

4317 Cottage Grove

Chicago, Illinois

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1902

Dear Father & Mother

You must imagine by this time that I have forgotten you altogether. I have no excuse to offer but neglect. I hope you are all enjoying the best of health as myself & Delia & the baby are, thank God. I wish to inform you that I had a letter from John a few months ago and he wished me to give his best love to all. He is well in health and doing all right now. You may have heard from him by this time. He seen Patt Heneghan's daughter & husband. They are doing well. He also said that Thomas Martin come for a visit from Queensland. He said that Patt was away in the wilderness for some time but now that he was back and doing fine he expects to be chief of police soon but he never writes to John. He wished me to write to him which I think I will soon although I never intended to write to him when he never answered my letters.

Lizzie Martin is also well & she wished to be remembered to all. I know you will be delighted to know that Dan McHugh is back from South Africa without a scratch. He gives a great account of the war and is only anxious when the opportunity offers itself to strike a blow for old Ireland. He is a good-looking young man after his experience. We had the pleasure of seeing Michael Davitt and Colonel John Blake that commanded the Irish brigade in Africa and I assure you it was a gathering of the most representative body of Irish & Irish Americans that ever filled the auditorium theatre of this city. Four thousand people in number and donated over seven thousand dollars to the Irish cause. Some of the greatest men of this country are taking great interest in this movement, the Land for the People and the Irish League. We were all disappointed for not seeing John Dillon. He was sick but now he is all right. I am also proud that one of the greatest American papers has a reporter in Ireland. I mean the Tribune, showing to the American people & the world England's tyranny in Ireland & I think the day is not far distant when the nations will demand justice of her for a people that's being so long oppressed. It is sad to think of how we are scattered from our dear parents whom we love and from the land that gave us birth, but I hope if we don't meet on this earth that, God grant, we may meet in heaven. I would only wish to see your dear faces once again and all my friends & neighbours which I often think of & sweet Milltown where I so well enjoyed myself many a time.

You will find enclosed a post office order for five pounds. It is a small amount, but it will assist you in enjoying a happy Xmas, I hope. I will ask you Brother Michael as a special favour to write to me as soon as possible as I want to have all the news before I write to Australia. I would like to know if James Slattery is living in Milltown now or in Moycullen where his wife is from. I would like to know how is Sister Honour's eyes & if Patrick is in England. I suppose John is a big man too. I imagine if I was home now I wouldn't know any of my nephews or nieces, they have grown so big. I would ask you Michael & Tom Godwin to impress upon your children's mind, particularly the boys, to keep from intoxicating liquors for it is curse of many a young Irishman in this or any other country and if you do they will not only thank you in later days but be a credit to their parents & religion. I am not very old in years yet but I am old in experience as I do business with people from all nations and that is an education in itself. I thank you Father & Mother for the manner in which you raised me and I hope that those children that I speak about in a few years will thank their parents as I do now and Mother, don't want for anything. Just let me know and I will send it to you. So don't be backward, even though I am married, I am just the same.

I will now conclude. Myself & Delia joining in sending you our fond love & best wishes.

Wishing you all a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

Bye-bye.

From your affectionate son.

Thomas McHugh

xxxx kisses to Mother.

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

1 May 2021.