

LETTER

Henry VIII (1491–1547), King of England (1509–1547)
to Anne Boleyn (1507–1536)

May 1528

My mistress and friend,

I and my good heart put ourselves in your hands, begging you to recommend us to your favor, and not to let absence lessen your affection to us. For it were great pity to increase our pain, which absence alone does sufficiently, and more than I could ever have thought; bringing to my mind a point of astronomy, which is, that the farther the Moors are from us, the farther too is the sun, and yet his heat is the more scorching; so it is with our love, we are at a distance from one another, and yet it keeps its fervency, at least on my side. I hope the like on your part, assuring you that the uneasiness of absence is already too severe for me; and when I think of the continuance of that which I must of necessity suffer, it would seem intolerable to me, were it not for the firm hope I have of your unchangeable affection for me; and now, to put you sometimes in mind of it, and seeing I cannot be present in person with you, I send you the nearest thing to that possible, that is, my picture, set in bracelets, with the whole device, which you know already, wishing myself in their place, when it shall please you. This from the hand of your servant and friend,

H. Rex

University of Pennsylvania, Department of History. *Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European History* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1900), I:6.