

Police Station

Herberton

29th July 1892

Dear Father and Mother

By this time, you must think I am again falling into the old groove as it is such a length of time since I received your fond letter, but such is not the case. You will remember in my last letter I promised photos in my next which has been rather difficult to get which accounts for my not writing sooner. I am forwarding by this mail under separate cover four photos: myself, Lizzie John Patrick Joseph and his little nurse, Ruby, to whom he is very much attached. You can see she is a Queensland native and has been with us now two years. She was then brought in by one of the police from the bush from her tribe and was as wild as a young hare as she had seen but few white people previous to her coming. She is now quite civilized and as cunning as a fox. She is better and more useful than any white girl and a most affectionate child. John Patrick looks rather stern. In order to get him to remain steady, the photographer told him there was a pussy cat coming out of the camera and he was looking intently for it. He is now two and a half years old and getting quite tall and prays for his grandfather and grandmother each night and morning. Thos and Michael McHugh must have the same opinion of me as ye must have as I have [not] written to them for some time but am writing to Thos this mail.

I have not heard from John for some time and would like to know if you hear from him or Terry. Let me know in your next letter and am anxious to hear all the home news trusting you will give me particulars about all my old mates and sweethearts. It's needless to ask or mention about relations as the can feel certain I am ever anxious to hear of them.

I hope, Father, you did not get a rheumatic attack last winter as I believe it has been a very severe one and trust that Mother has enjoyed good health since her recovery from her long illness of which we were very sorry to hear. I enclose a post office order for £5 five pounds for Mother. Needless to mention what this small amount is for. As the mail is about closing, I must end for the present am joined by Lizzie and John in sending our fond love to Michael, Bridget and children and also to Sister Honour, husband and family. I conclude with many kind wishes to you all hoping you will write first mail and ever remain your affectionate son.

P McHugh

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

15 May 2021.