

Sydney July 8th 1907

P.S. John sends his kind love to you all.

My dear & beloved Cousin

Your letter arrived a few weeks ago & gave me very great pleasure to hear from you. I was truly glad to get it. Well, about your brother, John, he is quite well. I can see him any night I like to. I gave him the message about writing home & he is going to do so. I was extremely sorry some time ago to hear of your dear father's death (may he rest in peace) & ___ your dear mother. I hope she is enjoying good health & ___ McHugh & family. Fancy one of your girls being in America just ___ the rest of us nothing in store but family ____

Well Michael I got a lot of useful news from Miss O'Toole when she returned from Ireland. I was so delighted to hear all about the old home but alas since she has been there, there is one link missing - one that was dear to me on earth is gone forever & that is my own dear good mother. My only regret in life is ___ that I did not go & see her before she passed away, of course the home people can't understand how cold the climate is on people if we go home. See how Miss O'Toole could not stay there when she went, she had to return to a warmer climate. Of course, my father would like me to go but I don't think I could ever manage to live in Ireland it is too cold & wet for me.

Do you ever hear from your brother Patt. He is living in Brisbane. I have a brother there & I have not heard of or see him for years. He has treated me with contempt, he is frightened that some day of those he might be called upon to support me, so by not writing to me or acknowledging me he thinks he is doing a great thing, but I am thankful today I can live without him. I lost my best friend out here when poor Patt died he was one of the truest & best. He was the essence of kindness. May he receive the glory of heaven. His little children are all growing up. Wisely their mother married again a few years after Patt's death, but there is not a second family I am happy to say.

I was sorry to hear of uncle of Caltra's death. There was not much time between him and poor Mother's. I suppose Mary is still living with ___ & his wife & all the others are in America ___ strange families scattered all over the globe, some in America & some in Australia. Our dear old home where I spent many a childish day must seem a quiet place now nobody being there but Father & those children of John's to ___ ___ write _____. Please tell me how they are all getting on. How I would dearly love to see them all once again; what I have done to Sister Bridget I do not know as she have not put a pen to paper to me for some years she never even went to see Miss O'Toole to even ask about me when she was at home but like the old proverb gone & forgotten. Poor Mary's little daughter has emigrated ___ I say ___ my heart may God comfort all the poor mothers in dear old Ireland it is so sad for them to lose their loved ones for to a certain extent, they are gone _____ there for ever. Give my love to your dear mother & wife & family, not forgetting Mrs Godwin _____ she write to me ___ again & address as before. I remain your loving cousin.

Lizzie K Martyn

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

18 May 2021.