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[Dec.? 1534]
Arundel MS. No. 152.
300 b. B. M. Arch. XX-
VII. 369.

1591. THE WIFE AND CHILDREN OF SIR THOMAS MORE.

Petition for the pardon and release of the said Sir Thomas, who has remained more than eight months in the Tower of London, "in great continual sickness of body and heaviness of heart." The King during that time has allowed his said wife to retain his moveable goods and the revenues of his lands, although forfeited for his refusal of the oath; but lately an act (or two) has been made in the last parliament, not only confirming the former forfeiture, but causing the inheritance of all the lands which the said Sir Thomas had from the King, amounting to the annual value of 60*l.*, to be forfeited. All that his wife brought him is expended in the King's service, and she is likely to come to want, as also her son, who stands charged with the payment of certain great sums due by the said Sir Thomas to the King. But above all this, the said Sir Thomas is likely to die after his long and true service to the King. Beseeching the King to grant this their petition, considering that his offence is not of malice or obstinacy, "but of such a long-continued and deep-rooted scruple as passeth his power to avoid and put away."

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