

Tamworth

19.10.1881

My dear beloved Father and Mother, Brothers and Sister

It's with pleasure I sit to write ye a few lines hoping they may find ye all enjoying the blessings of good health as myself & John enjoys the same, thanks to God. I also trust all my aunts their husbands & families enjoy the same & especially Bridget Slattery & Kate Burke & not forgetting James or M. Burke. I can look back with pleasure at the many pleasant hours we spent in each other's society and my sincerest hope is that I shall yet enjoy a good and happy day with them before I die. There is nothing in the world gives me more happiness than to hear from ye and still at the same time it grieves me to the heart when I read my sister Honour's letter.

Many a time after my day's toil I sit and read your letters over and over again and shed tears at the thought of being separated from ye. Mother & Honour ye are my last thoughts at night & first at morning, but I hope for the money myself and John sends ye will enjoy a happy Christmas. Grieve not for us for we are in a free and happy country. It's better than be pulling the D\_\_\_C by the tail all the days of our life where there is no such a thing as landlords to trouble us.

Dear Father and Mother, it's one thing I beg of you is to keep Thomas to school. He must write me a letter soon. If I see he is progressing anyway favourable, I will send him some present. Dear Father, I mean to inform you that Michael McGrath from Meelick arrived safe. He wrote me a letter from Sydney, and we sent for him and himself and Uncle Terence left us soon after and went about 40 miles away. We had a letter from them both a few days since. They are quite well. I also received a few letters from Bridget Hession. She seems to like the country well. Patt McHugh must think me a very ungrateful fellow for not sending for him. There is not a person living I would send for sooner, but I would advise him, if he is for leaving home, to go to America before coming to this country.

As it is getting late, I must say farewell for the present.

Believe me to be your ever fond and affectionate son.

P. McHugh

You said in your letter you would send the Freeman Monthly. You must not trouble yourself for we never would get one of them. There is nothing to be seen in the home papers but we can read here weekly. I have sent you two papers about 2 months since. I hope you have received them. I was also happy to see by last week's paper that Mr Dalton was released.

But I may live to see a landlordismless Ireland before I die & as I find myself near the end of my paper, I must conclude in the usual ending of the sermon by begging this as a blessing which God may grant me and everybody.

You will receive a closed packet with earrings as we could not put them into a letter and also a letter with John's photos as I am sending 3 of mine. They will be all registered. Write soon & let us know if you receive them all right.

Transcribed by Margaret Marlow with some adjustment for punctuation, spelling and grammar.

12 May 2021.