

Drim, Milltown, Tuam

July

My Dear Son

I have received your kind letter of the 14th of _____ in which I found enclosed a letter from your friendly and generous Mrs for which I can scarcely command language strong enough to return thanks adequate to her kindness towards us all. I also found enclosed the munificent donation of £10 for which I need not say a word in the shape of attempting to return thanks for I am sure you can well read my mind on that point as I never had any reason to feel displeased with any a ... of yours in your whole life with me and I firmly believe that even if you wished that you couldn't get yourself to prove ungrateful to your fond father and mother to whom you always manifested a strong desire to be obliging and obedient. May God grant you and your Mrs and John Patrick a long and a happy life together and good luck and prosperity in all your undertakings. The first duty of parents towards a deserving son after marriage is to give him his blessing which we now send you across the broad ocean with all our heart hoping your kind Mrs will accept the same and only regret that we have not the sweet opportunity of being with you for one day, or even for one hour to speak a few words to you whom we loved so dear. Don't imagine for a moment that I or any of your numerous friends ever entertained a doubt regarding the preservation of respectability cultivated in your matchless notion whilst here in poor old Ireland and I now ask you to banish the idea from your mind if you were not to write for an age we would not consider you...

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