

4317 Cottage Grove

Dec 9th 1904

Dear Mother and Brother

Your sad letter received. I feel so bad writing to you this time, but the will of God must be done. I assure you the death notice was no surprise to me for the night he died in particular I told Delia the next morning that some very dear friend must be dead. I dreamt all night of priests and marriages and of poor Mother. May his soul rest in peace.

Dear Brother, I am glad that you have done your duty and also I am proud of the big funeral that he had. It shows that he was well respected. I am also glad that Mother got her wish for I well remember her saying many a time that she hoped to live to take care of him in his deathbed. It is too bad that I could not see him. You will find enclosed a post office order for four pounds for Christmas and I hope you will drink my health and Delia's and tell Mother not to worry but drink a good glass of punch from me and a good glass of the real stuff to old Mullany. I am sorry for not writing to you sooner, but I was expecting John so long that I kept putting it off. I imagined I was home when he was telling me all about the friends and Milltown. He is getting along well. I keep him in the house with me and I got him working in the shop. The whiskey that you sent the bottle got broke in his bag. There was a little left. I thank you very much for thinking of me just the same. I wish to inform you that I wrote to Patt and John last Xmas. I did not hear from Patt but John's letter came back about two months ago unclaimed. He must be left Sydney and gone to western Australia as the last letter I had from him he said that he was thinking about going there to the gold fields. I don't know what to think about Patt. He must be a peculiar man. I suppose he has got a few pounds and got the big head like a majority of the Irish. He certainly must be selfish or he would think of that good old father and mother in their old age. If he was raised in ignorance he might be better.

I may say that Mark and Martin Jennings were to visit us last night. They are two fine young men and doing well, also Patt Mullins's daughter and John Jennings were to visit John. She is a swell looking girl. So we have a pleasant evening sometimes in the house. Dear Michael, just a few things I want to tell you. I would like to send you more money now as I know you need it, but my circumstance at present won't permit me. I know you and Mother will be glad to know that I have bought the ground for a home and my business it is next door to my shop and the best business street in the city. It cost me vacant three thousand dollars and I have built a party wall with a neighbour that was erecting his building. I paid two hundred dollars on that, so I have only the one wall to build when my lease is up here. My rent every month now is sixty dollars so you see when I have my own home, I can have plenty of money. I have a lot of money standing out all the time and takes lots to run the business. I don't want you to say anything about this to the neighbours I just want to have a confidential chat with you and Mother.

As Delia is going to say a few words I will conclude with love to Bridget and children and to all my cousins and relatives and to my dear Mother and Brother.

Thomas McHugh

Dear Mother

I take great pleasure in writing you a few lines hoping you are well also Michael & his family & thanking his little girl for the beautiful homemade slippers she sent the children they were tickled nearly to death over them. I believe I mentioned them in John's mother's letter. Well, Mother, we all felt bad to hear of Thos father's death. We were always in hopes of seeing ye all yet. May his soul rest in peace. I hope he is happy in heaven. Dear Mother, I mean to tell you that we are all well and happy, thank God. The children are always talking of their grandma. They think a great deal of John & sure it's natural for him to be fond of children where there was so many of them home. God bless them. We understand here that this was a bad year in Ireland, that the crops was a failure. Well, I must conclude at present. Wishing ye all a merry Xmas & a prosperous New Year.

I remain your affectionate daughter,

Delia.

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

2 May 2021.