

Plymouth

Dec 12th 1878

My dear beloved Father & Mother, Brothers and Sister

Your welcome note came to hand this morning and things were written in it and I assure you my heart was struck with joy when I read it. I had a hearty laugh when I heard about Gary and the spree he had this day week, but however I am very sorry to hear how my mother is after me and she faithfully promised me that she would not shed a tear after me. I assure you it put me about greatly when I read the letter. In trying to pacify her, I will send my portrait to her now until I see her and yourselves again, with the help of God. I promised to send one to a few others at home, but I don't like how they are drawn. I never looked well but as bad as I was, I am worse now as you might know that. As you wanted to know what sort of a ship I am going to sail on. It is a sealing packet. No emigrant goes by a steamer except those that pay their passage and desire to go on a steamer. It will go in forty days to Sydney by steamer. You will tell the Conellys in Conaher that the ship named Hereford left Plymouth on the 20th of September. It arrived the 6th of this month 77 days and the report come by telegraph to Plymouth and then it is reported in the daily paper here and says they had a good voyage, 490 passengers.

I think that was about the time he went so if there is anybody coming to Plymouth again, let them come from Dublin by boat, for Plymouth is 222 miles from London, so let him not be foolish same as I was thought to have cared. You must not answer this for I am going into the depot tomorrow. I can't tell you certainly what day we are for sailing. I will write again. Everybody has to buy bedclothes of his own here. So, I am forced to conclude for my paper is short. Farewell for a while. I am your beloved son.

John McHugh

A 100 x to Mother and Sister.

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

11 May 2021.