

4317 Cottage Grove

Jan 4th 1900

Dear Father & Mother

I am very sorry that I could not write to you before Xmas. I was so busy that I did not have time to go to the bank. I hope you all enjoyed a happy Xmas. I assure you I felt very lonely on that night because I knew how you felt about me & Brothers. I hope you are all enjoying the happiness & good health as I am, thank God. You will find enclosed here the small amount of £4 stg for you to spend it with yourselves & for no other purpose. I know you are both getting old & feeble now & I want to comfort you the best I can. You might think I have forgotten the past but I assure you I never will. I received a letter from Kate and I was delighted to see that she is so smart. She told me that Michael or Honour would not write to me anymore. Well, I don't know what I have done wrong. I know I have not written for a long time and I have very little time to myself. I am always busy doing something. You might imagine that I have a fine time & very little to do and that I should write often but it is a mistake.

Dear Father, buy little Kate a Christmas present for me. I will write to herself someday and I hope if ever I see her that she will be a smart girl. Michael McHugh & wife thank you one & all for the nice time they had. They were telling me about the fine chicken dinner that Bridget cooked them. Mrs McHugh said that she had a better time in Milltown than anywhere she went. I thank Michael very much for his kindness towards them. I wish you would let me know if Mother received three pounds I sent her last summer in a registered letter. If not, let me know by return mail. I heard Miss O'Donnell died. I was very sorry. May she rest in peace.

Mrs McHugh was telling me all about the pretty Milltown girls. I only wish I could go back once again to have a good time. I did not hear from John lately. Patt, I don't expect to hear from him now. I suppose the English will have to take the young & old men to fight the Boers now. I am certainly glad they are getting defeated now. In conclusion I hope you will all enjoy a happy New Year and I hope Mother will pardon me for not hearing from me at Xmas. If Michael or Honour don't want to answer this letter for you, go to Mick Nally & tell him to write me a long letter.

With love & best wishes to aunts, cousins and all my friends. Goodbye.

I remain your affectionate son.

Thomas McHugh

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

29 April 2021.