

Herberton
Police Station
9.10.1886

My dearly beloved Father and Mother, Brothers & Sister

I don't know or can I think of asking forgiveness for what I have done. That is, not writing to ye for such a length of time and will not try to make any excuses as I am well aware of the wrong I have done ye. I really often wonder at myself and think what has come over me & my reasons I cannot account for, but I know what I have led ye all to believe that I had forgotten all about ye. No, I have not, nor did I ever, but with the help of God if I am spared in future I will make up for the past now that it is drawing near that happy time, Xmas. I could not let it run farther as I know how troublesome it would be & has been to you. Father and Mother, you will find enclosed the small sum of £5 five pounds which ye might enjoy a happy Xmas and can be satisfied to think as long as I live that I will not forget ye so again. Ye need not answer this note until ye hear from me again as I intend writing another letter in three or four weeks' time. I had a letter from Brother John a few days ago. Himself and Uncle Terry & other friends in Sydney are quite well. I was never so much surprised as I was to hear that Martin Slattery was in Brisbane. I was so sorry to be away from there. I heard from him a few days ago. He has joined the police and is quite well. I am about a thousand miles north of Brisbane, but I expect to drop across Martin shortly. Ye need not be uneasy about him. He will be all right. I write to him often so he will not want for anything. He has forwarded the articles that Sister Honour and Mrs Michael has sent me for which I am very thankful and must admit I have not deserved their kindness, but perhaps someday might return the compliment. As I am only writing a short note just now, I beg to be pardoned for not enquiring personally for the friends, hoping each and all of them are well and happy as I have not in mind forgotten one of them. Both myself and John were much pleased to think that we were uncles in two places. I have received a photo of Uncle Terry for the last twelve months which I will enclose as I know ye will be pleased to get a look at them and only wish I could send mine, but unfortunately, I have none just now.

As it is getting late, I will conclude with fond love to you Father & Mother, Brothers and Sister and not forgetting Mrs Michael & young one, aunts and cousins. Hoping each & all are enjoying the blessings of good health as I am at present, thanks to God.

Kisses for you Mother and Sister & last of all I ask to be pardoned.

From your ever affectionate son.

P. McHugh

To John McHugh

Police Station

Herberton

North Queensland

9.10.86

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

14 May 2021.