

Sydney 24th July 1884

My dear Father & Mother, Brother & Sister

It is nigh time I would make inquiries as to your existence. I cannot form an excuse therefore I must beg of you to forgive me for my negligence. I suppose if I never wrote you would be that independent as not to write & acquaint me of my brother's marriage. The old problem you won't answer without you get one. There is very little done at home but what I can ... some time so I must ... a few words in congratulation of Michael's marriage to a young woman whom I highly esteem both me and Patt when I say this I mean her father and mother as I think I did not have the pleasure of knowing her in my days therefore the only thing I can say is I wish them both every happiness in life. Really I believe I am going to be an old bachelor and perhaps someday be of some use to ___ my letters ___ & ___ of course I am aware of being already an uncle and must say that I am proud to ... and let me here ___ request Tom & Honour to bring up their family as their fathers and mothers did in the fear and love of God and some day they will be rewarded for it. My dear Father, I am both me and Patt are anxious to know how Thos is doing. You are aware already of what we intended for him to be. If otherwise you can do as you like with him I shall say no more. I suppose he is growing up to manhood now and knows himself best. Myself and Patt are in Sydney ... present and feel more at ... did as we can ... a few of our neighbours here. Thos & John Connelly from Corralur, Martin & Thos Steed from Cloonagh and Michael Moloney from C_____ we also hear through Terence from our cousins Patt & Lissie Martin so we have left the wilderness and come among civilization we are all enjoying good health at present, thank God, but poor Patt Martin which I bitterly regret not being near him had a long sickness after landing I assure you that I should treat him just the same as I would my ... if I was near ... perhaps he would think, or his father or mother would entertain a thought as to, me or Patt nourishing a hatred towards him and his sister on account of the little ill-feeling that existed between yous at home. No, far from it. Hoping you are all united in friendship now, I will conclude with fond love to my Father & Mother, Brothers & Sister & best wishes to all my inquiring friends and especially Aunt Judy & Aunt Mary and poor Tom Burke. Remember me to him.

I am in hopes to see you all someday.

Your affectionate son.

J McHugh

P.S.

Let me know how Johny Henehgan & Honor is. I suppose they have a big family now & Mick Flattery I would like to know how he is and likewise his mother. I suppose she is getting feeble now. The princess of women she was and no mistake and also Aunt Sally & Aunt Mary and family. If I was at home now, I should be in for a lot of weddings. All my cousins getting married and Uncle Henry I trust is enjoying all the happiness of life. Really awake got married young!

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

20 May 2021.