

security, and they say, it is so transacted; 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 Canon, in a great proportion, and other 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 2000 *l.* will be given him; he desires that he might have it for years, that so he might transferre it upon his cre-

ditors; or that in place of it he might have 8000*l.* for he hath found a disposition in his creditors (to whom I hear he hath paid 3000*l.* since by retyring) to accept 8000*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, and *Bedington*, and *Chelsey*, and *Highbury*, where that very good man my Lord *Hobard* is, and *Hackney*, with the M. of the Rolls, and my familiar *Peckham*, are my circumference. No place so eccentric to me, as that I lye just at *London*; and with those fragmentary recreations I must make shift to recompense the missing of that contentment which your favour opens to me, and my desire provokes me to, the kissing of your hands at *Polesworth*. My daughter *Constance* is at this time with me;  
for

for the emptinesse of the town, hath made me, who otherwise live upon the almes of others, a houskeeper, for a moneth; and so she is my servant below stairs, and my companion above: she was at the table with me, when your Letter was brought, and I pay her a piece of her petition in doing her this office, to present her service to my Lady *Netherfoles*, and her very good sister. But that she is gone to bed two hours before I writ this, she should have signed, with such a hand as your daughter *Mary* did to me, that which I testifie for her, that she is as affectionate a servant to them all, as their goodnesse hath created any where. Sir, I shall recompense my tediousnesse, in closing mine eyes with a prayer for yours, as for mine own happinesse, for I am almost in bed; if it were my last bed, and I upon my last businesse there, I should not omit to joyn you with

Aug. 30. 1611.

*Your very humble and very thankfull  
servant in Christ Jesus*

J. Donne.

To

To his honourable friend S<sup>r</sup> H. G.

SIR,

**T**O you that are not easily scandalized, and in whom, I hope, neither my Religion nor Morality can suffer, I dare write my opinion of that Book in whose bowels you left me. It hath refreshed, and given new justice to my ordinary complaint, That the Divines of these times, are become meer Advocates, as though Religion were a temporall inheritance; they plead for it with all sophistications, and illusions, and forgeries: And herein are they likest Advocates, that though they be feed by the way, with Dignities, and other recompenses, yet that for which they plead is none of theirs. They write for Religion, without it. In the main point in question, I think truly there is a perplexity (as farre as I see yet) and both sides may be in justice, and innocence; and the wounds which they inflict upon the adverse part, are all *se defendendo*: for, clearly, our State cannot be  
safe

safe without the Oath; since they professe, that Clergie-men, though Traitors, are no Subjects, and that all the rest may be none to morrow. And, as clearly, the Supremacy which the Ro. Church pretend, were diminished, if it were limited; and will as ill abide that, or disputation, as the Prerogative of temporall Kings, who being the onely judges of their prerogative, why may not Roman Bishops, (so enlightned as they are presumed by them) be good witnesses of their own Supremacie, which is now so much impugned? But for this particular Author, I looked for more prudence, and humane wisdom in him, in avoiding all miscitings, or mis-interpretings, because at this time, the watch is set, and every bodys hammer is upon that anvill; and to dare offend in that kinde now, is, for a thief to leave the covert, and meet a strong hue and cry in the teeth: and yet truly this man is extremely obnoxious in that kinde; for, though he have answered many things fully, (as no book ever gave more advantage

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then

then that which he undertook) and abound in delicate applications, and ornaments, from the divine and prophane authors, yet being chiefly conversant about two points, he prevaricates in both. For, for the matter, which is the first, he referres it intirely, and namely, to that which D. Morton hath said therein before, and so leaves it roundly: And for the person (which is the second) upon whom he amasses as many opprobries, as any other could deserve, he pronounceth, that he will account any answer from his adversary, slander, except 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 himself in that kinde, and so hath provided 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 easinesse, and perspicuity,

cuity, would make them a Pamphlet, not a Letter. I will therefore deferre them till I see you; and in the mean time, I will adventure 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 cannot be scandalized, and that neither measure Religion (as it is now called) by Unitie, 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 Cen-

ter, 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 himselfe, 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 and we at our lay Altars (which are our tables, or bedside, or stools, wheresoever we dare prostrate our selves to God in prayer) 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 Aldermen, or what their Jurisdiction, (as with the Bishop of Rome, or whosoever) yet it is still one Corporation.

Micham, Thurs-  
day late.

*Your very affectionate servant and  
lover* J. Donne.

*Never leave the remembrance of my poor service unmentioned when you see the good Lady.*

*To*

To S<sup>r</sup> T.H.

S I R,

THIS evening, which is 5<sup>o</sup> 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 there-upon 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 paiments charged upon the Customs, nor Receivers, nor the Court of Wards, &c. And that for a time there might be a damp

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cast

cast upon Pensions, till they might be considered. In the Low Countries the Armies stirre not. In the Palatinate Sir *H. Vere* attempting the regaining of *Stenie* Castle, was surpris'd with the Enemy in so much strength, that they write it over for a Master-piece, that he was able to make a retreat to *Manheme*: 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 therefore upon his comming, I shall be able to say something to you. In Sir *John Sutchin* I presume you see an end of Sir *Ro. Naunton*, and we see an end of *M<sup>r</sup> Tho. Murray* too; I beleeve he comes no more to the Prince. For the triall of my *L. of Canterburies* 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  
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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 outrun 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 eyes, with the same blessing upon all your family. Amen.

*Your poor servant in Chr. Jes.*  
J. Donne.

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*To Sir H. G.*

SIR,

I Receive this 14 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,

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 thriftily. 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 M<sup>r</sup> *Alabaster* hath got of the King the Deans best Living worth above 300<sup>l</sup>, which the Dean had good hope to have held a while. Of that which you writ concerning a Book of the Nullity, I have heard no syllable any other way. If you have received it by good hands, I beleieve it 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 thankfulness 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 sepossed many businessees, 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.

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whom you solicited by Letters through me, I tell you with the whispering of a secret, but the confidence of a friend, that you will be deceived whensoever you think that he should take any delight in doing you a courtesie. And I am afraid, the true heartinesse of the other noble Gentleman M. *Howard*, will be of small use in this particular, if he have but solicited my L. his father to reserve a blanke for his friend, for my L. hath suffered more denials, even in places where he sent names, then could have been feared. Besides M. *How.* hath not written to his father therein, but to M. *Woodward*, who perceiving those Letters to be written, before his purpose of being Knight for the shire, thinkes these Letters extinguished. You made me offer so long since of a place (it was when you writ into the west) yet I could think it no merit to have offered you one since, otherwise it hath been since in my power, for since the Mr. of the Rolls provided me one, Sir *Ed. Herbert*, who makes haste away, made me a present

present of his; and I have had a third offer. The businesse of your last weeks Letter concerning the widow, is not a subject for a feverous mans consideration. Therefore I only send you back those Letters which you sent; and aske you leave to make this which I am fain to call my good day, so much truly good, as to spend the rest of it with D. *Layfield*, who is, upon my summons, at this hour come to me. My Physicians have made me afraid, that this disease will work into my head, and so put me into lightnesses, therefore I am desirous that I be understood before any such danger overtake me.

14. March.

*Your true poor servant*  
J. Donne.

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*To the Honourable Knight Sir H. G.*

SIR,

**A**fter I have told you, that the Lady *Hay* dyed last Tuesday, and that to her end she was anguished with the memory  
Z 2 of

of the execution of that fellow which attempted 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, that 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 perchance 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 *Ashby*, and so I should nothing have advanced my businesse, 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.

opinion. I took so good contentment in the fashion which my L. Chancellor used towards me, that out of a voluptuous loathness 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 quarters. So that, Sir, I am here in place to serve you, if either I be capable of your commandements, or this town give any thing worth the writing. As often as you see your noble friend, and her good sister, allow 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 service, for then you engage your self in a longer discourse, then I am worthy. Only in pursuit of your commandment I sent the Paquet to the Post, for in mine own understanding, there should appear small hope of arriving by that way, except you know otherwise that the LL. mean to make some stay in their return, in those parts: but the Letter is brought back again, for the Post went away yesterday, and

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they

they knew of no occasion of sending till 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. *Taverner* still in this town, the Lady *Carey* went from hence but yesterday. I am in some perplexity what to doe with this packet, till some good fortune, or your Letters clear me.

Aug. 19.

*Your humble servant*  
J. Donne.

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*To Sir H. Goodere at Polesworth.*

S I R,

**I**T is true that M. *Gherard* told you, I had that commandment from the King signified 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 goe into the mouth of such adversaries, as I cannot blame for hating me, the Jesuits, and yet I go.

go. Though this be no service to my Lord : 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 *Nowell Carou*, from *Paris*, that the D. of *Savoy* was elected King of *Bohemia*; which would cut off a great part of the occasion of our going: but it is not much credible in it self, nor at all beleev'd here, because it is not signified from *Savoy*, nor *Heidelberg*. Since M. *Gher.* continues your *Gazittier*, I need tell you nothing of the *Q. of Frances* estate. For your commandment in memory of M. *Martin*, I should not have sate so many processees, if I could incline my thoughts that way. It is not lazinesse, 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 nothing is done. Your last pacquet, in which your daughter and I were joynt-commissioners, 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, who

who presents her service to you by me now, and says she will write next week, and so will I too, by Gods grace. You forget me absolutely and intirely, whensoever you forget me to that noble Countesse. God blesse you in all, *Amen.*

9 Martii.

*Your true servant in Ies. Chr.*  
J. Donne.

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*To the best Knight Sir H. G.*

SIR,

**A**T your conveniency, I pray send my Lady *Bedford* this inclosed, but be pleased to put your self to some inconvenience, (if it be so) to kisse my Lady *Ruthins* hands in my name, and to present my very humble service to her, and tell her, that no ill conscience of having deserved her, but only an obedience to her commandments, keeps me from saying to her self thus much; that this day I received a letter from my *L. of Kent*, written yesterday at *Wrest*: in that his Lordships sends me word, that  
that

that favour which he hath formerly done me, in giving me *Blouham*, is now likely to fall upon me, because the Incumbent is dangerously ill: and because this is the season in which he removes from *Wrest* thither, he desires (for I give you his own word) that he may be accommodated there, (if it fall now) as heretofore. Out of my absolute and intire readiness to serve that family, I sent back his messenger with this answer, that I esteemed it a great part of my good fortune, that I should become worthy to be commanded by him. If my Lady will be pleased to direct me in what particular manner I may best serve her purposes, 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 beleieve it, as in any place you beleieve

26 Febr. 1621.

Your poor servant in Chr. Jes.  
J. Donne.

Aa To

*To my best of friends Sir H. G.*

SIR,

I Heard not from you this week; therefore 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 honour to bring, any little Letter would serve, and be acceptable for that: Because it came not last week, I went now to sollicite it, and she sent it me next day with some thanks, 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. Mathew is dead. The Catholiques beleieve it there: perchance out of a custome of credulity. But the report, is close prisoner; for

I never met it abroad. This is my third letter, all which I sent by *Spelty* whom my boy found at *Abington* house. I have now two of the best happineses 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 your 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.

*Your very affectionate servant*  
J. Donne.

*To my worthy friend G. K.*

*SIR,*

I Receive this heare that I begin this return, your Letter by a servant of Sir *G. Geseley*, 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 animad-

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versions

versions & Criticisines upon it (as that there is a ciphar 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 beleaved to have been done within doors, by encouragements 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

so, I may finde reason to make rime. If it be done, I see not how I can admit that circuit of sending them to you, to be sent hither; that seems a kinde 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 delivering you the remembrance of my Lady Bartlet, who is present at the sealing hereof.

Your very true and affectionate servant

Jan. 19.

J. Donne.

Which name when there is any empty corner in your discourse with that noble Lady at Ashby, I humbly beseech you to present to her as one more devoted to her service then perchance you will say.

A a 3

To

*To Sir G. B.*

SIR,

**B**etween 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 paquet 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 comming hither, for I know not where to seek him; and besides, I have enough to say for that part which concerns my self. Sir, even in the Letter it self 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

official 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 writ onely to fill up any empty corner in your discourse. So, Sir, the reading of the Letter, was a kinde of travell to me, but when I came to the paper inclosed, I was brought to bed of a monster. To expresse 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 lownesse, 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

little in your contemplation. Sixteen letters from M. *Gherard*, could nor (I think) persuade a *Middlesex* Jury of so much dishonesty in

*Your true servant*

J. Donne.

*To the Honourable Knight Sir G. P.*

S I R,

I Would have intermitted this week without writing, if I had not found the name of my Lady *Huntington* 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 expresse 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

at

at first, yet, I think, she took her characters 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 then before, to her La<sup>p</sup>. I say nothing to you of forein names in this Letter, because your son Sir *Francis* is here. For that which you write concerning your son, I onely gave my man *Martin* in charge, to use his interest in the Keeper, that your son should fall under no wants there, which it seems your son discharged, for I hear not of them. For other trifles, I bad my man let him have whatsoever he asked, so, as it might seem to come from him, and not me; and laying that look upon it, it came to almost nothing. Tell both your daughters a peece of a storie of my *Con*. which may accustome them to endure disappointments in this world: An honourable person (whose name I give you in a schedule to burn, lest this Letter should be mis-laid) had an intention to give her one of his sons,

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and had told it me, and would have been content to accept what I, by my friends, could have begged for her; but he intended that son to my Profession, and had provided him already 300<sup>l</sup> a year, of his own gift in Church livings, and hath estated 300<sup>l</sup> more of inheritance for their children: and now the youth, (who yet knows nothing of his fathers intention nor mine) flies from his resolutions for that Calling, and importunes his Father to let him travell. The girle knows not her losse, for I never told her of it: but truly, it is a great disappointment to me. More then these, Sir, we must all suffer, in our way to heaven, where, I hope you and all yours shall meet

*Your poor friend, and affectionate servant*  
J. Donne.

18 Octob.

1622.

To

To my much honoured friend S<sup>r</sup> T. Lucy.

S I R,

I Have scarce had at any time any thing so like news to write to you, as that I am at this Town; we came from *Spâ* with so much resolution of passing by *Holland*. But at *Mastricht* we found that the lownesse, and slacknesse of the River, would incommode us so much, as we charged our whole gists, and came hither by Land. In the way at *Lovaine* we met the E. of *Arondel*, to recompense the losse wee had of missing my L. *Chandis* and his company, who came to *Spâ* within a few hours after we came away. Sir *Ed. Conway*, 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 *Michaëlmas*, I am not so earnest in endeavouring to prolong our stay in these parts, as otherwise I should. If I could joine with

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him

him in that hope of seeing you on this side the water; and if you should hold that purpose of comming at that time, I should repent extremely my laying of our journies; for (if we should by miracle hold any resolution) we should be in *England* about that time, so that I might misse you both here, and there. Sir, our greatest businesse 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 *Spâ* by long circuits. In the last, one from my *L. Dorset*: I, who had a conscience of mine own unworthinesse of any favour 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 reconfirmation of the *D. d' Aumals* Pension, which  
is

is thereby 2400<sup>l</sup> 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 wisdom: 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 employment: we beleeve certainly, that they deliberate a Warre, and that the reduction of *Aix* being not worthy this diligence, their intentions must 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 comming 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 *Landgrave* 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 it self in the businesse: for it is conceived that the D. of *Bovillon* brought to our K. good assurances from the Qu. Regent, that she would pursue all her husbands purposes in advancing the designs of those Princes who are in possession of *Cleve*, and in the Union. If she declare her self to do so, when they stirre, they are like to divert their purposes; but if she stand but neutrall (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 unconcerning things I am fain to write of, lest I should write of my self, 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 my self in this one word that I am

Aug. 16. here.  
1622.

Your affectionate servant and lover  
J. Donne.

To

*To the honourable Knight Sir H. G.*

SIR,

**S**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 M<sup>r</sup> *Roe*: To the former, I writ before: In this I have no other commandement from you, but to tell you, whether M<sup>r</sup> *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 100000<sup>l</sup> a year, if the Warre continue. But I beleeve, 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, and

and onely forbore, by reason of M<sup>r</sup> Martins silence, I wonder; for I think, I told you, that he was gone; and I saw in Sir *Tho. Lucies* 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

18 Decemb.

*Your very affectionate servant*  
J. Donne.

*To my good friend S<sup>r</sup> H.G.*

SIR,  
**T**HE 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 drow-fily, and coldly, as the night and my indisposition commanded: yet perchance those hinderances have done good, for so your Letters are the lesse curious, in which,  
men

men of much leasure may soon exceed, when they write of businesse, 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 in 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, and your request of those was not absolute, but conditioned, if I had leasure. So though that condition hinder them not, since another 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 proper Mediatrix to those persons, but I counsaile in the dark. And therefore return to that, of which I have clear light, that I am

always glad, when I have any way to expresse my love; for in these commandments you feed my desires, and you give me means to pay some of my debts to you: the interest of which I pay in all my prayers for you, which, if it please not God to shew here, I hope we shall finde again together in heaven, whither they were sent. I came this morning to say thus much, and because the Porter which came to *Micham* summoned 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.

*Yours very truly*  
J. Donne.

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*To Sir H. G.*

*SIR,*

**I** Writ to you yesterday taking the boldnesse to put a letter into the good Ladies packet for you. This morning I had this new occasion of writing, that *Sir Tho. Roe*, who brought this inclosed Letter to me, and

and left it unsealed, intreated me to take the first opportunity of sending it. Besides that which is in that letter (for he read it to me) I came to the knowledg 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 Pursevant, and consequently a Serjeant sent into the Countrey for you. My L. grounds this earnestnesse against you, upon some refusing to appear upon proceſſe 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 Counſail, 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

at least 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 Terme, 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 to finde here, (especially if your endeavour may advance it at *Dorset* house) I hope will inable 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-

forthwith; not for much publique view, but at mine own cost, a few Copies. I apprehend some incongruities in the resolution; 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 borrow 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, *A nostre Comtesse chez vous*, 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

words to my L. *Harrington*, to write nothing 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 whole piece. Though this be a little matter, I would be sorry not to have an account of it, within as little after Newyears tide, as you could. I have something else to say, of M. *Villars*, but because I hope to see you here shortly, and because new additions, to the truths or rumours, 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 coming, you shall have, by letter an account from

*Vigilia S<sup>c</sup>. Tho.*  
1614.

*Your very affectionate  
friend and servant*

J. Donne.

*To*

*To the worthy Knight Sir Tho. Lucy.*

SIR,

Y<sup>O</sup>ur Letter comes to me, at Grace after supper; it is part of the prayer of that Grace, that God will blesse 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 uncertanities, 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 misinter-table and dangerous to conjecture otherwise, then 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

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 pretermitt 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, where I am good for any thing in any of their services. Our blessed Saviour continue and enlarge his blessings to you all, *Amen.*

*Your humble servant in Chr. &c.*

11 Octob. 1621.

J. Donne.

*Why do you say nothing of, my little book of Cases.*

*To*

*To Sir G.B.*

S I R,

**I**T is one of my blinde Meditations to think what a miserable defeat it would be to all these preparations of braverie, if my infirmity should overtake others: for, I am at least half blinde, my windows are all as full of glasses of Waters, as any Mountebanks stall. This messenger makes haste, I thank him for it; therefore I onely send you this Letter, which was sent to me about three daies past, and my promise to distribute your other Letters, according to your addressees, as fast as my Monsieur can doe it; for, for any personall service, you must be content, at this time, to pardon

Decemb. 23.

*Your affectionate servane*  
J. Donne.

D.d

To

To Sir H. Goodere.

SIR,

**A** Greeably to my fortune, and thoughts,  
I was crawld this back way from *Key-*  
*ston*, through my broken casement at *Bed-*  
*ford*, I saw, for my best dish at dinner, your  
Coach: I studied your gestic, but when I  
knew where you were, I went out of this  
Town, in a doubt whether I should turn in  
to *Wrest*; and you know the wisdom of  
the Parliament is, to resolve ever in the Ne-  
gative: Therefore it is likeliest I shall not  
come in there; yet, let me give you in pas-  
sing, thus much account of my self: I  
thought to kisse my *L. Spencers* hands, at one  
house, and have passed three. If you know  
nothing to the contrary, risen since I came  
from *London*, 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-  
ing upon you at home: There and ever  
elsewhere, our blessed Saviour blesse you,  
and

and all yours, in which number, I pray, account ever

*Your very thankfull servant in Chr. Jes.*  
J. Donne.

*To Sir H. G.*

SIR,

I Cannot obey you, if you go to morrow to *Parsons-green*, your company, that place, and my promise are strong inducements, 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 businesse, 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 certainly goe with you on *Munday*, in despite of these interruptions, and serve you with my company to the *Bathe*; which journee, it is time to hasten. But I pray think this

D d 2 pro-

promise so much worth, that it may deserve  
your comming this way on *Munday*, for I  
make it with that reservation. God send  
you Hawks and fortunes of a high pitch.

*Your honest affectionate*  
J. Donne.

*To Sir T.R.*

*S I 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.*

*To*

*To Sir Henry Goodere.*

SIR,

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 this, that by my help Gods work should be imperfected, if by any means I resisted the amasement.

*Your very true friend*  
J. Donne.

Dd 3

To

*To my good friend G.H.*

SIR,  
**T**HE 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 Sovereignty, 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;  
left

left by the Jailors fault this Letter stick  
long, I must tell you, that I writ and sent it  
12<sup>o</sup> Decemb. 1600.

Your friend and servant and lover  
J. Donne.  
12. Decemb. 1600.

To your self.

SIR,

I Send you here a Translation; but it is  
not onely to beleeeve me, it is a great in-  
vention to have understood any piece of  
this Book, whether the gravity of the mat-  
ter, or the Poeticall form, give it his incli-  
nation, and *principium motus*; you are his  
center, or his spheare, and to you as to his  
proper place he addressees 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 Bedford, thinking then I had had a co-  
py which I made long since, at Sea, but be-  
cause I finde it not, I have done that again:  
when

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 Micham  
Hospitall, Aug. 10.*

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

*To the gallant Knight Sir Tho. Lucy.*

*S I R,*

**B**Ecause in your last Letter, I have an invitation to come to you, though I never thought my self so fallen from my interest, which, by your favour, I prescribe in, in you, and therefore when in the spring I hoped to have strength enough, to come into those parts, upon another occasion, I always resolved to put my self into your presence too, yet now I aske you more particularly how you dispose of your self; for though I have heard, that you purpose a jour-

journey to the *Bath*, and from thence hither, yet I can hope, that my service at *Lincolns Inne* being ended for next Terme, I may have intermission enough to waite upon you at *Polesworth*, before the season call you to *Bath*. I was no easie apprehender of the fear of your departing from us; neither am I easie in the hope of seeing you intirely over 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 impressions which were in you before: if my freedom 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

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stop

stop. But I was as confident in your strength, as in mine own, so am I still, in him, who strengthens al our infirmities and will, I doubt not, bring you and me together, 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 surpris'd with a necessity of writing now, in a minute; for I sent to *Bedford* house to informe my self of means to write, and your daughter sent me word, of a present messenger, and therefore the rest of this, I shall make up in my prayers to our blessed Saviour, for all happinesses to you.

*Drury house the 22 of  
Decemb. 1607.*

*Your poor servant in Chr. Jesus*

*J. Donne.*

*To*

To Sir H.G.

SIR,

**T**His is a second Letter: the enclosed was written before. Now we are sure that *Heidelberge* is taken, and entred with extreme cruelties. Almost all the defenders forsook their stations; only Sir *Ger. Herbert* maintained his nobly, to the repulsing of the enemy three times, but having ease in the other parts, 800 new fresh men were put upon his quarter, and after he had broke 4 Pikes, and done very well, he was shot dead in the place. *Manheim* was soon after besieged, and is still. *Heydelth* was lost the 6 of this moneth. the K. upon news of this, sent to the Spanish Ambassour, that the people were like to resent it, and therefore, if he doubted ought, he should have a Guard: but I do not see, that he seems to need it, in his own opinion, neither, intruth does he; the people are flat: or trust in God, and the Kings ways: Sir *Hor. Vere* hath written to his wife, (as I am

told) a Letter in the nature of a will, for the disposing of his estate and children, as though he did not account to see her any more, but yet *Manheim* cannot be lost, but by storming. Your man stays, and our bell rings me into the Church; there Sir, I shall recommend you to Gods goodnesse, with

24 Septemb.

*Your friend*

J. Donne.

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*To Sir H. G.*

SIR,

I Live so farre 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

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 horses, I had been the messenger, for you have taught me by granting more to deny no request.

*Pyesford 3 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 beleieve an improbable thing for my sake who re-

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lates

lates 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 better usage in respect not only of his cause but of his expence and service in his Ambassage: to which *Salisbury* replied, that considered how things stood between his Majesty and *Herford* 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. *Herford* answered, that he was then and ever an honest man to the King: and *Salisbury* said, he denied not that, but yet solemnly repeated his first words again. So that *Herford* 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. *Salisbury* asked him if he directed that upon him,

him, *Herford* said, upon any who denied this. The earnestnes of both was such, as *Salisbury* accepted it to himself, and made protestation before the LL. present, that he would do nothing else, till he had honorably put off that lye. Within an hour after, *Salisbury* sent him a direct challenge, by his servant M<sup>r</sup> *Knightley*; *Herford* 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 Counsellor) but he returned his acceptation: And all circumstances were so clearly handled between them, that *S<sup>t</sup> James* 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 *Bolstrod* 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,  
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 eavennesse 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 returnes, and all accompanied with a Fever, the mother, and an extream ill spleen. Whilest I write this Tuesday 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

is. I must end now, else the carrier will be gone. God be with you,

*Yours intirely.*

*You know me without a name, and I know  
not how this Letter goes.*

*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 speakes of a necessity of returning homeward before my returning home. If upon the delivery of them, or any other occasion, there intervene new subject of writing, I shall relieve my

F f

self

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 testifie my thankfulness for all her graces. But upon this motion, which I made to her by letter, and by *S<sup>t</sup> Tho. Roes* 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 kinde, 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

way of expressing her favour to me, I must say, it is not with that cheerfulnesse, as heretofore 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 disingaged into that profession, being plainly laid open to her, should work no farther but that she sent me 30*l.* 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, perchance, she may think it a little wisdom, 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 warres 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 against 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 proposition hath been made, and well entertained, 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 Allegiance, but with some modification. It is  
true

true, it goes farther, then 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 opposition, 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.

SIR,

**T**His first of *Aprill* I received yours of  
21 of *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. Whatsoever I should  
write now, of any passages of these days,  
would lose the verdure 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 a-  
way, as it had been impossible to have re-  
covered him with a letter at so farre a di-  
stance, 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 Empe-  
rours death may somewhat shorten our  
way

way; for I discern now no reason of going to *Vienna*; but I beleeve it will extend 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 gone before next Tuesday) I tell you, in this departing from you, with the same truth and earnestnesse as I would be beleeved to speake in my last departing, and transmigration from the whole world, that I leave not behinde 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,

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 condemnation; because a man so busie as he is, descending 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 refuse any thing for lazinessse, 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 raggednessse of this Letter. The very illnessse of the writing, is a good argument that I forced a time, in the fullnessse 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

the

the noblest Countesse, whose commandement, if it had been her La<sup>ps</sup> pleasure to have any thing said or done in her service, at *Heydelberg*, I should have been glad to have received. Sir, God blesse you, & *spiritu principali confirmet te*; and

*Your very true and affectionate servant in Chr. Jes.*  
J. Donne.

4. Apr. 1619.

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*To the honourable Knight S<sup>r</sup> Henry Goodere.*

S I R,

**A**S you are a great part of my businesse, when I come to *London*, so are you when I send. More then the office of a visitation brings this Letter to you now; for I remember that about this time you purposed a journey to fetch, or meet the Lad. *Huntington*. If you justly doubt any long absence, I pray send to my lodging my written Books: and if you may stay very long, I pray send that Letter in which I sent you

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certain heads which I purposed to enlarge, for I have them not in any other paper: and I may finde 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 reason better, and I shall at last prescribe in you

*Yours,*  
J. Donne.

Micham Wednesday.

*To Sir H. G. at Polesworth.*

S I R,

**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

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I writ to you of my L.Treasur. disposition to you, I had from M<sup>r</sup> Har; and I understood it to be his desire to convey it through me. The last account which we have of my L. Donc. is, by Letters of the 2<sup>o</sup> of this; by which also we saw, that the first Letters of his convalescence, were but propheticall; 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. of *Warwick* hath gone so low, as to command 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

*Your affectionate servant in Chr. J<sup>es</sup>.*

*J. Donne.*

*To my worthy friend F.H.*

SIR,

I Can scarce doe any more this week then I send you word why I writ not last. I had then seposed a few daies for my preparation to the Communion of our B. Saviours body; and in that solitarinesse and arraignment of my self, 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 my self from this intemperance of scribbling (though I thank God my accesles are lesse and lesse 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 finde 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

*To Sir H. G.*

*S I R,*

I Have the honour of your Letter, which, I am almost sorry to have received: some few daies 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 busineses being devolved into the hands of the Treasurer, had been in much more forwardnesse, then 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 waies. I know not whether any Letter from your son, or any other report, may have given you any mention of me; he writ to me from the *Compter*, that he was under a trifling arrest, and that 3<sup>l</sup> and some little more would discharge him. I sent my man with that money, but bid him see it

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em.

employed for his discharge : he found more actions, and returned. Next day he writ to me that 8<sup>l</sup> would discharge him, and that M<sup>r</sup> Selden would lay down half. But M<sup>r</sup> Selden and I speaking together, thought it the fittest way, to respite all, till, in a few daies, by his writing to you, we might be directed therein; and in the mean time, took order with the Keeper to accommodate him, and I bade my man *Martin*, as from himself, to serve his present want with some things. Since we told him, that we would attend a return of his Letter to you, I heard no more of him, but I hear he is out. Whosoever serves you with relations from this Town, I am sure prevents me of all I can say. The Palatinate is absolutely lost; for before this Letter come to you, we make account that *Heydelberg* and *Frankendale* is lost, and *Manheme* distressed. *Mansfield* came to *Breda*, and *Gonzales*, to *Brussels*, with great losses on both sides, but equall. The P. of *Orange* is but now come to *Breda*, and with him, all that he is able  
to

to make, even out of the Garrisons of their Towns. The ways of victuall to *Spinolaes* Army, are almost all precluded by him, and he likely to put upon the raising of *Spinola*, between whom and the Town, there are hotter disputes, then ever our times saw. The Secretary of the States here shewed me a Letter yesternight, that the Town spends 6000 pound of powder a day, and hath spent since the siege 250<sup>m</sup> pounds. *Argits* Regiment and my *L. Vaux*, are so diminished by commings away, as that both (I think) make not now in Muster above 600. *M<sup>r</sup> Gage* is returning to *Rome*, but of his Negotiation I dare say nothing by a Letter of adventure. The direction which his Ma<sup>ty</sup> 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<sup>ties</sup> constancy in Religion, and of his desire

fire that all men should be bred in the knowledge of such things, as might preserve them from the superstition of *Rome*. 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 considerable. Present, I pray, my thankfull services to your good daughters. I can give them no better a room in my prayers, and wishes, then my poore *Constance* hath, and they have that; so have you Sir, with

*Your very true friend and servant in Chr. Jes.*

J. Donne.

To

*To the worthiest Knight Sir Henry Goodere.*

SIR,

**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 offices 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, *Amen.* Your man brought me your Letter of the 8 of December this 21 of the same, to *Chelsey*, and gives me the largenesse, till fri day to send a letter to *Pauls* 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

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not

not dead, yet I am buried within a few 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 *Knoll*, nor *Hamworth*, nor *Kenton*, nor to the Court, since the Court came into these quarters, nor am yet come to *London*; therefore I am little able to give you account of high stages. Perchance you look not so low, as our ordinary Gazetta, and that tells us, (with a second assurance) that the D. of *Brunswick, Christian*, is dead of an Ague. My L. of *Dorset* even upon the day, when he should have been installed with his six fellowes, fell sick at *London*; 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 *Essex*; something of the disappointing of the designe they had, is imputed to some difference, in point of command, between him and the M<sup>r</sup>. of the Ordinance, my L. of *Valencia*,

*lencia*, but as yet, there is little manifested. 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 *Haghe* 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 *Haghe*, that the Queen having taken into her care, the promoting and advancing of some particular mens busineses, 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, but because I had the fortune to see it in a 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 *Q. Anne* loved gamboils, you loved the

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Court;

Court; perchance you may doubt whether you be a thorough Courtier, if you come not up to see this, The Queen a Shepperdesse: but I speak not this, by way of counsaile, to draw you up, it is not only *Non Dominus, sed ego*, but *nec Deus nec ego*, to call you hither, but upon fair appearances of usefull commings. Mr *George Herbert* is here at the receipt of your letter, and with his service to you, tells you that all of *Wvedall* house are well. I reserve not the mention of my Lady *Huntington* 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 impertinent 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 increase in me every day, and therefore every day multiply my thankfulness towards her

her Ladiship : say what you will ( if you like not this expresseion ) 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 curiosity 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.*  
J. Donne.

*To my honoured friend G. G. Esquire.*

S I R,  
**N** 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 onely then thank our land,  
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when we gather the fruit, but acknowledge that all the year she doth many motherly offices in preparing it: so is not friendship then onely 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 easie in pardoning my long silences, and in promising my self 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 my self, 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 confesse I wonder how I declined to it, and do not pardon my self: But for the other part of the imputation of having  
said

said too much, my defece 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 self 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 disdain not that office) hold all the keyes of the libertie and affection, and all the faculties of

Paris the 14 of  
Aprill, here, 1612.

Your most affectionate servant,

J. D.

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-ten 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, and in good faith, I am no more, considered in my body, or fortune. And then because 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 better, for, I make account that those Church services, which I would be very loth to decline, will spend somewhat; and, if I can gather so much as will bear my charges, re-  
cover

cover so much strength at *London*, as I shall 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) enter 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. &c.*  
J. Donne.

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*SIR,*  
**T**His advantage you, and my other friends have, by my frequent Fevers, that I am so much the oftener at the gates  
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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 happinesse; and, I doubt not, but amongst his many other blessings, God will adde 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 my self, 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 saying to him that hath any tendernesse in him; and for affecting my ease, I have been always more  
sorry,

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 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 Diamond 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 my self for that service, about which time also, will fall my Lent Sermon, except my Lord Chamberlaine beleve 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 leasure to write, then 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.*

MADAM,

I 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

to

to preserve his memory : 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 imployment of that, is to study good wishes for you, in which I am by continuall meditation so learned, that your own good Angell, when it would do you most good, might be content to come and take instructions from

*Your humble and affectionate servant*

*J. Donne.*

*I i 3*

*To*

To your selfe.

SIR,

**T**He 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 testimony. And you were subtile in the disguise: 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 momentary a thing as time, must have no consideration. I keep it therefore to read every day, as newly written: to which vexation it must be subject, till you relieve it with an other. If I ought you not a great many thanks for every particular part of it, I should yet thanke you for the length;  
and

and love it, as my mistresses face, every line 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 Philosophy, that they should be little, as well as many, lest this Letter should not get into the building, it shall be no bigger; thus much addition will not much disfigure it, that it sweare to you that I am

*Your affectionate servant*

J. Donne.

Sir,

Sir, I cry you mercy for sealing your sisters letter, but I deliver you up my authority, and I remember 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 naming her, I have made my postscript the worthiest place of my letter: and therefore I chuse that place to present my service to all the company at our lodging; 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 in the Savoy, where they receive Travellers.

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To

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*To the Honourable Knight, Sir*

ROBERT KARRE.

Sir,

**T**Hough 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 crummes. I have used this leisure, to put the meditations had in my sicknesse, into some such order, as may minister some holy 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 importune 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 be any uncomlinesse, or unseasonablenesse, in presenting matter of Devotion, or Mortification, to

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that

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.*

*To*

*To your selfe.*

SIR,

**A**GE becomes nothing better then Friendship ; therefore your Letters, which are ever good effects of friendship, delight to be old before I receive them : for it is but a fortnight since those Letters which you sent by Captain *Peter* found me at *Spá* ; presently upon the receipt, I adventured by your leave to bestow the first minutes upon this Letter to your faire Noble Sister ; And because I found no voice at *Spá* of any Messenger, I respited my Writing to you, till I came thus much nearer. Upon the way hither, another Letter from you overtooke me, which by my *L. Chandos* love to me for your sake, was sent after me to *Mastricht* : He came to *Spá* within two houres after I went away ; which I tell you to let you see, that my Fortune hath still that spitefull constancy, to bring me near my desires, and intercept me.

K k 2

If

If I should write to you any newes from this place, I should forestall mine owne Market, by telling you beforehand that which must make me acceptable to you at my comming. I shall sneake into *London*, about the end of *August*. In my remotest distances 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* my lodging; for I shall come in extreame darknesse and ignorance, except you give me light. If Sir *John Brooke* be within your reach, present my humble service and thankfulnessse to him; if he be not, I am glad, that to my Conscience, which is a thousand witnessses, 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 bestowed

stowed upon that one Letter, which is by  
your favour, to meet me, and to welcome  
to *London*.

*Your unworthy, but very*

*true Friend,*

*J. Donne.*

---

SIR,

**I**T is one ill Affection of a desperate  
debtor, that he dares not come to an ac-  
count, nor take knowledge how much he  
owes; this makes 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 o-  
ther of the 7. and 8. of *March*, came in a let-  
ter which Sir *H. Wotton* writ to me from

Kk 3

*Amyens;*

*Amyens*; there is not a fize 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 ful 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 by often letters: for by my troth, I am that so much as he could desire I should be, when he began to love me. *Sir Thomas Lucies* businesse, and perchance sadnesse forbid me writing now. I have written to him (whilest 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.

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 bodie 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 those praises in the Booke, and it shall be hers. Nothing is farther from colour or  
ground

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 beene 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 heare all at least. If they speak not of above eight hundred horse well caparosond, you may believe it : and you may believe, that no Court in Christendome had beene able to have appeared so brave in that kinde. But if they tell you of any other stuffe, then Copper, or any other  
exercise

exercise of armes then running at the Quintain, 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 imployment, 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.

L 1

To

To my Honoured friend M<sup>r</sup> George  
Gerrard.

S I R,

I Cannot chuse but make it a presage that  
I shall have no good fortune in *England*,  
that I mist the honour of enjoying that  
company, which you brought to town. But  
I beseech you let my ill luck determine in  
that ominousnesse: for if my not comming  
should be by her or you interpreted for a  
negligence or coldnesse in me, I were  
already in actuall and present affliction. For  
that Ecclesiasticall Lady of whom you  
write, since I presume it is a work of dark-  
nesse that you go about, we will deferre  
it for winter. Perchance the cold weather,  
may be as good physique to you, as she,  
for quenching you. I have changed my  
purpose of going to *Windſor*, and will go  
directly into the Wight: which I tell you  
not as a concerning thing, but in obedi-  
ence

ence to your commandement, as one  
poor testimony that I am

*Your affectionate servant*

J. Donne.

---

*To my very worthy friend M<sup>r</sup> George  
Gerrard.*

SIR,

**T**His is the fourth of this moneth, and  
I receive your Pacquet so late, that I  
have scarce waking time enough to tell  
you so, or to write any thing but dreams.  
I have both your Letters, mother and  
daughter, and am gladder of them, then if  
I had the mother and daughter here in our  
neighbourhood; you know I mean Sir  
H. Gooderes parties. Sir, you do me double  
honour when my name passes through  
you to that Noble Lady in whose presence  
you are. It is a better end and a better way

L 1 2

to

to that then I am worth. I can give you nothing in recompense of that favor, but good counsell: which is to speake sparingly of any ability in me, lest you indanger your own reputation, by overvaluing me. If I shall at any time take courage by your 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 equall 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-

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 kinde.  
My noble neighbour is well, and makes  
me the steward of his service to you. Be-  
fore 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.*

L 1 3

To

To your selfe.

SIR,

**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. Pory, 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 superscription, 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, yet since it is thereby become a matter of State, you might have told M. Pory so. And you might have told

told him, what became of Sir *Tho. Lucies* Letter, in my first pacquet, ( for any Letter to him makes any paper a pacquet, and any peece 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.*

*To*

*To my Honoured friend M. George Garrat.*

S I R,  
I Would I were so good an Alchymist to  
perswade you that all the vertue of the  
best affections, that one could expresse in  
a sheet, were in this ragge of paper. It be-  
comes my fortune to deale thus in single  
money; and I may hit better with this  
hail-shot of little Letters (because they may  
come thick) then with great bullets; and  
trouble my friends lesse. I confesse it were  
not long enough if it came to present my  
thanks for all the favours you have done  
me; but since it comes to begge more, per-  
chance it may be long enough, because I  
know not how short you will be with an  
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  
appeares, but base: as, I confesse, all mat-  
ters

ters of Letters is in respect of the testimonies of friendship; but obey the corruption 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 servant as you can say I am. At the Queens armes in *Cheapside*, which is a *Mercers*, you may hear of one *M. John Brewer*, who will convay any Letter directed to me at Sir *Rob. Druries* at *Amiens*, though he know not me: and I should be glad to hear that this first that I sent into *England* had the fortune to finde you.

*Yours*

*J. Donne.*

M m

To

To your fair sister.

MADAM,  
**T**He dignity, and the good fortune due to your Letter, hath preserved a packet so well, that through *France* and *Germany* it is at last come to me at *Spá*. This good experience makes me in despite of contrary appearances, hope that I shall finde some messenger for this, before I remove, 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 self this service of bringing it into *England*, 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 *London*, I thought and subscribed

at

at Spá, which is, that I will never be any thing else, then

*Your very humble and affectionate servant*

J. Donne.

*To the Honourable Knight Sir  
Henry Goodere.*

SIR,  
**B**Ecause to remain in this sort guilty in your Lordships opinion doth not onely defeat all my future indevours, but lay a heavier burden upon me, of which I am more sensible, which is ingratitude towards 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

M m 2

nei-

neither hunted after this businesse at first, but apprehended it as it was presented to me, and might perchance have fallen into worse hands, nor proceeded otherwise therein, then to my poor discretion at that time seemed lawfull and requisite and necessary 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 argument, 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 Lordships feet, and abandoned it to your pleasure. Which it is necessary for me to say at this time, lest, if he who was interested with me in that businesse shall have proceeded any far-

farther therein since that time, your Lordship might conceive new suspicions of me. That your Lordships 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 guiltinesse of having performed an injury 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 Lordships 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 disfavour towards me, since no penalty could come so burdenous to my minde and to my fortune as that. And since the repose of both consists in your Lordships favour, I humbly intreat to be restored to your favour, giving your Lordship my faith in pawn that I wil be as wary of forfeiting it by any second occasion, as I am sorry for this.

*Yours J. D.*

M m 3

To

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert  
Karre.

S I R,

I Had rather like the first best; not onely because it is cleanlier, but because it reflects least upon the other party, which, in all jest 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 businesse may produce occasions, wherein I may expresse my opinion of it, in a more serious manner. Which I speake neither upon any apparent conjecture, nor upon any overvaluing of my abilities, but out of a generall readinesse and alacrity to be serviceable and gratefull in any kinde. In both which poor vertues of mine, none  
can

can pretend a more primary interest, then  
you may, in

*Your humble and affectionate servant*

J. Donne.

*To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert Karre  
Gentleman of his Highnesses Bedchamber.*

SIR,  
**I** Have often sinned towards you, with a  
presumption of being pardoned, but  
now I do it, without hope, and without  
daring to intreat you to pardon the fault.  
In which there are thus many degrees of  
importunity. That I must begge of you to  
christen a child, which is but a daughter,  
and in which you must be content to be  
associated with Ladies of our own alli-  
ance, but good women, and all this up-  
on Thursday next in the afternoon. Sir, I  
have so many and so indeleble impressions  
of

of your favour to me, as they might serve to spread over all my poor race. But since I see that I stand like a tree, which once a year beares, though no fruit, yet this Mast of children, and so am sure, that one year or other I should afflict you with this request, I had rather be presently under the obligations and the thankfulness towards you, then meditate such a trouble to you against another year. I was desirous this paper might kisse your hands as soon as you came, that if any other diversions made this inconvenient to you, I might have an other exercise of your favor, by knowing so much from you, who in every act of yours make me more and more

*Your humble and thankfull servant*

17 April.

J. Donne.

To

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir*

ROBERT KARRE.

*Sir,*

**P**Erchance 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 impertinencie, as I am; and mine is, that I am fallen from fair hopes, of ending all; yet I have scaped no better cheap, then that I have paid death one of my Children for my Ransome. 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 brevitie of writing to you upon no Subject, to my sicknesse, in which men use to talke idly; but my profession of desiring to bee re-

N n

tained

tained in your memorie, impute to your  
owne Vertues, which have wrought so  
much upon

*Your humble servant*

John Donne.

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*To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karre.*

S I R,

**I** Make account that it is a day of great  
distribution of Honours at Court: I  
would not therefore lose my part, and in-  
crease therein; since every Letter admitted  
by you from me, is a new stone in my best  
building, which is, my roome in your ser-  
vice: so much you adde to me, everietime  
you give me leave thus to kisse your hands.  
But, Sir, everie addition preimagins a bee-  
ing, and the time of my beeing and Cre-  
ation 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

to

to tell mee so, that my L. hath had no 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 pleased to heare in it, is an old and momentanie man, and it may be late labouring for his assistance, next Winter. Besides, since it may bee possible that the Master of the Rolles may a little resent this suite, there could be 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 afford 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.

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir*

Robert Karre.

SIR,

**I**F 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 opinion of him ; thereupon for justifying our owne forwardnesse , wee observed him more throughly , and found all the way good reason to ratifie our first estimation of him. This gave my L. occasion to send him abroade in his Service after : how hee satisfied him in that imployment , 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 some things , which hee had deposed in him.

him. And at his entering into his Coach, at his last going, I asked my L. Goes not the Gentleman with you? and hee told mee with some coldnesse no. So that if you bee not pressed to a Resolution, you may bee pleased to forbear a few dayes, till I may occasionally discern, whether hee have demerited or sunke in my L. opinion: And then you shall have another Character of him from

25. Julii.

*Your very humble and thankfull*

*Servant*

*J. Donne.*

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karres*

SIR,

THE same houre that I received the honour of your commandments, by your letter left at my poore house, I put my selfe upon the way hither. So that I am here in the habite of a Traveller, and (suitable to the rest of my unworthinesses) unfit for great Presences. Therefore, I abstain from waiting upon you presently; besides that in this abstinence, (except I misinterpret the last words of your letter to my advantage) I obey your directions, in sending before I come to you. Howsoever, Sir, I am intirely at your disposing, if you will be pleased to adde this favor to the rest, that I may understand, wherein you will use your Authoritie and Power, which you have over

*Your poore and humble servant*

John Donne.

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karre.*

SIR,

**T**His is but a Postscript to the last Letter, and it is onely to tell you, that it was an impertinent jealousie that I conceived of that Gentlemans absence from my L. for he gives that full Testimonie of him, that he never discerned any kinde of unfitnessse in him for any imployment, except too much goodnesse; and Conscientiousnesse may sometimes make him somewhat lesse fit for some kindes of businesse, then a man of a looser raine. And this is all, that I conceive to have been in the commandment wherewith you honoured

2. Aug 1622.

*Your very humble and thankfull*

*servant in Christ Jesus*

*John Donne:*

*To*

To my Honoured Friend, Master  
George Gherard.

S I R,  
Y Our Letter was the more welcome to mee, because it brought your commandment with it, of sending you perfumes: for it is a Service somewhat like a Sacrifice. But yet your commandment surpris'd me, when neither I had enough to send, nor had means to recover more; that Ladie being out of Towne which gavethem me. But Sir, if I had 10000000. I could send you no more then I doe; for I send all. If any good occasion present it selfe to you, to send to my L. Clifford, spare my name a roome, there where you offer him most of your Service. I dare contend with you, that you cannot exceed mee, in desiring to serve him. It is a better office from me to you, that I goe to bed, then that I write a longer letter. For if I doe mine eyes a little more injurie, I shall lose the honour

honour of seeing you at Michaelmas; for by my troth I am almost blinde: you may be content, to beleeeve that I am always disposed to your service, without exception of any time, since now just at midnight, when it is both day, and night, 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 I am nothing, or whatsoever I am, you wonne nothing, because I was all yours before. I doubt not but I were better delive-

O o

red

red 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 my selfe to my Lord Chamberlaine, 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 it. I beseech you intreat my Lord *Percy* in my behalfe, that he will be pleased to name *George* to my *L. Carlile*, and to wonder, if not to inquire, where he is. The world is disposed to charge my Lords honour, and to charge my naturall 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 kisse my Lords hands, doth my Lord make any kinde 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,

hands, and then leave it to their discretion. If they incline to any thing, I should chuse *shirt Hollond*, rather under then above 4 s. Our blessed Saviour multiply his blessings upon that noble family where you are, and your self, and your sonne; as upon all them that are derived from

*Your poor friend and servant*

J. Donne.

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*To my very much respected friend M<sup>r</sup>.*

George Garrard.

SIR,

I Thank you for expressing your love to me, by this diligence, I know you can distinguish between the voyces of my love, and of my necessity, if any thing in my Letters sound like an importunity. Besides, I will adde thus much out of counsell to

O o 2

you,

you, that you can do nothing so thriftily as to keep in your purpose the payment of the rest of this years rent, (though at your conveniency) for Sir E. H. 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 mocke us when you aske 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 leafes, 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 by death of her husband. No man desires your comming more, nor shall be readier to serve you, then

Your affectionate friend and servant.

J. Donne.

To

To my *Honoured friend M. George Gherrard,*  
over against *Salisbury house.*

S I R,

I Do not make account that I am come to  
*London*, when I get within the wall: that  
which makes it *London* is the meeting of  
friends. I cannot therefore otherwise bid  
my self welcome to *London*, then by seeking  
of you, which both Sir *H. Goodere* and I do,  
with so much diligence, as that this mes-  
senger comes two dayes before to intreat  
you from us both, to reserve your self upon  
Saturday: 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 obligati-  
ons upon

*Your poor unprofitable servant*

J. Donne.

To my very much Honoured friend George  
Garret Esquire.

S I R,  
**V**V Hen we thinke 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 ad-  
vanced. Because you did our poor 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*.

*Spaine.* If you be in *London* and the Lady of the Jewell there too, at your convenience informe 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 the person of

*Your poor friend and humble*

*servant in Chr. Jof.*

*J. Donne.*

*To*

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert  
Karre, Gentleman of his Highnesses  
Bed-chamber.

S I R,

I Am come to that tenderneſſe of conſcience, that I need a pardon for meaning to come to *Newmarket* in this weather. If I had come, I muſt have asked you many reall pardons, for the many importunities that I ſhould have uſed towards you. But ſince I have divers errands thither, (except I belie my ſelf in that phraſe, ſince it is all one errand to promove mine own buſineſs, and to receive your commands) I ſhall give you but a ſhort reſpit, ſince I ſhall follow this paper within two dayes. And (that I accuſe my ſelf, no farther then I am guilty) the principall reaſon of my breaking the appointment of waiting upon M. *Rawlins*, was, that I underſtood the King was from *Newmarket*; and for comming thither in the Kings abſence, I never heard of excuſe;  
except

except when *Butler* sends a desperate Patient in a Consumption thither for good aire, which is an ill errand now. Besides that I could not well come till now, ( for there are very few dayes past, since I took Orders) there can be no losse in my absence except when I come, my Lord should have thereby the lesse latitude, to procure the Kings Letters to *Cambridge*. I beseech you therefore, take some occasion to refresh that businesse to his Lordship, by presenting my name, and purpose of comming very shortly : and be content to receive me, who have been ever your servant, to the addition of

*Your poor Chaplaine*

27 January.

J. Donne.

P p

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount  
of Rochester.

*My most Honourable good Lord,*

**A**fter I was grown to be your Lordships, by all the titles that I could thinke upon, it hath pleased your Lordship to make another title to me, by buying me. You may have many better bargaines in your purchases, but never a better title then to me, nor any thing which you may call yours more absolutely and intirely. If therefore I appeare before your Lordship sometimes in these Letters of thankfulness, 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 thankfulness: but your Lordship is got above the danger of suffering that from me, or my Letters, both because my thankfulness cannot reach to the benefits already received, and because the favour of receiving my Letters is a new benefit.

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 onely

*Your Lordships*

*Most humble and devoted servant*

*J. Donne.*

To the Honorable Knight Sir Robert  
Karre.

SIR,

**L**Est 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 how I might ease his Lordship by finding out some-

something for my selfe. Which, because I thinke 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 enjoy 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.

P P 3

To

To your self.

SIR,  
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 of-  
ten doing little services, I can come to-  
wards any equivalence. For, except I can  
make a rule of naturall philosophy, serve  
also in morall 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  
businessse.

businesse, nor importunity; but as by our Law, a man may be *Felo de se*, if he kill himself, so I think a man may be *Fur de se*, if he steale himselfe 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 my selfe some valuation and price, ever since I received the stampe and impression of being

Your very humble and affectionate servant

J. Donne.

To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert Karre,  
Gentleman of his Highnesses Bed chamber.

SIR,

I Have always your leave to use my liberty, but now I must use my bondage. Which is my necessity of obeying a pre-contract laid upon me. I go to morrow to Camberwell a mile beyond Southwark. But  
from

from this town goes with me my brother  
 Sir *Tho. Grimes* and his Lady, and I with  
 them. There we dine well enough I war-  
 rant you, with his father-in-law, Sir *Tho.  
 Hunt*. 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. *Moulin* again: or ru-  
 minate what I have heretofore heard. The  
 onely misse that I shall have is of the ho-  
 nour 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

Your unworthy servant

J. Donne.

To

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir*  
Robert Karre.

SIR,

I Sought you yestherday 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 Christians were forced to admit some *Jewish* 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 considering me. If therefore my Lord upon your deliverie of my last Letter, said nothing 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 *D. Carlton* was  
24 likely

likely to bee removed from *Venice*, to the 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 *D. Carlton* bee not removed, yet that place with the States lying open, there is a faire field of exercising his favour towards mee, and of constituting a Fortune to mee, and (that which is more) of a meanes for mee to doe him particular services: And Sir, as I doe thoroughly submit the end and effect of all Projects to his Lordships will, so doe I this beginning thereof, to your Advice and Counsell, if you thinke mee capable of it: as, for your owne sake,

fake, I beseech you to doe, since you have  
admitted mee for

*Your humble servant*

J. Donne.

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*To the Honoured Knight, Sir  
Robert Karre.*

SIR,

I 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 *Monte Magor*, 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,

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I be-

I beseech you pardon mee both these intrusions of this Letter, and of that within it. And though Schoole-men dispute, whether a married man dying, and being by Miracle raised again, must bee remarried; yet let your Friendship, ( which is a Nobler learning ) bee content to admit mee, after this Resurrection, to bee still that which I was before, and shall ever continue,

*Your most humble and thankfull*

20: Mar.

*Servant*

*J. Donne.*

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*To*

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir  
Robert Karre.*

SIR,

WHEN I was almost at Court, I met the Princes Coach: I thinke I obeyed your purposes best therefore, in comming hither. I am sure I provided best for my selfe thereby; since my best degree of understanding is to bee governed by you. I beseech you give mee an assignation where I may wait upon you at your commoditie this Evening. Till the performance of which commandment from you, I rest here in the red Lion.

*Your very thankfull and affectionate*

*Servant*

*J. Donne.*

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir Robert Karre.*

S I R,

I Was loth 'to bee the onely man who should have no part in this great Festivall ; 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 busineses, and pleasures be passed over, my time may come, and you may afford some of your last leisures to

*Your affectionate and humble servant*

4 Novemb.

J: Donne.

To

*To the Honourable Knight, Sir*

ROBERT KARRE.

*Sir,*

**Y**Our mans haste gives me the advantage, that I am excusable in a short Letter, else I should not pardon it to my selfe. I shall obey your commandment of comming so neare you upon *Michaelmas* day, as by a Message to aske you whether that or the next morning bee the fittest to sollicite your further Favour. You understand all Vertue so well, as you may be pleased to call to minde what thankfulnessse and services are due to you from me, and beleve them all to bee expressed in this ragge of Paper, which gives you new assurance, that I am ever

*Your most humble servant*

J. Donne.

*To*

*To your selfe.*

S I R,

**I**F I shall never be able to do you any reall 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

*Your very humble and thankfull servant*

Drury house, 23 Sept.

J. Donne.

*To*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre.*

SIR,

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: Onely 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 peece, so studious of his service. Therefore, excepti-

R r

ons

ons 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 beseech you to intimate it to

*Your very humble and very thankfull servant*

J. Donne.

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*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

SIR,

I Humbly thanke you, for this continuing me in your memory, and enlarging me so far, as to the memory of my Sovereign, and (I hope) my Master. My Tenets are always, for the preservation of the Religion

ligion I was born in, and the peace of the State, and the rectifying of the Conscience; in these I shall walke, and as I have from 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 blessings; *Amen.*

*Your very true and intire servant in Chr. Jesh.*

*J. Donne.*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

SIR,

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

Rr 2

speake

speake aloud, though we awaken men, 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 *Bath* and *Wells* hands the Sermon faithfully exscribed. I beseech you be pleased to hearken farther after it, I am still upon my jealousie, that the King brought thither some disaffection towards me, grounded upon some other demerit of mine, and took it not from the Sermon. For, as Card. *Cusanus* writ a Book *Cribratio Alchorani*, I have cribated, and re cribated, and post-cribated the Sermon, 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  
to

to his service, the imprinting of persuasibility and obedience in the subject, And the breaking of the bed of whisperers, 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 halfe 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 generall scope, I hope his goodnesse will pardon collaterall escapes. I intreated the B. to aske his Majesty, whether his displeasure extended so farre; 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 in- 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. Carlile, who assured me of a gracious ac-  
ception of my putting my self in his pro-  
tection.*

*To*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

S I R,

**I**F I should refuse the liberty which you  
enlarge to me, of eating in your cham-  
ber, you might suspect that I reserved it for  
greater boldnesses, and would not spend  
it in this. But, in good faith, I do not eat  
before, nor can after, till I have been at  
home; so much hath my this years debi-  
lity disabled me, even for receiving favours.  
After the Sermon, I will steal into my  
Coach home, and pray that my good pur-  
pose may be well accepted, and my defects  
graciously pardoned. *Amen.*

*Yours intirely*

J. Donne.

*I will be at your chamber at one after noon.*

*To*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

S I R,

I Pursued my ambition of having the honour to kisse your hands some where, so farre, as to inform my selfe occasionally of my great neighbour. And I perceive he is under an inundation of uncertain commers, which he cannot devest, except I had your leave, to speake plain to him. A second inconvenience is, that he is so deafe, that we must speak to the whole house, if we will speake to him. And a third is, that I am in a riddling, rather a juggling indisposition, fast and loose, and therefore dare not stirre farre. Yet Sir, I am not thereby unfit to receive the honor of seeing you here, if greater businesse have not overcome, or worn out, your former inclinableness to come into these quarters. If you shall be pleased to say to my man, that you will make as though you

you dined with me to day, and come, if your businesse require your going to his Lordship, you may dine with him, after you have fasted with me. To day, or any day, which may be more yours, I aske it of you with all earnestnesse, on this side importunity, which is the detestation of

*Your humblest and thankfullest servant*

J. Donne.

*To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

S I R,

**T**His morning I have received a signification from my Lord Chamberlaine, 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

S f

dinner

dinner into my mouth.) Towards the time of the service, I aske your leave, that I may hide my selfe in your out-chamber. Or if businesse, or privatenesse, or company 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 testified well for

*Your poor and very true*

*servant in Chr. Jesh.*

*J. Donne.*

*To*

*To the Honourable Knight Sir Robert Karre,  
at Court.*

S I R,

I Have obeyed the formes of our Church of *Pauls* so much, as to have been a solemn Christmas man, and tryed conclusions 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 spee 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 pleased 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,

S f 2

and

and come as a visitor and overseer of this  
Hospitall of mine, and dine or sup at this  
miserable chezmey.

*Your humblest and thankfullest servant*

4 Jan. 1626.

J. Donne.

*To my Noble friend M<sup>rs</sup> Cokain at  
Ashburne,*

*My noblest sister,*

**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-  
lect my self, as that I can thinke I have been  
long thus, or often thus. I am not alive,  
because

because I have not had enough upon me to kill me, but because it pleases God to passe me through many infirmities before he take me either by those particular remembrances, to bring me to particular repentances, 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 deafnesse, more with toothach, more with the vurbah, then heretofore. All this mellowes me for heaven, 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 receipt 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 *S. Dunstons*,

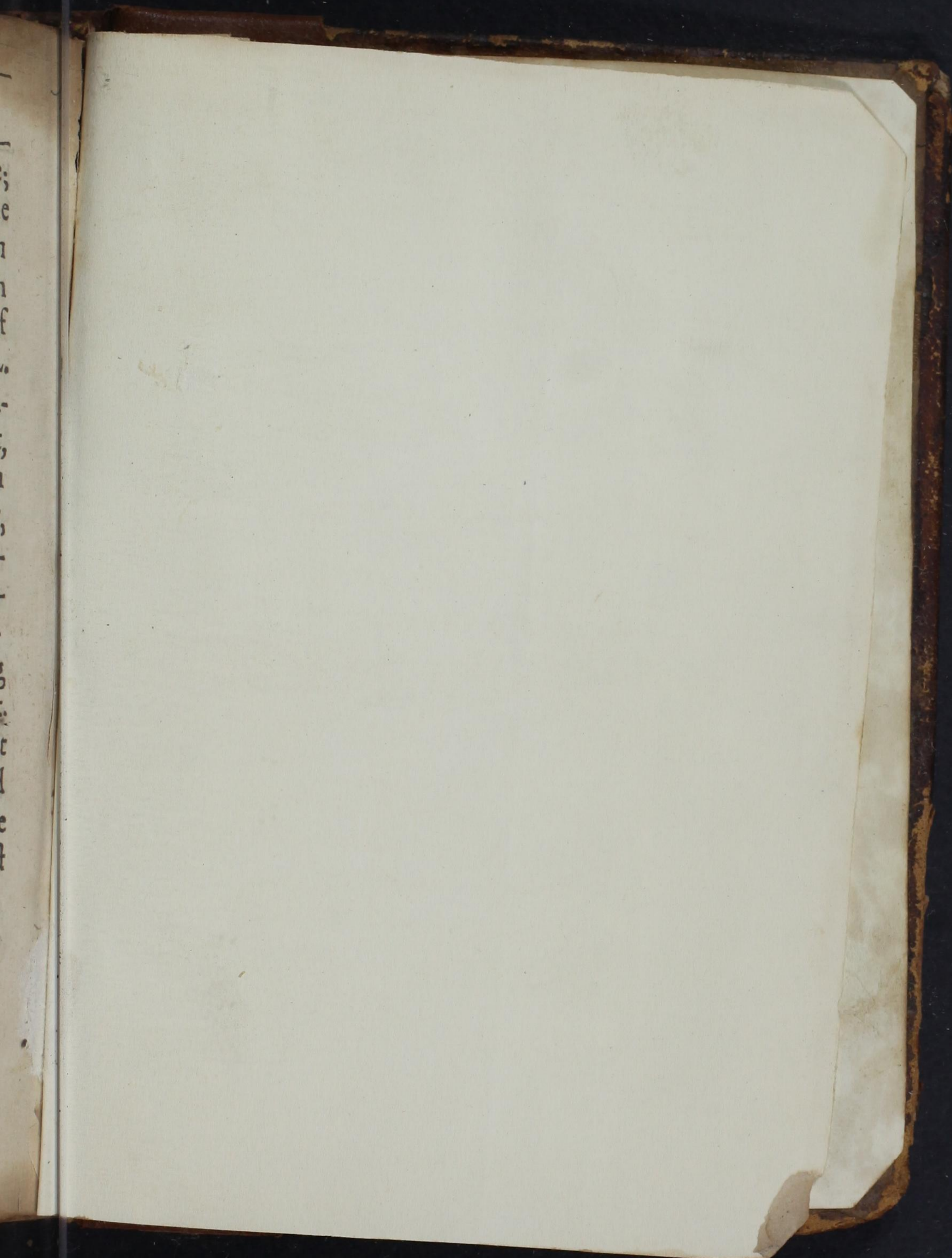
when I was able to do them that service; nor will now; though they that know the state of that Church well, know that I am not so bound, as the world thinks, to preach there; for, I make not a shilling profit of *S. Dunstons* as a Church-man, but as my *L. of Dorset* gave me the lease of the Impropriation, for a certain rent, and a higher rent, thē my predecessor had it at. This I am fain to say often, because they that know it not, have defamed me, of a defectiveness towards that Church; and even that mistaking of theirs I ever have, and ever shall endeavour 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.



Allegory  
of the  
Ladder of  
Jacob  
1711

SOLD BY AAS

