Plymouth Decb 14th 1878

My dear beloved Father & Mother

It is with the most of pleasure I address these feeling lines in hopes they may find you, my brother and sisters and all the friends and relations as they are too numerous to mention in a prosperous state of health as I am in at present. Thanks to the almighty God for it. My dear Father and Mother as I must tell you I have shed a tear when writing those lines as they are my last lines until I go to a foreign country. If the Lord spares me so long I will write as soon as I get there as also I inform you that our departure from England will be at 8 am o'clock next Thursday the 19th and I am bidding farewell to old Erin and the cursed country which I stand on.

You will remember me to all my well-wishers hoping they will offer a prayer for my safe arrival to the bush. Wishing them all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year as I don't intend to have. One thing I never will forget my aunts and Aunt Judy above them all. The kindness she showed me in my farewell and all my cousins I send them my fond love and best respects.

So, I remain your fond and beloved son.

John McHugh

To John McHugh

A farewell kiss to you Mother and Honor xxx

There is 400 to sail on the Clydo.

Transcribed from the original by Margaret Marlow with some punctuation and spelling correction.
21 March 2021.