury; if any of those censures I do but pardon me in my descent in Printing any thing in verse, (which if they do, they are more charitable then my self; for I do not pardon my self, but confesse that I did it against my conscience, that is, against my own opinion, that I should not have done so) I doubt not but they will soon give over that other part of that indictment, which is that I have said so much; for no body can imagine, that I who never saw her, could have any other purpose in that, then that when I had received so very good testimony of her worthinesse, and was gone down to print verses, it became me to say, not what I was sure was just truth, but the best that I could conceive; for that had been a new weakness in me, to have praised any body in printed verses, that had not been capable of the best praise that I could give. Presently after Easter we shall go to Frankford to be there at the election, where we shall meet Sir H. Wotton and Sir Ro Rich, and after that we are determined to passe some time, in the Palatinate. I go thither with a great deale of devotion; for me thinkes it is a new kinde of piety, that as Pilgrims went heretofore to places which had been holy and happy, so I go to a place now, which shall be so, and more, by the present of the worthiest Princess of the world, if that marriage proceed. I have no greater errand to the place.
then that at my return into England, I may be the fitter to stand in her presence, and that after I have seen a rich and abundant Countrey, in his best seasons, I may see that Sun which shall always keep it in that height. Howsoever we stray, if you have leasure to write at any time, adventure by no other way, then M. Bruer, at the Queens Armes, a Mercer, in Cheapside. I shall omit no opportunity, of which I doubt not to finde more then one before we go from Paris. Therefore give me leave to end this, in which if you did not finde the remembrance of my humblest services to my Lady Bedford, your love and faith ought to try all the experiments of pouders, and dryings, and waterings to discover some lines which appeared not; because it is impossible that a Letter should come from me, with such an ungratefull silence.

Your very true poor friend and servant and lover J. Donne.

This day begins a History, of which I doubt not but I shall write more to you before I leave this town. Monsieur de Rohan, a person for birth, next heire to the Kingdome of Navar, after the Kings children, (if the King of Spaine were weary of it) and for allyance, sonne in law to D. Sally, and for breeding in the wars and estate, the most remarkable man of the Religion, being Governour of S. Jean d' Angeli, one of the most important towns which they of the Religion hold for their security, finding that some distasts between the Lieutenant and the Maior of the town, and him, were dangerously fomented by great persons, stole from Court, rode post to the town and removed these two persons. He sent his secretary, and another dependent of his to give the Queen satisfaction, who is so far from receivin it, that his messengers are committed to the Bastile, likely to be presently tortured; all his friends here commanded to their houses, and the Queens companies of light horse sent already thitherward, and foot companies preparing; which troops being sent against...
To Sir H. G.

Sir,

Because I am in a place and season where I see every thing bud forth, I must do so too, and vent some of my meditations to you; the rather because all other buds being yet without taste or virtue, my Letters may be like them. The pleasantnesse of the season displeases me. Every thing refreshes, and I wither, and I grow older and not better, my strength diminishes, and my load growes, and being to passe more stormes, I finde that I have not only cast out all my ballast which nature and time gives, Reason and discretion, and am as empty and light as Vanity can make me; but I have over fraught my self with Vice, and so am riddingly subject to two contrary wrackes, Sinking and Over setting, and under the iniquity of such a disease as inforses the patient when he is almost starved, not only to fast, but to purge. For I have much to take in, and much to cast out; sometimes I thinke it easier to discharge my self of vice then of vanity, as one may sooner carry the fire out of a room then the smoake: and then I see it was a new vanity to think so. And when I think sometimes that vanity, because it is thinne and airie, may be expelled with vertue or businesse, or substantiall vice; I finde that I give entrance thereby to new vices. Certainly as the earth and water, one sad, the other fluid, make but one bodie: so to aire and Vanity, there is but one Centrum morbia. And that which later Physicians say of our bodies, is fitter for our mindes: for that which they call Destruction, which is a corruption and want of those fundamentall parts whereof we consist, is Vice: and that
Collectio stercorum, which is but the excrement of that corruption, is our Vanity and indiscretion: both these have but one root in me, and must be pulled out at once, or never. But I am so farre from digging to it, that I know not where it is, for it is not in mine eyes only, but in every sense, nor in my concupiscence only, but in every power and affection. Sir, I was willing to let you see how impotent a man you love, not to dishearten you from doing so still (for my vices are not infectious, nor wandering, they came not yesterday, nor mean to go away to day: they Inne not, but dwell in me, and see themselves so welcome, and find in me so good company of one another, that they will not change, especially to one not apprehensive, nor easily accessible) but I do it, that your counsell might cure me, and if you deny that, your example shal, for I will as much strive to be like you as I will wish to continue good.

To the Honourable Kt. Sir, You may remember that long since you delivered Mr. Fowler possession of me, but the wide distance in which I have lived from Court, makes me reasonably fear, that now he knows not his right and power in me, though he must of necessity have all, to whom you and I joyn in a gift of me, as we did to him, so that perchance he hath a servant of me, which might be passed in a book of concealment. If your leisure suffer it, I pray finde whether I be in him still, and conserve me in his love; and so perfect your own work, or doe it over again, and restore me to the place, which by your favour I had in him. For Mr. Powell who serves her Majesty as Clerk of her coun-
sell, hath told me that Mr. Fowler hath some purpose to retire himself; and therefore I would fain for all my love, have so much of his, as to finde him willing when I shall seek him at Court, to let me understand his purpose therein; for if my means may make me acceptable to the Queen and him, I should be very sorry, he should make so farre steps therein with any other, that I should fail in it, onely for not have spoke to him soon enough. It were an injury to the forwardnesse of your love to adde more, here therefore I kisse your hands, and commend to you the truth of my love.

From my lodging in the Strand, whither I shall return on Mun-day, 23 June 1607.

Your very affectionate servant and lover Jo. Donne.

To SIR,

You husband my time thriftily, when you command me to write by such a messenger, as can tell you more then I can write, for so he doth not onely carry the Letter, but is the Letter. But that the naming of some things, may give you occasion to ask him farther, and him to open himself unto you, give me leave to tell you, that the now Spa. Embassadour proceeds in the old pace, the King hath departed from his ordinary way so farre, as to appoint 9 of the Councell to treat with him; but when they came to any approaches, he answered, that be brought onely Commission to propose certain things, which he was ready to doe, but he had no instructions to treat, but expected them upon another return from his Master. So that there is no treaty for the marriage begun yet; for I know you have heard Olivarez his free acknowledgement, that til the Prince came, there was no thought of it. The King in his gests of this progress, hath determined it, not as heretofore, at
Windsor, but at Farnham during pleasure: so he is within a journey of Southampton; and even that circumstance adds to some other reasons, that he expects the Prince this Summer, and that Sir W. Crofts, in his last dispatches, enlarged the Prince in his liberty, from his Father, to come away, if he would. Amongst all the irregularities of this age, to me this is as strange as any, That this year there is no peace, and yet no sword drawn in the world; & it is a lost conjecture to think which way any of the Armies will bend. Here it is imagined, that Yukendorfe and Gabor (for, for any concurrence of love, it is but a dream) may so farre distress Bohemia, as that Tilly must be recalled thither; and that if he be, Brunswikes way is open into Baviere, where he may recompense great losses, whilst Mansfield and Gonzales, and his Excellency and Spinola, keep the ballance even in their parts, by looking upon another. This noble friend of yours is in his last minute, in this Town; and I am going into the Coach with my Lo to Hanworth. If I might have forborn the sealing the rest till my return from thence, you might have heard something more from your very true poor friend and humble servant in Chr. Jes.

No straitness makes me forget my service to your daughters: If my Bell were tolling, I should pray for them, and though my Letter be sealing, I leave not out my wishes, that their fortunes may second their goodnesse. Amen.

To Sir H. G.

Sir,

His Tuesday morning, which hath brought me to London, presents me with all your letters. Me thought it was a rent day, I mean such as yours, and not as mine; and yet such too, when I consider how much I ought you for them, how good a mother, how fertill and
abundant the understanding is, if she
have a good father; and how well
friendship performs that office. For that
which is denied in other generations is
done in this of yours: for here is superseta-
tion, childe upon childe, and that which is
more strange, twins at a latter conception.
If in my second religion, friendship, I had a
conscience, either to mistake good
and bad and indifferent, or to be
ravished by others opinions or examples,
or to adhere to neither part, or to
encline to one, but upon reasons [p.86]
light in themselves, or indiscussed in me,
(which are almost all the diseases of con-
ce) I might mistake your often, long, and
busie Letters, and fear you did but intreat
me to have mercy upon you and spare you;
for you know our Court took the resoluti-
on, that it was the best way to dispatch the
French Prince back again quickly, to re-
ceive him solemnly, ceremoniously, and ex-
pensively, when he hoped a domestique
and durable entertainment. I never meant
to excell you in weight nor price, but in
number and bulk I thought I might, be-
cause he may cast up a greater summe who
hath but forty small monies, then he with
twenty Poruguesses. The memory of
friends, (I mean onely for Letters) neither
enters ordinarily into busied men, because
they are ever emploied within, nor into
men of pleasure, because they are never at
home. For these wishes therefore which
you won out of your pleasure and recreati-
on, you were as excusable to me if you [cw:writ]
write seldome, as Sir H. Wotton is, under the [p.87]
oppression of businesse, or the necessity of
seeming so; or more then he, because I
hope you have both pleasure and businesse:
onely to me, who have neither, this omis-
sion were sinne; for though writing be
not of the precepts of friendship, but of the
counsels, yet, as in some cases to some men
Counsels become precepts, and though not immediately from God, yet very roundly and quickly from his Church, (as selling and dividing goods in the first time, continuance in the Romane Church, and order and decency in ours) so to me who can do nothing else, it seems to bind my conscience to write; and it is sin to do against the conscience, though that erre. Yet no mans Letters might be better wanted then mine, since my whole Letter is nothing else but a confession that I should and would write. I owed you a Letter in verse before by mine own promise, and now that you think that you have hedged in that debt by a greater by your Letter in verse, I pray presently, were to accuse my self of not having read yours so often as such a Letter deserves from you to me. To make my debt greater (for such is the desire of all, who cannot or mean not to pay) I pray read these two problems: for such light flashes as these have been my hawkings in my sorry journeys. I accompany them with another ragge of verses, worthy of that name for the smallnesse, and age, for it hath long lien among my other papers, and laughs at them that have adventured to you: for I think till now you saw it not, and neither you, nor it should repent it. Sir, if I were any thing, my love to you might multiply it, and dignifie it: But infinite nothings are but one such; yet since even Chymera's have some name and titles, I am also yours.

Sir, if I were any thing, my love to you might multiply it, and dignifie it: But infinite nothings are but one such; yet since even Chymera's have some name and titles, I am also yours.

%1To your selfe%2.

%1To your selfe%2.
reade so low meditations as these. Nothing in my L. of Salisbury's death exercised my poor considerations so much, as the multitude of libells. It was easily discerned, some years before his death, that he was at a defensive war, both for his honour and health, and (as we then thought) for his estate: and I thought, that had removed much of the envy. Besides, I have just reasons to think, that in the chiefest businesse between the Nations, he was a very good patriot. But I meant to speake of nothing but the libells, of which, all which are brought into these parts, are so tastelesse and flat, that I protest to you, I think they were made by his friends. It is not the first time that our age hath seen that art practised, That when there are witty and sharp libels made, which not onely for the liberty of speaking, but for the elegancie, and composition, would take deep root, and make durable impressions in the memory, no other way hath been thought so fit to suppresse them, as to divulge some course, and railing one: for when the noise is risen, that libels are abroad, mens curiositie must be served with something: and it is better for the honour of the person traduced, that some blunt downright railings be vented, of which every body is soon weary, then other pieces, which entertain us long with a delight, and love to the things themselves. I doubt not but he smoothered some libels against him in his life time. But I would all these (or better) had been made then, for they might then have wrought upon him; and they might have testified that the authors had meant to mend him, but now they can have no honest pretence. I dare say to you, where I am not easily misinterpreted, that there may be cases, where one may do his Countrey good service, by libelling against a live man. For, where a man is either too great, or his Vices too generall, to be brought under a judiciary accusation,
there is no way, but this extraordinary accus- 
cising, which we call Libelling [.] And I have 
heard that nothing hath soupled and all-
layed the D. of %1Lerma%2 in his violent great-
ness, so much as the often libels made up-
on him. But after death, it is, in all cases,
unexcusable. I know that %1Lucifer%2, and one
or two more of the Fathers who writ libel-
lous books against the Emperours of their
times, are excused by our writers, because
they writ not in the lives of those Empe-
rous. I am glad for them that they writ not
in their lives, for that must have occasioned
tumult, and contempt, against so high and
Soveraign persons. But that doth not
enough excuse them to me, for writing so
after their death; for that was ignoble, and
uselesse, though they did a little escape the
nature of libels, by being subscribed and a-
vowed: which excuse would not have
served in the Star-chamber, where sealed [cw:Letters]
Letters have been judged Libels; but these [p.92]
of which we speake at this present, are ca-
pable of no excuse, no amolishment, and
therefore I cry you mercy, and my self too,
for disliking them, with so much diligence,
for they deserve not that. But Sir, you see
by this, and by my Letter of last week, from
hence the peremptory barrennesse of this
place, from whence we can write nothing
into %1England%2, but of that which comes from
thence. Till the Lady %1Worster%2 came hither,
I had never heard any thing to make me
imagine that Sir %1Rob%2. %1Rich%2 was in %1England%2;
the first hour that I had knowledge of it, I
kisse his hands by this Letter. I make ac-
count to be in %1London%2, transitorily, about the
end of %1August%2. You shall do me much fa-
vour, if I may finde a Letter from you (if
you shall not then be there) at the Lady
%1Bartlets%2: I shall come home in much igno-
rance, nor would I discern home by a bet-
ter light, or any other then you. I can glo-
ry of nothing in this voyage, but that I have
afflicted my Lady %1Bedford%2 with few Letters. [cw:I]
031.L54.094 I protest earnestly to you, it troubles me [p.93]
031.L54.095 much more to dispatch a pacquet into %1Eng%2-
031.L54.096 %1land%2, without a Letter to her, then it would
031.L54.097 to put in three. But I have been heretofore
031.L54.098 too immodest towards her, and I suffer this
031.L54.099 Purgatory for it. We make account to leave
031.L54.100 this place within 8 or 10 days, and hence
031.L54.101 to make our best haste to the Count %1Maurice%2,
031.L54.102 where we think to finde again the young
031.L54.103 Palatine: all this I tell you only because
031.L54.104 when you know, that we shall run too fast
031.L54.105 to write any more Letters, you may easily
031.L54.106 pardon the importunities and impertinen-
031.L54.107 cies of this, and cast into no lower place of
031.L54.108 your love.
031.L54.0DL Spa%C, 26 July %1here%2/1612
031.L54.0SS %1Your very true friend and servant%2
031.L54.0SS J. Donne.

032.L54.0HE %1To my Lord%2 G. H.
032.L54.Sal %1SIR%2,
032.L54.001 I%+ Am near the execution of that purpose
032.L54.002 for %1France%2; though I may have other ends,
032.L54.003 yet if it do but keep me awake, it recom- [cw:penses]
032.L54.004 penses me well. I am now in the after- [p.94]
032.L54.005 noon of my life, and then it is unwhole-
032.L54.006 some to sleep. It is ill to look back, or give
032.L54.007 over in a course; but worse never to set
032.L54.008 out. I speake to you at this time of depar-
032.L54.009 ting, as I should do at my last upon my
032.L54.010 death-bed; and I desire to deliver into
032.L54.011 your hands a heart and affections, as inno-
032.L54.012 cent towards you, as I shall to deliver my
032.L54.013 soul into Gods hands then. I say not this
032.L54.014 out of diffidence, as though you doubted it,
032.L54.015 or that this should look like such an excuse,
032.L54.016 as implied an accusation; but because my
032.L54.017 fortune hath burdened you so, as I could
032.L54.018 not rectifie it before my going, my consci-
032.L54.019 ence and interpretation (severer I hope then
032.L54.020 yours towards my self) calls that a kinde of
032.L54.021 demerit, but God who hath not only af-
032.L54.022 forded us a way to be delivered from our
032.L54.023 great many debts, contracted by our Exe-
032.L54.024 cutorship to %1Adam%2, but also another for our
particular debts after, hath not left poor
men unprovided, for discharge of moral
and civil debts; in which, acknowledge-
ment, and thankfulness is the same, as re-
pentance and contrition is in spiritual debts:
and though the value and dignity of all
these be not perchance in the things, but in
the acceptance, yet I cannot doubt of it,
either in God, or you. But Sir, because
there is some degree of thankfulness in
asking more (for that confesses all former
obligations, and a desire to be still in the
same dependency) I must intreat you to
continue that wherein you have most ex-
pressed your love to me, which is, to main-
tain me in the same room in my Lady %1Bed%2-
%1fords%2 opinion, in the which you placed me.
I profess to you that I am too much bound
to her, for expressing every way her care of
my fortune, that I am weary before she is;
and out of a loathness, that so good works
should be bestowed upon so ill stuffe, or that
so much ill fortune should be mingled with
hers, as that she should misse any thing that
she desire, though it were but for me; I
am willing to depart from farther exerci-
sing her indevours in that kinde I shall be [cw:bold]
bold to deliver my poor Letters to her La-
[p.96] diships hands, through yours, whilst I am
abroad though I shall ever account my
self at home, whilst I am in your me-
ory.
Your affectionate servant and lover
J. Donne.

To Sir H. G.

Sir,
Nature hath made all bodies alike, by
mingling and kneading up the same
elements in every one. And amongst men,
the other nature, Custome, hath made every
minde like some other; we are patterns, or
copies, we informe, or imitate. But as he
hath not presently attained to write a good
hand, which hath equalled one excellent Master in his %1A%2, another in his %1B%2, much lesse he which hath fought all the excellent Masters, and imploied all his time to exceed in one Letter, because not so much an excellency of any, not every one, as an equal and proportion, and respect to one[CW:another] another gives the perfection: so is no man [p.97] vertuous by particular example. Not he that doth all actions to the pattern of the most valiant, or liberall, which Histories afford: nor he which chuses from every one their best actions, and thereupon doth something like those. Perchance such may be %1in via perficiendorum%2, which Divines allow to Monasticall life, but not %1perfectorum%2, which by them is only due to Prelacy. For vertue is even, and continuall, and the same, and can therefore break no where, nor ad- mit ends, nor beginnings; it is not only not broken, but not tyed together. He is not vertuous, out of whose actions you can pick an excellent one. Vice and her fruits may be seen, because they are thick bodies, but not vertue, which is all light, and vices have swellings and fits, and noise, because being extreams, they dwell far asunder, and they maintain both a forein war against vertue, and a civill against one another, and affect Soveraignty, as vertue doth society. The later Physicians say, that when our[naturall] inborn preservative is corrupted or [p.98] wasted, and must be restored by a like extracted from other bodies; the chief care is that the Mummy have in it no excelling quality, but an equally digested temper: And such is true vertue. But men who have preferred money before all, think they deal honourably with vertue, if they compare her with money: And think that as money is not called base, till the allay exceed the pure; so they are vertuous enough, if they have enough to make their actions scur- rant, which is, if either they get praise, or (in a lower abasing) if they incure not
infamy or penalty. But you know who said, %1Angusta innocentia est ad legem bonum esse%2: which rule being given for positive Laws, severe mistakers apply even to Gods Law, and (perchance against his Command-ment) binde themselves to his Counsails, beyond his Laws. But they are worse, that thinke that because some men formerly wastfull, live better with half their rents then they did with all, being now advantaged with discretion and experience, therefore our times need lesse moral vertue then the first, because we have Christianity, which is the use and application of all vertue: as though our religion were but an art of thrift, to make a little vertue go far. For as plenitfull springs are fittest, and best become large Aqueducts, so doth much vertue such afterward and officer as a Christian. But I must not give you a Homily for a Letter. I said a great while since, that custome made men like; we who have been accustomed to one another are like in this, that we love not businesse: this therefore shall not be to you nor me a busie Letter. I end with a probleme, whose errand is, to aske for his fellowes. I pray before you ingulfe your self in the progresse, leave them for me, and such other of my papers as you will lend me. And besides this Alle-goricall lending, lend me truely your coun-sails, and love God and me, whilest I love him and you.

To my very true and very good friend Henry Goodere.
that any should think, you had in your Religion peccant humours, defective, or abundant, or that such a booke, (if I mistake it not) should be able to work upon you; my comfort is, that their judgment is too weak to endanger you, since by this is confesses, that it mistakes you, in thinking you irresolved or various; yet let me be bold to fear, that that sound true opinion, that in all Christian professions there is way to salvation (which I think you think) may have been so incommodiously or intempestively sometimes uttered by you; or else your having friends equally near you of all the impressions of Religion, may have testified such an indifferency, as hath occasioned some to further such inclinations, as the have mistaken to be in you. This I have feared, because hertofore the obedient Puritans, and now the over-obe-dient Papists attempt you. It hath hurt very many, not in their conscience, nor ends, but in their reputation, and ways, that others have thought them fit to be wrought upon. As some bodies are as wholesomly nourished as ours, with Akornes, and endure nakedness, both which would be dangerous to us, if we for them should leave our former habits, though theirs were the Primitive diet and custome: so are many souls well fed with such forms, and dresses of Religion, as would distemper and misbecome us, and make us corrupt towards God, if any humane circumstance moved it, and in the opinion of men, though none. You shall seldom see a Coyne, upon which the stamp were removed, though to imprint it better, but it looks awry and squint. And so, for the most part, do mindes which have received divers impressions. I will not, nor need to you, compare the Religions. The channels of Gods mercies run through both fields; and they are sister teats of his graces, yet both diseased and infected, but not both alike.
And I think, that as Copernicisme in the Ma-thematiques hath carried earth farther up, from the stupid Center; and yet not houred it, nor advantaged it, because for the necessity of appearances, it hath carried heaven so much higher from it: so the Roman profession seems to exhale, and refine our wills from earthly Drugs, and Lees, more then the Reformed, and so seems to bring us nearer heaven; but then that carries heaven farther from us, by making us pass so many Courts, and Offices of Saints in this life, in all our petitions, and lying in a painfull prison in the next, during the plea-sure, not of him to whom we go, and who must be our Judge, but of them from whom we come, who know not our case. [cw:Sir] Sir, as I said last time, labour to keep your alacrity and dignity, in an even temper: for in a dark sadnesse, indifferent things seem abominable, or necessary, being nei- ther, as trees, and sheep to melancholique night-walkers have unproper shapes. And when you descend to satisfie all men in your own religion, or to excuse others to al; you prostitute your self and your under-standing, though not a prey, yet a mark, and a hope, and a subject, for every sophi-ster in Religion to work on. For the other part of your Letter, spent in the praise of the Countesse, I am always very apt to be-leave it of her, and can never beleive it so well, and so reasonably, as now, when it is averred by you; but for the expressing it to her, in that sort as you seem to coun-saile, I have these two reasons to decline it. That that knowledge which she hath of me, was in the beginning of a graver course, then of a Poet, into which (that I may al-so keep my dignity) I would not seem to relapse. The Spanish proverb informes me, that he is a fool which cannot make one Sonnet, and he is mad which makes two. The other stronger reason, is my in-tegrity to the other Countesse, of whose
worthiness though I swallowed your opinion at first upon your words, yet I have had since an explicit faith, and now a knowledge: and for her delight (since she descends to them) I had reserved not only all the verses, which I should make, but all the thoughts of women's worthiness. But because I hope she will not disdain, that I should write well of her Picture, I have obeyed you thus far, as to write: but intreat you by your friendship, that by this occasion of versifying, I be not traduced, nor esteemed light in that Tribe, and that house where I have lived. If those reasons which moved you to bid me write be not constant in you still, or if you meant not that I should write verses; or if these verses be too bad, or too good, over or under her understanding, and not fit; I pray receive them, as a companion and supplement of this Letter to you; and as such a token as I use to send, which use, because I wish rather they should serve (except you wish otherwise) I send no other; but after I have told you, that here at a Christening at Peckam, you are remembered by divers of ours, and I commanded to you so, I kiss your hands, and so seal to you my pure love, which I would not refuse to do by any labour or danger.

Your very true friend and servant
J. Donne.

To Sir G. M.

I you were here, you would not think me importune, if I bid you good morning every day; and such a patience will excuse my often Letters. No other kind of conveyance is better for knowledge, or love: What treasures of Morall knowledge are in Senecaes Letters to onely one Lucilius? how much of the storie of the time, is in Ciceroes Letters to [CW:ters?]
ters? And how all of these times, in the [p.106] Jesuites Eastern and Western Epistles?

where can we finde so perfect a Character of %1Phalaris%2, as in his own Letters, which are almost so many writs of Execution? Or of %1Brutus%2, as in his privie seals for monie?

The Evangiles and Acts, teach us what to beleeve, but the Epistles of the Apostles what to do. And those who have endeavoured to dignifie %1Seneca%2 above his worth, have no way fitter, then to imagine Letters between him and S. %1Paul%2. As they think also that they have expressed an excellent person, in that Letter which they obtrude, from our B. Saviour to King %1Agabarus%2. The Italiyans, which are most discursive, and think so much in this kinde of expressing, that %1Michel Montaigne%2 saies, he hath seen, (as I remember) 400 volumes of Italian Letters.

But it is the other capacity which must make mine acceptable, that they are also the best conveyors of love. But, though all knowledge be in those Authors already, [cw:yet,] yet, as some poisons, and some medicines, [p.107] hurt not, nor profit, except the creature in which they reside, contribute their lively activitie, and vigor; so, much of the knowledge buried in Books perisheth, and becomes ineffectuall, if it be not applied, and refreshed by a companion, or friend. Much of their goodnesse, hath the same period, which some Physicians of %1Italy%2 have ob- served to be in the biting of their %1Tarentola%2, that it affects no longer, then the flie lives. For with how much desire we read the paers of any living now, (especially friends) which we would scarce allow a boxe in our cabinet, or shelf in our Library, if they were dead? And we do justly in it, for the writings and words of men present, we may examine, controll, and expostulate, and receive satisfaction from the authors; but the other we must beleeeve, or discredit; they present no mean. Since then at this
time, I am upon the stage, you may be con-
tent to hear me. And now that perchance I
have brought you to it, (as %1Thom. Badger%2 did [cw:the]
the King) now I have nothing to say. And [p.108]
it is well, for the Letter is already long e-
nough, else let this probleme supply, which
was occasioned by you, of women wea-
ing stones; which, it seems, you were
afraid women should read, because you
avert them at the beginning, with a prote-
station of cleanliness. %1Martiall%2 found no
way fitter to draw the Roman Matrons to
read one of his Books, which he thinks
most morall and cleanly, then to counsell
them by the first Epigram to skip the Book,
because it was obscene. But either you
write not at all for women, or for those of
sincerer palates. Though their unworthi-
ness, and your own ease be advocates for
me with you, yet I must adde my entreaty,
that you let goe no copy of my Problems,
till I review them. If it be too late, at least
be able to tell me who hath them.
Yours,
J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

Send not my Letters as tribute, nor inte-
est, nor recompense, nor for commerce,
or as testimonials of my love, nor provo-
kers of yours, nor to justifie my custome of
writing, nor for a vent and utterance of my
meditations; for my Letters are either a-ove or under all such offices; yet I write
very affectionately, and I chide and accuse
my self of diminishing that affection which
sends them, when I ask my self why: one-
ly I am sure that I desire that you might
have in your hands Letters of mine of all
different kindes, as conveyances and deliverers of me
to you, whether you accept me as a friend,
or as a patient, or as a penitent, or as a
beadsman, for I decline no jurisdiction,
or refuse any tenure. I would not open any
doore upon you, but look in when you
open it. Angels have not, nor affect not
other knowledge of one another, then they
lift to reveal to one another. It is then in
this onely, that friends are Angels, that they[are]
capable and fit for such revelations [p.110]
when they are offered. If at any time I
seem to studie you more inquisitively, it is
for no other end but to know how to pre-
sent you to God in my prayers, and what
to ask of him for you; for even that holy
exercise may not be done inopportune, no
t nor importune. I finde little errour in
that Grecians counsell, who saies, If thou
ask any think of God, offer no sacrifice, nor
ask elegantly, nor vehemently, but remem-
ber that thou wouldest not give to such an
asker: Nor in his other Countriman, who
affirms sacrifice of blood to be so unpro-
tionable to God, that perfumes, though
much more spirituall, are too grosse. Yea
words which are our subtillest and delica-
test outward creatures, being composed of
thoughts and breath, are so muddie, so
thick, that our thoughts themselves are so,
because (except at the first rising) they are
ever leavened with passions and affections:
And that advantage of nearer familiarity
with God, which the act of incarnation[cw:gave]
gave us, is grounded upon Gods assu-
ing us, not our going to him. And, our
accesses to his presence are but his descents
into us; and when we get any thing by
prayer, he gave us before hand the thing
and the petition. For, I scarce think any
ineffectuall prayer free from both sin, and
the punishment of sin: yet as God seposed
a seventh of our time for his exterior wor-
ship, and as his Christian Church early
presented him a type of the whole year in a
Lent, and after imposed the obligation of
canonique hours, constituting thereby mo-
nal Sabbaths every day; I am farre from
dehorting those fixed devotions: But I
had rather it were bestowed upon thanks-
giving then petition, upon praise then pray-
er; not that God is indered by that, or
weared by this; all is one in the receiver,
but not in the sender: and thanks doth
both offices; for, nothing doth so inno-
cently provoke new graces, as gratitude. I
would also rather make short prayers then
extend them, though God can neither be[

have more of the man, as ambition of elo-
quence, and a complacencie in the work,
and more of the Devil by often distracti-
s: for, after in the beginning we have
well intreated God to hearken, we speak no
more to him. Even this Letter is some ex-
ample of such infirmitie, which being in-
ended for a Letter, is extended and strayed
into a Homilie. And whatsoever is not
what it was purposed, is worse, therefore
shall at last end like a Letter by assuring
I am

SIR,
your noble friend and
d fellow in Armes, hath been at this
house. I finde by their diligent inquiring
from me, that he hath assured them that he
has much advanced your proceeding, by
his resignation; but cooled them again
with this, that the L. pretends in [cw:his]
his room. I never feared his, nor any mans [p.

diligence in that; I feared onely your re-
misnesse, because you have a fortune that
can endure, and a nature that can almost
be content to misse. But I had rather you
exercised your Philosophy and evennesse in
some things else. He hath not nothing
which falls cleanly and harmelesly; but he
wrestles better which stands. I know you
can easily forgive your self any negligences
and slacknesses, but I am glad that you are
ingaged to so many friends, who either by your self, or fame have knowledge of it. In all the rest of them there is a worthinesse, and in me a love which deserves to be satisfied. In this therefore, as you are forward in all things else, be content to do more for your friends then you would for your self; endeavour it, that is effect it. Tuesday.

Your very true friend and lover

J. Donne. [cw:To]

To Sir H. G.

I in the History or style of friendship, which is best written both in deeds and words, a Letter which is of a mixed nature, and hath something of both, is a mixed parenthesis: It may be left out, yet it contributes, though not to the being, yet to the verdure, and freshnesse thereof. Letters have truly the same office, as oaths. As these amongst light and empty men, are but fillings, and pauses, and interjections; but with weightier, they are sad attestations: So are Letters to some complement, and obligation to others. For mine, as I never authorized my servant to lie in my behalfe, (for if it were officious in him, it might be worse in me) so I allow my Letters much lesse that civill dishonesty, both because they go from me more considerately, and be cause they are permanent; for in them I may speak to you in your chamber a year hence before I know not whom, and not hear my self. They shall therefore ever keep the sincerity and intemerationesse of the fountain, whence they are derived. And as wheresoever ever these leaves fall, the root is in my heart, so shall they, as that sucks good affections towards you there, have ever true impressions in very leaves, that they can tell what the tree is, and these can tell you I am a friend, and an honest man. Of what generall use,
the fruit should speake, and I have none:
and of what particular profit to you, your
application and experimenting should tell
you, and you can make none of such a no-
thing; yet even of barren Sycamores, such
as I, there were use, if either any light flash-
ings, or scorching vehemencies, or sudden
showres made you need so shadowy an
example or remembrancer. But (Sir) your
fortune and minde do you this happy in-
jury, that they make all kinde of fruits use-
lesse unto you; Therefore I have placed
my love wisely where I need communicate
nothing. All this, though perchance you read
read it not till Michaelmas, was told you at [p.116]
%1Micham%2, 15. %1August%2. 1607.

To my most worthy friend Sir Henry Goodere.

Because evennesse conduces as much to
strength and firmnesse as greatnesse
doth, I would not discontinue my course
of writing. It is a sacrifice, which though
friends need not, friendship doth; which
hath in it so much divinity, that as we must
be ever equally disposed inwardly so to
doe or suffer for it, so we must sepose some
certain times for the outward service there-
of, though it be but formall and testimoni-
all: that time to me towards you is Tuesday,
my Temple, the Rose in Smith-field.
If I were by your appointment your Refe-
drarie for news, I should write but short
Letters, because the times are barren. The
low Countries, which used to be the Mart
of news for this season, suffering also, or ra-
ther enjoying a vacation. Since therefore I [cw:am]
am but mine own Secretary (and what's [p.117]
that?) I were excusable if I writ nothing,
since I am so: Besides that, your much
knowledge brings you this disadvantage,
that as stomachs accustomed to delicacies,
them when they are sick; so you can hear
nothing from me (though the Countrey
perchance make you hungry) which you
know not. Therefore in stead of a Letter to
you, I send you one to another, to the best
Lady, who did me the honour to acknow-
ledge the receit of one of mine, by one of
hers; and who only hath power to cast
the fetters of verse upon my free meditati-
ons: It should give you some delight, and
some comfort, because you are the first
which see it, and it is the last which you
shall see of this kinde from me.
Micham %1the%2/ 14 August.
Your very affectionate lover and servant
J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

To Sir I. H.
I Would not omit this, not Commodity,
but Advantage of writing to you. This
emptinesse in London, dignifies any Letter
from hence, as in the seasons, earliness and
lateness, makes the sournesse, and after
the sweetnesse of fruits acceptable and gra-
cious. We often excuse and advance mean
Authors, by the age in which they lived,
so will your love do this Letter; and you
will tell your self, that if he which writ it
knew wherein he might expresse his affecti-
on, or any thing which might have made
his Letter welcommer, he would have done
it. As it is, you may accept it so, as we do
many %1China%2 manufactures, of which
when we know no use, yet we satisfie our
curiosity in considering them, because we
knew not how, nor of what matter they
were made. Near great woods and quar-
ies it is no wonder to see faire houses,
but in %1Holland%1 which wants both, it is. [cw:So]
So were it for me who am as farre removed [p.119]
from Court, and knowledge of forein pas-
sages, as this City is now from the face and
furniture of a City, to build up a long Letter
and to write of my self, were but to inclose
a poor handfull of straw for a token in a
Letter yet I will tell you, that I am at London
only to provide for Monday, when I
shall use that favour which my Lady %1Bed%2-
%1ford%2 hath afforded me, of giving her name
to my daughter; which I mention to you,
as well to shew that I covet any occasion of
a gratefull speaking of her favours, as that,
because I have thought the day is likely to
bring you to London, I might tell you, that
my poor house is in your way and you
shall then finde such company, as (I think)
you will not be loath to accompany to
%1London%2.
DL 6 Aug. 1608.
Your very true friend
J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

T%+Hat which is at first but a visitation,
and a civill office, comes quickly to
be a haunting, and an uncivill importunity:
my often writing might be subject to such
a misinterpretation, if it were not to you,
who as you know that the affection which
suggests and dictates them, is ever one, and
continuall, and uninterrupted; may be
pleased to think my Letters so too, and that
all the pieces make but one long Letter, and
so I know you would not grudge to read
any intire book of mine, at that pace, as
you do my Letters, which is a leafe a week:
especially such Letters as mine, which (per-
chance out of the dulnesse of the place) are
so empty of any relations, as that they op-
presse not your meditations, nor discourse,
nor memory. You know that for aire we
are sure we apprehend and enjoy it, but
when this aire is rarified into fire, we begin
to dispute whether it be an element, or no: [cw:so]
so when Letters have a convenient hand- [p.121]
some body of news, they are Letters; but
when they are spun out of nothing, they are
nothing, or but apparitions, and ghosts,
with such hollow sounds, as he that hears them, knows not what they said. You (I think) and I am much of one sect in the Philosophy of love; which though it be directed upon the minde, doth inhere in the body, and find piety entertainment there: so have Letters for their principall office, to be seals and testimonies of mutuall affection, but the materialls and fuell of them should be a confident and mutuall communicating of those things which we know. How shall I then who know nothing write Letters? Sir, I learn knowledge of enough out of yours to me. I learn that there is truth and firmnesse and an earnestnesse of doing good alive in the world; and therefore, since there is so good company in it, I have not so much desire to go out of it, as I had, if my fortune would afford me any room in it. You know I have been no coward, nor [cw:un-] unindustrious in attempting that; nor [p.122] will I give it over yet. If at last, I must confess, that I dyed ten years ago, yet as the Primitive Church admitted some of the %1Jews%2 Ceremonies, nor for perpetuall use, but because they would bury the Synagogue honourably, though I dyed at a blow then when my courses were diverted, yet it will please me a little to have had a long funerall, and to have kept my self so long above ground without putrefaction. But this is melancholique discourse; To change therefore from this Metaphoricall death to the true, and that with a little more relish of mirth, let me tell you the good nature of the executioneer of %1Paris%2: who when %1Vatan%2 was beheaded, (who dying in the profession of the Religion, had made his peace with God in the prison, and so said nothing at the place of execution) swore he had rather execute forty Huguenots, then one Catholique, because the Huguenot used so few words, and troubled him so little, in respect of the dilatory ceremonies of the [cw:others] others, in dying. %1Cotton%2 the great Court Je- [p.123]
suite hath so importuned the %1Q%2. to give
some modifications to the late interlocuto-
ry arrest against the Jesuits, that in his pre-
sence, the C. %1Soisons%2, who had been present in
the Court at the time of the arrest, and %1Ser-%2
%1vin%2 the Kings Advocate, who urged it,
and the Premier president, were sent for:
They came so well provided with their
books, out of which they assigned to the %1Q%2.
so many, so evident places of seditious
doctrine, that the %1Q%2. was well satisfied,
that it was fit by all means to provide a-
gainst the teaching of the like doctrine in
%1France%2. The D. of %1Espernon%2 is come to %1Paris%2,
with (they say) 600 horse in his train; all
which company, came with him into the
Court: which is an insolency remarkable
here. They say that scarce any of the Princes
appear in the streets, but with very great
trains. No one enemy could wast the trea-
sures of %1France%2 so much, as so many friends
do: for the %1Q%2. dares scarce deny any, that so
she may have the better leave to make haste [cw:to]
to advance her Marquis of %1Ancre%2, of whose [p.124]
greatnesse, for matter of command, or
danger, they have no great fear, he being
no very capable nor stirring man: and
then for his drawing of great benefits from
the %1Q%2. they make the use of it, that their
suits passe with lesse opposition. I believe
the treasure is scattered, because I see the
future receipt charged with so very many
and great pensions. The %1Q%2. hath adventu-
red a little to stop this rage of the Princes
importunity, by denying a late suit of %1Sois-%2
%1sons%2: which though the other Princes
grudge not that %1Soisson%2 should faile, for he
hath drawn infinite sums already, yet they
resent it somewhat tenderly, that any of
them should be denyed, when the Marquis
obtains. That which was much observed
in the Kings more childish age, when I
was last here, by those whom his father
appointed to judge, by an assiduous obser-
vation, his naturall inclination, is more and
more confirmed, that his inclinations are cruell, and tyrannous; and when he is any way affected, his stammering is so extreme, as he can utter nothing. They cannot draw him to look upon a son of the Marquis, whom they have put into his service. And he was so extremely affectionate towards the younger son of Beaufort, that they have removed him to a charge which he hath, as he is made Prieur of Malta; but yet there passe such Letters between them, by stealth and practise, as (though it be between children) it is become a matter of State, and much diligence used to prevent the Letters. For the young Marquis of Ver-sieuil, the K. speaks often of transplanting him into the Church, and once this Christmas delighted himself to see his young brother in a Cardinall's habit. Sir, it is time to take up, for I know, that any thing, from this place, as soon as it is certain, is stale. I have been a great while more mannerly towards my Lady Bedford, then to trouble her with any of mine own verses, but having found these French verses accompanied with a great deal of reputation here, I could not forbear to ask her leave to send them: I writ to you by M. Pory the 17 of Jan. here, and he carried that Letter to Paris, to gather news, like a snow-ball. He told me that Pindar is gone to Constantinople with Commission to remove and succeed Glover: I am afraid you have neglected that business. Continue me in M. Martins good opinion: I know I shall never fall from it, by any demerit of mine, and I know I need not fear it, out of any slackness or slipperiness in him, but much business may strangle me in him. When it shall not trouble you to write to me, I pray do me the favour to tell me, how many you have received from me, for I have now much just reason to imagine, that some of my Pacquets have had more honour then I wished them: which is to be delivered
into the hands of greater personages, then I
addressed them unto. Hold me still in your
own love, and proceed in that noble testi-
mony of it, of which your Letter by M.
%1Pory%2 spoke, (which is the only Letter that [cw:I]
I have received, since I came away) and [p.127]
beleeve me that I shall ever with much af-
fection, and much devotion joine both
your fortune and you last best happinesse,
with the desire of mine own in all my ci-
vill, and divine wishes, as the only retri-
bution in the power of
%1Your affectionate servant%2
Jo. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 H. Goodere.

Sal %1SIR%2,
I would go out of my way for excuses,
or if I did not go out of my way from
them; I might avoid writing now because
I cannot chuse but know, that you have in
this town abler servants, and better under-
standing the persons and passages of this
Court. But my hope is not in the applica-
tion of other mens merits, to me however
abundant. Besides, this town hath since our
coming hither, afforded enough for all
to say. That which was done here the 25
of %1March%2, and which was so long called a [cw:pub-
ication of the marriages, was no o-[p.128]
therwise publique then that the Spa. Ambas-
sador, having that day an audience delive-
red to the Queen that his Master was well
pleased with all those particulars which had
been formerly treated. And the French Am-
bassador in %1Spain%2 is said to have had in-
struction, to do the same office in that
Court, the same day. Since that, that is to
say, these 4 days, it hath been solemni-
ed with more outward bravery then this
Court is remembred to have appeared in.
The main bravery was the number of
horses which were above 800 Caparazond.
Before the daies, the town was full of the
5 Challengers cartells, full of Rodomontades: but in the execution, there were no personal reencounters, nor other trial of any ability, then running at the Quintain, and the Ring. Other particulars of this, you cannot chuse but hear too much, since at this time there come to you so many French men. But lest you should believe too much, I present you these 2 precautions, that for their Gendarmerie, there was no other trial then I told you; & for their bravery, no true stuffe. You must of necessity have heard often of a Book written against the Popes jurisdiction, about three moneths since, by one Richer, a Dr and Syndique of the Sorbonists, which Book hath now been censured by an assembly of the Clergie of this Archbishops shoprick, promoved with so much diligence by the Cardinall Peroun, that for this business he hath intermitted his replie to the Kings answer, which now he retires to intend seriously: I have not yet had the honour to kisse his Graces hand, though I have received some half-invitations to do it. Richer was first accused to the Parliament, but when it was there required of his delators to insist upon some propositions in his Book, which were either against Scripture, or the Gallican Church, they desisted in that pursuit. But in the censure which the Clergie hath made, though it be full of modifications and reservations of the rights of the King, and the Gallican Churches, there is this iniquitie, that being by commandement of the Assembly, in all the Churches of Paris, and almost all the Curates of the Parishes of Paris belonging Sorbonists, there is by this means a strong party of the Sorbonists themselves raised against Richer; yet against this censure sure, and against three or four which have opposed Richer in print, he meditates an answer. Before it should come forth I desired to speake with him, for I had said to some
of the Sorbonist of his party, that there was no proposition in his Book, which I could not shew in Catholique authors of 300 years: I had from him an assignation to meet, and at the hour he sent me his excuse, which was, that he had been traduced to have had conference with the Ambassadors of England; and the States, and with the D. of Bouillon, and that he had accepted a pension of the King of England; and withal, that it had been very well testified to him that day, that the Jesuits had offered to corrupt men with rewards to kill him. Which I doubt not but he apprehended for true, because a messenger whom I sent to fixe another time of meeting with him, found him in an extreme trembling, and irresolutions: so that I had no more, but an treaty to forbear comming to his house, or drawing him out of it, till it might be without danger or observation. They of the Religion held a Synod at this time in this Town, in which the principal businesse is to rectifie, or at least to mature, against their Provinciall Synod, which shall be held in May, certain opinions of Tielenus a Divine of Sedan, with which the Churches of France are scandalized. The chief point is, Whether our salvation be to be attributed to the passive merit of Christ, which is his death, or to his active also, which is his fulfilling of the Law. But I doubt not but that will be well composed, if Tielenus who is here in person with two other assistants, bring any disposition to submit himself to the Synod, and not only to dispute. I doe (I thank God) naturally and heartily abhorre all schism in Religion so much, as, I protest, I am sorry to finde this appearance of schism amongst our adversaries the Sorbonists; for I had rather they had held together, to have made a head against the usurpations of the Ro. Church, then that their disuniting should so enfeeble them, as that the Parliament should be left
042.L54.118 alone to stand against those tyrannies. Sir, 
042.L54.119 you will pardon my extravagancies in these 
042.L54.120 relations. I look upon nothing so inten- 
042.L54.121 ly as these things, nor fals there any thing 
042.L54.122 within my knowledge, which I would 
042.L54.123 conceal from you Though it concern not 
042.L54.124 you to know it, yet me thinks it concerns 
042.L54.125 me to tell it. That %1Cook%2 of which you writ 
042.L54.126 to me, is come hither, and hath brought me 
042.L54.127 other Letters, but not those of which you 
042.L54.128 writ to me, which pacquet, he saies, you 
042.L54.129 received again of him; whether by his fals- 
042.L54.130 hood, or by your diligence in seeking a 
042.L54.131 worthier messenger, I know not; but I am 
042.L54.132 sure I never lost any thing with more sor- [cw:row,] 
042.L54.133 row, because I am thereby left still in uncer- [p.133] 
042.L54.134 tainties, and irresolutions, of that which I 
042.L54.135 desire much to know in womens busines- 
042.L54.136 ses. If you write this way any more, chuse 
042.L54.137 no other means, then by Mr Bruer at the 
042.L54.138 Queens Arms a Mercer in %1Cheapside%2: he 
042.L54.139 shall alwaies know where we are, and we 
042.L54.140 are yet in a purpose to go from hence with- 
042.L54.141 in a fortnight, and dispose our selves to be 
042.L54.142 at %1Frankford%2 the 25 of %1May%2, when the electi- 
042.L54.143 on of the Emperour shall be there. Though 
042.L54.144 I be meerly passive in all this pilgrimage, 
042.L54.145 yet I shall be willing to advance that de- 
042.L54.146 sign; because upon my promise that I 
042.L54.147 would doe so, Sir %1Rob%2. %1Rich%2 gave me his, 
042.L54.148 that he would divert from his way to %1Italy%2 
042.L54.149 so much, as to be there then. When I came 
042.L54.150 to this Town I found M%5r%6 %1Matthew%2, diligent 
042.L54.151 to finde a means to write to you; so that at 
042.L54.152 this time, when there go so many, I cannot 
042.L54.153 doubt but he provides himself, therefore I 
042.L54.154 did not ask his commandement, nor offer 
042.L54.155 him the service of this Pacquet. Sir, you 
042.L54.156 are not evener to your self, in your most [cw:gene-] 
042.L54.157 generall wishes of you own good, then I [p.134] 
042.L54.158 am in my particular, of which none rises 
042.L54.159 in me, that is not bent upon your enjoying 
042.L54.160 of peace and reposednesse in your fortunes, 
042.L54.161 in your affections, and in your conscience; 
042.L54.162 more then which I know not how to
042.L54.163 wish to
042.L54.0DL Paris %1the%2 9 Apr./ 1612. %1here%2.
042.L54.0SS %1Your very affectionate servant and%2
042.L54.0SS %1lover%2 J. Donne.

043.L54.0HE %1To Sir%2 H. Wotton.
043.L54.0HE Octob. %1the%2 4%5th%6 1622. %1almost ad midnight%2.
043.L54.0Sal %1SIR%2,
043.L54.001 A%+LL our moralities are but our out-
043.L54.002 works, our Christianity is our Citadel;
043.L54.003 a man who considers duty but the dignity
043.L54.004 of his being a man, is not easily beat from
043.L54.005 his outworks, but from his Christianity
043.L54.006 never; and therefore I dare trust you, who
043.L54.007 contemplates them both. Every distem-
043.L54.008 per of the body now, is complicated with
043.L54.009 the spleen, and when we were young men [CW:we]
043.L54.010 we scarce ever heard of the spleen. In our [p.135]
043.L54.011 declinations now, every accident is accom-
043.L54.012 panied with heavy clouds of melancholy;
043.L54.013 and in our youth we never admitted any. It
043.L54.014 is the spleen of the minde, and we are affe-
043.L54.015 cted with vapors from thence; yet truly,
043.L54.016 even this sadnesse that overtakes us, and this
043.L54.017 yeelding to the sadnesse, is not so vehement
043.L54.018 a poison (though it be no Physick neither)
043.L54.019 as those false waies, in which we sought
043.L54.020 our comforts in our looser daies. You are
043.L54.021 able to make rules to your self, and our
043.L54.022 B. Saviour continue to you an ability to
043.L54.023 keep within those rules. And this particu-
043.L54.024 lar occasion of your present sadnesse must
043.L54.025 be helped by the rule, for, for examples you
043.L54.026 will scarce finde any, scarce any that is not
043.L54.027 encombred and distressed in his fortunes.
043.L54.028 I had locked my self, sealed and secured my
043.L54.029 self against all possibilities of falling into
043.L54.030 new debts, and in good faith, this year hath
043.L54.031 thrown me 400%5l%6 lower then when I entred
043.L54.032 this house. I am a Father as well as you,
043.L54.033 and of children (I humbly thank God) of [CW:as]
043.L54.034 as good dispositions; and in saying so, I [p.136]
043.L54.035 make account that I have taken my com-
043.L54.036 parison as high as I could goe; for in good
043.L54.037 faith, I beleevre yours to be so: but as those
043.L54.038 my daughters (who are capable of such
043.L54.039 considerations) cannot but see my desire
043.L54.040 to accommodate them in this world, so I
043.L54.041 think they will not murmur if heaven
043.L54.042 must be their Nunnery, and they associated
043.L54.043 to the B. virgins there: I know they would
043.L54.044 be content to passe their lives in a Prison,
043.L54.045 rather then I should macerate my self for
043.L54.046 them, much more to suffer the mediocrity
043.L54.047 of my house, and my means, though that
043.L54.048 cannot preferre them: yours are such too,
043.L54.049 and it need not that patience, for your for-
043.L54.050 tune doth not so farre exercise their pati-
043.L54.051 ence. But to leave all in Gods hands,
043.L54.052 from whose hands nothing can be wrung
043.L54.053 by whining but by praying, nor by pray-
043.L54.054 ing without the %1Fiat voluntas tua%2. Sir, you
043.L54.055 are used to my hand, and, I think have lei-
043.L54.056 sure to spend some time in picking out
043.L54.057 sense, in ragges; else I had written lesse, and [CW:in]
043.L54.058 in longer time. Here is room for an %1Amen%2; [p.137]
043.L54.059 the prayer ---- so I am going to my
043.L54.060 bedside to make for all you and all yours,
043.L54.061 with
043.L54.0DL om
043.L54.0SS %1Your true friend and servant in Chr. Jesus%2
043.L54.0SS J. Donne.

044.L54.0HE A.V. %1Merced%2.
044.L54.Sal %1SIR%2,
044.L54.001 %+ Write to you out of my poor Libra-
044.L54.002 ry, where to cast mine eye upon good
044.L54.003 Authors kindles or refreshes sometimes
044.L54.004 meditations not unfit to communicate to
044.L54.005 near friends; nor from the high way,
044.L54.006 where I am contracted, and inverted into
044.L54.007 my self; which are my two ordinary for-
044.L54.008 ges of Letters to you. But I write from the
044.L54.009 fire side in my Parler, and in the noise of
044.L54.010 three gamesome children;ii and by the side
044.L54.011 of her, whom because I have transplanted
044.L54.012 into a wretched fortune, I must labour to
044.L54.013 disguise that from her by all such honest
044.L54.014 devices, as giving her my company, and
044.L54.015 discourse, therefore I steal from her, all the [cw:time]
time which I give this Letter, and it is there-
fore that I take so short a list, and gallop so
fast over it, I have not been out of my house
since I received your pacquet. As I have
much quenched my senses, and disused my
body from pleasure, and so tried how I can
indure to be mine own grave, so I try now
how I can suffer a prison. And since it
is but to build one wall more about our
soul, she is still in her own Center, how
many circumferences soever fortune or our
own perverseness cast about her. I would
I could as well intreat her to go out, as she
knows whither to go. But if I melt into a
melancholy whilst I write, I shall be taken
in the manner: and I sit by one too ten-
der towards these impressions, and it is so
much our duty, to avoid all occasions of
giving them sad apprehensions, as S. %1Hie-%2
%1rome%2 accuses %1Adam%2 of no other fault in eating
the Apple, but that he did it %1Ne contristaretur%2
%1delicias suas%2. I am not carefull what I write,
because the inclosed Letters may dignifie
this ill favoured bark, and they need not [cw:grudge]
grudge so course a countenance, because [p.139]
they are now to accompany themselves, my
man fetched them, and therefore I can say
no more of them then themselves say, M%5ris%6
%1Meauly%2 intreated me by her Letter to hasten
hers; as I think, for my troth I cannot
read it. My Lady was dispatching in so
much haste for %1Twicknam%2, as she gave no
word to a Letter which I sent with yours;
of Sir %1Tho%2. %1Bartlet%2, I can say nothing, nor
of the plague, though your Letter bid me:
but that he diminishes, the other increases,
but in what proportion I am not clear. To
them at %1Hammersmith%2, and M%5ris%6 %1Herbert%2 I
will do your command. If I have been
good in hope, or can promise any little of-
fices in the future probably, it is comfor-
table, for I am the worst present man in the
world; yet the instant, though it be nothing,
joynes times together, and therefore this
unprofitableness, since I have been, and will
still indoeur to be so, shall not interrupt me now from being om %1Your servant and lover%2 J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

To the best Knight Sir H. Wootton.

Sal %1SIR%2,

When I saw your good Countesse last, she let me think that her message by her foot-man would hasten you up. And it furthered that opinion in me, when I knew how near M. Mathews day of departing this kingdom was. To counterpoyse both these, I have a little Letter from you brought to me to Micham yesterday, but left at my lodging two days sooner: and because that speaks nothing of your return, I am content to be perplexed in it: and in all other, so in this perplexity to do that which is safest. To me it is safest to write, because it performes a duty, and leaves my conscience well: and though it seem not safest for the Letter, which may perish, yet I remember, that in the Crociate for the warres in the %1Holy Land%2, and so in all Pilgrimages entered in devotion, he which dies in the way, enjoyes all the benefit and indulgences [cw:which] which the end did afford. Howsoever, all [p.141]

that can encrease the danger of your Letter, encrease my merit; for, as where they immolate men, it is a scanter devotion, to sacrifice one of many slaves or of many children, or an onely child, then to beget and bring up one purposely to sacrifice it, s so if I ordain this Letter purposely for destruction, it is the largest expressing of that kinde of piety, and I am easie to beleeve (because I wish it) your hast hither: Not I can fear any slacknesse in that business which drew you down, because your for-tune and honour are a paire of good spurs to it; but here also you have both true business and many Quasi negotia, which go two and two to a businesse; which are
045.L54.039 visitations, and such, as though they be not
045.L54.040 full businesses, yet are so near them that they
045.L54.041 serve as for excuses, in omissions of the o-
045.L54.042 ther. As when abjurations was in use in
045.L54.043 this land, the State and law was satisfied if
045.L54.044 the abjuror came to the sea side, and waded
045.L54.045 into the sea, when windes and tydes re- [cw:sisted]
045.L54.046 sisted, so we think our selves justly excusa- [p.142]
045.L54.047 ble to our friends and our selves, if when
045.L54.048 we should do businesse, we come to the
045.L54.049 place of businesse, as Courts and the houses
045.L54.050 of great Princes and officers. I do not so
045.L54.051 much intimate your infirmity in this, as
045.L54.052 frankly confesse mine own. The master of
045.L54.053 Latine language says, %1Oculi & aures aliorum te%2
045.L54.054 %1speculantur & custodiunt%2. So those two words
045.L54.055 are synonimous, & only the observation of
045.L54.056 others upon me, is my preservation from
045.L54.057 extream idlenesse, else I professe, that I hate
045.L54.058 businesse so much, as I am sometimes glad
045.L54.059 to remember, that the Roman Church reads
045.L54.060 that verse %1A negotio perambulante in tenebris%2,
045.L54.061 which we read from the pestilence wal-
045.L54.062 king at night, so equall to me do the
045.L54.063 plague and business deserve avoiding, but
045.L54.064 you will neither believe that I abhor busi-
045.L54.065 nesse, if I inlarge this Letter, nor that I
045.L54.066 would afford you that ease which I affect,
045.L54.067 Therefore returne to your pleasures.
045.L54.069 %1Your unprofitablest friend%2
045.L54.069 Jo. Donne. [cw:%1I%2]
045.L54.071 %1It is my third Letter: which I tell you,%2
045.L54.072 %1because I found not M%2%5r%6. Rogers, %1but left%2
045.L54.073 %1the Letter which I sent last, with a stran-%2
045.L54.074 %1ger at%2 Cliffords Inne.    74

046.L54.0HE %1To Sir%2 H. G.
046.L54.0Sal S%9ir%0,
046.L54.001 T%+His 14 of %1November%2 last I received
046.L54.002 yours of the 9, as I was in the street
046.L54.003 going to sup with my Lady %1Bedford%2, I found
046.L54.004 all that company forepossessed with a won-
046.L54.005 der why you came not last saturday. I per-
ceive, that as your intermitting your Let-
ters to me, gave me reason to hope for you,
so some more direct addresse or conscience
of your businesse here, had imprinted in
them as assurance of your comming, this
Letter shall but talke, not discourse; it
shall but gossip, not consider, nor consult,
so it is made halfe with a prejudice of be-
ing lost by the way. The King is gone
this day for Royston; and hath left with the
Queen a commandment to meditate upon [cw:a]
a Masque for Christmas, so that they grow [p.144]
serious about that already; that will hasten
my Lady Bedfords journey, who goes with-
in ten days from hence to her Lord, but by
reason of this, can make no long stay there.
Justinian the Venetian is gone hence, and
one Carraw come in his place: that State
hath taken a fresh offence at a Friar, who
refused to absolve a Gentleman, because he
would not expresse in confession what
books of Father Paul, and such, he knew to
be in the hands of any others; the State com-
manded him out of that territory in three
hours warning, and he hath now submit-
ted himself, and is returned as prisoner for
Mantua, and so remains as yet. Sir Wootton
who writ hither, addes also that
upon his knowledge there are 14000 as
good Protestants as he in that State. The
Duke Joyeuse is dead, in Primont, returning
from Rome, where M. Mole who went with
the L. Rosse, is taken into the Inquisition,
and I see small hope of his recovery (for he
talked of Babylon and Antichrist. Except it
fall out that one Strange a Jesuit in the
Tower, may be accepted for him. To come
a little nearer my self, Sir Geffery Fenton one
of his Majesties Secretaries in Ireland is
dead; and I have made some offer for the
place, in preservation whereof, as I have
had occasion to imploy all my friends, so I
have not found in them all (except Bedford)
more hast and words (for when those two
are together, there is much comfort even in
the least) then in the L. %1Hay%2. In good
faith he promised so roundly, so abundantly,
ly, so profusely, as I suspected him, but per-
formed what ever he undertook, (and my
requests were the measures of his under-
takings) so readily and truly, that his com-
plements became obligations, and having
spoke like a Courtier, did like a friend.
This I tell you, because being farre under
any ability of expressing my thankfulnesse
to him by any proportionall service, I do,
as much as I can, thank him by thanking
of you, who begot, or nursed these good [cw:im-]
impressions of me in him. Sir, as my dis-
cretion would do, my fortune doth bring
all my debts into one hand, for I owe you
what ever Court friends do for me, yea,
whatsoever I do for my self, because you al-
most importune me, to awake and stare the
Court in the face. I know not yet what
conjecture to make of the event. But I am
content to go forward a little more in the
madnesse of missing rather then not pre-
tend; and rather wear out, then rust. It is
extreme late; and as this Letter is nothing,
so if ever it come to you, you will know it
without a name, and therefore I may end
it here.

To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 H. Goodere.

%1Sir%2,
T%+Hough you escape my lifting up of
your latch by removing, you cannot
my Letters; yet of this Letter I do not much
accuse my self, for I serve your Command-
ment in it, for it is only to convey to you [cw:this]
this papers opposed to those, with which [p.147]
you trusted me. It is (I cannot say the weight-
but truly) the saddest lucubration
and nights passage that ever I had. For it
exercised those hours, which, with extreme
danger of her, whom I should hardly have
abstained from recompensing for her company in this world, with accompanying her out of it, increased my poor family with a son. Though her anguish, and my fears, and hopes, seem divers and wild distractions from this small business of your papers, yet because they all narrowed themselves, and met in Via regia, which is the consideration of our selves, and God, I thought it time not unfit for this dispatch. Thus much more then needed I have told you, whilst my fire was lighting at Trimom 10 a clock.

Yours ever intirely
J. Donne. [cw:%To%2]

To the Honourable Knight H. G.

Your Son left here a Letter for me, from you. But I neither discern by it that you have received any of mine lately; which have been many, and large, and too confident to be lost, especially since, (as I remember) they always conveyed others to that good Lady; neither do I know where to finde, by any diligence, your sons lodging. But I hope he will apprehend that impossibility in me, and finde me here, where he shall also finde as much readiness to serve him, as at Polesworth. This Letter of yours makes me perceive, that that Lady hath expressed her purpose to you in particular, for the next term. Accordingly, I make my promises: for since one that meant but to flatter, told an Emperour, that his benefits were to be reckoned from the day of the promise, because he never failed, it were an injury from me to the constancy of that noble Lady, if I should not, as soon as she promises, do some act of assurance of the performance; which I have done, as I say, in fixing times to my creditors; for by the end of next terme, I will make an end with the world, by Gods
grace. I lack you here, for my Lord of Dorset, he might make a cheap bargain with me now, and disingage his honour, which in good faith, is a little bound, because he admitted so many witnesses of his large disposition towards me. They are preparing for a Masque of Gentlemen: in which Mr. Villars is, and Mr. Karre, whom I told you before my Lord Chamberlain had brought into the bed chamber. I pray, if you make not so thick goings as you used, send this Letter to that good woman, for it is not only mine. If I could stay this Letter an hour, I should send you something of Savoy, for Sir Rob. Rich, who is now come from Court, hath laid a commandment upon me by message to waite upon him; and I know his business, because he never sought me, but in one kinde. But the im- portunity of the houre excuses me, and delivers you from further trouble from.

To Sir H. G.

Love to give you advantages upon me, therefore I put myself in need of another pardon from you, by not coming to you; yet I am scarce guilty enough to spend much of your virtue from you, because I knew not of your being come till this your Letter told me so, in the midst of dinner at Peckham, this Monday. Sir, I am very truly yours; if you overvalued me in any capacity, I will do what I can to overtake your hopes of me. I wish my self whatsoever you wish your self. I am prisoner and close; else I had not needed this pardon, for I long knew not of your being come till this your Letter told me so, in the midst of dinner at Peckham, this Monday. Sir, I am very truly yours; if you overvalued me in any capacity, I will do what I can to overtake your hopes of me. I wish my self whatsoever you wish me; and so I do, what ever you wish your self. I am prisoner and close; else I had not needed this pardon, for I long much, and much more by occasion of your Letter, to see you: when you finde that good Lady emptied of businesse and plea- sure; you can sure, present my humble thanks; you can do me no favour, which I need not, nor
any, which I cannot have some hope to de-
serve, but this; for I have made her opinion
of me, the ballance by which I weigh my
self. I will come soon enough to deliver
my thanks to Sir J. Harr. for your ease,
whom I know I have pained with an ilfa-
voured Letter, but my heart hath one style,
and character; and is yours in wishing,
and in thankfulnesse.

To the Honourable Sir R. D.

Gave no answer to the Letter I received
from you upon Tuesday, both because I
had in it no other commandment by it but
to deliver your Letter therein, which I did,
and because that Letter found me under
very much sadness, which (according to
the proportion of ills that fall upon me) [cw:is]
is since also increased, so that I had not writ-
ten now, if I had been sure to have been
better able to write next week, which I have
not much appearance of: yet there was
committed to my disposition (that is, left
at my house in my absence) a Letter from
Sir W. Lover, but it was some hours after all
possibility of sending it by the carrier, so
that M. Stanhope giving me the ho-
our of a visite at that time, and being in-
stantly to depart, for your parts, did me the
favour to undertake the delivery of it to
you. With me, Sir, it is thus, there is not
one person (beside myself) in my house
well. I have already lost half a child, and
with that mischance of hers, my wife fallen
into an indisposition, which would afflict
her much, but that the sickness of her chil-
dren stupefies her: of one of which, in
good faith, I have not much hope. This
meets a fortune so ill provided for physique
and such relief, that if God should ease us
with burials, I know not well how to per-
forme even that. I flatter myself in this, [cw:that]
that I am dying too: nor can I truly dye fa-
ster, by any waste, then by losse of children.
But Sir, I will mingle no more of my sad-
ess to you, but wil a little recompense it, by
telling you that my L. Harrington, of whom
a few days since they were doubtfull, is so
well recovered that now they know all his
disease to be the Pox, and Measels mingled.
This I heard yesterday: for I have not been
there yet. I came as near importunity as I
could, for an answer from Essex house, but
could all, that he should see you shortly
himselfe.

om

%1Your servant%2
J. Donne.

I cannot tell you so much, as you tell me, of any thing from my Lord of Som.
I heard nothing. 

To the Honourable Knight Sir H. Goodere.
I have but one excuse for not sending
you the Sermon that you do me the ho-
our to command, and I foresee, that be-
fore I take my hand from this paper, I
shall lose the benefit of that excuse; it is,
that for more then twenty days, I have been
travelled with a pain, in my right wrist, so
like the Gout, as makes me unable to write.
The writing of this Letter will implore a
commentary for that, that I cannot write
legibly; for that I cannot write much, this
Letter will testify against me. Sir, I be-
seech you, at first, tell your company, that I
decline not the service out of sullennesse
nor lazinesse, nor that any fortune damps
me so much, as that I am not sensible of the
honour of their commanding it, but a
meer inexperience whether I be able to
write eight hours or no; but I will try
next week, and either do it, for their ser-
vice, or sink in their service. This is Thurs-
day: and upon Tuesday my Lady Bedford
051.L54.023 came to this town: this afternoon I presen-
051.L54.024 ted my service to her, by M%5ris%6 %1Withrington%2:
051.L54.025 and so asked leave to have waited upon
051.L54.026 them at supper: but my messenger found
051.L54.027 them ready to go into their Coach: so that
051.L54.028 a third Letter which I received from M%5ris%6
051.L54.029 %1Dadley%2, referring me to M%5ris%6 %1Withrington%2 re-
051.L54.030 lation of all that State, I lose it till their
051.L54.031 return to this town. To clear you in that
051.L54.032 wherein I see by your Letter that I had not
051.L54.033 well expressed my self in mine, Sir %1Ed.%2
051.L54.034 %1Herbert%2 writ to Sir %1Ed. Sackvil%2, not to presse
051.L54.035 the King to fix any certain time of sending
051.L54.036 him, till he was come over, and had spo-
051.L54.037 ken with the King: Sir %1Ed. Sackvil%2 col-
051.L54.038 lects upon that, that Sir %1Ed. H.%2 meanes to
051.L54.039 go again; I think it is only, that he would
051.L54.040 have his honour so saved, as not to seem to
051.L54.041 be recalled, by having a successor, before he
051.L54.042 had emptied the place. We hear nothing
051.L54.043 from my Lord of %1Doncaster%2; nor have we
051.L54.044 any way to send to him. I have not seen [CW:my]
051.L54.045 my Lady %1Doncaster,%2 for the crost to %1Penhurst%2, [p.156]
051.L54.046 and from thence to %1Petworth%2, my Lady
051.L54.047 %1Isabella%2 came to this Town; where, before
051.L54.048 her comming, a Letter attended her from
051.L54.049 my Lady of %1Tichfield%2: and thither she
051.L54.050 went, with their servants, who staid her
051.L54.051 comming. Hither came lately Letters with
051.L54.052 goodspeed from %1Vienna%2, in which there is no
051.L54.053 mention of any such defeat, as in rumour
051.L54.054 C. %1Mansfeld%2 hath been said to have given
051.L54.055 to the D. of %1Bavyer%2: but their forces were
051.L54.056 then within such distance, as may have
051.L54.057 procured something before this time. Those
051.L54.058 which watched advantages in the Court
051.L54.059 of the Emperour, have made that use of C.
051.L54.060 %1Mansfelds%2 proceedings, as that my Lord
051.L54.061 %1Digby%2 complains, that thereby, the forward-
051.L54.062 nesse in which his negotiation was, is
051.L54.063 somewhat retarded. He proceeds from
051.L54.064 thence into %1Spain%2. The D. of %1Bavyer%2 hath pre-
051.L54.065 sented the Emperour an account of 1200%5ml%6.
051.L54.066 sterling in that warre, to be reimbursed:
051.L54.067 and finding the Palatinate to be in treaty,
hath required a great part of Austria for his security, and they say, it is so transacted; [CW:security,]
which is a good signe of a possibility in the restitution of the Palatinate. For any thing I discern, their fears are much greater from Hungary, then from Bohemia; and the losse of things, at the death of Bucquoy, was much greater, then they suffered to be published. We here Spinola is passed over at Rhenebery; if it be so, they are no longer distracted, whether he would bend upon Juliers, or the Palatinate. I know not what you hear from your noble son in law, who sees those things clearly in himself, and in a near distance; but I hear here, that the King hath much lost the affection of the English in those parts. Whether it proceed from any sowrenesse in him, or that they be otherwise taken off, from applying themselves to him, I know not. My Lord of S. Albons hath found so much favour as that a pension of 2ooo l. will be given him; he desires that he might have it for years, that so he might transferre it upon his creditors; or that in place of it he might have 8ooo l. for he hath found a disposition in his creditors (to whom I hear he hath paid 73%8ooo l. since by retyring) to accept 8ooo l. for all his debts, which are three times as much. I have been some times with my L. of Canterbury, since by accident, to give you his own words. I see him retain his former cheerfulnesse here and at Croydon, but I do not hear from Court, that he hath any ground for such a confidence, but that his case may need favour, and not have it. That place, andBedington, and Chelsey, and Highgate, where that very good man my Lord Hobard is, and Hackney, with the M. of the Rolls, and my familiar Peckham, are my circumferrence. No place so eccentrique to me, as that I lye just at London; and with those fragmentary recreations I must make shift to recompense the missing of that
051.L54.113 contentment which your favour opens to
051.L54.114 me, and my desire provokes me to, the
051.L54.115 kissing of your hands at %1Polesworth%2. My
051.L54.116 daughter %1Constance%2 is at this time with me; [CW:for]
051.L54.117 for the emptiness of the town, hath made [p.159]
051.L54.118 me, who otherwise live upon the alms of
051.L54.119 others, a housekeeper, for a moneth; and
051.L54.120 so she is my servant below stairs, and my
051.L54.121 companion above: she was at the table
051.L54.122 with me, when your Letter was brought,
051.L54.123 and I pay her a piece of her petition in do-
051.L54.124 ing her this office, to present her service to
051.L54.125 my Lady %1Nethersoles%2, and her very good
051.L54.126 sister. But that she is gone to bed two hours
051.L54.127 before I writ this, she should have signed,
051.L54.128 with such a hand as your daughter %1Mary%2
051.L54.129 did to me, that which I testify for her, that
051.L54.130 she is as affectionate a servant to them all,
051.L54.131 as their goodness hath created any where.
051.L54.132 Sir, I shall recompense my tediousness, in
051.L54.133 closing mine eyes with a prayer for yours,
051.L54.134 as for mine own happiness, for I am al-
051.L54.135 most in bed; if it were my last bed, and I
051.L54.136 upon my last business there, I should not
051.L54.137 omit to join you with
051.L54.0DL Aug. 30. 1611./ %1Your very humble and very thankful servant in Christ
Jesus%2
051.L54.0SS J. Donne. [CW:%1To%2]

052.L54.0HE %1To his honourable friend S%2%5r%6 H. G.
052.L54.Sal SIR,
052.L54.001 T%+O you that are not easily scandalized,
052.L54.002 and in whom, I hope, neither my
052.L54.003 Religion nor Morality can suffer, I dare
052.L54.004 write my opinion of that Booke in whose
052.L54.005 bowels you left me. It hath refreshed, and
052.L54.006 given new justice to my ordinary com-
052.L54.007 plaint, That the Divines of these times, are
052.L54.008 become meer Advocates, as though Religi-
052.L54.009 on were a temporall inheritance; they
052.L54.010 plead for it with all sophistications, and il-
052.L54.011 lusions, and forgeries: And herein are
052.L54.012 they likest Advocates, that though they be
052.L54.013 feed by the way, with Dignities, and other
052.L54.014 recompenses, yet that for which they plead
052.L54.015 is none of theirs. They write for Religion,
052.L54.016 without it. In the main point in question,
052.L54.017 I think truly there is a perplexity (as farre as
052.L54.018 I see yet) and both sides may be in justice,
052.L54.019 and innocence; and the wounds which
052.L54.020 they inflict upon the adverse part, are all %1se%2
052.L54.021 %1defendendo%2: for, clearly, our State cannot be [cw:safe]
052.L54.022 safe without the Oath; since they professe, [p.161]
052.L54.023 that Clergie-men, though Traitors, are no
052.L54.024 Subjects, and that all the rest may be none
052.L54.025 to morrow. And, as clearly, the Suprema-
052.L54.026 cy which the Ro. Church pretend, were
052.L54.027 diminished, if it were limited; and will
052.L54.028 as ill abide that, or disputation, as the Pre-
052.L54.029 rogative of temporall Kings, who being
052.L54.030 the onely judges of their prerogative, why
052.L54.031 may not Roman Bishops, (so enlightned
052.L54.032 as they are presumed by them) be good wit-
052.L54.033 nesses of their own supremacie, which is
052.L54.034 now so much impugned? But for this par-
052.L54.035 ticular Author, I looked for more prudence,
052.L54.036 and humane wisdome in him, in avoiding
052.L54.037 all miscitings, or mis-interpretings, because
052.L54.038 at this time, the watch is set, and every bo-
052.L54.039 dies hammer is upon that anvill; and to
052.L54.040 dare offend in that kinde now, is, for a theef
052.L54.041 to leave the covert, and meet a strong hue
052.L54.042 and cry in the teeth: and yet truly this man
052.L54.043 is extremely obnoxious in that kinde; for,
052.L54.044 though he have answered many things ful-
052.L54.045 ly, (as no book ever gave more advantage [cw:then]
052.L54.046 then that which he undertook) and abound [p.162]
052.L54.047 in delicate applications, and ornaments,
052.L54.048 from the divine and prophane authors,
052.L54.049 yet being chiefly conversant about two
052.L54.050 points, he prevaricates in both. For, for
052.L54.051 the matter, which is the first, he referres it
052.L54.052 intirely, and namely, to that which D. %1Mor-%2
052.L54.053 %1ton%2 hath said therein before, and so leaves
052.L54.054 it roundly: And for the person (which is
052.L54.055 the second) upon whom he amasses as ma-
052.L54.056 ny opprobies, as any other could deserve,
052.L54.057 he pronounceth, that he will account any
052.L54.058 answer from his adversary, slander, except
052.L54.059 he do (as he hath done) draw whatsoever
he saith of him, from Authors of the same Religion, and in print: And so, he having made use of all the Quodlibetaries, imputations against the other, cannot be obnoxious in that kinde, and so hath pro-vided safely. It were no service to you, to send you my notes upon the Book, because they are sandy, and incoherent ragges, for my memory, not for your judgement; and to extend them to an easiness, and perspicuity, would make them a Pamphlet, not a Letter. I will therefore deferre them till I see you; and in the mean time, I will ad-venture to say to you, without inserting one unnecessary word, that the Book is full of falsifications in words, and in sense, and of falshoods in matter of fact, and of inconsequent and unscholarlike arguings, and of relinquishing the King, in many points of defence, and of contradiction of himself, and of dangerous and suspected Doctrine in Divinitie, and of silly ridiculous triflings, and of extreme flatteries, and of neglecting better and more obvious answers, and of letting slip some enormous advantages which the other gave, and he spies not. I know (as I begun) I speak to you who can-not be scandalized, and that neither measure Religion (as it is now called) by Unity, nor suspect Unity, for these interruptions. Sir, not onely a Mathematique point, which is the most indivisible and unique thing which art can present, flowes into every line which is derived from the Center, but our soul which is but one, hath swallowed up a Negative, and feeling soul; which was in the body before it came, and exercises those faculties yet; and God him-selfe, who only is one, seems to have been eternally delighted, with a disunion of persons. They whose active function it is, must endeavour this unity in Religion: and we at our lay Altars (which are our tables, or bedside, or stools, wheresoever we dare prostrate our selves to God in pray-
er) must beg it of him: but we must take heed of making misconclusions upon the want of it: for, whether the Maior and Aldermen fall out, (as with us and the Puritans; Bishops against Priests) or the Commoners voyces differ who is Maior, and who Alderman, or what their Jurisdiction, (as with the Bishop of Rome, or whosoever) yet it is still one Corporation.

Micham, Thursday late. Your very affectionate servant and lover.

Never leave the remembrance of my poor service unmentioned when you see the good Lady. [cw: To]

To Sir,

His evening which is October, I finde your Letter of Michaelmas day, and though I see by it, that it is a return of a Letter, not of the last weeks, and thereupon make account, that my last weeks Letter hath satisfied you in some things which this Letter commands, concerning Pauls, yet for other things I would give you a drowsie relation, for it is that time of night, thogh I called it evening. At the Kings going from hence, upon Munday last, we made account to have seen Sir John Sutclin Secretary, and Sir Rob. Weston Chancellor of the Exchequer, but they are not done, but both are fixed: my L. Cranfield received his staffe, with these two suits obtained from the King, That all Assignations might be transferred into the Exchequer, and so no payments charged upon the Customes, nor Receivers, nor the Court or Wards, &c. And that for a time there might be a damp [CW: cast] cast upon Pensions, till they might be considered. In the Low Countries the Armies stirre not. In the Palatinate Sire Vere at- tempting the regaining of Stenie Castle, was surprised with the Enemy in so much strength, that they write it over for a Master-piece, that he was able to make a retreat.
so that now the Enemy is got on that side the River which Heydelberg is on, and I know nothing that can stand in his way. My L. Digby comes from Vienna, before he goes into Spain, by Count Mansfield, by the Palatinate, by Paris; and thereupon his comming, I shall be able to say something to you. In Sir John Sutclin I presume you see an end of Sir Ro. Naunton, and we see an end of Mr Tho. Murray too; I beleeve he comes no more to the Prince. For the triall of my L. of Canterbury's irregularity, there is a Commission to sixe Bishops, London, Winchester, Rochester, and three onely elect, Lincoln, S. Davids, and Exeter: two Judges, L. Hobard, and Dodridge; two Civilians, Sir H. Martin, and D. Steward. The consecration of these elect Bishops, and consequently, my being Dean, must attend the issue of this Commission. Sir Tho. Roe is gone. The Proclamations of putting off the Parliament, till February, are like to out-run this Letter. It is very late; and it is one act, to say Grace after Supper, and to commend my self into the hands of my blessed Saviour, in my bed, and so close this Letter, and mine eies, with the same blessing upon all your family. Amen.

Your poor servant in Chr. Jes.

J. Donne.

To Sir H. G.

I receive this your Letter of the 10. yet I am not come to an understanding how these Carriers keep daies: for I would fain think that the Letters which I sent upon Thursday last might have given you such an account of the state of my family, that you needed not have asked by this. But Sir, it hath pleased God to adde thus much to my affliction, that my wife hath now confessed her self to be extremely sick; she hath held out thus long to assist me, but is
now overturn'd, & here we be in two beds, or graves; so that God hath marked out a great many of us, but taken none yet. I have passed ten daies without taking any thing; so that I think no man can live more thrifty. I have purged and vexed my body much since I writ to you, and this day I have missed my fit: and this is the first time, that I could discern any intermission. This is enough, the rest I will spend upon the parts of your Letter: Your Letter at Pauls is delivered. In the History of that remove, this onely perchance may be news to you, that Mr Alabaster hath got of the King the Deans best Living worth above 73800, which the Dean had good hope to have held a while. Of that which your writ concerning a Book of the Nullity, I have heard no syllable any other way. If you have received it by good hands, I beleeve it [CW:with] with you: otherwise the report is naturally very incredible. Though the answering of it be a work for some, both of better abilities really, and in common reputation also, yet I was like enough to have had some knowledge thereof. You mention again some thing which it seems you are not willing I should understand of my Lady Huntington: some of your former Letters, have spoken of some other former Letters, (which I never saw) which speak of the matter as of a history and thing done; and these later Letters speak of it Prophetically, as of a future contingent. I am glad the often remembrance of it, gives me often occasion of thankfulnesse to her, for retaining me in her memory, and of professing my self in my end, and ways, her most humble servant. For your Parliament businesse, I should be very sorry, if you came not up, because I presume you had seposed many businesses, to have been done at that time; but in the ways wherein you have gone, I protest I am diffident. For first, for that L. [CW:whom] whom you solicited by Letters through [p.169]
054.L54.057 me, I tell you with the whispering of a
054.L54.058 secret, but the confidence of a friend, that
054.L54.059 you will be deceived wh ensever you think
054.L54.060 that he should take any delight in doing
054.L54.061 you a courtesie. And I am afraid, the true
054.L54.062 heartiness of the other noble Gentleman
054.L54.063 M. %1Howard%2, will be of small use in this per-
054.L54.064 ticular, if he have but solicited my L. his fa-
054.L54.065 ther to reserve a blanke for his friend, for
054.L54.066 my L. hath suffered more denialls, even in
054.L54.067 places where he sent names, then could
054.L54.068 have been feared. Besides M. %1How%2. hath
054.L54.069 not written to his father therein, but to M.
054.L54.070 %1Woodward%2, who perceiving those Letters to
054.L54.071 be written, before his purpose of being
054.L54.072 Knight for the shire, thinkes these Letters
054.L54.073 extinguished. You made me offer so long
054.L54.074 since of a place (it was when you writ into
054.L54.075 the west) yet I could think it no merit to
054.L54.076 have offered you one since, otherwise it hath
054.L54.077 been since in my power, for since the M%5r%6.
054.L54.078 of the Rolls provided me one, Sir %1Ed. Her-%2
054.L54.079 %1bert%2, who makes haste away, made me a [CW:present]
054.L54.080 present of his; and I have had a third of- [p.171]
054.L54.081 fer. The businesse of your last weeks Let-
054.L54.082 ter concerning the widow, is not a subject
054.L54.083 for a feverous mans consideration. There-
054.L54.084 fore I only send you back those Letters
054.L54.085 which you sent; and aske you leave to
054.L54.086 make this which I am fain to call my good
054.L54.087 day, so much truly good, as to spend the
054.L54.088 rest of it with D. %1Layfield%2, who is, upon
054.L54.089 my summons, at this hour come to me. My
054.L54.090 Physicians have made me afraid, that this
054.L54.091 disease will work into my head, and so put
054.L54.092 me into lightnesses, therefore I am desi-
054.L54.093 rous that I be understood before any
054.L54.094 such danger overtake me.
054.L54.095 HE %1To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 H. G.
054.L54.096 SS J. Donne.

055.L54.0HE %1To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 H. G.
055.L54.0Sal S%9IR%0,
055.L54.001 A%+Fter I have told you, that the Lady
055.L54.002 %1Hay%2 dyed last Tuesday, and that to her
end she was anguished with the memory of the execution of that fellow which at-
tempted her in the coach. I have told you all which hath fallen out here. Except between
you and me that may be worth the telling, my L. Chancellor gave me so noble
and so ready a dispatch; accompanied with so fatherly advise, and remorse for my
fortunes, that I am now, like an Alchymist, delighted with discoveries by the way,
though I attain not mine end. It spent me so little time after your going, that, although
you speak in your Letter of good dispatch in your going, yet I might have overtaken you.
And though perchâ€œ if I had gone, it might have been inconvenient for me, to have put
my self into my L. Chamberlains presence, if that sicknesse be earnest at %1Ashby%2, and so I
should nothing have advanced my business, yet I should have come to that noble
Lady with better confidence, and more assurance of a pardon, when I had brought
a conscience, that I came despoiled of all other respects, only to kisse her hands, in
whose protection I am, since I have, nor desire other station, then a place in her good
opinion. I took so good contentment in the fashion which my L. Chancellor used
towards me, that out of a voluptuous loath-
ness to let that taste go out of my mouth,
I forbear to make any further tryall in that
businesse till the King come into these quar-
ters. So that, Sir, I am here in place to serve
you, if either I be capable of your com-
mandements, or this town give any thing
worth the writing. As often as you see
your noble friend, and her good sister, al-
low my name a room in your discourse, it
is a short one, and you will soon have done.
But tell them not my desire to do them ser-
vice, for then you engage your self in a lon-
ger discourse, then I am worthy. Only in
pursuit of your commandment I sent the
Pacquet to the Post, for in mine own un-
derstanding, there should appear small
hope of arriving by that way, except you
don't otherwise that the LL. mean to
make some stay in their return, in those
parts: but the Letter is brought back a-
gain, for the Post went away yesterday, and [CW:they]
they knew of no occasion of sending till [p.174]
next week. Therefore except I can inform
my self of some good means, I will retain
it, till I have a fresh commandment from
you. I see M. %1Taverner%2 still in this town, the
Lady %1Carey%2 went from hence but yesterday. I
am in some perplexity what to doe with
this pacquet, till some good fortune, or your
Letters clear me.

Aug. 19/ %1Your humble servant%2

To Sir %2H. Goodere %1at%2 Polesworth.

I%+T is true that M. %1Gherard%2 told you, I had
that commandment from the King sig-
nified to me by my L. and am still under it,
and we are within fourteen days of our
time for going. I leave a scattered flock of
wretched children, and I carry an infirme
and valetudinary body, and I go into the
mouth of such adversaries, as I cannot
blame for hating me, the Jesuits, and yet I [CW:go.]
Though this be no service to my Lord: [p.175]
yet I shall never come nearer doing him a
service, nor do any thing liker a service then
this. Yesterday we had news by Sir %1Nowell%2
%1Carou%2 from %1Paris%2, that the D. of %1Savoy%2 was
elected King of %1Bohemia%2; which would cut
off a great part of the occasion of our going:
but it is not much credible in it self, nor at
beleived here, because it is not signified
from %1Savoy%2, nor %1Heidelberg%2. Since M. %1Gher. %2
continues your Gazittier, I need tell you no-
thing of the %1Q%2 of %1Frances%2 estate. For your
commandment in memory of M. %1Martin%2,
I should not have sate so many processes, if
I could incline my thoughts that way. It is
not laziness, it is not gravity, nor coldnesse
towards his memory, or your service; for I
have thought of it oftner, and longer, then
I was wont to do in such things, and no-
thing is done. Your last pacquet, in which
your daughter and I were joynt commissi-
oners, was brought to me, because she was
at Hampton, with the Queens body: but I sent
her part to her, and my La. Uvedalls to her, [CW:who]
who presents her service to you by me [p.176]
own, and says she will write next week,
and so will I too, by Gods grace. You for-
get me absolutely and intirely, whensoever
you forget me to that noble Countesse. God
blesse you in all, Amen.
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
now, and says she will write next week,
057.L54.028 ses. I shall gladly waite upon her at any
time, to receive her command with as much
devotion and thankfulnesse as I received the
benefit. I beseech you make her beleive it,
as in any place you beleive
26 Febr. 1621./ %1Your poor servant in Chr. Jes.%2
J. Donne. [CW:%1To%2]

058.L54.0HE %1To my best of friends Sir%2 H. G.
Sal S%9IR%0,
I Heard not from you this week; there-
fore I write more willingly, because it
hath in it so much more merit. And I
might do it very cheaply, since to convey
to you this Letter, which mine hath the ho-
our to bring, any little Letter would serve,
and be acceptable for that. Because it came
not last week, I went now to soliciite it, and
she sent it me next day with some thankes,
and some excuse that she knew not me,
when I was with her. You know, I do not
easily put my self into those hazards, nor
do much brag of my valor now, otherwise
then I purposed it for a service to you. The
newest thing that I know in the world, is
my new son: whose mothers being well
takes off from me any new waight upon my
fortune. I hear in Newgate, that M. %1Ma-
%2 is dead. The Catholiques beleive it
there: perchance out of a custome of cre-
dulity. But the report, is close prisoner; for [cw:I]
I never met it abroad. This is my third let-
ter, all which I sent by %1Spelty%2 whom my
boy found at %1Abington%2 house. I have now
two of the best happinesses which could
befall me, upon me; which are, to be a
widower and my wife alive, which may
make you know, that it is but for you ease,
that this letter is no longer, in this leasure in
which (having nothing else to write) I
might vary a thousand ways that I am
Monday at night./ %1Your very affectionate servant%2
J. Donne.

059.L54.0HE %1To my worthy friend%2 G.K.
I Receive this here that I begin this return, your Letter by a servant of Sir Greseley, by whom also I hasten this dispatch. This needs no enlargement since it hath the honour to convey one from M. Gherard. But though by telling me, it was a bold letter, I had leave to open it, and that I have a little itch to make some animadversions & Criticisms upon it (as that there is a cipher too much in the sum of the Kings debts, and such like). Yet since my eyes do easily fall back to their distemper, and that I am this night to sup at Sir A. Ingrams, I had rather forfeit their little strength at his supper, then with writing such impertinencies: the best spending them, is upon the rest of your Letter, to which, Sir, I can only say in generall, that some appearances have been here, of some treatise concerning this Nullity, which are said to proceed from Geneva; but are believed to have been done within doors, by encouragement of some whose names I will not commit to this letter. My poor study having lyen that way, it may prove possible, that my weak assistance may be of use in this matter, in a more serious fashion, then an Epithalamion. This made me therefore abstinent in that kinde; yet by my troth, I think I shall not scape. I deprehend in my self more then an alacrity, a vehemency to do service to that company; and so, I may finde reason to make rime. If it be, I see not how I can admit that circuit of sending them to you, to be sent hither; that seems a kind of praying to Saints, to whom God must tell first, that such a man prays to them to pray to him. So that I shall lose the honour of that conveyance; but, for recompense, you shall scape the danger of approving it. My next Letter shall say more of this. This shall end with delievering you the remembrance of my Lady Bartlet, who is present at the sealing hereof.
To Sir G. B.

Sal SIR,

Between the time of making up my other Letters, and the hour that your man limited me to call for them, came to my house an other packet directed to him: for by this time, the carrier is as wise, as his horse, to go to the house that he hath used to go. I found liberty in the superscription to open, and so I did; but for that part which concerns him, I must attend his coming hither, for I know not where to seek him; and beside, I have enough to say for that part which concerns my self. Sir, even in the Letter itself to me, I deprehend much inclination, to chide me: and it is but out of your habit of good language that you spare me. So little occasion as that postscript of mine, could not bring you so near to it, if nothing else were mistaken, which (so God help me) was so little, that I remember not what it was, and I would no more hear again what I write in an officious Letter, then what I said at a drunken supper. I had no purpose to exercise your diligence in presenting my name to that Lady, but either I did, or should have said, that I write only to fill up any empty corner in your discourse. So, Sir, the reading of the Letter, was a kind of travel to me, but when I came to the paper inclosed, I was brought to bed of a monster. To express my self vehemently quickly, I must say, that I can scarce think, that you have read M. Gherards letter rightly, therefore I send you back your own again. I will not protest against my being such a knave, for no
man shall have that from me, if he expect it: but I will protest against my being such a fool, as to depose any thing in him with hope of locking it up, and against that low-ness, of seeking reputation by so poor a way. I am not so sorry, that I am a narrow man, as that for all the narrownesse, you have not seen through me yet, nor known me perfectly; for I might think by this, (if I had not other testimony) that I have been little in your contemplation. Sixteen letters from M. %1Gherard%2, could not (I think) persuade a %1Middlesex%2 Jury of so much dishonesty in

Your true servant

J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 G. P.

Would have intermitted this week without writing, if I had not found the name of my Lady %1Huntington%2 in your Letter. The devotion which I owe, and (in good faith) pay in my best prayers for her good, in all kinde awakens me to present my humble thanks for this, that her Ladiship retains my name in her memory: she never laid obligation upon any man, readier to express his acknowledgement of them, to any servant of her servants; I am bound to say much of this, for your indemnity; because though I had a little preparation to her knowledge in the house where I served [CW:at] at first, yet, I think, she took her characters [p.185] of me, from you: And, at what time soever she thought best of me in her life, I am better then that, for my goodnesse is my thankfulnesse, and I am every day fuller of that before, to her La%p%6. I say nothing to you of forein names in this Letter, be-cause your son Sir %1Francis%2 is here. For that which you write concerning your son, I onely gave my man %1Martin%2 in charge, to use his interest in the Keeper, that your son
061.L54.026 should fall under no wants there, which
061.L54.027 it seems your son discharged, for I hear not
061.L54.028 of them. For other trifes, I had my man let
061.L54.029 him have whatsoever he asked, so, as it
061.L54.030 might seem to come from him, and not
061.L54.031 me; and laying that look upon it, it came
061.L54.032 to almost nothing. Tell both your daugh-
061.L54.033 ters a piece of a storie of my %1Con%2. which
061.L54.034 may accustome them to endure disappoint-
061.L54.035 ments in this world: An honourable per-
061.L54.036 son (whose name I give you in a schedule
061.L54.037 to burn, lest this Letter should be mis-laid)
061.L54.038 had an intention to give her one of his sons, [CW:and]
061.L54.039 and had told it me, and would have been [p.186]
061.L54.040 content to accept what I, by my friends,
061.L54.041 could have begged for her; but he intended
061.L54.042 that son to my Profession, and had provi-
061.L54.043 ded him already %73%800%5l%6 a year, of his own
061.L54.044 gift in Church livings, and hath estated
061.L54.045 %73%800%5l%6 more of inheritance for their children:
061.L54.046 and now the youth, (who yet knows no-
061.L54.047 thing of his fathers intention nor mine)
061.L54.048 flies from his resolutions for that Calling,
061.L54.049 and importunes his Father to let him tra-
061.L54.050 vell. The girle knows not her losse, for I
061.L54.051 never told her of it: but truly, it is a great
061.L54.052 disappointment to me. More then these,
061.L54.053 Sir, we must all suffer, in our way to hea-
061.L54.054 ven, where, I hope you and all yours shall
061.L54.055 meet.
061.L54.0DL 18 Octob. 1622/ %1Your poor friend and affectionate servant%2
061.L54.0SS J. Donne. [CW:%1To%2]

062.L54.0HE %1To my much honoured friend S%2%5r%6 T. Lucy.
062.L54.Sal %1SIR%2,
062.L54.001 %1Have scarce had at any time any thing so
062.L54.002 like news to write to you, as that I am
062.L54.003 at this Town; we came from %1Spa%C%2 with so
062.L54.004 much resolution of passing by %1Holland%2. But
062.L54.005 at %1Mastricht%2 we found that the lownesse, and
062.L54.006 slacknesse of the River, would incommo-
062.L54.007 date us so much, as we charged our whole
062.L54.008 gests, and came hither by Land. In the way
062.L54.009 at %1Lovaine%2 we met the E. of %1Arondel%2, to re-
062.L54.010 compensate the losse wee had of mis-
sing my L. Chandis and his company, who came to Spa within a few hours after we came away. Sir Ed. Conaway, by occasion of his bodies indisposition, was gone home before: he told me he had some hope of you about Bartholomewtide: But because I half understood by a Letter from you, that you were determined upon the Countrie till Michaelmas, I am not so earnest in endeavouring to prolong our stay in these parts, as otherwise I should. If I could joine with him in that hope of seeing you on this side the water; and if you should hold that pose of comming at that time, I should repent extremely my laying of our journies; for (if we should by miracle hold any resolu- tion) we should be in England about that time, so that I might misse you both here, and there. Sir, our greatest business is more in our power then the least, and we may be surer to meet in heaven then in any place upon earth; and whilst we are distant here, we may meet as often as we list in Gods presence, by soliciting in our prayers for one another. I received 4 Letters from you at Spa by long circuits. In the last, one from my L. Dorset: I, who had a conscience of mine own unworthiness of any favours from him, could not chuse but present my thanks for the least. I do not therefore repent my forwardnesse in that office; and I beseech you not to repent your part therein. Since we came to this Town, there arrived an Extraordinary from Spain, with a recon- firmation of the D.'s Pension, which is thereby 2400 a year, & he brings the title of Count, to Rodrigo de Calderon, who from a very low place, having grown to be Secretary to Lerma, is now Ambassador here, and in great opinion of wisdome: They say yet he goes to Prague with the Marquis Spinola, and the G. Buquoy, to congratulate the Emperour: but we all conclude here, that persons of such quality, being great in matter of Warre, are not sent for so small
an emploiment: we beleeve certainly, that they deliberate a Warre, and that the reduction of Aix being not worthy this diligence, their intentions be upon Cleve, for the new Town which the two Princes make by Collen, despites them much. The Elector of Ments hath lately been here, upon pretence of coming in devotion to Sichem, and shortly the Electors of Colein and Saxony are to be here severally: all concurs to a disposition of such a Warre, and the Landsgrave of Hasse (who is as yet in the Union) is much solicited and caressed by this party, and I doubt, will prove a frail and corruptible man. I durst think confidently, that they will at least proceed so far towards a Warre, as to try how France will dispose itself in the business: for it is conceived that the D. of Bovillon brought to our K. good assurances from the Queen, that she would pursue all her husband's purposes in advancing the designes of those Princes who are in possession of Cleve, and in the Union. If she declare herself to do so, when they stirre, they are likely to divert their purposes; but if she stand but neutral (as it is likely, considering how Spanish the Court is at this time) I see not that the Princes of the Union are much likely to retard them. Sir, you see what concerning things I am fain to write of, lest I should write of myself, who am so little a history or tale, that I should not hold out to make a Letter long enough to send over a Sea to you; for I should dispatch myself in this one word that I am Aug.16. 1622. Your affectionate servant and lover, J. Donne.

To the honourable Knight Sir, H. G.

Sal SIR,

Ince I received a Letter by your sonne, whom I have not yet had the honour to see, I had a Letter Pacquet from you by M5r6: To the former, I writ before: In
this I have no other commandement from you, but to tell you, whether Mr Villers have received from the K. any additions of honour, or profit. Without doubt he hath yet none. He is here, practising for the Mask; of which, if I mis-remember not, I writ as much as you desire to know, in a Letter which seems not, to have been come to you, when you writ. In the Savoy business, the King hath declared himself by an engagement, to assist him with 100000l a year, if the Warre continue. But I beleive, he must farm out your Warwickshire Benevolence for the paiment thereof. Upon the strength of this engagement, Sir Rob. Rich becomes confident in his hopes. If you stood in an equall disposition for the West, [CW:and] and only forbore, by reason of Mr Martins silence, I wonder; for I think, I told you, that he was gone; and I saw in Sir Tho. hand, a Letter from him to you, which was likely to tell you as much. Since I came from Court, I have stirred very little: Now that the Court comes again to us, I may have something which you may be content to receive from

To my good friend SIR, The Messenger who brought me your Letter presented me a just excuse, for I received them so late upon Thursday night, that I should have dispatched before I could begin; yet I have obeyed you drowsily, and coldly, as the night and my disposition commanded: yet perchance those hinderances have done good, for so your Letters are the lesse curious, in which men of much leasure may soon exceed, when they write of business, they having but a little. You mention two more letters then I send. The time was not too short for me to have written them, (for I had an
whole night) but it was too short to work
a beleefe I me, that you could think it fit
to go two so divers ways to one end. I see
not, (for I see not the reason) how those
letters could well have concurred with
these, nor how those would well have been
drawn from them, in a businesse wholly
relating to this house. I was not lazie in
disobeying you, but (I thought) only thrifty,
your request of those was not absolute,
but conditioned, if I had leasure. So though
that condition hinder them not, since ano-
ther doth (and you forethought, that one
might) I am not stubborn. The good
Countesse spake somewhat of your desire
of letters; but I am afraid, she is not a pro-
per Mediatrix to those persons, but I coun-
sail in the dark. And therefore return to
that, of which I have clear light, that I am [cw:always]
always glad, when I have any way to ex-
press my love; for in these commandments
you feed my desires, and you give me means
to pay some of my debts to you: the inte-
rest of which I pay in all my prayers for
you, which, if it please not God to shew
here, I hope we shall find again together
in heaven, whither they were sent. I came
this morning to say thus much, and because
the Porter which came to Micham summo-
ed me for this hour to London: from
whence I am this minute returning to end
a little course of Physick.
Friday 8 in the morning./ %1Yours very truly%2
SS J. Donne.

To Sir%2 H. G.
Sal %1SIR%2,
Writ to you yesterday taking the bold-
ness to put a letter into the good Ladies
pacquet for you. This morning I had this
new occasion of writing, that Sir %1Tho. Roe%2,
who brought this inclosed Letter to me, [CW: and]
and left it unsealed, intreated me to take the [p.195]
first opportunity of sending it. Besides that
which is in that letter (for he read it to me)
I came to the knowledge in Yorkhouse that my L. Chancellor hath been moved, and incensed against you; and asking Sir Tho. Roe, if he were directly or occasionally any cause of that, he tells me thus much, that Sir W. Lover, and Sir H. Carey, have obtained of my L. to have a Pursuivant, and consequently a Serjeant sent into the Countrey for you. My L. grounds this earnestness against you, upon some refusing to appear upon process which hath been taken out against you. And I perceive Sir Ed. Eston, and both the other, admit consultations, of ways by petition to the King, or Counsell, or L. Chamberlain, or any other. The great danger, obliquely likely to fall, is that when it comes to light, how you stand towards M. Mathew, you may lose the ease which you have by colour of that extent, and he may lose the benefit, of having had so much of his estate concealed. You will therefore pardon my advising you, to place those sums, which by your retiring I presume you do imploy upon payment of debts, in such places as that these particular friends be not forced to leave being so. I confesse, the going about to pay debts, hastens importunity. I finde in my self, that where I was not asked money before, yet when I offered to pay next Term, they seem loth to afford me that time, which might justly have been desperate before: but that which you told me out of the Countrey, with the assistance which I hope will enable me to escape clamor, and an ill conscience, in that behalf. One thing more I must tell you; but so softly, that I am loath to hear my self: and so softly, that if that good Lady were in the room, with you and this Letter, she might not hear. It is, that I am brought to a necessity of printing my Poems, and addressing them to my L. Chamberlain. This I mean to do forth-
forwith; not for much publique view, [p.197]
but at mine own cost, a few Copies. I ap-
prehend some incongruities in the resoluti-
on; and I know what I shall suffer from
many interpretations: but I am at an end, of
much considering that; and, if I were as
startling in that kinde, as ever I was, yet in
this particular, I am under an unescapable
necessity, as I shall let you perceive, when
I see you. By this occasion I am made a
Rhapsoder of mine own rags, and that cost
me more diligence, to seek them, then it did
to make them. This made me aske to bor-
row that old book of you, which it will be
too late to see, for that use, when I see you:
for I must do this, as a valediction to the
world, before I take Orders. But this is it,
I am to aske you; whether you ever made
any such use of the letter in verse, %1A nostre%2
%1Countesse chez vous%2, as that I may not put it
in, amongst the rest to persons of that
rank; for I desire very very much, that
something should bear her name in the
book, and I would be just to my written [CW:words]
words to my L. %1Harrington%2, to write no-
thing after that. I pray tell me as soon as
you can, if I be at liberty to insert that: for
if you have by any occasion applied any
pieces of it, I see not, that it will be discerned,
when it appears in the wholepiece. Though
this be a little matter, I would be sorry not
to have an account of it, within as little af-
ter Newyears tide, as you could. I have
something else to say, of M. %1Villars%2, but be-
cause I hope to see you here shortly, and be-
cause new additions, to the truths or ru-
mours, which concern him, are likely to be
made by occasion of this Masque, I forbear
to send you the edition of this Mart, since I
know it will be augmented by the next:
of which, if you prevent it not by com-
ing, you shall have, by letter an account
from

%1Vigilia S%2%5t%6. %1Tho.%2 1614./ %1Your very affectionate friend
and servant%2
To the worthy Knight Sir Tho. Lucy.

Sir,

Our Letter comes to me, at Grace after supper; it is part of the prayer of that Grace, that God will bless you, and all yours with his best blessings of both kinde. I would write you news; but your love to me, may make you apt to over-beleeve news for my sake. And truly all things that are upon the stage of the world now, are full of such uncertainties, as may justly make any man loth to passe a conjecture upon them; not only because it is hard to see how they wil end, but because it is misinterpretable and dangerous to conjecture otherwise, than some men would have the event to be. That which is especially in my contemplation, which is the issue of my L. of Canterburies businesse, (for thereupon depends the consecration of my predecessor, upon which the Deanery devolves to the King) is no farther proceeded in yet, then that some of the 10 Commissioners have met once; and upon Saterday next there will be a fuller meeting, and an entrance into the businesse, upon which, much, very much in consequence, depends. Of my L. of Donc. we are only assured, that he is in a good way of convalescence; but of any audience nothing yet. Slacken not your hold of my L. Treasurer, for I have been told that you are in his care. I send you a Copy of that Sermon, but it is not my copy, which I thought my L. of South-hampton would have sent me backe. This you must be pleased to let me have again, for I borrow it; for the other, I will pretermit no time to write it; though in good faith, I have half forgot it. If in any letter I leave out the name of the La. Hunt or La. Burdell, or your daughters, tell them, that I named them. I take the falshood upon me; for I intend it very really, and very humbly,
066.L54.042 where I am good for any thing in any of
066.L54.043 their services. Our blessed Saviour continue
066.L54.044 and enlarge his blessing to you all, %1Amen%2.
066.L54.0DL 11 Octob. 1621./ %1Your humble servant in Chr. Jes.%2
066.L54.0SS J. Donne.
066.L54.P01 %1Why do you say nothing of, my little book of Cases.%2 [CW: %1To%2]

067.L54.0HE %1To Sir%2 G. B.
067.L54.Sal S%9ir%0,
067.L54.001 %1T is one of my blinde Meditations to
067.L54.002 think what a miserable defeat it would
067.L54.003 be to all these preparations of braverie, if
067.L54.004 my infirmity should overtake others: for,
067.L54.005 I am at least half blinde, my windows
067.L54.006 are all as full of glasses of Waters, as any
067.L54.007 Mountebanks stall. This messenger makes
067.L54.008 haste, I thank him for it; therefor I onely
067.L54.009 send you this Letter, which was sent to me
067.L54.010 about three daies past, and my promise
067.L54.011 to distribute your other Letters, according
067.L54.012 to your addresses, as fast as my Monsieur
067.L54.013 can doe it; for, for any personall service,
067.L54.014 you must be content, at this time, to par-
067.L54.015 don
067.L54.0DL Decemb.23. /%1Your affectionate servant%2
067.L54.0SS J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

068.L54.0HE %1To Sir%2 H. Goodere.
068.L54.Sal SIR,
068.L54.001 %1Greeably to my fortune, and thoughts,
068.L54.002 I was crawld this back way from %1Key%2-
068.L54.003 %1ston%2; through my broken casement at %1Bed%2-
068.L54.004 %1ford%2, I saw, for my best dish at dinner, your
068.L54.005 Coach: I studied your gests, but when I
068.L54.006 knew where you were, I went out of this
068.L54.007 Town, in a doubt whether I should turn in
068.L54.008 to %1Wrest%2; and you know the wisdome of
068.L54.009 the Parliament is, to resolve ever in the Ne-
068.L54.010 gative: Therefore it is likeliest I shall not
068.L54.011 come in there; yet, let me give you in pas-
068.L54.012 sing, thus much account of my self: I
068.L54.013 thought to kisse my L. %1Spencers%2 hands, at one
068.L54.014 house, and have passed three. If you know
068.L54.015 nothing to the contrary, risen since I came
068.L54.016 from %1London%2, I am likely to have a room in
my L. of %Dov% train, into the Countrie; if I have, I do not ask, but use the leave of wait-ting upon you at home: There and ever elsewhere, our blessed Saviour blesse you, [CW:and] and all yours, in which number, I pray, ac- [p.203] count ever om %Your very thankfull servant in Chr. Jes.% J. Donne.

To Sir H. G.

I Cannot obey you, if you go to morrow to %Parsons-green%, your company, that place, and my promise are strong induce-ments, but an Ague flouts them all, of which I have had two such threatnings, that I provide against it by a little Physick. This is one fetter; but I have a pair: for I attend Sir %Geo. Mores% answer in a little busi-ness, of which I can have no account till his return, so I am fastned here, till after Sunday. As you are sure that I love you thorowly, so think this a good expressing of that, that I promise now, that I will cer-tainly goe with you on %Munday%, in despite of these interruptions, and serve you with my company to the %Bathe%; which journie, it is time to hasten. But I pray think this [cw:pro-] promise so much worth, that it may deserve [p.204] your coming this way on %Munday%, for I make it with that reservation. God send you Hawks and fortunes of a high pitch.

To Sir T.R.

I have bespoke you a New-years-gift, that is, a good New year, for I have offered your name with my soul heartily to God in my mornings best Sacrifice: If for custome you will doe a particular office in recom-pense, deliver this Letter to your Lady,
now, or when the rage of the Mask is past. If you make any haste into the Country, I pray let me know it. I would kisse your hands before you goe, which I doe now, and continue Micham, the last of 1607. as I remember. Your affectionate servant and lover J. Donne. [cw: To]

To Sir Henry Goodere.

I Speak to you before God, I am so much affected with yesterdaies accident, that I think I prophane it in that name. As men which judge Nativities, consider not single Starres, but the Aspects, the concurrence and posture of them; so in this, though no particular past arrest me, or divert me, yet all seems remarkable and enormous. God, which hath done this immediately, without so much as a sickness, will also immediately without supplement of friends, infuse his Spirit of comfort, where it is needed and deserved. I write this to you from the Spring Garden, whither I withdrew my self to think of this; and the intenseness of my thinking ends in that, that by my help Gods work should be imperfected, if by any means I resisted the amasement.

Your very true friend J. Donne. [cw: To]

To my good friend G.H.

The little businesse which you left in my hands is now dispatched; if it have hung longer then you thought, it might serve for just excuse, that these small things make as many steps to their end, and need as many motions for the warrant, as much writing of the Clerks, as long expectation of a Seal, as greater. It comes now to you sealed, and with it as strong and assured seals of my service and love to you, if it be good enough for you.
I owe you a continuall tribute of Letters. But Sir, even in Princes and Parents, and all States that have in them a naturall Sovreignty, there is a sort of reciprocation, and as descent to doe some offices due to them that serve them: which makes me look for Letters from you, because I have another as valuable a pawn therefore, as your friendship, which is your promise; lest by the Jailors fault this Letter stick long, I must tell you, that I writ and sent it 12%5o%6 %1Decemb%2. 1600.

12. %1Decemb%2. 1600

Your friend and servant and lover J. Donne.

To your self. I Send you here a Translation; but it is not onely to beleeve me, it is a great invention to have understood any piece of this Book, whether the gravity of the matter, or the Poeticall form, give it his inclination, and %1principium motus%2; you are his center, or his sphere, and to you as to his proper place he addresses himself. Besides that all my things, not onely by obligation, but by custome, know that that is the way they should goe. I spake of this to my L. of %1Bedford%2, thinking then I had had a copy which I made long since, at Sea, but because I finde it not, I have done that again: when you finde it not unseasonable, let her see it; and if you can think it fit, that a thing that hath either wearied, or distasted you, should receive so much favour, put it amongst her papers: when you have a new stomach to it, I will provide you quickly a new Copy.

At my%2 Micham /%1Hospitall%2, Aug. 10.

Your very true friend and servant and lover J. Donne.

To the gallant Knight Sir%2 Tho. Lucy.

Because in your last Letter, I have an in-
vitation to come to you, though I ne-
ver thought my self so fallen from my in-
terest, which, by your favour, I prescribe in,
in you, and therefore when in the spring I
hoped to have strength enough, to come in-
to those parts, upon another occasion, I
always resolved to put my self into your
presence too, yet now I aske you more par-
ticularly how you dispose of your self; for
though I have heard, that you purpose a [CW:jour-
journey to the %1Bath%2, and from thence hither, [p.209]
yet I can hope, that my service at %1Lincoln's Inn%2 being ended for next Term, I may have in-
termission enough to waite upon you at
%1Polesworth%2, before the season call you to
%1Bath%2. I was no easie apprehender of the
fear of your departing from us; neither am
I easie in the hope of seeing you intirely o-
ver suddenly. God loves your soul, if he be
loth to let it go inch-meale, and not by
swallowings; and he loves it too, if he
build it up again stone after stone; his will
is not done except his way, and his leasure
be observed. In my particular, I am sorry,
if my ingenuity and candor in delivering
my self in those points, of which you
speak to me, have defaced those impressi-
ons which were in you before: if my free-
dome have occasioned your captivity, I am
miserably sorry. I went unprofitably and
improvidently, to the utmost end of Truth,
because I would go as farre as I could to
meet Peace; if my going so far in declaring
my self, brought you where you could not
stop. But I was as confident in your [p.210]
strength, as in mine own, so am I still, in
him, who strengthens all our infirmities and
will, I doubt not, bring you and me toge-
ther, in all those particulars, so as we shall
not part in this world, nor the next. Sir,
your own soul cannot be more zealous of
your peace, then I am: and God, who
loves that zeale in me, will not suffer you to
suspect it. I am surprised with a necessity of
writing now, in a minute; for I sent to
074.L54.047 %1Bedford%2 house to informe my self of means
074.L54.048 to write, and your daughter sent me word,
074.L54.049 of a present messenger, and therefore the rest
074.L54.050 of this, I shall make up in my prayers to
074.L54.051 our blessed Saviour, for all happinesses to
074.L54.052 you.
074.L54.0DL %1Drury house the%2 22 %1of%2 /%1Decemb%2. 1607.
074.L54.0SS %1Your poor servant in Chr. Jesus.%2
074.L54.0SS J. Donne. [CW:%1To%2]

074.L54.0HE %1To Sir%2 H. G.
074.L54.Sal SIR,
074.L54.001 T%+His is a second Letter: the enclosed
074.L54.002 was written before. Now we are
074.L54.003 sure that %1Heidelberge%2 is taken, and entred
074.L54.004 with extreme cruelties. Almost all the de-
074.L54.005 fendors forsook their stations; only Sir
074.L54.006 %1Ger. Herbert%2 maintained his nobly, to the
074.L54.007 repulsing of the enemy three times, but ha-
074.L54.008 ving ease in the other parts, 8oo new fresh
074.L54.009 men were put upon his quarter, and after
074.L54.010 he had broke %74%8 Pikes, and done very well,
074.L54.011 he was shot dead in the place. %1Manheim%2 was
074.L54.012 soon after besieged, and is still. %1Heydelth%2
074.L54.013 was lost the 6 of this moneth. the K. upon
074.L54.014 news of this, sent to the Spanish ambassa-
074.L54.015 our, that the people were like to resent it,
074.L54.016 and therefore, if he doubted ought, he
074.L54.017 should have a Guard: but I do not see, that
074.L54.018 he seems to need it, in his own opinion,
074.L54.019 neither, intruth does he; the people are flat:
074.L54.020 or trust in God, and the Kings ways. Sir
074.L54.021 %1Hor. Vere%2 hath written to his wife, (as I am [CW:told])
074.L54.022 told) a Letter in the nature of a will, for the [p.212]
074.L54.023 disposing of his estate and children, as
074.L54.024 though he did not account to see her any
074.L54.025 more, but yet %1Manheim%2 cannot be lost, but
074.L54.026 by storming. Your man stays, and our
074.L54.027 bell rings me into the Church; there Sir,
074.L54.028 I shall recommend you to Gods goodnesse,
074.L54.029 with
074.L54.0DL 24 Septemb.
074.L54.0SS %1Your friend%2
074.L54.0SS J. Donne.
To Sir H.G.

Sir,

I live so far removed, that even the ill news of your great losse (which is ever swiftest and loudest) found me not till now, your letter speaks it not plain enough but I am so accustomed to the worst, that I am sure it is so in this. I am almost glad that I knew her so little: for I would have no more additions to sorrow. If I should comfort you, it were an almes acceptable in no other title, then when poor give to poor; for I am more needy of it then you. And I know you well provided of Christian, and learned, and brave defences against all humane accidents. I will make my best haste after your messenger: and if my self and the place had not been ill provided of horse, I had been the messenger, for you have taught me by granting more to deny no request.

Yesford a clock /just as yours came.

Your honest unprofitable friend

J. Donne.

To Sir H.G.

Sir,

I cannot yet serve you with those books of which your Letter spake. In recompense I will tell you a story, which if I had had leasure to have told it you when it was fresh, which was upon Thursday last, might have had some grace for the rareness, and would have tried your love to me, how farre you would adventure to believe an improbable thing for my sake who relates it. That day in the morning, there was some end made, by the E. of Salisbury and others, who were Arbitrators in some differences between Herford and Mountegle, Herford was ill satisfied in it, and declared himself so farre as to say, he expected bet- ter usage in respect not only of his cause but of his expence and service in his Ambassage: to which Salisbury replied, that considered
how thinges stood between his Majesty and %1Herford%2 house at the Kings enterance, the King had done him especiall favour in that employment of honour and confidence, by declaring in so publique and great an act and testimony, that he had no ill affections toward him. %1Herford%2 answered, that he was then and ever an honest man to the King: and %1Salisbury%2 said, he denied not that, but yet solemnly repeated his first words again. So that %1Herford%2 seemed not to make answer, but pursuing his own word, said, that whosoever denied him to have been an honest man to the King, lyed. %1Salisbury%2 asked him if he directed that upon [cw:him,] him, %1Herford%2 said, upon any who denied this. The earnestnes of both was such, as %1Sa-%2 Salisbury%2 accepted it to himself, and made protestation before the LL. present, that he would do nothing else, tell he had honorably put off that lye. Within an hour after, Salisbury%2 sent him a direct challenge, by his servant M%5r%6 %1Knightley%2; %1Herford%2 required only an hours leisure of consideration (it is said, it was onely to inform himself of the especiall danger, in dealing so with a Counselor) but he returned his acceptance: And all circumstances were so clearly handled between them, that S%5t%6 %1James%2 was agreed for the place, and they were both come from their severall lodgings, and upon the way to have met, when they were interrupted by such as from the King were sent to have care of it. So these two have escaped this great danger; but (by my troth) I fear earnestly that Mistresse %1Bolstrod%2 will not escape that sicknesse in which she labours at this time. I sent this morning to aske of her passage of this night; and the return is, [cw:that] that she is as I left her yesternight; and then by the strength of her understanding, and voyce, (proportionally to her fashion, which was ever remisse) by the evenesse and life of her pulse, and by her temper, I could allow her long life, and impute all
her sicknesse to her minde. But the History of her sicknesse, makes me justly fear, that she will scarce last so long, as that you when you receive this letter, may do her any good office, in praying for her; for she hath not for many days received so much as a preserved Barbery, but it returns, and all accompa- nied with a Fever, the mother, and an ex- trem ill spleen. Whilst I write this Tues- day morning, from Bartlet house one brings me a pacquet to your Master: he is gone; and that Lady and all the company is from town. I thought I might be pardoned, if I thought my self your man for that service to open it, which I did, and for the Letters I will deliver them. What else you bid Foster do in his Letter, bid him do it there, for (so God help me) I know not what it is. I must end now, else the carrier will be gone. God be with you. Yours intirely.

To Sir H. G.

Sir, I had destined all this Tuesday, for the Court, because it is both a Sermon day, and the first day of the Kings being here. Before I was to go forth, I had made up this inclosed pacquet for you, and then came this messenger with your pacquet, of which if you can remember the number, you cannot expect any account thereof from me, who have not half an hour left me before I go forth, and your messenger speaks of a necessity of returning homward before my returning home. If upon the delivery of them, or any other occasion, there intervene new subject of writing, I shall relieve my selfe upon Tuesday, if Tamworth carrier be in town. To the particulars of the Letter to my self, I will give this paper, and line. Of my Lady Bedford, I must say so much
as must importune you to burn the Letter;
for I would say nothing of her upon record,
that should not testify my thankfulness
for all her graces. But upon this motion,
which I made to her by letter, and by Sir Tho. assistance, if any scruple should arise
in her, she was somewhat more startling,
then I looked for from her: she had more suspicion of my calling, a better memory
of my past life, then I had thought her nobility could have admitted: of all which,
though I humbly thank God, I can make good use, as one that needs as many remembrances in that kind as not only friends but enemies can present, yet I am afraid, they proceed in her rather from some ill impression taken from D. Burges, then that they grow in her self. But whosoever be the conduit, the water is the holy Ghosts, and in that acceptation I take it. For her other way of expressing her favour to me, I must say, it is not with that cheerfulness, as here-tofore she hath delivered her self towards me. I am almost sorry, that an Elegy should have been able to move her to so much compassion heretofore, as to offer to pay my debts; and my greater wants now, and for so good a purpose, as to come disengaged into that profession, being plainly laid open to her, should work no farther but that she sent me £1l. which in good faith she excused with that, which is in both parts true, that her present debts were burdensome, and that I could not doubt of her inclination, upon all future emergent occasions, to assist me. I confesse to you, her former fashion towards me, had given a better confidence; and this diminution in her makes me see, that I must use more friends, then I thought I should have needed. I would you could burn this letter, before you read it, at least do when you have read it. For, I am afraid out of a Contemplation of mine own unworthinesse, and fortune,
that the example of this Lady, should work upon the Lady where you are: for though goodnesse be originally in her, and she do good, for the deeds sake, yet, per-
chance, she may think it a little wisdome, to make such measure of me, as they who know no better, do. Of any new treaty of a match with Spain, I hear nothing. The wars in the Lowcountries, to judge by their present state, are very likely to go forward. No word of a Parliament, and I my self have heard words of the K. as directly a-
gainst any such purpose, as any can sound. I never heard word, till in your letter, of any stirres in Scotland, for that of the French K. which you aske, it hath this good ground, That in the Assembly there a pro-
position hath been made, and well enterta-
ed, that the K. should be declared, to have full Jurisdiction in France; and no other person to have any. It hath much of the modell and frame of our Oath of Alle-
gence, but with some modification. It is true, it goes farther, than that State hath drove in any publique declarations, but not farther then their Schools have drove often and constantly: the easinesse that it hath found in passing thus farre without oppo-
sition, puts (perchance unnecessarily) in me a doubt, that they are sure to choak it, at the Royall assent, and therefore oppose it not, by the way, to sweeten the conveyance of their other purposes. Sir, if I stay longer I shall lose the Text, at Court, therefore I kisse your hand, and rest.

Your very true servant

J. Donne.

We hear (but without second as yet) that Sir Rich. Philips brother in France, hath taken the habit of a Capuchin. To Sir Thomas Lucy.
Martii, which being two days after the ordinary Smithfield day, I could do no more, but seal this letter to be sent to you next Tuesday, because I foresee that I shall not then be in town. Whosoever I should write now, of any passages of these days, would lose the verder before the letter came to you, only give me leave to tell you that I need none of those excuses, which you have made to your self in my behalfe, for my not writing. For your son in law came to me, so near the time of his going, as it had been impossible to have reached him with a letter at so farre a distance, as he was lodged. And my L. Hunt messenger received that answer, which, I hope, before this time, you know to be true, that I had sent the day before, by the infallible carrier of Smithfield. The Emperours death may somewhat shorten our way; for I discern now no reason of going to Vienna, but I believe it will exteMd our busines; so that I promise my self no speedier return by that. If I write no letters into England out of these parts, I cannot be without your pardon, if I write not to you, but if I write to any and leave you out, lay all the faults which you have ever pardoned in me, to my charge again. I foresee some reasons, which may make me forbear; but no slacknesse of mine own, shall. Sir, if I have no more the commodity of writing to you here in England, (as, we may be gon before next Tuesday) I tell you, in this departing from you, with the same truth and earnestness as I would be beleived to speake in my last departing, and transmigration from the whole world, that I leave not behind me a heart, better affected to you, nor more devoted to your service, then I carry with me. Almighty God blesse you, with such a reparation in your health, such an establishment in your estate, such a comfort in your children, such a peace in your conscience, and such a true cheerfulness in
your heart, as may be strong seales to you, of his eternall gracious purpose upon you. This morning I spend in surveying and emptying my cabinet of Letters; and at the top of all I light upon this Letter lately received, which I was loth to bury. I chose to send it you, to mine own condemnati-
on; because a man so busie as he is, des-
scending to this expressing of himself in verse, I am inexcusable towards you, for disobeying a commandement of yours, of that kinde; but I relie upon the generall, that I am sure you are sure, that I never re-fuse any thing for lazinesse, nor morosity, and therefore make some other excuse for me. You have been so long used to my hand that I stand not to excuse the hasty ragged-
nesse of this Letter. The very ilnesse of the writing, is a good argument that I forced a time, in the fulnesse of businesse, to kisse your hand, and to present my thanks as for all your favours, and benefits, so principally for keeping me alive in the memory of the noblest Countesse, whose commande-ment, if it had been her La%5ps%6 pleasure to have any thing said or done in her service, I should have been glad to have received. Sir, God blesse you, & spiritu%1principali confirmet te%2; and Apr%2. 1619. Your very true and affectionate servant in Chr. Jes.%2 J. Donne.

To the honourable Knight S%2%5r%6 Henry Goodere.

A%+S you are a great part of my businesse, when I come to %1London%2, so are you when I send. More then the office of a vi-
sitation brings this Letter to you now; for I remember that about this time you pur-
posed a journey to fetch, or meet the Lad. If you justly doubt any long absence, I pray send to my lodging my writ-
ten Books: and if you may stay very long, I pray send that Letter which I sent you [CW:cer-]
certain heads which I purposed to enlarge, [p.226]
for I have them not in any other paper:
and I may find time in your absence to do
it, because I know no stronger argument
to move you to love me, but because you
have done so, doe so still, to make my rea-
on better, and I shall at last prescribe in
you
 Micham Wednesday.
Yours,
J.Donne.

To Sir H.G. at Polesworth.

Sal
SIR,
T%+His 25 I have your letter of 21, which
I tell you so punctually, because by it,
nor by any other, I doe not discern that you
received my pacquet of Books; not that I
looked for so quick a return of the Sermon,
nor of my Cases of conscience, but that I
forget so absolutely what I write, and am
so sure that I write confidently to you, that
it is some pain to remain in any jealousie
that any Letter is miscarried. That which
I writ to you of my L. Treasur. disposition
I had from Mr Har; and I understood
it to be his desire to convey it through me.
The last account which we have of my
L. is, by Letters of the 2%5o%6 of this; by
which also we saw, that the first Letters
of his convalescence, were but prophetical;
for he was let blood a second time, and is
not strong enough yet to receive audience.
Though I be not Dean of Pauls yet, my
L. hath gone so low, as to com-
mand of me the office of being Master of
my game, in our wood about him in Essex.
I pray be you content to be my officer too,
the Steward of my services to all to whom
you know them to be due in your walk,
and continue your own assurance that I am
om
Your affectionate servant in Chr. Jes.
J. Donne. [CW:%To]
To my worthy friend F. H.,

I can scarce do any more this week than send you word why I writ not last. I had then supposed a few days for my preparation to the Communion of our B. Saviour's body; and in that solitariness and arraignment of myself, digested some meditations of mine, and apparelled them (as I use) in the form of a Sermon: for since I have not yet utterly delivered myself from this incontinence of scribling (though I thank God my accesses are less and less vehement) I make account that to spend all my little stock of knowledge upon matter of delight, were the same error, as to spend a fortune upon Masks and Banqueting houses: I chose rather to build in this poor fashion, some Spittles, and Hospitals, where the poor and impotent sinner may find some relief, or at least understanding of his infirmity. And if they be too weak to serve posterity, yet for the present by contemplation of them, &c.

To Sir H. G.

I have the honour of your Letter, which, I am almost sorry to have received: some few days before the receipt thereof D. Turner, who accompanied my L. Carow to Sion to dinner, shewed me a Letter from you, from which I conceived good hopes that your businesses being devolved into the hands of the Treasurer, had been in much more forwardness, than by your Letter to me they appear to be. I beseech God establish them, and hasten them, and with them, or without them, as he sees most conducible to his purpose upon you, continue in you a relying upon him, and a satisfaction in his ways. I know not whether any Letter from your son, or any other report, may...
083.L54.017 have given you any mention of me; he
083.L54.018 writ to me from the %1Compter%2, that he was un-
083.L54.019 der a trifling arrest, and that 3%5l%6 and some
083.L54.020 little more would discharge him. I sent my
083.L54.021 man with that money, but bid him see it [CW:em-]
083.L54.022 employed for his discharge: he found more [p.230]
083.L54.023 actions, and returned. Next day he writ to
083.L54.024 me that 8%5l%6 would discharge him, and that
083.L54.025 M%5r%6 %1Selden%2 would lay down half. But M%5r%6
083.L54.026 %1Selden%2 and I speaking together, thought
083.L54.027 it the fittest way, to respite all, till, in a few
083.L54.028 daies, by his writing to you, we might be
083.L54.029 directed therein; and in the mean time,
083.L54.030 took order with the Keeper to accommo-
083.L54.031 date him, and I bade my man %1Martin%2, as
083.L54.032 from himself, to serve his present want
083.L54.033 with some things. Since we told him, that
083.L54.034 we would attend a return of his Letter to
083.L54.035 you, I heard no more of him, but I hear he
083.L54.036 is out. Whosoever serves you with relati-
083.L54.037 ons from this Town, I am sure prevents
083.L54.038 me of all I can say. The Palatinate is abso-
083.L54.039 lutely lost; for before this Letter come to
083.L54.040 you, we make account that %1Heydelberg%2 and
083.L54.041 %1Frankindale%2 is lost, and %1Manheme%2 distressed.
083.L54.042 %1Mansfield%2 came to %1Breda%2, and %1Gonzales%2, to
083.L54.043 %1Brussels%2, with great losses on both sides, but
083.L54.044 equall. The P. of %1Orange%2 is but now come
083.L54.045 to %1Breda%2, and with him, all that he is able [CW:to]
083.L54.046 to make, even out of the Garrisons of their [p.231]
083.L54.047 Towns. The ways of victuall to %1Spinolaes%2
083.L54.048 Army, are almost all precluded by him,
083.L54.049 and he likely to put upon the raising of %1Spi%2-
083.L54.050 %1nola%2, between whom and the Town, there
083.L54.051 are hotter disputes, then ever our times
083.L54.052 saw. The Secretary of the States here shew-
083.L54.053 ed me a Letter yesternight, that the Town
083.L54.054 spends 6000 pound of powder a day, and
083.L54.055 hath spent since the siege 250%5m%6 pounds. %1Ar-%2
083.L54.056 %1gits%2 Regiment and my L. %1Vaux%2, are so dimi-
083.L54.057 nished by commings away, as that both (I
083.L54.058 think) make not now in Muster above 600.
083.L54.059 M%5r%6 %1Gage%2 is returning to %1Rome%2, but of his Ne-
083.L54.060 gotiation I dare say nothing by a Letter of
083.L54.061 adventure. The direction which his Ma%5ty%6
gave for Preachers, had scandalized many; therefore he descended to pursue them with certain reasons of his proceedings therein; and I had commandment to publish them in a Sermon at the Crosse, to as great a Congregation as ever I saw together, where they received comfortable assurance of his Ma\%5ties\%6 constancy in Religion, and of his de- [CW: sire] sire that all men should be bred in the knowledge of such things, as might pre-
serve them from the superstition of %1Rome%2. I presume it is but a little while before we shall see you here, but that little time is likely to produce many things greatly con-
siderable. Present, I pray, my thankfull services to your good daughters. I can give them no better a room in my pray-
ers, and wishes then my poore %1Constance%2 hath, and they have that; so have you Sir, with om %1Your very true friend and servant in Chr. Jes.%2 J. Donne. [CW: %1To%2]

O%+Ur blessed Saviour, who abounds in power and goodnesse towards us all, blesse you, and your family, with blessings proportioned to his ends in you all, and blesse you with the testimony of a rectified conscience, of having discharged all the of-
fices of a father, towards your discreet and worthy daughters, and blesse them with a satisfaction, and quiescence, and more, with a complacency and a joy, in good ends, and ways towards them, %1Amen%2. Your man brought me your Letter of the 8 of December this 21 of the same, to %1Chelsey%2, and gives me the largenesse, till friday to send a letter to %1Pauls%2 house. There can scarce be any peece of that, or of those things whereof you require light from me, that is not come to your knowledge, by some clearer way, between the time of your Letter, and
this. Besides the report of my death, hath
thus much of truth in it, that though I be [CW: not]
not dead, yet I am buried within a few [p.234]
weeks after I immured my self in this
house, the infection strook into the town,
into so many houses, as that it became ill
manners, to make any visits. Therefore I
never went to %1Knoll%2, nor %1Hanworth%2, nor %1Ken%2-
%1ton%2, nor to the Court, since the Court came
into these quarters, nor am yet come to
%1London%2; therefore I am little able to give
you account of high stages. Perchance you
look not so low, as our ordinary Gazette,
and that tells us, (with a second assurance)
that the D. of %1Brunswick, Christian%2, is dead
of an Ague. My L. of %1Dorset%2 even upon the
day, when he should have been installed
with his six fellowes, fell sick at %1London%2; and
at Court (which does not exalt all men)
his Fever was exalted to the plague; but he
is in good convalescence. Of the Navy I hear
of no great lim come back yet, but my L. of
%1Essex%2; something of the disappointing of the
designe they had, is imputed to some diffe-
rence, in point of command, between him
and the M%5r%6. of the Ordinance, my L. of %1Va-
[CW:%1lencia%2,]
and the M%5r%6. of the Ordinance, my L. of %1Va-
%1lencia%2, but as yet, there is little manifested. [p.235]
Already is issued a Proclamation, that there
be no disbanding of the Souldiers, upon
their landing, in what part soever, and that
his Majesty hath present imployment for
them. What the main busines at %1Haghe%2 hath
been, I know nothing; but I hear, that their
offer of pawning of Jewells to a very very
great value, to the States or private men,
 hath found no acceptance, at least found no
money. Occasionally I heard from the
%1Haghe%2, that the Queen having taken into
her care, the promoving and advancing of
some particular mens businesses, by way of
recommendations to the Duke, expressed
her self very royally, in your behalf. This
I tell you not, as though you knew it not,
Letter of the simple Gentlewoman, from thence; by which name, if you know her not, I have omitted heretofore to tell you a good tale. They continue at Court, in the resolution of the Queen pastorall; when %1Q. Anne%2 loved gamboils, you loved the [CW: Court;} perchance you may doubt whether [p.236] you be a thorough Courtier, if you come not up to see this, The Queen a Shepper-desse: but I speak not this, by way of coun-sail, to draw you up, it is not only %1Non Do%2 minus, sed ego%2, but %1nec Deus nec ego%2, but %1nec Deus nec ego%2, but %1nec Deus nec ego%2, to call you hither, but upon fair appearances of usefull commings. M%5r%6 %1George Herbert%2 is here at the receipt of your letter, and with his ser-vice to you, tells you that all of %1Uvedall%2 house are well. I reserve not the mention of my Lady %1Huntington%2 to the end of my Letter, as grains to make the gold weight, but as tincture to make the better gold, when you finde room to intrude so poor and imper-tinent a name, as mine is, in her presence. I beseech you, let her Lad: know, that she hath sowed her favours towards me, in such a ground, that if I be grown better (as I hope I am) her favours are grown with me, and though they were great when she conferred them, yet, (if I mend every day) they in-crease in me every day, and therefore every day multiply my thankfulnesse towards [CW: her] her Ladiship: say what you will (if you [p.237] like not this expression) that may make her Ladiship know, that I shall never let fall the memory, nor the just valuation of her noble favours to me, nor leave them unrequited in my Exchequer, which is, the blessings of God upon my prayers. If I should write another sheet, I should be able to serve your curiosuty no more of Dukes nor LL. nor Courts, and this half line serves to tell you, that I am truly Your poor friend and humble servant in Chr. Jes.%2 J. Donne.
To my honoured friend, G. G. Esquire,

Sir,

Either your Letters, nor silence, needs excuse; your friendship is to me an abundant possession, though you remember me but twice in a year: He that could have two harvests in that time, might justly value his land at a high rate; but, Sir, as we do not only then thank our land, when we gather the fruit, but acknowledge that all the year she doth many motherly offices in preparing it: so is not friendship then only to be esteemed, when she is delivered of a Letter, or any other reall office, but in her continuall propensnesse and inclination to do it. This hath made me easy in pardoning my long silences, and in promising myself your forgivenesse for not answering your Letter sooner. For my purpose of proceeding in the profession of the law, so farre as to a title you may be pleased to correct that imagination, wheresoever you finde it. I ever thought the study of it my best entertainment, and pastime, but I have no ambition, nor designe upon the style. Of my Anniversaries, the fault that I acknowledge in myself, is to have descended to print any thing in verse, which though it have excuse even in our times, by men who professe, and practise much gravitie; yet I confess I wonder how I declined to it, and do not pardon myself: But for the other part of the imputation of having said too much, my defence is, that my purpose was to say as well as I could: for since I never saw the Gentlewoman, I cannot be understood to have bound myself to have spoken just truths, but I would not be thought to have gone about to praise her, or any other in rime; except I took such a person, as might be capable of all that I could say. If any of those Ladies think that Mistris %Drewry% was not so, let that Lady make her self fit for all those praises in the book, and they shall be hers. Sir, this messenger
makes so much haste that I cry you mercy for spending any time of this letter in other imployment then thanking you for yours. I hope before Christmas to see England, and kisse your hand; which shall ever, (if it dis
dain not that office) hold all the keyes of the libertie and affection, and all the facul-
ties of Paris the 14 of April, here, 1612.
Your most affectionate servant, J. D. [CW:To]

To my honoured friend G. G. Esquire,
Sir,
I Should not only send you an account by my servant, but bring you an account of
my self, (for our Letters are our selves) and in them absent friends meet) how I do, but that two things make me forbear that writing: first, because it is not for my gravity, to write of feathers, and strawes, in good faith, I am no more, conside-
red in my body, or fortune. And then be-
cause whensoever I tell you how I doe, by a Letter, before that Letter comes to you, I shall be otherwise, then when it left me. At this time, I humbly thank God, I am only not worse; for, I should as soon look for Roses at this time of the year, as look for increase of strength. And if I be no worse all spring, then now, I am much bet-
er than ever. Here, I make account that those Church services, which I would be very loth to de-
cline, will spend somewhat; and, if I can gather so much as will bear my charges, re-
cover so much strength at London, as I shall [p.241] spend at London, I shall not be loth to be left in that state wherein I am now, after that's done; But I do but discourse, I do not wish; life, or health, or strength, (I thank God) en-
ter not into my prayers for my self: for others they do; and amongst others, for your sick servant, for such a servant taken so young, and healed so long, is half a child to a master, and so truly I have observed
that you have bred him, with the care of a father. Our blessed Saviour look graciously upon him, and glorifie himself in him, by his way of restitution to health; And by his way of peace of conscience in

Your very true friend and servant in Chr. Jes.

J. Donne.

T+His advantage you, and my other friends have, by my frequent Fevers, that I am so much the oftener at the gates of heaven, and this advantage by the solitude and close imprisonment that they reduce me to after, that I am thereby the oftener at my prayers; in which, I shall never leave out your happiness; and, I doubt not, but amongst his many other blessings, God will add to you some one for my prayers. A man would almost be content to dye, (if there were no other benefit in death) to hear of so much sorrow, and so much good testimony from good men, as I, (God be blessed for it) did upon the report of my death. Yet, I perceive it went not through all; for, one writ unto me, that some (and he said of my friends) conceived, that I was not so ill, as I pretended, but withdrew myself, to save charges, and to live at ease, discharged of preaching. It is an unfriendly, and God knows, an ill grounded interpretation: for in these times of necessity, and multitudes of poor there is no possibility of saving to him that hath any tenderness in him; and for affecting my ease, I have been always more sorry, when I could not preach, then any could be, that they could not hear me. It hath been my desire, (and God may be pleased to grant it me) that I might die in the Pulpit; if not that, yet that I might take my death in the Pulpit, that is, die the sooner by occasion of my former labours.
I thanke you, for keeping our George in your memory, I hope God reserves it for so good a friend as you are, to send me the first good newes of him. For the Diarymond Lady, you may safely deliver Roper, whatsoever belongs to me, and he will give you a discharge for the money. For my L. Percy, we shall speake of it, when we meet at London; which, as I do not much hope before Christmas, so I do not much fear at beginning of Tearm; for I have intreated one of my fellowes to preach to my Lord Maior, at Pauls upon Christmas day, and reserved Candlemas day to myself for that service, about which time also, will fall my Lent Sermon, except my Lord Chamberlaine beleevve me to be dead, and leave me out; for as long as I live, and am not speechlesse, I would not decline that service. I have better leaure to write, than you to read, yet I will not oppresse you with too much letter, God blesse you, and your sonne, as Your poor friend and humble servant in Christ Jesus J. Donne.

To the Lady G.

Am not come out of England, if I remain in the Noblest part of it, your minde; yet I confesse, it is too much diminution to call your minde, any part of England, or of this world, since every part even of your body, deserves titles of higher dignity. No Prince would be loth to die, that were assured of so faire a tombe; but I have a greater vantage then so; for since there is a Religion in friendship, and a death in absence, to make up an intire frame there must be a heaven too: and there can be no heaven so proportionall to that Religion, and that death, as your favour. And I am gladder...
that it is a heaven, then that it were a Court, or any other high place of this world, because I am likelier to have a room there then here; and better cheap. Madam my best treasure, is time; and my best im-
ployment of that, is to study good wishes for you, in which I am by continuall medi-
tation so learned, that your own good An-
gell, when it would do you most good, might be content to come and take in-
structions from

Your humble and affectionate servant

J. Donne. [CW:%1To%2]

To your selfe.

Sir, The first of this moneth I received a Letter from you, no Letter comes so late, but that it brings fresh newes hither. Though I presume, Mr. Pore, and since, Sir Rob. Rich came after the writing of that Letter, yet it was good newes to me, that you thought me worthy of so good a testi-
mony. And you were subtile in the dis-
guise: for you shut up your Letter, thus, Lond. 22. in our stile, but I am not so good a Cabalist, as to finde in what moneth it was written. But, Sir, in the offices of so spirituall a thing as friendship, so momen-
tary a thing as time, must have no consi-
deration. I keep it therefore to read every day, as newly written: to which vexati-
on it must be subject, till you relieve it with an other. If I ought you not a great many thankes for every particular part of it, I should yet thanke you for the length; and love it, as my mistresses face, every line [p.247] and feature, but best all together. All that I can do towards retribution, is, (as other bankrupts do in prison) to make means by Commissioners, that a great debt may be accepted by small summes weekly. And in that proportion I have paid my tribute to you, almost ever since I came, and
shall still do so. You know that they say, those are the strongest, and the firmest, and most precious things, which are composed of the most, and smallest parts. I will flatter my self therefore, that the number of my Letters may at last make a strong argument of my desire to serve you, but because I remember, out of this Philo-
phy, that they should be little, as well as many, lest this Letter should not get in-
to the building, it shall be no bigger; thus much addition will not much disfigure it,
that is sweare to you that I am om
Your affectionate servant
J. Donne. [cw:SIR,]
Sir, I cry you mercy for sealing your sisters let-
ter, but I deliver you up my authority, and I re-
member you, that you have hers to open it again.%
You will the easilier forgive me, that I write no% newes, when you observe by this transgression,%
that I live in a place which hath quenched in me%
even the remembrance of good manners. By na-%
ing her, I have made my postscript the wor-
thyest place of my letter: and therefore I chuse%
that place to present my service to all the company%
in which house, if I cannot get%
room for a pallat, at my return, my comfort is,%
that I can ever hope to be so near them as the Spittle%
Savoy, %where they receive Travellers. [cw:SIT]

To the Honourable Knight, Sir%
Sir,

T%ough I have left my bed, I have not left my bed-side; I sit there still, and as a Prisoner discharged, sits at the Prison doore, to beg Fees, so sit I here, to gather crumbs. I have used this leisure, to put the meditations had in my sicknesse, into such order, as may minister some ho-
ly delight. They arise to so many sheetes (perchance 20.) as that without staying for that furniture of an Epistle, that my Friends importun’d me to Print them, I im-
portune my Friends to receive them Printed.

That, being in hand, through this long Trunke, that reaches from Saint Pauls to Saint James, I whisper into your eare this question, whether there by any uncomliness, or unseasonableness, in presenting matter of Devotion, or Mortification, to that Prince, whom I pray God nothing may ever Mortifie, but Holinesse. If you allow my purposes in generall, I pray cast your eye upon the Title and the Epistle, and rectifie me in them: I submit substance, and circumstance to you, and the poore Author of both,

Your very humble and very thankfull Servant in Christ Jesus J. Donne.
which must make me acceptable to you at my comming. I shall sneake into London, about the end of August. In my remotest distance I did not more need your Letters then I shall then. Therefore if you shall not be then in London, I beseech you to think mee at Constantinople, and write one large Letter to be left at my Ladie Bartlets lodging; for I shall come in extreme darkness and ignorance, except you give me light. If Sir John Brooke be within your reach, present my humble service and thankfullnesse to him; if he be not, I am glad, that to my Conscience, which is a thousand witnesses, I have added you for one more, that I came as near as I could to doe it. I shall run so fast from this place, through Antwerpe, and some parts of Holland, that all that love which you could perchance be content to expresse by Letters if I lay still, may be more thriftily stowed upon that one Letter, which is by your favour, to meet me, and to welcome to London.

It is one ill Affection of a desperate debtor, that he dares not come to an account, nor take knowledge how much he owes; this make me that I dare not tell you how manie letters I have received from you since I came to this Towne; I had three the first by the Cooke, who brought none but yours, nor ever came to me, to let me know what became of the rest: the two other of the 7. and 8. of March, came in a letter which Sir H. Wotton writ to me from Amyens; there is not a size of paper in the Palace, large enough to tell you how much I esteeme my selfe honoured in your
remembrances; nor strong enough to wrap up a heart so full of good affections towards you, as mine is. When any thing passes between Sir Thomas Roe and you, tell him I am not the lesse his Servant, for not saying so much as he could desire I should be, when he began to love me. Sir Thomas Luises business, and perchance sadness forbid me writing now. I have written to him (whilst I lived in darknesse, whether my Letters came to you or no) by another way; and if my poore Letters were any degree of service. I should doe it often, and rather be mine own Post, then leave any thing undone, to which he would give such an interpretation, as that it were an Argument of my Devotion to him. For my purpose of proceeding in the profession of the Law, so far as to a Title, you may be pleased to correct that imagination where you finde it. I ever thought the study of it my best entertainment and pastime, but I have no ambition, nor design upon the Stile. Of my Anniversaries the fault which I acknowledge in my selfe, is to have descended to print any thing in Verse, which though it have excuse, even in our times, by example of men, which one would thinke should as little have done it, as I; yet I confesse I wonder how I declined to it, and doe not pardon my self. But for the other part of the imputation, of having said so much, my defence is, that my purpose was to say as well as I could: for since I never saw the Gentlewoman, I cannot be understood to have bound my selfe to have spoken just Truth: but I would not be thought to have gone about to praise any body in rime, except I tooke such a Person, as might be capable of all that I could say. If any of those Ladies think that Mistris Drury was not so, let that Ladie make her selfe fit for all the praises in the Booke, and it shall be hers. Nothing is farther from colour or
ground of Truth, then that which you write of Sir Robert Druries going to Masse.
No man of our Nation hath been more forward to apply himselfe to the Church of the Religion where he hath come, nor to relieve their wants, where that Demonstration hath been needfull. I know not yet whether Sir John Brookes, purpose of being very shortly here, be not a just reason to make me forbear writing to him. I am sure that I would fainest do that in writing or abstaining which should be most acceptable to him. It were in vain to put into this letter any relation of the Magnificence which have been here at publication of these marriages, for at this time there come into England so many Frenchmen, as I am sure you shall hear all at least. If they speak not of above eight hundred horse well caparisoned, you may believe it: and you may believe, that no Court in Christendome had been able to have appeared so brave in that kind. But if they tell you of any other stuffe, then Copper, or any other exercise of armes then running at the Quaintain, and the Ring, you may be bold to say Pardone moy. Sir, this messenger makes so much haste that I cry you mercy for spending any time of this Letter, in other employment, then thanking you for yours, and promising you more before my remove from hence. I pray venture no Letter to me by any other way then M. John Bruer at the Queens Armes a Mercer in Cheapside, who is always like to know where we are; And make me by loving me still, worthy to be Your friend and servant J. Donne. [To my Honoured friend Mr George Gerrard.]

 Cannot chuse but make it a presage that
093.L54.002 I shall have no good fortune in %1England%2,  
093.L54.003 that I mist the honour of enjoying that  
093.L54.004 company, which you brought to town. But  
093.L54.005 I beseech you let my ill luck determine in  
093.L54.006 that ominousnesse: for if my not comming  
093.L54.007 should be by her or you interpreted for a  
093.L54.008 negligence or coldnesse in me, I were  
093.L54.009 already in actually and present affliction. For  
093.L54.010 that Ecclesiasticall Lady of whom you  
093.L54.011 write, since I presume it is a work of dark-
093.L54.012 nesse that you go about, we will deferre  
093.L54.013 it for winter. Perchance the cold weather,  
093.L54.014 may be as good physique to you, as she,  
093.L54.015 for quenching you. I have changed my  
093.L54.016 purpose of going to %1Windsor%2, and will go  
093.L54.017 directly into the Wight: which I tell you  
093.L54.018 not as a concerning thing, but in obedi- [cw:ence]  
093.L54.019 ence to your commandement, as one [p.259]  
093.L54.020 poor testimony that I am  
093.L54.021 om  
093.L54.022 %1Your affectionate servant%2  
093.L54.023 J. Donne.  

094.L54.0HE %1To my very worthy friend M%2%5r%6 George  
094.L54.0HE Gerrard.  
094.L54.Sal S%9ir%0,  
094.L54.001 T%+His is the fourth of this moneth, and  
094.L54.002 I receive your Pacquet so late, that I  
094.L54.003 have scarce waking time enough to tell  
094.L54.004 you so, or to write any thing but dreams.  
094.L54.005 I have both your Letters, mother and  
094.L54.006 daughter, and am gladder of them, then if  
094.L54.007 I had the mother and daughter here in our  
094.L54.008 neighbourhood; you know I mean Sir  
094.L54.009 %1H. Gooderes%2 parties. Sir, you do me double  
094.L54.010 honour when my name passes through  
094.L54.011 you to that Noble Lady in whose presence  
094.L54.012 you are. It is a better end and a better way [CW:to]  
094.L54.013 to that then I am worth. I can give you no- [p.260]  
094.L54.014 thing in recompense of that favor, but  
094.L54.015 good counsell: which is to speake sparing-
094.L54.016 ly of any ability in me, lest you indanger  
094.L54.017 your own reputation, by overvaluing me.  
094.L54.018 If I shall at any time take courage by your  
094.L54.019 Letter, to expresse my meditations of
that Lady in writing, I shall scarce think lesse time to be due to that employment, then to be all my life in making those verses, and so take them with me and sing them amongst her fellow Angels in Heaven. I should be loath that in any thing of mine, composed of her, she should not appear much better then some of those of whom I have written. And yet I cannot hope for better expressings then I have given of them. So you see how much I should wrong her, by making her but equal to others. I would I could be believed, when I say that all that is written of them, is but prophecy of her. I must use your favour in getting her pardon, for having brought her into so narrow, and low-rooft a room as my consideration, or for adventuring to give any estimation of her, and when I see how much she can pardon, I shall the better discern how far farther I may dare to offend in that kind. My noble neighbour is well, and makes me the steward of his service to you. Before this Letter reaches you, I presume you will bee gathering towards these parts, and then all newes will meet you so fast, as that out of your abundance you will impart some to your affectionate friend to serve you, J. Donne.

A%+Ll your other Letters, which came to me by more hazardous waies, had therefore much merit in them; but for your Letter by M. %1Pory%2, it was but a little degree of favour, because the messenger was so obvious, and so certain, that you could not chuse but write by him. But since he brought me as much Letter as all the rest, I must accept that, as well as the rest.
By this time, M. Garret, when you know in your conscience that you have sent no Letter, you beginne to look upon the prescription, and doubt that you have broken up some other bodies Letter: but whose so ever it were it must speak the same language, for I have heard from no body. Sir, if there be a Proclamation in England against writing to me, since it is become a matter of State, you might have told M. Pory so. And you might have told him, what became of Sir Tho. Lucies [p.263] Letter, in my first pacquet, (for any Letter to him makes any paper a pacquet, and any piece of single money a Medall) and what became of my Lady Kingsmels in my second, and of hers in my third, whom I will not name to you in hope that it is perished, and you lost the honour of giving it. Sir, mine own desire of being your servant, hath sealed me a Patent of that place during my life, and therefore it shall not be in the power of your forbidding, (to which your stiffe silence amounts) to make me leave being.

Your very affectionate servant J. Donne.
absent friend. If you will but write that you
give me leave to keep that name still, it
shall be the gold of your Letter: and for
allay, put in as much newes as you will.
We are in a place where scarce any money
appears, but base: as, I confesse, all mat-
ters of Letters is in respect of the testimo-
nies of friendship; but obey the corrupti-
on of this place, and fill your Letters
with worse stuffe then your own. Present
my service to all those Gentlemen whom I
had the honour to serve at our lodging, I
cannot flie an higher pitch, then to say , that
I am so much their servants as you can say I
am. At the Queens armes in %1Cheapside%2,
which is a Mercers, you may hear of one
M. %1John Brewer%2, who will convey any Let-
ter directed to me at Sir %1Rob. Druries%2 at
%1Amiens%2, though he know not me: and I
should be glad to hear that this first that I
sent into %1England%2 had the fortune to finde
you.

To your fair sister.
Sal M%9adam%0,
The dignity, and the good fortune due
to your Letter, hath preserved a pac-
quet so well, that through %1France%2 and
%1Germany%2 it is at last come to me at %1Spa%C%2.
This good experience makes me in despite
of contrary appearances, hope that I shall
finde some messenger for this, before I re-
move, though it be but two dayes. For,
even Miracles are but little and slight things,
when any thing which either concernes
your worthinesse is in consideration or my
valuation of it. If I faile in this hope of a
messenger, I shall not grudge to do my selve
this service of bringing it into %1England%2, that
you may hear me say there, that I have
thus much profited by the honour of your
conversation, and Contemplation, that I
am, as your vertues are, every where
equall; and that, that which I shall say
then at %1London%2, I thought and subscribed [cw:at]
at %1Spa%C%2, which is, that I will never be any [p.267]
thing else, then

%1Your very humble and affectionate servant%2
J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir%2
Henry Goodere.

B%+Ecause to remain in this sort guilty in
your Lordships opinion doth not one-
lly defeat all my future indevours, but lay a
heavier burden upon me, of which I am
more sensible, which is ingratitude to-
wards your Lordship, by whose favours I
have been formerly so much bound; I hope
your Lordship will pardon me this care
and diligence which I use to rectifie
my self towards you. To which purpose I
humbly beseech your Lordship, to admit
thus much into your consideration, that I [cw:nei-]
neither hunted after this business at first, [p.268]
but apprehended it as it was presented to
me, and might perchance have fallen into
worse hands, nor proceeded otherwise ther-
in, then to my poor discretion at that time
seemed lawfull and requisite and necessa-
ry for my reputation, who held my selfe
bound to be able to give satisfaction to any
who should doubt of the case. Of all which,
if your Lordship were returned to your
former favourable opinions of me, you
might be pleased to make this some argu-
ment, that after his Majesty had shewed his
inclination to the first motion made in my
behalf, I was not earnest to urge and solicit
that advantage of priority, but as became
me, contented my self to joyne with him
who had made a later petition therein: and
as soon as I understood how it was opposed
or distasted, I threw it down at your Lord-
ships feet, and abandoned it to your pleasure.
Which it is necessary for me to say at this time, left, if he who was interested with me in that business shall have proceeded any farther therein since that time, your Lordship might conceive new suspicions of me. That your Lordship's name was at all used therein, or that any words of mine occasioned such an error in my servant, I am so sorry as nothing but a conscience of a true guiltiness of having performed an injustice to your Lordship (which can never fall upon me) could affect me more. But I, who to the measure of my comprehension, have ever understood your Lordship's nobility and evenness, cannot fear that your Lordship will punish an oversight, like a crime: which should be effected upon me, if your Lordship should continue your displeasure towards me, since no penalty could come so burdensome to my mind and to my fortune as that. And since the repose of both consists in your Lordship's favour, I humbly intreat to be restored to your favour, giving your Lordship my faith in pawn that I will be as wary of forfeiting it by any second occasion, as I am sorry for this.

Yours,

J. D.

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert Karre.

Had rather like the first best; not only because it is cleaner, but because it reflects least upon the other party, which, in all just and earnest, in this affair, I wish avoided. If my Muse were onely out of fashion, and but wounded and maimed like Free-will in the Roman Church, I should adventure to put her to an Epithalamion. But since she is dead, like Free-will in our Church, I have not so much Muse left as to lament her losse. Perchance this business may produce occasions, wherein I...
099.L54.013 may expresse my opinion of it, in a more
099.L54.014 serious manner. Which I speaker neither up-
099.L54.015 on any apparent conjecture, nor upon any
099.L54.016 overvaluing of my abilities, but out of a
099.L54.017 generall readinesse and alacrity to be ser-
099.L54.018 viceable and gratefull in any kinde. In
099.L54.019 both which poore vertues of mine, none [cw:can]
099.L54.020 can pretend a more primary interest, then [p.271]
099.L54.021 you may, in
099.L54.0DL om
099.L54.0SS %1Your humble and affectionate servant%2
099.L54.0SS J. Donne

100.L54.0HE %1To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 Robert Karre
100.L54.0HE %1Gentleman of his Highnesses Bedchamber%2.
100.L54.Sal S%9ir,%0
100.L54.001 I%+ Have often sinned towards you, with a
100.L54.002 presumption of being pardoned, but
100.L54.003 now I do it, without hope, and without
100.L54.004 daring to intreat you to pardon the fault.
100.L54.005 In which there are thus many degrees of
100.L54.006 importunity. That I must begge of you to
100.L54.007 christen a child, which is but a daughter,
100.L54.008 and in which you must be content to be
100.L54.009 associated with Ladies of our own alli-
100.L54.010 ance, but good women, and all this up-
100.L54.011 on Thursday next in the afternoon. Sir, I
100.L54.012 have so many and so indeleble impressions[CW:of]
100.L54.013 of your favour to me, as they might [p.272]
100.L54.014 serve to spread over all my poor race. But
100.L54.015 since I see that I stand like a tree, which
100.L54.016 once a year beares, though no fruit, yet
100.L54.017 this Mast of children, and so am sure,
100.L54.018 that one year or other I should afflict you
100.L54.019 with this request, I had rather be present-
100.L54.020 ly under the obligations and the thankful-
100.L54.021 nesse towards you, then meditate such a
100.L54.022 trouble to you against another year. I was
100.L54.023 desirous this paper might kisse your hands
100.L54.024 as soon as you came, that if any other di-
100.L54.025 versions made this inconvenient to you, I
100.L54.026 might have an other exercise of your favor,
100.L54.027 by knowing so much from you, who in
100.L54.028 every act of yours make me more and more
100.L54.0DL 17 Aprill.
Your humble and thankful servant

To the Honourable Knight, Sir

Robert Karre.

Sal Sir,

Perhaps others may have told you, that I am relapsed into my Fever; but that which I must intreat you to condole with me, is, that I am relapsed into good degrees of health; your cause of sorrow for that, is, that you are likely to be the more troubled with such an impertinence, as I am; and mine is, that I am fallen from fair hopes, of ending all; yet I have scaped no better cheap, than that I have paid death one of my Children for my Ransom. Because I loved it well, I make account that I dignifie the memorie of it, by mentioning of it to you, else I should not be so homely. Impute this brevity of writing to you upon no Subject, to my sicknesse, in which men use to talke idly: but my profession of desiring to be restrained in your memorie, impute to your owne Vertues, which have wrought so much upon

To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karre.

Make account that it is a day of great distribution of Honours at Court: I would not therefore lose my part, and increase therein; since very Letter admitted by you from mee, is a new stone in my best building, which is, my roome in your service: so much you adde to me, everie time you give me leave thus to kisse your hands. But, Sir, everie addition preimagins a being and creation is not yet come: which I am sure you will advance; because else I am no
competent Subject of your favours, and
additions. I know, by your forbearing [cw:to]
to tell mee so, that my L. hath had no [p.275]
commoditie to move the K. and if this
Paper speake one word of difference, or
impatience in my name, by my troth it
lies. Onely give it leave to tell you, that
that L. whom perchance the K. may bee
to heare in it, is an old and mo-
mentanie man, and it may be late labour-
ing for his assistance, next Winter. Besides,
since it may bee possible that the Master
of the Rolles may a little relent this suite,
there could no fitter time, then now, to
make him easie, as things stand with him
at this time. If you stay in Towne this
Night, and no longer, I beseech you af-
ford me a few of your late Minutes at your
own lodging, where I will wait upon you
according to any directions, which by
this Gent. or otherwise I shall receive from
you.

Your humble servant
John Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

To the Honourable Knight, Sir
I would calumniate, I could say no
ill of that Gentleman: I know not
whether my L. or my selfe tooke the first
apprehension of it; but I remember that
very soone wee concurred in a good opi-
nion of him; thereupon for justifying
our owne forwardnesse, wee observed
him more throughly, and found all the
way good reason to ratifie our first esti-
mation of him. This gave my L. oc-
asion to send him abroade in his Service
after: how hee satisfied him in that im-
ployment, indeed I know not. But,
that I disguise nothing, I remember my
L. told mee sometimes in his absence,
that hee had not Account from him of
103.L54.017 some things, which hee had deposed in his
103.L54.018 him. And at his entering into his [p.277]
103.L54.019 Coach, at his last going, I asked my L.
103.L54.020 Goes not the Gentleman with you? and
103.L54.021 hee told mee with some coldnesse no. So
103.L54.022 that if you bee not pressed to a Resolu-
103.L54.023 tion, you may bee pleased to forbeare a
103.L54.024 few dayes, till I may occasionally dis-
103.L54.025 cerne, whether hee have demerited or
103.L54.026 sunke in my L. opinion: And then
103.L54.027 you shall have another Character of him
103.L54.028 from
103.L54.029
103.L54.030
103.L54.031 Julii.
103.L54.032 Your very humble and thankfull
103.L54.033 Servant
103.L54.034 J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

104.L54.0HE %1To the Honourable Knight, Sir%2 Robert Karre.
104.L54.Sal SIR,
104.L54.001 T%+HE same houre that I received the
104.L54.002 honour of your commandments, by
104.L54.003 your letter left at my poore house, I put
104.L54.004 my selfe upon the way hither. So that I
104.L54.005 am here in the habite of a Traveller, and
104.L54.006 (suitable to the rest of my unworthinesses)
104.L54.007 unfit for great Presences. Therefore, I ab-
104.L54.008 stain from waiting upon you presently;
104.L54.009 besides that in this abstinence, (except I
104.L54.010 misinterpret the last words of your letter to
104.L54.011 my advantage) I obey your directions,
104.L54.012 in sending before I come to you. How-
104.L54.013 soever, Sir, I am intirely at your disposing,
104.L54.014 if you will be pleased to adde this favor to
104.L54.015 the rest, that I may understand, wherein
104.L54.016 you will use your Authoritie and Power,
104.L54.017 which you have over
104.L54.018 om
104.L54.0SS %1Your poore and humble servant%2
104.L54.0SS John Donne.

105.L54.0HE %1To the Honourable Knight, Sir%2 Robert Karre.
105.L54.Sal SIR,
105.L54.001 T%+His is but a Postscript to the last
105.L54.002 Letter, and it is onely to tell you,
105.L54.003 that it was an impertinent jealousie
105.L54.004 that I conceived of that Gentlemans ab-
105.L54.005 sence from my L. for he gives that full Te-
105.L54.006 stimonie of him, that he never discerned
105.L54.007 any kinde of unfitness in him for any im-
105.L54.008 ployment, except too much goodnesse; and
105.L54.009 Conscientiousnesse may sometimes make
105.L54.010 him somewhat lesse fit for some kindes of
105.L54.011 businesse, then a man of a looser raine.
105.L54.012 And this is all, that I conceive to have been
105.L54.013 in the commandment wherewith you ho-
105.L54.014 noured
105.L54.0SS %1Your very humble and thankful%2
105.L54.0SS %1Servant in Christ Jesus%2
105.L54.0SS John Donne: [CW:%1To%2]

106.L54.0HE %1To my Honoured Friend, Master%2
106.L54.0HE George Gherard.
106.L54.Sal S%9ir%0,
106.L54.001 Y%+%Our letter was the more welcome to
106.L54.002 mee, because it brought your com-
106.L54.003 mandment with it, of sending you per-
106.L54.004 fumes: for it is a Service somewhat like
106.L54.005 a Sacrifice. But yet your commandment
106.L54.006 surprised me, when neither I had enough
106.L54.007 to send, nor had means to recover more;
106.L54.008 that Ladie being out of Towne which
106.L54.009 gave them me. But Sir, if I had 1000000.
106.L54.010 I could send you no more then I doe; for
106.L54.011 I send all. If any good occasion present it
106.L54.012 selfe to you, to send to my L. %1Clifford%2, spare
106.L54.013 my name a roome, there where you offer
106.L54.014 him most of your Service. I dare contend
106.L54.015 with you, that you cannot exceed mee, in
106.L54.016 desiring to serve him. It is a better office
106.L54.017 from me to you, that I goe to bed, then that
106.L54.018 I write a longer letter. For if I doe mine
106.L54.019 eyes a little more injurie, I shall lose the [cw:honour]
106.L54.020 honour of seeing you at Michaelmas; for [p.281]
106.L54.021 by my troth I am almost blinde: you may
106.L54.022 be content, to beleive that I am always
106.L54.023 disposed to your service, without excepti-
106.L54.024 on of any time, since now just at mid-
106.L54.025 night, when it is both day, and night,
106.L54.026 and neither, I tell you that I am
Your affectionate friend and servant

J. Donne

To my very much honoured friend George Garrard Esquire at Sion.

Sir,

I know not which of us wonne it by the hand, in the last charge of Letters. If you wonne, you wonne nothing, because you were all yours before. I doubt not but I were better delivered of dangers of relapses, if I were at London; but the very going would indanger me. Upon which true debility, I was forced to excuse myselfe to my Lord Chamberlain, from whom I had a Letter of command to have Preached the fifth of November Sermon to the King. A service which I would not have declined, if I could have conceived any hope of standing. I beseech you intreat my Lord Percy in my behalfe, that he will be pleased to name George to my Lord Carlile, and to wonder, if not to inquire, where he is. The world is disposed to charge my Lords honour, and to charge my natural affection with neglecting him, and, God knowes, I know not which way to turn towards him; nor upon any message of mine, when I send to kiss my Lords hands, doth my Lord make any kind of mention of him. For the Diamond Lady, when time serves, I pray look to it; for I would fain be discharged of it. And for the rest, let them be but remembered how long it hath been in my hands, and then leave it to their discretion.

Our blessed Saviour multiply his blessings upon that noble family where you are, and upon all them that are derived from your selfe, and your sonne; as upon all
To my very much respected friend Mr. George Garrard.

Sir,

I thank you for expressing your love to me, by this diligence, I know you can distinguish between the voices of my love, and of necessity, if any thing in my Letters found like an importunity. Besides, I will add thus much out of counsel to you, that you can do nothing so thriftily as to keep in your purpose of the payment of the rest of this year's rent, (though at your convenience) for Sir E. H.'s curiosity being so served at first, I shall be no farther cause, but that the rest be related, and you in as good possession of his love, and to as good use, as your love deserves of him. You mock us when you ask news from hence. All is created there, or relates thither where you are. For that book which you command me to send, I held it but half an hour: which served me to read those few leaves, which were directed upon some few lines of my book. If you come to town quickly, you may get a fair widow: for Mrs. Brown is fallen to that state of death of her husband. No man desires your coming more, nor shall be readier to serve you, then all is created there, or relates thither where you are. For that book which you command me to send, I held it but half an hour: which served me to read those few leaves, which were directed upon some few lines of my book. If you come to town quickly, you may get a fair widow: for Mrs. Brown is fallen to that state of death of her husband. No man desires your coming more, nor shall be readier to serve you, then.
senger comes two dayes before to intreat you from us both, to reserve your self upon Saterday: so that I may, at our coming to London that night, understand at my house where I may send you word of our supping place that night, and have the honour of your company. So you lay more obligations upon %1Your poor unprofitable servant%2 J. Donne.

To my very much Honoured friend George Garret Esquire,

When we think of a friend, we do not count that a lost thought, though that friend never knew of it. If we write to a friend, we must not call it a lost Letter, though it never finde him to whom it was addressed: for we owe our selves that office, to be mindefull of our friends. In payment of that debt, I send out this Letter, as a Sentinell Perdue; if it finde you, it comes to tell you, that I was possessed with a Fever, so late in the year, that I am afraid I shall not recover confidence to come to London till the spring be a little advanced. Because you did our poore family the favour, to mention our George in your Letters to Spain, with some earnestnesse, I should wonder if you never had any thing from thence concerning him; he having been now, divers moneths, in Spaine. If you be in London and the Lady of the Jewell there too, at your conveniency inform me, what is looked for at my hands, in that businesse; for I would be loath to leave any thing in my house, when I die, that were not absolutely mine own. I have a servant, Roper, at Pauls house, who will receive your commandments, at all times. God blesse you and your sonne, with the same blessings which I begge for the children, and for
110.L54.031 the person of
110.L54.0DL om
110.L54.0SS %1Your poor friend and humble%2
110.L54.0SS %1servant in Chr. Jes.%2
110.L54.0SS J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

111.L54.0HE %1To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 Robert
111.L54.0HE Karre, %1Gentleman of his Highnesses%2
111.L54.0HE %1Bed-chamber.%2
111.L54.Sal S%9IR%0,
111.L54.001 I%+ Am come to that tendernes of con-
111.L54.002 science, that I need a pardon for mean-
111.L54.003 ing to come to %1Newmarket%2 in this weather.
111.L54.004 If I had come, I must have asked you many
111.L54.005 reall pardons, for the many importunities
111.L54.006 that I should have used towards you. But
111.L54.007 since I have divers errands thither, (except
111.L54.008 I belie my self in that phrase, since it is all
111.L54.009 one errand to promove mine own business,
111.L54.010 and to receive your commands) I shall give
111.L54.011 you but a short respit, since I shall follow
111.L54.012 this paper within two dayes. And (that I
111.L54.013 accuse my self, no farther then I am guilty)
111.L54.014 the principall reason of my breaking the
111.L54.015 appointment of waiting upon M. %1Rawlins%2,
111.L54.016 was, that I understood the King was from
111.L54.017 %1Newmarket%2; and for coming thither in
111.L54.018 the Kings absence, I never heard of excuse;[CW:except]
111.L54.019 except when %1Butler%2 sends a desperate Pati- [p.289]
111.L54.020 ent in a Consumption thither for good aire,
111.L54.021 which is an ill errand now. Besides that I
111.L54.022 could not well come till now, (for there
111.L54.023 are very few dayes past, since I took Orders)
111.L54.024 there can be no losse in my absence except
111.L54.025 when I come, my Lord should have there-
111.L54.026 by the lesse latitude, to procure the Kings
111.L54.027 Letters to %1Cambridge%2. I beseech you there-
111.L54.028 fore, take some occasion to refresh that
111.L54.029 businesse to his Lordship, by presenting
111.L54.030 my name, and purpose of coming very
111.L54.031 shortly: and be content to receive me, who
111.L54.032 have been ever your servant, to the additi-
111.L54.033 on of
111.L54.0DL 27 January.
111.L54.0SS %1Your poor Chaplaine%2
To the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount of Rochester.

My most Honourable good Lord,

After I was grown to be your Lordships by all the titles that I could think of, it hath pleased your Lordship to make another title to me, by buying me. You may have many better bargains in your purchases, but never a better title then you may call yours more absolutely and entirely. If therefore I appear before your Lordship sometimes in these Letters of thankfulnesse, it may be an excusable boldnesse, because they are part of your evidences by which you hold me. I know there may be degrees of importunity even in thankfulnesse: but your lordship is got above the danger of suffering that from me, or my Letters, both because my thankfulnesse cannot reach to the benefits already received, and because the favour of receiving my Letters is a new benefit. And since good Divines have made this argument against deniers of the Resurrection, that it is easier for God to recollect the Principles, and Elements of our bodies, howsoever they be scattered, then it was at first to create them of nothing, I cannot doubt, but that any distractions or diversions in the ways of my hopes, will be easier to your Lordship to reunite, then it was to create them. Especially since you are already so near perfecting them, that if it agreed with your Lordships purposes, I should never wish other station, then such as might make me still and only your Lordships

Most humble and devoted servant

J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert
Lest you should think your selfe too much beholding to your fortune, and so relie too much upon her hereafter, I am bold to tell you, that it is not onely your good fortune that hath preserved you from the importunity of my visits all this time. For my ill fortune, which is stronger, then any mans good fortune, hath concurred in the plot to keep us asunder, by infecting one in my house with the Measels. But all that, is so safely over-worne, that I dare, not onely desire to put my selfe into your presence, but by your mediation, a little farther. For, esteeming my selfe, by so good a title, as my Lords own words, to be under his providence, and care of my fortune, I make it the best part of my studies now how I might ease his Lordship by finding out [cw:something-] which, because I [p.293] think I have done, as though I had done him a service therein, I adventure to desire to speake with him, which I beseech you to advance, in addition to your many favours and benefits to me. And if you have occasion to send any of your servants to this town, to give me notice, what times are fittest for me to waite, to injoy your favour herein. My businesse is of that nature, that losse of time may make it much more difficult, and may give courage to the ill fortune of

Your humble servant

J. Donne. [cw:To] To your selfe.

I Make shift to think that I promised you this book of French Satyrs. If I did not, yet it may have the grace of acceptation, both as it is a very forward and early fruit, since it comes before it was looked for, and as
it comes from a good root, which is an importune desire to serve you. Which since I saw from the beginning, that I should never do in any great thing, it is time to begin to try now, whether by oft ten doing little services, I can come to wards any equivalence. For, except I can make a rule of natural philosophy, serve also in moral offices, that as the strongest bodies are made of the smallest particles, so the strongest friendships may be made of often iterating small officiousnesses, I see I can be good for nothing. Except you know reason to the contrary, I pray deliver this Letter according to the addresse. It hath no[businesse,]

Law, a man may be %1Felo de se%2, if he kill himself, so I think a man may be %1Fur de se%2, if he steale himself out of the memory of them, which are content to harbour him. And now I begin to be loath to be lost, since I have afforded myself some valuation and price, ever since I received the stampe and impression of being

%1Your very humble and affectionate servant%2

J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir%2 Robert Karre,

%1Gentleman of his Highnesses Bed chamber.%2

I%+ Have always your leave to use my liber ty, but now I must use my bondage. Which is my necessity of obeying a pre contract laid upon me. I go to morrow to a mile beyond %1Southwark%2. But from this town goes with me my brother Sir %1Tho.%2 and his Lady, and I with them. There we dine well enough I war rant you, with his father-in-law, Sir %1Tho.%2 If I keep my whole promise, I shall Preach both forenoon and afternoon. But I will obey your commandments for my return. If you cannot be there by 10, do not put your selfe upon the way: for, Sir,
you have done me more honour, then I can be worthy of, in missing me so diligently.
I can hope to hear M. %1Moulin%2 again: or ru-
minate what I have heretofore heard. The onely mistake I shall have is of the ho-
our of waiting upon you; which is some-
what recompensed, if thereby you take occasion of not putting not your self to that pain, to be more assured of the inabilities of

%1Your unworthy servant%2

[CW:%1To%2]

HE %1To the Honourable Knight, Sir%2

HE Robert Karre.

Sal SIR,

Sought you yesterday with a purpose of accomplishing my health, by the honour of kissing your hands. But I finde by my going abroad, that as the first Cristians were forced to admit some %1Jewish%2 Ceremonies, onely to burie the Synagogue with honour, so my Feaver will have so much reverence and respect, as that I must keep sometimes at home. I must therefore be bold to put you to the pain of con-
sidering me. If therefore my Lord upon your deliverie of my last Letter, said no-
thing to you of the purpose thereof; let me tell you now, that it was, that in obedience of his commandment, to acquaint him with any thing which might advantage me, I was bold to present that which I heard, which was that Sir %1D. Carlton%2 was likely to bee removed from %1Venice,%2 to the [p.298] States; of which if my Lord said nothing to you, I beseech you adde thus much to your many other Favours, to intreate my Lord at his best commodity, to afford mee the favour of speaking with him. But if hee have already opened himselfe so farre to you, as that you may take knowledge thereof to him, then you may ease him of that trouble of giving mee an Audience,
by troubling your selfe thus much more,
as to tell him in my behalfe, and from
mee, that though Sir %1D. Carlton%2 bee not
removed, yet that place with the States
lying open, there is a faire field of exer-
cising his favour towards mee, and of con-
stituting a Fortune to mee, and (that
which is more) of a meanes for mee to
doe him particular services. And Sir, as
I doe throughly submit the end and effect
of all Projects to his Lordships will, so
do I this beginning thereof, to your
Advice and Counsell, if you think me capable of it: as, for your owne[sake,]
[omit]
Your humble servant%2
J. Donne.

To the Honoured Knight, Sir%2
Robert Karre.

%1Sal S%9IR%0,
%1I%+ Amend to no purpose, nor have any
use of this inchoation of health, which
I finde, except I preserve my roome, and
station in you. I beginne to bee past
hope of dying: And I feele that a little
ragge of %1Monte Magor%2, which I read last
time I was in your Chamber, hath
wrought prophetically upon mee, which
is, that Death came so fast towards mee,
that the over-joy of that recovered mee.
Sir, I measure not my health by my ap-
petite, but onely by my abilitie to come
to kisse your hands: which since I can-
not hope in the compasse of a few dayes,[CW: I be-]
I beseech you pardon mee both these in-
trusions of this Letter, and of that with-
in it. And though Schoole-men dis-
pute, whether a married man dying,
and being by Miracle raised again, must
bee remarried; yet let your Friendship,
(which is a Nobler learning) bee con-
tent to admit mee, after this Resurrecti-
on, to bee still that which I was before,
and shall ever continue,
Your most humble and thankfull 
Your most humble and thankfull 
J. Donne. [cw:%1To%2]

To the Honourable Knight, Sir
Robert Karre.
Sal Sir,
When I was almost at Court, I met
the Princes Coach: I think I o-
beyed your purposes best therefore, in
comming hither. I am sure I provided
best for my selfe thereby; since my best de-
gree of understanding is to bee governed
by you. I beseech you give mee an assig-
nation where I may wait upon you at your
comoditie this Evening. Till the per-
formance of which commandment from
you, I rest here in the red Lion.

om
Your very thankfull and affectionate 
Your very thankfull and affectionate 
J. Donne.[CW:%1To%2]

To the Honourable Knight, Sir
Robert Karre.
Sal Sir,
Was loth to bee the onely man who
should have no part in this great Festi-
vall; I thought therefore to celebrate
that well, by spending some part of it in
your company. This made mee seek you
againe this after noone, though I were
guilty to my selfe of having done so every
day since your comming. I confesse such
an importunity is worthy to be punished
with such a missing; yet, because it is the
likeliest reparation of my Fortunes to hope
upon Reversions, I would be glad of that
Title in you: that, after solemnities, and
businesses, and pleasures be passed over, my
time may come, and you may afford some
of your last leisures to
4 Novemb.
To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karre.

Sir,

Our man's haste gives me the advantage, that I am excusable in a short Letter, else I should not pardon it to myself. I shall obey your commandment of comming so near you upon Michaelmas day, as by a Message to ask you whether that or the next morning be the fittest to sollicite your further favour. You understand all virtue so well, as you may be pleased to call to mind what thankfulness and services are due to you from me, and beleive them all to be expressed in this ragge of paper, which gives you new assurance, that I am ever your most humble servant J. Donne.

To your selfe.

I shall never be able to do you any real service, yet you may make this profit of me, that you be hereafter more cautelous in receiving into your knowledge, persons so uselesse, and importune. But before you come to so perfect a knowledge of me, as to abandon me, go forward in your favours to me, so farre, as to deliver this Letter according to the addresse. I think I should not come nearer his presence then by a Letter: and I am sure, I would come no other way, but by you. Be you therefore pleased, by these noble favours to me, to continue in me the comfort which I have in being.

Drury house, 23 Sept.

Your very humble and thankfull servant J. Donne.
To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre.

A+ Few hours after I had the honour of your Letter, I had another from my Lord of Bath and Wells, commanding from the King a Copy of my Sermon. I am in preparations of that, with diligence, yet this morning I waited upon his Lordship, and laid up in him this truth, that of the B. of Canterburies Sermon, to this hour, I never heard syllable, nor what way, nor upon what points he went: And for mine, it was put into that very order, in which I delivered it, more then two moneths since. Freely to you I say, I would I were a little more guilty: Only mine innocency makes me afraid. I hoped for the Kings approbation heretofore in many of my Sermons; and I have had it. But yesterday I came very near looking for thanks; for, in my life, I was never in any one peace, so studious of his service. Therefore, exceptions being taken, and displeasure kindled at this, I am afraid, it was rather brought thither, then met there. If you know any more, fit for me, (because I hold that unfit for me, to appear in my Masters sight, as long as this cloud hangs, and therefore, this day forbear my ordinary waitings) I seech you to intimate it to Your very humble and very thankfull servant J. Donne.

To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,
at Court.

I+ Humbly thanke you, for this continu- ing me in your memory, and enlarging my Tenets are always, for the preservation of the Religion I was born in, and the peace of the State, and the rectifying of the Conscience;
you a new seal thereof, in this Letter, so I
had ever evidence in mine own observati-
on, that these ways were truly, as they are
justly, acceptable in his Majesties eare. Our
blessed Saviour multiply unto him all bles-
sings; %1Amen%2.

Our
SS %1Your very true and intire servant in Chr. Jes.%2
J. Donne.

To the Right Honourable Sir%2 Robert Karre,
at Court.%2

I%+ Was this morning at your door, some-
what early; and I am put into such a
distaste of my last Sermon, as that I dare
not practise any part of it, and therefore
though I said then, that we are bound to [cw:speake]
speake aloud, though we awaken men, [p.308]
and make them froward, yet after two or
three modest knocks at the door, I went
away. Yet I understood after, the King
was gone abroad, and thought you might
be gone with him. I came to give you an
account of that, which this does as well.
I have now put into my Lord of %1Bath%2 and
%1Wells%2 hands the Sermon that faithfully exscrci-
bed. I beseech you be pleased to hearken far-
ther after it; I am still upon my jealousie, that
the King brought thither some disaffecti-
on towards me, grounded upon some o-
ther demerit of mine, and took it not from
the Sermon. For, as Card. %1Cusanus%2 writ a
Book %1Cribratio Alchorani%2, I have cribated,
and re-cribrated, and post-cribrated the Ser-
on towards me, grounded upon some o-
ther demerit of mine, and took it not from
the Sermon. For, as Card. %1Cusanus%2 writ a
Book %1Cribratio Alchorani%2, I have cribated,
and re-cribrated, and post-cribrated the Ser-
mon, and must necessarily say, the King
who hath let fall his eye upon some of my
Poems, never saw, of mine, a hand, or an
eye, or an affection, set down with so much
study, and diligence, and labour of syllables,
as in this Sermon I expressed those two
points, which I take so much to conduce [cw:to]
to his service, the imprinting of persua-
[.309]sibility and obedience in the subject, And
the breaking of the bed of whispers, by
casting in a bone, of making them suspect and distrust one another. I remember I heard the old King say of a good Sermon, that he thought the Preacher never had thought of his Sermon, till he spoke it; it seemed to him negligently and extemporally spoken. And I knew that he had weighed every syllable, for half a year before, which made me conclude, that the King had before, some prejudice upon him. So, the best of my hope is, that some over bold allusions, or expressions in the way, might divert his Majesty, from vouchsafing to observe the frame, and purpose of the Sermon. When he sees the general scope, I hope his goodnesse will pardon collateral escapes. I intreated the B. to ask his Majesty, whether his displeasure extended so far as that I should forbear waiting, and appearing in his presence; and I had a return, that I might come. Till I had that, I would not offer to put my self under your roof. To day I come, for that purpose, to say prayers. And if, in any degree, my health suffer it, I shall do so, to morrow. If any thing fall to your observation before that, (because the B. is likely to speake to the King of it, perchance, this night) if it amount to such an increase of displeasure, as that it might be unfit for me to appear, I beseech you afford me the knowledge. Otherwise, I am likely to inquire of you personally, to morrow before nine in the morning, and to put into your presence then.

Your very humble and very true, and very honest servant to God and the King and you

J. Donne

I writ yesterday to my L. Duke, by my L. Carlisle, who assured me of a gracious acceptation of my putting my self in his protection. To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre, at Court,
125.L54.Sal S%9IR%0,
125.L54.001 I should refuse the liberty which you
125.L54.002 enlarge to me, of eating in your cham-
125.L54.003 ber, you might suspect that I reserved it for
125.L54.004 greater boldnesses, and would not spend
125.L54.005 it in this. But, in good faith, I do not eat
125.L54.006 before, nor can after, till I have been at
125.L54.007 home; so much hath my this years debi-
125.L54.008 lity disabled me, even for receiving favours.
125.L54.009 After the Sermon, I will steal into my
125.L54.010 Coach home, and pray that my good pur-
125.L54.011 pose may be well accepted, and my defects
125.L54.012 graciously pardoned. %1Amen%2.
125.L54.0DL om
125.L54.0SS %1Yours intirely%2
125.L54.0SS J. Donne.
125.L54.P01 %1I will be at your chamber at one after noon.%2 [CW: %1To%2]

126.L54.0HE %1To the Right Honourable Sir%2 Robert Karre,
126.L54.0HE %1at Court.%2
126.L54.Sal S%9IR%0,
126.L54.001 I Pursued my ambition of having the ho-
126.L54.002 nour to kisse your hands some where,
126.L54.003 so farre, as to inform my self occasion-
126.L54.004 ly of my great neighbour. And I perceive
126.L54.005 he is under an inundation of uncertain
126.L54.006 commers, which he cannot devest, ex-
126.L54.007 cept as I had your leave, to speake plain to
126.L54.008 him. A second inconvenience is, that he is
126.L54.009 so deafe, that we must speake to the whole
126.L54.010 house, if we will speake to him. And a
126.L54.011 third is, that I am in a riddling, rather
126.L54.012 a juggling indisposition, fast and loose,
126.L54.013 and therefore dare not stirre farre. Yet Sir,
126.L54.014 I am not thereby unfit to receive the honor
126.L54.015 of seeing you here, if greater businesse have
126.L54.016 not overcome, or worn out, your for-
126.L54.017 mer inclinablenesse to come into these
126.L54.018 quarters. If you shall be pleased to say to
126.L54.019 my man, that you will make as though [cw:you]
126.L54.020 you dined with me to day, and come, if your [p.313]
126.L54.021 businesse require your going to his Lord-
126.L54.022 ship, you may dine with him, after you
126.L54.023 have fasted with me. To day, or any day,
126.L54.024 which may be more yours, I aske it of
you with all earnestnesse, on this side im-
portunity, which is the detestation of
Your humblest and thankfullest servant
J. Donne.

To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,
at Court.

Sal SIR,
His morning I have received a signi-
fication from my Lord Chamber-
lain, that his Majesty hath commanded
to morrows Sermon at S. James; And that
it is in the after-noon; (for, into my
mouth there must not enter the word, after-
dinner, because that day there enters no dinner into my mouth.) Towards the [p.314]
time of the service, I ask your leave, that I
may hide my selfe in your out-chamber.
Or if businesse, or privatenesse, or compa-
y make that inconvenient, that you will
be pleased to assigne some servant of yours
to shew me the Closet, when I come to
your chamber. I have no other way there,
but you; which I say not, as though I had
not assurance enough therein, but because
you have too much trouble thereby; nor I
have no other end there, then the Pulpit:
you are my station, and that my exaltation;
And in both, I shall ever endeavour, to keep
you from being sorry for having thought
well of, or being ashamed of having testi-
fied well for
your poor and very true Servant in Chr. Jes.
J. Donne. [CW: To]

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert Karre,
at Court.

I have obeyed the formes of our Church
of Pauls so much, as to have been a so-
lemn Christmas man, and tried conclusi-
ons upon my selfe, how I could sit out the
siege of new faces, every dinner. So that I
have not seen the B. in some weeks. And
I know not whether he be in case, to afford
that privacy, which you justly desire. This
day I am in my bondage of entertaining.
Suppers I presume, are inconvenient to you.
But this evening I will spie upon the B. and
give you an account to morrow morning
of his disposition; when, if he cannot be
intire to you, since you are gone so farre
downwards in your favours to me, be plea-
sed to pursue your humiliation so farre as
to chuse your day, and either to suffer the
solitude of this place, or to change it, by
such company, as shall waite upon you, [cw:and]
and come as a visitor and overseer of this [p.316]
Hospital of mine, and dine or sup at this
miserable chezmey.

J. Donne.

To my Noble friend M%5ris%6 Cokain %1at%2
Ashburne.

My noblest sister,%2
B%+Ut that it is sweetned by your
command, nothing could trouble me
more, then to write of my self. Yet, if I
would have it known, I must write it my
self; for, I neither tell children, nor servants,
my state. I have never good temper, nor
good pulse, nor good appetite, nor good
sleep. Yet, I have so much leasure to recol-
ect my self, as that I can thinke I have been
long thus, or often thus. I am not alive, [cw:because]
because I have not had enough upon me to [p.317]
kill me, but because it pleases God to passe
me through many infirmities before he
take me either by those particular remem-
brances, to bring me to particular repen-
tances, or by them to give me hope of his
particular mercies in heaven. Therefore
have I been more affected with Coughs in
vehemence, more with deafenesse, more
with toothach, more with the vurbah, then
heretofore. All this mellows me for hea-
ven, and so ferments me in this world, as I
shall need no long concoction in the grave, 
but hasten to the resurrection. Not onely 
to be nearer that grave, but to be nearer to 
the service of the Church, as long as I shall 
be able to do any, I purpose, God willing, 
to be at London, within a fortnight after your 
receive of this, as well because I am under 
the obligation of preaching at Pauls upon 
Candlemas day, as because I know nothing 
to the contrary, but that I may be called to 
Court, for Lent service; and my witnesse is in heaven, that I never left out St. Dunstans, [cw:when] 
when I was able to do them that service; [p.318] 
nor will now; though they that know the 
state of that Church well, know that I am 
not so bound, as the world thinks, to preach 
there; for, I make not a shilling profit of 
S. Dunstans as a Church man, but as my L. of Dorset gave me the lease of the Impropr- 
ation, for a certain rent, and a higher rent, 
the my predecessor had it at. This I am fain 
to say often, because they that know it not, 
have defamed me, of a defectiveness to-
wards that Church; and even that mista-
ing of theirs I ever have, and ever shall en-
devour to rectifie, by as often preaching 
there, as my condition of body will admit. 
All our company here is well, but not at 
home now, when I write; for, lest I should 
not have another return to London, before 
the day of your Carrier, I write this, and rest 
15 Jan.1630 Abrey-hatch./ Your very affectionate servant, and friend, 
and brother,

J. Donne.

THE END.