

Glen Innes 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1882

Dear Father, Mother, Brother & Sister

Once more I take my pen to address ye a few lines hoping they may find ye enjoying the blessings of good health as me & John enjoy the same thanks to God. Father & Mother I suppose by this time ye are beginning to think ye were to hear from us no more. My long neglect was owing to the home letters I have received to see by them another of the cousins whom we loved so dear to be lying silent in the grave. I assure you when we read the letter we both cried afill and not even then but for months after many a time when alone I take your letters and more particular Kate Burke's and B Slattery's while reading them the tears rolls down my cheeks at hearing Aunt Judy's words repeated as though she was forgetting all about Patt's death and troubles gone by but now I can see they are as fresh as ever in her memory. I cannot very well ask ye how she is getting on for I know or at least feel that she does not feel happy, but I hope she will be satisfied with the will of God and not be lamenting for them as they have got a better home, I hope enjoying the glory of heaven. I fervently hope and trust herself, Bridget, Martin, Mary and Ellen are strong in health, also Thos Burke, Aunt Mary and family, Aunt Nelly and family, James & Thos, Charles, Aunt Winney, Aunt Sally & families, John & Honour Heneghan & family, James Slattery, Mrs & family, Michael Flattery, mother, Mrs and family. Mr & Mrs Curran and also the Caltra family. Thos Lyons, mother and sister. I hope you will let me know how they are getting on as I hope to see ye all some future day. Dear Father and Mother ye must not think it strange for not seeing John's writing in this letter for we both worked and were living together until a few months ago. He was shifted to another job about 40 miles and we will be again together in a month's time. Ye wanted to know what sort of work we were at. We are both labouring for bricklayers building station houses along a new railway line. The average wages paid to working men in this country is from eight to ten shillings per 8 hours. I wrote to John a few days ago and wanted him to forward me a letter and that I would send it home. He replied and said as I was writing he would not trouble about it now, that he would be writing home himself after Christmas. Dear Father & Mother you will find enclosed in this letter a post office order for 10£ payable at Tuam post office. You must not think for a moment that this money is for such thing as rent. No, it's for you to enjoy a Christmas as happy as you can. First you must buy for my brother Thomas a suit of clothes of whatever sort he wishes for as me and John were proud to see his nice and well worded letter but are inclined to think he must have had a \_\_\_\_ and if not I promise him if ever he comes to Australia he will not be called a new chum. You will also let Michael have a pound for the spree \_\_\_\_ himself and Mick Burke J Slattery & J Heneghan will drink mine & John's health Xmas day in the [Millhouse?]. Dear Father and Mother both me and John has come to the conclusion of sending Thos with a blacksmith if ye are satisfied as I trust ye will for we can't see a trade better in the country so I hope ye will send him to some good tradesman immediately. I know very well it will weaken your help in parting with him but it can never fit in my head to leave him under Irish landlordism so if he is satisfied to do so and endeavour to pick up trade he will not be many years until he is with me and John. You need not ever doubt but he can make a decent living.

Dear Thos you must not think us unkind to ask you to go with such hard working trade as I know people will say at home it's a poor and a dirty trade but there take notice to people's sayings. It's just the trade that you will find it never difficult to get money & remember dear Brother if you had your trade learned your stay in Ireland would be very short. So I hope if we live so long before many years both me and you shall enjoy some good days together. Expect Honour will think me ungrateful for not sending for her either me or John would not hesitate for a moment in doing so if we were under certain circumstances but by taking her out she would perhaps only see us once in five years. She might think it pretty lonely and say I wish I was in Miltown again as I have often said since I come to

the country though I have never seen a hard day in Australia yet. I have never seen my pockets since the first day I landed in the country without having plenty of money and all necessities of life. But when I come to think of you, Father and Mother, aunts and cousins who were so kind to me I feel as if my heart would break, so my dear sister wish you would content yourself at home for a while for perhaps in a short time we might take up land and then you would have a home to come to. In fact I did not care how soon you would be away from Drim roads but I am looking into your own interest. Another thing I think it rather soon to trouble Mother in rolling up your kit. I will yet consider about it. Mother I assure you I felt rejoiced to see by the letter that you felt happy. I hope you shall never regret our leaving home for as long as we have health you shall never want for a loaf of bread. I have had a letter from Uncle Terance a few days ago. He is now in Sydney and is quite well. I was much surprised at a letter I received from him two months ago to hear of Patt \_\_\_\_ trip to Sydney. He has also seen John Connely in Sydney & in his last letter he said he thought Patt Martin would be out soon after Christmas. He also wanted me and John to go to Sydney, but we consider ourselves better off in the country though we could get more money in Sydney for our labour but it's very \_\_\_\_ going again. For now, we are in the coldest part in New South Wales and still we will find the summer plenty hot enough. I have now spent two winters in Australia and during that time I have never seen ice thicker than a pane of glass...

Transcribed from the original by Margaret Marlow with some punctuation and spelling adjustments.  
5 April 2021.