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'SEAS MAY DIVIDE'

IRISH MIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND
AS PORTRAYED IN PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE,
1840-1937

VOL. 2

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'Seas May Divide':

Irish Migration to New Zealand

as Portrayed in Personal Correspondence,

1840-1937

In Two Volumes

Vol. 2

Angela Hannah McCarthy

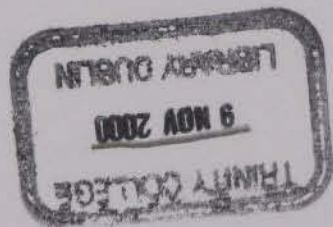
Submitted for the Degree of Doctor in Philosophy

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Department of Modern History

2000

Special Collections
New England
as Portrayed in Personal Correspondence,
1840-1937



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Special Collections

New England

as Portrayed in Personal Correspondence

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Letters of Families in Conflict

1827-1871

1827-1871

1827-1871

The Lysaght Correspondence, 1866-1873 (1-8)

(Ly 1)

[This letter is very faded and difficult to transcribe]

(a) My address is ... Cappamore ... Limerick Ireland April 16/66

(b) ... I have not heard from you since may 1865 although have letter to you ... remained unanswered. This is the last time you may expect to hear from me if you do not answer this.

(c) But however I must tell you some news. We have taken 42 acres of M^r Atkinsons land about a week ago. We have all the College Land he had except John Ryan [*word illegible*] and the Bog Meadow. James Cunningham has got the leases and John [?Quinlan] has got the Bog meadow. It went very high. He has paid over £200 for it the bog meadow I mean. Patrick Donaghue has got about 30 acres of what we have taken which he will keep for this year. He has got all that is on the side of the road on which the school house is built. He had it taken from M^r Atkinson for 5 years for grazing. He is paying 55 shillings per acre for it while our rent is only £1.1.4 per acre which leaves us a profit rent of £1.13.8 per acre for this year after which Donaghue will have to give it up when it will come into our own hands. Its better Donaghue ever thought that he would be a tenant ... at the other side of the Glebe we have got the 2 fields underneath the orchard and the field opposite the back ... gate ...

(d) The weather up to this has been very bad [*word illegible*] and rain almost everyday ... I was trenching there today. I have not had a days fishing this year. It is a bad time for fishing as the weather is terrible.

(e) Our old friend John ... left for Queensland on the 26 of December last. There are a great number leaving this country for Australia and other places. In fact very few people are here now ...

(f) However in America they are hard at work yet making up man and money with which they intend to invade Canada and there to establish an Irish Republic after than there they would have another stroke for old Ireland. Its hard to say if they will do any good [word illegible]. This is a year which will be full of great events ... and Austria are now going to war with each other. England will very likely interfere ... the Fenian Leaders are now in Prison some for life some for 20 years some more for 10 years and a few for 5 years ...

(g) How do you get an over now suppose will I have heard ... are not so good as when I left I intend ... again if you would only ... over if my ... to you that I should go back to Auckland Im not ... to secure my passage over and send me the warrant it I would never forget it for you. This is the first thing I have ever asked of you. Will you refuse me. I hope you will not ... over it is very likely we would both come back together. If you would come home I would do all that would be in my power to make you comfortable. Come home as soon as you can but dont forget to send on the Passage order.

(h) We have 12 cows in Pallasbeg. We will live here this year when we will then move to the Glebe where we will have 20 cows.

(i) All the friends and neighbours are well. We are all well too. I hope you and Maria are well. I have not heard from Miss Hobbs since april last in London. Greatly ye forget us. Anyway for old friendship sake remember me to herself and her mother. I hope they are doing well but they are hardly doing as well as Id wish them. Remember me to M^r Blake and family also to M^r Sheehan and family. My father mother and aunt join me in sending you and Maria our best love and believe me to be your affectionate Brother

William Lysaght

To Mr Edmond Lysaght

(Ly 2)

Doon Glebe Cappamore

Limerick Ireland

Dec 19th 1869

My dear Brother

(a) You will no doubt be surprised that I have not answered your letter sooner. My only excuse is that my health was none of the best. My father too has not been well for the past few months.

(b) So you would prefer taking £150 [*erased: to*] sooner than come home. I think you would act foolish in taking the money. Anyway we could not send it at present. But my father thinks it would be better to bring you home when an opportunity offers. This is my wish too. There would be no use in sending you money because it would hold you only for a [*erased: ?*] very short time where you are. I am speaking against my own interest brother when I refuse to send you the money because it would be far cheaper for me to give you £150 where you are than to bring you home here. But I must have you home. Our name must not run out here. You know I am the last - the only remaining one of our family and it is with regret I say that there is no chance of my lifting a few young Lysaghts so the family will have to continue through you.

(c) I am glad that you view the murder of our cousin in such a light. He was the only one of our name ever taken so short. Never mind the time is fast appro[*a*]ching when those cursed fellows will be wiped out.

(d) I am glad to hear that Ellen is well. Remember us to her. How is it that you never mention the Blakes to me. You know how well they liked me. Neither have you mentioned James Ryan.

(e) I had some hard work this past Harvest. I can mow pretty well now. I often cut an acre last season. This would be enough for you. So if I live till you come home I'll

squeeze you. I wont forget your old boast. Remember us to all our Friends. We are all pretty well now. I hope this will find you all right.

(f) So the Maori war is again closing Auckland. I cannot say I regret it as I wish the Maories every success. Take care. Join no party [*erased: to*] to fight against them. They are the same as Irish men fighting for the[ir] own Land. Twas a regul[ar] Humbug the way their land were confiscated. Again I say to you do not fight again[st] them - help them if you wish. I have it on good authority that they are assisted by many Irishmen.

(g) I will now say something about myself. You will regret to learn that my health is failing fast for the past few mo[nths] so much so that I have little hope of a recovery in a comfortable way. You know if I was looking to my own interests I would let the money go to you as twill cost me far more to settle you here. I can understand your feelings well at being put off from time to time but have some patience. I will yet make you a comfortable man. If it is not your own fault I will do what I can for you but you must have no - must - about it.

(h) As to what you said in my fathers letter that you had as good a right to half (what we had) as I had you know this is not true. Had you stayed at home my father would have divided evenly with you. You chose to take your chances in Newzealand and left us - and therefore lost all right to anything we had. I stuck to my father at both sides of the world and gained by doing so while you lost by leaving him. If you are not as well off as I am tis your own fault. As to what you said about my health tis better to [*?pass*]. We borrowed when we got this farm but we have it all paid off now and some thing to spare.

(i) Nance and Mike Lysaght are well. Is it not an awful shame to say that Patsy or Kitty dont write. The three of them have their mother working for Her living now in her old age. If they had the least shame in them they would not allow such a thing.

(j) ODonovan Rossa the Fenian convict has been elected M. P. for Tipperary.

(k) I hope you will enjoy a happy Xmas. Give my kindist wishes to Maria and the little ones. Also to Pat & Kate. Goodbye dear Brother.

William Lysaght

Write soon.

(Ly 3)

Doon Glebe Cappamore

Limerick Ireland

June 7th 1870

My dear Son

(a) I received your letter of March 13th and was glad to see by it that you were well.

I am sorry to hear that Auckland is so dull at present but I hope it will not be long so.

(b) I cannot do anything for you at present. You know the great amount of money I owed when I got this farm. When I make money if I send to you twill be only wasting it as you would be able to make no use of it so you must wait untill I get an opportunity of doing something for you. As for dividing this farm tis not be thought of. Neither would it be allowed. You may be sure I will do the best I can for you. I have met pretty heavy losses this season. Cow and pigs [*erased: f*] worth £50 died on me.

(c) I am glad to hear that all the old friends are well. I am quite well too. So is Mary and Rose. We are glad to see that Maria and the children are well. Remember us to Ellen and tell us if her husband is staying with her. Mention to me if Bridget Harrigan and James Ryan are alive. All our friends are well - Clogher people are all alive yet.

Remember us to all beyond that would care to hear from us.

(d) M^{rs} Lloyd is at home since April 17th. I have not seen her yet. The Captain is married to his first cousin M^r Rikard Lloyds daughter. M^{rs} Lloyd was just home 3 days befor the wedding.

(e) Crops of all kinds are doing well.

(f) Let me know if P Lysaght has got any kids yet or how long he is married. Mike and his mother are well. If I am able I will send you money at next Christmas. With kindest wishes I remain your affectionate Father

Edward Lysaght

Rose and Mary wish to be e[a]rnestly remembered to you.

(Ly 4)

[circa June 1870]

My dear Brother

(a) I received your letter of March 13th all right. I am sorry that you felt disappointed with my letter. I only offered you the £150 by my father's directions. He will give it yet but I do not see what use you could make of it. You would spend it in a few months and then be as bad as ever. My wishes are to let you hold on some time longer and we may be able to do something for you.

(b) You say that my whiskers are big enough to get married. True enough but I cannot do so. Never may. My life is already blighted beyond hope of recovery. Some early foolishness of mine and a general disregard to the preservation of my health are now producing the most fatal results. I am strong and healthy looking as ever but only in appearance so that which constitutes life is wasting slowly but surely away. I have you to blame brother for all this but I do not now write in anger. Yes you have made me what I am. You will be likely to reap the benefit of it but there is no use in blaming you. Now I sincerely forgive you.

(c) [*erased: W*] Women are easily to be got here brother. I could get marry with plenty of money if I wished but I must keep clear of marriaye. Anything in that line would put me out of the world in a short time. Besides if I married at all the woman Id choose has no money - enough of this.

(d) Keep Willy to school. I must do something for him.

(e) Do not think dear Brother that I will forget you because I delay so long. You know the great loss of money. No use in referring further to such a painful subject.

(f) I am afraid there must be some mistake between yourself and Patsy Lysaght if he reacted as you said. Keep clear of him if you are [*word illegible*] no fault.

(g) Remember me to Ned Blake and all his people. Send me his address if you know it. Give my kindest wishes to M^{rs} Hobbs and M^{rs} Cameron. I am glad to hear that yourself Maria and the children are well. I am but poorly. Good bye dear Brother. When I can afford to help you I will do so but it must be here at home. Do not write such [*?an ugly letter next time*].

WL

(h) I did not get the newspaper.

(Ly 5)

Doon Glebe Cappamore

Limerick Ireland

Sept 18th 1871

My dear Brother

(a) I write to you in sadness. My mother is dead since Sept 8th. She was ill for about 2 months but was not bad only for the last week. She was attended by 3 doctors but they all failed in doing her any good. Our curate was very constant in attendance upon her and so were the good Sisters of Mercy - from Doon Convent. To their kindness and attention (through the mercy of God) she owes the happy and contented death she died. There is a beautiful convent now in Doon in Father Hickeys place. He left all his money to them and to some Monks who have now finished their buildings in Doon.

(b) I must now ask your forgiveness for not answering a letter of yours that came here last October. I was not at home when it came here. I was in Dublin at the time in an Hospital. I spent near 2 months there with Lung disease. I came home perfectly cured and

found your disagreeable letter before me. Circumstances prevented me from not answering it since I am Married since May 12 to a young woman without fortune. My Father knew it. Done his best to prevent me. Went so far as to make a will in your [?favour] leaving you all he had. I disregarded all and marr[ied] her. He cooled down in a little and asked myself and wife to come here to live with him just as we were going off to America.

(c) I have no idea what he intends doing for you. I have no claim on him myself. I am sure he will send you some money. I will do what I can for you. I hope yourself Maria and the little ones are well. I will write again soon. Write as soon as you get this. Your affectionate brother

William Lysaght

(d) PS

We had a splendid funeral and had 20 gallons of Whiskey. Kept up the old style - W.L
Give enclosed note and Likeness to Ellen.

(Ly 6)

Doon Glebe Cappamore

Limerick Ireland

April 2nd 1872

My dear Maria

(a) I write to let you know of my safe arrival here. I got home all right - thank God. I enjoyed good health all through the voyage. We had a very good run. We landed in London March 5th. I got cold after landing in England but I am almost over it now. I would have written when I landed but the Newzealand Mail was just left 3 days I think so it was as well for me to wait untill now. I was expecting to hear from you by this mail but it has not arrived here yet. I hope you will have written before this reaches you.

(b) I spent a week in London as I missed the steamer too that was to bring me to Waterford. I spent another night in Waterford a very pleasant one too with N. Lysaght Pat's brother. We had a very good passage home but the ship was very poor in the line of provisions. I will not go back in her. If [erased: you] Jackman the cook should get back before me do anything you can for him as he is a very decent man. Give too [two] kisses to each of the children for me. Be very careful of them.

(c) My father and aunt are both well and sends their love to you. Willie and his wife are quite well too and desires to be kindly remembered to you. Tell M^{rs} O'Neill that I have not seen her sister yet but will in a few days. Tell Bridget O'Neill that I / have seen her father and mother. They are well. Tell M^{rs} Reed that I have been talking to her father mother and brother. They are well. Give my best love to M^{rs} Bartley and Pat Lysaght. I have been talking to his mother. She came to see me from Limerick. She looks very well. Tell Mr Cormack that I have written to his Friends but have not heard from them yet.

(d) Dear Maria I do not yet know what my father will do for me but I think I will take something handsome back with me. I will write next mail when you will know all -
Goodbye dearest Maria. Love for you as ever

E Lysaght

(Ly 7)

Doon Glebe Cappamore

Limerick Ireland

Dec 10th 1872

My dear Son

(a) I received your welcome letter on the 27th November and was glad to see by it that you landed all right and made such a good passage and that you found your family all well before you.

(b) I got the watch you sent but it is of little [erased: f] value. I would lose £1 by repairing it and then it would be only worth £2 so you can see it was not worth much. I have done nothing to it since it is hardly worth it.

(c) This was a wet and a bad year here. It is continually raining. We have no potatoes and other crops were equally bad.

(d) I gave no money to [?Nance Mack]. It was very queer of you to tell her son in Waterford that [erased: I] you left money with me for them but I suppose you hardly knew what you were saying at the time.

(e) I am getting very good health and so is Rose. [Erased: Im] I hope you and wife and the little ones are well too. All the neighbours are well. There is nothing new here. Hoping this will find you and family in good health.

I remain

Your affec^t father

Edward Lysaght

(Ly 8)

April 27th 1873

Dear Son

(a) I received your letter on the 25 of this month which specified to me you and your family being in good health and this leaves me and my family at present thanks be to god.

(b) I was much surprised when I read your letter. It was more like a [?testing] letter than a letter of friendship. As it was the will of our Saviour to bless me with to [two] sons I was not blessed by them and I cant see what the have done for them selves. The took there own advice and as the done so let them have the benifit of it. I cant see one of ye better than the other. I am a [word illegible] man still and I have to look out for meself. I

cant see what dependance I have in my two sons so every one of us have to look out for yourself but as [?luck] favoured ye ye are younge and I am old.

(c) First I gave 50 pounds and then you came home to see me and then I gave you 100 pounds in my own [?name] and gave you 16 pounds for to pay your passage in order that you would have the 100 pounds when you would reach home. That is 166 pounds in all. I cant see what great reason you have to complain of me but I have more reason to complain of you for when you came home you gave me the greatest scandal and beat your brother in *in* presence of the publick.

(d) Either you or my son Will will never handle one pound of my industry untill my departing in this world the reason which for ye are not in need of me for your wives are better managers than what I am. The lord called on my Money Maker. If I have anything worth while when I am dying I will manage it as I can see which of the two of ye are deserving of it. No more at present.

From your father

Edmond Lysaght

The O'Neill Correspondence, 1863 (1)

(Ne 1)

Auckland Nov^{ber} 30th 63

My Dear Thomas

(a) I received your letter of 24th Sept on the 23rd of Nov^{ber}. I am glad to hear that ye are all in good health and that you had a good run of buisness. I hope it will continue. No fear if the crops continue good.

(b) We are in good health thank God. The youngster is getting to be a good girl but she was not so quite a child as poor polly was. She is very like her. We called her Theresa so if she takes after her aunt I suppose she will be a saucy customer.

(c) Buisness here was dull during the winter up to this time. Nothing but soldiering doing. Saving your presense they made a militia man of me since Augst but I got a wrinkle from an old hand and I got on for night duty one night each week and not to be sent out of the town 1^s.6^d a night. When the other militia was sent away we had to outpost duty for one week. I was up 3 nights but I expect to get 4^s an night for that. I was corporal and if held on longer I was going to be sergeant the week following. We were not drilled. So as we knew how to load and handle our rifles that was enough. We had 60 rounds of ball ca[r]tridge and our bayonets by our side unless when it was fired.

(d) All humbug the Maories would not attempt to come into Auckland. They people got a great start one sunday and we all at mass. They alarm bells rung out, (and they was Maories seen the evening before about 15 miles away in their canoes). The Priest stopt mass and all the men got up and left chapels and churches and found a store a fire near the wharf. But I believe the war is near the end already.

(e) You will see by the paper I send you that they two strongest places the Maories had fortified is taken from them. The first mere-mere was taken without firing a shot. They Maories ran out of it when they see they were partly surrounded. It was well fortified

with trenches & *and* they had 3 old Cannon mounted that they got from a wrecked vessel but they were not much good. It was with stones and pieces of old Iron they used to load them. One of them was fired one day at a small steamer going up the Waikato river and some pieces of iron struck her in the side and wounded one man.

(f) There is some white men deserters in amongst them these many years drilling them & Gen^l Cameron was greatly disappointed after making such preparations to hem them in. He followed them 15 miles further up the Waikato river to Rangiriri another stronghold and attacked them by land and water and although the place was taken the soldiers got the worst of it. 4 officers killed and 15 wounded. 37 soldiers killed and about 60 wounded. They report only 50 Maories killed. 200 gave themselves up prisoners and more escaped. The prisoners was brought to Auckland and is on board a man of war fed well. Whatever they will do with them.

(g) Lieut Murphy 12th Reg^t that was killed is from about Clarina. He might be a son of the coroners. Cap^t Mercer artillery was in Lim^k along time. They prevented him giving orders. A ball cut the tongue out of him and broke his jaw.

(h) They cant find the Maories anywhere. They have the country covered over with soldiers militia and volunteers from all parts of Australia Hobart town, Sidney [*Sydney*], Otago &c I believe 2.500 up to this. The mischiefs own lot Auckland will be in a nice way when they come back. They are promised 50 acres of the Waikato land when the war is over but they must live 3 years on it before they get a title to it and 100 out of the lot wont do that. No doubt they will be gold diggings found in the Waikato hills. It is the best land in N. Z. The Himalaya brought the 50 Reg^t from Ceylon here. There is 2 more Reg^{ts} coming from India here besides some from England so unless they begin to eat the Maories the mischief a much else at present they will get here unless brought from some other place.

(i) Beef and mutton is 1.^s a lb all the winter. Potatoes 2^d a lb and for a short time 3.^d. Milk 6.^d a Quart. Eggs was 3^d a piece. Butter 2^s.0^d a lb was 3.^s6^d. Bread is not the dearest 5^d a 2lb loaf. Tea 3^s.0^d. lb. Sugar 6^d. lb.

(j) There is not much tillage about here. The land is bad. A great many settlers had to come in here. Some of them is destroyed by it. House rent is awful dear. If the place in Brunswick S^t was here they would be at least £4,000, a year got out of it. Most every week there is a ship from England with emigrants. It is a bad place for some of them. The men has to join the militia and their families stops about the town but as soon as this war is settled they will all be going out to the country and it will be easier for me to get a place to do some buisness for myself. If I had a place fit for it I know I would do as well as others.

(k) I have some tax cart bodies made and two jaunting car bodies made. I am making the wheels. I am going to mount what I have made and see what I can make of them. I have a good lot of spokes dressed. There is 5^s paid for turning a pair of stocks but I get them turned for 4^s. If I can get a place to suit me I will see and turn them myself. Mackey did not take any bodies from me this 5 months but I dont blame him. He did not mount them I sold him yet. He was taken up with some contracts for the Gov^t a lot of portable forges and other things. He had an order from some man to make 6 wheel barrows and I made them wheels and all. His brother is a timber man and they are joined again. They were so before but they split.

(l) But there is not a ship that comes but brings 1 or 2 wheelers or body makers but no coach smiths or painters. Since I came here a coach smith would have £3 a week constant and latterly if he looked for it £3.10. a week for 8 hours a day. If Patt had not constant work in Lim^k I am shure he would do well here provided he would keep from drink.

(m) I got a letter from Patt. He complains how he is treated by his father but I dont wonder at it from the treatment I got after spending my whole life I might say, in doing

everything that I possibly could for the ruffian. I hope this winter will send him where he can light his pipe with the top of his finger.

(n) Tell Patt not to do any wood work or any thing but his own buisness. Let Kirwan do jobbing as he is paid for it and exert himself. I am sorry to hear that Theresa is going on in such a way as Patt complains.

(o) The weather here is not so hot as it was this time last year. It was very blust[e]ry and wet since begining of Augst last with a few days excepted and them are pretty hot now.

(p) I got 2 newspapers regular from you. I hope you get them as regular from me. I sent one every mail but one since I came here that was April last. I sometimes send a second to you or Dan^l Gleeson by the supplementary mail if there is anything particular on it.

(q) I got a bargain of 2 Dozen patent Axles. wrenches. bolts. washers complete, half 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{cm} rest 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ⁱⁿ for £1.5^s. each. Come to £30. by taking the entire of them, as cheap as home.

(r) Remember me to Johanna and the children and all friends. I hope they are still well. Tell Polly that I will soon write to her and for her. God bless ye all is the prayer of your Affectionate Brother J^s O'Neill. Remember me to Patt and his family and D. Gleasons family.

The Quinn Correspondence, 1903-1906 (1-5)

(Qu 1)

Northe[r]n Wairoa

Dargaville

Auckland

New Zealand

October 9th 1903

My *D* Dear Brother

(a) I got your letter of the 29 of May on the first of August and was glad to hear from you for I was *degging* to think that I wood not hear from you anny more. I was verry sorrey to hear of your health failing you and also of you hurting your arm but I Hoop you ar all right.

(b) Dear Brother I am at the Gum Digging and I dont avarage 2 shillings a week. It is no good. If there is one man making Wagges there is 20 barrley making tucker and onley for the pension I wood bee verry badley of. Now when I am not Digging Gum I am mending and Wassing my Cloth[e]s and getting Fire wood.

(c) Dear Brother I have your likness and Elizas that was taken in G Wilsons Artist Hill St Newry and also my mothers Likkness and your Oldest Childd that was taken in Turnbull and Sons in Belfast in Novemb 1883 and also Williams Likkness and a Prayer Book that he Give mee. I have a letter that you wroot at Bessbrook and a Hankechift that I took from you at Te Aroha when I went up to see you.

(d) Dear Brother William never writes to mee But I heard he was in Auckland. He dos not Reconise mee as a Brother. Now when you get this write and [?R] let mee know. Dear Brother I Dremt one night about 6 months ago that I saw my mother standing in the Wharrie and I tho[ugh]t that shee looked verry sorefull [*sorrowful*] and I awooke [*erased:* s] asking her what was the matter mother.

(e) Dear Brother I Hoop this will find you in good health as it leaves mee at present. Wife and family also Eliza and her family. Writte soon and let mee know if William is in Auckland. With kind Remberanc to all inquiring friends. May the Almighty God bless you.

I Remain your looving Brother

Patrick Quinn

(Qu 2)

Auckland 13 August 1905

Dear brother

(a) Your letter of the 6 July came to hand all wright. I was verry glad to hear from you and to see by it that you are well.

(b) I have been living in auckland for the last 20 monthes. I am not able to do any work as my Leg is still bad. I had to lave australia as it was too hot for my Leg. The Doctors said I had better go to a colder country.

(c) What is John address. Is he still living in the same place. I am very sorry he is getting bad health. Do you live far from Dargaville. I might come and see you if my Leg gets better. I supose you make very good wages Gum Digging. I seen Sunney boy and paddy monnahon in Town. They were asking about you. I had som Land in Taranaki but I sold it as the place was too cold for me. Hoping you are getting good health.

I remain your affection brother

W. C. Quinn

[*erased*: address c/o Mrs J Smith Graham Street city auckland

address c/o Mrs J. Smith Graham

address Mrs J Smith Graham Street auckland]

address

c/o Mrs. J. Smith

Graham Street

auckland

[In Patrick's hand:]

(e) I wrot to this addrss and got no answer.

Thos ar too mats [*two mates*] I used to woork with.

(Qu 3)

Northern Wairoa

Dargavill[e]

Auckland

New Zealand

January 29th 1906

Dear Brother

(a) I received your very welcom letter on the first of this month. I am very Sorry that your health is not getting better. I have been making inquires adout William. I herd he was in Auckland. I then wrot[e] to him in July of last year. He then wrote to mee in last August Saying he was living in Auckland for this last 20 months and he wanted to know your address or if you Still lived in the Same place and morover he *he* wanted to know how far I lived from Dargaville that he might com and See mee if his leg got better. But he hassent com nor has he answered my letter. I dont know what to think of it.

(b) I was in Dargaville on Saturday the 27 of this month. I meet a man. His name is Mr Mitchelson. He is very well acquented [*acquainted*] with William and I was talking to him. I asked him if Wm was still in Auckland. He told mee he was that he was talking to him last week but that he had Shiftad *Shifted* from the place he was living in and he diddint know his address. But if I wanted to wright to him I could write a letter and leave it in his Office as he was gowing to Auckland next week and woould take it with him and give it to William.

(c) I was very Sorry to hear of James Quinns Death. I am in good health thanks bee to God. I have got Bernards Photo and is very Proud of it. I am very glad to know that Wife and family ar all in good health and also Eliza an her family. I would write to her but dont properly know her address.

(d) Bear Brother I am very thankefull of your kind concideration of Sending mee a Christmas Box. I diddent Expect it for you have a larg family and will want all that you have. I have Caddags [*cabbages*] and Pumpkings and Potatoes growing in the Garden.

(e) Wee had a roman Catholick Priest here a month or 6 weeks befor Christmas the rev Father Maggrah. He is on a Mission. He is from Deerry in the North of Ireland. He was talking to mee and asked mee my name. I told him Patrick Quinn and he asked mee where I Came from. I told him I came from Newry and he told mee that he was there. I went to Confession to him.

(f) I will triy and find out Williams address and send it to you. I have got my nephews letter of the 15 of November. In his first letter he mentioned Soom Pappers. I diddent get them. I will wright to him. Now when you get this mak no delay in writting. I will [*erased: S*] Send you Soom Pappers.

I am your loving Brother Patrick Quinn

God bless you

(Qu 4)

auckland

23th March 1906

My Dear Nephew

(a) I was glad to get a letter from you and to know you are out of your apprentship. I hope you are a good smart trades man. You say you are studding Marine Engineering. If you are a first class man you make good money at it but if you can get a good Job on Land you would be better off. A man is not much good to work on Land after been at sea for a

number of years. I am very sorry to know that your father health is bad but glad to know that all the rest of the famly are well and also your ant Lizzie and your Uncle Sandy. You did not say how menny brothers and sisters you have or their names.

(b) I had a letter from your Uncle pat. He told me he had a letter from you. He is doing very well. He gets 10 shillings per week old age pension. He can live well on it as food is cheap. Thell your father I seen Robert Letty. He was asking about your father. He found out I was in auckland and came to see me. My Leg and foot is still bad. I cannot do any work. I have been to several doctors to see if they could do me any good but they say no as it was not set wright at first. They want me to have it broke and set again but I do not care for that. I walk with a stick but very lame. It always pains me.

(c) I send to your father a draft for one hunderd and ten pounds. It will be in a seperad Envelope to this. £80 for your father £20 for your ant Lizzia £5 for your self £5 for my Neice Jennie. I had a letter from her a short time before leaving [word illegible] kalgoorlia west australia. You must ask her to excuse me for not writting to her. I had a lot of work to do at the time. I was very sorry for not writting to her. Ask your father if he got the £20 I sent him Just before I left kalgoorlia. If he got it let me know when you writte.

(d) I was sorry to hear of James Quinn death. Had he menny of a famly. I may go back to australia after a time and see if I can get any thing done with my Leg as there are better Docters in Melbourne and Sydney than there are in N Zealnad. I have been to the hot Lakes but they done me no good.

(e) Tell your father that Hugh M^cClaver is ded two years and a half ago. He had been bad for a long time. Writte me when you get this and let me know if the Money has been got all wright. Hoping you are in good health also your father and Mother and all the famly. With kind love to all I remain Dear Nephew your affectionate Uncle

W. C. Quinn

address c/o J. B. Sheath Esq
 N. Zealand Insurance Buildings auckland
 New Zealand

(Qu 5)

c/o J. B. Sheath Esq Inshurance buildings
 aucklands New Zealand

29th June 1907

My Dear Brouther

(a) Your letter of May the 2nd pust [*just*] to hand. I was very sorry to hear of your health been so bad. I houpe you have got all wright by this time. Bernard said in his last letter that his Mother had been very ill which I wais very sorry to heair. I hope she has got quite well again.

(b) Bob Jenkins has not been to see pat. I think it better for Bob not to see Pat. He might get drunk and if a old age pentioner is brought up twice before a maestrate [*magistrate*] for drunkness they loose their pention and Pat has been before one for drunkness so he has only another chance left him. It would be a bad thing for him to loose £26 a year. I give Bob Pat address and told him if he went to see him to be sure and see that he got no drink.

(c) I am very sorry that Bernard addresses his letters in such a un bisness like manner. All the letters I got from him were address the same. It might bee the way they address in Ireland but it [*omitted: is*] not so in New Zealand. I expected better from Bernard. I care nothing about myself but it makes very little of Mr Sheath a gentle man of very high standing in auckland. I felt very much a shamed when he handed me Bernard's letter. If I have sent any letters to Bernard that has not been respectfully address I will have to buy his pardon. Pleas tell him to send me no more letters unless he address respectfully. I have no ill feeling to wardes Bernard but its for his owen good and John

you ought to have seen that he was correct in his communic[*a*]tions. Mr Sheath must think the people I communicate with in Ireland must be very much behind the times. I send you part of the Env[*e*]lope to let you see the way the leaden [*leading*] men of auckland address Mr Sheath.

(d) I am very much obledge [*obliged*] to you for the Irish weekly paper. I have been talking to bob about not writting to you. He says he is very sorry that he did not write to you before this. He says he will write to you and Bernard this Mail. He has growing a fine big fellow since he came to New Zealand. He is in constent work and getting good wages. He is working seven miles 7 out of auckland. I do not see him much. Some times he comes in on Saturday. He seems to lake the place. I would like if he had to roofe [*rough*] it a bit more. It would do him good. I had a letter and a paper from Lizzia last mail and she says she had no letter from bob for the last 8 weeks. She wants to know what is the matter with him but she may not trouble her sefe [*erased: about*] for he is all wright. He gets the best of health and seemes to be a very good boy.

With kind love to you all I remain your
affectionate brother

W C. Quinn

The Keane Correspondence, 1886-1921 (1-11)

(Ke 1)

Clashmore

Feb 24th 86

Wednesday

Dear Sister

(a) I should think it time now to drop you a few lines hoping they will find you in good health as this leaves me at present thank God. I promised you I would write in a few days after I wrote my last letter but I didn't succeed in doing so but you must excuse me for not writing as my last letter related to you all I had to say then.

(b) My mother is out of the barrack now. She could not remain there any longer. She is not well since she threw up the blood. She hardly have any appetite at all but now I am asking you to try and assist her for you know very well she needs it and it is time for you to think of her now if you will ever think & I hope you wont be so false hearted as not to do so. I hope Bridget will write and let us know how she is getting on & if she dont tis the most she can do as not.

(c) Dear M. send James his passage at once if you can as he is too willing to go out there for there is no work for him here and it would be a charity for you to send for him & bring him out of this place & write to John and ask him would he like to go out for we dont know what he's going to do at present and it would be better for him if he would do something & go out of this place for you dont know the talk is about him here on account of Kate Doyle. He is a really show amongst the neighbours talking about him. I will tell you all in my next letter when I'll see how things will be getting on but if you havent written to him before now write now at once and ask him what will he do but dont tell him anything about what I told you but ask him will he go for that's all we want to have him go

as he is so foolish as he is. But mind what I said to you not to tell him for we dont know what he'd do then but I know you wont be so foolish as to tell him.

(d) Bridget Connell is getting her passage 1st March. She will be going the 1st of april to America. She was very mad as you did not write to her but now she is going away herself from us and she will send for me in the course of time when you're not thinking of me.

(e) Dear M. I havent as much clothes as would bring me to mass for I couldnt get them & I am asking you to send me something to clothe me as I would go in a situation if I had any clothes to bring me there.

(f) If you are not after writing to B. Connell before now dont think of writing to her now as it would be too late but when you will write next I will send her your address to America & she will write to you from there. Dear M. write to K. Hartnett as soon as you can & tell Bridget to write to her as she would like to hear from her too.

[no continuation]

(Ke 2)

Clashmore

March 8th 86

Dear Sister Mary

(a) I take the first opportunity of writing you a letter from home to a far distant land hoping to find you in good health & strength & getting along with satisfaction not forgetting sister Bridget who have changed her first name far from her home & kit & kindred where with joy both she & you had spent the first hours of your innocent youth but I hope its all for the better. I hope she met with a good husband and also that she & hers are in good Health as the departure of this letter leaves Father & Mother Sisters & Brothers Cousins & My-self in good health Thank God for His kindness to us all.

(b) Dear Sister you spoke about writing so many letters home to Ireland. All the letters ever I read from ye was four two from Bridget & Two from Your-self. Dear Sister in one of ye'r letters ye wanted my Photo but I told sister Kate when she would be writing to tell ye ye would not get it because when ye left ye'r home in Old Ireland I little thought But myself would be the first ye would see.

(c) I mean to let ye know that I am working at youghal with my old Boss & have But dam little by because for some time past I squandered & raked about for many a week & month from place to place through means of ye forgetting us here at home as much as ye did sat me nearly out of my mind but now that I have changed & I am temperate for a long time to come perhaps for life. James & Maurice are joined also. The have a temperance society got up in Clashmore & are getting up a band there at present.

(d) Dear Sister I would wish you to let me know what sort of a country is New Zealand for my trade. If its any way fair I would wish you to send for me & If not you ought to send me a help to send me to America or else to buy tools and work at home but don't put your self out of the way for me. I think If I could see Bridget & you once more I never would part from ye again. It would be the same as a new life to me. I hope you will let me know all particulars in your next letter.

(e) I wish to inform you that Bridget Connell is expecting her passage every day. She have not got it as yet. John is going to be married in America. She is in a hurry to try If she could be out Before his marriage would take place to prevent it.

(f) I have no more to say at present But I send you Father & Mothe[r] Sister & Brothers & my own blessings and also to Bridget. Remember me dearly to her. I must conclude now for the present with due respect from your Fond & beloved Brother

John Keane

Good bye Mary and Good bye Bridget But I hope its not for ever [*drawing of cross & shamrock*].

John Keane

Clashmore

C^o Waterford

Ireland

For Miss Mary Keane

c/o Hon. Brandon

Hobson Street

Wellington

New Zealand

(Ke 3)

Clashmore

June 2nd 86

Wednesday

Dear Sister

(a) We received your welcome letter & was very glad to hear from you. We are glad to hear from you but we are troubled about Bridget untill we know more about her in your next letter as I expect to have in a couple of weeks more if you'll keep to your promise as you said. I hope you'll give us all particulars about her & where her husband is from for there are many heartys around here. We would like to know where he is from. Now dont dissappoint us Mary in telling us all.

(b) Dear M. about Bridget Connell she is gone to America since last Saturday the 29th May & she sailed 30th that was last Sunday at a quarter to twelve oclock. She is on her way to America now. I am very lonely after her. When I saw her going from the station houses I thought my heart would break thinking of ye both when ye were leaving us all.

(c) Mother is not in the better of her leaving. Now her people must live without her & it is hard for them to do so for John never send a cross to them since he went to America

but one 3 pounds so poor B. is gone to try & do for her father & family in a foreign land where I expect to be soon too for I suppose it is no use for me to be depending on ye to do anything for me & indeed it is nearly time for you to think of me now & Mother is left the barrack since before I wrote you the last letter & indeed it is most wanting to us.

(d) John is not getting any money from John Ahearn. We dont get anything from him nor we didnt for the past 12 month. Dont attempt to send him any money for we dont know but it is to settle down here & marry Kate Doyle. He'd do but I beg of you to send for him & take him out of this place for you dont know the way we are with him. He cant spend 1 minute in his own house but up at Doyles. She is My biggest enemy & so are all the Doyles for I cant bear the sight of any of them & my mother is heart broken looking at him always when he'll come out from youghal on Saturday night & wont go in untill Monday or tuesday evening so you ought to know yourself the way we are about him.

(e) Mother & father is satisfied if ye would bring him out with ye & also Jim. He is or asked to go out there but you [*erased: dont*] ought to do something for us now. I will go to America & Ill never again write to you. I'll forget you as my sister if you dont change to something better for now I have a chanse to go if God spares B. Connell to go out & we will bring all our brothers with us & forget you & B. too. Dont attempt to mention anything to John about what I said of him to you for you dont know what he'd do if he'd know it. He might take & marry her at once then in order to vex us as you know that yourself as well as I do.

(f) Kate Hartnett & sister are my biggest enemies also. Every one hate them. They are saying what they can to me & to ye although ye are far away. The answer they made me the other day is that I would go as unlucky as ye that wouldn't send any thing home to yer family that there cry morning & night that is was better ye thought of yer family & that is wasn't nature for ye to think of them ye & that we would all do the same thing to our

father & Mother that reared us but Mary I hope they wont have it to say any more to you & bring John & Jims if as soon as ye can [*erased: soon*].

[*no continuation*]

(Ke 4)

address 59 Priory Road

West Hampstead

London N. W.

Oct 18th 1902

Dear Sister Mary

(a) All the years you have left home you have not written to me. I found a letter from you to Father in his box. Sorry to be the bearer of the sad news. Our Father was buried on the 16th of August last (2 months ago). Maurice & I only were with him. I went across in answer to a letter saying he was not expected to live & truly it gave me a shock to see death on my Father's face. He recognised me immediately I entered the room & the tears streamed down his face. Mossie & I were very lonely indeed. We buried our poor Father in Clashmore Chapel yard "May he rest in peace". We had the largest funeral ever seen in Clashmore & being on Sunday people flocked to his funeral.

(b) Now Mary why dont you write - I am always asking Bridget about you. I am here in my present situation 3 years as lady's maid but when I hear from you I shall explain all matters as I really know very little about you or family. Will you tell me & how many nephews & nieces of mine in your Family. In haste we post. Hoping at last to hear by return.

Your fond sister

Katie.

(Ke 5)

59 Priory Road

West Hampstead

London N. W.

May 12th 1903

My dear Sister

(a) Words in writing fail to express my joy to receive a letter from you after all these years. I could not understand why you never wrote to me & John has often asked for your address. I [*erased: have*] sent it on when I received your letter. I am glad you & husband & family are doing well. I expect a letter from my nephew as you promised also the photos.

(b) I have not yet received our dear Father's photo but as soon as they are finished I shall send one to all my Brothers & sisters. I only wish I had one of our dear Mother's photos for Mary she was certainly very handsome but since we have not a photo we must picture her dear old good face in our memories & pray for our parents. You will have the photos in (at least) another fortnight from now & Mary please don't send a black edged envelope for it brings the death of Father back afresh & he expressed a wish that we were not to grieve but to pray for him. He took both hands in his. Mossie and I were the only two he said was left to see the last of him but that he left his blessing to all his children. So his last words Mary was a blessing and oh how Mossie and I bore up is only known to us ourselves. He was very happy & glad to die for he suffered great pain from kidney disease only 3 months ailing. His death was a shock to us & now thankful I am to have seen the last of him. He is buried in the Chapel yard in Clashmore. He had a bigger funeral than any Keane ever had.

(c) I suppose you are aware of the death of grandfather & relating to his will also of Lizzie Keane (M^{rs} Fuges) & also James Keane Father's aunt & uncle. They are buried in

the churchyards at Ferry Point & theres no more room in the family vault & we asked Father to be buried in Clashmore (as you are aware we loathe any Keane except Fathers uncle James & his children. The eldest son Henry is a solicitor & in very good practise in the City of Waterford) and Father said he was happy to be buried where he wished. We could not be shown greater respect if we had 2 thousand a year for rich & poor flocked to our Fathers funeral. People marvelled at the funeral. It was about 2 miles in length.

(d) When I go to Clashmore I am going to place an everlasting wreath on Father's grave & also on Mother's in Dungarvan churchyard. Mother is buried with her own people (the Currans) & the grave is just opposite the home where she was born. I've been there & it is the biggest farmhouse in the old parish. I am going if possible to get a photo of the graves of Father & Mothers when I am home for I don't expect I shall ever visit only once more. I intend going to John next spring please God. I could not afford to go to New Zealand as we spent a lot (Mossie and I) at Father's funeral. I think John will go to the colonies as soon as his children are able to do for themsilves. The eldest boy has graduated from school.

(e) John took Father's death terribly to heart but as I told him he must not grieve. It was Father's wish that we were not to grieve but Mary we cannot help being sad for now we are indeed orphans & poor John being a widower he must feel it doubly hard.

(f) Now dear sister I must finish this scribble. Will write & tell you more news in a week's time & do answer this. I am anxiously looking forward to those promised photos. Trusting this will find you & husband & my nephews & nieces in the best of health & spirits & Believe me to remain

Your loving sister

Katie

(Ke 6)

[circa December 1903]

15 Hanover Terrace

Regents Park

London N. W.

My dear Sister Mary

(a) Why is it I have not heard from you. I have written 2 letters & have had no reply. Have you received our dear Father's photo. Do let me know & I also have sent Bridget a photo. This is to wish you & husband & children a very very happy Xmas & a merry new year & with love to all. I am anxiously looking for a letter from you every week & trusting to have good news from all.

Your loving sister

Katie

(b) P. S.

I do not know how long M^{rs} Gordon may remain on here, as she may go abroad in January So I have given you M^{rs} Jones's address. She is my greatest friend here. I may go & live with an old lady as companion in the Summer. I met her in South Wales when I was on my holiday last summer & she took a great fancy to me & now she has written & asked me to go with her & be a daughter to her. Of course it wants a lot of consideration before one decides in undertaking the position. Do write to me very soon. Your loving sister

Katie.

Address your letters to

M^{rs} J. N. Jones,

57, Agate Road,

Hammersmith

London. W.

This is my friend's address

(Ke 7)

5340 Justine St

Dec 18th 1910

Chicago

My Dear Sister

(a) For the first time in 25 years I have taken my pen in hand to speak a few words to you from foreign land to foreign land. Seasons have come & gone & time have flitted away throug[h] gloom & through shadows through sorrows & joys, but, memory never passes aways so I thought I would break the long silence & find out how you are getting on. I hope yourself & your Husband & your Children are getting along well and in good health as this leaves me at present thank God for his Kindness to us all.

(b) Dear Sister I am over 16 years a Widower & am yet & will be I guess for all my life. I raised three children James Maurice & Johanna. James is now 23 years of age. Maurice is 21 & Johanna is 19 respectively but now I have none. Hannah left me seven Months ago & went away & got Married. Then James went away so I had to break up house & go boarding the same as if I never had any child or any home. This is a hard Country to raise children in. As soon as they come of age they have no more use for their Parents a girl 18 years & a boy 21 years. This is the law of the Country.

(c) However Sister I raised them hard and honest & gave them good Education & still kepet my-self in good standing in societies in all Communities. There's no one friend or relative have to bow their head for me. I've always ma[i]ntained the stricted obedience to the laws of Church & of State. I have a good Job and am able to make my own living yet as long as the Lord leaves me the health. I would like to be near some of my own but I guess I cannot enjoy that happiness. Still I am no very old or fe[e]ble yet for all I went through.

(d) Now I guess I aint got much more to say but I wish to tell you that B^t Jim was arround here 2 years ago. He is worse than ever. Will do nothing but drink. He wanted to get money from me & because I would not give it to him he got angry so I told him to go his road. I hav'ent heard of him since. Now I will conclude by wishing yourself & your Husband & your Children a Merry Christmas & a happy New Year.

Good By to all

Your Loving Brother

John. J. Keane

My address

John. J Keane

5340 Justine St

Chicago

Ill

U. S. of America

(Ke 8)

5 Bathurst Gds [*Gardens*]

Kensal Rise

London N. W.

Dec. 1912

My dear Sister Mary

(a) It's years and years since I've heard from you. As you will see I am married & have two bonnie boys. The eldest is just 5 years of age & the youngest 2 years & 7 months. Their [*erased: a*] names are "William M^cDermott" and "James Laurence". Willie is just going to school after the xmas holidays.

(b) Our Brother John wrote & said he had heard from you. I sent him both your & Bridget's address & Maurice is married in U. S of America. Jim I have not heard from but John informed me he paid him a visit.

(c) As I have heaps of news to relate when I hear from you which I hope will be very soon but address to the post office where my husband is as we are thinking of moving from here in a month or two as there are no Catholic schools near. We must go "for the children's sake" where we will be close to a Catholic school. I would not send the children to a county council board school. I think the teaching is no good the manners are dreadful but I will know with the sisters they will be taught everything good both physically & morally. I am very anxious to hear how your children are progressing & what situation are they in.

(d) I expect John explained about his daughter running off & marrying a protestant. Well I have written to him & advised him to forgive her as it is useless to cast her off & hope she will come back to him again. You know Mary how prejudiced the people at home are against any outside R / I Church & yet how many rules the R. I. Church through marriage & John's son-in-law may prove a very good husband. I never argue in religion as my experience is there are good in both sides & some of my best & truest friends are Church of England & should John write to you, just advise him to have Johanna back & forgive her. Our time on earth is but short & why not live in unity & at peace with every body.

(e) Wishing you dear Sister, also your husband & family a very prosperous & happy New Year

Your fond sister

Katie.

Excuse writing. The children want to write also.

(Ke 9)

163, Butler Road

Harrow-on-the-Hill

Middlesex

April 19th 1918

My dearest Sister

(a) This is only a few lines to say I have had 2 letters from Ernie in France. Poor boy lost our address when he was in London. I wrote to record office London & soon got information about Ernie "his address in France & no more". The last letter from Ernie was very bright but he could not understand he had no letters from you at home but I explained letters are anyhow now. Isn't it terrible. When will the world War end.

(b) Fancy Mary dear I have only 2 letters from you in all those years & it is many a time I wish you would write to me. If ever you lose my address Will's office will always find him. He has been at Wimpole St Post Office just 26 years. He is now on the super staff. His address is

W Regan

A. H. P.

Western District Post Office

Wimpole St

London

but as you now have our home address we can always keep up correspondence.

(c) Ernie said auntie's boy from Dunedin was in Campo. I am writing to her this mail & should your other boys join up & come to London they can come straight here from "Baker Street" to West Harrow station. It is only 2 hour by train from Harrow to Baker St London, or they can call on their uncle at the Post Office, Wimpole St, London. I'm afraid Will may have to join up if he should pass. I hope not & I read that New Z are extending

the age. It is strange but when I read of the New Zealanders in the landing of the Dardanelles I said your boys were there. Fancy your eldest boy married. Will you send a photo if you have got any of the children. I have got a post card of the children & you will have one next week mail. I do hope you are better now. I cannot understand your suffering all those years & what caused. Kind regards to Dad & children. Ask the Children to write to me & send their photo.

(d) I am hoping & praying to hear from Ernie & I will send him his cake & cigarettes he asked me for. Excuse writing dear sister. Hope good news next week. Love to you & all.

Your loving sister Katie

Oh if only to see you again & the disappointment not seeing Ernie before he went to France.

(Ke 10)

163 Butler Road

Harrow-on-the-Hill

Middlesex, England

August 20th 1918

My dear Sister

(a) Words fail to express [*erased: the*] my joy to receive your letter this morning & as the mail goes out this eve' I must reply, if only a short note. I had a letter from dear Ernie last Monday - ½ a sheet torn off by the censor - saying he had not heard from me or got the cigarettes I sent him. My son Willie wrote a week after I had written but he had not received my 2 letters yet he had Willie's letter. I am writing him this week. I do hope he is spared to come home to you & his dear Father Brothers & sisters. I had his photo & what a lovely boy dont you think. My second boy Jim is like your Ernie. Every body here who has seen your Ernie's photo says Jim is exactly like his cousin Ernie. How I am

looking forward so anxiously to seeing my dear nephews. What happiness to behold them & rest assured they will be quite at home with me.

(b) Many an anxious hour I have when I read the news papers. I see the New Zealanders are well in the firing line. I hope & trust dear Ernie will come through alright. I am writing to him this evening. I am also writing to Bridget as I had a letter from her same day as I had yours. She is heartbroken. It is a shame to think this war should be prolonged & homes made desolate poor parents & wives sorrowing. May God in his mercy end it soon & our dear ones safe for I feel for you just as if my very own boys were in the war. Thank God they are too young.

(c) Ask your boys & girls to write to me & I would be glad to receive the photos of all. Fancy your eldest boy married & 2 children. Do send their photos & him & wife's & Mary have you a photo taken for I should prize one. I have one of Bridget taken when she first went to New Zealand & a photo taken with her husband & children when John was a little one. He resembles his mother but I have not a single photo of you Mary. If you have an old photo do send me one just to remember you as I used to in the old days & one taken with the children. I am having some taken & will send you one. I am altered & if it is our good fortune to have my dear nephews Ernie & John here we will all get taken to-gether & send you one.

(d) Re poor dear Ireland but America will see our dear native land righted yet & I hope New Zealand will have Home Rule as Australia has when this War is over. Were they to treat Ireland fair, every man would be [*omitted: in*] the army & fight for freedom but coercion will never get the Irish under subjection. I could say more but it would not be wise. One thing I can say our family have given to this War.

(e) I have not heard from John for some time. I expect both his sons are in the American army. He had 2 sons & 1 daughter. Names are James, Maurice & Johanna. His daughter is married & John did not like the marriage as the man was not a R. Catholic but I

wrote to him & asked him to take her & husband back & I had a reply to say he had them living with him. That was the last letter I had from him. I am now writing again & I hope I will have a reply when I will send him your address. I will send you a long letter next week's mail. Did you get the children's photo.

Your loving sister Katie.

Good night & god spare Ernie to you.

(Ke 11)

163, Butler Road

Harrow-on-the-Hill

Middlesex

July 22nd 1921

My dear Sister Mary

(a) I cannot understand not hearing from any of you or Bridget's family. I hope all are well & my Ernie has forgotten his old Auntie but I have not forgotten him. I would like to have a letter from New Zealand. Dad & the boys are well & I am better now but I have been bad with Rheumatism. I was bad when the boys were here but I would not for the world let them see. I have missed them more than I can say. I wonder if I will ever see them again.

(b) Willie is going great at school & top in his form for German and French languages also science & surveying & algebra, Etc. The Headmaster sent a splendid report & said Willie was a brilliant scholar & should do well in life. Now Jim has passed the entrance exam to Willie's school. Of course you know Willie won a scholarship so his education is free, but we are paying 3½ guineas a term for Jim. John is a terror. Tell Ernie they well tutored John his language. I can tell you is strong. Ernie can tell you what he can say. John will be 7 years on the 5 of next month (August). He has not been to school

yet. He has had a fall & the D^r said he had better not go to school until 7 years, but he seems another Willie. Can spell & read & count.

(c) I heard from poor John's daughter Johanna. She says she has not heard from one of her aunties. Do write to her Mary. I dont think her mother's side are too good to her as when she married her Father was poisoned against her by those relatives because she married a protestant but when John told me I wrote back & said he ought to take her husband & live with them & not have religion be the means of severing him from his daughter. So next I heard was he had her back & was devoted to her son Willie who she says is a Keane - a great big boy & strong. She has 3 children living & buried one named John. She says she has no friends in her mother's relations. I wish she was near.

(d) Bid Connell still lives & her family are grown up & married - some of them. Ned's son was killed in France with the American Army & John Connell's son I heard also. Maggie has no family & Tom is still in Clashmore. The rest emigrated when their Father died & the old home is no more. Johnny Curran their own Cousin converted it into a dog kennel/ & bought the land. It is a disgrace the treatment of the Irish people & I expect our poor Mother's grave in Dungarvan is desecrated. I tell you some of Mother's relatives have suffered & they were innocent & poor.

(e) Pilltown has suffered & up the Blackwater. They are now being shamed into trying a settlement - but believe me it is a black spot in the History of England & all through the Orangemen. Our Cousin Tom says he had a nice business & doing well in the motor line. The Sinn Feiners took some of his petrol from his garage & set fire to the police Barrack. He says it is an old ruin now & Patrick St Cork is in ruins by the Black & Tans. They are our dandy officers in the late war. I am waiting to hear from Tom for some news as I want to take the boys home to Ireland next year if there is peace on the land. Every country is against this owing to The Government but every body but the enemies are for a speedy settlement.

(f) I will write to Ernie next week & I have a nice little gold charm for Wallie's girl. I have little Eric's photo - bagged it from Ernie & I could at once recall your face Mary as I knew you at home, the same expression. I could write on but this may not reach you & I am getting Willie & Jim ready for a holiday on a Farm in Buckingham. Willie has grown a great boy taller far than myself now & Jim is getting on too & fights any boy a year or two older. Willie is quiet.

(g) The weather has parched everything up. No rain for months & worse in Ireland. The Black & Tans have burned the Farms & Creameries as reprisals on Sinn Feinn. So we are all making a mess of things but hope for brighter days.

(h) Give my love to husband Rose, Violet, Walter & family Bert & family & my boy Ernie & the same to your self dear Sister. Do write to me. Willie & Jim say "off to New Zealand when we leave school to our very own Cousins." They are always speaking of our Jack & Ernie & Ernie & Jack & John says "I wonder if I will see those buggers Jack & Ern but I will go in a ship to them." Good night all.

Your loving Sister

Katie.

The Lambert Correspondence, 1877-1925 (1-6)

(La 1)

Auckland

January 16th 1877

My dear Sister

(a) I write these few lines to you hoping they will find you in good health as this leaves us at present thank God for it. My husband and children is in good health. As for myself I am as well as I can look for at present.

(b) But I dare say you have all forgotton me before now But if you thought half as much of me as I do about you you would have wrote Before now to know if I were dead or alive. But I have Been an outcaste from you all But I forgive him that was the cause of it all as my father ought to have forgiven me. But do not think dear sister that I never thought of you all.

(c) It is now sixteen years since I left my home. This is a good country But I have had many ups and downs since that time But thank God that we are all alive. My poor father is [*erased: I*] dead I know for I have Been dreaming about him so much. I Broke his heart But I hope he forgave me before he died. See all my sisters and tell them how glad I would Be to hear one word from any of them. I hope they are all [*erased: well*] alive and well. Rember me to all friends.

(d) My oldest daughters are *are* all married and doing well. I have three fine sons and one little Girl. My husband is verry kind to me and keeps me well and the Girls are verry kind to me thank God for it. But I have enough to do with. I would like to see some of my sisters out here But if they are doing any way [*erased: wel*] well at home they had Better stay there for this is not much of a place unless you have plenty of money.

(e) I will not say much at present but good Bye and God Bless you all. Send me all the news you can. Please answer this letter or it may Be a long time till you get one again from me. Dear sister how glad I would Be to [*word illegible*] you all again.

[*no continuation*]

(La 2)

Belfast august 13th 1877

My Dear Sister and Brother

(a) I embrace the earliest opportunity of answering your kind words which I received from sister Susan. I can assure you when we got the letter we need scarce tell you how we felt. We did not sleep much that night. Margt was altogether delighted to think you are still alive and she hopes you will be kind enough and send us the Picture of your husband & family an yoarself also as it would give us great consolation to have it to look at when we would think long.

(b) Dear sister the are all married. Only Margt and me and my father is living with Margt and he is is got very old and frail and Dear sister I cannot explain to you the joy & grief he experienced when he heard from you. He says he will die contented since he knows yoa are still alive. He wishes to be remembered to your husband in the kindest manner and Mary is marr[*i*]ed and has a small family and lives convenient to us. As for myself I have been very Poorly this month while as I think the Mill does not agree with me but I must Persevere on my fathers account.

(c) I must draw to a close By sending my kind Love to your husband and family & Margt & Mary join with me also in the kind[*e*]st manner you can Imagine. I remain your loving sister Isabella Mancee.

(La 3)

[undated fragment circa 1876-80]

My Dear sister

(a) I must tell you that I have a nother son. I will send my liking and the baby by the next mail and you will say that I am Geetting a old woman now. I wish that you would send me my [erased: proper birday as I have] proper birthday dear sister.

(b) Give my kind love to all my sisters and there family and except the same your self and family. Tell John that I will se you all again plase God. The children send there love to all there friends and father says he hopes you wil think of me and [?anser] this. Plase send me all the ness that you can. Let me know where the are and tell [erased: me were the] me what the are doing. Dear sister kiss all the children for me and my brother also. I must [erased: illegible] close With

God bless you all

God by and

remember

me your loven sister

to deth.

Plase rite to the

Generel post office

auckland new zealand

[end of page torn]

Mrs Agness Lambert

General post office auckland

newzealand this is my address

(La 4)

1890

Auckland

August the 30

My Dear sister

(a) I sit Down to rite fue lines to you after a long *tine* thinking about it. But I hope the will find you all well as this leave us all at present thank be to God for it for with out him we can Do nothing. I an always thinking about you all the sane. My Dear sister I am very lonely. How I woud like some of you out here with me But I Dere say none of you woud come here. You are all to tighter and I am forgotten so I must live and Die alone. I sepose you are all married and Doing well. I am not Doing verry well at present as I am Doing nothing now as Bisonus is very Bad and I have lost a Deal of *noney*.

(b) My children is all groin Big and my girls is all married and has a large family. Some of them live near me. I have only three Boys to loke after. One is at work and the other two is at [s]chool and is gotten *one* very well. The would like to see some of there cousins. The are alyes toaking [*always talking*] about them and wishing the coud go home to se them. The youngest is a fine Boy and he is a cumfert to me but I hope we will se you all son as I am think of caoming home soun as I can and bringin the three Boys with me. One of them is laid up at presenp. He hurted him self comming of the Boat when he was *coning* home from his work as he has to go five mils to his work every morning across the water to his work every Day. But the Docter says he will get all rite soun.

(c) I have left town and gon to the north shore across the water. My helth is a little better since I went. It is a Deal of expece to me but I was [*erased: a*] losing a Deal of *momey* in town. There is a deal of trouble here at present on account of this strecks and those unions. My Boys is there oun Masters but have a deal of trouble as there men is out on strick and the have to Do the work them selfs. It is making things Deer. Pototes is ten

shillins for [*erased: half*] a hundred and flour is ten shilins for a fifty pounds Beg and those is thing we use a Deal of. Suyyer [*sugar*] sixpece a pound.

(d) Let me know how things is at home and tell me all about my sistars and Brothers and there familys and what the ar doing. One of my suns has been away for to [*two*] years and he said he woud go home to se all you befor he ward come home again. I hope he has doon wat he said. I wuill send my fotou next time I rite. Send me yours and let me se it agin. Send me all the news that you can. Rite soon as I will be watching for a ancer from you. No more at present from a loving sister to Death

agness Lambert

(e) Now my Dear sister I must close my letter as the mail is Going away. Do rite to me and let me know all the ness you can. My kind love to all kinds frens and except the same your self from a lovin sister unto Death

Mrs agnes Lambert

addres your letter to

Mrs agness Lambert

North shore

Devonport

Auckland

New Zeland

(La 5)

[1924]

A. E. Lambert

My address

c/o M^{rs}. H. Rendall

2 Stuart Street

Ponsonby

Auckland

New Zealand.

To my dear sister Sussan,

(a) After so many years Absens here I am writing a few lines just to see how your are & also all of relitions & I am longing to have a letter from you or yours or any of my relitions & please let me know who is alive & those that are dead. Will you please answer this some one of you & then I will write you a long letter after I receive it. This leaves me fairly well at present. Trusting this finds you all well also. With love from your loving sister

A. E Lambert

Please do answer this. Love to all my people Agnes.

(La 6)

[1925]

5 Alma Road,

Gonville,

Wanganui.

My dear *neice* Alice,

(a) A few lines to thank you for your most kind and welcome letter and need I say how pleased I was to hear from you. I was very grieved to know all my sisters have passed

away and I am the only one left. I am eighty three years of age and have reared a family of six all of whom are alive except two. Johnnie died nine years ago - he was the youngest and Richard died on the 16th of December of last year from after affects of wounds received at the war. I have only one daughter Agnes with whom I am now living and she has a family of seven. My husband died forty six years ago so I have been left to rear the family myself.

(b) It was rather strange your thinking of me just before receiving my letter. I was very sorry to hear of the trouble you have had. I have been very ill myself a couple of times but am keeping fairly well at present and hope you are all well. I have nineteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. It was very sad your son losing his wife and it must have been a great loss to him but it is nice that you are all living together. My daughter's husband is also a carpenter.

(c) It would have been very nice for your son to come out to New Zealand but I suppose you would have missed him awfully. I am sending you a few small photos of the boys - they are not very good but I hope to send you some better ones next mail, also some photos of Agnes myself and her children. We were delighted to receive your letter and were greatly excited. I do hope we will be able to correspond regularly now. I will be glad to receive a photo of you all if you care to send one and will be looking forward to receiving it. I will be sending you some views of New Zealand next mail.

(d) I would love to go back to Ireland now but of course it is impossible. I was leaving for Ireland some years ago - had my passage booked and luggage aboard but at the last minute had my things taken off and came ashore but now I wish I had gone after all.

(e) It was very kind of my grand nephew to write and I hope your eyesight is much improved. I will write to him next mail and will you let me know his name also those of his children. I would love to be able to see you all. Agnes is my only daughter. She is fifty three years of age has a nice family, three of the girls married and the eldest is thirty

five years of age and the youngest is a boy - he will be seventeen in July. My sons names are James, Frank, Richard, William John and George and they are all married and have reared their families. Jim the oldest is sixty four years of age and one of his sons was killed at the war. I thought I would have been able to send a photo of myself this mail but I will send it next mail for certain.

(f) I must close now as I want to catch the mail so hoping to hear from you again next mail and that you are all well. Also fondest love from myself and family to you all, I remain,

Your affectionate aunt,

Agnes Lambert

My address c/o Mrs. Edw. Wyllie,

5 Alma Road, Gonville,

Wanganui, New Zealand.

The McSparron Correspondence, 1860-1882 (1-7)

(Sp 1)

Geelong February the 4th 1860

Dear parents

(a) I take the opportunity to send these few lines to let you know that we have arrived here in safety thank god for his mercies. We landed at sandridge on the 24th of january which is about two miles from Melbourne. We could have got plenty of work in Melbourne but we went to geelong as William was anxious to find Doherty.

(b) Our disaster in the mersey is I suppose well enough known to you at the time so I will not mention it here. We left liverpool on the ninth of November. The tug boat towed us opposite to the shore of Cork where she was nearly run down by our vessel as she could not leave the way the weather was rather stormy. For the first day or two we passed two vessels that had been wrecked. One of them was laden with timber which prevented her from sinking. The bulwarks and one of the masts was carried away and most of her yards also. She was floating about and the waves was going over her. The hands was brought to Liverpool eight days before we left. The other was damagid a good deal but she was sailing still although it was badly. We had several of the sails torn to pieces at different times but no damage done otherwise.

(c) We cross the lines on the first of December so you may guess that we were going at no slow rate. We generally sailed at from nine to eighteen nauts per hour except in a calm. We got on very well to the 22nd of December when a heavy thunder storm came on. Our vessel was struck by lightning. It fractured the main mast and ran down a chain to the coppering of the bulwarks. It tore it up in some places and melted it in others and made its way out through the bulwarks into the water. It passed between one of the sailors legs that was on his watch on the forecastle but done him little harm. If a thousand cannon had been fired in one volley it would not have been so loud as the roar it made when it struck

the water. It might have done more damage but the passengers was in bed. The has not got up. The ship was completely wet or it might have set her on fire. We had no other damage to the end of the voyage which was seventy days except some of the sails torn by squalls. The passage in generall was fine with some exceptions [*erased: we*] of as stormy day or so.

(d) We landed in geelong on the twenty fourth of january in the evening. Late the next morning I went to see my uncle William intending to go to the country the next day but Uncle William would not let me go to I would get something in town and I have been with him since. I could have got work two or three times but he would not let me take it for he said this would not suit me. He has been very kind to me. His mistress was uncommon kind to me. The are both in good health as also the children. The have three fine little girls Martha catherine and Mary by name. I expect to begin work in a day or two. William and Denis begun work the next day after we landed. We have all had the best of health since we left home with the exception of one while of a day. I was not the least sick. I could live on sea during my life is not the dreadful place that I heard it was. I like it very well.

(e) The wages in this place is married couples without families about £60 per year Married couples with families difficult to find employment. Single girls from £20 to £35 pounds per year and it is very easy to find employment as the girls is scarce. £1 per week is generally the pay for a labourer some thirty shillings some £2 pounds found eight shillings per day and find them selves. Blacksmiths will get nearly any wages the ask. There was men come to our ship and when she was so near the wharf that the could call if any of them was on board and the took them all away with them. Flour is two guineas per bag beef & mutton 6^D per pound and other things I could not tell what the are.

(f) When you write let me know how johny is and if he is with Hamilton yet. Let me know how susan Treasy is getting along and John Lynch. I did not mind to call with

them with the bustle in coming away and pat Coll. Give my best respects to all my old neighbours. Give my love to all the Eakins and John Thonson of Killinaught and his family uncle Joseph and Family Jane Miller and family and let me know how she is doing.

(g) I will send no word of encouragement or discouragement to any one at present as I know little of this country but the next time I write I will be able to tell you more of how things goes on here. When you write Direct to William Oliver York Street near the Crown hotel Ashby geelong Australia. No more at present but remains your affectionate son Oliver McSparron. My paper is done or I would write.

(Sp 2)

Dunedin Nov 18th 65

Dear father

(a) I take the *the* present oportunity of writing you these few lines to lets you know that I am in good health at pres[e]nt thank god. Hoping that this will reach you all in the enjoyment of the same blessing.

(b) I am doing nothing at present as I have sold my team of five horses and waggon for £200 a few days ago. I have not made up my mind as yet as to what I shall do next. The last time I wrote to you I was intending to be home in six months after but I did not realise my expectations.

(c) I hope that all my friends and relations are all well and give them all my kindest love. The mail is closing so I have not time to write any more. Your affectionate son

Oliver M^cSparron

Address

Oliver M^cSparron

Tokomairi[ri]

Otago

New Zealand

(d) I had a long letter to write but I have been taken short by the post. Always single yet. I will write by next mail.

Write so soon as [this] comes to hand and let me know all pa[r]ticulars. O. M^cS.

(Sp 3)

[postmarked London 28 AP 68]

[letter is torn throughout]

Waiwera ... [1868]

Dear Father

(a) I write at present to let you know that I am in good health at present. Hoping that this will reach you in the enjoyment of good health as this leaves me at present.

(b) I recieved your *your* letter wishing me to go home a short time since but I could not get time to write for the first mail. As regar[ds] me going home it is a thing I cannot bring my mind to willingly as I am in a country that pleases me and I [can] do much better here ... however I have ... I am engaged at present [?and it] will be too late in the season to go home when my engagement is up. But I expect to go home in the course of next summer if it should be only for a few mon[ths] ... you are all Getting along. I will write soon again and give fuller particulars as I am short of time at present.

(c) I had a letter from Rachel enclosing her likeness and I assure you I was a little surprised when I opened it as I could not make out who it was untill I looked at the letter and I assure you I did not think I had so good looking a sister as she appears to be. I will write her by next mail if I am well. I had written before but I missed the mail and she ... me her proper ... cousins Eakin ... have forgotten me as I have not had a letter from any of them for a long time. Give my love to all my friends and relations and excuse haste. No more at pr[e]sent but remains your *your* affectionate son

Oliver M^cSparron.

ad[dress] Oliver M^cSparron

care David Ballingall

Waiwera

Kaikuku

Otago New Zealand

Write as soon as this comes to hand as I may be going further up country. OM^cS.

(Sp 4)

[*postmarked Lawrence MY 27 69*]

Tuapeka May 26th 1869

Dear Father

(a) I write at present to let you know that I am in good health at present thank God. Hoping that this will reach you all in the full enjoyment of good health as this leaves me at present.

(b) I have left the part that I was in *fefore* and am now on the diggings. I have always[s] had a great wish to try my luck at the gold digging and I am determined to try my luck at last. I have been roving about the country pretty much this last few years and I am thinking I am not done with it yet but I will satisfy myself with it before I stop.

(c) I had a great notion of going home this some time back but I could not bring my mind to it as I think I could not stop if I went home. I could not content my self for any length of time to I would be off again but I will see in the course of a year what I might do.

(d) I expect Wm Litt[le] will be home before this time. He was to start at the new year. I had a letter from him dated Ahoura 12th August 68 which I recieved in the end of February 69 six months after it was written and I ought to have had it in about six days. He said it was the third he had sent me but I have never got them and indeed I have not even had a letter from Uncle William Oliver for better than a year although I have written him four times and I cannot understand it at all.

(e) I have nothing of importance to write at present but next time I write I will be telling you about turning up the Gold by the Hundredweight or perhaps by the ton but whether little or much I will be satisfied with it as all is not gold that glitters.

(f) I would have written sooner but I got my hand crushed with a dray so that I was not able to do scarcely any thing for some time but it is quite well again. I have always excellent health for which I may be very thankful to the giver of every good gift for it is one of the greatest blessings a person can enjoy.

(g) Remember me to mother and tell her I expect to see her again. My love to sisters and Friends and relations. No more at present but remains your affectionate son

Oliver M^cSparron

address Lawrence

Tuapeka

Otago

New Zealand

(Sp 5)

[circa 1870s]

Maheno Oct 27th *[page torn]*

Dear Father

(a) I write at present to let you know that I am in good health at present thank God for it as I have always had the best of health since I came to the colonies. I have been Rambling all over New Zealand since I wrote last From Tuapeka. I have written several times to the post Office there and sent verbal messages as well and never recieved an answer to the last letters I sent Home and I am anxious to Hare from Home once again as I am kind of settled in a district where I have expectation of stopping for a year or two.

(b) I have had a trial at all kin[d]s of Business in N. Z. and have got a lot of Horses and drays and am at government contracts at the present time. It pays very well.

(c) I would like to Have particulars of all friends and relations. As I have only a few minutes to write before the mail closes I cannot give you any more particulars at present. I remain your

affectionate son

Oliver M^cSparron

address

Oliver M^cSparron

Herbert

Otepopo

Otago New Zealand

I will write by next mail if all is well.

O M^cSparron.

(Sp 6)

c/- Mr B Perry

Swan Hotel

Oamaru May 16th 1880

Otago

N Z

Dear Father

(a) I write at present to inform you that I am well at present. I was not a little surprised to see an advertisement in the otago witness for me to go home as you were quite alone but I heard nothing of it [*omitted: until*] a few months ago from Harry Hunter but I have not seen him since. You need not expect to see me home before twelve months as there is money owing to me that I cannot get at present and it will not do to leave it.

(b) There is very hard times here at present for everydody. Oats sells at 8^d to one shilling per bushel of 40^{lbs} wheat at 3^s.3^d per bushel of 60^{lbs}. General farm servants get

from 10^s to 15^s and 20^s per week and scarcely any work to be got at that rate. The government are employing men on the railways at 21^s per week and find themselves to keep them from starvation. There is nothing but farmers selling out and insolvencies on all sides.

(c) Write as soon as you get this and let me know how every body and every thing is getting along as it is a long thime since I have had any news. I hoard of Josias M^cSparron but I never seen him although he was within ten miles of me but I did not know at the time and I could never get his address since. I have no more to say at present but remains your affectionate son.

[end of page torn]

(Sp 7)

Maheno Aug 1st 1882

Dear Father

(a) I write this to remind you that when I left home I left twentyfive pounds with you for a certain purpose. You did not put it to that use but wrongfully converted it to your own use. You never even offered to send it to me. I now claim payment of the same wi[t]h ten per cent compound interest added which now amounts to one hundred and seventy six pounds ten shillings sterling £176.10.0.

(b) If the above is not paid per draft on Union Bank of Australasia Oamaru wi[t]hin six months from date I will be forced to adopt other measures for the recovery of the same.

Oliver M^cSparran

c/- Mr B Perry

Swan Hotel Oamaru

Otago NZ

The Gilmer Correspondence, 1886 (1-2)

(Gr 1)

[*In another hand:* answered
answered Sept 13 1886]

Wellington June the 29 1886

Dear William

(a) I received your letter dated May the 3 which I am glad to see by it you are improveing. You never mention about you having settled down and taking to yourself a wife the best thing you could have done if your intentions are to remain in Ireland. As for you going to new south wales is new zealand not large enough for you. I would have thought it was but I suppose really you have not yet decided which will be your lot. But I can imagine all there is do be done on a few acres of Irish soil is not much after all said and done. Would you not have been better here only for your health.

(b) I am just thinking about calling for tenders for enlarging the Royal Oak Hotel. When this note reaches you I hope to be at work. As it was it was not much good to me so I thought I would enlarge. Opera house will be completed about november. James Smith of Te [?are] drapery is building a splendid place. In fact Cuba Street lookes well. I have not been in greymouth this last two months. Should this east and west coast railway start greymouth will be a good place.

(c) When you get this note write and let me know if I am to send you another remittance to Ireland as you have not settled on anything defenite as yet. But my advice would be to you if health better and no encumbrance that Greymouth should suit you well but please yourself. You should be the best judge off those matters. You are now away more than twelve months. The time soon passeth away.

(d) You mention about Robert sending something to his father. I have never seen him since you left and as for Abbie I could do nothing for her. She would not be satisfied

till *till* she would get to Henry as my work was of such a nature there was too much confinement connected with it and went to Henry. I told her when leaving [*omitted*: she] should be careful - I would take her back when I was going to Wellington. Before sending her to Henry I put her in the laundry. Of course I seen at once it was no good that her intention was to do as little as possible. Well that did not trouble me as far as her work was concerned but I found that she did not come out here to work for me. Well I kept her for twelve months and paid her regular every month but no thanks nor no improvement in the girl only dying with laziness and far extravagant as regarding her clothing was something awfull. So she went to Henry and Henry and her only agreed a few weeks so Sam Hill offered her big wages so she went there and I have not heard from her since. I fear there is no good and before her in fact I could not have done more for her. Perhaps strangers might suit her best. At all events let her have a trial of them.

(e) Wife and Edie desire to be remember[*e*]d to you. We will send you one of all our portraits when next we hear from you. Write often and long as we will always be glad to hear from you. James Cornish is full boss in Greymouth but I cannot say how long he may be.

Yours truly

Samuel Gilmer

(Gr 2)

Mullaghanee

Sept 11th 86

Dear Robert

(a) It is a very long time since I had a letter from you. I feel very anxious. I hope you are quite well. I should have written sooner only expecting a letter from you. I didn't even get a news paper for such a long time. I hope I shall get one ere long. I also trust

business is good with you. I wish you would try & come home for a run, & I would return with you.

(b) Ireland is a very miserable place. We have not had more than 2 or 3 dry days at once all this summer. Harvest is ripe & no dry weather to cut it. The potato crop is a failure. Things are looking very bad indeed. If I had only middling health I w^d not stop long in Ireland, altho, I've fair health lately. If I thought my wife could get a situation as teacher, I w^d very soon leave here. I think she intends writing to you, about using your influence in getting her a school. She is a qualified teacher. She served full time at the Dublin Training School. There is no female teacher wanted at Mullaghaneer school or she would get it. M^r M^cCully told us so. He is the Manager of it. Alex M^cLeod is the schoolmaster. He is only a third class teacher. He w^d not get it only for his Father taught so long.

(c) The old man is as fresh as he looked years ago. He desires to be remembered to you. Anne is yet unmarried. All your enquiring friends &, neighbours are quite well. R. Dowdall W. Faning O. Rice P. Armstrong & family. James Armstrong is still a gager. He is a great lecturer, altho, nearly an athiest. I don't know J. Hughes's address. Moses Woods is still living in America. I hear Abbie is married to Sam Hill, late Sarah Strong's husband. She gave Sam & Mary an awful name also Henry & wife. Is Bob still with Henry, or how is he doing. He never wrote me a line, & all I did for him.

(d) So Hamilton has purchased the Empire Hotel. He is going ahead properly. I hope all my brothers & their wives & families are quite well. I had a letter from Sam lately. He intends making some improvements on the Royal Oak. I was very glad to hear of him doing so well; he advises me to go out again & live in Greymouth. I w^d be only too glad to accept his offer, only I don't know how to manage being married. However I'll have to try something else than farming in Ireland, working & spending money for nothing.

(e) Uncle Tommy is still alive. I've helped them to the amount of £12.10.0 twelve pounds ten shillings. I don't suppose Johnnie will ever do anything for them. They are expecting something from him. Johnnie Gilmer never sent me that small amount yet, after him promising to you he w^d. Only I assisted them here they w^d be turned out. Old Tommy is a surprising man of his years. Thomas has got very old looking, for J. George is as white in the hair as his father. He is a great Landleaguer, & they stick well to him.

(f) My luck in farming has not been very good as yet. I lost 3 pigs with disease & a good horse took founder & don't seem to get better. I think his feet will get like old [erased: Dans] Dan long ago. I suppose you remember him. Hans Hamilton desires to be remembered to you. He was at our place today. He is a very decent sort of chap, comes to see me regular.

(g) Owen M^cArdle writes home giving very glowing reports of how he is doing, & tells them that any money they want he can get it for them. James M^cArdle & Paddy can't agree at all. James is a right scoundrel; he gave a very bad acct. of you all after he came home. But when I heard it I very soon told them what he was, & how his partner told me that he robbed him, which he did. Patt his brother is a very decent fellow & well liked by poor & rich. James said it was no wonder James Gilmer wronged them for that Sam Gilmer wronged him & swore lies, but, if I heard the brat I w^d make mince meat of him. In conclusion w^d you advise me sell & go back again. Write soon like Good fellow -

Your aff Brother

W^m Gilmer

Letters of Orphans and Widows

The McClelland Correspondence, 1840-1 (1-2)

(Cd 1)

Dunronan October the 1st 1840

My dear Daughter Ann,

(a) It is with pleasure that I embrace this I trust favourable opportunity of letting you know that after a length of time of the deepest heartfelt sorrow and distress of mind & bodey that it is possible for one of my age & constitution to bear. I suffered after you went away grieving night & day about you. I hoped that you would have perhaps ruid & changed your mind when you would goe to Liverpool but alas to my sorrow you went on leaving me to grieve your absence. But tha[n]ks be to God whose promeses niver fail to them who put their trust in him when earthly cumfort failed. I looked to him and lo he cumforted me, & cheered me & restored the bodey also that I am now so strong In bodey & enterprising in spirit (big with the hope that we will yet once more meet on earth) that if you see the place would answer me that I would readily & fearlessly undertake to goe to you but if the place dont answer me I can live at home & you might yet come to see me in your native land but the will of the Lord be done.

(b) I am well & every thing is as usual with us when you went away. As soon as possible write to me every thing about you both by sea and land how you are fixt and if you met with friends since you left me. Oh I have a vast enquirerees to make but your own good sence will direct you to write as fully & satisfactorily to us all as you can. You know all our states. You know mostly what would answer your different friends here. Be wise when you write. Do not forget to write the same back that was written & left with me as a sign that I may be sure that it is my very dear daughter Ann that is the writer.

(c) Sister Mary grieves day & Night & can get no cumfort till she gets an account of how you are and all things connected with you. She & all her Fameley are well and as usual. She sends as also Thos send their kindest love to you. Little Eliza Jane, has not forgot your kindness and Instruct[i]ons to her yet she frequently talks about you & cries.

She remembers you night & morning in her prayers as we do all & hope you will not forget us. Although absent in body yet we may be present in mind and affections at the throne of Grace. Sarah is grieved about you and longs for a letter from you to tell us all about you. She is well. Husband and Family all well and as usual they all join in sending their cordial love & best wishes to you both for time & Eternity - Sister Jane is well and longs most earnestly to hear from you. She sends her love to you with out dissimulation.

(d) Sister Nancey longs greatly to hear from you. She intends to go to you If you give her the least encouragement. She would have went with the bearer of this letter but she wished to wait for a letter from you as she did not know whether you got over safe or not or where she might find you. But if this comes to hand she expects you will delay no time in writing fully & truly all you think and believe about the place as Sister Nancey Brothers Sam^l Dilley & Tho^s Flack would be disposed to go if it was thought to be answerable. Therefore look & enquire minutely into the case both where you and also other places that we may know how to act.

(e) Bro. Jn^o is well and as usual Cousin W^m Wilson & Wife are well & was in great grief about you when you went away. They send their love to you. Also Hugh Devlin & Wife are well & grieved much after you. They send their love to you. There is such a vast catalogue of Friends and wellwishers too tedious to mention Individually. All join their Individual love to you. All hoping to see you yet again.

(f) There is nothing particular has occurred since you went away amongst us or in the neighbourhood. We got no word from either you or your ship mates but one letter written when Eight day out at sea but this was only your outset.

(g) My Dear Daughter Ann I hope you will not neglect your duty to your God who has hitherto been the guide of your life who has blessed preserved and kept you when at home amongst [t] your friends. He will never leave nor forsake them who put their trust in him. He has said if any lack wisdom let him ask of me who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not. You are aware that this is a deceitful world many selfish designing people

who for vareous reasons may put on a Cloak of Dissemulation. You require to be on your guard to be wise as Serpents and harmless as Doves. Still mind the one thing need full be ware of the companey you keep amongst strangers. You I trust are in a strange land amongst strangers but you have not a strange God to come to. He is the Omnipresent God who can raise you up Guardians & Friend if you onley continue to Obey the Voice of the Lord your God he will guide you by his counsel and afterward receive you to Glorey. May God grant it Amen.

(h) The Rev^d. M^r. Campbell was grieved that he did not know when you went for he would have written with you as there is a schoolfellow of his a Clergeyman there John Brown from the Loop is near where you went to. Brother Sam^l Dettey begs to say that if he [*erased: we*] had known or really thought that you would have went away he would have gone to see you & done more for you but he thought still that you would have rued. He has put himself to this trouble to write this & to beg you will not suppose it was want of Love or esteem to you but that he thought you would not goe.

(i) It is reported that that place is a wicked place and little or no clergey or publick worship. Please tell us some of the perticulars of the treatment of the Voyage & how you came on since what you ar doing & where you worship on Sunday. Also the customs and maners of the people the Climate produce trade laws & prospects of this new Coloney.

(j) Our Tho^s Flack hopes you will not forget the little Bible. Make it your constant companion & studey day & Night. It is able through Faith in Christ Jesus to make you wise unto salvation. Therefore meditate in it day and Night.

(k) I add no more but commit you to the god of all Grace praying that agreeable to his promise he may be a Father to the Fatherless the strangers shield and the orphans stay. I remain your Affectionate Mother till Death.

Elizabeth M^cClelland

For Ann M^cClelland

(Cd 2)

[postmarked Magherafelt SE 7 1841]

[one or two words missing from the edges of the last two pages]

Dunronan Deated September 6 1841

My Dear daughter

(a) After a long long times fretting and thinking long about you and wondering whether you were in the land of the living or not or if the sea had become your grave I recived your letter on the sixt of August Which give me and all the rest a great deal of joy to hear that you were well when you rote to us and that *that* you got safely over after so long a pasag and after the apeating dangers of the sea. Yet through all thiese the Lord hath brought you through and for *for* his great goodness to you I hope you and us never shall forget to praise his holy name. We are all in good health^t at present and nothing strange has hapened amongst any of us.

(b) Dear daughter let me know if you are content in your mind or if you be fretting about being home for I would wish you to tell me your mind for I would have more contentment to know how it is with you and if you be not content let me know and we will asist in sending money to fetch you home. But if you like that place and think it anserable I will on your acount be content to let Nancy and Jean Both go to you and strive to be content myself if I know that you are content. So you may think of the feelings of a Mother to you My Dear Daughter when I would let your two sisters go to you to make you hapy for if I thought you happy yourself I would rest satisfied about you. Hoapeing that we shall one day meet in Heaven where we never have to part.

(c) I was verry glad to hear that your mind was cheered in that strange place with religion and that you had found comfort going to hear M^r Eleart and that you had enjoyd peace of mind after the Communion at Easter. And now my Dear Daughter you are in a strange land and far from all own But I beseech you as you have began that good work of

relican to folow on to know the Lord and he will never leave you nor forsake you. And when you have no Earthly friend to speake to you your Heavenly Father if you aply to him will comfort you in all your troubls and this I believe and hope you will. And this gives me a great deal of comfort that you have made it your fixt reselution to serve the Lord and *you* your Bible tells you that he is a friend that sticketh closer than a Brother.

(d) We expect a letter from you twords the Month of May and we intend sending you another in the corse of a month or two and you will surely get some of them. You may rite in the same way to us and we will have a better chance of getting some of yours.

(e) Your sister Mary is well but has thought a great deal of long about you. The children are all well and Elisajean is often talking about you. Your sister saly send her love to you and so does Nancey and Jeane and Like wise your Brother and brother in laws in the kindest manner. Your unkl jonston and aunt send thier kind love to you and your unkl often wished that he might live to hear your letter which gives him much joy to hear of you being well. Cusen Mathew jonston and wife is well and desiers to be remembe[red]. Also James and Thomas and famely is all in good health^h. William Wilson and wife is well. Hugh Devlin and wife also. Brotherinlaw Thomas went over to scotland about 8 days after you went away from us which was a great trial on your sister Mary. She stops at home with myself ever since. Thomas fell in with a good Master and has ernd a great ... and sends plenty home. He was over at january and ... the Month of march and went over again and fell [?in] with the same gentl[e]man and he is intend to [?stay if] heaht permits to New years day and again that ... will have freed twenty pounds.

(f) Dear D[aughter] I would have rote sooner But I did not how ... D erect. Be pleasd when you rite to let me know ... D erect to you. I would not have Known only for ... which was a great deal longer a comeing than you ... I return M^f and Mr^s Hooey and the Reas my kin[d] ... and it is my dutey to pray for thier wellfare ... kind to at your landing and also M^f Camble ... sorry for his truble you may Him know that ... Mother and famely is

well. Your sister Nancy would ... to you if you do not come home. Some speaks badly of ... but if you see that it does not anser let me know ... us make every exertion to have you home once [?more].

(g) We are told that there was no rain in that place ... years and that there is scarcely any houseing or Ma[?terial] ... such as tone and lime but a wild deserted place ... as soon as posabl and let her know whether it be so or ... No more at present But I remain your ... [half a line illegible] with M^r Glasgo and is well would wish that you would come home But if you like the place and thinks it would fit she would be desirous of goeing alongst with Nancy. Rite as soon *as son* as posable and let us know all you can concerning that place if it be srubery or Mountain or what kind of people formerly inhabbited it and if you ever see them. There is Nothing pertiklar but I would wish to know if you had good health [two words indecipherable] and how the [word illegible].

(h) Maria Wilson requests to get riteing a lind.

(i) ... [A]nn i am gld to hear that you got over safe [?and that] you are well. I Expected a lind in yours but ... jonston opened your letter and some lines I think per haps he kept it But give some word or other that [?I may] know whither he kept the linds or not But [?regard]ing what we were talking about shortly before [?you we]nt away I saldom see the person and ... is no more of it and I am sure wont.

Maria Wilson.

The Dwyer Correspondence, 1846 (1)

(Dw 1)

Dromkeen March 22nd 1846

My Dear Cornelious

(a) I had received your letters and also my Dear Margrets Letter, which I had posted an answer to Each. I had posted an answer to your former letter last june. I hope you have received the answer to your letter before now. I am in perfect good health thanks be to our divine redeemer for his kind mercies. Also it is a renewal to my life to hear that you and your dear wife and family are in good health alltogether thanks be to God.

(b) I had received a letter from America a day or two before last Christmas Eve with a Five pound order on the Bank of Limerick. Johnny OBrien came down from new orleans to see his father and mother Brothers and Sisters. He came in great splendour. His wife and two children a French lady married to him and I think it was he that sent the money. He took his Brother patt and his Sister julian with him. They are all in good health.

(c) Michael OBrien & wife lives in the Farm and it seems to me that they are all doing very well. Three of the Daughters are married. Margret OBrien is married to a M^r M^cGan and keeps a Hotell in Montreal. Mary is married to M^caully, and keeps a Grocers shop in Montreal. I forget Norrys Husbands name. Ellen lives with Norry & has a grocers shop also. In their letter to me they say for me never to want during my life that they will always send me relief.

(d) My Dear Daughter I send you an account from your Brothers & Sisters. Johnny Hayes and wife are well and doing well. The whole of Covelish Tenants got their land from the head Landlord at a cheap rate. Your Brother William lives with johnny Hayes & doing for himself. Your Sister Bidy has three children and in good health. There is a letter came from your Brother Thomas Quoney the other day. He is married twelve

months and has two sons at the first Birth. He says he is doing very well and has left off his old folly. He has a house near the Town of new york. There is no Account of john. Tom never see him since they parted in new york.

(e) I want to know my Dear Connor have you a way for making [?prices] for yourselves and My Dear Margret I can never forget her. I often think I see her out of my window & I have her Bowl as a keepsake during the Remainder of my life. I send you all my Blessing my Dear Son & Daughter my Dear Margret, johnny, William Patt Con Peter & james. May God bless you. Let me know in your next letter are the two boys in the Flax mill far from your own place. I have no consolation more than to hear from you which I hope you will never forget to let me hear from you all as often as you can. Let Margret send me the next letter that I may have it at my dying hour.

(f) Johns children are growing very good boys & the two little girls also Bidy Ryan and children are very kind to me. Mary Sally & [?No]rry Paddy sends their love to Margret. Your uncle Richard & Wife are very well and all friends and neighbours are well.

(g) There is a great failure in the Potatoes here in general through the whole kingdom. There was never a finer crop grew and before the digging they got spotted and after piting rotted away to nearly no seed at all for the next season. They are over a pound a Barrill at present.

(h) Ned Molloy and wife are very well and in good health.

No more at present from
your Dearly beloved mother
Hanora Dwyer

(i) Dear Connor I send you and family my best love & affection and Especially to my Daughter Margret. I am going to leave this Country. I sold this place for £80 to W^m Meehan. Yours affectionately. Jer^h Spelman.

The Colgan Correspondence, 1893-1901 (1-8)

(Co 1)

Tonduff

February 25th 1893

My Dear Daughter

(a) I now have much pleasure in answering your kind & welcome letter. Glad to know that you are all well, as this leaves us all enjoying the same blessing Thank God for his great mercies to us all. You must pardon me for not writing sooner, but the reason why, Hector was not well for 2 months. He took weak turns very often, but I got medicine from Doctor Mill so he gets sleeping now & is quite well again Thank God for his goodness to us all.

(b) Charles is getting on well. He is busy ploughing. Indeed he has to work hard on account of him having no help of his own.

(c) My Dear I thought it strange that Zac or James did not write to me before this time to let me know about Johnnie. Your Aunt M^cLaughlin was over seeing Hector about a week ago & she said they had a letter from Rose. I asked her were there any word about Johnnie & she said that he was a great deal better. I was so happy to hear it for I am thinking about him many a time. We must say Gods ways are passed finding out. If its Gods will he can soon leave him all right again & His will be done.

(d) My Dear, there is a young man neighbour to us, Willie M^cAllister they call him. He was in the Asylum for some time & and then his father brought him home. He has lay in bed for 3 years now, never spoke to me, nor ate very little food. So one morning about a week ago, he got up & thanked God that he was got quite well again so he is walking about quite well & taking his food.

(e) I am so glad you are so near Kate, & that baby is quite well. She will be beginning to talk now & will be such nice Company for Kate. I am so glad that your

husband is getting on so well, & has so many men working for him. It done me so much good that he went to see Maggie & stayed a night with her. It was so nice for her, yous being so far from each other.

(f) My Dear Daughter I was so sorry to hear of M^{rs} Blacks 2 children dying on the one day. I am sure Letitia would be a big girl. I trust she has got over her bereavement. Your Aunt & Uncle Black I sent her word about it. They were so sorry to hear it. Willie Calvin is dead about 3 weeks ago. He died with his sister Molly in Scotland. Your Uncle Hugh is living now in Coleraine, Mary is in a shirt factory learning to sew, John is learning to be a carpenter, Willie is working with painters. They are all well.

(g) Charles is glad to know you are getting on so well. He sends his kind love to your Husband yourself & baby. I send my kind love to Zac & James & remember me to Maggie & Husband hoping they are all well. With my best love to yourself baby & Husband from your loving & affectionate Mother

xxx write soon soon

Give my Love to Jonn[*erased: n*]y

(Co 2)

Tonduff

22nd Septem 1894

My Dear Daughter

(a) I would wrote to you before this time but I knew you had a little trouble, as we all have our troubles in this world. I trust you & your husband has got it all settled before this time. I was up in M^{rs} Gambles 3 weeks ago & she was telling me all about it. She said to me not to be troubled about yous. She said you would be as well off as ever & I trust you will. My spent a very happy day with them at Croagh Hill. They showed a great deal of kindness them all to me. M^{rs} Gamble also bestowed me a beautiful gold ring. She said it was on account of your kindness to John on his deathbed.

(b) Your brother Hector is well now. He was but poorly in the winter but he has got over it now Thank God for his mercies to us all. I send my best love to you & your husband & my love to Dear Maggie & Catherine. I hope they are getting on well, as Kate tells me they are fine children. When you write let me know all about them.

(c) Charles is well & has had hard work at the harvest. He is thankful for his good health. We are getting along well. He sends his love to you & husband & the children. He would like you would write him a long letter & let him know how you are getting along. Your friends are all well & wishes to be remembered to you. May the Lord bless you all & keep you on the right path.

(d) My Dear Daughter I am going to write you a few lines out of Luke 11-10. There is everything in our hearts to cast us down and fill us with dejection; and we daily meet with things in the world or the family or the church to make us sorrowful but the gospel brings us glad tidings of great joy. Its sets before us a Saviour and such a Saviour. One who is God and can deliver us. One who is man and will sympathise with us. One who knows by experience what our trials mean and who brings all the resources of God to meet our case so that we may well ask Why art thou cast down O my soul. In his blood there is a full a certain pardon for all sin; in his obedience a righteousness to justify us freely and for ever before God; in his fulness an endless variety of blessings to supply our needs in his promises comfort to cheer us in our most gloomy hours.

From your ever loving mother to death. Write soon.

(e) I send my kind love to M^{rs} Hodge & her son. I hope they are well. I saw her photo & son In her mothers. They are looking well. Good Bye. Write soon.

(Co 3)

Tonduff

October 19th 1897

My Dear Daughter

(a) I received your very welcome letter. Glad to know you are all well, Thank God for his great mercies to us al[l]. This leaves us both in good health.

(b) My Dear I am so glad to know that the children are getting on so well & that Maggie is learning fast & also that Johnnie is so fond of them. I am glad that Johnnie is still with you, the more I would be so glad that he would come home to his own farm for there never was such good crops on it as this year. I would be so proud to see him in his own home, as working in that country.

(c) My Dear, I am so glad that I got a letter from Johnnie himself on the 6th October. Glad to see by it that he is well. He sent for his money & I went to M^r Rea & let him read his letter. He said he would send it as soon as possible. My Dear I trust you will advise him to put it to good use as you know money is so easily spent.

(d) I am glad that M^{rs} Hodge got my Album. I thank her very much for sending me one. I got it alright. It was too much kindness in her to me. My Dear Sam M^cConnell came to see me. He told he went to see you all. He said he saw you all but Maggie & Kate. He said Johnnie was looking well, & that he asked him to come home, & he told he intended to come home shortly. I do trust he will.

(e) My Dear we are getting on very well. We had very good crops this year. Only the potatoes & turnips are a poor crops owing to much rain.

(f) I was so proud to get the photo of Jame's house, him & baby is looking beautiful. I sent him a letter I hope he has got it all right. I also sent my photo to Johnnie. I hope you have seen it before this time.

(g) I hope Zac & wife & young son is all getting on well. My Dear you need not think he will be the only son amongst you for Aunt Haughey had 6 daughters & 7 sons. Her second son Tom is married about 3 months ago to Miss M^cNiell of Bushmills. I was over seeing her. They are getting on well. They have built a beautiful new house. They are all well. Aunt Elizabeth is well & family. Mary is still in Portrush. She is doing well.

(h) I am glad that Kate and husband is getting on so well. I am glad she has got another baby & that she has give it such a lovely name & that she has got such a kind sister in Miss Campbell. You say she is so kind to you all. I hope Maggie & husband is well. I think it so strange she never writes to me. I am glad she came down to see Johnnie and you all.

(i) I send my love to M^{rs} Hodge. I hope she is well her & her son. He will be a big boy now. I am so thankfull to her. She is so kind to you all. M^{rs} Gamble & family is well. I send my love to Kate & husband & children. I hope they are all well. I send my love to brother James wife & family, & I am glad to hear that they are all well. My Dear I must draw to a close by sending my kind love to Charles & little ones. Charles joins me in sending his love to you all. I send my best love to your own dear self. God be with you all till we meet again, where there will be no parting.

From your ever loving & Affectionate Mother till death

Good Bye & write soon

XXXXXX

(Co 4)

For Jonnie

Tonduff

19th October [1897]

My Dear Son

(a) With great joy I write you these lines to say I received your long looked for letter on the 6th October. Glad to see by it that you are in good health. I went to M^r Rea & gave him your letter to read. He said he was glad to hear from you. Also said he would send your money as soon as possible.

(b) Charles & me Thanks you very much for giving us the £10 for these last 2 years. It was more than we expected, & my son you have done your part & may the Lord bless you & keep you in the right path & may you neither want money nor health & I trust it will be Gods will that you will meet me on this earth before we be called home. I would be so happy to see you at the Bridge end once more.

(c) My Dear son many a prayer I have put up for you & the Lord will answer his own children's prayer when offered up in Faith. My Dear son it should encourage us more & more to pray in Faith for all around us & for all our Friends. My Dear he also tells us in St Luke 21st Chapter & 36th verse Watch ye therefore & pray always that ye may be accounted worthy & again he says arise & pray that we may not enter into Temptation. Time would fail me to study out the power of prayer, but its grand & wonderful, the privileges the child of God has through our Lord Jesus Christ & his cleansing blood. What splendour awaits the child of God. I would rather sit & learn one hour with the child of God as to Feast with Princes & Nobles.

From your ever loving & affectionate Mother till death. Write soon & let me know how you are getting along. May God Bless you & keep you. Good Bye. Write soon soon

xxx.

(Co 5)

Tonduff

February 6th 99

My Dear daughter

(a) I received your letter all right. Glad to see by it that yous are all well thank god for all his goodness to us all for those great blessing for health is before anything. We are getting along well. Charles is working every day. We had a very stormy winter as far as come. We have got no ploughing done yet. We have some frost now. We think the we[a]ther is going to get better and we will be all glad to see it.

(b) My Dear I am so sorry about Johnny falling into drink and him knowing better. I trust the Lord will forgive him and that he will see himself and lead a new life for Jesues has promised he will restore the backsliding and love him freely. My dear I wrote to him myself and gave him my advice. I hope he will take it. Tell you jonnie to write to myself and let me know if he got the letter. You might advice him to come home as I believe he would be far better in his own home.

(c) I am glad that the children are at school and the are learning so well and baby is growing so well. I am so glad that Kate is well and has got a young son. I hope it will grow well. She will be so fond of it when it is a son. I hope the Lord will bless and spare it to her.

(d) I am glad that Kate has got Miss Campbell to stay with her as she is so very kind to her and the children. I think she would deed a girl every day as she has got so much to do. I am so glad that her husband is so good and does not take none of that curesed drink. May the lord bless and keep you all on the right path for without him we can do nothing. I hope Charles is not inclined to drink for it is the downfall of all men for it is destroy both body and soul and I trust the lord will keep them from it. I hop[e] James

and wife and family is getting on well. I am glad to hear Zack and fa[*erased:f*]mily is well and that she has got a baby girl.

(e) I am glad that Maggie and the children as are well and that Maggie and Catherine Mary Etta is able to go to church. I wrot[*e*] to her 4 months ago. I am expecting a letter from her soon. I am glad to hear that the are all well. M[*a*]y the lord bless you all. You friend at Croagh is all well. I send my love to Mrs Hodge and her son. I must draw to a close. Charles goins me and sending his love to you and husband and family. I send my love to all my dear children and I hope to meet you all if not in this earth I hope we will all meet in heaven where there will be no parting. With best love to you own dear self for you ever loving mother to death.

Write soon. Good bye. You friend is all well.

XXXXXXXXXX

(Co 6)

Tonduff

19th Feb 1901

My Dear Daughter

(a) I now take the pleasure of [*erased: o*] writing you these few lines to let you know I got your letter alright & was glad to see by it that you were all well. You must excuse me for not writing sooner and the reason of that I wasnt keeping very well. I had a bad attack of Influenza [*?since*] October & it isnt very easy [*erased: It is*] getting rid of it when you are up in years, but thank God I am a great deal better now. If I continue on but Gods knows what is for the best. His will must be done.

(b) I had a letter for Jonnie in January & was glad to see by it that you were all well. I am so proud that he writes to me. He intends to see me once more. I hope the Lord will spare us both to meet again & you may be sure it will be a happy meeting. My Dear I

hope you will advise him to come home, for his places is going down. I wrote to Jonnie about a month ago letting him know all about the land.

(c) Charles is well thank God & he is able to work as usual & health is above everything. I am glad to hear that the children is able to go to school. I hope Kate is well & family & baby. I hope Maggie & family is well. She sent me Maggie Photo & also Catherine Mary Etta's. They are looking beautiful. She also sent one to cousin Jane. They think a great deal of it. I am glad to [omitted: ?hear] that James & M^{rs} & family is well also that Zack & family is well. Your Aunt & Uncl[e]s is all well & the join in sending their love to yous all.

(d) I am going to write you a few lines out of God's word. I am with you always Matt 28-20. He is and he will be with us as he has promised in all future time. He is with us to afford protection, to impart consolation, to subdue our fear & to inspire us with hope. He will go through the whole journ[e]y with us, and then place us before his face for ever. Lay down this [erased: love] night resting upon the word of Jesus "Lo I am with you always.

(e) With love to all my Dear children. Charles joins in sending his love to you & family. I send my best love to you husband & family. From your ever loving Mother to death.

The Lord bless yous all.

Love to Jonnie.

Good bye & write soon.

(Co 7)

June 1901

Tonduff

My Dear Daughter

(a) I received your very kind and welcome letter. Glad to see that you are all well thanks be to the Lord for his great mercies to us all. I am keeping well at present. I feel some times weak, yet the Dr says I will get over it if I take good care.

(b) I think you for the photos. Maggie is a big girl of 10 years. She looks well. I am so glad she is able to help you with the work. Kate looks very well. Some ones says she looks like yourself. Lizzie looks very nice. Babys look very beautiful. It does one a great deal of good to look at them all.

(c) Dear Daughter we are getting on well. Charles is not keeping so well. He is able to do some work yet. Let Johnnie [*omitted*: know] I wrote to him 5 months [*omitted*: ago] to him and let him know that he has never answered it yet. Be sure and tell him to come home and sell his land as Mr Douglas will not give anything for the road till he comes home his self.

(d) I send my love to Mrs Hodge. I was sorry about her Mother Death as I was not able to go to see her I was so ill at that time. The last news we had from them the were all well. We always hear from her cousin Chas M Neill.

(e) Dear Daughter I had a letter from James. He told me about my Brother Hector Death. I was sorry but I hope he is better off not in this weary world. I hav[e] Maggis children photo. The look very nice. I hope she will be down seeing you all before this time. The are all keeping well. I am glad that Kate and husband and family is well. Lizzie Campbell is at school and also she is able to nurse baby.

(f) My Dear Daughter Arch Black wants to know where his father is. He is in the alms house in Ballycastle. Kate and Ester is in America. Kate sends money to the Rev W

Matchett of Ballintoy and he gives it to him as he needs it. The are so kind to their father. Your Uncle Thomas Haughey is very low. He has dropsy. The Dr says he will not get better. Your Aunt Haughey has her own trouble. He was so good to her. Her Daughter Eliza is in America and she is doing well. The are all a good family.

(g) Charles joins me in sending our love to you and husband and family & also Maggie husband and family James wife and family also Zack wife and family. Hopes the Kate and husband and family and also Johnnie. He wrote to me he was coming home. I would like to see him once more. My Dear Daughter I send my love to yourself husband and family. May the lord Bless yous all and Keep yous all in the rite Path for without him we can do nothing.

From Your Ever Loving Mother. Good By. Write soon soon.

(Co 8)

Tonduff

Bushmills

Nov 3rd 1901

My Dear Daughter

(a) I now take up my pen to answer your very kind and welcome letter which I got all right and was glad to see by it that you were all in good health as this leaves us all well thank the Lord for his Kind mercies to us all. We had very stormy weather but we have got all the crops gathered all in.

(b) I was glad that the children all passed there examination. Maggie will be a great big girl now. She will be able to do a lot of work for you now. I am glad that Rosey was nothing the worst of burning. I would be so glad if they were near me. I could see them all.

(c) I am often thinking of Kate. She has such a small family abrest and the are all so very young but when she has good health her self it is better anything. I am glad that

Maggie is able to go to school. Dear Daughter I am glad that Maggie and the children was down seeing you all. It was nice to see the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. Maggie children is so very good. I see by your letter that James is getting a large family. I hope the are getting on well.

(d) I am sorry to say to you that your Uncle Thomas Haughey died on the 13th October. He lived and died for Jesus. The are all well. His youngest daughter is 9 years old. The oldest daughter went to America. She is doing fine.

(e) My Dear, I am glad to hear that Johnnie is well. I wrote to him 4 months ago. He never wrote to me yet. I wish you would advise him to come home to see about his land.

(f) I got the loving card you sent me from Mrs Hodge. I thank her very much. The last time I heard from her father the were all well. Your Aunt Elizabeth and family are all well and Mary is always in White House, Portrush. She is getting on well. Your Cousins at the bridge end is all well. The are none of them married as yet. My Dear daughter Zack send me the childrens Photo. The are very nice. He said his son was going to school. He also said he would be home a trip to see me and I hope he will come along with Johnnie as I would like him not to Let Johnnie [?come his lone].

(g) Charles is working every day but he is not keeping so strong. He has so much to do and no help. He sends his love to you all. I am able to do the work of the house as yet But I am not keeping so strong. I never got read [*rid*] of the infl[*u*]enza as yet as it is very hard to get read [*rid*] of weakness that follows it. I [*erased: send*] Charles and myself joins in sending our Love to yourself and Husband and family also to Kate Husband and family also Maggie Husband and family also James and wife and family Zack wife and family. I send my love to Johnnie also. I hope to see him soon. May the Lord Bless you all and Keep you all in the right Path. From your Loving Mother. Write soon.

The Sullivan Correspondence, 1905 (1)

(Su 1)

Foxton Manawatu

New Zealand March 7th 1905

Dear Tom

(a) I write you those few lines hoping to find your wife, children, and self in good health.

(b) It is very hard to tell you of Johnie's death. He died on the 6th day of April 1904. I had no time to write before now. He died a happy death; just as you would put the candle out. He was 7 years ailing but he used to *to* work in the garden cut the bit of hay and everything else. He was only 14 days in bed. There was a young boy came to see [*omitted: him*] about an hour before he died. He told them all go to the fire. He told me to call the boy back to him again, but then he was'nt able to talk to him and he died in a few minuets [*minutes*] time. All the girls were here for a week before he died. All the girls are married and have big families. He had his will made 2½ years before he died. He left me everything. Con died 2 years before his father. Johnie said the night that Con died he would be the first to follow him.

(c) Nellie milks 83 cows besides all the dry cattle. They don't churn the cream out here like we did at home. They take it to the factory. Bridge milks 35 cows. Her husband has about 800 acres of land in use. Maggie and Bridge married two brothers named Spelman. They are Irishmen. Katie is married to an Irishman from Limerick. All of them have children like young men and women. Mary has young men and young women for children but none of them married yet. Annie is married to [*omitted: a*] protestant man; who is a good a husband as ever woman got. He got £1100 since his marriage from relations who have just died. Annie and Bridge live on farms adjoining. They all have fine houses.

(d) Dear Tom I have one little boy of Cons. He is nine years old. He has been with me always as his mother died when he was born. Con's other wife who is alive has his

other child. She is a young girl and is very quite [*quiet*]. Con's estate has to [*omitted: be*] divided between her and the two children. She can't get married for if she does the estate will have to [*omitted: be*] realised. Con only lived 13 months after his second marriage.

(e) Johnie † told me to sell out when he had died. I am living in his house with the little child alone. My children want me to live with them but I won't remove from where Johnie built. He told me to sell out and sit down for the rest of my life. I am only milking four cows. I was offered £40 for them.

(f) Dear Tom let me know where Jimie is. We had two letters from his son before Johnie died but he was too bad to answer them. He said his father was living in Howards-town. Dear Tom let me know is Father Enwright in Ballangarry or where is he. We had a missioner here a Father O'Donall who said he was in Ballangarry.

(g) Dear Tom this is a good country for working men as some men have from ten to twelve shillings per day. It is not like at home. The worst men here won't come to work for less than 7/- per day; and only work from 8 to 5 pm.

(h) Dear Tom the flax here is not like the flax at home. One blade would tie the strongest horse. It is about 6ft long more or less. The cemet[*e*]ry is about only a quarter of an hours walk from where I live.

(i) Dear Tom let me know if Aunty Kief is alive or how is she; and also Mrs Maher. Is she keeping the shop still. Let me know if you heard from Mick and Mary. Let me know where Patty Maher is living. Remember me to all the neighbours and give my love to Aunty Kief and M^{rs} Maher. Let me know [*omitted: ?how*] the post master is now. Let me know how many children you have now.

(j) Please answer this letter as I shall be impatient to hear from you. I will write back when I hear from you. Must conclude. Goodbye dear Tom. Write soon.

From your sister Catherine Sullivan

Fond love to all.

The Kilpatrick Correspondence, 1862-1916 (1-15)

(Ki 1)

[section of pages torn]

Auckland, November 25th 1862

My Dear Brother Thomas

(a) I am now here one month and can tell a little more about how I may like the place. Last time I wrote [?I could] tell nothing. We like the country ... I think that David and I are exce[lling] many who came with us. Young [?men who] thought they were gentlemen on board the "Endian Empire" are glad to go and begin days work at roadmaking. When I look at them I often think of the rings they wore when on "board ship".

(b) Now I will tell you the kind of a man that may come here. One who is both able and willing to work, and blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, bakers, and in fact any man that is willing to do any thing. Gentlemen are not wanted that has no money. Servents are much wanted both girls and boys.

(c) David found out R^{ev} M^r Mackey. He lives 13 miles out of Auckland, and he got David a good situation at once with a M^r Wallace. He is an elder in M^r Mackeys own meeting house. M^r Wallace lives 9 miles out of town, so I stopped in town to he got a cottage fitted for me. Lodgings [?are] [v]ery high. I paid 5^s-6^d per week for lodgings ... keep my self.

(d) The name of the place ... There are such strange names here, ... make you laugh. I had one of the ... day to see if I would sell him a boy and when he saw the child he say's, "boy boy". Yes I said he was a boy, "go bring wife". So he ran for his wife and she came but I could not tell one half she said but I understood her to say she loved the child and would bring him some fruit. They call him [*erased: the*] "de white babey". Some of them can speak a little broken English. There are plenty other children but they still say

“we like white babey”. They child seems to return their love for he holds out his arms to them and such another sweet little face there is not in Auckland, so every one says. They Captain on board ship used to send down porter to me and say it was for they mother of “that fine little Irish man”. Every one seem to be kind to me on his account. This is so much for little William. He is now 9 months old, and is 2st-1/2.

(e) Now Thomas I wish when you receive this to go out to Mama and read her this. Tell her she dreamed a very straight dream about this place. The green hill, the great mountain, the sea below, and the Valley beyond it. All is just as she told me. Tell her I am far better than ever I expected I would be. David has now his 10^s per day and where is they little Irish woman could not save on that, and he is as much up for laying past as I am.

(f) Every thing is a little dearer here but then we cant complain of that. I got tea for 3^s per lb, coffe 16^dlb, sugar 6^dlb, bread 4 1/2^d 2 lb loaf, flour 19^s per cwt, beaf 9^dlb, butter 1^s-6^d lb, eggs 1^s-9^d per doz. We can live well here. I can tell you they people at home are onely sleeping. The master is not greater than his servant here. All work, and hard work. David’s hours for work are from 7- to 6. If he goes back after 6 he is paid over time.

(g) Now give my love to all they old neighbours. I need not name them over. It would keep me to long but they will excuse me. Tell Sophia Wilson I cannot find a trace of Margaret, Mackay or Elisa Handison. There is a man of that name that has been here these good many years and he sent home to Scotland for his wife last year and she is now with him. I am shure I dont know what to make of it, but I will look out. Give my love to Sophia her aunt and Father Uncles. There was a great election here but I will send you a paper so you will have the news. Kind love to mama, M^r Gilmore, Robert John and Miss W Joseph, Aunt Margaret and Thomas, Uncle John Waddle and Margaret, brother George and Anne and yourself. David join with me in sending his love to all.

(h) Now anything you want to know you must ask me and I will send you an answer. I received brother Georges letter dated 23 August and was glad to find you all

well. William Erskine has written home so I need not say any thing about him. I have to write to Ballyards as David does not care for writing. I dont remember any thing just now. (I will write Martha Jane this mail). I would not advise Joseph to come here as he would not stand the work he would have to do.

(i) Now I will conclude with love to mama again Dear Thomas I remain your loving sister M A Kilpatrick. Write soon soon.

(Ki 2)

Balleer

Febry. 5th 1863

My Dear Children

(a) I can scarce find words to express the joy I felt on receiving your letter and to know that you are all landed safe and well and David got so soon to work. We are all just as you left us except myself that is tottering fast down the hill of life.

(b) There is very little interesting news in this country at present except a great many that is going to Queens land this week. Ross Lang and family Samuel Glasgow John Filoon Wm. Todd's Brotherinlaw. David Armstrong and Sisters is going as their Father is dead. You have got an account of all the Weddings except Alexander Ireland that is married to Mrs. All. Mrs Ireland of jerusalem hill is dead also Charles Sling after a long illness. Paddy Mcparland and Thomas Bisset is dead.

(c) When you write again after receiving this remember your Aunt Margt and Uncle John. I expect to get a very interesting [*erased: to*] call to the Island about the middle of July. Tell David I dont intend to put on my Joy Caps only on the thirteenth February for I intend when that day comes to wear my Joy Caps in commemoration of the last 13th.

(d) Dear Margaret the long dream I had about you 2 years ago is nearly fulfilled. About the middle of September I was awoke out of sleep by hearing you crying. Then

again about the first of October I saw you crying again. When I enquired what was the matter you said it was the joy of seeing land. About the middle of the same month I saw you again with a Gold watch an[d] chain round your neck. Dear Margaret when all these things is past and gone there is one long heart rending thought that troubles me that is I fear I never will see you in this life. I have seen you 3 times and Willy in your arms requesting me to not fret for you ware quite happy and well.

(e) Farewell

For ever no it cannot be my heart thought taught that We must sever Will bleed afresh to hear from thee Those thrilling words We part for ever. No let us cherish to the last These hopes that time hath often blighted Our lives till these fond dreams are past Will not be wholly disunited. Perhaps it may be wise at first To meet those evils we fortel But though my thoughts forebode the worst My lips can only breathe Farewell

Mary A Reid

(f) Dear Margaret I should like very much to have David's your own and Willy's likeness as the one I have here is spoiling with the damp. Accept my kind love to Dvd and your self with 1000 kisses to my dear little son. [?Mrs] Gilmore Robert Thomas and Joseph and Maggie brown all sends their love to you.

Send me your adress in your next letter but I hope to get one very soon.

(g) P. S.

Dear Margaret I hope you will send me word how you enjoyed your bread and butter and eggs. M. A. R.

(Ki 3)

Otahuhu May 27th 1863

My Dear Mary

(a) I have received no letter from you these 2 last mails. Now this is to[o] bad, and David feels it very much that you would forget him so soon. Though he does not write

himself he thinks when I write that it should do. Now if you do not write, he says that he will neither [*neither*] write himself nor will he let me write. We had a letter from Thomas this mail, and 3 papers, but when there is not a letter from Ballyards David is out of all paitiance.

(b) Now Dear Mary we have had our times of sickness. I told you in my last of David being ill, but since then William Erskine has lay 2 weeks, and as soon as he got well I lay down and lay one week, but we are all up and at work again which we thank God for very much. David allways wishes you to send him word how John and Willy are getting on in the shop, how M^f Tom Whynn of the green is getting on and how the 2 Whynns are Thomas and James, and wishes to be remembered to the 2 Meddley Gordens in Armagh.

(c) Send me word how all the folk are up at the [*drawing of X*] corner or if there are any more of them married to good matches how Alexendar Ireland and the wife is getting on and any other bit of news that you think would interest me. I hope Jane is well. Willy sends her a kiss. He is getting a very fine child. I never yet say [*saw*] such a merry child of his age or one that can contrive plays for himself like him. I hope your mother Uncle John, with all the rest are well. I wish you would remember me to Robert Hillock Peggy and all the children. Tell Peggy there is not a day I dont think of her.

(d) David sends his love to his Mother, Uncle John, Jane, yourself, John and Lizzy. In the kindest manner he wishes to be remembered to Willy Watson and all who enquire for him. I need not mention your names over again but give my love to all, and I may say we are well and doing well. You might call in with Miss Montgomery at M^f McLarana and say to her that her brother is well. Now I must conclude with love to your self. George and Anne and the children I hope are well. Give my love to them.

I remain your affectionate sister

M A Kilpatrick

William Erskines people ought to write to him.

(Ki 4)

Baleer Armagh

14th July 1864

My very dear Margaret

(a) Many thanks for your interesting letter, and as it came to hand when all hopes were gone of hearing [*erased*: of hearing] from you it was doubly welcome to poor Mother who would if possible have the mail some days earlier than due. She has just been here and apprised me of her writing to you, and as we are disposed to take the advantage of [*erased*: each] one an other I will make it my turn to take it now of her and save the 1^s/.

(b) The last time I saw Miss Wilson was over the remains of your dear and early playmate poor Alice. There are, I know, many fond recollections attached by you to that name events more interesting than those of school days. Alas for one of the two, so now of the deepest die brought her to an early grave. I mean the sorrow of a worthless position the greatest wretch that lives. He came in the dead of night and ruthlessly tore from her arms, a mother's dearest earthly tie, 'her child' but her heart seemed dead to every nice feeling. She bore all with more than human fortitude and seemed only to rejoice that she was allowed to die under her kind parent's roof. She was pretty even in death. Sophia and I made that "clean shift" for her, which you dreamed of. When I ventured to speak to her on the only hope for the poor sinner before God, her reply rather surprised me. "Yes He suffered and that not for himself" and my last words to her were, "look to the Redeemer who gave his life a ransom for the sinner and" who ever liveth to make intercession with the Father for sinners. She said "yes M^{rs}. Walker thats the only hope" and as "He will take them from among every kindred, nation and language["'] may we not hope that poor Alice was "one for whom Christ died".

(c) I trust dear Margaret that our next mail will bring good and interesting news from your dear self that baby and Mother were progressing nicely and that your kind

husband was well and happy, looking back upon the past without regret. Now dear Margaret would you have had the same independence in this country and be happy, so long as you hear good accounts from those dear to you. Your Mother looks as well as when I first saw her eleven years ago, the same bustling little lady attending to every thing. Not even her flowers are forgotten.

(d) Your dear brother has relieved me from a relation of a long train of events in my own family. He told me when writing by last mail to you that he mentioned everything about us he could think of. My dear Charlton's emigration in consequence of bad health brought on by standing on a flagged floor in his office but I am happy to say his health was in a great measure restored before he went. He takes with him letters of high introduction to Governors &c in Melbourne so that we have hopes of him not being long idle and if a while so, he can be with his brother John.

(e) I expect Charlotte home from school in the course of five weeks. Her great progress in the many branches she had to study, has more than met our utmost expectations. She plays the piano most pleasingly, and exceeds her professor in drawing and painting. I hope all [*word illegible*] through life. It is a pleasure to know she is very steady and wise, and above all, that she knows the truth. Without this dear Margaret, life is but a blank. You may soon be expecting to hear of an interesting arrival in Thomas' [*word illegible*]. He is a very happy man, and his wife is a sweet good girl.

(f) In exhausting my news I have exhausted my paper, and must stop for want of subject. O will you send me a few flower seeds. They would be appreciated in Baleer, and should suit our climate.

(g) Tell Willy I hope he is very fond of his little sister and is not jealous. M^r Walker never had so good health [*?and*] is nearly my height, and must soon leave us for business. I will [*word illegible*] lonely separation from all my children. Elizabeth is a happy wife. She has a baby boy George [*word illegible*].

With kindest remembrance from me to David and yourself in which M^r Walker unites

Believe me dear Margaret Anne

your sincerely attached friend

Elizath Walker

(h) I should say I am indebted to your Mother for kindly proposing to enclose you this from me. I think we are justified in sending double letters for the double postage.

(i) We had a letter since I wrote last from Trinidad and though my son's wife and two children were well, I fear from the report of his own that his health is not good. The sun being now directly over his head and poor Charlton's but poor George's winter is like this our hottest season. We have not had so hot a summer for the last six years, and I regret to say that owing to the great drouth the oats have [*word illegible*] though not eight inches high. Indeed I see some not 4. The flax is beautiful, also the potatoes, and the best hay safe. Lucy Reaney & her sister Nancy are gone to America. Yours Truly E. W.

(Ki 5)

Belfast

27th Aug 1870

My dear Marg^t

(a) I received your kind letter of the 4th June last. I need not say how sad it made us all to find David still so poorly. I had hoped to hear of the delicate burn he had at the first Passing off and that he would be well enough. You and he are in very trying circumstances and after the loss of my dear Annie I can feel for you and him all the more. Sickness is a wearisome thing to the flesh, but I trust the good Lord will bless it to both your souls. I hope you will drop me a line soon as this reaches you to say how he is and how you and the children are doing and what means you have of earning bread.

(b) I have been to Ballyards and Balleer recently and found them all pretty well. Mama looks older but has wonderful health. Joseph is well also as is Robt and his family.

Thomas has had another little son presented to him making four. You heard of his only little daughters death. Henry Carroll who was expecting death as was all his friends is again quite well!!

(c) Ballyards people are all pretty well too. Grandmama is able to move about on her crutches but that is all. My little Mary has been there since her Mamas death and still remains. She is a darling child and much thought of by us all. She is very like her that is gone. Liz and Maria and Rob^l are at school here and little Willy sometimes. I have the same person for houskeeper as Annie left behind her. We are doing as well as we can But the same happy home as of yore is not here for me now.

(d) There is little thought of here now but the war on the continent. Our trade at the foundry is good but generally trade in Belfast is bad because of the war.

(e) I am sorry I cannot send you Annies likeness yet. I have but one copy and I must send it to the Photographist & get copies. Martha Jane wants one too and some other friends here.

I am joined by all at home and the children here in kind love to you all. We hope for better news from you.

Your affect^e brother

Geo. Reid

(Ki 6)

Ballyards Aug 26/1875

My Dear Brother & Sister

(a) I now take up my pen once more to address you hoping this will find you all in the enjoyment of good health. It is along time since I had a letter from you altho' I have written to you many [*omitted*: times] without getting an answer. The last I heard of you was by Sophys letter at christ mas giving a good report of you all.

(b) You will both be sorry to hear of my dear mothers death on the 7th June last. She had been failing during the winter and spring was very poorly in March and from that time was very little out of bed. We thought she would have got over the summer until the 22^d of May she then became sick and weak, could take little or no food and eve[r]y day became weaker. She had not much suffering and passed away quietly. Her last Prayer (Lord Jesus be present with me). These were almost her last words. We feel ve[r]y lonely since she was always with us and we are now alone.

(c) M^r Meharry left Armagh in March last and went to England to Newcastle on tyne. We have now the Revd John Elliot for pastor. He came from Donough more. John is in good health, Jane and Jane pretty well. The death of my mother has been severe upon us both. May Reid is with us a fine child. We have but one man in the shop at present. He assists then in the farm occasionally there is little to be done. Mr Thos Wynn has a smith of his own since May last. All our friends are well. Your mother & family are well. Thos & Robt and their family's are well. George and the children are in good heath. M^r W^m Smith [*word illegible*] died Oct 3^d last after an illness of ten months disease of the lungs. He was buried at the Temple Meeting house. She has two children and has let the shop and part of the house to a young veterary. They had two houses and the young man has the part Smith used to live in.

(d) I hope you will write us a few lines as soon as you receive this and let us know how you are getting along. I had intended to write you eve[r]y week since we lost dear mother but I could not bring myself to do so it is so painful. Mary Reid sends her love to Uncle Aunt and cousins. John and Jane join with me in sending our warmest love to you David and the children. Praying God may bless keep and direct us all in time and after ward receive us into Glory, and now my Dear Margt I must conclude ever your affectionate

sister Mary Kilpatrick

Tom Johnston died today he that was so long in Mr Wynn's. He had been ill a long time.

(Ki 7)

Broughan

Novr. 15th 1880

My ever dear margaret ann

(a) After so long a silence I am happy to have the pleasure of knowing your address once more and believe me there never was a letter come from you to your mother but what I answered sooner or later and if you have written any since her death they have gone astray.

(b) Something prom[p]ted me to go and spend an evening with her. I done so. We spent the evening cheerful and pleasant as we always done. I loved her gay agreeable manner and her funny jokes. I left about 8 ocl. We parted at the river. She said she would be over in a few weeks to spend an evening with me and we must see about writing to mar[g]aret ann. She was in her usual health then but was got quite feeble on her feet and a great lightness in her head that had troubled her for a length of time but little did I think that was the last visit for before 8 oclock the next evening she was no more.

(c) I fretted over her loss for weeks / for months but I am happy to state her place is taken up by Joseph's wife Sarah Reid. She is a decent respectable's man's Daughter. She pleases me very well. She has an agreeable manner and a first rate house-keeper. She is very industrious and attends to her man and her domestic affairs properly. Perhaps you would wish to know something about her appearance. She has Sandy hair a good skin and a very good agree[a]ble countenance I think about your own height stout and well made. She has a very fine little son one year old. He is a very stout made child with a good red head and [*erased: a*] beautiful dark eyes. He is just the picture of Lizzie Reid of Belfast.

(d) Now about myself I am got an old gray haired woman wears my specks but has as good health as ever I had. I have the best old man in our Country. He is a very healthy and industrious man. He has made a good change in this farm. He has brought into a good

state of cultivation about an acre of spent moss and is producing good crops. The crops in general is good this year after 3 years of very bad ones.

(e) My 2 children is doing well. Andy is become very useful. He can drive the plough and harrow. He has been in Keady market several times this last summ[er] making his mothers markets. He has dug potatoes & 3 days with his [*word illegible*] without been asked to do it. He is not 12 year old to march. Ellen Jean is 8 year old this month. She is a very lively little girl can do a great many things in the house for me. She is in the 3rd class and Andy is in the 5th. I am a happy contented woman with my man and my 2 children.

(f) And now about Richard Lorries family. They are all happy and well. It is the best improved place. I know their sons has done that for them. Margaret is married to a sea Captain. She lives in Dundalk like a Lady. He was a widower with 5 children. Now the poor stibble J Moffit is a few months dead. His mother died about 2 months before him. His Father a few years ago. Robert and his family has all on the hill now. Its wonderful the changes that has taken place in the Country.

(g) William Ross and his family is in manatobia in America. Jane Fraim and her son is in America too. Old Tom Fraim is the Father of 10 children. There is not the name of a Kenry in Glenburn. Its a Mr Evans a full cousin to Joseph's wife has the whole concern bought at £1400. There is not one of the stringer's in Tassa[g]h nor a Gordon at the River side. They are all dead young Fann and all. We never hear from George now. The last letter he sent me I never answered it.

(h) James desired me to write you a long letter and give you such news as you would feel an interest in hearing. I think I have done so. He also desires me to say he was glad to hear you and your family are all well. I think I must conclude by praying God to bless you dear maggie your Husband and children. I hope they will prove a blessing to

you. I hope Willy will be a wise steady young man and a comfort to his mother. James and the children unites with me in love to you.

I remain

Sophy Lang

(Ki 8)

Belfast

22nd Nov 1880

My dear Sister

(a) I have just received your kind letter dated 1st Oct giving some bits of news about M^r Birch and his family. I am glad to find you see M^{rs} Birch sometimes and are attached to her. You must like her when you know her. She is a dear little woman. M^r Birch had been foolish at one time and lost money by it but they are both young yet and I do trust providence will open up a way to happiness and comfort yet.

(b) Now to the main point of your letter your anxiety regarding me and my companionship and drinking strong drink. I can well understand Poor M^{rs} Birchs anxiety as the parties you named did drink a great deal at one time but M^{rs} Birch will be glad to know that there is a real and substantial improvement [*erased: since the*] since the birth of the little daughter. I saw them all three last night and there was nothing but sobriety and sober conversation. I have not myself yet acquired the love of strong drink. I really dont care for it. I never [*word illegible*] any possibility taste anything of any description till after my tea in the evening. I am fond of fun (49 years of age) still and can enjoy a joke as well as ever. This weakness belongs to the family and has contributed to the weakness of the purse strings of more than one of our connections. Neverthe less I can assure you that I am and always have been a sober man.

(c) Your letter this morning was a surp[r]ise to me. I awoke this morning early out of a dream. There is something to me at present very strange about it. I dreamt I had a

pretty long telegram from my Sister Marg^t in N. Z. and before reading it the excitement awoke me. This is only 3 hours since and I have not quite recovered and the arrival of your letter seem to strange to me who never had the least faith in dreams or anything pertaining to them. To me it seems singular.

(d) We are all well at present here and going on quietly. Liz is teaching school Maria Sydney house keeping Willy at School and Bobby at business Mary at Ballyards and at school. John Jane & Mary much as they have been for years. Joseph has a baby boy and Rob and family are doing right well.

(e) This is hurried but I have neglected writing so long through simple carelessness that I am determined to run a hurried epistle through while I am in the humour.

(f) Tell M^r Birch that I have heard of him and his frequently and was sorry about his ill[*l*]ness and troubles and hope they are getting better trade and prospect of something more in the way of making money. M^r Birch has head and hands if he can only get into something suitable. Tell him there is a winanful sameness in our old friends about the corners. I see John Woods Mike Nolan H Sling A Guiney John Murphy and many others frequently. I am saying what is true when I tell him there is a change all round for the better. J. Fulton and J. Murphy sat in Company for 5 hours not long since and instead of wine &c it was hot coffee. I and others do the same. I am thankful for your warning voice. It is my sisters advice my only sister of my mothers and I trust to profit by it.

(g) You say nothing of David and the children other than that they were well. I hope he is keeping you and them comfortable. Kind love to him and them and yourself from me and mine. Kind regards to M^r and M^{rs} Birch and the youngsters all.

Your affecti[*o*]nate brother

Geo Reid

(Ki 9)

Balleer 24th Nov^r 1880My Dear Mag^l Ann

(a) We are in receipt of yours of July 20th and we are all glad to find you all in the enjoyment of good health, and also that you are doing very well. We are well thank God for all his mercies.

(b) I have got an agreeable partner in life whitch is a great blessing, and we have got as fine a little fellow of a year old as ever was borne. He is just begining to go about by the holds.

(c) Robt. J' family are all well with the exception of little Tom who was reared here. He is trubled with chest disease that I fear he will never get rid of. Tho^s' family are all well. Georges also. Our neighbour Mrs Price has got an increase to hir family (a little girl) after 12 years rest. Hir first I suppose you are aware was a son. I suppose you heard of hir Mothers death about a year ago. John Donley died last spring. Elisa died some seven or eight years ago. Martha is the only one at home at present as the others are all married. Sarah Armstrong never married. She is living with Tome and Betty. She wishes to be remember to you.

(d) Eliz J' husband died whire she married in Dundalk leaving three children and hir former Master raised £20 and sent hir to Dublen to learn the midwifery business. She is now coming at it. Hir head sentre is Belfast.

(e) I suppose you heard of R. Irelands death some four years ago. W.J' is married to his cussin Tho^s' dauter May Mag^l the only surviv[i]ng child. Hir mother is dead also. George went to America and found his wife there a Miss Anderson a daughter of Jim A^m of Lisnadell. Mary Jeane is Mistress in the Balleer school. She is wroth £40 per annum. There is not a Kirk or a Kidd or a Boyd on the Callon at present. M^r Alex Boyd died some 2 years ago leaving a widdow and one child. She has [*erased: sed*] let the place [*erased: to*

and] and is off to England where she came from. M^f Rob^t is living in Armagh to get his family better educated. M^f and M^{ts} M^cWilliams are well so is Uncle John and his famly. I forgot to mention that I got the wife up near Newtonhamilton. She is the connection of the Clarkes of Clarksbridge.

(f) There is great agitation here at present about lowering rents. Four or Five of the leaders is about to be brought before the Queens Bench for it. Parnell & others. Landlords Agents and Bailfiss [*Bailiffs*] are getting very bad care in the South and West of Ireland. We were obledged to get an abatment in our rents last year, and we have asked the same this year. We dont know yet how it will be.

(g) Mother left me £2 a year out of the "Island" during my natural life. George gets a lump some [*sum*] off it too. Let me know in your next if David has yet accepted Gods greatest Gift. "It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners".

With kind love to you all in which Sarah joins. I remain ever yr af Broth

Joseph Reid

Robert is the child's name.

William Gilmore is sold out and away with his family to Belfast.

(Ki 10)

Ballyards 21st August

1899

My Dear Margt Ann

(a) We had your letter in good time and would have written sooner but was waiting to get the certificates you wanted. We had no difficulty in getting the marriage certificate from M^f Patterson but David was baptized by Doctor Henry in the house. Then of course we had to try was it entered in the Book of first Armagh. M^f Miller was from home and on last Saturday when he and Tho^s Reid examined the Book two leaves had been cut out from

1825 until 1835. As David was born 6 January 1832 it could not be found there. I am to take in to Armagh the Family Bible [*erased: tomorrow*] where our Births are entere[d] and get a certificate signed by a magistrate which it is said will do. I hope David is keeping better that you are in good health.

(b) We are all as usual. All your friends with their families are in good health. It has been a nice warm season has got the hay well [*word illegible*]. I have been in Armagh today. Had the family Bible with me and signed thy declaration in the presence of the Resident Magistrate. He also signed it M^f Townsend the Resident Magistrate. We hope it will do what you want. Write as soon as you can and let us know. I must now conclude with warmest love to you David and all the family.

I am ever your affectionate sister

Mary Kilpatrick

(Ki 11)

Newton Road

August 7th 1903

My Dear Jane

(a) I was delighted to get your loving letter dated June 20th I think. By the same post I had one from Mary Reid. We have had a very severe winter & about 11 weeks ago I was doing up the front garden & slipped & fell & broke my left arm in 2 places & I tell you I have suffered.

(b) David was cook, housemaid & every thing, & I could not dress myself for 7 weeks nor comb my hair. Thank God I can do that now, but cant do much hous[e]work yet. I have no power to grasp any thing yet. The D^f says that will come in time & David has not been at all well this winter. The cold is very bad & we are older & makes us worse.

(c) We were both sorry to hear of the death of Annie Dunlop. Mrs Dixon is fairly well. She was here the other day & had tea with me dear old Lady. David wishes to be remembered to all his old friends but I dont think there are many of them alive.

(d) I am very sorry to hear you are not so well yourself, but cheer up for its better on before for Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for all those who loved Him & believed on what He has done for us, & I do bless God that He does understand us, & what ever others may think He knows them who are His.

(e) We had a nice letter from Willie & his wife had a little daughter & he has named her Annie so you see there is an Annie Kilpatrick still & my Mary has called her youngest boy William Kilpatrick after her brother, so you see we seem to love the name of Kilpatrick.

(f) David is in bed today. He cant stand the cold but its as cold where my Mary is as at home with you. Now I do hope both John & you are better than when you wrote. M^{rs} Dixon is much better but getting very frail. She had tea with us this week. David join with me in kind greet/ings to each & all of you. Hoping this will find you all better. Ever your loving sister

M A Kilpatrick

(Ki 12)

Newton Road

October 1st 1903

My Dear Jane

(a) Just a few lines to let you know we are both alive allthough neither of us are very well at present. David has been suffering from sciatic all winter, & me with my broken arm. It is 16 weeks now since it was broken but I'm very thankful it was my left arm, for I can use my right in a great many ways.

(b) Mary & her famely are all quit well & Frank doing well in his buisness. She has 6 fine children & she named her youngest, William Kilpatrick, for her brother. We had letters from S Africa & a nice Photo of Willie Lizzie & the baby Annie Kilpatrick. That is babys name. She will be about 6 months old now.

(c) Dear Jane your last letter to me was written on June 2nd & I answered it on August 7th but I thought you would like a few lines. I answered Mary Reid's letter at the same time & thanks to you both for sending me Willie Reids [*erased:* letter] address. I sent it on to my young friend. She is a daughter of a dear lady who I used to sew for here M^{rs} Battley. She was killed by the train. She was in her carriage & the hor[s]e took fright, so caused the accident. Her husband has to be wheeled about ever sence in a chair.

(d) I had such a nice letter from my sister Martha Jane last week. She is 80 years old last week. She is a wonder to me. She is so active on her feet. Now dear Jane you will be looking forward to your winter coming on & to-day is our first day of spring & our days are getting longer, for which we are thankful. Remember David & I to all who may enquire for us & give our love to all our brothers & sisters & friends. From your loving sister

M A Kilpatrick

Remember us to the Belfast Reids & Thomas & his famely R John & his famely & love to John & yourself MAK.

(Ki 13)

Newton Road

Nov 22nd 1903

My Dear Thomas

(a) I am writing to you a few lines to let you know it is 41 years past since we arrived here & I did intend this letter to reach you before xmas, but missed it. We had a nice letter from Martha Jane & one from her daughter Emma last week, such cheering nice

letters. Then we had one from my youngest boy Robert Ebenezer Reid, (named for Father & you) from S Africa & he allways every month sends me not less than 2£ sometimes more. Then I have a pension of £1-10s per month. David has the same, & Willie lets us live in this house rent free, & it is such a comfortable house so we are so very comfortable & every thing we need. Dont you think it becomes me to sing the 103 Ps every day.

(b) Willie's young lady went out to S. A. with Robert & they got married & their first baby was born (Annie) on April 9 of this year. Willie bought a place for 500 £ & they are very happy. He has 5[£]10^s per week & with over time he often made 8£, & if he wished to sell this place we live in he would get 400£ for it. He is a coach smith to trade. Robert is a cabinet maker & french polisher & good at it. He got 4[£]10^s per week when he went to S Africa but now he is in buisness for himself & 2 better sons to a mother could not be than both my boys.

(c) Willie's wifes brother is at home in London at present. He is just passed as a D^f but is staying to gain more knowledge for one year. There is another brother in a bank, & one of her sisters is here on a visit & she is a dentist. They are all clever. Another sister is going on to be a D^f. I tell you this to let you see we dont keep company with the lower class nor never did. From the first I kept myself respectable & the children were musical & their company was saught after, by eve[r]y body.

(d) David has not earned 1^s for over 7 years & for 2 years has had very bad health, fatty degeneration of the heart & rheumatics. He gave up smoking 2 years come xmas. He smoked for 60 years & it was a battle I can tell you. He will be 72 in January 6th 1904. Now I will tell you about myself. 4 months ago I broke my left arm in 2 places close to the wrist, & Oh what I suffered with it words would fail to tell you. It is very weak & at times painful & I know it will never be the same again. I suppose you know I am 66 last July, & carry my age well.

(e) Dear Thomas would you convey my best love to Robert John & his Wife & famely & to Josephs wife & famely, & George's famely & your ownself & famely from your loving sister M A Kilpatrick.

(f) Now I will tell you about my onely daughter Mary who got married & went to Dunedin to live 13 years ago. Her husband Frank Martin is a cabinetmaker & Frenchpolisher, (it was with him my Robert served his time) & a steady Christian man & doing well. He has just bought a buisness in one of the best stands in Dunedin, from a man who is retiring, & not long ago he bought a lovely home for 500£. The onely thing its so far from here. It takes 5 or 6 days to get there, by steamer, & costs 9£ return ticket 5£ steerage so we cannot often go. Robert has promised David his fare the price of a ticket this xmas if he is able to go.

(g) Mary has 6 children, 2 boys, David Samual & Frank then 3 girls, Mary, Bessie & Maggie, then comes a boy Willie Kilpatrick. The oldest is 10 & the youngest 14 months. Mary is a fine woman & a true helpmeet. God has blessed me with good children. Every bodey says the are models. This is no Irish blow, but a fact.

(h) Willie tought & led a choir of 300 voices before he left here. Mary sings & plays on the organ, so does Robert. I think this is all I can say. I mean to write to Robert John soon, whether he answers it or not. May God bless every member of your famely is the prayer of your loving sister MAK

(i) I broke my arm when digging in the garden & fell against the fense. Quite simple it was done.

(Ki 14)

Newton Road

July 14th 1905

My Dear Thomas

(a) It was a very pleasant surprize to get your kind letter leaving date, May 27th & arrived here on July 9th, & now I hasten to answer it as the mail closes at 1 oc.

(b) I will be very pleased to see any one who may have had the pleasure of seeing you or any one of the folk in or about Armagh & will give them a hearty welcome.

(c) Yes, David has gone to rest. He was an invalede for 7 years but towards the end he took to bed & for 14 weeks the D^{ts} (Knight & Jones) attended him but could not save him. 2 of the best D^{ts} in Auckland, clever men. On the 13th of February we had a Cable from Willie telling us of his dear young wifes death leaving little Annie 1 year-9 months old & when David heard that he said "I wont be long after her" & he onely lived to the 23rd of March. He is buired in the city where I can walk to his grave in 20 minutes. This ground has been closed 2 years to all. Onely those who have relations buired there & have paid for their ground. We buired our Lizzie there 34 *yer*as ago, & its a lovely spot.

(d) Is your son John not near Martha Jane. She never spoke of him to me in any of her letters, & she writes regular. Oh how glad I am to hear of all your other boys doing well & your onely daughter is an artist. I hope she gets to the top in her profession.

(e) The Reids were all clever. My children are all clever & David had a good head. There never was a tradesman like him in this city. Every body said so, & it was true.

(f) I write regular to Jane Kilpatrick so will onely say, give them my love.

(g) Now to go back again. Last xmas day my son Robert came home from S Africa. Had hurt himself & could not work, & is not working yet. David was just taking to his bed then so Robert was company, but ill poor lad. I had 2 to attend to then, for I had to bathe Bobs back 3 times a day for there was an open wound in it. But as Bob got better

a little, David got worse, but I never had one to do any thing for either of them but myself. Then when David was gone I was ready for bed. Bob is not able to work yet, nor do we know when. I think he is hurt inwardly but he is under treatment. We cant do any more than we are doing.

(h) I must tell you now that yesterday we had a wire from my daughter Mary, that her second girl (Bessie) died yesterday morning from bronchitis. She had 7 so that leaves her with 6 now 3 boys & 3 girls, David, Frankie, Mary, Bessie Maggie, & Willie & Grace. I know she will be sorry at the loss of Bessie. She was a fine girl of 7 years old.

(i) We expect Willie & wee Annie home about xmas. He could not bring the child any sooner as our winter would be too cold for her after the heat of South Africa.

(j) You will say we are full of trouble. Yes dear brother but my saviour has been with me through it all & He says "I will never leave you nor forsake you" Ps103.

(k) Please give my love to Robert J & tell him I wrote to him after the death of his wife & son. Give my love to Bertie & tell her I wish she would write to me. I have had a letter from Mary Reid or Campble since she was married, but its not answered yet. Give them all my love. M^{rs} Joseph Reid I wish you to give my love to her. Though I did not know her personally, I love her & her children. It will be a struggle for her, unless she is a good maneger.

(l) I must draw this to a close & I have not told you of our lovely city with its electric trams, & its hot springs & its lovely scenery, & mount Eden, which is close to me 500 feet above the sea. A lovely view from the top. Just a nice place for Bertie to get a picture for to put on canvas.

(m) I was 68 on the 5 of this month, so im getting on. My very best love to you dear Thomas, from your loving sister

M A Kilpatrick

(n) M^{rs} Dixon is very weakly this winter. I wrote to JK not many weeks ago so need not say any more now. Remember me to any who may enquire, & write again to your lonely sister M. A. K.

(Ki 15)

Balleer

Tassagh

Armagh

Ireland

Sept 29th 1916

My dear Mrs Kilpatrick

(a) I was delighted to receive your very welcome letter on Tuesday last, and to see by it that you are still alive and well. I will begin now to give you all the news that I think would interest you. I have 5 children 3 Boys and 2 girls. The eldest boy and eldest girl are married. The youngest girl is in business in Armagh in a Book Shop and the 2 youngest boys went to Canada about 6 years ago. Since the outbreak of war the 2 oldest boys have joined the Army (that is the married one and one of the 2 that was in Canada: that only leaves one now in Canada the youngest of the family). The Boy that joined in Canada was sent to England after a years training in Canada and has now been sent out to France just a few days ago. The oldest boy has not been in France except on Transport duty. He was not in the firing line. I dont know if ever I will see them again.

(b) I am living in Balleer alone but my second daughter who is in business in Armagh about 3 miles from here is able to cycle out generally 3 times a week so that I am not so lonely. I do a little farming but does not labour much so that I have a very nice time. I have the house nicely rennovated and have got a back door a nice stone in the kitchen and it very nicely furnished. It is a good home and very comfortable. That is the

reason I do not like to leave it. I wish you could come to see me. I would make you welcome.

(c) Your brother Robert John died 3 years ago. His children are still living in the old place Drumhirk. It is strange they did not answer your letter. Thomas E Reid of armagh died 2 years ago last august. His daughter is still living with her brother Tom (who is married) since Thomas died. She teaches Art in several of the schools in Armagh and has a lot of pupils as well. John Kilpatrick died last April and your mother's sister (Mrs M Williams) is dead 25 years ago. All the old neighbours that you knew are dead except Sally Armstrong and Kate Garvey. Biddy Garvey that was married to Paddy Price on the march with us is dead 9 years ago. Many a time she used to mention you when she would be talking about old times.

(d) I miss Poor Thomas when I go into Armagh. I was always accustomed to call in and have a chat with him. He used to read your letters to me. I did not get on very well with Robert John's family. I am not very much or very often at Drumhirk. I have good health and if I feel lonely I got out for a run on the bicycle. I am now 59 years of age and I stand my age well. I was married when I was 18 years of age. I am enclosing a photograph of myself and my second daughter which was taken 3 years ago. The next letter I write I will send you the Photographs of my sons. I hope you will get this letter alright. I will be Expecting a reply from you. My husband is dead 20 years the 1st of September. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Reid

The Macready Correspondence, 1878-1881 (1-3)

(Ma 1)

Address Governors Bay

Port Lyttelton. Canterbury

New Zealand

27 March 1878

My dear Cousins

(a) I am now sitting in my aunts little cottage looking out on beds of magnificent flowers roses fuchsias geraniums &c with the sea a little beyond and mountains rising up on either side. The prospect is beautiful. I have travelled over about fifteen thousand miles of water and at last got to the desired haven.

(b) We sighted no land from we left England until we saw the Snares which are rocky islands south of New Zealand. The next day Sat 9th Mar. we saw the mainland with snow capped mountains in the distance. We sailed along the coast for two days and arrived in Port Lyttelton harbour on Mon March 11th. I did not leave the ship until the following morning when I with my luggage was conveyed to the shore in a little steam boat. I found a M^r Robinson and his sister waiting for me. They conducted me to their mother, who is a great friend of aunts, and I waited there until I got a conveyance to take me to Governors Bay which is seven miles distant from Port.

(c) I found my Aunts well and hearty. Indeed I am quite surprised at the way in which Aunt Bessy can run up the hills. I believe my own health is greatly benefitted by the sea voyage which was a very pleasant one to me. The Captain had his wife with him and she did all in her power to make us comfortable. I had no fear but slept as peacably as I would have done at home.

(d) We had two storms after we passed the cape of Good Hope but I placed full reliance on the judgment and management of the Captain and officers of our ship and when

they spake hopefully and confidently of our weathering the storm I was satisfied. The first storm occurred on Feb. 8th. All hands were called out a[*t*] twelve O'clock at night to furl a sail that had got loose and was flapping in the wind. It was a difficult and dangerous operation. The men looked like mites hanging across the yards. They got it down in 45 minutes. It blew hard for six hours The Captain said with hurricane violence.

(e) Some of the ladies sat up all night. The Captain on duty till morning. The sea came right over the poop which is elevated about seven feet above the deck wrenched a heavy teak wood hen coop from the place where it was secured and carried it away. Some of the hens were [*?lost*]. One was pounced upon by an Albatross & speedily demolished. One of the passengers was drenched and his foot severely bruised. It then smashed the glass of the sky light and poured down upon us who were in the Saloon. It was a surprise.

(f) The water then rushed into our sleeping cabins and kept dashing backwards and forwards until we got it baled out. This occupied our time from breakfast till dinner with Steward and third mate to help us and the captain with his sleeves rolled giving what aid he could. My boxes were sitting in water and I was anxious about their contents but fortunately nothing suffered. My bed got wet. Some of the hens and ducks that had suffered from exposure were thrown over board.

(g) The Second storm was more severe. The captain said as severe a storm as he was ever in. On Monday March 4th it blew a strong gale increasing in violence until about four in the following morning. It was perfectly appalling. One of the sails was torn to shreds and first mate was aloft all morning cutting it away. Most of the ladies sat up all night. I went to bed and got some sleep but the rolling of the ship and of myself from side to side kept me very uncomfortable. Then the roaring of the wind, the rattling of things all around us The creaking of the timbers and dashing of the sea against the ships side was enough to strike terror into a stout heart.

(h) It seemed as if the Ships side would have been driven in by the force of the waves. The sound was like that of a cannon ball. Then when it broke over the ship the sound of the rushing waters and the shiver that went through the ship was alarming. All the doors and hatches were closed to prevent the water from coming in. I got a peep through a window opening from the saloon to the deck. The bows of the ship were dipping into the water and throwing it over the main body like a magnificent waterfall. The water was forming in great waves over the deck. A barrel of fat value for thirty shillings was washed over board. It was ones of Cook's perquisites. Several of the passengers suffered severe loss. Their beds lifted up by the waters boxes swimming about and the contents saturated with water. A handsomely bound family Bible was swimming about the deck and almost destroyed.

(i) After breakfast the storm having abated a little one of the officers took me to the poop and the sight that presented itself to me was truly grand. The sea was covered with little hills as it were as far as the eye could reach and each of these topped with white spray and constantly in motion. Now and again the sea would fall in one part, then a number of these hills would come together forming one great peak which would then break the spray rising to a great height and when the sun shone on it presenting all the colors of the rainbow. A feeling of admiration and awe came over me when I looked at it. The Officers said I was brave to come on deck at such a time.

(j) I had not been long down and seated at my work when we were startled by a great bang. A heavy sea burst in a window breaking the frame work which was of Teak wood and carrying with it flower pots, mould, geraniums and broken glass. We were partly prepared for this yet we did not escape unscathed. I had to change my dress and two others had to undress and go to bed. A baby was in its cradle. It was wet through and its face covered with earth that had been washed from the flowers. One of the ladies was up to the ankles in water trying to ward it off from her Cabin and several of the gentlemen had

shoes and stockings off assisting. In Stewards pantry and third mates cabin the water was up to the waist. The sea that washed over the poop carried away the remaining hen coop. It was washed into the lower deck and dashed back again into the poop which is seven feet higher then smashed to pieces. Several beautifully ornamented buckets for water were also carried away.

(k) The ship was filled with water to the bulwarks and remained some time on one side before it could right itself from the weight of water taken in. The water escaped through the port holes and scuppers. If another wave had come before the ship had relieved itself of the water it would have been dangerous. Fortunately no one was hurt but they got plenty of sea water baths. One of the men was washed under a spar and kept shouting until he was dragged out. I thought he was killed but immediately on getting free he ran off. I think he was ashamed of himself. I was not sea sick all the time and most of the passengers were.

(l) I am writing to M^{rs} Jamieson and Miss Moreton by same mail and you will read more about the voyage in their letters.

B Macready

My dear cousins hoping you are all well as this leaves Aunts and me. I remain

Yours Very Affectionately

Bessie Macready

(m) Give my best regards to cousin James, his wife and family. I hope M^{rs} James Main is getting quite strong. Please to let me know how she is. Do not forget to write for I am anxious to hear about you all.

(Ma 2)

Colombo Street

Christchurch

New Zealand

July 14th 1881

My Dear Cousin William

(a) I have for a long time thought of writing to you but was waiting for something to write about farming and am afraid I have not gained much information yet. You see it is not quite in my line but I may say that it is principally done by machinery here. The farms are very large as a rule and the land very productive.

(b) Shortly after I arrived in New Zealand I was on a visit to a M^r Horrell who owns a farm of 800 acres in Canterbury about 30 miles from Christchurch and also 4000 acres in the north island. In his Canterbury farm he has one field or paddock as they are called here containing fifty acres. This would not be considered a bad farm in Ireland. He grows a great quantity of wheat and very fine wheat it is that is grown in New Zealand.

(c) The country supplies itself and sends a great deal home. The ship I came out in was sent home loaded with wheat a great deal of which was from M^r Horrell. In fact wheat & wool are our two principal exports. We also send home oats preserved meat and they are now trying to fit up vessels for the transport of cheese. One cargo was sent home but the experiment was unsuccessful. The cheese did not keep. We may succeed ultimately. Good cheese was selling this season here for 3^d pr lb and less wholesale. Then we have got fine potatoes. Some of these we export to Australia.

(d) M^r Horrell keeps a great number of sheep and he had one large paddock of turnips. Occasionally he let the sheep into this and they had their will of them. Then he had an orchard and when the fruit was all gathered he turned the pigs, of which he had a number, into it. He said it did the orchard good. His farm was all on a flat & very good land. Some of this he had bought in the early times of the colony for £2 pr acre. Now he

could not get the same under £12 or perhaps at that. The gentleman I am with possesses land up country & in one paddock he has 600 acres. Not much land lost by fences here.

(e) You would like to know something about the cattle. Well we have very fine fat cows quite as nice as the home ones. You see they were all brought from home at first. Then our sheep are quite as woolly and quite as nice to eat. I believe they are better, they get such nice grazing. Splendid cows can be bought here for from £6 to £10 which is considered a high price. They are quite as fat and fine looking as any I have seen at home. In fact I dont know why they should not they get such good grazing. Sometimes I have seen them when lying down almost covered by the grass but our summers are very long and sometimes very dry then the grass is scarce & the cows suffer.

(f) Sheep here can be bought for 10/- pr head. Farmers keep them in thousands. Mutton we are now buying at 2^d per lb for fore quartis and in the summer @ 1½ pr lb splendid. We have got good & cheap butchers meat good flour. Our baker's bread is equal if not better than the best home bread & as cheap 3^d for 2lb loaf. Butter very nice & cheaper than home but to counteract these we have house rent very dear. A small 4 roomed wooden domicile will be 10/- or 12/- per week. Then coals are very dear £2 10 pr ton delivered in Town & in the Bays where Aunts live £3-10. Clothing is also dear. I will one day give you a description of my cottage.

Your Affectionate Cousin

Elizabeth

or Bessie

Address to

Miss Macready

c/o T Mollet Esqr

Colombo Street

Christchurch

Canterbury

New Zealand

(Ma 3)

Colombo Street

Christchurch

New Zealand

July 14th 1881

My Dear Cousins M. & Jane

(a) I shall make no excuse for not answering your kind letter sooner which letter I was very delighted to receive. I deserve a great deal of blame but dont be too hard on a poor weary pilgrim alone I was going to say on a desert island, but I cannot, for it is indeed a beautiful island, with a very fine dry climate, very well suited to my constitution. We have here nine months of splendid summer weather most of it a great deal warmer than the warmest summer day you experience at home & I believe my health has been greatly benefitted by the change. Although I have had many, very, very, weary days and often longed for the old home & friends.

(b) We were very sorry to hear of the trouble in your sister Eliza's family. Having every comfort in this world does not exempt us from that. I hope you are all well & cousin James. His wife I hope has thoroughly recovered her strength, and his two little daughters, I forget their names, please send them for I should like to remember and think of them by name. Tell them I was very sorry I did not see them on leaving and that I should have prized their little books very much & if ever they have their photographs taken I'd be very pleased to have them & give them a prominent place in my album.

(c) I will now give you a short sketch of my life in New Zealand. Well for the first sixteen months I remained with Aunts in the Bays, which is a delightful place but not a place to progress rapidly. In fact it was a losing game with me while there. About that time a friend of Aunts offered me the entire charge of a shop in Lyttelton which I accepted and was there for a year and a half and many a weary time I spent there, business dull, long

hours, and innumerable little trials. I believe I wrote in M^{rs} Jamieson's letter what my duties were there. However I was gaining something and that enabled me to bear up in prospect of a happier future.

(d) About that time I heard of a cottage beside my Aunts that was to be sold & I went to make enquiries about it and purchased it. I then went out to the Bays again intending to get my cottage in order and see it furnished during the summer months, but had not been there long, when the old gentleman from whom I bought it (may God bless him) paid me a visit and wished me to take the charge of his very pretty Villa in Christchurch while he and his daughters went home to England for a twelve or eighteen months pleasure trip. I was very unwilling to accept so responsible a charge but he overruled my objections and so I am now in Christchurch a city having over thirty thousand inhabitants. He leaves behind him a son, a very nice young man of 21 years, but very delicate. He was educated at the college here for you must know we have got a very fine College here & also very fine schools and young ladies go in quite as strongly for education as do the gentlemen. In fact I have met two young ladies here who have taken their degrees at the University one that of B. A. and the other [*erased*: A. M.] M. A.

(e) I am very comfortable just now. I have got a nice girl for a servant and am attended to like a lady. We have silver teaspoons silver plated table and des[s]ert spoons & forks & other silver pieces in use every day and a better set for state occasions. I occupy the best rooms just as a member of the family. I believe it was partly to see to the young man's comfort and to keep him in company that his father wished me to be here. Of course when he and his daughte[r]s come back I will again go to the Bays and see to my Cottage.

Kisses for your little Mis[s]es

(f) Do not reward me according to my doing but write me a long letter soon and tell me how you all are and if you see M^{rs} Jameson, give her my love and tell me how she is

and if Eliza is still with her. Should you see Miss Morton give my love to her, also, and her mother & tell Miss Morton I hope to write to her next and now deeply penitent for my past neglect and hoping to make amends in the future I remain with Love

Your Affectionate Cousin

Elizabeth Macready

Direct to me

c/o M^r Mollet

Colombo Street

Christchurch

New Zealand

The McClure Correspondence, 1860-1865 (1-5)

(Ce 1)

London 24 June 1860

My Dearest Sisters

(a) We are all about to start for Newzealand in a few days and as you know I am not very strong. I think it as well to take a wife with me. Her name is Emily Humphreys the orphan Daughter of a Solicitor. She is in her Tuenty fifth year so not too young. Gordon thinks her very pretty, which she is, and that she will be a very suitable wife for me. She has good sound sense & no capers. I wish you could have seen her before we left for I am sure you would have liked her. She is not unlike poor Mary Moreland only her hair is brown. She is about the size of our Emily.

(b) I should have come to see you my Dearest Sisters but had not time after we arranged to go abroad but no doubt we shall meet at a future day. It is likely that Cunningham will join us if we succeed well, when I think you will all come out with him & Lizzie of which we would be glad.

(c) I am to be married next Tuesday at Kensington church from her Uncle's who is pretty high up in the Board of Trade D^r Michelsen.

(d) Gordon & I went to see Aunt Harrison today. She has had a Paralytic stroke & is not expected to live more than a few days. Park told me that she has left Lizzie £100- & me £50- for she felt that Eliza should not have forgotten Lizzie. Now my own Dearest Sisters I must bid you all good bye & God Bless you all.

Your affectionate Brother

J. M. McClure

For my Sisters Anna, Emily & Charlotte & love to Alice.

(Ce 2)

[London, circa July 1860: sheets missing]

(a) the keys of the trunks are in a little white [*word illegible*] box so you can get them when you like. I hope you will enjoy yourselves till I come back which will be in about 2 years when I expect you will all come out with me & settle as Cunningham will likely do when he leaves the army. Charlottes marriage certificate is with the settlement in Amory's office as also all papers of importance.

(b) James has put Cappy into the Irish land court which will sell it sometime [th]is autum[n]. He expects to get £1200 for it which we want very much as it has taken an immense sum £1500 to fit us out. Of course we expect to have this returned in a year or two. All money matters are settled so you will have no trouble but to write to Dolree you Charlotte Lizzy & all t[he] sums of money which James & I borrowed we cannot now repay but will pay the int[e]rest on them till this time & will repay the capital as soon as possible. [?Angas] rent will be paid in to Dolrees hand by the agent M^r Marsh but J. P. will keep an eye to things in general so if you want to know anything write to him.

(c) I must now say good-bye for a long time at lea[st] six months. I will write as soon as posible & direct it to Ball court & J. P. will forward it to you. Our ad[d]ress will be Post Office Dunedin Province of Otago N.Z.

(d) I am going to teach myself to draw on Board ship. I have buought the first 6 books on drawing & will endeavour to learn some[thin]g of Landscape. If I have time I will write before sailing so now good bye for a long time.

(e) Kiss Allice for me & tell her not to forget my uncle as I shant forget her. All well here but so very buisy from morning [*word illegible*] night & so anxious lest anything should be forgiven [*forgotten*] that I can scarcely write what I mean to say to you all. Good bye again & dont fret as I will be back so soon.

A. G. M^cClure

(Ce 3)

Ship Evening Star

Thursday August 16th 1860

Latitude 20°South

Longitude 35°West

My dear Sisters

(a) I secure the present opportunity of writing to you by a homeward bound ship. At present we are going well & have had a pleasant voyage so far. We expect to be in Newzealand in the course of another 2 months when I shall write you a full account of our adventures. Our address will be Post Office Dunedin, Otago Newzealand. All well on board & very happy.

(b) Emily that is James wife is a very nice girl & we get on very well. I hope you will get this all safe. Of course I cant tell you any news [bu]t that we are all very hap[p]y and well. All send their loves & kisses.

(c) The voyage has been successful. As yet nothing or nobody being ill except Emily who was ill with seasickness about a month. I was not ill at all. I have no time for a regular letter as the ship is close up so good bye & God bless you all.

Your affectionate brother

A. G. McClure

(Ce 4)

[from transcription of lost original]

Invercargill, Otago, NZ

28 May

My dear Sisters

(a) A fortnight ago I received your last letters dated Christmas day from Florence where I hope you all enjoy life to its fullest extent.

(b) At present we are just finishing William's house. He is going to reside in this town & has every prospect of succeeding in his profession. Of course hard work is the order of the day & a little roughness, but as everyone is in the same state, you do not think of it.

(c) As this place has become a separate province since we came here, we will have to wait some short time yet till we get the land we have applied for, so that at present we are carpentering, felling timber & making William's place look finished.

(d) I can hardly describe this country to you but it is beautifully wooded with streams of large rivers running in all directions, snowy mountains in the distance with small ranges close at hand, plenty of Parrotts, pigeons & ducks of the most beautiful colours. Wild pigs abound close at hand. Sporting is not much gone after except for the Pot.

(e) We have no connection with the War in this Island whatever as the Maoris here are too poor & never were warlike. There are several villages close at hand but they don't come much among the white men.

(f) At present I am breaking in a horse for Emily, to take her up the country, as horseback is the only mode of conveyance at all easy when you think we have no roads & several rivers to cross. Lydia heard from Mrs Cramer (late Fanny Hurrell). She is living at present in London, but intends going to Southampton. She mentions Lizzy in her letter & says she is getting on nicely with two children, a boy & a girl.

(g) I don't think I told you I got Wright's likeness in his heroic costume & lillie Kaulback has got back to Florence. Well I am glad to think that James has not lost sight of us, I often think of them. Remember me to all friends & say that as soon as I can I will come back for a wife, which can't be done without in a place like this.

(h) Kiss dear little Alice for me & I think I would be content if I had her here.

(i) There was a small dance here the other night the opening of the newspaper office, so we are not so bad after all. So now good-bye for a little & God bless you all till I see you again.

A. G. McClure

(Ce 5)

Ryal Bush, Invercargill,
Southland, New Zealand

17 September 1865

My Dear Sister Emily,

(a) Your welcome letter of 17 May has safely reached me. Copy the address as above, in your letters for the future. Even the address on your last is not correct, which accounts for so many not reaching me. Southland is a Province of which Invercargill is the Capital. Otago is another Province of which Dunedin is the Capital. With the latter Province or Capital we have nothing to do. Ryal Bush is only 8 miles from Invercargill.

(b) Now to releive your mind regarding us, we are getting on slowly but steadily thank God. The changes in this Colony are very sudden. Men one year apparently realizing fortunes & the next loosing everything. This has been the case with many whom we know, & with the greater number, n[e]arly all of the people in business in the town, the fluctuations in Colonial affairs being great & sudden. One friend refused to sell some land 2 years ago at £4 per acre & now offers it at 25/- shillings & can not get it. House in town that rented at £100 per annum now let at £25 or so or less or merely to be kept in repair, 8 out of every 10 vacant, yet in a year or two all will be bright again. We thank goodness through all have continued to hold our own & advance as well, not so fast as we should wish, but still improve.

(c) Our house is comfortable & is the best in the neighborhood. It is in [*erased:* the] a cottage in the old English style, 3 Gables thus [*drawing of house*] an Oriel window

in one end & front Gable, verandah &c. I shall send you a scetch next time. Large parlor, dining room, & best bed room. Hall on ground floor & 2 bed rooms in attics. Kitchen is behind, Casements to open 7 feet by 3 feet. Comfortably furnished. We have a fine team of farm horses [?hende] saddle ones, cows, fowls, pigs. There has been a great discovery of Gold on the west coast. Gordon will soon start for [erased: them] diggings. He is right. He has a great chance of making money. He will try.

(d) My wife is all I could wish, but do not run away with the idea that she is a hum drum common place woman. She is a gentlewoman in every sense of the word, & respected & esteemed by all who know her. She is very handsome & only now 29. The Boys are as fond of her as if she were their mother, & not a woman but one like her of high principles would treat them like her own, as she does, after the manner in which she was treated by their foolish mother. I can tell you I feel proud of my wife for her noble conduct.

(e) Poor William has left this for Australia. He is a rol[ing]ing stone, but his wife has much to blame for what has happened to him. She made the poor fellow miserable, & he had not strength of Character to keep his own. They were a most unhappy pair. This to ourselves. Mrs Moyle who of course takes Lydia's part continues the annuity & pays it to us on a/c of the children, which is noble in her, Poor Lady.

(f) I was beaten 10 months ago for the seat for this district in the Provincial Council, But now have been called [u]pon to stand for this County, for the House of Representatives. The requisition [erased: has to] calling on me to become a candidate has been numerously signed by former opponents, & by the Gentleman who proposed my opponent for the Provincial Council, 10 month ago. I consider I have a good chance to be returned, but will let you know the result of the election which promises to be sharply contested as I oppose one of the big wigs.

(g) Relative to the American stocks. They are safe enough. You do not hold stock in any of the confederate states & although the rate of exchange is against you, still it will fall & the dividends be as large as ever in a short time, so do not be frightened into selling out, that would be madness. Make your minds *easy* on the matter, & leave your American stock where it is. If I had any I should not sell out.

(h) I want to know about Anna's house. She must consult Mr Park about it who will advise her on the subject. Make Cunningham write to us. We know nothing about the North Island & it is only in it that grants of land are made. Give my love to Dear Anna, Lizzy & Charlotte. God bless you all my Dear sisters & write soon. I shall be a better correspondent for the future. Gordon sends his love to all.

(i) Georgy is very handsome & finer boys than the 3 could not be found. George is clever, reads well, Geography, spelling, arithmetic &c. Gordy reads short stories, spells, tables &c. Arthur spells & reads in a sort of a way.

Again Good bye & God Bless You all

Your Affectionate Brother

J. M. McClure

Miss Emily McClure

The Strong Correspondence, 1883-1905 (1-7)

(St 1)

Lahinch Oct. 25th 83

Dear Daniel

(a) I received your letter to day and I regard it as very unfortunate that the vessel is not sailing or rather that you have no room in her on the 1st of November. I do not know what to advise you. Now I would advise at all events if you intend going to New Zealand to come home h[e]re for the month as you know there will be a brotherly welcome here for you. And if you make up your mind to [*omitted: go to*] America I send you Uncle Charley's address. Still I would rather you would come back here untill the 25th of Nov. In any case I would not remain in Dublin so Long.

(b) Dear Dan None of us done much since but thinking of you. We all loved you with more than brotherly love. No matter where you go, rich or poor, sick or well, now or in the future, you will be more than welcome back here to live your lifetime in this humble home. Yes Dear Dan I can say now without fear of policy I liked you as well as the Dearest of a brother and first thing I heard on Wednesday morning was my mother crying for you. You never left our mind for a moment since you left and Lizzie cried after getting up this morning so come back D^f [*dear*] Dan for the month if you are determined on going to New Zealand.

(c) Above all things be careful of your money now as you are in a good way of spending it and money does not hold long.

(d) The Miss Collings inquired for you. Mention something about them in your next letter. I think Lissie liked you very much. Say something that I can read for them. [*Erased: Bidy*] Mrs Kelly was very mad when you did not go see her before going. We had a station to day. I am very sorry but you staid untill now.

(e) But Dan always remember while we live our home is yours and that you will be the best loved brother in it and that if the world frowns on you there is one spot where you can rest secure. Where ever you go Dan our hearts will follow you with affectionate love which will never grow cold. Praying God to direct you I am D^f [*dear*] Dan your affectionate Cousin

J. Strong

(f) Come back Dear Dan if you have your mind made up to go to New ZealLand. I know you are certain of your welcome so Dont spend your money in Dublins. But above all pray to god for direction[*erased: s*]. Give my love to M^f C. and family and Dont forget Jack. The following is Uncle Charleys addres.

For M^f Charless Strong

In care of. Robert Holt

N. 559 Congress Street

Troy. New York. U.S.

(St 2)

Lahinch 23rd 83

November

Dear Dan

(a) When you receive a letter from me again thousands of miles of ocean shall roll between us and you will be in a strange land making new friends and perhaps forgetting the old ones, or only remembering them sometimes when some stray thought shall wander back to them and the land of your birth. But Dan you will never be forgotten by me and I feel certain that we shall meet again (much changed in appearance perhaps but unshaken in the affection we have for each other. Yes time may whiten the hair furrow the brow and dim the eyes But its hand shall not touch our hearts.

(b) And always remember Dan that you have a home in Ireland while one of us lives. Then if you find New Zealland not to agree with your health do not hesitatate a moment in coming back here again. I need not tell you how welcome you will be. We will have a lonely Christmas without you Dan and you may be sure that many a prayer will be of[/]ered for your safe passage and every one in the house shall recall last *last* Christmas morning when we were so happy together.

(c) Now Dan I hope you will not take it ill of me if I give you a few words of advice. First then I will say practice your Relegion as you did in portumna. Be always a good Catholic earnest and fervent.

(d) Secontly Dan never denie your country. Always help it to the best of your ability and according to your means, and never sit silent while your country or your countryment are misrepresented or slandered.

(e) Finally Dan shun evil company and everything evil but above all things beware of drunkeness that curse of Irishmen that follows them into every land degrading and debasing them.

(f) But I have every confidence in your own sense and in your own spirit and I hope God will watch over and protect you as I know you will pray for his assistance and protection. I hope you will never forget writing to me for I will be always anxious to hear how you are getting on and shall always rejoyce in your success.

(g) I am leaving it to Lizzie to send you all the news of town and country but I cannot forbear leting you know that Rob. and Mike Duffy got 14 days in nenagh jail for beating Curley.

(h) Now Dan the time is come when I must close this scribble and say good bye. I wish you a safe and speedy passage and may god and the blessed virgin watch over and protect you. May they guide your steps back again to holy Ireland to mingle your clay with your father's in the old spot under the shadow of Lorrha Abbey and may I be spared

to welcome you back. And now Dear Dan accept this last Good Bye from your affectionate Cousin

John Strong

Remember me.

(St 3)

Ferry

Portland

Roscrea

Sept 14th 95

My Dear Cousin,

(a) I kneed scarcely tell you how delighted we all were when I received your kind letter in due time and learned by it you are so well.

(b) I know you will be surprised to hear Bill Carrolls' father died rather suddenly 15th August. He was 84 years of age and in good health up to the time he died. It was old Muddy Hough I mentioned to you before. She is still living but Molls is dead. Poor old Cullen is now over twelve months burried.

(c) Gutta is at the Ferry still and has one of Wills' children house-keeping for him. Harry Falkner is staying at home as his only sister is delicate. He has made a bit of money and never followed the trade in America. He very often comes over and inquires for you. I will tell him all about your letter. You never mentioned to me are you following the trade or how you are getting on. I would like to know this very much.

(d) John had a letter the other day from Margaret. She did not say how she was going on. She was a foolish girl and I suppose helped to leave who is in your place at the Ferry there. But these things cannot be forgotten Dear Cousin and I feel grieved every time I look at your ones [*once*] a happy home to think that you who is the only living cousin of the name should be toiling for your bread amongst strangers in a foreign

[omitted: land] while others are living in it. But be off good cheer. I hope to see your name planted there yet. Margaret complains why we are so bad to her. Well to tell you the truth if she got anything she might not put it to good use and I would be against her for that.

(e) I always heard the strongs had one misfortune and that was liquor and when one of their name commences they cannot stop so the only remedy when they know that is to shun it. As you know yourself when you were leaving we had very little to stand upon only able to live decently. Well now today if you look back over those number of years we done a lot. We bought land to the amount of £500 and gave Margaret a fortune of two hundred pounds. Could we do it if drinking. I say no. So you see drink is the ruin of the world. I thank God for myself I never drank any sort of liquor and during my old College days I had many temptations to fight in that line but overcame them all.

(f) I went for an examination in the Customs and took 27th place out of over 1,000 candidates but when examined by the doctor he reected me for weak lungs. It was a loss to me. The salary commences at £95 and rises to £650 per year. I am not in the least annoyed over it for I know I am well able to gain a position when the Vacancy offers and I expect to get some high position yet.

(g) Willie Ducie our first cousin is a very big fellow in Manchester. I dont know whether you ever saw him or not. His mother was your Aunt. She was married to Kenny first and when he died she married Ducie. The son was here and his sister. He is earning over £5 a week. He is married and so is Maggie.

(h) How you would never say I will go home soon. You should throw New Zealand there and come to Ireland. My mother is always talking about you. She is always saying she wont die until she sees you home again. If you are not getting on more than well dont stop there. I suppose Bill Carroll heard of his father's death from home.

(i) Dear Cousin I have searched the registry in Looaha for M^{rs} M^cInness' age back for sixty years and her name does not appear on it. We could not go back any further as the old books are in the Parochial house, but next letter you may inform her I will send her the date of her birth. If she could give you an Idea of the year she was born it would be a great help to me.

(j) I am sending you a local paper. I did not receive the one you mentioned in your letter. John is not married yet but I suppose he soon will.

(k) There is no great news of importance about this country. Of course you read in the paper about the unfortunate split in the Parliamentary party and every day its growing worse as we now have a Tory Government and are as far as ever from the long talked of Home Rule.

(l) I would like to see some curiosities [*curiosities*] from Australia. Anything at all. I expect to hear from you soon again.

(m) Margaret has a young daughter. This is the second one. Your old boss is still alive but I am afraid he is going to kill himself from the hard stuff.

(n) I will ask you once more to make up your mind and face dear old Ireland once more where I will have a lump of a fine Connaught damsel to be your better half for the remainder of your days. I would marry myself for spite but tis bad to commence in the wrong end of the family.

Good Bye Dear Cousin. Hoping I will see you belong at the Ferry. I remain

your fond Cousin

M Stronge

(St 4)

Lahinch

Dec 12, 98

Dearest Cousin

(a) Your very welcome letter to hand in due course was glad to hear that you were well as the departure of this letter leaves us all at present thank God.

(b) Dear Dan I have often thought[*t*] of writing to you but still neglected to do so. However I promise not to be so neglectful in future. I will write often and send you all the news about the old place.

(c) There are a great many changes since you left. Nearly all they old people are dead and gon and my kind good Mother the Dearest of all. We all miss her very much. She has left a vacent place in the house that never can be filled. But hope God has called her to a happy home beyond the skys' where grief cant reach her more. She always said that you would be living in your old home yet. You know the wheel is always turning. Prehaps some of us might live to see that day. It would be the joy of our hearts to see you where you had a right to be.

(d) You asked me in your letter if the Miss Walshes were all married. Well there are three of them married and got very good matches. Anna is to the good like myself not married yet. She often asks for you.

(e) Will you ever forget the day we went to Terryglass. What little Scuse we had. Dear Cousin I often Dream of those happy day that can never be recalled. Those days were the happiest in my life when you and I were together rambling around the Dear old place.

(f) Now Dearest Cousin I will not say much this time untill my next letter. I am sending you a little handkerchief. Accept it as a token love and rememberance of the old times. I must now wind up with fondest love and best wishes form your affect Cousin

L. Strong

(g) I would like to get your photo. I will send you mine the next letter. Good bye.

Write soon. From your Cousin Lizzie Strong. M^{rs} Hough sends her fond love to you. She has two chicks only.

(St 5)

Lehinch

Portland

Birr

Ireland,

May 24, 1900

My Dear Cousin,

(a) You must think I have forgotten you altogether when I have not replied to your two last letters. But the facts were at that time poor Will was sick & I was going to Dublin with him where we remained for two months. I sent you a paper sometime ago where you could have read the sad news of the poor fellows death. He died 22nd February 1900 just three years after my mother.

(b) If I was to tell you all about his death it would take me a day to write it. But just 2 give you a little Idea of the poor fellows end. He over reached himself and a little lump grew over the stomach inside the skin at the end of the chest. He noticed it in June & the Doctors made nothing of it until October when two Belfast men pronounced it "tumour" & sent him to Dublin for an operation. He got the most eminent men in the city. They opened him, but was unable to remove the lump as it was connected to a vital part. He came home & after a few months peacefully passed away. He faced death fully reconciled & never murmured. We all feel it awfully. He was so quite [*quiet*] & good.

(c) Jack Carrolls wife is also dead & he wont be long there himself. He has turned completely to liquor. Old Mary Burke is dead. Martin Juilan & Mrs B[?alaways]. Muddy Hough is still alive.

(d) I never got the paper you said you would send. We heard Bill Carroll was shot. Let Mr Hayes send me as near as he can guess the year he was Born.

With best wishes

Your Cousin

Martin

(St 6)

The Ferry

Portland

Birr August 26th 05

Mr Daniel Strong

Dear Dan

(a) Thanks for the newspaper. It let me know you have succeeded in a foreign land. You are gone nearly 21 years but you are before my eyes now as fresh as the day you left and you are as dear to me. Oh God be with old times and the dear friends of youths happy years.

(b) I am married this three years to a second cousin of my own named Ellen Kennedy a daughter of Big Johnnys who lived next my uncles. I have now one little girl who I named Bridget after my poor mother. Ah Dan that old woman loved you as her own son But tall weeds now grow over her grave under the shadow of Lorrha's old Abbey where also poor Will sleeps death's long sleep. Martin is married in Portumna and has two sons. Patt has the old home and Denny lives as yet with him.

(c) We are all doing well. I have a public house where Maher lived also The Bridge Island Patsy Hehirs place part of Sullivan's Patt Burkes and Mrs Petty's. So you

see I am fairly off. Lizzie married Joe Carroll. They bought out a house in Burrissokane [Borrisokane] and has a hotel there.

(d) Many are the changes in Portumna. Galvin has left Martin. All the sons are in Dublin. Jack Martin is married Fanny McDonnell and has a house where D O'Connell lived. Ellie McDonnell is married Dan Burke. They have 10 children. Old Mrs Burke is dead, died worth 3000. Dan got most. Poor John Joe died unmarried 2 years ago. Tom who is married Shannie Sammers fell in for his share. The Martins that lived in the old street fell into poverty. Tom Hannon and wife died in three weeks a year ago. All the children is gone to america. Jack Reegherey is still unmarried. John Whealan has a big family. Bill OKeeffe has also 7 girls and 2 boys. Abertin is still with Martin. He burried the wife and has another very delicate. Phil Hogan married a drinkers wife Got Broken and had to leave the town. Norah Quin (Mrs Keating) is dead this two years and John is married again. Old Martin Hynes is dead and Francie died in south Africa.

(e) Let me know How all the Hayes are. Is Mrs Maginness alive. Do you know I remember *go*. Is Jack and Paddy alive. I never got any account from Ned until a week ago.

(f) Police from this place was down in the North in Lurgan when a fine old man came up and asked was there Tipperery men there. When answered yes, He asked any from a place called The Fer[r]y. The sergt answered yes. Then He said is there any Strongs there. The Segt told him of us. He was delighted. I know none of them [omitted: he] said but John I saw and rocked in The Cradle. I will go to see them. I am thinking of writing him. He has two sons earning big money at Sin[n]ott's in Dublin.

(g) Three years ago I went to see Margaret in Dublin. She was glad to see me. But dear Dan she is Margaret still. I had a long chat with her son a sensible study young fellow. I will be in Dublin soon and will see him again as well as Ned Hayes's sons.

(h) Now Dear Dan there is a young fellow leaving this place in a few days for New Zealland. He is going for his health. His family came to live at Mrs M^cCutchins you know the post-office and he is living there since you left. He is going to his uncle an unmarried man in Gisbourne who was here two years ago. He will land at Auckland and will go see you. He will tell you all news. He is a protestant but is true as steel and was in every day at our houses this last 18 years. He will sail on September the 7th from London in the New Zeal land steam ship Ruapehu. He surely will call on his way to his uncle who is old and independant. He knows everything round and will tell you all. He is a dear friend of ours but I fear fated never to return. I have asked him write me all about you.

(i) When in Dublin I went in Quest of Poor Patt and *And* Will's graves. I had the numbers found the spot But found also that others were burried in the same grave. Poor fellows. As I stood by that simp[le] cross near their resting place how their faces and forms came back to my memory and I was nearly blinded by tears. Alas Poor Patt my first truest and dearest comrade. Never never will I know one like him again.

(j) Dear Dan I hope you are married and doing well. May God yet Give us a chance of meeting. My Hair is getting white and my teeth are almost gone. As to The changes about The Ferry I shall let the young man who is to call to see ye [*erased: will*] tell. You will find him truthful and I had almost forgotten to tell you His name is John Byrne. We always called *we alway called* him Jack Byrne.

(k) Old Bidy and Lizzie Hough is alive yet. He shall tell you about them. Jim Hehir is also alive and Mrs Cullen. Joe Maher was home here this Summer. The Culleys never married. They now live in Limerick. The old fellow is dead. Bob Duffy died 2 mo[n]ths ago. Mike died 3 year ago. Jack Guinass is dead. Maggie Loughnane is married. So is Jack of the Island. Jack Duffy is now very old looking. He is married Mary Kennedy a d[a]ughter of old Matts who lived at The Munster Harbour one time.

Charley is married to Sarah his cousin and has 3 little girls. There are many other thing I could tell you But you will soon learn all.

Remember me to all my relations And hoping to see you once before I die. I am
your Cousin

John Strong

I gave Byrne your address

(St 7)

The Ferry

Portland

Birr

Sept 9th [1905]

Mr D Strong

Dear Dan

(a) Jack Byrnes of whom I wrote to will sail today from Plymouth. He left London on yesterday. He goes on the S. S. Ruepehu of the New ZealLand line And will reach Auckland about the End of October. If he has not to go on direct to Gisbourne he will call on you. But if you want to be certain to see him and hear about us all you might go to Auckland when the ship lands. Though a protestant he is a dear friend of mine. He has a comrade with him a son of Sgt Hills who you remember in Portland. Byrnes will tell you all about us and The Old Spot. He came a child the year you left.

(b) Remember me to all friends Mrs McGuinness in particular and I know you will be sorry to hear (Lizzie) that is Mrs Carroll is delicate lately but not[h]ing serious. I am sending paper in 8 days.

Your Cousin

John Strong

The Rea Correspondence, 1905 (1)

(Re 1)

6th Nov 1905

Clinton Otago

New Zealand

Dear Brother

(a) I drop you this note to let you know that I Have received yours and I was glad to learn that you were in good Health when it le[f]t your Hand as this leaves me in my usual. I may mention that I Have got my proerty in the market for Sale but as fare as came I cant Sell at the price I want for it. However it is to be Hoped that the are a good time comeing.

(b) When you write you might mention what rent is charged for the laboureres cottage in Ireland and Haw much land is in with the cottage and what wages is paid in Ireland per day or per week and How manney Hours you work in Each day. The wages in this country is good but in a great manny cases you cannot get Steady Employment So that when you calculate your earnings for the year it comes to be a verry Small avrage. In fact I know that the are Hundereds of people in this country that came Here 20 and 30 years ago and if the could pay thire passage to thire natife country they would go tomorrah.

(c) You Have Know knowledg of How Some people are Situated Here. The labouring class in porticklar you would think Strange in Ireland to See working men traveling on the roads in ½ dozens carr[y]ing thire Blankats and a little can in thire Hand to make thire tea together with a little Bread in a bag Slung on thire Shoulder. If you were Here you could see this every day in the year.

(d) I Have little more To add at preasant. Hoping this will find the Misses and family Engoying the best of Health while I remain your affectionate Brother

Hugh Rea

(e) William M^cGoogan convays his best wishes to each and all of you not forgetting
Dear old Ireland.

The Carroll Correspondence, 1921-25 (1-24)

(C1 1)

John St

Henderson

Auckland NZ

Febry 5th 1921

My dear Tess

(a) If I do not hurry up I will have allowed twelve months to pass since I received your last letter, from Ireland, without having replied to it. Anyway, Tess, it came to hand in due course also yours of 26th November from Leeds to both of which I am now trying to pen a suitable reply. I do not know whether it will be an epistle worthy of your two nice long chatty letters but I will do my best.

(b) I should first of all explain my long delay in replying to yours of 11th March last. Well Tess dear all last year your new cousin and myself were anything but settled down. Houses to rent are as scarce here as honest peelers are in Ireland, with the result that people looking for somewhere to eat and sleep have to take whatever is offering. Last February we took a furnished bedroom with use of kitchen and dining room for which we paid £1 per week and although we were glad to get it at the time we were not satisfied with the place and kept on the lookout for something better. Well we stayed there about seven months and then shifted to another suburb of Auckland called Mount Eden where we had a furnished bedroom and use of conveniences at 25/- per week. We were not well in that place until we wanted to get out of it again but made up our minds that we would put up with it until something really suitable turned up. Just before Xmas we got the offer of the present place and as we considered it suitable we took it on. We have now a furnished house of four rooms and a kitchen for which we are paying 30/- per week. The rent

appears high but when you consider we were paying 25/- per week for one furnished room and use of conveniences it is reasonable enough.

(c) Henderson is situated 14 miles north of Auckland by rail and I travel to and from Auckland each day to work. I found it hard at first having to turn out of bed every morning at a quarter to six but am quite used to it now. Of course it is summer here now but when the cold frosty mornings come on it will be hard. Anyway I suppose it is time enough to bid the "old chap" goodmorrow when you meet him. I like living in the country alright. It is so nice and fresh and the weekends out here are good. I arrive home to dinner every week evening at a quarter past six and at a quarter past one on Saturdays. I take my lunch with me each day. Nina is quite at home in Henderson having lived here some years ago. She has a married sister living opposite to us and I think about half of the population of 200 are cousins-in-law of mine. We sincerely hope it will be quite a long time before we have to make another move. Well Tess I think I have nothing else to write about myself except to add that Nina and myself are as happy as the day is long.

(d) Replying to your letter of 11th March last. We are both quite pleased that you all enjoyed, I mean liked, the photo so well. Yes I am still as skinny as ever but am enjoying the best of health T.G. Nina is taking good care of me. Yes we also hope that some day something may turn up to enable us to pay a visit to old Ireland. We are living in hopes that we may not die in despair. Yes, as you say, it is time to start improvements at the Island and I daresay now that they have started it will be hard to recognise the dear old place after a short time. Did Frank return last year as you reckoned? Did he have tons of money and what does he think of Australia and the Hughes. Is Sara married once again? Carew must be a smart chap and it would seem that she is making a very good match. Yes I knew Maisie Fogarty who married Dr Heenan. She was a very nice girl. I suppose Jack and Paddy Joe & Dick are very busy at the Island now carrying out all the improvements mentioned by you. I met a man here early last year named Jim McKeown who knew Aunt

Kate before she was married. He comes from Cloughjordan and I have not seen him since. He has been in New Zealand for about forty years, I think.

(e) Well Tess you were telling me in your letter of 11th March about your taking on the nursing business and according to your letter of 26th November you had had eight months of nursing experience and like it very well. I do hope your health will continue good enough to permit of your carrying on at the work seeing that you like it so well. Your hours are very long and I am sure the half day per week is thoroughly appreciated. By the time you get this letter your holidays should be very near and I hope you will have an enjoyable time. I hope you had a home to go to alright.

(f) The "Black and Tan" brutes are brave heroes when they are up against unarmed men and women and children. The same British soldiers were too frightened to advance against the Turks on Gallipoli and would only do so when a New Zealand captain turned a machine gun on them. The New Zealanders and Australians will tell you what kind of hero the British Tommy is. Lloyd George had a great victory when he prevented Dr Mannix from visiting Ireland, but his victory will be short lived. If the omens are correct I should think his days as Prime Minister, of the outrager of small nations, have been numbered. Anyway Ireland has got Home Rule and I suppose we should be satisfied. Oh lord yes!

(g) Hoping to hear from you soon again with all the particulars of your Xmas Fancy Dress Ball, holidays &c. Nina joins me in sending fondest love and hoping you are quite well. We are both A.1.

I remain

Your loving cousin

Phil.

PS. Give our fondest love to Aunt Kate and all the cousins at The Island. P. J. C.

(C12)

Pier Hotel

Opposite

Queen's

Wharf

J. Berryman

Proprietor

Customhouse Quay,

Wellington, April 14th 1925

2.0pm

My dearest Nina

(a) How are you getting along since I left you on Sunday night? I do hope well. I had a lovely trip to Wellington. The chap in the seat with me went as far as Taumarunui and after that (a quarter to one) I had the seat to myself to Wellington. I was talking with my mate to T'nui. He knew Caitcheon well. Caitcheon who used to be with AMP. I did not sleep during the trip but (thanks to those two pillows) I was very comfortable. Had a good look at the country from daybreak. The fields were all white with frost. Had a cup of tea and a sandwich at Taumarunui and another at Palmerston North.

(b) Arrived in Wellington at 9.30am. Hired a carrier to take my case to Arawa and went with him. When we arrived there were informed that no luggage or passengers would be allowed on until Tuesday afternoon. Had to store case until this afternoon and make arrangements for a bed for last night. Came to above address as handiest and have just had to fork out 14/= for four meals and a bed. The room I got I could not use until 7.0pm last night as the previous tenant was not leaving until then. So to put in the time after lunch went to see Charlie Chaplin in "The Pilgrim". Had dinner at 6 and was in bed at 7 o'clock and never woke until 7 o'clock this morning.

(c) I have just had lunch and am going along to see that my case gets on the boat alright, when I can stay on myself and settle down. I have had to go to the Agents here to let them have a look at Passport and Ticket and get an order from them to get on the boat. She is now timed to sail at daybreak tomorrow (Wednesday) morning. Whether she will be put off further I do not know. I did not manage to get a second hand deck chair and as a new one costs 13/6 and would have to be carted half over Wellington I am going aboard without one and chancing my luck. I heard there is a good chance of hiring one aboard from the stewards.

(d) Well dearest I have no more to write of my experiences since last I saw you. I will be glad when I settle down on board as I am real tired of knocking around looking at the shops. Cheer up Nina dearest. A few months will not be long passing for either of us. God knows I do miss you and the kiddies but I console myself with the knowledge that every day that passes brings us nearer again.

Hoping you, Eileen, Maureen & Philip are very well and with very best love to you all

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(e) PS/ Say me to the Walkers Holts of Glen Eden & Pat. Ted & Wilf would appear to be making well up for last time. Ta Ta. P. J. C.

(Cl 3)

Sunday

19th April 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Here am I over 1500 miles from dear old New Zealand. It is only a week since I said goodbye to you and my darling kiddies but honestly it seems months to me. Anyway it is a week nearer to the time when we will all be united again please God.

(b) Well dearest I will now start to put on paper my experiences since I wrote my letter to you from Wellington on Tuesday last. I came down to the Arawa at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon and put my luggage in my cabin. I got a bunk in a 4 berth cabin and the other [*erased: four*] three occupants are very nice chaps. I thought No 1 was my bunk but I read it wrongly off my ticket. My number was really No 4. Being very tired I retired to bed early and about ten o'clock the last occupant of the cabin arrived and woke me up to tell me I was in the wrong bunk. After a lot of looking up tickets &c we found he was right and I had to move across to No 4. I, of course, apologised for my mistake and got into chat with No 1 occupant.

(c) His name is Booth and he comes from Dublin. He has only been in New Zealand twelve months and is going home on business. He is a man about 60 years of age and had a big place of business in Dublin which was blown to atoms during the troubles there. He is returning to see about compensation. He is a very nice chatty man and, if you please, has been bringing me a cup of tea in bed in the mornings. The ship's tea is vile but he has his own teapot and ingredients. The other two occupants of the cabin are Peter Campbell, a canny Scot, who has been in New Zealand 63 years having arrived here when he was 13. He has never been home since but says he is going back to have a look at Ould Scotland before he dies. He is an old bachelor and 76 years of age but is a wonderful lively old chap. He was going to knock my head off the first night out because I refused to

drink his health with him in a wee drappie of good old Scotch whisky. Anyway for peace sake and in order to save my block from being knocked off I had a taste with him. He comes from Invercargill. The other occupant of the cabin is Charles Norman. He also is a bachelor. He has been 50 years in New Zealand. Comes originally from near London and this is his third visit home. He also is a very nice old chap. There is no port hole in our cabin and I expect we will find it very sultry when we strike the tropics at the end of this week but by that time we will be more accustomed to life aboard ship.

(d) Booth knows quite a lot of people in Nenagh and elsewhere that I used to know. There are three other Irishmen in the third class. Messrs Tyndall from Wicklow, Dennehy from Kerry and James Ryan from outside Thurles. I have become great friends with Jim and we have many a long chat together. His father and mother seven brothers and four sisters migrated to Queensland about [erased: 30] 40 years ago, and Jim trekked across to New Zealand about 25 years ago. He is now about 57 and has sp[ent] all his time around Palmerston & Feilding. He is a bachelor and well to do and has been thirteen times to Queensland and 3 times to Ireland in the last 25 years. Then I have met a couple from Mount Albert. [Erased: I think] Blair is their name. They are visiting their native country Scotland and are friends of Jimmy Lee Henderson.

(e) There are 89 third class passengers aboard. Quite a lot of them are homies who [erased: o] have been only twelve months in New Zealand and are returning home disgusted with the country. Pat will be quite pleased to hear that.

(f) The food aboard is pretty good and plenty of it. There is plenty of deck space and plenty of reading matter and I am feeling quite settled down to the life aboard now. I am feeling quite well. Have had no trouble with my back and take exercise in moderation every day but spend most of my time with my deckchair and a book sitting in the sun. The first three days out from Wellington were very cold but since then the days have been getting warmer. We are to call off Pitcairn Island next Friday (weather permitting) where

we will be able to get plenty of cheap fruit and from which place I believe they will send back a mail for New Zealand. We have been informed that no mail will be sent back from Pitcairn, the first port from which we can send a mail being Panama.

(g) Sunday April 26th - Well, dearest, another week has passed since I wrote the above. I am writing this sitting on a deck chair on deck which accounts for the shaky writing. This week has passed quickly. We have had a few concerts. The captain *captain* and officers attended one and rendered a few items. The weather has been getting steadily hotter and I can assure you there is very little time spent down below those times. We arrived at Pitcairn Island on Friday morning and pulled up for an hour or so. No one was allowed ashore but the natives came aboard selling fruit beads cocoanuts and other products of the island. They sold oranges at 9 per 1/= and a large kit of assorted fruit for three and four shillings including the kit. The kit contained oranges lemons limes and bananas. I bought a dozen oranges and a couple of strings of beads.

(h) Since leaving Pitcairn Island we have been in the tropics and by jove! it is hot. It will get hotter until towards the end of this week when we will cross the Equator, and will remain very hot until three or four days after we leave Panama and get out of the tropics. After that the weather will get cooler until we reach Southampton at which port we are due on 25th May. We are due at Panama on Wednesday 6th May at which place I will post this letter. I do not expect you will receive it before 1st June.

(i) I made myself a shake down on the floor (I mean on the deck) last night and slept fairly well. I had the deck all to myself but expect I will have plenty of company tonight as everyone was complaining of the sweltering heat in the cabins last night. We have had a strong head wind since we entered the tropics otherwise we would feel the heat far more oppressive. Except during meal hours I spend all my time *time* on a deck chair under the awning reading smoking or talking. I will conclude this letter next Sunday.

(j) Sunday May 3rd - There is nothing worthy of note to relate concerning the week just passed. We are now about 6,000 miles from New Zealand and expect to cross the line about midday tomorrow; and to arrive in Panama on Thursday evening. There was a dance on deck on Friday night but no one seemed to be able to dance, only about four couples getting up for any dance. The captain paid a visit and had a one step with one of the passengers. They were the only couple on the floor and were loudly applauded for their exhibition. They were splendid dancers.

(k) The weather has been very hot all this week but luckily we have had a strong wind all the time which has helped to make it bearable. I have been sleeping on deck all the week. I would have suffocated in the cabin. As it is you will see the passengers rushing out every morning about 5 o'clock gasping for air. Early next week we hope to strike cooler weather and they reckon before we reach Southampton we will be looking for our overcoats. I am the only one sleeping on deck at present. Others say they could not sleep on the deck as it is too hard and then there is the risk of being caught in the rain. I can sleep alright and so far have not had to shift my bed on account of the rain.

(l) There is nothing else strange to write about this time. Just the same old monotonous routine day by day eat rest and sleep. I will be glad when it is over and we get on dry land once more. We are just half way now.

(m) On Sunday next I will write the first instalment of the letter I will post to you from London immediately on arrival there and will give you an account of our Panama experiences. I will post you some views of the Canal from Panama. I am also sending a few postcards to the friends from Panama. It seems years since I saw you last dearest, but once I get home I can look forward to regular letters from you which is the next best thing. There should be a couple speeding over the sea to me now.

(n) I will now close this epistle dearest with very best love to you and our darling kiddies Eileen, Maureen and Philip and with the hope that this finds you all in the best health. I am A.1. Wish Philip many happy returns of the day from his old dad.

With plenty of kisses to you all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Philip J

PS/ Remember me to all the friends. P. J. C.

(CI 4)

R M S Arawa

May 10th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) I am now about to write my experiences of the last week. We crossed the Equator on Monday last and up to that date the weather was cold compared with what we have experienced this week. I do not think Hades can by any possibility be any warmer. If it is well I must take jolly good care that I do not go there. Oh lord ay! The decks have been crowded with beds those nights. Ladies on the port side. Gents on the starboard side. Mr Booth kindly brings my bed up every night and takes it down in the morning which kindness saves me a lot of unnecessary exertion.

(b) We arrived off Panama on Thursday morning and started through the Canal at 12 o'clock. It is indeed well worth going through but I will reserve a detailed description of it until my return. On account of the slow motion of the boat the heat going through the Canal was something awful. There was not a breath of wind and the perspiration rolled off us in bucketsful. To make things worse we were held up outside one of the locks (Gatun) for over an hour. We did not reach the other side until 9.30pm. There was a train waiting at Cristobal where the boat coaled to take us to Colon *Colon* which was about four miles

by rail. Most of the passengers went to Colon that night to get some cooling drinks or some fruit.

(c) Jim Ryan, a chap named Bob Davies and myself [*erased*: kep and myself] kept together had a few spots bought some fruit and had a look at the city which is mostly composed of niggers, Chinese & Japanese with a fair sprinkling of Yanks. One half of the City is under United States rule and the other is under the rule of the Panama Republic. Going down the main street on the right hand side the police are all Yanks eternally swinging their batons and chewing gum and the saloons are all dry, and on the left hand side the police are all niggers and every second shop is a beer shop. Talk about no license districts but Colon is the most farcical example I have every heard of. We rambled about until half past twelve and then caught a launch back to the ship. We did not get a wink of sleep after returning and as the boat was not leaving until 12 oclock next day we all went into Colon again next morning to have a look at the shops and see the place in daylight. I purchased a Panama hat for 11/=. It seems a good one. They range from 7/= to £7.

(d) We left Colon about 12.30pm on Friday and are now over 600 miles away from Panama heading for the cooler weather at the rate of 270 miles per day. It is still awfully hot. We are experiencing that oppressive muggy heat now and everyone is feeling limp and seedy. We hope to *to* strike cooler weather in a few days now and no one will be sorry. Two weeks from today we hope to sight Southampton and so see the end of our long tedious journey. So far as weather is concerned, so far we have had a splendid voyage and if we get it as good to our destination we will have nothing to growl about in that respect. I am feeling A.1 and will continue this letter on Sunday next.

(e) Sunday May 17th 1925 - There is not much strange to relate concerning the past week. The routine aboard never varies. The weather has been ideal since last Tuesday. The days are very warm in the sun but the nights are lovely and cool. I am still sleeping on deck but think I will go below again tonight as it gets very cold about daybreak and I do

not want to reach Southampton suffering [*erased: for*] with a cold. We hope to reach Southampton next Sunday and I can tell you there will be many a fervent Thank God when the shores of England are sighted. The voyage has been everything that could be desired so far as comfort and weather conditions have been concerned but it is the deadly monotony of the trip that gets on one's nerves. The Orient liner Ormonde leaves London on 17th October and reaches Sydney 30th November. If I can manage to get a passage on that I should reach Auckland about the 7th December. I will let you know when I reach London whether I secured a berth on her.

(f) Heard this week of Bill Massey's death and Bell being appointed his successor.

(g) There is nothing else strange to add today. I am anxiously looking forward to the time when I will arrive in Nenagh for two reasons. Firstly because there should be a letter or two from you awaiting me there and secondly because I will once more see my dear old Mother. Heavens Nina it seems ages and ages since Easter Sunday since last I saw you and the darling kiddies. I hope and trust you are all quite well. I can tell you I am anxiously looking forward to the end of the year when we will all have our Christmas dinner together again please God. I will add to this next Sunday and conclude and post it in London when I will be able to tell you how Mother is and how I get on about my return passage. I am feeling exceptionally well T. G.

(h) Friday - 22nd May 1925 - I said I would add to this letter on Sunday next but as we are expecting to arrive in Southampton early on Sunday morning there will be no opportunity to write and as everything will be topsy turvy tomorrow I am adding to it this afternoon. We have struck cold miserable weather for the past few days. Of course we are noticing it very much on account of being so lately out of the tropics. Today has been cold and wet and we have not been able to go out on deck at all. Twelve days ago we were melting with the heat and today we wish the Company would put on a darn good fire. We are never satisfied.

(i) A couple who met on board for the first time got married by the Registrar at Colon. I will tell you all about it on my return. I could write a book on the things I have seen and heard during the six weeks I have been on the Arawa. I have met a few very good friends on board especially a Mrs Barker (don't be jealous dear. You know your trust has not been misplaced). This lady has been anticipating all my wants since I came aboard. Her husband has been in Porirua Mental Hospital for five years. She comes from outside London and got married during the war. She told me her life story one day and she has had an awful lot of hard luck. She is over 40 is not good looking so it is quite safe. Oh lord ay! You understand dearest? She told me I reminded her forcibly of a brother of hers who died and it was on that account she took such an interest in me. To give you an idea of how she anticipated my wants. Going through the Panama Canal I was sitting on deck in my deck chair gasping. I was absolutely parched and had not the energy to move to get a drink. I do not know where Mrs B was sitting but I saw her rush past me like a flash of lightning and in about two minutes she came back with a big glass of lemonade with a lump of ice floating on top of it and handed it to me saying "That is what you want is it not?". She must have read my thoughts. I never enjoyed a spot more in all my life. More anon.

(j) I will have to stay in London on Sunday night and hope to leave for Nenagh by the night mail on Monday and arrive at my destination about 5 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. There is nothing else strange to add just now. I will add a P.S. to this letter at London before I post it on Monday. I am feeling tip top. I do hope you are quite well dearest and that the little darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip are very well. With very best love and kisses to you and the darlings.

I remain

As Ever your loving husband

Phil

(k) P. S Give my kindest regards to all the friends. They are too numerous to mention separately.

(l) Euston Station May 25/25 8.0pm. Just a hurried note. Rushing for the Irish Mail. Had letters from Mother and Nance at Southampton. Both well. Nance getting her holidays next week. Good bye dearest for the present. Will write you again next Sunday. Have secured a berth on Ormonde sailing 17th October.

Phil

(Cl 5)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh

Co. Tipperary, Ireland

30th May 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) I am now sitting down to put on paper my experiences of the past week. We arrived in Southampton about 1 o'clock on Sunday afternoon at which place I got a letter from Mother and Nance and found they were both quite well. Nance said she was writing to you at the same time. She is getting her holidays next week so that we will both be able to visit the friends and relations together.

(b) We were held up for about an hour at Southampton by the Customs and left by special train at 2 o'clock for London. We covered the distance to London (80 miles) in two hours. Some going. Eh? We stayed in London on Sunday night Jim Ryan, Bob Davies and myself and on Monday had a look at the City. I went around to the Shipping office and fixed up for my return passage per SS Ormonde via Suez due Sydney 26th November. I got a two berth cabin and my cabin mate will be Jim Ryan.

(c) I left London at a quarter to nine on Monday night and arrived in Dublin at half past six on Tuesday morning and about half past eleven went along to Kingsbridge to see

my old boss. I found him there alright and had a half hours korero with him. The train for Nenagh was leaving at 12.30 oclock and I went out and got my seat about twelve o'clock. I was not well sitting down when a queue formed outside the carriage door of all my old Kingsbridge friends. My boss had sent word round all the offices that I was leaving by the 12.30 for Nenagh and all my old friends blew along to bid me the time of day. My right hand was sore from shaking hands and like the Prince of Wales I had to start using my left hand. The boys gave me a tremendous reception. I met a few more friends on my way down to Nenagh and arrived in the old town about 5 o'clock.

(d) Mother was waiting for me at the station with a taxi and honestly Nina only that she has got a few more grey hairs she is looking as young and well as the day I left, I am delighted to be able to tell you, and sure I know you will be every bit as much delighted to hear. Needless to say Mother had a great welcome for her prodigal son but, if you please, she was quite disappointed as she was sure I would have brought Eileen with me. How could I possibly have done it I ask you?

(e) I have only been home four days now and in that time I have been absolutely deluged with applications and invitations from friends and relations to go and stay with them. If I only spent a few days with each it would take me twelve months to go around the lot. I was not home an hour when cousin called up to see me and brought me a little present of two bottles champagne and a bottle of port wine. Heavens Nina the Irish are ten times more hospitable than ever I thought they were and that is saying something. As for invitations for motor drives and loans of motor cars well I could not possibly avail of half of them in the few months at my disposal. I have only been outside the door twice since I came home as the weather has been cold and wet. It is looking better today and we are hoping for fine warm weather in June.

(f) Mother and myself are going for a drive to "The Island", mothers sisters place on Sunday. Mother's niece has a motor and is taking us there. Dr Powell, our family

doctor, who has known me since I was born came along today and gave me a thorough overhaul. He did not tell me very much but said he would call periodically and examine me to see how I was progressing. He just told me the kidneys were not too bad and that the heart was good. I am feeling a lot better than I was when I left New Zealand. The only trouble being that very slight exertion winds me.

(g) I am sending under separate cover samples and prices of Irish Linen goods. If you will let me have a list early of what you will require I can get them so as to bring them back with me. Do not be afraid to add everything you require to the list as we may not again get such a good opportunity of procuring the goods. I think it would be *be* very nice to get monograms on them all so you can let me know which monograms you prefer and the number of articles for each monogram. Please return the price list. You need only return the samples you select. Be sure and give me all particulars of your requirements as I will not have time to write you again and get a reply from you.

(h) I never had a line from Dick Donworth and Mother tells me that she would get the biggest surprise of her life if I got a loan of even £5 from him because she reckons the Bolands and the Donworths so far as money is concerned are the meanest people between here and New Zealand. Mother is a lot more comfortably situated than I thought she was. When I spoke about paying my board she was going to hit me with the frying pan. "The idea" she says "of my only son coming home from New Zealand and wanting to pay for his board in his own house". Needless to say I did not mention it again. On the contrary Mother insists [*erased: th*] on my taking a loan of some money from her which I cannot do unless I am absolutely stuck.

(i) As compared with New Zealand there are two very big changes I notice here. First is the accent. I thought I had a bit of an Irish accent but no they tell me I talk just like a Yank and have lost all trace of the brogue. Oh lord ay! Then there is the light. Daylight Saving is in force here now and we have broad daylight until half past ten o'clock. It is

indeed very strange to me to be sitting down at half past ten o'clock in broad daylight writing this letter.

(j) Your very welcome letter of 27th April and Star just arrived also photos. Luckily the photos and letter arrived in Ireland together so the omission of Nenagh fortunately did not matter. Everyone who sees them is raving about them and as for Mother she is as proud as punch of her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. It would take me weeks to put on paper all the nice things said about you and the children. I can tell you it makes me feel quite proud. Dr Powell called just after the photos arrived and after admiring them turned to me and said "Sure [*erased: Pil*] Phil will you tell me how you got such a good looking girl to marry you. It must have been your eyes that caught her.["] Everyone is full of admiration for my lovely wife and sure they should be too.

(k) Anyway dearest I must ring off this time or I will never stop. I will reply in detail to your letter next week. Delighted to hear you and the kiddies are so well. Mother joins me in sending best love to you dearest and the little darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip and in hoping you are all quite well.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(l) Give my kindest regards to all the friends. P.

(Cl 6)

Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh

June 6th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) I am sitting down in the sun in our selection to write you a suitable reply to your two most welcome letters of 20th and 26th April which I have received since I came home.

Your first letter was in answer to mine from Wellington. It seems years to me since I wrote that letter. It must indeed have been very disappointing to you when you learned Miss - was not coming to you for another fortnight. I hope she arrived alright at the appointed time and that you got the two male boarders we were anxious about and that everything is going along satisfactorily.

(b) You will know before you receive this that the photos arrived safely and that they are greatly admired by everyone who sees them. I am so very sorry dearest that you have had so much unnecessary worry about them and was almost going to send you a cable to relieve your mind but on account of having arranged that a cable be sent you in case anything happened to me I was afraid the sight of a cable might unnecessarily alarm you, especially if it were held up at the Post office and you knew it was there. All's well that ends well. Your mind is quite easy on that matter by now.

(c) Those snaps taken by Sadie are very good. Would you believe me but I did not know myself? I had forgotten all about the snaps and wondered for a while who the strange man was. Maureen looks a character with bald poll. Glad to learn her hair is growing alright. I expect when I return she will have a nice head of hair once again. As you say one must be cruel to be kind so keep on to the little darling boy and show him that you are his boss. By doing it now it will save a lot of trouble later on with him.

(d) I was delighted to hear that you took advantage of the fine weather and the McCormicks kind invitation and took yourself and the children out to Te Atatu for a few days. It was lovely to hear of your having such glorious weather in NZ at the time you were writing although I suppose by the time you receive this letter you will be well into the bad weather. Cheer up dearest. When the fine weather comes again we will all be reunited.

(e) Poor old Bill Massey lingered on a good while and so did not die to suit the Mack boys. Hard luck!

(f) Delighted to learn from your letter of 26th April that yourself and all the children were very well at the time of writing, and I sincerely hope and trust you will all keep in the same good form. It was strange about Jim McKeon arranging to visit me a week or so after I had left N. Z. I suppose he is not visiting Ireland this year or you would have mentioned it. I am sorry I missed him. Pleased to hear that Eileen is a good girl although it is herself that says it.

(g) Now I will write you something about myself and my doings during the past week. The weather has not been too good since I came home but for the past few days it has been better and today there is a lovely clear sky and strong sun and needless to say I am taking full advantage of it.

(h) Nance came home on Thursday. It is the first time Mother had seen her for over eighteen months. I would never have known her. She has got very goodlooking. She is as tall as I am but twice as stout. In her nurses garb I must say she is an imposing personage and by Jove does she not know it herself too? Her manner has changed completely. None of the devil-may-care Nance I knew in the years gone by. She has got so prim and precise. I thought when she met me she would rush to put her arms around me and give me a hug after thirteen years absence but no she coolly walked over to me with a formal "How do you do, Phil?" and I had to ask her to give me a kiss. She is just the same with Mother. She just spoke to her as if she had only seen her yesterday. I am sure her extreme coolness would shock you awfully. It surprised me very much and I kid myself I am not very sentimental. I am getting more used to her now. She tries hard to order Mother about but Mother is well able to stand up for her rights and although it means an odd wordy argument I am glad to say Mother always manages to come out on top and keeps her in her place. I take no part in the arguments at all although sometimes it takes me all my time to keep in when I hear her talking disrespectfully to Mother but Mother tells me not to worry

as she is quite used to Nance and is well able to sit on her when necessary. So I remain *remain* absolutely neutral.

(i) Mother is absolutely wonderful. She is over 65 now, (She would faint if she thought I told her age to anyone) and she keeps going from morning till night and never seems to get tired. Her feet give her a bit of trouble sometimes otherwise she is quite healthy, I am delighted to be able to relate.

(j) Dr Powell has been to see me a few times since, not so much a professional call as a friendly visit. He tells me I have improved a lot since I came home and I feel a lot better too. He confirms Dr Murray's opinion that I risked my life taking the long sea voyage. He said that so far as the lungs were concerned the voyage would be beneficial but it was very risky on account of the state of my kidneys. He hopes to soon have the kidneys alright and to have me restored to good health by the time I am due to return to dear Old N. Z.

(k) The hospitality is wonderful. Every friend seems to vie with one another in doing me a good turn. Halls wine Eggs butter &c &c pouring in every day. A Mrs McCormack called in today and offered me the use of a pony and trap during my stay to drive anywhere I liked. My happiness would be complete if I only had you dearest and the darling kiddies with me to share some of the good things that are being showered upon me.

(l) I was writing this letter when friend called to see me. I left the letter on the table in the kitchen whilst I went to speak to him and what do you think me darling Nance comes along and reads it from stem to stern and as a result there has been hell to pay in our house this afternoon. I went on with my visitor (Jim Ryan) and did not know anything about it until I came back but Nance has not spoken to me all the evening and Mother tells me she had a terrible job to prevent her packing up her traps and going straight away back to England. She says that I must hate her to write that way about her and that Mother and myself are in league against her and between everything she has the soulcase worried out

of Mother and myself. It was very unfortunate that she should have seen the letter but as I say that letter was a private one between you and myself, and she had no right to read it. Anyway I sincerely hope things will blow over alright.

(m) Well Nina dearest this letter should reach you about your birthday. Mother joins with me in wishing you Many Happy returns of the day. I will bring you back some little present to celebrate it on my return.

(n) Mother joins me in sending best love to you Nina and the little darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip and in hoping you are all quite well.

(o) I will write a long letter next week again and hope I will have some more pleasant news to relate about my big sister. Plenty of kisses for you and the family.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(p) PS/ Kindest regards to all the friends and relations. No word from Dick Donworth. P. J. C.

An extract from our local paper x.

(CI 7)

Nenagh

June 13th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) In case you do not want to tell the relations everything I am putting this bit of information on a separate sheet of paper.

(b) Do not get alarmed when I tell you I am going into a Sanatorium next week. Dr Powell advised me that if I would spend a couple of months in a Sanatorium it would do me far more good than knocking around outside as I have not been feeling too well since I came home. I am taking his advice and if necessary will stay there for three months as it is

my health and nothing else I want to get [*word illegible*] back. I am hoping for great results from the treatment and will give you full weekly details as to my progress. I am going in next Tuesday to a probationary Sanatorium about 17 miles from Nenagh and may be transferred from there to Co. Wicklow in a few weeks.

Best love and kisses to you and the darlings

Your loving husband

Philip J.

(C1 8)

Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh

June 13th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Another week has passed since last I wrote you. One more week nearer home. Well dearest I have had no word from you since last I wrote but expect to get a couple of letters together early next week.

(b) I have had a very quiet week this week. I got a few offers of drives on Sunday but did not feel like availing of them so stayed at home all day. Went for a stroll down town in the evening and had a few chats. On Monday Nance and myself got a loan of a donkey and trap, and drove out to a place called Puckane about 6 miles from Nenagh. I would love to have had you there as we had some fun with the old ass. First of all he started to run away and when we caught him he refused to budge but insisted on trying to climb up the Courthouse railings. We had to get the assistance of two men to put him on the road again and off we jogged once more. Then he would stop up at every gate we came across and we had to lay the stick on heavily to get him to move again. The real fun was whenever he met a brother donk on the road he must stop up to have a talk with him and then both of them would start to bray loud enough to wake the dead. Anyway between

hopping and trotting we took two hours to cover the six miles and we enjoyed every inch of it.

(c) Tuesday afternoon Mother, Nance and myself went to visit some friends at a place called Hogan's Pass, had tea in style on the lawn and enjoyed a lovely afternoon. On Wednesday Nance and myself went for a motor drive to "The Island". Thursday, Friday and today I stayed at home and received visitors. Oh lord ay! That brings my experiences up to date.

(d) The weather this week has been oppressively hot. I have found it far hotter than ever I experienced in NZ. It is that sultry heat. It is the first weeks sunshine Ireland has had for 15 months. Fancy that! Today is a lot cooler.

(e) I have had a great opportunity during the past week of studying my near relations and I must say my opinions have altered very much in that time. I must withdraw everything nasty I said about Nance. The mistake I made was to expect Nance to be like the average unsophisticated Irish girl when she could not possibly be so considering she has been over 17 years in England. She is cool and undemonstrative but withal she is most sincere. Now that I understand her manner better I can plainly see that my first impressions of her were entirely at sea. Then as regards her squabbles with Mother. Mother is getting old now and is sometimes rather hard to get on with. I have not had a cross word with her but can well understand why Nance flies off the handle sometimes. Anyway we all have our faults.

(f) I am getting out of Nenagh next Tuesday for a tour of the relations, and will of course write you weekly as usual as to my doings. There is nothing else strange to write about this week. Mother and Nance join me in sending best love to you and the children and in hoping you are all quite well.

Give the little darlings Eileen, Maureen & Philip a big hug and plenty of kisses from their daddy.

With very best love hugs and kisses from

Your loving husband

Philip J

PS/ Remember me kindly to all the relations and friends. PJ.

(C1 9)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

June 20th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Since writing to you last week I have received two most welcome letters from you one dated 30th April and the other dated 10th May. The one [*erased: day*] dated 30th April included AMPatersons and 2 from Jim McKeown both of which I have answered by this mail. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to AMP. also of one I sent to Mrs Prendergast.

(b) The time is passing alright dearest but not quick enough. As you say the main thing is that you were all very well at time of writing and I sincerely hope you all keep so. I am feeling very much improved T. G. Glad to learn you are getting along alright with [*erased: fl*] Floss, and that she is so nice. Eileen is on a fuss alright getting a dress made for her so soon by the new boarder. Delighted to hear you had succeeded in getting a married couple as boarders. What are you charging them for board lady? I am glad to learn he is a Railway clerk. It is nice that both your lady boarders are fond of children and as for Mr Wilson and the garden I hope by the time I return to see the old section in Pirrit [*erased: St*] Road in full bloom with vegetables and flowers, oh lord ay! Re AMP and a tenner I am sure dearest should we be in the position to ever need a tenner badly AMP will not turn us down.

(c) I got two Auckland Stars this morning one containing City Council results and also a portion of Truth with the Mouat case. It is turning out an awfully gruesome case. If Mouat did it he is very cool about it and covered his tracks pretty well.

(d) Mrs Sadler is indeed wonderful. As you say she never comes emptyhanded. It will give me the greatest pleasure to bring out for her anything she may require. I will not get anything until I hear from you in reply to mine sending samples. I know you would not dream of going to live with the Prendergasts on any condition dearest and indeed I do not blame you in the slightest but it was very nice and friendly of her to make you such a kind offer. Fr Colgan is good alright and if necessary I know he will help you. After some of the things I have seen and experienced since I came home I will be a regular attendant at that little church on the hill when I return if my health permits it.

(e) The fact of Mr & Mrs Wilson being a honeymoon couple is quite interesting. Do they do much spooning? Do you ever feel jealous dearest? Wait on you and I will have a honeymoon next Xmas. Eileen must be losing some of her shyness with Fr Colgan alright. I am sure he was quite pleased to get some talk out of her. Yes Mother I do miss your good night kiss. Never mind we will soon make up for lost time.

(f) Yes! dearest I remembered Philip Junior's birthday. I was then in Mid Pacific and breathed a message over the waves of hope that he would see many more happy birthdays *birthdays*. Poor boy his birthday could not have been too happy for him seeing he was cutting eight double teeth all together. The little dears Eileen and Maureen still talk of their daddy. Tell them that Daddy is going to bring them back something nice from Ireland. It is indeed lovely news to know you have three such nice boarders. I do hope the work will not be too much for you dearest and that you and the children will keep in good health. You should know definitely now about "four." As you did not mention it I presume everything is right and that is a great consolation. No word from Dick Donworth since.

(g) If you can afford it dearest send me £10 when you are replying to this. If you cannot spare it do not dream of sending it. I can get some from Mother but do not want to take it from her if I can possibly avoid doing so.

(h) You say you miss me very much dearest. Well I am sure you cannot miss me any more than I miss you and the darling kiddies. I have plenty of strange things to occupy my mind but still they do not prevent me from missing you all quite a lot. Anyway roll on December. I do hope Mr Wilson will not get a shift for a long while. The Browns would I expect be quite lonely if they did not have an odd row. Any black eyes knocking around those times.

(i) Well I will now relate my experiences during the past week. On Sunday a cousin of ours (a Mrs Jones) called for us in her flash Fiat car and took Mother Nance and myself for *for* a drive to a place called Killaloe (Pat knows where it is). We went along by the Banks of the Shannon and the scenery is something splendid. The enjoyment of the trip would have been perfect if you had been with me. As it was when I saw each fresh bit of scenery I would say to myself if Nina could only be here to enjoy this with me. Who knows some day we may see it together. Stranger things have happened. Monday I stayed at home.

(j) Tuesday I took my departure for the mountains and since then have been having tons of fresh air and sunshine milk eggs and butter. I intend staying here for a month and hope to feel very much improved at the end of that time. The weather here has been splendid this month so far. No rain since 1st June and it looks as if the fine weather is going to continue. It is Irelands first spell of fine weather for 15 months so you can understand everybody is happy.

(k) I must withdraw everything I said against Nance. I was very hasty in my first judgment and the more I know her the better I like her.

(l) I will now close up this time. With very best love to you dearest and the little darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip and hoping sincerely you are all keeping very well. Tons of kisses to you all. Mother and Nance send you their best love.

I remain

Your loving husband

Philip J

(Cl 10)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

June 27th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Still another week nearer to Xmas 1925 and another week nearer to the day when we will be together again. I received an Auckland Star but have had no letter since I wrote to you last week. I expect as usual after missing a week that there will be two next week.

(b) Nance is going back to England next week so I have come back home today to be with her for the few days before she returns. She hopes to get another week or so in September. If she does not I will have to call via Liverpool on my way back to dear old N.Z.

(c) While I think of it. I have a chance of getting a few useful articles cheap for yourself and the kiddies. Please let me know by return, your size in the following, shoes, silk stockings (and whether you prefer shoes to lace or button) corsets (excuse me) for yourself and shoes and socks for kiddies, of course with kiddies shoes you will make plenty of allowance in the sizes. What is your bust & waist for blouses? I am supposed to know all those things so do not laugh too much at my ignorance. I expect waist size for blouses does not count. If not what a waist (waste) of pen ink and paper.

(d) One day next week I hope to pay a visit to Castleconnell to try and find your Aunt, and will advise you of my experiences when writing the end of next week.

(e) There has not much strange happened this week. I saw my cousin Maggie Carroll, on Wednesday. Maggie made an awful fuss of me put her arms around me and wept &c. Anyway she is one of the genuine cousins and is now as always most affectionate. From what she tells me the solicitors are rooking her, right, left and centre. She is getting an annuity of £125 per annum but from what she tells me she should be getting more. Her cousin Willie Ryan has not done anything in the matter. I am calling to see the Solicitors when I go over that way to see if the tangle can be smoothed out.

(f) Maggie is looking every bit as young as she looked when I left Ireland. She must be 76, if she is a day, and honestly she does not look 50. Her hair is still quite black. I do not know whether she dyes it or not. I have to call and see herself and her sister in Birr in a couple of weeks time. Her stepsister it is really (Mrs Treacy). She is going back to America next month to lay her bones with her children. She is up to 80 years of age and only returned to Ireland last year. She has now got to wait for a nephew to come across to take her back. She is rather feeble and cannot be left without assistance. After I visit Maggie and Mrs Treacy in Birr I will go on to Ballycahill until about the first week in August. Further than that I have not made any definite arrangements.

(g) Let me have your size in gloves also and what kind you would like me to get. If there are any other things you would like me to get send me full particulars and some extra money if you can spare it. Of course the extra money will not be needed unless you are wanting anything more than I mentioned. I think the present is a very good opportunity of getting necessities cheap. Do not forget to let me have a detailed reply giving all particulars of your requirements by return.

(h) I have nothing else strange to relate this time. I am feeling A.1 (just at present).
The weather is still fine but has got a bit cold during the last few days and is looking very much like a break.

(i) Mother and Nance send you & kiddies best love. Hoping the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen & Philip are very well and with best love to them all, also hoping you dearest are quite well and with best love. Plenty of kisses to you and the kiddies.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil.

(j) PS. Wish Eileen dear many happy returns of the day from her daddy and tell her I will [?bring] her a birthday gift back with me. I do not know why I [*word illegible*] at present in as I have been feeling A. 1 all the time

(CI 11)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

July 5th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) The time is creeping along slowly. Another week nearer home. Since I wrote to you last week I have had two letters from you, one dated 17th May and one dated 24th May. It was disappointing to hear you were going to lose Mr & Mrs Wilson so soon and that Floss was gone, when you were all getting along so well together. This world is full of disappointments. I do hope you will not be long without someone to fill their places and that your health continues good.

(b) Mother was very worried when she heard about my illness but she got a big shock when I came home as she did not think by my letter I was half as bad as I really was. The damp cold weather when I arrived in Nenagh took it out of me and then the weather

got hot and damp which nearly killed me entirely. Anyway I am getting used to it now and for the past couple of weeks have come around fine and am feeling fit as a fiddle just at present. In fact honestly I am feeling better now than I have felt for the past two years. There must be something in the native air alright.

(c) I received about seven Auckland Stars the other day. They must have been all held up somewhere. Still no luck in Tatts! Who knows that combination called the "Baby Bliss" syndicate may be lucky. I do hope you have all got quite rid of your colds long ere this. You seem to be getting your share of rain alright. Maureen is still May's girl alright. It is grand to have the McCormicks take the little dear out to their place for a change but it must leave poor little Eileen very lonesome. Buster darling should be walking all over the place by the time you receive this letter. I expect he will be able to run up to the Station to carry my bag home for me by the time I return in December next. Oh lord ay!

(d) Well I have not very much strange to relate regarding my doings since last I wrote to you. Nance and myself went to Dromineer on Sunday met a lot of old friends there had a run on the Shannon in a motor boat and got home at eleven o'clock in broad daylight. Monday was a Church holiday. Went to Mass and stayed at home all the afternoon and evening chatting with Mother and Nance. Nance went back to England on Tuesday and the house feels quite lonely since she left. She hopes to get another weeks holiday in September.

(e) On Wednesday I went over to Castleconnell in the afternoon for a couple of hours. I found your Aunt and Bidy and Martin very well but your Uncle is in very poor health. He has been unable to work since last August but says he feels himself getting stronger every day now. I have written to Pat by this mail giving him all details. He will pass it on to you to read.

(f) Thursday was wet so I did not stir outside the door all day but stayed at home and read my Stars and answered my correspondence. Friday I rambled around the town

and suburbs and had long[*erased: s*] Koreros with different old pals I encountered. That brings my experiences up to date. I am going over to Ballycahill on Tuesday and will stay there a month or six weeks after which I hope to be fit for anything. As it is now I am feeling A. 1.

(g) Nance told me before she went away to be sure and remember her to you when next I was writing. Mother also sends lots of love to you & the kiddies. Sincerely hoping that you dearest and the little darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip are keeping very well and with very best love and tons of kisses to you all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(h) PS. Remember me kindly to all the friends and relations. I do not want to start mentioning them individually as I might forget someone and then the fat would be in the fire. Oh lord ay. P.

(CI 12)

Nenagh

Ireland

July 11th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Still another week nearer Christmas. I have not received any of your letters since I wrote last week but expect a couple very soon now. Tuesday will be your birthday and I will not forget to breathe a prayer that you will have many happy returns of the day.

(b) Well to relate my experiences since last I wrote. Saturday I stayed at home most of the day and had a stroll and a chat in the evening. Sunday I went to 12 o'clock mass came home had my dinner and about 3 o'clock went down town to the Commercial Club in the main street got a chair and sat outside the door all the evening gazing at the old

buildings and the few passersby. Went home at 8 o'clock had my tea, a chat for a while with Mother and then to bed.

(c) Monday I went for a drive and on Tuesday came over to Ballycahill. I spent most of the day in Birr where Maggie Carroll and her sister Mrs Treacy are at present staying, and arrived in Ballycahill at 8 o'clock to find a tremendous welcome awaiting me. Nora and her husband are awfully friendly and do not seem to be ever tired of showing me how welcome I am to the old spot where I spent such happy times in my youth. Lashings of milk eggs, milk butter cream and other good wholesome food so that if I am not a new man after my stay here it will not be Nora's fault. Then there is plenty of fresh air and at present sunshine also.

(d) Wednesday I had a great drive to a funeral and as it was a fine sunny day needless to say I enjoyed it very much although the occasion was a lugubrious (that's a good word) one. On Thursday Maggie Kennedy (& Cecilia) arrived to spend the day here and I think I did more talking that day than I have ever done with the result that immediately she left at 7 o'clock to go back to her Convent at Clonmel I had to go to bed to rest my weary throat. Friday I did not get up until 12 o'clock answered a few letters and then had a walk around the farm to inspect the cattle and the meadows. Today they are cutting the hay and I am going along with my book to superintend operations. Oh lord ay! That brings me up to date.

(e) How have you and the wee darlings being getting along since? Do Eileen and Maureen still talk about their Daddy or have they by now forgotten all about him? I expect by the time you receive this letter Philip will be walking all over the place. Were you succes[s]ful in getting any boarders yet?

(f) Maggie Carroll has been very good to me. She has already given me £20 and tells me she will give me more before I go back. So I hope to be able to bring back a few quid with me on my return. Is she not a true friend? She is well over 70 and is as lively as

a bee. I hope to go to Dublin for a week next month to take her around a bit and Maggie is delighted to have so much attention paid to her by me. You will agree with me that all the attention I could devote to her between now and the time of my return would not repay her for her goodness to me. I gave her a photo of the group and needness to say she is charmed with it. There is nothing else strange [*omitted: to*] relate this time so I think I will draw this epistle to a close.

(g) Hoping you dearest and the darling kiddies are very well and with very best love and tons of kisses to you all. It will take me months to redeem all those kisses on my return. Mother and Nora wish to be kindly remembered to you.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(h) PS. Kindly remember me sweetly to all the friends and relations. Bertie Donworth is, I believe, on his way home. I never heard from Dick. P.

(CI 13)

Ballycahill

Thurles, Ireland

July 18th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Tomorrow will be fourteen weeks since Easter Sunday (according to the calendar) but honestly it feels like years to me since that date. Thirteen weeks from today the old Ormonde will pull out from London and every day then will bring me nearer to dear old New Zealand once again back to my home and darling wife and kiddies. Ireland and its people are lovely and I am made awfully welcome wherever I go but there is something missing all the time. There is something tugging at my heart strings all the time drawing me back to old NZ. The only thing that consoles me for my long absence from

you all is that every day my health is improving and I hope by the time I see Pirrit Road once more to be a far different being, so far as health is concerned, from the individual who left there on Easter Sunday last.

(b) Your letter (a lovely long newsy one) of the 8th June reached me on 13th July. My letter to you from Panama should have reached you very soon after you posted that letter, and from the first week in July you should have been getting regular weekly letters from me. This letter should reach you about the end of August. You need not post any letters to me after, say, 2nd September to Nenagh, but post one about the middle of November addressed:-

Mr Phil Carroll

3rd Class Passenger

c/o [erased: S] RMS. Ormonde (Ex London)

Sydney NSW

and I will get it when I arrive there. She is due in Sydney about 26th November and the first boat from Sydney to Auckland after that will be the one that will bring me home to you and the wee darlings once again.

(c) I was glad indeed to learn from your letter that darling little Maureen was so well after her stay at Te Atatu. She is like her daddy inasmuch as she gets better health in Te Atatu than in Pirrit Road. You will remember how well I was when out there and that I started to get crook once again when I arrived back in Henderson. It must be with me as with Maureen. They made a fuss of me at Te Atatu but when I got home there was no fuss made of me. Oh lord ay! When I describe Eileen and her determination to some of my old friends here they say they can see quite plainly from the photo that she is a determined little piece of goods and that I had just the same nature when I was a youngster only they called it stubbornness in my case. I am sure that son and heir of ours is walking all over the place now. If he had come to Ireland looking as he did in that photo we would never have

brought him back again. Everyone who has seen him ha[*erased: ve*]s gone absolutely crazy about him, including nuns, priests &c. I think you do not want to wean him as you like to have him close to you. Oh lord ay! Look out! I will be getting jealous. I was not worrying about that business. I knew everything was alright or you would have mentioned the matter in one of your letters. I do not think you silly and sentimental dearest when you say that absence makes the heart grow fonder because I feel the same way myself and am continually reckoning up the number of days and weeks that will elapse before we are all together again never again to be parted in this world for such a long period.

(d) I remember you often talking of Elsie Hayward. I am sure you were delighted to meet her and have a long chat about old times. I suppose Daisy is well married now. Would you not like to meet her to have a chat and compare notes? I was glad to learn from your letter that you have taken the carpet up and put that big room to some use if it was only to have a bit of jazzing. How did Tom look after he arrived back from his honeymoon? Washed out I suppose. Oh lord ay! A pity I was not there when the 7 gallons beer was being split up.

(e) I have not availed of a chance of attending a wedding or a dance since I came home. I refused a few invitations as I was not feeling up to the strain. Of course you have no business attending those affairs here unless you can put away your share of the good things going and as I did not feel I would be able to do full justice I just politely refused the kind invitation and kept away. I was very sorry to hear that Avis had another bad turn and hope she soon got quite alright again and is quite well long ere this.

(f) Now to relate my experiences since last Saturday. On Sunday last I got the pony and trap after dinner and drove to a place called Drombane to see a hurling match. It was the first hurling I had seen since I left Ireland and I am not anxious to see any more. Rugby will do me: There is a lot of bad blood still here between the Free Staters and the Republicans (Rories). When two hurling teams meet one team may be Rories and the

other Free Staters. Then if an argument starts it is very little will cause a miniature pitched battle with hurleys for weapons, and heaven alone knows where it might end. It started on a small scale last Sunday but was luckily stopped in time.

(g) While I was away at the hurling Jerry Gleeson called on his way from Nenagh to Kilkenny and could not wait so I missed him. That was the third occasion I missed him since I came home. He is to call here tomorrow week to give me a motor drive through the country so I am going to make sure I do not miss him this time.

(h) Monday my friend Jim Ryan called out here from Thurles to see me. I got out the pony and trap again. We went down to see a place called Castle Fogarty which was a lovely genetleman's mansion before I left but it has been burned to the ground by the Rories and there is nothing left standing but the walls. It is estimated that it would cost close on £100,000 to put it up again. Wanton destruction is right.

(i) We drove from there to Thurles about 6 miles distant visited a few friends there and then I left him to drive home. I came home a roundabout way in order to have a look at Liscahill (where Phil & Maggie Carroll used to live). I felt lonely passing it thinking of the many happy days I spent there. On Wednesday Nora and myself went by rail to Clonmel to visit Maggie (Sr Cecilia) who is on holidays there and we had a very enjoyable day. Thursday I did not get up until 12 oclock (laziness) and spent the afternoon strolling around the fields and garden. Friday I drove into Thurles in the morning had an interview with Ryan the Solicitor and have got to see Maggie Carroll again before I know whether he is diddling her or not. Friday afternoon turned out wet so could not do anything. Today is also threatening so that it is not safe to go any distance away from the house.

(j) That brings me up to date for this week. I do not think I have any more to relate this time. I am looking forward to a letter and some papers from you every day now. The letters are fairly regular in their arrival but the papers are very erratic. You had better send no more papers after you receive this letter.

(k) Mother and Nance also Nora and Mike send you and the kiddies much love and kindest regards. With very best love and tons of kisses to you dearest and the darling kiddies Eileen, Maureen and Philip.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(Cl 14)

Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

July 29th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Since writing you last I received two of your most welcome letters. One was dated 1st June (not posted in Symonds St until June 16th). The other was dated 14th June and posted in Symonds St the same date, June 16th. Who is the culprit Pat or Jim? Both reached me same day. Your letter of 8th June was posted in Symonds St 9th June and reached me 10 days earlier than the other two.

(b) There has been quite a number of weddings lately, according to your letter. I daresay the Wilsons are quite settled down in their new home by this. I am sure you will miss them and hope it will not be long before you get someone in their place. Mrs Bill Pickering must have got on alright as you have not mentioned her in your subsequent letters. Julia O'Meara has gone down hill alright. Poor girl! Rita and Pat still going strong but nothing definite I suppose. Glad to learn that my little family were still remembering their old Dad.

(c) Replying now to yours of the 14th June. You had just received my letter from Panama giving all my experiences to date. I was pleased to hear you had another boarder and do hope you will soon get someone in place of the Wilsons when they leave. Maureen

is having a great run at Te Atatu these times. The McCormicks are indeed very good. Will bring back something for Daisy and Moya as requested. Mother & Nance quite understand our position and worry not to expect presents from us.

(d) Now to relate all my experiences from 18th July. Sunday the 19th July went for a drive early up the mountains to a place called Upperchurch with Jim Ryan. Went to Mass up there met a lot of his friends afterwards and had a great day there. I don't think! I will tell you all about it later. Got wet coming home but I changed immediately and had no ill effects. Monday was wet so did not get out much. Tuesday Jer Gleeson called to Ballycahill with his motor and gave me a run over to Nenagh. I found Mother very well. I stayed in Nenagh until Thursday. Hardly went outside the door as the weather was unfavourable and returned by rail to Ballycahill on Thursday evening. Friday I went to Dublin with the intention of spending a week there but returned to Ballycahill after three days as I got fed up with the big smoke. Saturday I went to Kingstown to see Michael Carroll who has a pub there and spent the day with him. I went to see Willie Ryan and his family on Sunday and spent the day there. On Monday I left Dublin for the country again feeling tired out and spent all day yesterday in bed. That brings me right up to date.

(e) Well dearest to tell you the plain un varnished truth I am getting heartily sick of Ireland and no one will be more pleased than I will be when October comes around and I am returning once again to my home and family. I have improved a lot in health since I left New Zealand but am still far from normal health yet. I feel A. 1. but still cannot exert myself very much. The weather has not been up to much for some time so that I have had to stick inside a lot but if I only continue improving as much for the next two months as I did during the last two I will have a lot to be thankful for. I am expecting to soon hear from you now re your requirements in the Irish Linen line. I had a very nice letter from Mrs Sadler last week and am replying to it by this mail.

(f) There is nothing else strange to relate this time dearest. Mr & Mrs Gleeson Mother and Nance send best love to you and the family and hope you are all very well.

With sincerest hopes that you dearest and the wee darlings Eileen Maureen and Philip are very well and with tons of love to you also tons of kisses

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil.

(Cl 15)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

August 2nd 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) The end of next month I will be making preparations for my return to dear old New Zealand and everyone I love best in this world. I will have some regrets leaving Mother and Nance once more especially dear old Mother as I do not expect I will ever see her again in this life but all those regrets will be amply compensated for by the fact that I am returning to my darling wife and kiddies from whom I seem to have been separated for years. The parting with Mother will be hard but taking all the circumstances into consideration both Mother and myself have a lot to be thankful for as when all is said and done it was only by the merest fluke I managed to see her this year and who knows something might happen by which such a fluke may occur again in the not too distant future. We must only live in hope.

(b) Since writing you on Wednesday I have not received any letter from you and as there is not much strange to relate as having happened in the meantime this letter will necessarily be a rather short one. I am still in Ballycahill. Every day this week has just been the same. Eat, Drink, sleep walk every day. The weather has improved a good deal

and I am taking advantage of every bit of sun and fine weather to keep out in the open and I can tell you honestly I am feeling the benefit of it. When the weather is fine Ballycahill is an ideal place for a recuperating holiday. I have been here five weeks now and intend staying another three. That will leave me the month of September free to spend a few days here and there amongst the friends I have not yet visited.

(c) I will now close this short epistle as there is nothing else of interest I can think of to relate at present. Mother & Mrs Gleeson send best love to you and the kiddies. Hoping you dearest and the little darlings Eileen Maureen and Philip are very well and with very best love and kisses to you all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(C1 16)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

9th August 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) It is now eighteen whole days since I received a letter from you. The mails are indeed most erratic or has someone been carrying them around in their pocket again. Who is the culprit this time? Anyway if I do not receive two or three this week I will be awfully disappointed. I will be pleased when the time comes that I will not have to be watching the postman for New Zealand letters. Ten weeks from today I hope to be ploughing through the Bay of Biscay on my way back to New Zealand. I received two papers last week. I am sure I am only getting a small proportion of the papers you are sending. You wrapped them very loosely when you consider the long distance they had to come and the few I did get the wrappers were falling off of. Anyway I suppose I did not miss a whole lot.

(b) There is really nothing at all strange to relate as having happened this week.

The famous Dublin Horse Show has been on during the week and was a great success. I was not there nor do I expect to see Dublin again until I am on my way back to New Zealand in October and the sooner that time comes the better I will like it and the routine is the same every day. Sleep, eat, walk, talk. Thursday, Friday, Saturday with an odd drive in the pony and trap into Thurles.

(c) I am improving a lot over here and every day can walk further and further without undue exertion. Look on that as a very good sign as it was the lack of energy and being tired out after the least exertion that gave me the greatest worry.

(d) Darling little Eileen will be four years of age on Tuesday. Tell her that her old daddy remembered the day and wishes her many happy returns. I will bring her birthday present back with me. I will need another suit case to carry back all the extras. Oh lord ay!

(e) I have not anymore to add this time dearest. Hoping you dearest and the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen Philip are very well and with tons of love and kiss[es to] all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(CI 17)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

August 14th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Since writing to you last week I have had quite a large bundle of mail from New Zealand consisting of three letters from you dated 22nd June, 28th June and 5th July, a letter from Joe, Kathleen Grace and Beth and 6 Papers. From the above list you will see

that I have had tons of New Zealand news during the week. Nine weeks from tomorrow dearest and the old Ormonde will be pulling out from Tilbury Docks London and every day will then be bringing me closer to you and the kiddies once again. It is indeed such delightful news to hear you are all keeping so well, and that the wee Maureen is deriving so much benefit from Te Atatu. If we live to be a hundred we can never [*erased: get*] forget the great kindness of the McCormicks and I suppose they derive as much pleasure through having her out there as she derives good health through being with them.

(b) I am starting this letter on Friday this week instead of Saturday as tomorrow is Show Day in Nenagh and I am getting a run over from Ballycahill and back tomorrow in a car to have another look at Nenagh. I do not intend returning there permanently until the end of the month. Although it is only twenty miles to Nenagh from here by road I have not seen Mother for four weeks. Motors do not pass much this way. The railway station is five miles away and then the journey by rail to Nenagh is 50 miles, so that except there is something special to go across for the journey is not worth it.

(c) I suppose I will have to be introduced to Henderson on my return. There will be so many changes with new houses, new roads &c. I suppose George Mosse will start in opposition to Norcross or did I hear somewhere that it was a fish shop or something like that he was going to start. I suppose Ozich has taken all Jim's business. Is Jim doing anything at all now? I hope those d__n horses did not do much harm on the lawn. The fence wanted fixing badly. We used to leave that open so that we would not have much trouble in parking the car when we got one. Oh lord ay!

(d) Yes dearest it must be very hard trying to manage the house on £2/10/- per week. You can only do your best and fall back on the old bank balance if necessary. Do not forget my life insurance due in August and November. Poor little Eileen must miss Maureen a lot. No one to play around the house or go to bed with but I suppose so long as

Maureen is improving in health it is, I suppose, the main point and I hope that by the time I return Maureen will be a fine robust kid like her mother.

(e) I read about Devlin and Dobbs' escapade. I expect Devlin will lose his job this time if his name gets to the authorities. He is an unfortunate wretch alright and a fine example of the trouble booze will get a man into. I'm indeed awfully sorry to read about the Simpsons' further bad luck. Both Mrs Simpson and Bill will be frantic. They so much want a kiddie. Such is life. Those who want them cannot have them and vice versa. Wonderful indeed are the workings of Providence. Heavens Nina Mrs Sadler is a wonderful woman. Is there any limit to her kindness. Apparently not. What pains me about the whole matter is that we will never have an opportunity of showing her how much her extreme goodness is appreciated by us. Mere words are useless and there is no other available way that I know of.

(f) I never knew Bertie Donworth had been in bad health. I do not think he told them at home so I am not going to say anything about it. So Dick is porter barman this time. [He] never acknowledged my letter. I do not think he has mu[ch] money although he was bragging to me when he met m[e] about having £400 in the Bank in Ireland. I do [?not think] he will stick New Zealand for very long after [page torn] Except Bertie comes to Nenagh before I [page torn] do not expect I will meet him. I [page torn] had to cable his brother for money [page torn] home beforehand and wanted [page torn] to learn from your letter that Eil[een] ... [page torn].

(g) When I was in Dublin at a cost [of] £8/10/- the lot. It is very nice, good serviceable material and will last me until I [*erased: die*] want the next one. Oh lord yes! Things are coming along alright between Pat and Rita [*erased: alright*], now that they have definitely decided on getting married next year. It is indeed rotten that Pat has to take on the shunting again but I expect it has got to be done.

(h) Well there is not much strange to relate about my doings since I wrote you last. Every day I take advantage of all the fine weather either to go for a drive, or a walk or have a sit down in the sunshine and read. We have had a couple of bad days during the week but on the whole the weather has not been bad. I am improving every day but when a damp muggy day comes it seems to get into the marrow of my bones and make me wish I were somewhere up the Waitakere Ranges inhaling the Ozone. The climate of Ireland generally is damp but Ballycahill atmosphere is miles ahead of Nenagh.

(i) I am A. 1 at present and will wind up this epistle by hoping yourself and the children are very well and with best love to you dearest and the darling kiddies Eileen, Maureen and Philip,

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(CI 18)

Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

22nd Augt 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Your lovely [*torn*] letter of 10th July received on Thursday. Eight more weeks dearest and then my boat will set sail and bring me back once more to old Pirrit Road. Yes! Mother will find the parting hard this time and so will I because I do not expect I will ever see her again in this life. Who knows though? Stranger things have happened. This time twelve months I never dreamt I would see her this year. There is one thing if I keep on improving at the rate I have improved in the last three months I will return to New Zealand a new man at the end of the year.

(b) I was glad to learn from your letter that you had taken a big day out inspecting trousseaux. It must have brought back to your memory this time six years when you were getting your own trousseau together. Delighted to hear that Maureen is keeping so well. I expect we will find it hard to get her to come back to live in Henderson again after her long enjoyable spell at Te Atatu. I had a letter from Mrs Sadler with yours. I will delay her reply until I find out definitely if I can procure the linen according to her list. She has ordered some expensive articles and I do hope they will turn out to her satisfaction.

(c) I hope all the Carters were well. I suppose Mag Prendergast is quite excited over her approaching marriage. You will have a good idea of how she must be feeling. If Mag were a different kind of a girl you could have a confidential chat with her and give her a lot of useful information.

(d) I have not received [torn] Price List or samples back from you yet but expect they will [?turn] up any day now. If I do not receive them within a week [or] so I will have to write to Belfast for a further lot. I received Mrs Sadlers list and am awaiting yours now. As you advise I will use my own judgment about what I bring and who for. The money part will be alright for the present. When I am in Dublin on my way back I will get Rosary Beads and Prayer Book for you as requested. I note what you say about bringing material instead of made up dresses for kiddies. Re shoes &c for yourself about which I wrote some time ago. Comparing the prices and estimating the duty I have come to the conclusion that the saving would hardly compensate for the risks run of having misfits or unsuitable articles so I will bring the money back and let you choose the articles yourself. If I see a safe investment in Silk Stockings I will get some. I have purchased a dozen selected Harps and Rosettes for St Patricks Day for the youngsters. I will not forget your message about the champagne, but as I have no hollow teeth, I will have to carry it in a beer bottle. Oh lord ay!

(e) As for "coffin nails". I am still using the little dears and although they only cost 6d per packet of ten, three packets generally last me a couple of days. Doctors differ, patients die. Dr Powell when I asked his advice about smoking said six or seven cigarettes a day would not do me any harm and that he would prefer to see me smoking cigarettes to a pipe. He also advised me not to drink stout but that if I felt like a stimulant to take whiskey well diluted with water. Whiskey is 1/8d per glass in this country so needless to say I have not imbibed any of his medicine.

(f) Delighted to learn about the arrival of Winnie's son. Please forward my hearty congratulations when you are writing. Hope they are both quite well. I expect Frank is feeling as proud as I felt last May twelve months. They are up to us now so we will have to see about getting past them. Oh lord ay! How are the Courranes getting along? I hope well. I have not had an opportunity of going to Tralee to see Mick's people nor do I expect I will get an opportunity of going there unless I make a special trip. The return fare is over £2 and the distance there and back about 300 miles so I am hardly likely to go there.

(g) The weather has been glorious since I wrote last week. On Saturday last I had a motor ride from Ballycahill to the Nenagh Show. I had a very good day there and met quite a host of friends whom I had not met since I came home. The day was broiling and needless to say there were tons of invitations to have a spot but I was a wowser and during the day had 1 bottle beer, 1 bottle lemonade and 3 cups tea. When I came back to Ballycahill I met an old "flame" of mine. Josie Smee. She told me she heard three years ago that I had died out in New Zealand and had said prayers for the repose of my soul. Imagine her surprise then when someone told her I was in Ballycahill. She had to come out to make sure it was right. She is still unmarried waiting until I am a widower. Oh lord ay!

(h) Some friends drove Mother over to Ballycahill on Sunday and we had another very enjoyable day. It was the first time for twenty four years that Mother had either been

in Ballycahill or seen Nora. The rest of this week has been lovely fine weather. I have had a few drives in the pony and trap and any spare time I have I put in sitting in the sun reading or writing. I am sitting out in the sun writing this and I can tell you it is pleasant.

(i) Well dearest I cannot think of anything else to relate this time. Hoping the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip are very well. Hoping you are keeping very well dearest and with tons of love and kisses to you all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

PS, Have not heard from Nance for some time now. Mother and Nora send you and the kiddies best love. PC.

(CI 19)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

August 30th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Here I am back in Nenagh once more after my 7 weeks stay over in Ballycahill. I enjoyed my stay over there and am feeling a lot better than I was when I went over there. The last couple of weeks were very monotonous nothing to do and all day to do it.

(b) Well dearest seven more weeks and I will be on the high seas once again that is, of course, if the shipping strike does not interfere with the time table. I sincerely hope it does not anyway because by the middle of October it will be pretty cold here and I want to get well away from the British Isles before it gets too cold and then again I am quite tired of this country. It was alright while things were strange but now it is dragging awfully and I only wish it was next week instead of next month the Ormonde was sailing. The hospitality & friendship is as good as ever but I want to go home to New Zealand to see

my small wife and large family once again. Oh lord yes! Once I get back I will never again want to roam. No never again.

(c) There was nothing strange or comical happened since last I wrote to you. I have not had any letters from you since but have had four bundles papers. I also got cutting re Henderson notes and saw Floss Culletons wedding account. I have not got back that linen Price List nor particulars of your requirements yet but expect I will receive them any day now. The weather is still keeping good. No rain but not much sunshine either.

(d) I have nothing else to write this time my dear. Mother sends you and kiddies best love. Hoping you dearest and the darling kiddies Eileen, Maureen and Philip are very well and with tons of love and kisses to you all.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

PS. Remember me kindly to Holts, Walkers, Ryans & McCormicks PJC.

(CI 20)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

September 12th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Five weeks from today dearest and the Ormonde leaves Tilbury Docks and I can tell you I will be happy when that day arrives, and will be happier still about seven weeks after that when I reach dear old home once more never no more to roam away from it for such a long time on this earth.

(b) Three of your letters came to hand since I wrote to you last week one written on 19th July, one on 21st July and one on 26th July. I am afraid we will have to change Maureen's name from Carroll to McCormick as she will not want to come back to

Henderson again and the McCormicks will not like to part with her. If they write again about the Hospital bill I think you had better call to see the Secretary if you can and tell [erased: you] him you cannot make any offer at present. Mother is still attending to you I see.

(c) Yes! I remember the Hooker girl alright. It must be nearly ten years since I saw her so that she would be a big girl now. I was very sorry but not altogether surprised to hear about Jim Hendry and his wife being separated. The wonder to me is that his wife put up with him for so long. Jim is a fine fellow only for the booze and that has got him well under unfortunately.

(d) Philip must be going to be like his "ole" man in the walking line. Mother tells me I did not walk until I was a year and ten months old. I must have been a lazy d--l when I was a kid. I am still the same says you.

(e) Bertie Donworth arrived home last Saturday. He is very well I believe but have not seen him yet. He is raving about Phil's wife and children. Amongst other things he says Mrs Carroll is the nicest woman in New Zealand. What do you think of that? Of course I have been telling them that since I came home but they seemed to consider I was exaggerating. Oh lord yes! Now that Bertie has corroborated (that's a good word) my statement they seem inclined to believe it. I will have to shout Bertie a glass of whisky when I meet him even if it does cost 1/8d. Oh lord ay!

(f) The Devlins ought to have a regular Belfast colony in Henderson by now seeing that Berts Pa and ma-in-law have gone to Henderson. Your driver boarder did not stay long. I hope you managed to get two nice boarders in place of the Wilsons when they left. You were due a heavy frock dearest and was glad to learn you got a good one when you went about it. I expect Mag will be married by the time you get this letter. I am sure you are [erased: envying] pitying her. Everybody is charmed with the independent look of Eileen in the photo and cannot believe she was just turned 3½ years at the time.

(g) I have not yet received back price list &c of linen nor have I received a list of your requirements. I wrote to Belfast for a further copy and enquired at the same time if they could do Mothers requirements. They replied saying they can do her first choice in each [torn] [mot]hers lot will come to £12. Then I made out a rough [torn] requirements for wedding presents, handkerchiefs for the [torn] McCormicks, Walkers & Holts, something for Mrs McC and Aunt [torn], Mary & Joe and I find I will have to send about £20 to Belfast.

(h) I am sorry Mother did not send the money for her requirements but can understand that the fault is all mine in writing too sanguine an account of the hospitality I was receiving. I do not mean to say for a moment that the hospitality is not every bit as good as I have written. Everyone is awfully kind and it is because of their extreme kindness and trustfulness that the asking of them for a loan of money is so hard as to be almost an impossibility except one is absolutely driven to it. Mother has promised me money going back but I cannot bring myself to ask her for it until she gives it to me. I am exactly in the same position with Nance and Maggie Carroll. I wrote to you in June last asking you to forward me £10. I have not received it yet and do not know but you may not send it as you may judge from the tone of a subsequent letter (in which I said Maggie Carroll gave me some money with a promise of some more) that I did not require it. As I want to pay for the linen next week I cabled you today to forward £20 to the Post Office in Nenagh. I hope it will not be too much of a drag on you dearest but I think with the above explanation you will fully understand the position. I will be as sparing as possible Nina but you can see the only way out of the difficulty is either not to get the linen at all or cable you for the money to pay for the linen. I concluded that the cabling for the money was the lesser of the two evils as I should not like to disappoint mother Sadler. I will wait on as long as possible for your list but if I do not receive it in time will make one out myself.

(i) There is not much strange to relate this week. The weather has got quite chilly about as cold as we get it early in April but it is quite dry and healthy. I am feeling very well T. G. Mother and myself had a drive out to Bertie's, Auntie Tessie's last night. Her eldest daughter Alys is getting married on the 17th in Dublin to a pub-keeper. I did not see her trousseau (no gents admitted) but Mother says it is splendid and she has got a lovely lot of valuable presents. She has £1000 fortune. Her husband is 44 and she is 24. What do you think for that difference, but such is the way they do things in Ireland. They say it is a love match. I "hae ma douts." You dont believe it do you. I don't. Anyway that they may live happy ever after is my wish.

(j) Nothing else this time dearest. Mother sends you and the kiddies best love. With tons of love and kisses to you dearest and the darling wee ones Eileen, Maureen and Philip and hoping you all keep very well.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(k) PS. Remember me to The Walkers, McCormicks Holts (Glen Eden) Pat & Jim [?and the] Mt Eden Holts. P.

(l) PS. Hope you did not get too big a shock when the cable reached you. P.

(CI 21)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

Septem 19th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) On Thursday last I received three most welcome letters from you, one dated 3rd August, one dated [erased: 11]8th August and then the note of [erased: 11] 8th August enclosing £10 Money Order. I also had a letter from Jim McKeown in reply to one I had

written him. His wife has got a paralytic stroke and poor Jim is, needless to say, very much cut up.

(b) You had a bad spell with Mrs Wilson alright having to act Nurse in addition to your other work. It was a good job Maureen was still away otherwise you would have had your hands properly full between the invalid, boarder and children. Eileen is having a good innings with her Mother now that Maureen has been so long away. It is nearly time the poor kid got an innings anyway as she was for long enough left out in the cold by her Mother. Oh lord ay! But then I suppose Philip occupies most of your spare time anyway so that even though Maureen is still away the poor wee Eileen is still often left out in the cold. Never mind. Tell Eileen when I return that herself and Daddy will take one side of the house and Maureen, Philip and Mother will take the other side and we will not let anyone play in our back yard. Oh lord no! I am sure by the time you receive this letter Philip will be walking all over the place, in fact will be practising walking up to the station to meet Daddy. I can hardly realise that I am the father of a young man who is now running all over the place but the fact remains.

(c) Four weeks from today by this time the RMS Ormonde will have pulled out from Tilbury Docks, London and six or seven weeks later I will be sailing into the Auckland Harbour. I think I told you before that the Ormonde is due at Sydney on November 26th and the first boat after that date from Sydney to Auckland will be the one I hope to catch.

(d) I feel a bit lonely now that the time is drawing to a close and were it not for the fact that the end of the long journey will see me re-united with you dearest and the darling kiddies once more I am sure I would feel the parting with all the friends in "Dear Old Erin" far more so, but New Zealand is my home now for the remainder of my life and I look on my parting with Ireland like I would when leaving a place where I spent an enjoyable holiday.

(e) I never received your order for linen nor Price List back yet so can only come to the conclusion that it must have been lost in the post somewhere. I cannot wait any longer than next week about sending order to Belfast so I will make one up myself and send it along. Should there be anything else required afterwards we can easily write direct from New Zealand for it. I will bring back a Price List and samples with me.

(f) Your letter of the 8th August was a great long newsy one alright. I suppose it was because you were husbandless and childless at the time and felt so gay that you rattled off seven pages of news. How did it feel dearest to have a free leg once more? I have had the experience for five months now and I did not enjoy it too well. I would far prefer to be in Pirrit Road with my wife and children but then I suppose had I been in robust health during all that time I might have had a different tale to tell. Oh lord yes!

(g) Indeed my dear it was nearly time you weaned the wee Philip. Fifteen months is some record. I hope your breasts did not give you trouble for long. I suppose Philip got along alright with Aunt Mary. You were wise not to have gone to the Zoo with the Macs that Sunday they were going. They might, as you say, have kept you there and it would have been the "divil entourelly" if, on my return, I had to call to the Zoo to interview my wife and have iron bars between us all the time. It would be no good to me Oh Lord no! So please do not take any risks dearest. I was delighted to learn from your letter that you had taken advantage of a quiet time in Pirrit Road and had a couple of days change.

(h) Mr Gallagher and Mr Shean are "positively" having a great run at Fullers. They started there the day after I left Auckland, which is "absolutely" a long spell. I expect some Aucklanders have been to see them every week. I like the way you write Joe "took you to town with her". Were you a good little girl for Auntie Joe? Did she buy you some lollies and take you to the pictures? Ha! Ha! You must all have had a very enjoyable time at the Childrens turn out. Got home at 1.30am. Good gracious me! How awful! It was well I did not hear that earlier or I should have made a big endeavour to get back on an

earlier boat as I am afraid it is very unsafe to leave you for such a long time by yourself.

Oh lord ay! I do hope you succeeded in getting someone nice in the Wilsons place when they left otherwise it is going to be a great drag on you.

(i) Of course you know by now I have spent £12 on Mrs Sadlers linen and I am sure she would give you that if you were hard up. Had I received the £10 Money Order earlier and did not have to advance that £12 for Mrs S. there would have been no necessity to cable for the £20. Anyway you understand all my money affairs by now and I will leave any further explanation over until my return. Beyond the fact that Maggie Carroll, Nance and Mother have promised me some money when going back I have no idea of how much they will give me. They might only give me £1 each or they might give me £5 each. I have no idea at the time of writing.

(j) Pa[t] should have long ago received the letter I wrote to him after I visited your Aunt at Castleconnell. I have not visited them since but intend going to see them again next week to say goodbye. Nina dearest on account of your Uncle being so long out of work I think the Dohertys are not too well off and the Doctor has ordered him Jamesons 3 Star whiskey as a stimulant. It costs 16/= per bottle and I think you will approve of my action when I tell you I intend taking them a bottle when next I visit them. We can very ill afford it dearest but then I am sure you will agree that we can stint ourselves in some way in order [to] make up the amount which I can assure you will be well [?spent].

(k) I am so disappointed to hear that Mr Wilson did not do s[ome]thing to the garden during his stay at Pirrit Road. He m[ust] be as lazy as your hubby. Glad to learn Fr Colgan calls on you occasionally and that his visits cheer you up dearest.

(l) I suppose when I return I will have all the Irish friends buzzing about me asking for the latest news of the distressful country. [I] will have some eyeopeners to give them about the present state of affairs here and about the times they have gone through in this old land.

(m) I was indeed pleased to learn that Jim Holt is still off the drink. It is indeed truly wonderful to have him stay off it for such a long time. He is not likely to ever go on it so bad again.

(n) That was a very brainy idea of Jims to get in the corsets free of duty so if you see a gent coming along with the latest shape of tight fitting coat you will know it is only the "old man" with the "missus's" corsets on. As regards corsets, shoes &c. If I can pick on anything suitable whilst in London next month I will procure them otherwise I will bring back the money and let you make the purchases yourself. Anyway we will see. Enough said on money matters at present.

(o) If Philip grows up a dutiful son he should love you a lot when he is big, as you say, considering all the love you lavished on him when he was a baby. I do not want to dishearten you dearest but do not expect too much. Look at Nelson Marsdon. I do not think any Mother ever did more for a son than Mrs Marsdon did for Nelson and – well nuff sed! Yes we will indeed talk some when I return.

(p) In case I forget it. When I arrive back in Henderson I do not want Eileen, Philip Maureen or yourself to be at the station and I do not want anyone to be up at the house when I arrive there except you and the children. I want to have you all, all to myself for at least a couple of hours after I return. You do not think me peculiar dearest but you know I always hated a fuss in public. We can have all the fuss we want in Pirrit Road. I am sure you will agree with me dearest.

(q) A letter arrived for Nance a couple of weeks ago which Mother forwarded so you may have a reply any time although Nance is such a bad correspondent that it may be months before she will answer it. I do not expect she will be home again before I leave but I am calling to Liverpool on my way back to see her and pick up some presents she is sending out to you and the kiddies.

(r) I have not seen Jerry Gleeson since. He has not yet come to light with that promised wedding present. I do hope he does not forget it. I have been away from home for the past week so do not know whether a reply to the cable arrived yet. I will not be returning until next Saturday so will be calling to the Post Office then and will let you know immediately if a reply has arrived.

(s) You will remember my complaining about my eyes being weak. They still feel the same way. Not that the sight is bad but when I get in any cold breeze my eyes start to water one thing. I spoke to a doctor about them. He said that it was just weakness of the nerves of the eyes that a pair of very weak glasses to wear when the eyes troubled me might get over the difficulty but advised me to see an optician. I will call on one whilst in London if I get a chance.

(t) This letter should reach you about Maureen's birthday. Wish the wee darling many happy returns from her Daddy and tell her that I am bringing back her birthday present with me on my return.

(u) I have spent a whole afternoon writing this letter dearest, so will now bring it to a close.

Mother sends best love to you and the children.

With tons of love and kisses to you dearest and the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip and hoping you are all very well.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(C1 22)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

Septem 28th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) I am a couple of days late writing my weekly letter this time. I have not had any letter from you since last I wrote but have had six papers and a cable sending £12. That with the £10 I received last week will get me out of my present difficulty.

(b) Well dearest two weeks from next Saturday my boat leaves London for New Zealand and inside seven weeks from then I hope I will be having a cup of tea in Pirrit Road. I came back to Nenagh last Saturday evening and went off for a drive yesterday. I am trying to talk to Mother and write this letter to catch this afternoons mail and it's not easy, so I think I will wait until Saturday next to write a long letter. Anyway dearest there is nothing strange to report.

(c) Mother sends best love to you and the children. With tons of love and kisses to you dearest and to the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

(d) PS. I am A1. Hoping you and the children are very well. P.

(CI 23)

2 Wolfe Tone Terrace

Nenagh, Ireland

October 4th 1925

My dearest Nina

(a) Here I am sitting down to write you my last letter from Nenagh town. By the time I am writing my next weekly letter I will be 100 miles away from here. I am leaving Nenagh on Thursday next for Dublin and will leave Dublin on the following Tuesday for Liverpool to see Nance. Will leave Liverpool on Wednesday for London and the boat sails on Saturday morning. So far the Australasian Seamens strike has not affected the Ormonde and I do not expect it will.

(b) The four months I have been at home have flown like one thing although I used to think part of the time that the 17th October would never come and now that the time for parting is coming close I am feeling very lonely. Poor old Mother is keeping up very well although I know she feels it very much. I try to cheer her up with the hope that in a few more years we will all come to see her. The hope is a forlorn one but far stranger things have happened. Who knows what the next few years holds in store for us? Were it not for the fact that the sooner I leave home the earlier I will get to my real home in New Zealand, I would have an awful dread of the parting with all my old [*word illegible*] friends. Anyway enough said for the present. I could write pages about my present feelings.

(c) I have not had any letter from you since I wrote to you last week but there is a New Zealand mail due here in the morning and I hope to have a couple by that. I spent a very quiet week this week. Spent most of the time at home talking.

(d) I went across Castleconnell yesterday and found them all well there. Your uncle has improved greatly since my previous visit. Tell Pat he should write to them. Anything further I think I will reserve until my arrival in Henderson.

(e) Do not forget to write to me to Sydney c/o RMS Ormonde. We are due to arrive there on Thursday the 26th November. I expect we will get a connection for Auckland on Friday the 27th November so that about eight weeks from tomorrow that is 1st or 2nd December we should all be together again. I do wish that eight weeks would sprout wings and fly.

(f) I am A1. Mother and Nance are very well and send best love to you and the children. With tons of love to you dearest and the darling kiddies Eileen Maureen and Philip and hoping you are all very well.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil.

(g) PS. Give my kindest regards to all friends & relations. The weather is lovely just now and Mother and myself are off for a drive. I should arrive about a fortnight after this letter. PJC.

(h) PPS. My final report from the Doctor says the kidneys are not quite alright yet but the lungs are OK. With thanks to the Lord for all his mercies. PJC.

(CI 24)

October 11th '25

My dearest Nina

(a) Here I am in Dublin on my way back to dear old Henderson once again. I parted with Mother on Thursday. It was hard but we were both satisfied that God is good in the first place for letting us have such a good long time together again after all those years and in the second place for sending me back to New Zealand in much better health than when I landed in Ireland. Meetings are lovely but partings are rotten. There is one great consolation I have on leaving Ireland and that is that I leave Mother with some very sincere friends around her and in the enjoyment of the best of health.

(b) I have been running around Dublin for the past few days saying good bye to the friends here. Tom Gough from whom I had a few letters in New Zealand is off to New York with his wife and family of two on the 5th November. He has been twenty years a clerk on the Railway here but the prospects of promotion at the present time are nil as the Railways here are practically bankrupt.

(c) I saw Maggie Carroll on Friday out at cousin Willie Ryan's. She has just bought a new house for £700 cash and is going to spend a couple of hundred in furnishing it. I never knew she had so much money and only wish she would push some of it my way. I must be very nice to her. Oh lord ay! Willie's daughter is booking clerk at the National Theatre here and she is getting passes for us all for [erased: S] Monday night. Tuesday night I leave for Liverpool to see Nance.

(d) You will be very much surprised when I tell you that Gleeson never came to light with that present he wrote so much about. I only saw him once since I came home but he had plenty of opportunities of sending me the present if he wanted to. To h__l with him I say. Mother gave me £12 and some presents. Nance says she will give me £5 and some presents. They are very good. Are they not? I bought them a couple of nice prayer books from both of us and have sent them along to them. I am sure they will like them. I am going out to Kingstown today to see my cousin Michael Carroll and will add some more on to this letter before I post it on Monday or Tuesday.

Tuesday morning 13th October

(e) I have not much to add since I began this letter. I visited Maggie's new house yesterday. She promised me some time ago that she would give me some money when I was going back but now she tells me that on account of buying the house and furniture she is run right out of ready cash, and that although she fully intended giving me £100, at the present time she can do nothing, but will not forget me in the near future. It is a big disappointment to me as she led me to expect it but we must only make the best of it.

There were quite a few things I intended getting in London but will have to do without them now. I should almost reach Henderson as soon as this letter arrives. Anyway I will not be very long after it. Seven weeks from today I hope to have the great pleasure of seeing all my darlings again. Roll on 2nd December.

(f) I am feeling A. 1. I think I will wind up this epistle now. All the rest of the news I will deliver verbally.

With tons of love and kisses to you dearest and to the wee darlings Eileen, Maureen and Philip.

I remain

Your loving husband

Phil

Letters of Harmonious Households

The McIlrath Correspondence, 1860-1906

(II 1)

Liverpool, Dec 4 - 60

Father Mother and Brothers

(a) I now take this opportunity to let you know we are all well hoping you are all the same. We left Belfast on Monday night at half past 7 and landed in Liverpool at half past 11 on Tuesday after a severe night [?relieved] to. For my part I was not the least afraid the waves dashing over the deck. You could not imagine nor one describe such a scene. I did not see a single one that was not sick except myself up to about 6 in the morning and then only a little. Hamilton was the first of us three. He and William vomited time about and both together. I went to seeing some water for them and after drinking myself vomited directly but was shortly better.

(b) The reports we heard of the lads in Liverpool was too true. The are a sore set but we watched the Boys. We carried out our own Boxes and 4 of us got a cart for 1-6 to carry our Boxes to the ship officer. We are clear of Liverpool with very little expence. We took tea on board the Belfast steamer before we landed that morning and eat nothing till on board the Donald M^ckay last night. We have managed everything well for so far. We examined the two small Boxes and the are all safe but two eggs that we can see.

(c) We had a very busy day yesterday getting all things managed. We got the bedding and tin ware at what we expected but when we were ready to start after having ran from we landed & saw we had nothing for tea pot. I ran back for them But the cost six pence a piece extra and when I got back the were just starting.

(d) There is two germans a Co Derry man a Co Armagh man a man from the Cottown and us three in one room. The germans have both instruments of music and are playing at this time. We have just bought a lamp and candles which will be very us[e]ful

as we are in the dark after night. We have got tea and Biscuit twice last night and this morning. We will get out to Liverpool this day if we like free.

Best wishes to all neighbours and friends. I am

James M^cIlrath

off Liverpool

(II 2)

Liverpool Dec 7 - 60

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I take this oppertunity again to let you know we are all well and that we have just past goverment inspection and it is generally thought we will set sail this evening as all things must be ready before the inspector comes on bord for so far there is plenty of allowence plenty of flesh meat to dinner and potatoes but the are all broken and the skins on them which is caused by being boiled in a boiler and lifted out with a small shovel.

(b) After this day there will be more regulations. We will be put into Messes from four to eight each in his turn to be butler for a week. There has been nothing yet but confusion every one running for their own. Imagine about three Hundred running to one door as soon as the Bell is rung for who can be first but after this one will go for each mess.

(c) I think there is some never goes to Bed. Last night the music the dancing and singing I think never ceased. It is disgusting but after this we must all be in bed a ten and up at seven except sick. I think there is people here from all parts of the known world whole families young and old of every creed contry and clime. I must finish as the minister is going to commence Divine worship.

Youres [?]

James M^cIlrath

Liverpool

(II 3)

Quarantine Port Phil[ipp]ip Australia

Friday 15th March 61

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I take this opportunity to let you know we are in the best of health hoping you are all the same. We left Liverpool on the 8 Dec and landed here on the 12 March being 94 Days of a passage. There has been Small Pox on board during the whole voyage and but for one that took ill that morning we landed [*erased: we*] we would not been here as there was no new cases for fourteen Days. How long we will be here I cannot say. We may be only fourteen days or we may be longer. It depends on how the disease goes on.

(b) The laws here is very strict regarding infectious disease. The Boxes are all sent on shore. The ship is to be smoked, tared and painted. The Captain and crew and pilot that came on board the day before we landed sent on shore with the rest. A new captain and crew to take their place and take the ship to Melbourne only 45 miles from this. When ready we will be sent by a steamer. All this for the sake of 17 persons out of nearly 600.

(c) Were it not the loss of the time we could live here fine. No expence has been spared by Government to make this place comfortable. There are 5 houses 145 feet in length and 28 wide two stories high. There is a platform in front the whole length. We have nature in the purest form. An endless variety of ever green shrubs and trees beautiful shady walks the shore for Bathing and everything that idleness and curiosity requires. A great change after 14 weeks on sea. We have 1^{lb} each of fresh beef and potatoes every day for dinner.

(d) To give you the occurrences of the whole Passage would be needless. I shall only mention the particulars. Our beginning was every thing but pleasant. The anch[or] was taking up on the 7th and a steam tug put on each side to take the ship through the

channell but we were not gone when a sail Boat came right ahead drifting with the wind all force. The steamer on one side of the ship was tried to be loosed but all not being clear when the steamer was ran backwards her mast was nip[p]ed like a twig and fell on a sailor and broke his arm. The wind being contrary the fog so close the channell so narrow and the ship so large and too heavy laden in front the anchor was [*erased: cast*] again cast and some of the cargo taken to the other end coals put into the steamers and some thrown into the sea.

(e) That night a sailor would kiss two girls by force. A man interferred. The sailor took his knife and said he would have his life on the spot if not he would befor he reached Melbourne. The man met him the next morning. He struck the sailor and put the pipe he was smoking down his throat. He died in a few hours. Annother sailor on the 10th fell from a loft in to the sea. A man threw him a rope which he got but the foolish man strove to pull him in over the ships side. When nearly up he fell in again and was never seen. The cook took ill on the 15th and died on the 19th. All this in 11 days. January 11th a Woman was seen on deck at 4 in the morning and could never be seen again.

(f) We had a heavy storm the night before Christmas. It commenced on the 22nd and lasted to the 25th. Every thing was in readiness to cut away the masts. The weather was very warm crossing the line. The Sun was fair over head and no shadow whatever. The sun on this *this* side goes left over the horison. Round the cape of good hope the weather is very uncertin. Squals come like whirlwind which rents the old canvass like paper.

(g) The Dover Castle which sailed from London the day we sailed from Liverpool landed in Melbourne on the 5th. The seen a ship on fire off the Cape. The Queen of Commerce that sailed 10 days before us is not here yet. It is believed she is burnt and not one life saved.

(h) The news from the contry is good. New diggings and 10^s per day for labourers. The are scarce as all are to the diggings. A passenger here has 35^s per week for spliting fire wood which looks well and so many ready for employ.

(i) William Martin is well. We have been in one Mess and together the whole time. You can let his Mrs know he is well. She lives in Newtownards. William James Alexander is well. We have all had good health during the whole voyage only seasick the first week and a severe sickness it is. I shall write no more at present but we will write as soon as setteled.

(j) Give our best wishes to Jo[s]eph Logan Mrs and family and Miss Irvin James Jellie Mrs and family Uncle Tom Uncle William and Aunts M^{rs} Opreys people Mrs Russell and family George Logan Mrs and Family Thomas Scott Mrs and Family & Robert Cooper. Tell him the Boxes was well packed and nothing hurt.

Hoping you are all in good health which we are for so far. We are & &

James & Hamilton M^cIlrath

Australia

(k) You cannot write untill we write again as we do not know where We may be placed. We will send the Directions.

James M^cIlrath

(II 4)

Balloo March 23rd 1862

Dear James & Hamilton,

(a) We write to let you know that your letter reached us last Thursday the 20th March [*erased: when we were*] when we were very glad to hear that you were all in good health, and also very anxious to hear how you were all settled in New Zealand. We are all in good health at the present and hopes this will find you all in the enjoyment of the same

thanks be to the God of mercies and the giver of every good gift Whose all powerful arm is every where present.

(b) You may concieve with what emotion your letter was read. You have travelled over various regions and Seas, many perilous adventures and difficulties you must have had since you left home. Little thought we at Christmas that Hamilton was on sea again, and you at the New Zealand digging. We got Hamilton's letter from Kyneton on the 22nd january and directed one of him on the 23rd to the care of M^r Harper. Least it should not reach you we shall again mention that Aunt Sarah is no more. She was buried on Sunday the 19th of january.

(c) The One from Melbourne we got on the 19th of February together with the Affectionate token to his Mother which She prizes Dearly. Gold may be bought too dear, and we advise you not to value it too highly.

(d) All our friends are well. Ann Jellie has had good health and is well. She was at our house About a month ago. M^r Jellies people is all in good health. Three of us were there at a party on Monday night last. M^r Joseph Logan and M^{rs} together with M^r Arthur Irvin and a Miss Moore from Ballysallagh was there. The night was passed as usual.

(e) William Jellie said he would be over this afternoon to hear if we had got a letter from New Zealand. M^r Alexanders people are all in good health. They think W^m James should write.

(f) We know of little more to mention but hoping the time is not far distant when rolling Seas shall no more divide us and when You shall again breath the air of your Native Home's and where come when You will you shall be heartily welcomed.

We join in sending you all Our best wishes and remain Yours,

Father Mother and Brothers,

John M^cIlrath

Balloo

(II 5)

Rangiora Aug^t 12th 62

Dear Father Mother and Brothers

(a) I write these few Lines to Let you Know that we are In good Healht at present and hopes you are in the Enjoyment of the same. I had A slight touch of [*erased: fevour*] fever before we Left the digings but I was all right in A week or two. The Hair nearly all came off my head but Ive A fine head of hair now. James got your letter of the 23rd March on the 25th May and we were glad to hear you were all well. I did not get the letter from Harper Kyneton so we never heard of aunt Sarah's Death before but ever since I heard she was ill I was expecting to hear of her death. I hope uncle W. and Aunt Jane are well. They will be very Lonely now.

(b) We got on prety fair at the diging for the time we stoped but when winter set in it was geting rather cold for A canvis tent and Little fire so we thought we would hook it In time. We Like this place very much only we have had A very severe winter. It was every bit as cold as home. The snow does not Lie as Long but we have far more rain. The sun rises in the east and goes Left about insted of right as at home which I thought rather curious at first. We are all placed to our minds I think.

(c) James is on A station wher he says he has got very Little to do but ride out and run in wild Heifers. He tells me the he's growing stout. He weigh's 11 stones and A half without his coat. The count him A big fellow. I had A Letter from W. Jas. Alexander yesterday. He says he has got nothing to do for his £70 per anum but milk the cows and drink the milk. I am with A whole sale wine and spirit merchant. I drive out grog and beer and sometimes I plough. I like my work first rate. We intend to commence farming but we thought we would make as much and be easy this way. We intend to buy some Land

and Let it Lie. It will be valuable some day. You can get as much Land as you Like here free of everything for ever for £2 an acre.

(d) We saw almost all the boys from Killinchy. We wrought close by David Osborne and Nathaniel Heron's three sons on the Digings. William Gebby he was there too. We heard him Lectureing one sunday evening. We saw Thomas Logan In Christchurch. He was well and Mary ann I saw her. She is married to Johny Skilling. Hamilton adair sent me word he was coming up to see me some of these days.

(e) When you write to James you must Direct to James Logan M^cIlrath as there is another James M^cIlrath on the same station that has got all James's Letters and opened them. I know of no more

but Remains your

very Dutyful son

Hamilton M^cIlrath

Canterbury Christchurch

will do for either of us

(Il 6)

Canterbury Sept 8th /62

Father Mother and Brothers

(a) I recieved your letter dated 22nd June and was sorry to hear that you Father had been ill but Happy to hear that he is feeling better again. Your fears about us I am glad to inform you all was groundless. We are in good health. For my own part I never was better. You would not believe I suppose that I am about 1½ stone heavier than I was at home. It is a fact.

(b) I recieved your other letter on 21st May and sent it to Hamilton as He was thinking of writing Home. I think He has wrote to you before this. If you would write to

Him every second letter he would have a better chance of writing than waiting until I send them to Him.

(c) We did leave the diggings as we were afraid of the Winter and well we did for it was a very severe one Indeed. Both frost and snow. There was double the frost in one Night ever I seen at Home. We both were placed directly.

(d) The last letter I had from Hamilton He was saying we should buy some land and I am glad he is in the same mind of as myself. I dont know that we should live on it if we had it But we cannot put the money to a better use. We can Buy good land for 2£ an acre free forever flat and clean and we can let it on a purchasing clause. Many comes here with Family and is not able to buy land for themselves. The rent it at a low rent of about 3 [*word illegible*] an acre with a purchasing clause. That is they pay the rent for 5 years at which [*erased: period*] period it is theirs for 5£ an acre which is a good per centage for money expended on Land and if any thing happens in case of non payment of rent or refusal of purchase Their improvements such as Houses, fencing, Breaking up and the like is the land owners. We intend to buy 100 acres for a Beginning. Land will be valuable here yet. There is some carrots on the place where I am 4½^{lb} weight the second crop without manure.

(e) I am about 40 miles from Christ Church Manager on a Dairy Station of 50 cows. I have a Horse to ride and my work is to take out the dry cows and fetch in the ones At the calving. Sometimes they are calved and then it is a task to get them in from the wild cows. There is no fences here. In this run there is thirty thousand acres. There is about 1200 cattle and 12000 sheep and about 100 Horses not to mention the wild pigs that are here in any quan[t]ity and turns the land up for acres together in search of roots.

(f) The run Holders has the land from goverment for about one penny per acre and some less. It depends on how the stock it. The more stock the less rent but any person can choose a piece of that land where he likes and buy it from goverment at 2£ per acre which

is the price of all goverment land title Crown grant. The places here is from 5 to 10 mile apart. There is not a House in view but one solitary Shepherds Hut and that is on the other side of the river. I have been here six months and I have not seen 20 different persons since but we are never less alone than when alone. I feel as happy as a King.

(g) I have not been to Church Mass or Meeting but twice since I left Home and that was in Australia. There is not a House of worship within 25 miles of me. I used to have some queer notions about religion and you will not be surprised if the are queer still (such as no personal Devil yet Devils many). I have Nature in Her truest form and Revelation for my guide and with god for friend and Father I may be little worse than many who like the Parsons Horce find their way to the Church gate but there they leave their religion behind and if far from Church be near grace. I am far enough from Church But I sincerly Believe New Zealand is as near Heaven as any Contry But for the people in it I can not say.

(h) You say there is a great many leaving for Here. I suppose Ireland will soon be abandoned altogether. I Hear it is in a disturbed state up the contry. The have not forgot their old tricks. The will be useful here to fight the Moiries. I Hear the Secretary of War is for taking the Soldiers from Here and leaving the Colonists to fight for themselves.

(i) I have not seen Thomas Lemon nor Hansh Shaw But I have seen a M^cClellen of Drumreagh that came with them. I have not seen William Cooper yet. I would much like to see Him. I Have seen William Gourly and Family. He lives in christ church. I have also seen David Moorhead Mrs and Mary Anne Moorhead now Misses Skilling. She is married to Sam Skilling. I have seen Robert. I Believe the are all hear now. I have also seen Thomas Logan William Adams John Heron and Thomas Maculloch. Miss Martin and Miss Thomson I met in christ church and thought I should know them But was not shure untill later. Miss Thomson was married to James Shaw. He is Dead. Sarah M^cCafferty is married but I dont know who she has got. M^r W. Ja^s Alexander is well. He is a young man

the longer I know I think the more of. We are the same as Brothers when we get together. We can enjoy a good chat and the Discourse is generally about scenes at Home.

(j) I was sorry to Hear of our Aunts Death. Hamilton never got that letter that I know of. When you write to me please add James Logan to my name as there is another of the same name on the next station. He Has opened three I got from Home. Christ church Canterbury will find me at any time. Hoping you are well. I am yours affectionat[e]ly

James L McIlrath

(II 7)

Lake Ellismere 1st Dec/63

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I Hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner. I was up contry at the time and did not recieve your letter of the 22nd June untill it was too late to write by the Home Mail and the next time I was in Christ-Church I meanted to see Hamilton before I would write so William Ja^s Alexander and I went to see him. He is well and always in the same place. He appears to be verry happy where he is. He had Bought a two year old Filly at £30 and was going to Break it in.

(b) I have been verry hard at work for some time past up here in the land getting a House up and Fencing off a Garden getting in some potatoes peas parsnips and so. The potatoes here this season is from £1 to £1-5 pe[r] cwt. The Garden is one acre in size and may in some day be a nice place but it is too late this *this* season to plant trees but the first oppertunity in the next spring I hope to see some planted.

(c) You people at home would think it strange to begin on land where there was not a Fence whatever nor one sod turned since it was land and this is land of the richest quality. I should like a visit from you all some Evening to have a walk by the lake side and then

still farther on to the sea beach and hear the roar and see the waves of the South pacivic [Pacific] Ocean. Strange Fancy indeed but I think every one can Find pleasure where I feel it myself. There are times when the more [erased: the] lonesom place or the wilder the scene I take the most delight.

(d) There is great talk of the Mowrie war but we have nothing of it here. The people is shurly getting scarce at Home as there is so many coming here. There is almost a ship every week comes in. I seen Thomas Lemon and William John about a month ago. The are both well and was working in the one place. David Moorhead and Misses is living about three miles from here. I was over last Sunday week. I did not see Thomas Logan since I wrote last. I seen Smith the police-man from Killinchy. He is on the police in Christ Church. He was asking me if I knew anything of Thomas Logan as he had a parcel for him from home and could hear nothing of him. I seen Hans Shaw several times lately. He is well. I expect you heard of Robert Adair being killed by a Horce. He was living near to Hamilton and he did not know untill after he was dead. He is buried just over the road opposite to where Hamilton lives. The young man Cuffy you enquire of I only seen once after we landed in Australia and never heard of him since. William Martin from Newto[w]nards left where we were in australia to go further up contry. He was to write to me but I never heard of him since. If it would be convenient any time for any of you to get his adress if you could and send it to me I would much like it.

(e) I spoke to Hamilton about mother wanting the likenesss but he said Mother said she wanted to see no rough faces and [erased: and] he could not send what he had not got a smoothe one.

Hoping you are all well which I am at present and with every good wish to you all individually.

I remain yours & ever

James L McIlrath

PS I sent a News paper two months ago. You likely have got by this time. Good Bye.

(II 8)

Rangiora Dec 5-63

Dear Brother

(a) I write to Let you know that I am well at present and Hopes you are the same. I should have wrote Before this But there is nothing very pertic[ular] to Mention and James always Lets you know how I am in his letters. I am always in the same place and getting on as usual.

(b) James and W. J^{as} Alexander Came Down to see Me about A month ago. The are Both well and going to commence fenceing in the section we bought. I think I shall stop where I am for A time yet. I like the place very well and gets the highest wages going £70 A year and Board and A Batchelors life. No woman in the house to trouble us.

(c) The Moris In the North Island has Been very troublesom Lately. The More the are civelized the *the* worse the get Burning Houses and killing the settlers But I think the will be forced to give over soon. The goverment gave grants of Land to all the young Men that would volenter and has raised A force of about three thousand Men Besides 2 thousands from England. The took one of there Pa's last week and killed 400 natives and took 500 prisoners. The intend to give them A dressing Before they have done with them that they shall Remember. The very Men that the Instructed Most and thought they had made saints of the were the Leaders of the Rebellion. I expect Mother would like to see one of them with there face tattoed and all the Devices you could Imagine painted on then and A Boars Tusk strung to there ear.

(d) I expect you have heard Long Before this that Robert Adair was killed by the kick of A horse. He is Buired close by where I am.

(e) This is our summer now and the commencement of Hay making. You will be thinking of what spoils you will have for Christmas.

(f) Why Dont John and Robert write and Let me know how the are knocking along.

I expect John will have as big A Mustaich now as Me that Has not shaved this Last two years.

I have No More to say But with my warmest wishes for Father & Mother and you all.

I Remain Affectionately your Brother

H. M^cIlrath

(g) Remember Me to Uncle William and aunt Jane and all who wishes to be Remembered. You Might write oftener. You have got more interesting news than I have. You Might Direct your letters for Me to Rangiora Canterbury New zealand as I Might be In Rangiora for some time yet.

(II 9)

[undated fragment, circa 1865]

(a) PS. I should like to know How you are carying on the War amongst the Girls and above all things keep clear of My perogitive. Let me Know If William Jellie has got the colar on yet. If I had him here I could suit him all to Nothing with A Half cast wince A *[word illegible]* sight Better looking girls than some of the Dark Looking woman you see at Home. He would have plenty of room to work in and would Not be pinched. Whilst I think is what ...

(II 10)

Lake Ellesmere March 12/66

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I now write to let you that we are both well and hopes you are all in good health. Hamilton is now here and been nearly since I wrote last. I recieved your last letter dated October 15 on New years Day.

(b) We were at Leeston having a Holaday at Horse Racing the first that has been in this District. It was very good for a beginning and a fine day too. You would be surprised to find how many of the Killinchy people was there. Sometimes I forget where we were. The only thing that is the great difference is the want of Ladies. The are very scarce but increacing fast.

(c) I was in christ church on the 1st of this month and recieved the parcel you sent Mother by M^r Ward. We were not expecting any thing of the sort but we accept it as a token of Parential affection and returns you our *our* sincerest thanks which you will please accept from those we hope knows how to value a Gift. We place it to the Account of Debt and Duty.

(d) M^{rs} Ward told me she had seen you Father and that you looked well but M^r Ward said he had seen so many he did not recollect seeing you. He says Ireland is still Ireland the only change being the Railway. I seen some of them that came with him M^{rs} Taylor for one and a young man of the name of Frew. He told me that he was going Home by the same ship. Poor fellow he will know much about the contry I should think.

(e) And you are got married too William. It will be Roberts time next. I thought I was all right while you were between me and matrymony. I am headstrong enough but to do what cannot be undone again I confess I am too much of the coward. I might try the old Scotch system and take one twelve months on trial and if she did not please have the liberty of annother choise and give her leave to be off. And John has married too who ever. Ah this the quiet John. But changes comes *a* how in all the world he put the question is beyond my poor conception. The M^{rs} only knows for I dont.

(f) Hamilton sends you his likeness Mother together with some Mories. You will see by the want of the finger the woman is a widow. I should not wonder if you would see

her a Daughter in law yet. She very likely is welthy and money does many things.

Hamilton says he will write next time. I mean to keep him to his word.

(g) I must finish with wishing you all well. We both join in sending our best wishes to our new Friends and all who thinks themselves such be the what the may.

Yours Sincerly

Ja^s L M^cIlrath

(II 11)

[undated fragment, circa 1867]

(a) ... excelent only for the heavy winds which is the only thing spoils this place.

The North West blows in summer very hot and strong doing great damage to the grain in Harvest and from the South West we have the rain. It is very seldom it rains from any other quarter.

(b) Hopeing you are all well and M^{rs} John J^{un} and that she and you all will accept my best wishes for your welferes.

I remain

Yours

Son and Brother

James L M^cIlrath

(II 12)

Lake Ellismere

June 9th 1867

Dear Father and Mother

(a) I can offer no excuse for not writeing oftener but negligence but I hope I shall not have the same to say for the future. So I now write a few lines to let you know James and I are both well and getting on prety well considering these hard times.

(b) Markets never was as low in canterbury as this present year. Wheat is from two to three shillings per bushel and very little demand for it even at that price. Oats is much the same and nearly unsaleable. We have any amount of both but we [*erased: till*] shall let the rats eat it before we sell it for that price just yet. Cattle is the only thing that pays well these times. I am Going to deliver on wedensday 14 that we sold on an average of nine pounds per head. There is some 6 of them good strong bullocks nearly three years old worth about £12 [*erased: the other*]. The others is yearlings and cows with their calfs sucking then whitch Latter dont sell so well.

(c) James Recieved a letter from John dated Jan 15-67 and also a newspaper from William of March the 16. John mentioned that mother had been ill for some time before he wrote but I hope it was only one of her old sick headaches and would be all right in a day or two.

(d) The fenians seems to be keeping Ireland in a small fever of excitement. The dont show even as much pluck as the Maorias. What the want is to be lynch law'd as soon as cought. I hope the have not been trying on any more [*erased: at Johns*] of thire games at Johns. When he got that man he ought to have tied him and *and* sent for the police and made him Give an account of himself.

(e) There is some changes since I was in that side last. When I heard that John was married it took me right flat aback. I thought he always said beggar the weman. However I like his pluck and for William I thought he was too much in love and too poetical ever to marry any one but the appear to be both happy and that is the only thing in this wicked world and I am an uncle. I hope that boy Hamilton may grow to be a better man than ever his uncle has been and for John and Mrs little Mary she ought to be much thought of being the first little girl of that line for some time. I dont think I ever knew Williams Missess and Robert how is he Getting on. He will be quite a man now. If he takes my advice he will

court a hurricane but not be in [*erased: ?two*] too much hurry marreying. As for myself I dont think I will ever be able to make up my mind. Marriage is a very serious thought.

(f) Cuosin Rob^t is liveing close by us. He is farming on his own hook and getting on very well. There is a great many from home round here. John Skilling and Mrs Maryann Morhead that used to be the are doing first rate. She makes a good wife. And W^m Ja^s Alexander he is Joging along as steady as a church. I shall write no more *ap* present but believe me ever to

Remain your dutiful son

Hamilton M^cIlrath

(g) PS. I never hear M^t Ja^s Jellys people mentioned lately. I should like to know how the are getting on. Give my kind love to Uncle W^m and aunt Jane and to my two sisters [*remainder of line illegible*].

(II 13)

Leeston January 10th 1868

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I recieved yours of Sep^t 15th 67 on Nov 28th also yours of June 14th by due date. We are happy to hear you are all well which we are both at present. Wishing to be thankful for Blessings recieved and which we know we recieve undeserved. I very much fear that we deserve a very liberal allowance of strifes.

(b) Time passeth on. We have *know* a new figar added to our own number of years. Seven it appears has already passed since we left Home and it appears to me as yesterday. But Time in New Zealand must be short anyhow.

(c) James & David Lemon had a very speedy passage. We return you our sincerest thanks Mother for the parcel you sent by them but thanks is very very commonplace for kindness recieved, but the time may come when we can give a more convincing proof of

our gratitude for a Mothers gift. It wakens up to remembrance former times and shows proof positive that though we are far distant we are not by all forgot. Seas may divide and oceans roll between but Friends is Friends whatever intervene.

(d) It has been the lot of many to fight the worlds hard fight far from his native Land. I myself have seen sufficient to repay for all the difficultys attendant on such a life. Let M' Frew say what he may. There is worse places than New Zealand but it wants both willing heart and hands of which I rather doubt he had. But scant allowance faint Heart never win. Perhaps you all know what I am takeing into most serious consideration soon to prove whe[*erased: a*]ther I am so faint Hearted as my actions leads many as well as myself to believe. I see no earthly reason why not but I humbly confess I doubt my courage. Still I am bound to try. I am positive the say as ever so when once the idea has took to my Head you may guess the rest. But I suppose I am only wasting time on such a subject as no one but those really interested cares for such like.

(e) More fit you will say that he would tell us how he is getting on or along what markets is doing how crops looks. Well as M' Alexander told an old Lady at Tea one evening when She asked Him if He would have Butter or Cheese he simply said both please. Well as to getting on if I said not well I would be very unthankful indeed and if I said very well that would be boasting but we are doing Well. Wheat last season was down to nought per Bag, now it is going steadily up 6 shillings per Bushel and every Body says it will be very high. We have 40 Acres looks an average crop. We will have Harvest in about ten days. We sold our last years Wheat at 3 shillings per Bushel.

(f) Robert or cusin Robert is well but like others of the name has his own way so I believe he would do a thing sooner by letting him alone than coaxing. So I must wish you all good Bye. With best wishes

I remain Yours James L McIlrath

(II 14)

Leeston

[*erased*: Aug] Oct 1st/68

Dear Brother

(a) I Recieved your letter of the 13th June /68 - and I am glad to hear you are all well whitch I am at present - and for doing well I have I suppose no reason to complain. I am on my own hook now. James and I has make a division. James has bought my share of the farm and I have got another hundred acres of very good land whitch I intend to make the best out of I can for about three years and if i dont alter my mind before then I intend if I am well and keep clear of the weman to go home and see how you are all getting on for I think I might stop Here a very long time before any of you would come to see me.

(b) Times seems to be getting better at home since we left. If we had as good prices for our corn here we would do fine as the land only requires ploughing and sowing for the first five or six years and never gets any ma[n]ure at all. Nor no green crops is ever put in here only a few potatoes without one bit of manure and then the are the finest I could have seen any where but markets has been a bit higher this last season here. The have got into the way of sending the wheat to England and while there is a good price there we shall never have markets so low here again. We got six shillings per bushel for most of [ours] last season and it is as high seven shillings now which is a very good prospect for next harvest but oats seems never to get above two shillings a bushel.

(c) You seem anxious to know if we escaped the flood and I am happy to say we had no water more than we usualy have after two good days rain but [*erased*: up] at Rangiora where i used to live it was something fearful. It swept away fences and lifted hay stacks and carried them for miles. After it went down you might pick up any thing from a tin catel [*kettle*] to a dray washed for miles away. Pigs and fowls nearly all drowned and

worse than all any amount of houses washed down and several lives lost. In fact no body could account for it. There had been heavy rains many a time before [erased: and] and the Ashley's not a snow river. There was a slight earth quake felt here about two months ago but it must have been greater at sea. At Port Lyttleton shortly after the shock was felt a wave came rushing up the harbour and swept for miles up the bays then it receded back [back] and left the ships in the harbour nearly dry and it was days before the tide came and went in their regular course.

(d) I got your portrait but I don't think that I should have known you. First look I thought [t] it was William. It is pretty much like what he used to be. You must be pretty tall and very pale. I might write you about a great many things here but then you would know nothing about them.

(e) W. J. Alexander is gone to the diggings. There is a great rush to Auckland now. Remember me to father and mother and tell them that it's my intention now if I don't alter my mind to see them before they are many years older. I shall write no more at present

but remain truly your Brother

H McIlrath.

(f) Give my best love to William and John and their respective missas and pickinings as I expect they will have a good few of the latter by this time. I don't think I ever knew Williams M^{rs} nor any of the family and for John's I think I have seen her. I know I have seen some of her sisters and a big brother but I hope to be better acquainted with them all by and by. James is well and likely to do well.

Give my respects to all friends enquiring.

(II 15)

Southbridge Sep 5th 1869

Dear Brother

(a) I recieved your letter of May 9th 69 on the 25 August. I am glad to hear that you are all well which we are both at present and before I go farther I may as well let you know that I have got married. I was married on the 16th of June last to Agness Mathews from near Comber. James Anderson publican of Comber is her uncle. She came out with the Lemons and James Hewitt. I saw James on Friday last for the first. He promised to come to see us some day shortly. James sayes he knows the place you have got in Carrickmannon. I hope you may do well.

(b) I see by your last that you know that Hamilton is began for himself. I Bought him out. I gave him £350 which was [*erased: his share*] £7-10^s per Acre for his share of the 100 Acres. I am commencing to build a new house at present which will cost me about £100 when finished. You say you expect us Home in a few years. Hamilton I believe will before a great time. It might be longer before I come but I intend to come sometime. I was tired living on a Farm by myself so I thought I would be better married. 8 or 9 years of Batchelor life would tire most people.

(c) You say John oprey has come Home. Many a time I wondered where he had got to as I never could hear a single word of him. You dont say if he done well or not but I suppose he did. We had Thomas Logan all night on Monday night last. He is well.

(d) I was surprised to see on opening your letter the likeness of Sam Nesbit and a true likeness it is. He must be a very old man. I am glad to hear that Uncle Tom is living and well. He must be very healthy.

(e) This place is not so good as it was a few years ago but it is very changeble. The seasan before last Wheat was as far as 7^s per Bushel; last 4^{sh} was about the average. If we

could get the prices steady that you can get we would make money fast. I had over 1500 Bushels last year myself. I expect more this one as I have more sown.

(f) Give my best wishes to Father & Mother & Robert John and M^{rs}. He never writes now but I must not blame Him altogether as I am very neglectful myself but I have had so much to mind lately I had not time. Accept my best wishes for yourself and M^{rs}. I remain Your affectionate

James L M^cIlrath

(Il 16)

NZ

Southbridge Canterbury

Aug 29th / 70

Dear Father & Mother

(a) You must excuse me for not writing sooner but I would sooner have wrote in answer to better news. I hope you are all well and recovered from the intence sorrow of your sad Bereavement. Robert^s Death was very sudden indeed. I was never as much taken by surprise as when I first heard the sad tale. The first I heard of it was by the Lemons and I thought there might be some mistake but Alas” Alas” when Hamilton showed me his letter and the Funeral circular I was convinced beyond doubt that Robert was no more.

(b) Death so sudden and its victim so young I hope will be a warning to each and all of us so to live the remainder of our lives that we may be prepared to Die. We know not how soon our souls may [*omitted: be*] called upon to give an account of the deeds done in the Body. One thing is certin that Die we must sooner or later and that every Day bring us nearer that awful and solemn event. But if god in his infinite wisdom sees fit to remove us from this earthly scene may He also enable us to submit without a murmer and in whatever way He deals with us his erring Children. And altho we may have to drink deeply of a

bitter cup being sure that all is for the best may we have from the heart Aclaim not my will but thine be done Oh Father.

(c) You will be aware that I have got married. We have got a Boy Five months old tomorrow. We call Him John for you Father.

(d) We are all well at present thanks be to God. Hamilton is well. He was in yesterday afternoon. He lives close by. I saw Thomas Logan on Friday. He is well.

(e) I wonder if you heard of Smyths case but I suppose you did. He was sentenced to Death for the Murder of his Wife but his sentence was changed to penal servitude for life. I should have said that it was John Smyth formerly of Killinchy police Barrack and I believe his wife was Servent in M^{rs} Ward^s.

I must once more take my leave of you. Agness joins in sending Her best wishes to you all.

I remain Yours

James L McIlrath

(Il 17)

Southbridge Canterbury NZ

December 21st 1872

Dear Brother William Father & Mother

(a) In answer to yours of the 24 June in which you seem to censure me very much for not writing more regular I admit the charge to a certin extent but on the other hand I cannot admit being so very negligent as by your letter it would appear. I had wrote to John just before I recieved yours otherwise I would have wrote to you sooner. As for Hamilton I have done all I could to persuade Him to write and if he has not done so the fault is not mine and he is very ungrat[e]ful indeed.

(b) Twelve years is now past and gone since last we parted. I thought to have seen you all before this but time here seems to roll on much faster than at Home. I know no difference on myself but there must be a great difference on us all more especially on Father & Mother. I am sorry to hear that Mother is not so well as she might be.

(c) I now wish to give you all a piece of advice. It may be presumptuous in me but excuse me, that is, to make yourselves as easy as possible about us. No doubt it is natural on your parts to be anxious about us but we are well and has done well. Do not suppose for a moment that we are in a wild uncivilised place. No. Only for the look of the Contry when we go to a cattle show or any other gathering one almost forgets but that he is in Ireland. I was at one on Thursday last and there was any amount of people we all know such as WJ Alexander Cousin Robert W Cooper W Ledgerwood Lemons Brot[hers] D Moorhead M Moorhead J Hewett W Gebbie D M^cClure and Family from old Robert clarks T Tompson Drumreagh beside many others. I need not mention all seeing in good health and spirits. By the way I forgot William Adams David Adams. Not one of which has cause to regret leaving Home.

(d) We are all here like so many on the Cockle Beds. You seldom ever saw any one leaving satisfied before the tide came and swept all before it so it is here. Few if any cares for leaving while the oppertunity offers of doing well but let the tide turn and I will not say all but a great many [*erased: turn*] will turn theirr thoughts for Home. For my part I should [*omitted: like*] to hear of Ireland being a little more quiet as I Fancy it is a dangerous place betimes.

(e) I was much surprised to hear Elisa Jellie Death. Will you be good enough to let me know when you write if you know how M^r Gillespie is doing. I would like to know if M^r & M^{rs} Jellie is living and well. Give my best wishes to the whole Family.

(f) We are all well at present thank God. Hoping you are as well as you would wish and that we may be all satisfied with the position in life in which we are placed, and rest assured that I shall always feel it a pleasing duty to write in answer to you. I now wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours Son & Brother James L McIlrath

(Il 18)

June 27th/73

Southbridge Canterbury NZ

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I had a letter ready to post this Evening and being at the post office I enquired and recieved one from you William Dated April 7th/73. It gives me pleasure to know that you are all well. We are all well thank God. It was a pity about your Fingers William but it is not like other Sickness. I have not [*omitted: been*] unable to work two days together since I left Home.

(b) I Had an offer for my Farm since I wrote last and I scarcely knew what to do. I was offered One thousand £1000 pounds or ten pounds per Acre land only together with leave to take the crop off that I was about to put in. I had three months given to make up my mind so I resolved to wait a little longer. Property here is getting up in value fast. They are commenced to make a Railway to Southbridge. That is a town about two miles from [*omitted: where*] I live and I have been over the same spot when there was not a single House there nor yet in view and the contry is flat. I recollect the M^r Gillespie you mention carting up a load of timber for us when for 17 miles before we got to what is now Southbridge there was only one Shepherd Hut.

(c) Now this Southbridge is a Nice little Town with one English Church and one Scotch or Presbeterian but by the way there is no Uniterian (Hush) it is a thing never

mentioned here. We have a very clever little man in the presbyterian Church or Meeting House. One of those men that can take out a text square Himself up and deliver a very good sermon without (Hem or Ha) none of those written affairs but still I for one can scarcely swallow all He says not with the same ease as His Revnd seems to deliver it anyhow.

(d) There is also a large Black Smiths that employs about 12 men and where I got the first Reaping that was made there. It cost £55 *fifty five* pounds. A carpenters shop, a Bakery, a saddler shop, a shoemakers Three large stores and a fourth in course of erection, one Hotel, one Boarding House, Milliners Shop, besides a Nursery, and coaching establishment, and a large Town Hall for public Meetings and amusements. There is a Ball there this Night and I suppose by this time 10 oclock they are Heel and Toeing pretty freely admission 7^s-6^D but you will say what stuff what has all this to do with us 16 thousand miles away.

(e) Admitted but I confess I feel a certin amount of pride to watch the progress of this once waste spot. I believe I would have sold my Farm only for much the same reasons. When one settles down on a place where it never was occupied before and Fences off His Fields Builds House plants Trees makes garden and so on you feel proud at least I do of what I have done and I could not leave without takeing a lingering look behind. Besides as Mother used to say you know where you are but you dont know where you are going. I mind it well.

(f) Now I would be far more afraid of rueing coming Home to Ireland than I was of leaving which I never once done. I doubt a good many I wont say all that goes Home would wish to be back again but if I thought I could do any thing well at Home I might come before many years. I know the time~~[erased: s]~~ is past I said I would and meant it too but what did I then know. I would have been well pleased then to return with what I could

now. I believe I could land in Belfast with from Fifteen to Eighteen Hundred pounds but once there either rent a Farm or Freehold I suppose is out of the question but I have wandered away until I almost fancy I am on Irish soil.

(g) But to return to reality, I have not sold one Bushel of last seasons crop. Now midwinter oats was only 1^s-10^D per Bushel of 40 lbs after Harvest and now they are 4^s-6^D [word illegible] Wheat is the same. Butter is 1^s per lb. I sold £60 pounds worth of Pigs about a month ago that never was in sty. Fatted on stubble. The are 3½^D per pound. I sold my ones alive.

(h) I shall try and perswade Hamilton to write. He always says he will. He is well. Tell John that I have not got a paper. I dont know when I shall send Him one by this mail.

(i) Except my best wish one and all. Give my respects to M^r Jellie M^{rs} and whole Family Uncle William and Family. I remain yours affectionate Son & Brother

James L M^cIlrath

(II 19)

Kowai pass July 13th - 73

Dear Brother

(a) After so long neglecting to write to you I am half ashamed to commence again but the fact was about the time I Knocked off my mind was not made up what to do. I was thinking about going home then but I was advised not to as I would be sure to come back again. So time went on and I did not care to tell you I had changed my mind so I bought some land about forty miles from where James is and got married and so I am settled for a bit and doing very well.

(b) James sent me your letter of Ap^l 7th 1873 in which I was glad to hear you were all well. We are all well for there is three of us now. We have got a fine little fellow over

two months old which we have called John Robert for Father & brother. He is a very nice little boy. I shall have his portrait taken and send it you as soon as convenient.

(c) Pleas[e] to ask father and Mother to forgive for not writeing before for I am heartly ashamed of myself and shall not be guilty of the like again for it was not that the were out my mind for month after month. I have been going to write this last three years and alway put it off for I thought that James would let you know how I was and how I was getting on. I have got a very nice place for the time every one says who sees it.

(d) I gave an acre of land for a presbitarain church about a hundred yards from my house which will improve the lack of it a bit. By the bye there is no uniterians here leastways no churchs or clergeymen so when I do go I go to the presbiterian. You might let me know how the uniterians is getting on at home and especialy M^r M^caws flock if he is still their minister. I wont write much more untill I here from some of you again.

(e) Eliza wishes to be kindly Remembered to Father and Mother and sends her best love to you all. I send enclosed likeness of her Father sailed with an old tatoood Moria Chief and a rather well dressed Moria woman.

(f) Give my kind love John M^s and family and to M^r J. Jellies Family and all old friends - James M^s and Family well and so is Rob^t M^cIlrath and family. I shall write more when I get a letter from you again.

I remain your affectionate Brother

H. M^cIlrath

adress Canterbury Newzealand

Kowai Pass

West cost road

(II 20)

Kowai Pass Feb 15th 1874

Dear Brother

(a) I Recieved your letter of 20th October on 2nd Jan and we were very glad to hear that you were all well as this [leaves] us at present [in the] enjoyment of the same blessing good health.

(b) We are buisy harvesting now and it is a rather time for we have far more hevvy hot winds here than you have got at home and this harvest has been rather more than usual stormy. However in another week I expect to have finished. I have about sixty acres of crop this year. The wheat is fair but the oats is a very fine crop and prices is likely to be higher this season than last. Wheat was 4/6 per bushel 60^{lbs}/ last season and oats 2/ per bushel 40^{lbs}/ this last two or three years but the made a start at the latter end of last season up to 4s and 4/6 and the are likely to be the same this year. If we got the same prices for our grain and stock here as you [get] at Home we could live like [the] sons of an irish King for we do not go to the trouble of draining and manuring just ploughs and harrows and rolls and leaves it there untill fit for cuting. No weeding [*erased: of*] or thistle pulling here. Thrashes the grain in the paddocks and burns the straw. Makes no manure except what the horses makes. In the winter never houses cattle.

(c) Cattle is low priced here. You can buy yearling for about 30 shillings per head and cows from four to eight pounds [*erased: pe*] according to quallity. Horses is a good price. I sold a pair of blacks for eighty pounds this summer. Beef 3^d to 4^d per lb and mutton 2^d to 3^d per pound and butter averages about eight pence and whiskey 6^d per glass or 22 shillings per gallon. Labour wages is improveing this last year or two. A good man in the harvest time can make about a pound a day piece work or from 1^s to 1^s-3^d per hour and found.

(d) I can send you very little more news that you would know anything about. You asked me the name of my wife - her name is Eliza Jane Atkinson but she is going to write Mother a few lines and give you her whole pedigree. I shall write no more at present but with my very best love to Father and Mother John M^{rs} and family and the same to your self M^{rs} and all the little ones

I Remain your Brother

Hamilton M^cIlrath

(e) I should like Father to write me a few lines and tell me how Mother and he is getting on. I hope he dont work to[o] hard, and John he might write too and tell me if his beard is nearly as long as the tonges still. I was hearing from a M^{rs} finley and her daughter that came from Bangor that Joseph Logan was not doing as well as usual.

Remember me to all friends enquireing and especially to Uncle William and Aunt Jane.

Yours truely

Hamilton M^cIlrath

Please to write soon and I shal have more laisure to answer your next.

(II 21)

Southbridge Canterbury N.Z.

September 6th/74

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I now write to let you know that we are all well and has been since last I wrote to you and hopes you have all enjoyed the same Blessing. I would have wrote before this only I thought to have all our likeness's to send you before this but their is no place we could get them nearer than Christchurch a distance of more than thirty miles. So you can guess it is no easy task to take young ones so far but the Railway is formed now right up to

Southbridge and the Talegraph is finished. They are coming up fast with the sleepers and rails. It is expected to be open for traffic by the first of Febuary next. We are within about two of your miles from the station so we will be able then to go to Christchurch and back in one day. I was thinking of geting a potographer up then and having House Garden and all taken and sending them to you.

(b) Times has never been better since we came here than the have been since last I wrote. Cattle is 75 per cent higher than they were two years ago. Land property is one third higher than [*erased: wh*] when last I wrote. I would get fifteen pounds £15 per Acre now quick. There was a sale of Town Sections $\frac{1}{2}$ Acre each in the Township of Southbridge by public Auction August 27th which fetched up to £30 *Thirty pounds* per half Acre free forever.

(c) All that is to pay here in the shape of taxes is one pound per house Anually which is called School rates. The Batchelers dont like to pay that. Then their is a Road rate levied according to the net anual value of property that is, what rent if let the property is worth. Supposing 100 Acres to let at 10 shillings per Acre and the rates be six pence in the pound it would amount to £1-5-0 but if one shilling rate 2-10-0 which is the highest rate levied and depends a great deal on the people themselves. If the complain on the bad state of the roads and wants them repaired then a rate is levied but what is called the Road Board but not more than a one shilling rate in one year. This Board recieves so much yearly from goverment and with the rates added is how the roads is kept up. The Members of the board recieves nothing for their servise. The keep a clerk to inspect the roads but very likely I have wandered off to what dont interest you.

(d) I Bought three of the above sections. I shall very likely put up some Cottages on them and let them. The Emigrants is coming by thousands.

(e) And now for the Family. We have John, William and Jane. One little girl died when six weeks old so that I am not so far on as you were informed. John is named for Father Jane for Mother and William for Agness Father.

Yours

Ja^s. L. McIlrath

(II 22)

Kowai Pass Jan 6th/75

Dear Brother

(a) I shall only write a few lines now, as Eliza is writeing to Father and Mother. We got your letter of Sept 20th and also your portraits. We had Father's and Mothers before. They are looking very well. Mother is looking very fresh. Father is grayer looking than I expected but is looking smart and well. I should know them both anywhere. For your own I Know very little difference since last I seen you. You wear your whiskers a bit larger and looks a little more of the swell. Your Misses is a fine looking woman. I dare say you are proud of her. The children are Remarkable pretty. Hamilton is nothing like me. He is to fair for that. Jane is a very nice shy looking girl. I think our little Johnny resembles yours a good deal. He has very light hair. We must get ours taken as soon as possiable and send you. Liveing so far from town its rather to far to take the youngesters but the train is running now within a few miles of us so we shall be able to get more conviently.

(b) Harvesting will soon be commenced here. The crops is looking well. I shall write no more now but with kind love to Father & Mother and you all and hoping that you are all in good health as this leaves us in the enjoyment.

I remain dear Brother yours affectionately

Hamilton McIlrath

(c) Remember me to *to John M^{rs} and family*. The little boy is as happy as a cricket. We have got none here. The grasshoppers here is about the same size an[d] very like them and very distinct.

(II 23)

Southbridge C.[*anterbury*] N.Z

January 31st 1875

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I now write to let you know that we are all well (thanks be to the giver of all good). I hope you are all well and that the year 1875 may be so enjoyed and spent and that Blessings may be abundantly recieved and gratefully acknowledge so that when it has passed away we may look back upon it with pleasure and not regret.

(b) Year by year rolls on. Time cannot be flattered to stay a little longer but this we can do. We may use it to advantage to ourselves here, and more so with advantage to ourselves in the great Hereafter.

(c) You may think perhaps that I have turned Methodist. No I am as sound a Unitarian as when I left Killinchy altho I never heard a unitarian Sermon since. We have a very eloquent little presbeterian Clergyman here but I must confess that I cannot believe all He says. It is a bold assertion for I unlearned to make against it may be the Lord's annointed passed of talent and learning but consience must be obeyed.

(d) I recieved the likeness of Father and Mother and again that of you William, M^{rs} also, Boy and Girl. You Father I would not have known but I should have you Mother. Time does not seem to have changed you so much. You William I would not have known either and as for your M^{rs} I may have seen at home but not that I am aware of. The Boy and Girl tells tales no wonder that all of us should look different when another generation is taking our place. I enclose my own and M^{rs} and I suppose you will find that time has

changed me much. I will send you some of the Family first opportunity. I could not take them so far to be taken. We have now four

John, Jane,

William, Robert.

(e) I do not know Father and Mother if you have got an easy car to go out in but next time I write I will send you a post office order for what will buy one.

(f) I should like to see the likeness of John M^{rs} and Family. I hope they are well.

Hopeing this will find you all in good Health.

I am Yours obed

J. L. McIlrath

(II 24)

Southbridge Aug 26th 75

Father Mother & Brothers

(a) I now write a few lines to let you know that we are all well. Also to acknowledge yours of April 21st 75 and the Book some time before. I have not read anything since I left to please me like it (Bible excepted).

(b) I am glad to hear that you are all well. I enclose a Draft order for £25 pounds payable to you William but I wish you all to know that it is a joint present from Agness and myself to Father and Mother to Buy something easy to go out in. Do not think but what we wish you all to enjoy many a pleasant ride.

(c) You need not be disappointed if when you present this in Belfast you will be told to wait two Days as so until the correspond with the Head office in London. Also I inform you that all expences on same is paid by me already. Wishing you all many happy Days.

I must take leave to finish but next time you will get a longer one.

Yours Affect^y

J L McIlrath

(d) P. S.

Please inform me at once if you do not get this all right as I hold an exact copy and can send it again.

J. L. McIlrath

(e) P. S.

Would you let me know if you know of any young Woeman or girl that would like to come here Willing to milk & so. There is no rough work here like at home. I would pay all expences from she left home and make this a home for Her too. I would give from Twenty to £25 per year. Please let me know.

J. L. McIlrath

(Il 25)

Canterbury NZ

Southbridge January 11th 1876

Father Mother and Brothers

(a) I now write to inform you that I recieved yours of October 24th/75 and was happy to learn that you recieved what I sent you without any truble and may you all long enjoy a pleasant drive.

(b) You said that the Aulds was leaving Belfast for here and that you recommended Maggie to me. A soon as I recieved your letter I wrote to M^{rs} Smyth who takes care of the newly arrived girls until the find a situation. She is M^{rs} of the Emigration Depot Christchurch. I said that I expected a girl of the name of Maggie Auld to arrive per ship Conflict from Belfast and that if she wished to find me to send her with the others that was coming to Southbridge. I also wrote a letter to Maggie in care of M^{rs} Smyth so that she

might get it when she landed. Well I happened to be in Southbridge on the Day that the others arrived there but no Maggie. I then Telegraphed to M^{rs} Smyth to know where Maggie had got to and received in reply that she was engaged at the Club Hotel Rangiora.

(c) I then took the train Next day and went right to the Hotel a distance of 48 miles and saw her there. She told me that M^{rs} Smyth never gave her my letter until she was leaving after been engaged. I asked her if she would prefer going with me and she said she would but her M^{rs} when I asked her said that it would only be fair for Maggie to stop a month as she was engaged and give them a chance to get another and Maggie to let her Brothers know that she was leaving and if they were willing that she would at the end of the month see Maggie on the train for me at Christchurch. Rangiora is 18 miles on one side of Christchurch and Southbridge 30 by railway on the other. So if all goes well I expect her in 8 weeks.

(d) You will see by a clipping the account of the passage. It was pretty good 83 days. By another you will see the Death of Thomas Logan. I am not certain but I believe it is the same as I never knew any other.

(e) I wish to inform you that M^r Robert Matthews is leaving here on Monday the 14th for Sydney and will sail from there on March 1st by Steamer for London calling at Cape of Good Hope 2 Days to coal. She is expected to go to London in less than 50 Days in all. Rob^l is going to give you a call. We had all the Family in the room I now write together with John Skilling and M^{rs} or what was Maryann Moorhead on Wednesday Night last. And this Night Friday we are going to Southbridge Hotel to have a public Dinner before he leaves. There is over 40 persons invited (men only).

(f) I hope he may arrive safe. He will stop a week in London with an uncle then to Belfast. I think you may expect him in the last week of April. The same steamer came out in 43½ Days last trip. He will be with you perhaps as soon as this letter. He will be able to

tell you all about New Zealand. He is coming out again. Hoping you all may enjoy a good chat with one so nearly connected and qualified to give you a good idea of colonial life.

I must once more take my leave in the hope that you are one and all well.

PS. I see that I have not mentioned that M^r Matthews is Brother to My M^{rs}. You will know now.

I remain yours affectionately

James L. M^rIlrath

(II 26)

Southbridge Canterbury

N.Z

April 30th 1877

Father Mother and Brothers

(a) You will I hope excuse me for not writing before this but we were every week for the past three months expecting M^r Rob^t Matthews back again when I intended to write to you after his arrival but we are all beginning to think that he must be enjoying Himself to perfection, and has forgot New Zealand altogether. His Friends all arrived safe here. One of his sisters M^{rs} Patterson was very ill on the Voyage but is now pretty nearly recovered. The other sister M^{rs} Wallace was confined on the voyage but arrived here in good health about as Broad as she was tall. M^r Rob^t Anderson and Miss Anderson is well. We enjoyed ourselves very much the first Night they arrived here. We almost felt as if we were roaming over Irish soil again and forgot for the time that there is distance Between. Old M^{rs} Matthews was very ill about Christmas and was at Christchurch when her Friends arrived for Medical attendance. She is not quite well yet and thinks a good deal about Robert.

(b) I hope you are all well Father, Mother and yourself M^{rs} and Family not forgetting John M^{rs} and Family. You may tell John that I recieved the portraits for which I return thanks. I shall write to him as soon as Rob^l Matthews arrives but perhaps he has made up his mind to stop in Ireland.

(c) Maggie Auld is still living with us and in good Health. She can Name a good Many people about Killinchy that I must have forgot or else they are new comers. If you ever see her Father or Mother tell them they must write to her oftener as she is always looking for a letter from them. Her Brother David comes to see her regular. He is living with Hans M^cClure and Rob^l is living with George M^cClure.

(d) We have had one of the wettest Summers and especialy the Harvest that was ever known here. Some of the crop had to be left uncut as the land was too soft for the Reaper. Others was cut but not tied and was growing to the ground so badly that people turned pigs into the Fields sooner than pay for Binding it up. The result is that fat pigs is plentiful and therefore cheap. I had all my grain in stock but then it is a deal sprouted. Butter is a good price being a shilling per pound. We sold £60 worth and has on hand about £30 worth wore besides feeding 16 Calves. I hear David Osborne is left for Home. I never saw him only at the Diggings.

I forgot to mention that we are all well and

remains yours

J. L. M^cIlrath

(II 27)

Southbridge Canterbury

New Zealand

September 15th 1877

Father Mother and Brother

(a) You will think by this time that I have left off writing to you altogether but I was waiting for M^r Rob^t Matthews to return before I would write. We expected him back three months ago but He arrived at last on the 3rd of this month after a passage of about 87 Days. He seems to have enjoyed himself very much at home both by what He says and the length of time he stayed there. He came here to see us the next Day after he arrived but a few Hours is no use to answer all the questions put to him and likely to be put for the next twelve months. I have seen Him several times since and always gets something new but there is so many people comeing to see him and enquiring after their Friends that I only wonder He dont turn insane especialy as he never gets to sleep. It is surprising how He will talk about Killinchey to us, to others about England, and to others about Scotland and their Friends in almost the same Breath.

(b) He and I has arranged to go to see Hamilton in the middle of the week. He says that was his last instructions from you. We would have went sooner only for his time being engaged as I have stated above.

(c) It is needless for me to state or endeavour to discuss our feelings as we unpacked the parcels sent to us from you, as one by one the were opened. It must have gave you all a great deal of truble. I can only say on behalf of myself M^{rs} and Family that we return you our heartfelt, thanks, in the highest sence of the term. The Book the life and Works of the Rev D^rMontgomery I esteem as a pearl above price.

(d) I had a letter from John yesterday. I am glad to hear that you are or were all well. I was surprised to hear that Joseph Logan and M^{rs} was Dead. Robert Matthews could not tell anything about them. He said they had left Newtownards.

(e) John says that their youngest Son is coming out here that he was to leave plymouth on the 11th of July but he did not mention the Name of the Vessel that he was coming by. He will be sailed now over two months and may be expected here in 3 weeks or so. As soon as I hear of the Vessels arrival I shall meet him and give him any assistance in my power.

(f) Hoping you are all well which we are all at present and for which above all things we are thankful. We remain yours affectionately

J. L. M^{rs}Ilrath and Family

(Il 28)

Kowai Pass July 15th /78

Dear William

(a) I feel ashamed for not writeing to you long before this but the fact was we did not care to write before we seen Rob^t Mathews. He and James & Rob^t M^{rs}Ilrath made it up to come together but when one was ready the other was not and the only got our length on the 24th Ap^l last. I think the cause of the delay was owing to James's arm being [*erased*: bad] so bad. It had been very bad and no mistake but it is getting better now. He said he had not told you about it in his letters for fear of makeing you over anxious untill [*erased*: y] he seen how it would turn out. However when he was up here he seemed to be getting all right. I have not heard from him since, as I promised them to be down to see them last month and have some phesant shooting but it being the dead of winter here and the shortest days here I put it off for another two months.

(b) However we spent a very pleasant time when they were here. We had some pleasant chat about home. Rob^t Mathews [*erased: ?*] speaks highly of the reception he got from you all. He says Father no matter how late he had been up the night before was still first up in the morning.

(c) I have just Received your letter of May 17/78 by which i am glad hear you are all well but i think you ought to be in receipt of some letters from Eliza before this. She wrote after we got your likenesss which we admired very much. You have really a nice Family and for yourself & M^{rs} I wont say anything. I dare say you are both proud enough of your looks already.

(d) We got the parcel all right. Very proud we all were of them. The book i think a great deal of and I still hold the same views but people here would call you a heretic if you mentioned such a thing. James told me the presbyterian [*erased: s*] minister would not baptise his last child on account of him not conforming to their rules. Hamilton Jellies likeness I think a very true one considering the time since I last seen him. I hope they are all well. Has none of them got married yet. James thought the likeness was Rob^t Hamiltons on account of the verses that came along with it. And for the other things they were all really very pretty and you were all very kind considering you never received anything from us yet. The children has never done talking about their grand Father & grand Mother. Rob^t McIlrath says little Jenny is very like her grand Mother & I think she is too. I believe if her grandmother seen her she would say she was as pretty a little girl as she could wish. Little Hamilton and us all drank to your Healths out of his glass the night it came not forgetting his namesake the sender. John Robert wishes me to thank his grand Father for the Bible & grand Mother for the pretty socks she sent him.

(e) We are in good health [*erased: well*] and getting on well enough if we would be satisfied but New Zealand is a great place for trying to get more. We live in a very healthy

plac and I believe it will be one of the most prosperous districts in canterbury bfore long. When I settled here first it was as much as I could see a house in any direction but now every inch of goverment land is bought up and the railroad runing past and coal mines and batterys within about a mile of us. And freehold land is raising in value rapidly.

(f) I could write a great deal more but what interest us here would be of no interest to you as you would know nothing of the people or local news. But it is different with me. Any thing happening at home within the circle of our aquentence births marriag[e]s or any thing is news for me.

(g) Remember me to John and tell him I scarcely know how to excuse myself for not writeing to him long before this but I am a mis[erased: s]eable bad corepondent except I commence at once to answer a letter time wears on u[n]till I feel ashamed and then I think I will wait for another but no second came in this case. But I will write to him some of these days. We got his and the M^{rs} likeness's and I can tell you the do look well. John has got a fine face of hair an the M^{rs} she realy is a fine looking woman.

No more now but with kind love to you all and best wishes to Father and Mother. I Remain their affectionate son and your brother

H. M^cIlrath

(II 29)

Kowai pass July 15th/79

Dear Brother

(a) I write to Let you know we are all in good health at present and hope you are all enjoying the same Blessing. I had a letter from my nephew (Hamilton) which i should have answered before this. Not having seen him I alway think he is a little boy yet but I expect he is a fine big fellow now and very useful and writes cleverly. He mentions M^r M^cCaw resigning owing to ill health which I am very sorry to hear. He has been in charge

over that congregation a long time now, and I expect he has done his duty. We have no churches of that sort here and no one that I know of convenient that I could ask for a subscription except James. I wrote down to him soon after I got Hamilton's letter and he said we might send £5 between us. I wrote again about a fortnight ago and up to date I have got no answer which I think strange. The mail leaves on the 18th and I am going to send £2-10 myself and if I hear from him before it goes I will send his along with mine. If not he can send it after.

(b) I shall enclose an order for £17-10 / £5 for Father & Mother and £5 for Brother John's oldest boy but to my shame be it written I forgot whether he has a boy or not. If not then for the oldest girl. Also £5 to my namesake Hamilton your son. The amount ought to have been larger but last season was a very bad one here and I had just paid away a good bit of money before I got the boy's letter. I bought 50 acres more land in February last at £8 per acre close by my own.

(c) I hope Father & Mother is enjoying good health. I always think they ought to look as when last I saw them. We have got a little girl (Jenny) my wife says is very like Mother. If you ask her name she says it's Grandma McIlrath. We have got another little fellow since you last heard from us which makes four boys and one girl. Johnny & Hamilton sends kind love to Grandfather & Grandmother & little cousins & you all. John says to tell Grandma he has been very ill with the whooping cough but is getting well again. They have all had it together but got it about over now. Eliza says she wrote you that the third boy was to be called for you. His name is James but the last one is called for you. He is more like you.

(d) Brother James has bought Rob^t Mathews home place 69 acres & Robert Mathews is living in James's house but he has [*erased: bought*] bought a farm about the

Ashburton. James's arm is still weak. He can do nothing with it yet and I doubt if ever it will be the same as before.

(e) Eliza sends kind love to Father & Mother and to you all. Remember me to John M^{rs} & family. I am ashamed for not haveing written to him but I must ask him to write to me. Remember me to all old friends & aquantences.

(f) Kind love to Father & Mother & you all. Hopeing you are well & happy. I Remain ever their son & your Brother.

Hamilton M^cIlrath

P.S. No letter from James. The order is on the Ulster bank & Co.

(II 30)

Kowai pass May 8th 1882

Dear Brother

(a) It is so long since I have heard from you now or wrote myself that i scarcely know how to commence. I have been waiting month after month & year after year i might say, for a answer to a letter and photograph of the house we sent you nearly three years ago and allways expecting a letter every mail. The time has went by as you see. However I write this hoping that father & mother and you all are in Good health.

(b) We are all well and Getting on pretty well as the home letters used to say more especiey as far as famaly is concerned. We have Got seven now five boys & two girls all healthy just the same as was of us I believe. I dont know whether it is two or three we have Got since last we wrote however the names of the youngest three is - William, Harriett and Freddie - so many you see requires one to look about for names. The two oldest boys is attending school. We have a very large school within half a mile of us.

(c) This part of the country where I live is very much changed since i came to it. On an avarege you would not have met with a house within every four miles but now every

inch of land is taken up fenced and build upon and there is a large coalery about a mile from our house and only a road between the property it is on and my farm so you may Guess its not a dull place.

(d) For instance ther was an election on Wedensday last for seven members to serve on the school committee when there was about (200) house holders present. I secured a seat though competition was great. Speaking of elections I have for the Last nine years been at the head of the poll as a member of the road Bord never was defieted. But enough of this. I might write a Great deal about people and things here which you not knowing them might not interest you.

(e) The grain & produce market has been pretty low this last few years. For instance beef at present is only 17^s/ per 100 lbs mutton best 21^D per lb and pork 3^d per lb. Wheat 4^s6^d per 60 lbs. Oats is a fair price this season 3^s6^D per bushel or 40 lbs. Horses very plenty. Not half the price the were a few years ago.

(f) Brother James & family is well. I think I mentioned in My last that he had a very bad arm. It healed but shriveled up so that it is but Little use to him but he can do without working but it frets him a little as he was always used to be buisy at something. He got Robert Mathews swamp Farm and Robert went farther up countary.

(g) Dear Brother receiving no answer to our last as i mentioned before has made us very anxious fearing something has happened. Pray ask Father and Mother not to be think me ungreatful or that I have forgotton them that i shall never. Write as soon as you get this and let me know how they are. God has spered them to a Good old age and as it is likely we shall never meet again in this world I have a certain hope we shall all meet in a better where there is no parting.

(h) Remember us to John & his Family and ask him to forgive me for not answering his letter but as soon as I hear from you all again I shall write to him. Cussin

Robert & Family is well. He sold his old place and bought a Larger farm. No more now but with kind love to Father & Mother and you all. I am their affectionate son

and your Brother

Hamilton McIlrath

Remember me to all enquiring friends.

(Il 31)

[circa June 1885]

Lakeside Canterbury

N. Z

Dear Brother William

(a) I recieved your letter of March [*erased: 4*] 23rd a few days ago and although very sorry at the news containing the Death of our Father I was not surprised as John had let me know of his illness. I then thought that Father being a comparatively healthy man and arrived at his age he was not likely to recover. It gives me great pleasure to learn that when it pleased his Father to remove him from this earthly scene of sorrows and trials that his transition was easy and tranquil. He has changed his abode we believe for a better. He has rested from his labours. Let us not mourn and may he recieve that welcome sentance well done good and faithful servant enter ye into the joy of thy Lord.

(b) I hope Mother is bearing her bereavement with C[h]ristian resignation and that when it pleases god to call Her Home she may like him pass away peacefully and join him again in that land where parting is unknown. (Mother you have had a long lifetime. You have had length *length* of days beyound the allotted span and we are told that old age is honourable. Be resigned, and the time is not far distant when we all though now seperated shall meet again. None of us can reasonably expect to live to your age but may we live so that when our time comes we may be ready. And there is annother consolation Mother that

as our parents has been a Credit to their Family so I flatter myself that their Family is a credit to them.

(c) I may say that we are all well at present. M^{rs} is keeping well. I saw Hamilton about three weeks ago. The are all well. Tell John I shall write to him soon. I shall send you the (Supplement to the Lyttleton Times) a paper I get Dail[*erased: e*]y. This supplement is a summary of the news for the month in a conden[*se*]d form and only what I have read before. You might send me some of your papers.

(d) Hoping that you are all well. Give my best wishes to Mother your M^{rs} and Family Individually and accept same for yourself. I remain your affectionate Brother

J. L. McIlrath

(II 32)

Springfield May. 2nd. 1886

Dear William

(a) I Received your letter of february 22nd and we were very Glad to hear that you were all well and that Mother was enjoying good health. I dont know how to excuse myself for not writeing long before. I wrote to John after Fathers Death and of course I thought you Liv[*erased: e*]ing so near that is was nearly all the same. However we must write oftener to one another than we Lately have been doing.

(b) We are all in good health and that (all) includes eleven five boys & four girls all fine and healthy. Six attending school. The two oldest boys aged one 13 and the other between eleven & twelve years are both in the fifth Standard and for gramer and Arithmetic far before me and the others Getting on equally as well for their ages.

(c) I forget how many of a family you have but the two I see mentioned in the programme must be reily [*really*] clever. Hamilton will be quite a man by this time & Jane a young woman. How time flies. I think they must have got their musical talent from their

mother for I dont think either of us could ever sing any. My M^{rs} would liked very much to get the words of the two songs sung by them but I suppose you could not easily send them. She is very fond of music.

(d) The summer Just past was the dryest we have had here for years and feed very scerce. Still the crops on the whole turned out better than expected and the prices a little better than last year. I thrashed out two thousand bushels. Wheat fetched 3^s per bushel (60lbs) at the nearest station about a mile off and oats 2^s 40lbs.

(e) There is a great cry of hard times here as elsewhere. It is pretty hard to make much money at present but still I can hold my own pretty comfortable. Sheep that sold last year for 18^s/ are fetching at present about eight or nine shillings. But after all I dont there their is any better country than N. Zealand. A few years ago people here were doing too well and speculated too much on Land and other ways and got haeily in debt and now the reaction has set in they feel as woeful as a drunken man when he is Getting sober again.

(f) I had a Latter from James lately. They are all well. Eliza Joins heartly in sending kind love to Mother and wishing her many years of health & happ[i]ness & we would wish to be kindly Remembered to John, his M^{rs} & family and, with kind love to you all from us all I remain your Brother

Hamilton M^cIlrath

(Il 33)

Febry 24. 1891

Lakeside Canterbury N.Z.

Dear Brother William

(a) I recieved your welcome and kind Letter by last Mail. It is refreshing to get news from (Home). I still call it Home yet although I have lived longer here than in old

Ireland but I believe if we were to live here for a Century we would still call the place of our Birth Home.

(b) It is refreshing to hear that you are all well and our Dear Mother is honoured with such a ripe old age. For the loss of your Daughter I can easily know how you would all feel having experience. I think I might say there is not a pang that rends the heart of which I have not had a part. But we are told that the Lord loveth whom He chasteneth and that He will in no wise lay upon us more than we can bear. But still I have been constrained to say with Him who spake as never man spake Father if it is possible let this cup pass from me but not my will but thine be done. My cup was full to overflowing and I had to Drink it to the very Dregs and a Bitter Drink it was that Night my Dear partner breathed Her last. I like not to recount tales of woe but I cannot help giving you an outline of what I have come throug[h] for nearly the past two years.

(c) On the 22nd of May 1889 my Dear Wife left Home to visit her Brothers William and (Robert. Robert you will know). Her sister M^{rs} Anthony formerly Harriett was to accompany Her. She lives in Christchurch. The spent the first day in Christchurch seeing the Museum, Domain and gardens and was going to wait until after the 24th as I had advised Her not to travel by Train on the queens Birthday as the Train would be crowded [*erased: be*] and they had a distance of 80 miles to *to* go by rail but alas for human hopes and plans. She went to Bed feeling tired and unwell and was not up for three months. I recieved a Talegram to go[*erased: t*] to see her at once and for those three months I was going a distance of 32 Miles by Train and 3 miles to Train by Trap once and twice a week to see her. I took a Docter with me that had attended her before. One Doctor was with her and a third was called in to hold a consultation and the case was pronounced hopeless. Still she recovered and got Home very weak but gradually got almost as well as ever.

(d) Before she left I felt my left knee a bit stiff but it being our Winter that I was so much by train I got gradually worse. And as she recovered my knee got worse and on the 28th of this month last year I was compelled to keep to Bed out of which not even on the Bedroom floor for seven months. I could not turn to the right side or to the left. Weeks without sleep, Lanced three times, and the skin came off My Back, with being so much on it. It was thought I never would be out of that Bed alive but god ordered it otherwise. Well all this time my Dear Wife was nursing me tenderly as only Wife or Mother can, and when at last a faint gleam of hope broke through of my recovery wearied with anxiety and sleepless nights she was forced to take to Bed and never rallied. The Doctors would not allow us in the one Bedroom so that all mutual communication ceased and I never saw her again only the evening before she Died. I was carried through to see Her but could not sit but a few Minuts and had to be carried back to Bed. That was the last look I should see of one who had been a faithful partner for over 21 years.

(e) The cup was nearly full now, but when a few hours after I was told she was Dead it overflowed. The Decree had gone forth and partake I must doubts and fears had to yeild to stern reality and Oh the bitterness of that cup. It may be faintly imaginad but words is inaduate to discribe its effects. Time may modify but not wholly eredicate until the great physician prescribe the cure that relieves us from all infirmities. Friends and Neighbours in abundance came to sympathise and attend the Funereal but among all I felt alone. There was a gap a void a chasm that all combined could not fill. Brother Hamilton and his oldest son stopped about a Week and did all in their power to assist and allievate our misery. It was doubted that shock would be fatal to me in my weak state but the Almighty who moves in most misterious ways saw fit to sustain and gradually to leed to my recovery for which I feel most devoutfully thankful. I can now go about a little and drive out by myself but I never get out of the Trap away from home. I feel really sick of this

subject and would have wrote sooner only I believe we should let like a sick patient sorrow sleep.

(f) I should write to Brother John and will soon but I do not like to recipitulate this woeful tale at present. Do show him this and tell him and Family I will write and that I am truly sorry about not being able to reply to their several kind letters and my two oldest Boys Johnie and William was on a visit to their Uncle Hamiltons and brought Home the portraits of three of as fine young Ladies a we have seen for a long time and asked me to guess who the were but I could never have guessed if they had not told me. When you write again let me know how our old Friends and playmates the Mess^{rs} Jellies and sisters are. I many times think of them.

(g) We have had one of the Driest summers here this one that I remember. It puts me in mind of hearing the old people talk of the year of short corn. It is short enough here this year. We have just finished stacking. Johnie can manage the Reaper and Binder very well. It is nice to see the sheafs come off Bound, but still I think the old harvest with the Hook looked merry.

(h) Wishing you all Heal[t]h and happines and that when I write again it will not be such a gloomy subject. I may say all the Family is well. There are four Boys Johnie 21, William 18, Robert 16, and James Hamilton 15, and three girls Matilda 14, Agness 13, and [erased: Ea] Eva 11. The oldest 21 and the youngest 11 years.

I remain your affactionate Brother

James L M^rIlrath

(II 34)

N.Z.

Lakeside Canterbury

Augst 8th - 92 -

Dear Brother John

(a) I recieved yours of the 22nd April and sent you a Newspaper by last Mail. It is strange that I never get those you send. I would enjoy reading Homepapers very much. I have not had one only the one with Mothers Death for a long time.

(b) We are all well and was happy to hear that your Family was well but sorry to learn that you are not *are not* as you would wish to be. My Health is good considering how little excercise I get. The Disease in my knee left the Joint nearly stiff and when I stand the foot is within three inches of the ground. I have to use Cruc^{thes}. Anything I do I must do it siting and being so accustomed to work I feel the inconviene very much. My sight also gave way and is weak. The severe Illness, sleepless Nights and much Reading in Bed with Lamp light and the shock I recieved through the Death of my Dearest Companion in Life all combined has I believe been in a great Measure the cause but we must submit we will not always be young. We have had our spring time and summer and now in the Autumn of *of* Life let us endeavour to *to* Clothe ourselves in a suitable raiment for the fast approching Winter of Life.

(c) I was glad to hear of our old Friends the Messrs and Miss Jellies. What a change but this is a world of change. Hamilton and [*omitted: ?family*] is well. We hear from them often. He wants me to pay them a visit but I would have little plesure although I would much like to see them all (I may take courage and go).

(d) You talk of hard times. We have about 50 tons of good potatoes and the would not *fecth* 50 shillings. I have known & seen when the would have *feetch* £250. Our

Markets is so unreliable that we never know what to grow. Our potatoes is all sound as yet. Barley is sometimes unsaleble Oats not worth growing and Wheat ruled by the London Market the carriage so far redusing the price greatly. In fact we have far to[o] much for Local use and has to rely on the outside Markets. Fancy good Bacon pigs sold last March at two pence per pound, or £0 17-6 per cwt and now selling at three pence halfpenny per lb. Everything is only a Lotery.

(e) I see Gladston[e] is likely to be Premier again and that you have been having lively times in Belfast.

I think it strange that William never writes. Hopeing this will find you all in good Health.

I remain your affectionate

Brother James

(II 35)

Lakeside Jan 23rd - 93

Dear Brother [*erased*: Ha] John

(a) I recieved yours of the 7th Nov on Christmas Eve also a Newspaper and a week after anouther paper. We are getting them very regulary now. I enjoy them very much. I am sending you the Xmas Number of the Canterbury Times and William the New Year Number. When you read them you can exchange with each other. There may be something in them to Interest some of you but I dont care much for them.

(b) We are now in the middle of Harvest and a very unfavourable one so far. We had a very wet backward Spring and dry Summer and in the beginning of last week when the grain was about ripe we got three days rain. Then on Saturday and Sunday we got a Howling Nor-Wester a regular Hurricane. The are the ruin of this otherwise fine Climate. The Burn up the grass so that if a lighted match was thrown down the whole district would

be on Fire and woe betide the ripe grain. Had it not been that the grain was soft with the wet it would have complet[e]ly thrashed it. We escaped with little loss.

(c) I doubt if the promise of Seed time and Harvest included N.Z - prices is going to be low. The cause I believe is overproduction and that by to[o] much Machinery. It is quite common now here on large Farmes for one man with a three Furrow plough to turn six Acres. Also one man or good Boy cut and tie ten Acres (we do that) ourselves and then the Thrashing machine owner growls if he cant get through 100 Bushels per Hour. The price now for Thrashing is three pence per Bushel. (I have paid 7 pence in the early days). To be a small outlandish place the people here has great ideas.

(d) On looking over what I have wrote I find I have not half said what I intended and my paper about full so that at the risk of you having to pay extra passage I must put in a little slip to say that we were glad to hear that you were all well and that you may long remain so. Also that we are all in good Health only my Knee prevents me from enjoying myself as I would wish. I never yet mustered curage enough to go to Hamiltons. Over 40 miles is a long drive and by Train I think is worse. I would have 3 miles to drive 32 by Rail to Ch-Ch stop there from 10 oclock to 4 oclock and then 45 miles by Rail again so it is so level we can almost see each others places and yet so inconvenient. They are all well. We hear from them reguraly.

(e) I often wonder William never writes. It may be my fault but this last few years I have been all upset and little but bad News to write which is said to be worse than no news. However give him M^{rs} & Family my warmest, kindest wishes, and (excuse being last) accept same for yourselves.

I remain your affactionate though afflicted Brother

James

(I was short of room after all bye-bye

(II 36)

N.Z.

Lakeside Nov 13th 1900

Dear Brother William

(a) It is now over two years since I recieved a letter Either from you or Brother John. I wrote to Both of you this time two years and sent you Both Christmas Numbers of our principle papers (Canterbury Times) and Press and I believe a Potho [*photo*]. Wheather you ever recieved them either of you I know not. However I am sending each of you the Christmas No again. Although we are very slothful correspondants we surely might wish each other the complements of the season at Christmas time and which I now do to you all Fathers Mothers and each Member of your Familys also all old Friends and relations I wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New year long Life Happy and Death.

(b) The old century will soon expire and there is no appearance of Peace on Earth and goodwill to men. Nothing but War and rumers of War. Even here the war Fever raged nothing but Drilling Volenteers and sending Contingents to south Africa. I am doubtful if it was a just war. I feel for those who Fight for Hearth and Home. The Lion found the Boer an ugly customer to deal with and now [*erased: all*] all the Nations of the Earth almost are having a cut at China and very likely they will qurrell over the spoil. So much for Peace on Earth and goodwill to men.

(c) I had a few lines from a Widow Ritchie of saintfield asking about some Friends but I could not find them so I put it in the Papers. I seen Her Adress asked for since. I wonder if she has heard of them yet.

(d) We had a visit from Hamiltons second son (also Hamilton) and his sister last week. They are all well. Hamilton Himself M^{rs} and two youngest Boy and Girl Frank and

Olive paid us a visit since I last wrote. It was the first for them all but Hamilton Himself others of his Family has been here before.

(e) There are great preparations here now for the coming Jubilee. It will be 50 years on December 16th since the arrival of the first four ships. If you dont write often you might send a paper now and then. With love to all

I remain your affectionate Brother

J. L. McIlraith

Let John see this.

(II 37)

Springfield

Oct 22nd 1906

Dear Brother William

(a) I am writeing you these few lines to let you know that we are all in good health at present and hope this will find you all in the enjoyment of the same.

(b) I had a letter from your son Hamilton (dated Feb. 26) in which he said he was suffering from rheumatism and not able to follow his usual occupation so I wrote to him on May 10th and enclosed a money order for £10 but about a fortnight ago I received through the dead letter office the envelope 'marked gone away' and also a form asking me to discribe the contents of the letter. I done so and got the letter and order returned to me. Then I thought by altering the name of the payee i could send it to you but i find after a lot of enquirey that I can neither use the order nor get the money for it untill the duplicate of the money order comes back from Belfast which i have sent an order for its return. I intend as soon as I get the money back to send a fresh order to you payable at the post office Killinchy. When you get it cashed you give the money to your son Hamilton if he is any[*erased: t*]where about. If he is not you can divide it between yourself and Brother

John. I think it very strange that he should have left Belfast without leaving an address to forward his letters to as I think he expected me to write to him. I am very sorry he did not get the letter as he will think i have been careless about writeing to him.

(c) I have not a great deal of news that i think would interest you. Brother James's family is well and the boys took first and speciel prize for a draught Entire at Leeston Show last week.

(d) We are having a great exhibition at christ church to open on the first november and continue to the first April 1907. I believe it is the largest ever held in any of the colonies. The buildings covers 35 acres. They are sending exhibits from nearly every Country in the world to it so it ought to be worth seeing.

(e) We are still doing fairly well. We have got over six hundred acres of [*erased:]* very good farming land now which gives the boys some work but people here have far more up to date implements to work the land than at home. We have from a one furrow to a four furrow plough, disc harrows and cultivator grain & manure drill and two reapers and binders and one man works from four to six horses in a teem but they dont work near so long hours here as at home only eight hours a day and a half holiday a week. We never house the cattle here so there is no trouble with manure. For turnips we cultivate the land well then takes the manure drill and 1cwt weight of manure & 8 ounces of seed to an acre and sows them on the flat and that is all the work the get. When grown turn the sheep on and let them eat them off.

(f) Remember me Kindly to Brother John & his family and say i am ashamed for not having writen to him for some time. I must finish now.

With Kind love to you all from us all I am your

affactionate Brother

Hamilton M^cIlrath

Canterbury

Newzealand

(II 38)

Springfield

Febuary 27th 1907

Dear Brother William

(a) I am writeing to you according to what I promised in my last letter to you and enclosing a money order for ten pounds, to be given to your son Hamilton if he is about. If not to be used as I mentioned in my last letter to you.

(b) I only received the order Back from Belfast about a fortnight ago and we were so buisy harvesting that I neglected to send another untill we had finished. We have had the hottest and dryest spring and summer here that I ever remember. Grass clean burnt off not a green blade to be seen. People selling old ewes for a few shillings per dozen but within this last fortnight we have had some light rains that has freshened things up greatly. We were not over stocked so we were not forced to sell and will not s[u]ffer so much as some. Wheat was a fair crop but oats sown in the spring very light.

(c) I had a short letter from your son Hamilton last week expl[a]ining how it was he did not get my letter and that he was physically improved and that his wife and son wer[e] Well. I am sending the order in your name so you will have to go yourself to Killinchy post office and get the money.

(d) I have no more to write at present. Remember me to Brother John and with kind love from us all to you all I am

your affactionate Brother

Hamilton M^cIlrathto William M^cIlrath

Balloo

Killinchy

Co Down

Ireland

(e) Pay William M^cIlrath

the sum of ten pounds the amount of money order

Hamilton M^cIlrath

Springfield

Canterbury

New zealand

The Flanagan Correspondence, 1867-1870 (1-14)

(F1 1)

Termonfeckin 24 January 1867

My Dear Patrick & Michael

(a) I hope this may arrive in due course and that you may be in the land of the living and in good health to receive it. I have seen the pamphlet which gives the details of those assassins and their murderous deeds. It is to be hoped that their speedy punishment will make others of that vile stamp and character have a salutary dread of outraging the laws of civilisation and humanity. Otherwise the country must be again a wilderness for no one in his sound mind would venture to live in it.

(b) You need not be disappointed at not hearing from your friends at home. You see one of my own letters has miscarried and I have thro' the Dead letter, or Returning letter office, a letter that Rich^d wrote to you when at home here last September twelve months.

(c) We have just now been visited in Great Britain Ireland and Scotland and the Continent with the most intense frost and heaviest snows that we have seen since 1855 and 1831. They have had a sad Tragedy on the lake in Regents park London. The ice broke up and hundreds skating on it!!! After a few days draggin[g] the Lake they have taken out upwards of forty bodies Drowned and know not how many more may lie at the bottom. It is said there will be a bill brought in shortly to save persons from suicide by skating.

(d) To meet the sad privations of the poor now out of employment we off[er]ed a list of *of* subscribers on last Sunday and on this day (Thursday) we have between 40 and 50 £ to provide fuel and food for the destitute of the parish.

(e) The past year has taken away a great many distinguished persons. Amongst those we have to lament the loss of our much esteemed Primate Most Rev Dr Dixon, as

also that of our excellent Lord Lieutenant for our county Lord Bellew, who is succeeded by Mr M^cClintock of Drumcar while our new Primate is Dean Kieran of Dundalk who is to be consecrated there on next Sunday week. If you do not remember, you may have heard of Father Hannan who was formerly curate in Ballymackenny. He was promoted to the Parish of Carlingford and in a very short time died there.

(f) Every thing is going on here much in the way you left it except that Death has made a gap there & there. I nearly forgot to ask you did you meet a Mr M^cEvoy a nephew of Mr Hugh Clarke late of Beaulieu and did you tell him that his Uncle had lost a good lot of his land before his death. I forget altogether whether I ever mentioned it to you. At all events Mr M^cEvoy's brother tells me he had that news home in a letter from Australia. I do not care one pin about the whole thing but I want to find out is it a plan that the lad at home has hit on as a good one to find out who gave that news to his Brother in Australia. Never forget to write.

Very affly

R. Flanagan.

(F1 2)

Charleston West Coast

Nelson

N.Z.

August 10th 1867

My dear Richard

(a) The receipt of yours of the 26th May was indeed an "event" and I might say about the most welcome epistle I have read for a long time. It is such a length of time since we saw your handwriting before and as you are the very perfection of a letter writer if anything could throw a little light upon or import a ray of hope to the dreary monotony of a

life in this climate it would be a few words of encouragement or an assurance that *thier* were some in the world yet who were anxious to hear from us.

(b) I wrote to you at some *lenght* about two months ago and of course directed to the old address which I suppose will find you out. I made enquiries respecting Nicholas which if you have received the letter you will probably be able to make some answer to. I cannot for the life of me think how your letters could have gone astray as they have done for we have written regularly to the post offices and although not being much in the neighbourhood of Hokitika we have been there several times during the last two years and have got no letters nor saw any advertised. The last letter which we got from there was your own written shortly after Nicholas left home. We have nearly all our time on this coast been in the Grey district. The last six months we have been in this place the town being called Charleston and I think you might direct your letters here untill further notice. Of course it is hard to say how long a person may be here but even if I do remove it will be easy enough to have letters forwarded to where we may be.

(c) Pat is at a rush about 12 miles from here. I sent your letter to him yesterday. I will see him please God in a few days. He was down here last week. His health is the same as ever. He is one of the very few upon whom the climate or the hardships to be endured in this vagabond life seems to have no ef[f]ect. The prospects of the rush at which he is looked very well some time ago - indeed I had great expectations of it - but it is very wet ground and expensive to work it so that it is growing lower in peoples estimation. I am afraid it will not be much after all. Richard Sheridan is quite well. I have not had a letter from P Mooney this long time.

(d) Hoping therefore that this will find all the folk at home quite well and Uncle Patrick and yourself ditto. I will for this time say adieu.

I will be looking for a letter from you soon again.

Your brother M. Flanagan

(F13)

3 College Villas

College Avenue

Hackney

London N.E.

1st June 1868

My dear Brother

(a) I have been expecting to hear some news from one of you by the last two or three mails. I suppose in your remote district and in the cares and anxieties of your daily occupation you often miss the opportunities of writing you had intended availing yourselves of.

(b) Richard Sheridan arrived home in the beginning of May safe and sound. He came to London but proceeded to Ireland directly, so neither your Uncle nor I saw anything of him.

(c) Uncle Pat has just returned to London after paying a visit to home. I have not seen him yet, as he had to go on duty as soon as he arrived, but I have heard from him that he found all at home well, comfortable and happy which it is a great comfort to hear after the changes and losses the last two years have wrought in the old house.

(d) I hear often from Nicholas. He is quite contented in his situation and with his luck and his health. He is very steady and sensible and I am sure will do well. I sent him your address and as he always enquires about the news from you I should think you will hear from him directly some day or other. He is employed on one of the railways and seems to be in a position of some trust and responsibility.

(e) I see by the news that those misguided people, the Fenians, are not without sympathisers in your part of the world. I hope you will have sense enough to hold aloof

from mixing up in any way with people who have anything to do with them. They have only brought misery and misfortune on themselves and all who have had anything to do with them and injury on their unfortunate country.

(f) Dont fail to write to some one when you can find time.

Your aff^{te} brother R. Flanagan.

(F1 4)

Galion Ohio January 5th 1869

Dear Brother

(a) I take this opertunity of writing you a few lines and I hope they will reach you in as good health as they leave me that is in the very best of health and spirits thanks be to the Great Creator for his goodness and mercey.

(b) Uncle Preist sent me your letter. It was the first I heard from you for 14 months. I was very happy to hear that you and Pat were quite well. I was sorry for a while after I came to this country that I did not go to Australia but I got over that and now I like this country tip top and I intend to make my home in this country.

(c) There is hardly any use in g trying to give you any clear account of this country. I believe you know more about it then I can tell you. There is very little doing here in winter. In summer lots of work of all kinds. I am in one employ for purty near three years. When I first come here I had to take the about the roughest job in the business but after two years I got something better and better pay.

(d) Labouring men as a general thing get \$1.40 per day and bord will cost them about \$18.00 per month. I am getting 50 dollers per month and bord at present but I do not know whether I can manage to hold my present situation long or not. I have kept it for about 13 months. When I first got it I only got \$40.00 per mon. After 10 months they

raised it to forty five and last month the raised it to 50 which is the highest I can get. My hours are long but I have no hard work.

(e) I think there is no better country than this for a man that would have a little capitel. Good land is worth from 40 to one hundred dollers per are in this state but little west of this a man can get better land and purty conveyent from 10 to 20 dollars per acre. Pat mooney's brother Andrew is in this country. He is quite well. I had a letter from him about two weaks agow. He is in Washington Iowa.

My time is getting short so I will bid you good bye for the present.

Your affectionate brother Nicholas Flanagan.

Plese write soone. I would be [*erased: be*] very happy to hear from you once in a while. Direct your letter to

Nicholas Flanagan

Cardington

Morrow County

Ohio

U.S.A.

(F1 5)

Westport

August 17th [1869]

Dear Broth

(a) I am going on the steamboat Wanganui this evening. She will call at Wanganui Wellington to the Manakaw [*Manukau*]. Passage through to Manakaw six £.

(b) There are a few going. Clinton and the boys wir in last Satuday evening had a spree. P Mooney is sory. He has a good claim.

No more.

P Flanagan

(F1 6)

Coramandle Septem 8th [1869]

Dear Brott

(a) We had rather a long passage on account of the delays we had in Wel[l]ington and Wanganui. I went up to Gamestown [*Grahamstown*] the day we arrived at Auckland and stayed two or three days there. It is a very large rush. I believe the towns that is Granestown and Shortland are larger than Hokitika. Shortland was the first but Granestown is nearer the diggings and is the town now but they nearly join. It is a stirring place at present that is with sharebrokers. They do the principle busines.

(b) It is very hard to form an oppinion of what it is going to be. There are very few claims getting gold but the extrordinary richness of those few keep the excitment up and the large sums invested by capitalists from other colonies is the stream that keeps the mill going. The amount of gold got in the place would not give tucker to half the population and except a great number of the claims that ar begining to try the ground now and only now after all the time that has been spent over them. Unless a good number turns out *wull* ther will be a great crash. Most people have a good oppinion of it but I think they are dazled. Still it may turn out well. There is a great area of ground taken up mostly in leases.

(c) I came on to Coramandle it being the newest place on account of the rush that took place about the time we left there. There has been very little work done on it yet so that I can form no opinion of what it is going to be. The prospectors have got some very good stone but their claim is in law. The applied for a 12 acre lease and some parties have jumped it and in consequence the work is suspend in their ground. In the other claims they seem not to care about working. All are for selling. The ground was taken up for a great exent befor I got here so that I cant say I stand a show. I think we are to have a little law

over a claim I am in. I hardly think it worth while, but it is something to have a claim at all and it is only for that reason I am in it.

(d) People think there is plenty gold in this county and that it will turn out well but it is very hard to think what to make of it yet of course it is like quarts reefing. Other places a pile or nothing. It is not hard to get wages but it is small 2.10. It has raised 1 0 0 or 1 5 0 since this rush opened. Ther are some working for two pouns a week and some get three. If this goes ahead it will rise more so that one need not be hard up if he cannot get gold. Of cours if this plac fails it will be back to 30s as it was before.

(e) P Green is Manager of a claim. Gets three pound or under. He has done nothing yet. He has a share that may turn out well or may not. He has a good opinion of the place altho he had bad luck all through. N Heeney has two or three shares that look well but his is at law about some of them. He sold a share for £80 some time ago which was all he done all his time here. That was a fine claim he had at saltwater. I have seen a good number that I know and none of them have done anything and yet the all speak hopefully. The big stake lures them on if the country was opened it might turn out something but the ground is limited. The Thames is not open nor is likely to be.

(f) I cannot say how long I will stay here so you can write to Gramestown to the same address as given. I will write again in a month. Perhaps I might be able to say more.

Yr Patt Flanagan

(g) I think it is a very indifferent P O here so you stand a chance of not getting this. care T. G. Quinn Granestown Auckland

T G Quin Granestown

(F1 7)

1869

Gramestown Octo 18th

Dear Brother

(a) I received your letter a few days ago. I came up here from Coromandle about the time I expected it. I have been down there and back since we amalgamated three claims and applied for a lease for it. We done some work upon ours but got nothing so we thought it best to join and by applying for a lease have it protected. I think very little of it but we must have something on hands. The prospectors are the only ones have got payable stone yet altho to believe the papers it is a very successful rush. It may turn out well yet but it will take a long time. The claims are all nearly three months working now and when that time is up there will be a general rush for protection as the law allows three months protection after three months work.

(b) There are a great many people coming here of late. Some regret very much coming at all but the greater number stay on account of the great numbers that went away a year ago and are coming back now. I see a great number of people here that I know. Very few of them have done anything. The prospector of the coromandle rush worked on Addison's flat near Dick. Jim McLeoud is his name. The two Sweeneys brothers that were in cocotoo guly are lucky ones here. They were offered three thousand a share some time ago. They would not get one thousand now. Still they have a good claim. They have been prospecting this country for the last three years. They got no aluveal gold and they did not try for reefs.

(c) It is very hard to form an opinion of this country at present. Shortland is the only successful place. Altho the have got gold in a great many places they got a good deal of gold in Coromandle yet it hardly cleared expences. There is a place half way between

shortland and Coromandle called Tapo [*Tapu*] or Tapee. It is opened about a year. There are some good machines there. It looks bad for it that they are selling them by auction. There is another place about fifteen miles up the Thames called Puriri. There has been a great deal of work done there. Some machines erected yet I am told they have no payable gold yet.

(d) Owen McEntyre had a store and public house. He tells me he sold out but I think he got smashed. This Puriri joins the Ohinimuri [*Ohinemuri*] county that is the upper Thames the promised land of all the unfortunates here. There are so many reports flying about concerning it that I do not know what to make of them. The majority of the people have a good opinion of it but there is very little sign of it being opened yet. It is the opinion of some that there will be bloodshed over it yet. Those who are in position that is the government officers whose business it is to look after those things are all deeply interested here.

(e) If the country was opened there would be a general rush away and wages would rise. The rush of people here has caused the wages to fall again. There are some working for thirty shillings. Hugh Brown and T McKenna went to work for wages next day after landing at 2£. It is not so easy to get wages now as all the newcomers look for work as soon as they come. T Keogh is working for wages. Luke Malloy is here and desires to be kindly remembered to the boys. He is not long here. He has been in Melbourne[e] Sydney nearly up to Queensland over to Hobart Town back to Melbourne[e] and down here. Tom Fox has a claim that stands a good show. He has got no gold yet. They have been tunnelling on it more than a year. In fact there is not one that you know has done any good.

(f) [*Word illegible*] Dickins Dick Bukrly have a claim in script. They would get nothing for them or very little. P Green's script are not saleable. He is working for wages. He had nothing definite laid out for me when he encouraged me to come here but there was

good chances at the time. There are auctions of script here every day and no buyers. The prices even of good paying claims have fallen half since I came here. I would have lost money here if I had it when I came. I should have bought some script at that time that would be worth nothing now. Heeney had a law sute last week. He lost. He is another wages man now.

(g) I think you had betr sell the claim on Argy than spend 100£ on it. There might be a chance here when the country is opend. There was great chances taken up frontages in Granestown. I am goeing to look for a job tomorow. I intended to write a good dea[l] more but this must do at prsent.

Your affec Broth Patt Flanagan

I send a paper

(F1 8)

Grahamstown Dec 6th 69

Dear Brother

(a) I received your two letters and the slip enclosed in Kats two days ago. I did not receive them in time to write by the same boat as the make very little dilay at Auckland. I cannot tell you what I felt when I heard the awful news from there. A roomer [*rumour*] was here for a week before your letters reached me. Those that circulated it were very positive as to the correctness of it and they having the names very correct I was in a feaver between hope and fear untill the arrival of the Charles Edwards confirmed the worst fears I entertained. I will not say any more about it at present but I think his Father's name was James. I am not certain. Is there no letters left after him that would tell that.

(b) I now more than ever regret my coming here as I would be clear of the debt by this time. I do not know what to do about that. I would go away cheerful and contented to California but I should lik to leave every thing clear behind. Do you think is there any

chance of getting anything from Mooney or Fleming. You said nothing about Frank W. Did he never say or offer. Could you form any plan of getting anything from him. Say I asked you to ask him for som to help you to pay my debt. Hanratty owes me seven pounds T Fallon a few more D Madigan a couple. It is very hard to go away without paying one debts and so much owing to us one should ask it very blunt in a case like the present.

(c) If we were down in America with Nicholas even though we were pennyles we would have only to work as we do here. I intended bringing the same subject up myself as Kate has but I did not intend to leave here for about two months for a variety of reasons. You could try to get some of that money. I might get a few pounds. They would be few as this is the poorest place I have ever been in. I have been working hard for a subcontractor last fortnight for 6^s 6^d per day. The upper Thames will be opened. I would lik to have a look at it for about a week and it [*if*] it be anything lik what the others are I would leave right off. The worst part of the going to america is the high rate of fare on the overland. I believe the fare over there after getting down would be more than the sea fare but no matter I believe it to be the best thing to be done. If you think there is no chance of getting any of that money we cannot do worse than we have been doing here.

(d) I am writfing to K at same time. I think this will reach you about the 15th. I have not ascertained when any vessels will leve for S Francisco. I see none in the advertisements. I an told ther are some every month. I will go to Auckland and ascertain all particulars but I belive I woul lose the Mail If I waited. I will send a telegram about the 16th or 17th and say when a ship leaves for America. If you leave there pay John what I owe him if possible. I suppose what I owe to Peter can lay a little while. The Claim at Coromandle does not look anything nor any other claim there.

Your affectionat B. Patt Flanagan

(F19)

Grahamstown Dec 14 1869

Dear Kat

(a) I hardly know what to say in this as I do not know whether it will reach you or not. When I wrote last I could not tell about the shipping from Auckland. Since then I have found that there are no vessels going from here to California at present and the agents tell me the best way is to go to Sydney. The passage from there is 18£ steerage and 32£ Cabin. If you got this before you started you could go to without coming here as going from one place to another costs a lot. I am in a fix as I think if I were to go from here I might miss you. I was expect[ing] a letter by last mail that might guide my actions a little but I got none as you know.

(b) This place is getting worse. The only hope the people here had was the opening of the upper Thames and that is fading from the view at present.

(c) The Hero is I think the only steamboat that trades direct to Sydney from here. She sails again about the end of the present month. Most of the other ones go by Melbourn[e]. You would be book through to Sydney at I think the same fare but of those things I am not quite shure as the go different ways.

(d) However I am anxious to here from you again if you get this. I suppose I will get an answer for the other letters I wrote and I will know perhaps what to do then.

Yours Patt Flanagan

(F1 10)

3 College Villas

College Avenue

Hackney. London

28th Jany 1870

My dear Michael

(a) I was more pleased than I can tell you to receive your last letter and to learn that both Pat and yourself were in good health. There are wonderful accounts in the papers of the richness of some of the newly discovered gold beds in your part of the Colony and I hope you have fallen on a slice of luck this time. I hope we shall soon hear from you as your long intervals of silence render us lonely. We have not forgotten you. You both are as fresh in our memories as when you went away, and you must not forget that fact. And try to send us a line as often as you can.

(b) I am glad you have made an acquaintance with Peter Greene. He is a very decent fellow and I am sure it must be very pleasant to have one near you from your own neighbourhood at home. Remember me to him when you see him.

(c) There is only one item of news about our own family. Nicholas has taken the start of us all, and got married. I had a letter from him two days before Christmas in which he announced the fact in the briefest manner possible. He neither gave the name of his wife, nor any particulars about her. I have written to ask him who she is and when I get an answer I will let you know. He is in the same place still and as he talked of writing to you you may know all about the matter before I do.

(d) They are all well at home. I hear from Judith occasionally and also from her husband. She seems to be quite happy and contented in her new home. Your Uncle Pat

and myself are also well. And both send you our best wishes for your welfare and happiness and Pats. I hope soon to hear from him and you.

Yours affectionately

R. Flanagan

(F1 11)

Clogher Head

May the 10th

1870

Sir

(a) I am sorry of that doleful news we heard from austerlia. It is a news that *that* brook my poor heart in to [*two*] to think of the usage my poor son recived there from what i may call a lot of Brutes. The brute in the field would not use one another worse that the usage he got. To think of my tender rareing to get such usage but all the consolation it is to me is that he was not taking away in anger if he died. He died with humanity and i hope in the state of grace.

(b) I return you many thanks for your kindness to us in writing and also the good character you gave him but i think he deserved nothing else. Poor Patt was the quietest child ever i rared. It is little i though the day he left Clogher that i would never see him again but we must leave every thing to the almighty. We got *am* acount on the argus about the 5 of february about this occurence and the called him Peter Kirk but you must think we got a fright by it. When Patt father heard he heard it *om* monday and he died in 10 days after. He died on the 16 of febuarey and he never were in better health. He was at mass the sunday before he heard so you must think that was a trial to lose my husband and son in 3 months.

(c) There is nothing breaking my heart but to think of him deing [*being*] without the priest fare from home. I am Glad to heare of him getting a decent buirial and we never can forget your kindness to us.

(d) I am greatly surprised to heare of no document recips to be found with him he that was so long a time out there making money. Richard Sheridian told me on this day that he had upwards of 200 pounds in the bank of New south Wales and i am sure if he did not add to it he did not diminish. So we wrote to the Curator as you told us and we told as this about the bank and i would feell most thankful to you if you get *get* the money thas is sent. If you possalbyle can get it and send it to me for i am in need of it but i hope you will look after it what ever amount it is and send it to me as *soom* as possible for the rest of the money god [*k*]nows when will we get it.

(e) If you would be so kind as to let me know the name of the churchyard that Patt was buired in as i ever will think of it. May the lord rest him in peace.

I must ConClude by rethuring you many thank. I Remain yours sincere freind

Bridget Kirk.

Please write soonn.

Pleas if you get the money make it Payable in my Name.

(F1 12)

Termonfeckin 12 May 1870

Dear Michael & Pat

(a) I received your very elegant letter the day after the Australian Mail sailed from London and hence I could not send a reply for a whole month. We are, thank God, all in good health. We have not much news.

(b) I do not know whether you heard that Kate Maguire of the Mill was married to Pat Johnston of Canontown. Not a bad match. But I suspect you have not heard that

Teresa Halligan was married to Patrick Collier and is now living very comfortably with him at the Dales in the Parish of Clogher. Of course you have heard that Nicholas your brother was married in America. I hope Nicholas is doing well but I do not know any thing about the wife. I suspect he is all right for he boasted that he was so a few weeks before he communicated the fact of his marriage.

(c) Pat Kirk's sister is writing to you by this Post. She will ask you to send any monies you may be able to collect from the creditors of her brother to Mrs James Kirk Clogher head mother of the deceased. They are writing also to the Curator according to your directions. I suppose the Mother must administer (they say so) and in that case they must wait for an answer from the Curator, stating the amount to be administered for. This Process will make the business a very tedious matter. Of course the Curator will be able to find if any and how much may be deposited in the Bank in N.Z.

(d) I saw Pat Kirk's brother Peter and his cousin Mr Harley Kirk of Clogher the only person of the family I saw. They did not tell the poor mother that her son was dead but that he was very ill. They will tell her all [*erased: arf*] after a little while. They had your letter for a few days. Mr Harley Kirk complimented you on the production and Harley is an adept in such matters. Of course I blotted out a certain name before I gave your letter to them.

(e) I think his brother Peter Kirk expected that all his money would be home in your letter. Harley has enlightened him on the subject. I told him not to be too sanguine that you could collect his debts for lent money - a thing very hard to be accomplished at home here, much less so far away where people are not so well known and where people are not so much under the influence of shame and dishonour. I know you and Pat will do what you can to get it for them - but take care that you do not run any risk of provoking a spirit of revenge by doing so - as they wish you to send it (if you can get it) to their Mother, Mrs James Kirk Clogher head. You may as well do so. If you and Pat or either of you have any

deposit receipts would it not be wise to have both your names in each and every such receipt so that if any thing should be the matter with one the other might be in a position to get all without delay or expense? This is sometimes done even at home here.

(f) I read your letter for his brother Peter Kirk. He seemed a good deal overcome by it and observed that it was bad enough to lose himself but that it would be too bad altogether to lose his money. I was not pleased with him. It is a very thankless business to have to deal with some folk under such circumstances. But still you will do your best to have every thing right. Yet do it prudently without making an enemy for yourself. Judith will have something for P. Garvey very soon.

Most affly yours

R Flanagan

(F1 13)

3 College Villas College Avenue

Hackney London E

20th Aug 1870

My dear Michael

(a) I was very much pleased to receive your letter as in consequence of the long time that had elapsed since I last had any news from you. I had for some time been very anxious to learn how you were going on.

(b) I was very sorry to learn the account of P. Kirk's death - the more from the thought of the dreadful circumstances attending it. I am not surprised the event should have cast such a gloom upon your spirits. It is sad and painful at all times to lose a friend, but when one whome we have loved is taken off by the hand of a murderer the blow is hard indeed. I quite agree with you in what you say of our own people. When good there are none better in the world. When bad none worse, if any indeed can equal them in

wickedness. There is an immense mass of rubbish and nonsense written consequently by scribblers in poetry and prose about the virtues of Irish men and women but any one who has an extended acquaintance with the world must know that they are no better than others. No doubt at home the majority are virtuous and well conducted - other people are so also, but when the Irish go abroad it happens that if they fall away, or if they have brought vices with them they excel all others in the excess of wickedness. I know that in this city of London there is no class wor[s]e or more profligate than the vicious Irish of either sex and so it is in all the cities of the United States and I suppose in the colonies.

(c) I have fel[t] a good deal disappointed that you told nothing of your plans or arrangements for the future. Through Nicholas some three months ago I heard that Pat was in California. At first I could hardly credit it, as I thought he would not have undertaken such a step without letting some one at home know of it directly. Then came a second letter from Nicholas in which he repeated the news and stated that he had it in contemplation to go out to join Pat I suppose with the intention of settling there. I was for a long time in expectation of hearing from Pat himself but up to this time neither I nor any one at home has heard anything from him. I am astonished to find no allusion to his departure in your letter but perhaps you thought that I was in full possession of all news concerning him. If he has gone to California with the intention of settling there and has a little Capital I think he has done wisely as it is most undoubtedly a splendid country - far exceeding in many advantages any of our Australian colonies. I expect to have some fuller particulars soon at least from Nicholas if not from Pat himself.

(d) As for Nicholas I believe he is going on very favourably. He is very brief and sententious in his letters - for instance he answered his marriage in this style. "I was married on the 12th of last month. I dont know what you will all think of it" - nothing more than that. And in the first letter about Pat he merely said "Pat is in California" - so you will

understand I am not able to tell you how he is really circumstanced. I dont know whether he has benefitted himself much by marriage. All I know is that he speaks very highly of his wife and says he is very happy and as he is a very steady and persevering fellow he is sure to get on.

(e) There is not much home news. In Toburtoby they are all well and going on very happily and smoothly together. Judith has brought Pat Garvey an heir who has been called James John after his two grandfathers. The poor child - who is, Mary writes, the most beautiful boy in all the world, has now no grandmother, as M^{rs} James Garvey died rather suddenly on the 5th of this month so Judith is now M^{rs} Garvey of Ballydonnell. Your father and uncle Priest are in good health as is also your uncle Pat. I hope I shall soon have the pleasure of hearing from you again.

Affectionately yours

R. Flanagan.

(F1 14)

Clogher head

december

the 5 1870

Sir

(a) I recived your letter about 10 days ago and i got the money all right and i fell very much obliged to you for your kindnes to me after all my affliction. I got 20 pounds in the Post office in Drogheda without any delay. Dear Mr flanagan i wrote to the Curator to charlestan [*Charleston*] and never got an answer. I wrote twice and he never answered any of them and i am surprised at that and i would be very much obliged to you if you would let us know any Person else we would write to in the Place. We were thinking of writing to the Priest or the magistrate if you would think well of it. Sure their is money belonging to

Poor Patrick in their hands and we wrote to the Person that you told us and is it very
 strance he never answer it. It was bad enough to lose him self and not to lose all his
 Property.

(b) Mr Flanagan i hope you and your brothers are all well. Your freinds are all well
 here in this Country. James Sheridan and Richard are well and all the Family. [*Erased: i*
 hope] Mr Flanagan i got the 3 pounds you sent me from Newzaland all right. I hope Mr
 Faulkner is well. I wrote to his brother in rush and i got no answer.

I ConClude

by wishing you

a good by

Bridget

Kirk.

The McCullough Correspondence, 1875-1899 (1-6)

(Cu 1)

[circa 7 January 1875]

London

Thursday

Dear father and mother

(a) We arrived in fleetwood at half past 8 oclock on Wednesday morning and went right into the train and arrived here at quarter to seven. I was very sick for about an hour but I slept the rest of the time from I got on her till I got off her. Alexander was not sick but he could sleep none. We do not sail from this until Thursday the 12th. We have our boxes down at the vessel.

From your son

David M^cCullough

P.S. Dear Hamy we were an hour and a half in preston and it's the week of the great horse fair. Hamy if you had been there you would seen horses.

David M^cCullough

(Cu 2)

London

January 12th 1875

Dear Aunt

(a) I received your letter as I was leaving for the vessel. I am in good health. I am sorry to hear my father taking it so much to heart. I can not turn back now but I hope soon to return.

(b) Dear aunt I thank you for the trouble you are taking to get a letter from Mr Vance. I have got three already. Two from a scotchman one to his brother and one to a friend and one from a medical doctor who was stopping with us to his cousin. Dear aunt no more at present as I had only a few minutes for this but I will write as soon as I land.

Yours truly

David M^cCullough

(Cu 3)

Dunedin June 4th 1875

Dear Father & Mother and sisters

(a) I am pleased to inform you that we arrived safely at the above port on the 19th May after a very tedious and long voyage of 123 days from London. You will see by this that we did not leave as early as we expected but our time was pretty well occupied in London sightseeing and of these there were plenty. We had a pretty comfortable lodging close to the railway station but at last we got orders from the ship owners to be on board the Andrew Reid on Saturday January 16th and accordingly we bid good bye to London.

(b) We had plenty of room on board as there were only 20 passengers on board and we got on very comfortable together. When we started we expected to be at our journey's end by the 20th April or 13 weeks but through bad weather we were more than 17 weeks.

(c) You will like to hear about our voyage. We had to get our meals and provisions served out once a week. Well we left the docks on the 18th at 9 o'clock and towed down the Thames to Gravesend where we took about 8 tons of Gunpowder on board. We started again next day but only got to bear a very strong gale blowing at the time. Here *here* we saw a German brig run into by a barque and it sunk almost immediately but all hands were saved.

(d) On the 22nd saw first whale. On the 24th lost several sails the sea coming over her sides and filling our Cabins with water 3 or 4 inches deep. After this for five or six days we went on fairly till on the 29th about 11 O'clock [*erased: at*] at night we were nearly run into by a three masted schooner. It was within a few inches of us. Next day we saw some hundreds of porpoises but could catch none. Nothing occurred till the 13 February when we passed a vessel called the whitehall which left 3 days before us.

(e) Then on the 17 we had the first of the sailors days called the dead horse. It is this way. Before the sailors leaves London they generally have an allowance of one months pay and they call this a dead horse because they have to work for nothing that month like and when that month is up they make up something like a horse and then they draw him up the mast and sing a comic song and then cut him down and away he goes with the waves. It was fine fun for us all. This day was also the Captains youngest boys birthday and we all drank his health in the Captains cabin.

(f) On the 19 we caught some flying fish. They were rather nice. On the 24 came the second sailors day it was Father Neptune. This time the seamen dress up in all kinds of dresses and walk about the vessel. They then call upon the passengers who have not been to sea before and shave them and give them a bath. Everybody enjoyed this much.

(g) On the 27 we crossed the line about 12 O'clock. March 1st had a tremendous thunderstorm such as is not seen on land. The lightning shivered our foremast and went into the forecastle dashing the mugs out of the sa[ilors] hands who were at breakfast. On the fourth one of the men drew his knife to the first Officer but was kept quiet after.

(h) On the 8 we nearly caught a shark but the confounded rope slipped and we lost him. On the 22 we caught 5 Albatrosses a very large bird living on the sea and measuring from 18 to 20 feet from end to end of wings. On the 28 we were more fortunate and caught a shark. He meas[ured] 16 feet 4 inches from his nose to his tail. Such an ugly brute. The

sailors dont show them any mercy. The soon cut him up and we tasted him for breakfast.

It was not very nice.

(i) On the 28 we lost more sails. 12 April saw Hogg Island and had a heavy fall of snow. On the 14th had some tremendous seas and come over our sides and broke away about 16 feet of our bulworks. On the 23 lost more bulworks. 27 saw another wh[ale]. After this we went pretty well till the 16 May when we lost nearly every sail. We had a tremondous gale coming up at 4 in the morning and continued all day till at last we were compelled to heave to.

(j) At 5 Oclock on the 18 came joyful cries of land Ho land and we saw first the Mountain and then the land came in sight. We were very glad [*omitted: to*] think we were at our journeys end. We did not continue till next day. We parted with some of our pass[angers]. As I said before there were only 20 only an old Gentleman a[nd] a youth steward his wife and three children in one cabin. We always had a game of cards at night. We learnt 2 new games cribbige and whist.

(k) Sandy and me is working together. From eight to 12 shilling per day is paid to labouring men and we think that any amount of Agricultural Labourers & tradesmen can find plenty of work at good pay. Board and lodging the best 1 pound per week three meals a day any thing you call for.

(l) The mails closes to day so I must say good bye. I hope you are all well. Let me know how all our old neighbours are getting on and all the moneyrea people. Uncle Roberts ones and Grandmother the gard[e]ner and missus and mr Mehaffey. Tell Johnny Frame to write till me. I send him a paper. Let me hear from you all soon. You will hear at *at* the post office when to write so good bye. With love to you all

From you affie son

David M^cCullough

Please Address post office Dunedin

Otago

New Zealand

To be left till called for.

(Cu 4)

Dunedin

Dec 21st 1875

Dear Father Mother & Sisters

(a) I received your very welcome letter and am glad to know you were all well. I am happy to inform you that I am in good health myself at present.

(b) I like this country its customs and its people. I have never regretted coming out as I have been in constant employment since I came. At present I am engaged with the Albion Brewing and malting Company & in receipt of £2.10 per week with the promise of an advance about the first of 1876. I am at present boarding in a private house and feel very comfortable for which I pay 18/ per week.

(c) Alex Young is living about 30 miles from this town. [*Erased: I had a letter*] I had a letter from him a few days since. He likes his situation well. He intends being in town about new years day to spend a week. He says he never was in better health or more contented in his life. He says he would not go home now at all.

(d) Wm. J. Hobson is arrived. When I heard that the ship was in I left my work and went down to port and met him. I was very glad to meet with him so new from home. He looks well on it. He is a great deal stouter since I seen him last at home. He got about a stone and half heavier on the voyage. He got work the same day that he came ashore. He started on Monday morning.

(e) I got the parcels safe from him that you dear father & mother sent me. I thank you both very much as It was a nice new years gift to me. I see by your letter that there is a few [*erased: illegible*] deaths since I left. I am glad to hear that you are satisfied with your new minister as you moneyrea people are so hard to please. I believe you had a great day at the putting of him in. I am glad to hear that you have so good crops of corn and so fine an apperance of Turnips as it will help to make up for the year before.

(f) You might [*omitted: write*] & let me know how Rob. Abernethy was getting on in Wallaces farm and what sort of crops he had. I see old Mr Robert had a severe illness. You may tell him that I have not found out Sam M^cKinna yet but I expect to see him before many years. You might ask him to send me Sam M^cKinna's and James adress as I am talking to melbourne people every day.

(g) I am sorry to hear that Hamy is so unfortunate as to be losing his teeth but it is better to get the brat and the cur out than to be suffering pain. Let me know how Johnny Frame is getting on. Tell him I received his letter. I am going to write to him the next mail. Tell Lizzie that she may be on the look out for a silver watch. By the next mail I will send her the money for one and she can get her Uncle Henry to buy it to her. Let me know how all my neighbours and friends are getting on. So good bye with love to you all

From your affectionate son

David M^cCullough

(Cu 5)

Cascade Creek

June 1st 1898

Dear Father & Mother

(a) I received your very welcome letter and I was very glad to hear from you again. Alex Young advertised for me. I did not know he was here until I saw the advertisement in the paper. I have not seen Alex for some years. I had a letter from him the same day as I got yours. He did not give me much home news. He told me in his letter that aunt Nancy wrote to me. He gave the address Reefton. That would not find me. I have never been in Reefton. Alex wants me to go over to get the home news. He says it would take him a week to write it and he wont attempt it.

(b) I cannot get away just now. I am still Gold digging. We are opening up a claim. There are Four of us. We have been over Two years at it now. It will take another six months yet and then we may not bottom. The ground is deep and heavy. It is river workings. We hold Four acres. We are going to put on pumping gear. It is rather expensive but we intend to see it out. It is all pay out just now and nothing coming in. The claim below us a party of six has been Four years at it and has not got the bottom [*erased*: yet] of the river bed yet. That is where the gold lies.

(c) I am glad to hear that Isabella is married to Robert Magill. I always liked Bob. The have not got a large family only one Maggie called after Mother. Lizzie's husband Moore Fisher I dont think I know him. I dont remember any of that name near us.

(d) Dear Father your letter is headed Moneyrea. Are you left Ballycreely and living in Moneyrea. There is a merchant here M^f Bailie he knows Moneyrea well. We often have a talk together. His Mother's name was M^cCullough. There are a good many County Down people here. There is another David M^cCullough in Westport. Tell aunt Nancy to write to me.

From your son

David M^cCullough

Address

Burnetts Face

via Westport

New Zealand

(Cu 6)

Waimangaroa

2 July 1899

Dear Father & Mother

(a) You will think me very slow about answering your letters.

(b) We left the Cascade about the latter end of September. We went into the Mackley country prospecting. We took a good supply of rations with us. We carried it in stages. There was not a soul there but ourselves. There is neither roads nor horse tracks there. We got alluvial Gold would pay about Four pounds per week but that is not good enough in that country.

(c) Too much lost time and expense carrying tucker. You have to carry all you eat on our backs and that is a bit hard work. There are plenty of birds pigeons, Kaka and ducks and also the weka or Wood-hen. It cannot fly. The walk or run along the ground. The dogs can easily catch them. The come in very handy when one is short of meat.

(d) Time goes very quick when you are out prospecting shifting camp so often and carrying Tucker. I have had about Eight months of it this time but at any rate we are back again not a bit better off and very little the worse. There is any amount of men in Newzealand and Australia doing the same. The will go into any Country or through any hardship after Gold.

(e) I have bought into a claim here in the Waimangaroa. I am back in civilisation again. There is Two or Three churches here and plenty of stores in the township. We can get every thing left at our door. A great change from swagging every thing on our backs for Two or Three days.

(f) I am very sorry to hear of Aunt Nancy death. Dear Father I am very sorry to hear that Mother and you is much worse in health and strength. I hope you will both be much better and stronger by the time you get this. Dear Father & Mother you are both asking me to come home. It would be very awkward at the present time to get away. We are still holding on the cascade claim. We have got a good bit of money sunk in it now but I will try and be home in the inside of Twelve months

From your son

D. M^cCullough

Address

Waimangaroa via, Westport

The Gilmore Correspondence, 1874-1903 (1-13)

(Ge 1)

[from transcription of lost original

circa 1874]

34 Tyrone Street,

Belfast.

Dear Brother,

(a) I was in the office today. The ship's name is Queen of Nations. New Zealand Government line belonging to Stretcher & Co. Liverpool. We are to go on Board on Monday. She is to come from Liverpool by two tugs to arrive here on 16th. I do not know her registered tonnage but there are a certain tonnage that cannot be under.

(b) There are 299 passengers. The agents are not satisfied as yet whether we will be going to Larne by Rail or that the tugs that bring her up may come up for us.

I am yours,

Andrew Gilmore.

(Ge 2)

[from transcription of lost original]

Graves End,

February, 11 1876.

Dear Parents,

(a) I and Alice are well and are to sail tonight I beli[e]ve - there are about 280 passengers as far as I can learn. This ship is 941 tons reg'd and is 13 years old - has made several voyages with passengers with great success. She is not an extreme but of a medium size and I believe her to be a good ship in bad weather so far as my judgment goes and I think I ought to know something about it.

(b) Alice and I do not get speaking much as the young women are not allowed with anybody else so we must leave the matter as it is. I made a mistake about the Capt name. It is not Scott. It is Holdich.

(c) You can let Robert have a reading of this Brief epistle. So I must conclude with best respects to all who may inquire and those unknown. You know who are my friends. So I will finish by saying in several lette[r]s to Andy - that we are coming as one may miss and change all things. Make some arrangements for the latter side of the world as these things here are only passing and of short durations. Give my best respects to Sam Bell. Your could write in a month to me at John Gilmore, per Ship Bebbington, Emmigrant Depot, Auckland N.Z.

P. S. May God's blessing attend you now and for ever -

Your son,

John Gilmore

(Ge 3)

[from transcription of lost original]

Sat 12 Feb, 1876.

Off Dungeness at present.

(a) Pilot going ashore. We are still in tow of the steam tug. The channel is on board, yet the wind is ahead - we are all well. Alice is well.

(b) The day is fine - we left this morning at 8 a.m. I can say little more now so goodbye. I wrote yesterday to father so you can have a read of it as I said so I must finish. I will write if I have a chance on my passage D.V. D.V.

John Gilmore.

(Ge 4)

[from transcription of lost original]

Portsmouth Harbour,

10 a.m. 24 Feb, 1876.

Dear Brother & all,

(a) I am well and so is Alice. I hope you and your family are well also.

(b) We are now ready for sea and is to sail at 2 p.m. I believe the wind is fair now and the weather looks more moderate and I hope it will stand for a few weeks till we get to a warmer climate as we expect.

(c) I wrote to my father yesterday, I never got a letter from him at all. I thought when you had the address that was enough - he said in Alice's letter he would write - but perhaps he was too busy - he may have a better friend than me and I hope that who ever he may be will stand his friend from this out as I doubt he will require him but I hope not. I said I would send a paper - but I said no more in the letter than was in the paper.

(d) There is no *no* word of the ship we ran into yet. So I think I may finish as there is nothing new that I could say or would interest you. We had a death on board here of a young child or girl. I don't know what was the matter but it is most likely one out of so many would die on shore and one thing is certain will come and we will have births before the matter as it is.

I am your Brother,

J. Gilmore.

(e) P. S. Give my best respects to Sam Bell and all who may inquire but especially those of the secret bands of fellowship by whom we are so closely united.

Good bye now. I will write if there is a chance.

John Gilmore.

(Ge 5)

[1876]

Auckland

My Dear Brother & sister

(a) After a long & wearisome passage I now write you these few lines to let you know that I am quiet well hoping this will find you all in good Health as I am quiet well at present John & Andy also. I am still in Auckland yet but John is with Andy as Andy is Building a house & it is not ready. That is why I am stopping here as accomation is not easy got where they are, of a quaility.

(b) We had a long & unpleasant voyage in one sence of the word for so much sickness made it unpleasant but for that although it was it was pleasant. We had a very nice Captain Doctor Matron & crew. The Captain name is John Peeck Holdich Doctor William Russel Matron Mrs Captain Menzies of Edinbouich [*Edinburgh*]. C D [*Captain and Doctor*] both English. We had a great deal of sickness 67 cases of Tiphod Tiphos Scallot & Remucicate [*scarlat and rheumatic*] fever & 16 deaths with childern 4 or 5 besides & 12 births. We sailed from Porthsmouth on 25 February & landed 16 July. Came all of the ship to quarentine & remained [*erased: 7*] 5 weeks there. That Island is called Mouti Ihi [*Motuihe*]. I wrote to My Father from that & gave him all particulars of it.

(c) It was divided into to parts one part for the male other Female. It contained 300 acres. There was none of it cultivated. There is just one man on it by himself & it blongs to him. There is about 1000 sheep on it. There is a cook house & all accomotion for imigrants & a brick house for fumatitation. The cloths all boxes & every thing else is put in there before leaving. It is like a grate in the bottom & underneath that is a great fire burning of Brimstone to cleare all disease as the think on our voyage.

(d) I never was sea sick nor no other sickness not even a headacke. Only once or so during the hot weather. We were six weeks in the tropices. It was said she did not move the length of her self. It was very uncomfortabl especially at night. There was only two side hatches & no portholes in our compart & 54 people. We could not bear any cloths on us. I & a few other never slept any during that six weeks. There was only another girl that was not sea sick besides me. There was no deaths in the single girls & only 1 married man leaves a wife & 4 childern. The sailors sub[s]cribed & gave her £20. I believe the goverment is to provid for the childern & she go to service but she is going in another line of service. She is to be married to one of the sailors in Auckland in a few days.

(e) The way we were situated in messes 6 messes in our compartment. The wer 8 only in the mess I was in. We were very comfortabl. The superintendent of ours was a French lady & in general the are good cooks. She was coming out to be married to Hawkes Bay, Napier.

(f) The most of the passangers was South of Ireland the roughest & worst class of people I am sure ever come here before & nearly all R. C. If you had only heard them praying when the thought the were in danger when she used to be rolling about. All the crowd belong to her said the never sailed in one lurchd so much. The was a great many never seen a ship before till the left Ireland & the were in the greatest state if there was a sea come over her. Ever you seen prayin to the Holy Mother & all other Half way subitutates & the next day if she ran any studdy [*erased: illegible*] like came dancing & singing & cursing & sweering & carry storyes & tell lies to the superintendent on thire shipmates. I am as frightened of dying I am sure as any other body but I was always reconciled to my lot. I thought that if she went down I might as well go home in a quiet state as In a fuss. It would be all one at our Journeys end.

(g) There was no communication between male & female at least there was none allowed. I could only speak to Jonny twice a week that was Monday & Tuesday from 3.30 PM till 4. PM. That was not much & sometimes not at all for the would not believe that we were brother & sister. The often told me in our compartment that I had run off with him but the were convinced at last. He got to cross if I laughed at any of the sailors as we could do no more & it was only for laughing sake.

(h) As concerns the country I can say very little as yet but it is here as it is every where. Some has a good word & some a bad one but I remark that those that has a bad has many weak points in them selfve. That is what made every thing run cont[r]ary in our old home drink. A sober man undoughtly [*undoubtedly*] can do well here from what I hear other sober men say but In my next letter I will be able to give you more instruction as I dont know what this home of Andys is like but every one is calling out that he has exceeded any that [*erased: that*] came in ...

[last sheet missing]

(Ge 6)

Tauranga Sept 16

1876

Dear parents

(a) As Alice has already given you an account of our voiage and also of our Quarantine on that Island about 10 miles from Auckland. But as I am about to give a few remarks on that subject. As you are aware we had a misfortune in the channel and our misfortunes seems to go with us as our progress was very slow after we Left portsmouth. We had about 3 weeks of very bad wether as a month from we Left London we were only 50 miles S. W of Scilly Isles.

(b) We had several deaths during that time and shortly after that fever broke out which we had for a Long time. There were 67 cases in all and 27 died and strange to say that 2 of the young men that went from Belfast was the first that died and 2 Brothers. There name was Trassy. Robert seen them in Belfast. We had very good passage but Long and at times Looked very hard when our fellow passengers and country men were going overboard so often and did not of course know when it would come our turns but Thank Him it has not come yet.

(c) When we were 106 days out we put into algoa Bay at Cape of Good Hope. We went there for Water coals &c. Our Last died there But strange to say they that died were Irish. Now after that we got on better and faster as we had fair winds all the remainder of the way. Now we got to our journey end at Last after 160 days from London.

(d) So we were sent to that Island where we were when Alice wrote to you. We were there 5 weeks. We had no Intercourse with any one else and were compeled to remain there untill all were in perfect health. One of our young men died on that Island and his remains was buried there. It was an Island of about 500 acres. The steamer come every alternate day and Left us our provisions on the wharf and after she Left we could go and take it away. The Island abounded Rabbits pigs & game also plenty of oysters there to all ends. The name of this Island was Moutihii [*Motuihe*] or as prounced Mot.u.he. It is in the *Moari* Language: 'the Land of fish'.

(e) Now I have said enough of the voiage & Quarantine Island. Let us say something of this place. It is a small village of about 1000 Inhabitants and is situated on a [*word illegible*] of an eminence above the sea. The principal street is along the shore as B. halbert [*Ballyhalbert*] - which is called the strand. This town is almost at the head of a small Lough or harbour about 7 miles Long. At the entrance is a bar which is about 1000 yards wide. On one side is a sand bank. On the other is a mountain 860 feet high almost

perpendicular. There is water for any ship here that is in the Lough. We have a wooden wharf here to suit steam boats. One of them is here 2 times a week from auckland. The Lough is about 1½ miles breadth.

(f) Now the Land about here is of the best Quality. There is no trouble about wreek or dung no such thing spoken of. Plough and sow is all. The Land about 15 miles from here seam [*omitted: to*] be more hilly and more for pasture but as you are aware I can not say much as I have not been far my self. Only there is a Large settlement of North of Ireland people about from 10 to 25 miles from here. The are called Stewarts settlers. The have in all 10,000 acres for ever. Rent Nothing. Some of them get work done with Andy. There is a river up to there place. I am going up some day when I have time.

(g) But as I [*omitted: am*] about to end this note I may as well say that Andy is doeing well here better than I expected and is Likely as this is a rising place. 12 years ago there was no town here and Alice has a good chance at her trade. But I cant say any thing about myself as yet I am at work with Andy. I will again write soon and *them* I can give you more news. But I hope you are all Quite well as we are so here and I do not know But I may drop down there some day yet as there is no saying what time may Bring so God comfort you both now and for ever. Your son

John Gilmore

(Ge 7)

(from transcription of lost original)

Tauranga

April 3, 1877

Dear Brother & wife & Family,

(a) I am now in receipt of your letter a few days ago find you are all well as it also found us and is still in our usual way but by reading it I could see that some of our friends

has gone to that borne from where no sojourner returneth and to Bliss I hope. I must say that I missed the last mail that was the one after I got your letter. This mail leaves Auckland on 9 inst so by it I send this note.

(b) Andy & Alice are as usual. We are still working away - trade seems to stand to Andy as he is always on the improving hand I think as you spoke of a good house you had got. I wish you a great deal of happiness to enjoy it but Andy has a good house here & the ground that it sits on for 21 years at very little rent. He has built the house at his own expense that is about 270 pounds. It is situated on one of the best places it could be for trade of any kind. He has also a shop and yard for 12 years but is going to sell that and build along with the house already built as he has ground enough about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

(c) This place is fast improving and is likely in a few years to be of some importance. It has several good features about if [*it*] good land, good harbour and climate unequalled. There are several people coming daily here buying land which is improving this. Also people for the good of their health. The land is still getting dearer.

(d) There is a man going home to Belfast in a few days from here that has bought 10,000 acres. His name is George Vesey Stewart. He took out a ship of emigrants nearly 2 years ago from Belfast. Here they are on the same block as this. He is now going to get settlers for the land. I think will cost about 30s per acre half the money to be paid down, the remainder in 4 years, the Government to pay all passage and the tenant to pay for the land. It is situated from 15 to 25 miles from here. You can go in a boat or by road. There are many of the settlers get work done as there are no smiths nearer. It is called Kati-Kati. There are several rivers running through it but small which abound with good fish.

(e) The land is lying in one vast field of fern. They seldom use any kind of plough but Howard & Hornsby, Bedford, England with cast shear and what is called a skeatcher to cut the fern roots so there is very little smith work compared with the land laboured.

Smithing as everything else is done in a different way that is the easiest and soonst, make no nails no bolts unless large bolts no nuts, work all our iron.

(f) Some don't make the horse shoes. They come out from home - there's no coming with 2 old shoes to make one new one. We never make out of anything but new iron. Have a heap of old shoes enough to ballast a schooner - old stuff is of little value - work is mostly jobbing. Andy has made first iron gates that have been about here. Such work is sold at no less than 6d. per lb and casting paid for extra. We are making an entrance gate at present for a J. P. here at the cost of 16 pounds. It will only be about 4 cwt.

(g) As you spoke of some sad case of contagion from horse horses are very cheap unless very good one. You can get a good saddle horse here for 8 pounds - almost every one has a horse from boys of 10 years and upward have a horse saddle and bridle and is at home when in the pig skin. As for myself it is not uncommon for me and some others to have 20 miles of a ride after dinner of Sunday. Andy is a good rider. The road is only a track made through the country but no metal put on - only kept level as possible so if you wish you can take to the country at any time. There is plenty of game here to shoot. The licence is only £2 - the shooting season begins on 24 May - the pheasants numerable here also ducks carlew etc. Alice is still busy at her business and seems to do well.

(h) We have no such thing as Unitarian service here. Only Church is Catholic and a few weeks ago a Presbyterian came here to preach in hall. I would be very much obliged if I could get last years 12 copies of the Freemans Journal and as far as had elapsed of this year and some unitarian book. If you had some in a parcel you could send them through Mr Samuel Chochrane, the emigration agent at Belfast. He could give them to someone going to Auckland. I would like them very well but I can't say the name of any but one that is "thy I am a Unitarian" and several others on the true doctrine of unitarianism. If you

send I will pay well for them. So I think I may as well give my best wishes to all and happiness now and for ever.

John Gilmore

(i) P. S. Let all have a reading who you think would wish.

(Ge 8)

[from transcription of lost original]

[1878: first sheet missing]

(a) As regards the Masonic Lodge I wish it all prosperity but I must decline to be a subscriber as there are so many calls at present that it is taking us all our time to meet them. I am a member of a Lodge here and we are on the same pursuit at present and the Hall will cost about £700.

(b) I am building another shop at present which before I can start in it will cost me about £250. John is still here. Alice has shifted from us and left John and I to cook for ourselves. She prefers the Company of a strange man. She got married in January last to a Mr James Fenton. He is a carrier. He came here from Sydney New South Wales, Australia about 5 years ago. Him and I have been intimate friends since we knew one another. He left County Antrim about the year 1859 near Randalstown - only a boy then. He holds an ordinary position. He has 8 draught horses, 2 saddle horses, keeps 5 horse waggons and three horse drays on the road. Has a store and butcher shop 45 miles up Country - small block. The Butcher and 1 man looks after it all.

(c) I had nearly forgot to answer your question re shipping. The port is not a large one as yet and anything in that way, they can get cheaper in the large towns. There are two steam ship companys call here twice a week each company.

(d) There is another thing I want to know what I can get small clipp machine for. That is shears for iron and a punching machine, single or combined and a drilling machine. You may address the cases to me Tauranga via Auckland.

(e) I may conclude by saying that I am sorry that there are no change in the living capacity of our Old Friends.

(f) I enclose my photo in this note. I was up in Auckland the Easter Holidays I saw Mr Moreland, Samuel Moreland son also Hugh Askine, Brother Robert and Mr J Colwell and Mrs Calwell. I also saw Mrs Moreland they are all well.

I remain yours fraternally,

Andrew Gilmore

(g) P. S. Read this to the old people. I shall write next mail to themselves. If it could be done it would look much better if there were no deficiency postage nor fines for me to pay on their letter. I had to pay I/- on your last. It is not the paying away of the money I refer to. Let me know if mine is the same.

Copy of Bill Head

Memorandum

188...

From A. Gilmore

Coach Builder and General Store

Ulster Smith Works

Devonport and Spring Street

TAURANGA

(Ge 9)

New Zealand Province of Auckland

Tauranga

July 16. 78

Dear Brother & P

(a) I comply with My [word illegible] Made in the Last Letter in here [word illegible] ordir for £10. The plaugh I spoke of I would Like to have as soon as possibl. I am short of Money at present or I would have sent More. John says you are to add the price of the Books to the acct. the Next Time you Furnish it. There are nothg strange since I wrote.

(b) G. V. Stewart is Expected to arrive soon with No. 2 Settlers from Belfast. It is Expected that He will get Foul play through Inducing them out to so Barran Hills & Making them pay so Dear for the Land. Keep it Quiet for news Like this Flies Like Telegrap.

(c) Be particular in sending any goods that you send & get a Receipt from those that you deliver them to. There are another Immigration scheme started. I Expect ships coming to Auckland will be plent[ier] than the Have Been for some Time.

Mr & Mrs Fenton are well. John & I are in good Health.

Love For the girls

And^w Gilmore

(d) P. S. I may Remark that I am very sorry for John Bell's Fate. Little did I think that He would been the First party out of the Two that gave me so much Dissatisfaction to Be His Fate to go to His Eternal Home & to glory I pray.

A.G.

I Enclose a Photo for my Father & Mother.

(Ge 10)

Tauranga

Oct. 29/80

Dear Brother & sister Mother & Father

(a) I Take up this to Remit to you the second Draft Fearing the First may have gone astray. If you have got it this one is no use. But as I have said if it went astray or has not Been paid this one will get the money.

(b) We are all well. Trade is very Dull at present. I cannot say when it will Improve. I wrote you a Long Letter Last month when I sent the First Draft. T[he] colonue is coming something Like the Old Country.

I Remain yet Living. Hoping Father & Mother is as comfortable as circumstances will admit.

PS. Excuse this short note A. G.

(Ge 11)

Tauranga

March 24/1881

Dear Brother Father & Mother

(a) In Reply to your Last note we are all well. John Had a letter from Father mail Before the Last. In Reply to it I understood Him to say he sent £5. to Father which I was glad to Hear. As for myself I am sorry to say I never had more to do in making Ends meet than at present. The Effects of the Fire in Replacing the things I Lost I am Beginning to feel now. Besides there Has been a great falling off [*omitted: in*] trade as well as a Reduction in priceses this Last 12 Months. But I think there is a Better future for this town.

(b) [*erased: N*] Now Robert if you can come with your Mrs & family to Auckland you do not Require to be afraid of getting along Better than ever you will where you are. With the family you have got & coming to a new cuntry you [*erased: W*] need not Expect to make a fortune But the family would get more civilised & I Believe Better connected if the conduct themselves which is all that either you or I can do or Expect. I am Engaging at present 1 smith at 9^s/- per day 1 apprentice at 4^s/2^d & a Boy at 10/- Per week & a carpenter at 9^s/- per day. I alway keep the carpenter constont [*erased: ant*]. The smith I do not keep unless work will allow.

(c) Therefore I would Gaurantee you a job for 6 or 12 Months at ordinary wages. I also think that we might go in together as partners & keep the thing in a Larger scale than working seperate. It takes more capital than I have got to pay men & push new Branches of the Trade ahead & wait for a return Especially when you have to show them How to do it & spend as much time a[s] you could do it yourself.

(d) I am sorry about the old people & could not advise you to Leave while the are alive not But the might be able with a little help to Live without you Being there But it seems so Hard to Leave them in old age and we would not when the kicked us out some 12 or 15 years ago.

(e) There is no out door work for Girls about Here. Girls from 10 year to 17 Gits from 4^s to 10^s per week & found at House work. [*Line indecipherable*] are very Hard to keep in Colonial stile & Fashion I. E. to say if the do not Errand for themselves something to pay for it.

(f) Now Robert I have said all that is Require. If you do come or thinks of coming Let me know & [*erased: we*] I will make an Effort to Be in Auckland or have some one There to meet you. I wish you could send a good General wheel Right & Body maker. I woul[d] give Him 9/- per day if He understood the trade well for 12 months. I would like a

distinct Drawing of a Rotating Harrow & dimensions of it also the cost. If you could send it first Mail I might be able to send for one after wards.

(g) John & Mrs & son is well. Fenton & Alice & 2 Daughters are well. Also myself & Wife & 2 sons are well. Give my love to father & mother & all Enquiring Friends.

(h) G[e]orge Vesey Stewart & 3rd party of settlers from London arrive Here in December Last. The Have settled on a Large Block of Land some 14 miles from Here. I have sold some 15 plaughs this 3 months made by Hornsby & sons Grantham England so that by that you will see that the country is Improving.

I Remain yours

And Gilmore

Mach 28/81

(Ge 12)

[undated: beginning missing]

(a) I shall give you an Idea of Stewarts settlement. It is a good thing for those Farmers that Has plenty of Money say from £4000 to £10000 But for those that Has Had from £1000 to £150 would Be Better & stay at Home. It is as well to Have nothing as £800 to go Farming Here. It Takes £5 per Acre to Fence it and put it in Grass then there are stock & & other supplies.

(b) Stewart is Making a pile of Money By His Transactions that is Dealing with the Goverment & selling the Land to private parties.

(c) Money Matters I therefore send a Draft for £10. I cannot understand the item of your Letter. Have you paid £18 [*word illegible*] over the amount you Have Recived from the Date of your Letter. If you would find it convenient you Might *Might* send me a [*?few*] Dozen of sledge & Hand Hammer shafts also 1 Dozen of swing plough shears ordinary size

in Hose [*word illegible*] to Clare well up to Land side very Light shears suits Best. This parcel you might send with [*erased: G*] Mr Stewarts party or Mr Stewart Himself.

(d) I was Talking to Him Before He Left for Home. He Belongs to the same Lodge as I do Here. This Last Subject is to say if you can find it convenient to suply them in your spare Time at 19/- or 11/- per lock Delivered without Risk it would pay well. Do not hurry yourself to send them with Stewarts party. If you can get them sent By paying a moderate Frieght [*erased: & ?*] [*End of page torn*]. If you would write Befor you send them & give me the price [*omitted: of*] those articles I have mentioned I would very probable send for a Larger order with the cash accompanying it.

We remain

Your Friends

A. J. A. [*Andrew John Alice*] Gilmore

(Ge 13)

Tauranga

Cameron Rd

July 28th 1903.

[*Added in another hand: John*]

Dear Uncle Robert

(a) I am just writing you these few lines to let you know we are all in good health. Father is away at present and could not write this time. He has gone to the farm for a week. We have now seven hundred acres of land in the country just twelve miles away from our town house.

(b) My two brothers namely:- Robert and Willie manage the farm for father. Aunt Alice is very well and all her family and also her husband, one of Aunties children "Eliza" is to be married in a few months. We had a letter from Uncle Andy a few weeks ago and

he told us his eldest son was married. He has still got three of a family left. His youngest son is in an iron mongery. Aunt Alice's married daughter has got two of a family. Her husband helps a butchery and is doing very well.

(c) I have just left school and I am helping at home in the shop with my sister. My sister Mary keeps all the books for father. We are having winter here now and it is beautiful weather. We have never seen snow here, and we very seldom have a heavy frost. We have fruit all the year round, and also plenty of flowers, out of our own garden.

(d) We would like to have some photos of you all if you have any to spare. I am going to get my photo taken soon, & I will send you one as soon as I have it taken.

(e) We will be very glad to hear from you or some of the family especially some of girls. I often wish they would write and tell us what they are doing. I am now fifteen years of age and am the baby of the family.

(f) I think I will have to close now as I have nothing more to say. Hoping to have lots of news from you all soon.

(g) Father, Mother, brothers, & sister, & myself send our very best love to you and auntie and all our cousins So I must say Good-bye. Hoping this letter will find you all in the best of good health.

I am,

Your loving neice,

Lizzie Gilmore

The Bell Correspondence, 1886 (1)

(Be 1)

Duntroon, Nov 1886

Dear Brother

(a) It is with great pleasure that I sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know that we are all well in this place, thank God for it & I hope this will find you & Sarah in good Health.

(b) I have been working pretty constant since I came here. In fact I get as much work as I want. There is a good many idle people knocking about here, and can get nothing to do whatever, & a good many that wants nothing to do If the could get their tucker. A sort of larry good for nothing fellows and a nuisance to the country.

(c) But taking everything in particular the country is very dull and will continue to be so untill the get some sort of agitation such as was at home and make the big sheep farmers break up their big lots of land or Stations as the call them here. All the good available land in this district is taken up in big blocks of from 2 & 3 thousand acres up to as much as one hundred thousand acres, and all the men that will be employed on one of them big places will be only a few shepherds. Where if it was Broken up in farms from 200 up to 500 acres It would form one of the best places in the world for a farmer to speculate upon, for it is splendid land almost all the farming land having limestone bottom. The present landholders hold nearly all the land for about 30 or 40 miles inland and any one wanting to take up a farm would have to go back among the mountains, where to get their produce to a market it would cost them more than it was worth.

(d) At the present time a working man in a good situation is better off than any of the small farmers are. The most of the farming class here are pretty flash livers, and if you seen them going about you would think the were Lords & Squires, and at the same time the

are not worth a shilling. Their land is mortgaged for as much as it is worth and some of them has stock and furniture mortgaged for twice as much as it is worth. And with a few exceptions it is the same all over New Zealand.

(e) It is not what it is represented to the people at home, and then they will stand up and tell you about the Poverty that the people at home have to suffer. I tell you, people at home may eat less mutton and pies, and earn less wages than they do here but if they only thought it they have a lot more comfort than is to be found in this country unless you have plenty of money. If it was not that I think it will do me good I would not be long in it and even so you need not be surprised if you see me home in about this time next year.

(f) If Andy and Bob thought that this was my opinion about NZ they would be pretty mad at me. But then you see Andy has about as comfortable a home as you would find in this country. In fact he is a lot better and contented than when he had his pockets overflowing before his losses. He has more than a good many of his friends in this country have got after all and better still he is respected by all who know him & that is something that can not be said about every one in this country. Bob has got as good a job as in the country nearly, ploughing all the year round 8 hours each day & plenty to eat & drink. And he has got a good wage, and as he is a steady strong young fellow. There is every prospect of his coming to something by & by. He is better & contented than ever he would have been at home. Billy is as content as you please. Nothing to trouble him. He is making plenty of money. Altogether they are three brothers to be proud of. Andy's Mrs and family are well and doing well.

[no continuation]

The Cardwell Correspondence, 1879-1880 (1-2)

(Ca 1)

Christchurch April 24/1879

Dear Sisters & Brothers

(a) I have heard again the sad news of the death of my Father which happened so suddenly and I believe unexpected. I am sure you are all in great trouble more especia[lly] it being such a short time since Mother died. I hope however that you will all live agreeably together the same as you have done all along.

(b) By one of Johns letters received last mail I see he is talking of Coming out here or to some other Country. He also said he intended to leave about the middle of May and asked me to write him Concerning what Clothes etc he should bring with him. If he has not already left I would not advise him to bring along stock with him. It is true the most things you have to buy here are considered dearer than at home but on the other hand if you have too large a stock you generally wear them all till the one suit is no better than the other: this is my experience.

(c) I hope when John does make a start he will have a good and speedy passage and if he comes here there will be something turn up for him to do although trade just now is very dull on account of bad harvest and small prices for grain. There is a great many failures here and any amount of fire's nearly one every week and sometimes two, so that the Insurance offices are getting in pretty hot just now. There scarcely happens a fire when the house or store is not insured which seems very strange. I suppose houses that are not insured will not burn?

(d) We are getting into a good many bad debts just now ourselves as some of the farmers who got Reapers and Binders from us have had to go bankrupt as they were unable to pay their debts but we will still make a lot of money on what we shipped last year.

There has been a steamer which came direct from London with 600 emigrants to New Zealand arrived here and is going to take cargo and passengers back again. She made the run out here in a little over 50 days but called in two ports by the way for coal.

(e) I see by the newspapers that trade is very dull at home and that there are thousands going about idle. It is scarcely so bad here but it is worse now than it has been for many years, but it is soon expected to get all right again. If we have good crops next year and better prices, and wool dearer everything will be right. The people here are trying to get the House of Parliament brought to Ch.ch [*Christchurch*] instead of Wellington where it is at present and if they only succeed it will help this City very much.

(f) In Johns letter he mentions that my Father had not made any will nor settled his affairs in any way. This I am very sorry at as it would have been more satisfactory to you all. However I hope that you will all live agreeably together and work for each others benefit as well as you can. I would like you to write me and give me the amount of Debt due at this time as I may be in a position to help you to reduce it. I hope you have not got into any trouble with the people that you were due the money to, but if you have assure them from me it will be all right.

(g) With regard to yourselves and the place if I have any privilege over the rest you can rest assured that I will take no advantage in any way for if I am spared health I never will take a shilling from one of you which I know you have all worked hard for and my advice is for you all to live together and the better you look after the place it will be the more beneficial to yourselves.

(h) I am very glad indeed to know that the neighbours have been so kind to them that are gone and so attentive at their last moment on earth. I hope you that are left behind will fill their places to the best of your ability so that when your time comes you may carry with you the respect and esteem so generously bestowed to our late Mother and Father. I

hope to hear from you all soon and trust your troubles are all at an end for a very long time. Write me all particulars, and anything you want done in my power I will attend to it without delay.

I remain your loving brother

William

(Ca 2)

Christchurch

Aug 15th 1880

Dear Brother

(a) By the last mail I received your very kind letter also a few newspapers from home. I am glad to find by your letter that you and all at home are quite well with the exception of yourself being troubled with the toothache. I can truly sympathise with you as I know a considerable deal about that same thing although I am hap[p]y to say that since I arrived here it has not troubled me very much. But it is something terrible to think over what I have suffered with it in times gone by. I hope you have got rid of it for a very long time.

(b) Since my last letter to you there has been a change in the firm of Morrow Bassett & Co as all the old partners are going out on and after 31st July now past. M^r Bassett has been left Christchurch this last two years past and is farming although he still remained a partner and now M^r Morrow thinks his land is not properly attended to when he is not on the spot himself. So they have arranged to give Tom Bassett that is M^r Bassett's oldest son the whole business and in future he will be my Boss. I hear he is going to be married about November to a Young Lady called Miss Burrowes that came out in the Blairgowrie with me. She is a neice of M^r Bs and a fine young lady.

(c) I am not exactly certain how things will go with my new boss but hope he may be as fortunate in business as the old firm. The name of the firm will be the same still Morrow Bassett & Co. and if Tom is as good a boss as his two uncles have been I will not have any room to complain. If he is not then it will be time for me to change. However I have no reason to suspect any fear of unpleasantness [*erased: to*] arising between us but time will tell all.

(d) You make enquiries about J^{as} Shaw but I have not heard from him now for some time but think he is still about Pleasant Point where he was the last time I seen him and have no doubt but he is well and doing well.

(e) Trade here is very dull at present and is not likely to improve till after harvest. The farmers got very small prices for their grain last season and they are afraid now of going too much in debt lest another season of small prices would come again. However we have been very busy taking stock and arranging this partnership affair and have surely got it finished although I have been working till ten oclock every night nearly this fortnight. The stock and book Debts and Ready Cash amounts to over Fifty thousand pounds although they have each had nearly ten thousand a piece invested in land three or five years ago making a grand total of about eighty thousand pounds in fourteen years. Mind you this is a fact.

(f) By last mail I sent to Mr Perry a Post-office for ten pounds to give to Maggie & Eliza also a P. O. order to David for Two Guineas to buy baby a new dress. As I did not mention in my last letter that I had sent the money to M&E you might write them and see if they received it. Hoping this will find you enjoying good health I remain your loving brother

William

The Armstrong Correspondence, 1859-1865 (1-3)

(Ar 1)

Croftin [*word illegible*]

Aug 25th/59

My dear Marian

(a) I had the pleasure today of receiving a most welcome letter from you dated 4th & 9th of June. I do not know whether any of the home party wrote to me in May. If so the letter must by some means have lost its way as I have not seen it yet. I had almost expected to hear of Uncle's arrival in England as he started from Auckland early in Febry about four months previous to the date of your letter. I hope his vessel is not going to make a six months passage of it. It would be too bad of her considering the short time so many vessels take in performing the voyage. We look for English news & letters now in two months from the time they leave England but of course sailing vessels cannot be expected to be quite so expeditious especially those homeward bound.

(b) I was glad to hear of the two girls of Bishops visit to the country. How they must enjoy themselves in the fresh country air to say nothing of the pleasure of meeting so many old friends those of Drumcliffe & Kilglass especially. Now if of any use to me I should feel inclined to envy them. As it is I must be satisfied with an account of their visit and of the good folk in that part of the world which no doubt either F. or [*initial illegible*] will furnish me with. I have not heard from Crawford yet so that I am quite ignorant as to what he is doing or intends to do. It is strange that he never answered *ed* my letter to him. I should like very much to hear from him. I suppose Rebecca is at home by this time as you spoke of her arrival being expected immediately

(c) You did not mention the name of Kate's intending. Is it fair of him to pass over so many and choose the youngest but one as I believe she is. I am sorry to hear of poor M'

Bond's troubles both as regards his property and his daughter's intended marriage. Will you remember me to him when next you see him.

(d) Could Richard not find employment in Australia that he made such a short stay there or has he a prospect of obtaining it at home. What does C^s OConnell purpose [*propose*] doing in New Zealand or to what part does he proceed. I shall be glad to see him and do what little I can to oblige him. Does his father still practice at Athlone. I have not had tidings yet of the parcel M^r Irwin is bringing out for me. I hope it will not go in search of the missing letter.

(e) What a dreadful state things seem to be in on the continent. Nothing but wars and rumours of war. From what I have heard today it seems that Austria is likely to lose her footing in Italy and the conclusion of the war proves more favorable to her than the commencement. I hope England will not be obliged to take part in the struggle. By all accounts she is fully prepared for it. You have of course heard of the wonders performed by this newly invented gun. One would fancy no power could stand long against an army provided with it.

(f) The Auckland people seem to be taking active measures to put themselves in a way of defence and I believe several other settlements are doing the same. Taranaki is not very uneasy. The Editor of one of the papers said the other day that "her insignificance and surf would prove sufficient protection for her". At all events nothing of a warlike nature is going on here except that the troops are being taught to use the Enfield Rifle in place of the musket and are for that purpose practising almost every day and also the drilling of the Volunteer Rifle Corps formed a short time since and consisting of about 100 men.

(g) New Plymouth had rather a narrow escape from fire one night last week. A grand Ball was held to commemorate the opening of a new Bridge and it is supposed that one of the ladies left a candle burning in a house to which parties from the country were in

the habit of repairing to dress & undress. Be that as it may the house was discovered on fire about 3 O'clock in the morning and being composed of wood was quickly destroyed. Fortunately it was not in the heart of the town and was unconnected with other houses except by hedges so that by clearing away a portion of the latter the inhabitants with the aid of the troops were enabled to prevent the fire spreading. A few houses were in danger from the embers which the wind blew about but they were saved by keeping the roofs constantly wet.

(h) The house was the property of M^r Govett the N. P [*New Plymouth*] clergyman but was rented from him by the Provincial Government and used as the Council Chamber. There was a small Library destroyed and also some papers but the more valuable documents were kept in a Safe so that they were preserved. The house itself was I am glad to say for the owner's sake insured so that the loss is not as heavy as it might have been. Was it not a curious place for the fair ones to choose as a drapery room. It is to be hoped they will be more careful in future and if they must cause a sensation that it will be by kindling a fire of a less destructive nature.

(i) What a dissipated young lady you must have become since you left poor quiet Kiltoom. I do not remember your going out so many evenings all the time we lived there. As you say you were in a few works. I am glad you have the friends to go to and that you take advantage of their invitations to go out. It will do you no harm and an occasional evening with our friends is pleasant.

(j) My time for reading & study of any kind is rather limited. A settlers life is not favorable for the pursuit of knowledge. I often regret that I did not give my mind a little more up to it when it was unoccupied with other matters. However I know whom to blame for my not doing so and it certainly is neither mother nor any of you. In other words no one but myself. I do not neglect to read the Bible daily. It is a habit which from being so

accustomed to both at home and with Uncle that I would feel uncomfortable were I to break it off.

(k) My farm affairs go on satisfactorily. We have had a fine winter especially the latter part of it. We had one uninterrupted continuance of fine weather for several weeks day after day bright & pleasant until about a week since when it broke up and we had a few wet days. The weather is however seasonable & it does a farmer good to see how the grass and wheat shoot up. Spring has scarcely set in yet so that very few crops are in except the latter of which I have put in twelve acres. I must say more of my crops etc in another letter as I have not room in the present.

(l) Will you thank Lady ODonnell for her kind enquiries for me & remember me to her & also to poor Mo. Do you know whether the latter is comfortable or not. With love to Aunt & all I remain my dear Marian your affectionate brother

J. H. Armstrong

(Ar 2)

Bell Block Stockade

Dec. 3rd 1861

My dear Marian

(a) I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you a few days since written during your stay at Drumcliffe and shall lose no time in answering it although the English Mail will not leave for several days.

(b) My last letter written in Auckland was I am afraid calculated to cause you all some little anxiety on my account as I mentioned in it that my services have been dispensed with for the present in the Militia and that in consequence I thought of going elsewhere to get employment of some kind. On my return to N. P. [*New Plymouth*] however I found that the Major's proceedings had caused general dissatisfaction as in

compliance with some order from the Authorities in Auckland "that he should reduce the Militia expenses as much as possible" he took it on himself to stop the pay & rations of two Officers and of several men who were entirely dependant on their pay for their support and who without it would in a few instances be entirely destitute. The injustice of the thing was so evident that some of the Senior Officers represented it at Auckland and after some little investigation the discarded parties were all reinstated and the Major I believe got a slight rap over the knuckles for having exceeded his authority. You may be sure the Major was not in a very amiable mood after that especially with the Officers who had interfered and who had incurred his displeasure in a few other ways not worth mentioning and I am sorry to say he showed a nasty fretfulness of temper for some time which I did not think him capable of.

(c) Things are much smoother now and tolerably bearable but we are to a certain extent still paying for our misdeeds by an amount of drill and an adherence to military forms in our regimental duties which in former times was never thought of. I may do him an injustice in attributing this to any feeling of spite on his part but it looks wondrously like it at all events. I am stationed for a month at the Bell Block Stockade in charge of the Militia at that post and have strict orders to parade the men twice a week for drill. When I was here three months since a monthly parade for the inspection of the arms was deemed quite sufficient. Such is the difference between things as they were and as they are.

(d) We have lately been honored by a visit from Bishop Selwyn. You are aware that among a certain class a very ill feeling has for some time been evinced towards the Church party and particularly towards the Bishop as the head of it. The representatives of that class in N. P. [*New Plymouth*] took occasion of his first appearance in the street to hoot & insult him but it was the reception he expected and he was quite prepared for all they could say. He did not try to escape from them but told them he was ready to answer any

questions they liked to put to him. He remained for some time with a regular mob around him in the middle of the street and to judge from the way in which he parted from them he must have had the best of the Argument. He said afterwards with reference to the hooting & mobbing he had that "Hard words broke no bones."

(e) On the Monday following he started for the Ngatiruanui country passing through that of the Taranaki on his way. Whether his visit to them was on political or ecclesiastical matters I am not certain but probably there was a little of both combined. He was I believe tolerably well received though the Taranakis endeavoured to prevent his passing through their country but without using any violence towards him. He persisted in going and finally attained his object and went to within a short distance of Wanganui. He explained to them the principles of the new system of government which Sir G Grey proposes carrying out and they seemed pleased with it and anxious to have Europeans settled amongst them. His Lordship seems to think it quite practicable to make peace with them without further fighting and even spoke to some of the settlers here of the probability of their being able to get back to their farms within a few months time. No doubt as far as the rebels are concerned they would be very willing to make peace and return to the old state of things. Fools if they were not.

(f) But it is too much to expect the settlers to be of the same mind. They must have some guarantee that a repetition of the two last years' events will not take place before they will again risk either their property or their lives amongst them and that we are not led to believe. We shall have "Let bygones be bygones" is what the Bishop says and it is generally feared that that will be the principle upon which Government will act towards those rebels. If so the prospect for Taranaki will not be cheering and many of its best settlers will if possible take themselves to some other settlement where they will at least

have security for their properties. Then again there are some half dozen murderers running at large and no attempt made to bring them to justice.

(g) Are we expected to pass that over and live on terms of friendship with them.

The idea is absurd. Among a number of settlers there are sure to be some who on the very first opportunity would take the law into their own hands and then where would the friendship between the races be. The more I think on the subject the more I am convinced that the perfect subjection of the Maori race to our rule is the only means humanly speaking of effecting a permanent peace with them. Let them find out the uselessness of prolonging the struggle with us and they will be more careful in future in taking up arms against us and more anxious to submit to our terms of peace.

(h) The arrival of Sir G. Grey is looked for in this place with some anxiety as it is supposed some thing more definite will be known respecting his plans. He has paid a visit to the natives at the Bay of Islands and was warmly received by them. They are all staunch friends to the Queen. Report says that he was to visit the Waikato after his return from the North and then come on to this place.

(i) Dec 9th Just 10 years since I left Kiltoom. What a long time to be without seeing one of the old family circle. Had I known all that was to happen within that time my courage would have failed to a certainty on that memorable morning and perhaps I should not have been able to leave you all. Well I must not get prosy. It has all no doubt happened for the best and we must try to think so and be thankful.

(j) I have just finished a letter to Uncle John which I shall enclose with yours and which you are welcome to read before forwarding to him. The home accounts are cheering. Mother reports herself & Aunt much benefited by their visit to Clontarf the latter quite blooming. I am glad you can get out occasionally to the country. It will do you a great deal of good. You have had a good bout of country life and I see on your return Fran

goes out. What an atrociously ugly name that is where John Ormsby lives. If I were not a thoroughbred Paddy I could hardly get my tongue round it. I hope M^{rs} Ormsby has recovered her strength. She was not strong when you wrote.

(k) Your description of John & his family was very interesting. I hope Frank's farm still continues to please him. There is no life after all so pleasant as that of a farmers. Have the incessant rains done him much injury or does he go more on the grazing system. I am only waiting for a letter from him before I write one in return. I wrote the last. I hope you paid your expected visit to his farm accompanied by the Bishop. I am glad the latter has made arrangements to remain at Coleraine and that he has found kind friends in the Lyles. Tell him I often think of the happy times when we had nothing else to think of than the best means of getting through school hours with the least possible good to ourselves. I succeeded admirably so much the worse.

(l) Talking of school puts me in mind of poor M^r M^cNamara. I was sorry to hear of the death of his daughter poor man. He has been unfortunate in losing so many of them. I was surprised to hear his second son was tutor in the school you spoke of in Sligo. He was such a stupid fellow when I knew him. Will you thank Aunt Crawford with my love for her kind enquiries for me. Rebecca must be fond of Colonial life to be induced to go to Australia a second time. I was afraid Adair was becoming a fast young man from the tenor of a letter I received from him about a year since. It was a curious production altogether.

(m) I had almost forgotten to tell you that I called on M^{rs} G. Ormsby before leaving Auckland. She looked well and was very kind to me. Her eldest daughter is about 16 and rather a nice looking girl but dreadfully reserved. Her second was not at home but by her mother's account she is quite the reverse of her sister. The third is about six and still called the "Baby". Her only son is about 12 very small and got a will of his own. Want of room bids me stop so with much love to all I remain ever your affec^{ate} brother

J. H. Armstrong

(Ar 3)

New Plymouth

May 6th 1865

My dear Marian

(a) Your letter to me of the 18th January deserves a little more notice than the message I sent you last month through Mother and I shall therefore address this months letter to you. I have never received a letter from any of the home party that was in the least wanting in kindness and therefore in speaking of your last as being particularly kind and affectionate I do not wish you to think that I am drawing a comparison between it and any of the former ones. They are all dictated by the same spirit that of love, and are equally prized by me. One or two allusions you made to our Kiltoom days almost made an old woman of me whilst reading your letter but for all that I was pleased to be put in mind of them and think you would have some difficulty in mentioning any of the more important incidents of those days which have escaped my memory and few of the more trifling ones although more than thirteen years have elapsed since then.

(b) I am sorry to say that the February mail has not yet come in. It was due on the 23rd. The cause of the delay is not known but I hope it is nothing more serious than the breaking down of the mail steamer through its machinery getting out of order. I still look forward with interest to the arrival of the English Mail and it is no slight disappointment when it does not come in. I should like to have heard how Bishops matrimonial plans are prospering as well as all about you generally.

(c) You will doubtless wish to hear the same of us so as Emma will not be able to write to you this mail I must furnish you with the family history. We are as we was or as you more elegantly express it "in statu quo" living very quietly and both anxious to get out to the Country. That however will I hope come in time and meanwhile we are enjoying

excellent health and no end of nursing for Miss Kate is of a particularly wakeful disposition and has an antipathy to her cradle in her waking hours and indeed to any place in a general way except in the arms of some of her friends and even of them it is with only a favored few who enjoy her real confidence that she will condescend to behave in a sociable manner. The consequence is that her mother has to carry her about a great deal more than is convenient and of course I am not exempted from my share of the work. We often think how badly children would fare if nature had not implanted a pretty large amount of affection in the hearts of their parents towards them for it must be confessed that they are at times very troublesome and require a great deal of patience. Nature has not deviated from her course in the present case and you would not think Kate a subject for your pity if you could see her laughing happy face and great fat legs and arms.

(d) Emma would not have her likeness taken this last month on account of her having a very sore arm from the effects of vaccination but that is almost healed now and I hope we will be able to get it for the next mail.

(e) I hope the papers I send you will reach their destination as I shall leave you in a great measure to draw your own conclusions from them as to how near we may be to peace. The "Southern Cross" gives a most disheartening account of the progress, or non progress, of affairs but I would not recommend you to take much notice of it inasmuch as the Editor, in common with the Auckland public, seems to be a little beside himself with indignation at the idea of the Seat of Government being removed to Wellington. Were it still at Auckland no doubt his view of the matter would be very different. The other Provinces seem to view matters in a much more cheerful light and I think with reason.

(f) The present Ministry unlike the old one, are working with the Governor and are fully convinced of the necessity of having the entire control of whatever forces may be in the colony which they cannot have as long as they retain Imperial Troops. They therefore

propose dispensing with the services of the latter for the future and supplying their place with a Colonial force which of course would be under their control.

(g) General Cameron has not gained many laurels either for himself or the troops under him by his Wanganui Campaign. He has advanced as far as Waimate a place about sixty miles from here on the road to Wanganui and has left a detachment of 300 men there between that place and Wanganui. He has established[*erased: y*] several posts garrisoning them all more or less strongly and in these the men are to winter further operations being suspended for the present. Were these posts in such a position as would form a chain some distance inland parallel with the coast line thereby rendering the intervening country safe from marauding parties their use would be evident but as such is not the case people look with dissatisfaction at the loss of time and expense incurred in establishing them. I do not know that this is the cause of the Government proposing to take the step alluded to but it may perhaps have hastened the members of it in taking action in the matter.

(h) Although little has been done during the month by the General one or two important steps have been taken both at Wanganui and this place by the War Minister, Major Atkinson independent of the General. At Wanganui an expedition of local forces were started up the river and took possession of a very important position which had hitherto been in the hands of the rebels and which is said to be the key to that part of the island from the north. It is about 70 miles up the river Wanganui. Another equally important position about 25 miles north of this town has since been occupied by his direction which from the nature of the country in that neighbourhood will prevent the rebels gaining any increase to their numbers from the north. Why it was not done years ago is a puzzle to many and I presume to the famous W. King among the rest as his expression when he heard the position was occupied was something to the effect the "the gate was put up at last".

(i) We have also had our southern outposts extended considerably during the last week. The most southern is at a place a little further south than where the "Lord Worsley" was wrecked. It is I think about 40 miles from here so that the distance between it and Waimate where the General left 300 men is not great. I do not think any communication has as yet been made between the two.

(j) The statement in the "Southern Cross" that the month was remarkable for what had not been done in it is therefore not strictly true at least as regards this Province and I hope the next few months will see still more important changes here. The War Minister is a Taranaki Settler himself and although I do not believe he will show any undue partiality to Taranaki on that account still he will not allow her to be lost sight of as she has in a great measure hitherto been. He is very energetic and will I am sure prove himself a good man in his new position as he has during the previous part of the war as Captain of the Volunteers. He told me about a fortnight since that he had it in contemplation to occupy the land on the north side of the river Waitara part of his plan being to reserve a block of land there for such of the original settlers as would volunteer to occupy it giving each a grant of land under certain conditions. He proposes forming two companies for the purpose and stated that he intended offering one of them to me. I of course thanked him and signified my willingness to accept it and so the matter stands for the present. He will I hope return from Auckland tomorrow the 9th when I may perhaps hear something more about it. I shall be glad to get any thing to do rather than remain stagnating any longer although for some months it is not likely to be pleasant work. Still there will be something to look forward to and with that one can rub through a great deal. Emma hardly knows whether to be glad or sorry at the idea but she looks at it in the same light and is prepared to take ...

[no continuation]

The McKelvey Correspondence, 1904-1913 (3)

(Ky 1)

L. Asylum

Auckland N.Z.

10 March 1904

Dear Dada,

(a) I got your letter all right a week ago. Muriel & I were married on 22 Feb. by the Rev. W. H. Wilson (Provincial Grand Chaplain of the English Const.) in the Mt Albert Parish Church which is about 2 miles from here. I only had a weeks leave & we went to Waiwera which is a Hot Springs place about 28 or 30 miles north of Auckland & is on the Auckland Harbour.

(b) Muriel is now stopping at a Boarding House in town & will be there till the end of April when our house will be built. The house is being built by a man named Winstone who is a wealthy business man here. It will be only 20 minutes walk from the Asylum and is in a very good district at Mount Albert.

(c) Do'nt bother too much about getting Lord Ranfurly's interest as I believe I will manage all right & I think I will have a better chance of promotion now that I am married.

(d) Muriel's father rose from the ranks he was born~~[erased: ?]~~ in Ballamena & enlisted in the 16th Lancers. He served in the Afghan War & soon after got a Commission, but as he had no private means he got transferred into the Commissariat & Transport Corps of the Indian Army. He afterwards served in the Burmah War of 1885 & 1887 & in the Chin Lushai Expedition of 1888 & 1889. He was not quite 40 when he died of Cholera. If he had lived he would have been a Major or Lieut-Colonel now. Her uncle W^m Mills belongs to Messrs Harper & Mills Solicitors of Belfast. A cousin of hers named Forsyth is Rector of a Parish near Belfast & his two brothers are Doctors, one being at present House

Surgeon in Manchester Hospital. Her[*erased: ?*] mothers name was Rees. Her [*erased: fa*] mother's father was a schoolteacher in Auckland & he lives here still but I have never seen him. Muriel has two brothers. One is an Officer in the Merchant Service & the other is working at Electrical Engineering.

(e) I am getting on well here now. The Inspector complimented me on my work last time he was here. This does not happen so often here as at home, Heads of Depts. not being so considerate towards their subordinates as in Ireland. They spend too much time looking after their own interests but I always keep quiet and say nothing. I know nothing of N. Z. politics but from all I can learn there is a good deal of the Tammany System in them.

(f) We got our Photographs taken a week ago & when they are finished we will send you one. I don't think they are as good of Muriel as the one you have.

(g) I read all about the Catholic Association & I think if the R. C's go on as at present, Ireland will be a good place to live away from in a few years more.

(h) The papers I get I think are the best you can send. I like the Daily Irish Times especially. It is a relief after the Dailies here. I am sending the N. Z. Herald with the notice of our marriage in it by this post. It is the best here & you will see it is a very scrappy publication not nearly so good as even the Derry papers.

(i) We had our Annual Picnic to-day. About 200 of the best of the patients drove on brakes to a place called Henderson away 9 miles from here in the Bush. They spent the day there & came back at seven. The Supert. Matron, Head Attendant, & the majority of the Senior Attendants went in charge & I was left to look after all the bad patients with a small number of young attendants. One patient thought it was a good chance to get up a mutiny but I locked him up for the day & he is quite civil now. We have more trouble of

this sort here than at home as all the Criminal Lunatics are treated in the ordinary Asylums & not in Criminal Asylums as they are in England & Ireland.

(j) I have not joined any Lodge here yet. I want to make sure of the best one. Mr Wilson the Rector tells me Masonry is not so good here as at home. The fees are pretty high but the Lodges accept too many questionable characters and Masonry is used too much for pushing business. I think it is the Colonials themselves who are different. They are not so decent as people at home. They are always very friendly & Hail-fellow-well-met, but they would not go very far to do their neighbour a good turn if it at all interfered with their comfort.

(k) The week we were at Waiwera I missed getting the Weekly News but I am sending all the rest to-day. Just keep the Insurance Receipts & do'nt trouble sending them. I got the little Diary all right. It is very handy.

Yours sincerely,

A. N. M^cKelvey.

(Ky 2)

Mental Hospital

Auckland. N.Z.

31st July 1907

Dear Mother

(a) I have enclosed a Money Order for £5-7-6 payable to Dada at Omagh for my ½ years Premium due to the Nat Mutual Life Association of Australasia about the middle of Sept. I have often been thinking that it would be more convenient for me if I paid to the Agencies in Auckland as the both Companies have Agents in Auckland & there is a certain risk in the post.

(b) We have had a lot of Measles about Auckland for the past couple of months. Baby Muriel had a very slight attack but has been up now for some weeks & is none the worse. The boy did not get them. He had a bad attack of dyspepsia & wind a few night[s] ago but is now as well as ever again. I think it was caused by some more teeth coming. He now has got eight through & more are coming. He is much stronger than he was. Baby Muriel is doing very well. She talks away at a great rate & orders us all about. She never gives me a minutes rest when I am at home except when she is asleep. Muriel has had a busy time looking after the two of them when baby Muriel was in bed. We lost our servant some time ago & Muriel has determined not to have another. She has a washer woman in for a day every 2 weeks. Of course I have to look after the two children on my ½ day off if Muriel wants to go to town.

(c) I have enclosed 3 Post-Cards of Auckland views. You never sen[t] me any post-cards of Gortin. Of course there may not be any published. I saw an advertisement in the Tyrone Constitution of some of N. T. Stewart [*Newtownstewart*].

(d) You will be glad to hear that I saw the notice of an intended increase of £25 a year to my salary in the paper a few days ago [*erased*: in the paper]. I will not receive it for a few months yet. If I do not soon get any word of the house they promised to give me, we intend to look out for a cheaper house than our present one. 18/6 a week is too much rent for us to pay. There is a steady rise in the prices of everything here so that it is hard to manage. Meat has risen 3^d a pound in my time. So that the increase of £25 is not so much as it appears.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A. N. M^c[Kelvey]

(Ky 3)

Costley Home,

Epsom,

Auckland. N.Z.

3rd Dec 1913

Dear Mother

(a) I got your letter of 17th July some time ago with PCds and the children got a letter each with some Post Cards for themselves & Muriel and myself. It was very sudden Dan Miles death. I recognized Henry in the P. Cds Charlotte sent of the funeral.

(b) The children have had whooping cough and Muriel jun was very ill. Both are now quite well. They became ill about the end of August and were not at school this term at all. Towards the end of the cough Muriel & both children [*erased: took them*] went to stop for 5 weeks at Mrs Urquharts (Muriels aunt) at Rotorua. I went up there for 5 days, and we all returned here on 24th Nov. Muriels aunt & her one child Billy aged 6 yrs returned with us and are staying with us for a while. Muriels aunt is 2 yrs younger than Muriel. Her husband is a Solicitor at Rotorua. I was also up at Rotorua for 10 days early in Sept. I get 1 months leave in the year but like taking it in days now and then.

(c) Rotorua is 180 miles from here and is in the centre of the hot lakes district. I am sending you a Book of views and a couple of Photos in one of which you will see me. Rotorua is a most wonderful place, every here & there all over the country are geysers, hot pools, boiling mud holes, & steaming mountains. I have sent you a Photo, of a geyser named Pohutu spouting or playing as they call it. It generally plays about 3 times daily and I have seen it throw tons of water as high as 120 feet. It plays from ½ hour to 2 hours at a time. It is at a place called Whakarewarewa or Whaka for short, which is only ½ a mile from Mrs Urquharts house. The whole of Whaka is full of geysers & boiling pools and

there is a Maori village or pah there, and there are boiling pools all among the houses. The little wooden church you see in one of the views is built on poles 3 or 4 feet above the ground, and a steam hole below the centre of the building. The steam has *has* been carried away by a big pipe to the back of the building, The Maoris do all their cooking in the boiling pools.

(d) Most of the views in the book of views are at Whaka, but Lake Rotomahana & Waimunga [*Waimangu*] are about 20 miles from Rotorua and are near the scene of the terrible eruption of Tarawera Mountain which took place in 1886 & a lot of people got killed. I saw all these places and saw Wairoa remains, a village which was buried with a lot of people who lived there although it was seven miles from the eruption at Tarawera Mountain and with a big lake between them. There are places in Lake Rotomahana where the water is quite boiling. We went over. There is a steam launch. You could not put a finger in the water it is so hot. The wild ducks some times get in the water at the boiling parts but are always killed if they do. The cliffs all along one side of the lake steam, only the photo does not show up the steam so good as it is. I think the whole centre of New Zealand will blow up some day.

(e) We had a pretty bad time here with the strike as you will see by the papers I send, and I had great difficulty in getting coal for the boilers and sugar but the farmers formed themselves into regiments of special constables and 1600 came down and took charge of the city under the Police Inspector and the strikers have been afraid to whisper ever since. We had a lot of local special constables but they were all on foot while the farmers have all got horses & are splendid horsemen. The strikers stopped the painters working at the Hospital, but my two painters refused to go on strike when the pickets came here. The pickets then threatened the painters & I complained to the Police Inspector who told me to "lay the pickets out" if they became violent. One of the Strike Committee

afterwards rang me up on the telephone to get me to put the painters off work while the strike was on, but I told him I would see him further before I [*erased: told*] would do it, that the Police Inspector had told me what to do with the pickets if they returned & that I intended to carry out his instructions. We have not had any trouble since. I think our two painters were about the only painters who refused to go on strike when told to do so by the pickets. There are still men on strike here but the work is going on nearly as well without them.

(f) I did not have to furnish the house, all the furniture is provided by the Board. The only things one has to buy are pictures & things of that sort. Even cutlery & bed clothes & table linen are provided.

(g) Muriel sen & myself are very well, & send best wishes to you all for Xmas & the New Year

Yours sincerely

A. N. McKelvey

(h) (P. S.) I have enclosed a Money Order for £9=7=0 payable to Dada my ½ yrs premium to the Scottish Amicable.

The Hughes Correspondence, 1923-1937 (1-20)

(Hu 1)

Ballinahowna

Owenbeg

Co Sligo

Ireland2nd July 23

My Dear Daughter

(a) I am very thankful to God that He has spared me to write you & thank you for your nice letters views of Auckland, "War Crys" & especially the Photos. The first that I received is over a month recd. It came with the views and Dear you look lovely. The second recd some days ago with you & Tommie is something to look at. I love to dwell and look upon your beautiful faces and nice handsom forms. I hope God will bless yous and make lifes journey happy and prosperous.

(b) Well Dear by the time you get this you will think I am gone off lifes platform. It is now over a month since I got badly coughing with some ailment nearly like the old Flue. That along with the old ailment in my head & throat fairly done me but with good nursing & care thank God I am now able to sit up whiles & go about the gardens. I was just four long weary weeks totally confined to bed and during that period many stronger than I passed away. It was a wonder to every one how I pulled through. When I got something better I had my Daily "Text Book" Bible, War Crys' photoes & Views by my bed. It passed many an hour. Beautiful reading in War Cry's, so I continued this to I was able to come to the Kitchen. I had to be almost in sitting position in bed such a fight for life especially at night. Only for so well as I was looked after both medical & nursing I

don't see how I could be here. I never can hardly hope to be what I was but there is nothing impossible with God.

(c) Mother is vairey well considering what she has went through and able to be about. She does be striving to take my place in exterminating the weeds from the Flowers &c. That & her mumerable family of fowls &c keeps her very busy. Harriet is in fairly good form also & since I have got on my feet there is new cheer all round.

(d) The Summer is more like winter here & we are now just in the middle of it & unless there is a marked improvement it will not be a good year that is for the farmer. We have beautiful Crops, & very nice Gardens.

(e) We are a lot easier in our mind since the Free States Army came here. There is a good detachment of them quartered in the old Workhouse that was partially destroyed by fire.

(f) How nice for yous getting such a nice residence. I do be delighted to see how Tommie interests himself in the gardening department. I don't think he is fond of the Sofa after all. He is to my mind very constantly & usefully employed with very early hours but the happiness & comfort he enjoys for exceeds sleeping and worship.

(g) I don't know your Tramcars or Ferry boats but we have they two systems in some parts of Ireland. Id know the Tram system in Dublin, Belfast & D[e]rry. The Ferry System is not so numerous. There is one at Achill S[o]und in Mayo. I often cr[o]ssed it when doing duty in my young days. The Boat carried pigs Cows Horses &c. I got thrown overboard by accident when returning from a fair, but I got hawled in again rifle & all. In them times there was an old man resident on this Island of Achill, & he was termed the King of the Island & strange say there was a very tall Hat at least 2½ feet high with broad Rim all of a greenish hue. This was called the Achillmans hat & no one was allowed to

leave the Island without it so two could never leave the Island together. If one urgently required to go inland he had to wait to the person returned with it.

(h) There is a nice little Protestant church built at the Sound close to the Ferry. I have been at service there. You would see folk praying & crying their dead kneeling on the Graves. The Rector in old times when there was great distress & famin got them a ship load of seed Potatoes to plant their ground. Well the people called them "Protestants" after the Parson, so they carry that name still & are good for Eating. This Country is almost Romancatholic with a slight sprinkling of Protestants, Presbyterians, New Lights, Dippers Methodists, Seekers Cooneyites.

(i) Now Dear Daughter since God has spared me & that I have this privilege I hope you will excuse this imperfect scribble. It will merely show I am still alive. Please Convey to your Dad & all your people our very best wishes. Joined by mother & Harriet in Same & fond love to you & Tommie,

Your affect Father

R. Hughes

P.S. Tell T. W I will write him in a few days when I get something stronger.

(Hu 2)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co Sligo

Ireland

27th March 24

Dear Daughter

(a) In reply to your two letters of 28/12/23 & 9/1/24, which I was very pleased to get & to know that you & T. W. were in good health & spirits and getting along so

splendid. Why you have really a real honeymoon all the time. Also that all your Dear people are well, especially that Dear young lady that sent me such beautiful reading for the xmas & other papers as well. I should have written her personally and thanked her but I got a bad turn again & was not able to leave the bed, so that has caused me to be so much in ...

[pages 2 and 3 missing]

(b) There was a ter[r]ible slaughter of british soldiers & their wives & children at a place called Cobb [*Cobh*] Co. Cork, when landing from Spike Island. This Country is far from settled yet. It is happy for ye in that beautiful Country.

(c) I had a beautiful letter from T. W. some short time ago. Please excuse me to him. I am all shuck from hard work. Now Dear I was so pleased to see the nice times you had, when visiting &c, T. W. fishing. How fun[n]y Xmas was with ye & us poor lads in frost & cold.

(d) This Country is greatly gone to the bad, too much Poteen drinking crime & vice, and especially at this Season of Lent.

(e) Now Dear I hope you will excuse this poor scribble but I hope when I get a rest to brain & body to do something better. I am joined by your mam & Harriet in best wishes & love to all your people & especially you Dear & T. W.

Your affect Dad.

R. Hughes

(Hu 3)

14/4/24.

Camphill

Owenbeg

C_o Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) I embrace this the first opportunity of replying to your two splendid letters duly received. We are all pleased to see you enjoy good health & such happy times and that you will soon rejoin your wife. Your sea journeying is wonderful. It brings gladness to our hearts to see you are leading such a useful life. We also are very glad to see that Dear Dorie is so well & all her people.

(b) Well Dear Son I have had a hard time of it since I wrote you last. It has been all slavery hard work & expense. After searching the whole country by Easkey Dromore-West &c and fail[e]d in securing a place suitable or otherwise I succeeded in getting this house & garden from John Devaney. You know the house. It is on the Dromore West Road just opposite the house I left. It is a large two storied house altogether too large for our family. There is a large kitchen Parlour Hall and large room off the Kitchen also three beautiful rooms overhead also good outhouse for Fowl &c. The g[a]rden is fair size with flower Plot in front and three large trees. I have it all planted with Potatoes & different varieties of vegetables. I am under very heavy rent over three times what I paid for our last nice place but I hope God will open up a way for me to carry on & discharge my liabilities. I am still in very inferior health and has been down twice during this spring but thanks be to the Lord for Enabling me to be about again.

(c) We had a really dry spell of weather up to a few days ago when it has turned bitterly cold, Thunder Hail Rain & now heavy snow, so the farming business is all up for the present. I have two men & horses ploughing for Potatoes the other day & now it is all covered with Snow. It is wonderful to look at the Range of Ox mountains stretching from Co. Clark on to Donegal/ close by here all a white sheet of snow.

(d) Your mother & Harriet are very well so is Geo Stewart & his family. Sorry never a word from any of the other members [*word illegible*] fact any body else. M^r P. Hole Easkey a very old acquaintance of min[*e*] has passed over to the majority. He was a great old sport in his day. There is nearly a funeral every day of some one young or old. Do you remember what I told you[*erased: ng*] long ago that this Country is not settled yet no nor I believe never will.

(e) It was interesting to hear of the Balls Party. I have not been troubled, with any correspondence from ...

[*page missing*]

(f) ... of his own. His mother & one sister only occupies the place which is situated at Ballymahon Co. Lon[*g*]ford. It is the wonder of the world how he selected the poor old military mans daughter without fortune & so many with hundereds striving to catch him. He is medium size dark and his name is O'Connell. I think he is a relation of the "liberators". It is true Tommie as God made them he matched them. I don't think you could get such a pair of T.T.S. [*?truly tuned souls*] in the world. He was greatly liked by the Gentry around here and always asked out to dine. He is coming to visit us at Easter and arrange matters & retire from the Army to his farm. He employs two constant men on the farm. I would like to have your views on this matter.

(g) We had a Horse Race here on St Patricks day - great sport & good racing.

Whad [*we had*] a sight of visitors from Easkey &c. We expect to have another Races here on the 15th August. George is in Dublin still.

(h) Now Dear Tommy I have to write to Dorie, Master David, & Miss Jessie but I want to wait a few days to see if my hand will steady a little for I am shuck with spade hatchet and saw. This wasuch an unkempt place but people are beginning to admire it now. I hope to hear from you very soon and if you approve the step Harriet has taken. We all join in best love & wishes to you Dorie & all friends.

Your affect Father

R. Hughes.

(Hu 4)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

16th June 24.

My Dear Tommie

(a) Your very welcome letter of 28th April duly received. I need hardly say what joy and pleasure it brought to us to see you have been presented with a bouncing son & heir and that your Dear wife is safe & well. Give her our hearty congratulations. You know Tommie I am a proud old Grandfather now, seeing I have three Grandsons & all Roberts (Hughes, Stewart & Reynolds). Yous just gave the little Irishman a nice name & I think he is just heavy enough loaded. What a blessing from God that everything passed off so safe & satisfactory even though at such a high price but as you remarked better pay well than be sorry.

(b) What wonderful chargings you have had. By the time you get this you will have almost done with the navy. What a wonderful ship the Hood is. You sent me such a nice letter [*erased: you sent me*]. I am not able to half answer it my hand is still & full of rhu[e]matism and you will know that by the writing my bod[i]ly health is fair but the throat & head are bad to say the least. Still thank God I am able to do a good deal of useful work.

(c) I have a most beautiful garden [*word illegible*] of flowers & all kinds of vegetables & Potatoes. There is a nice frontage to the house neatly kept & all flowers. It is fully admitted. I have even the agricultural instructor beaten. I also have a fine crop of Potatoes in the field & now I am at the Turf cutting & saving & I have sore bones & tired limbs. Just think of a man 71 yrs going at such work.

(d) Your mother is just fine as good as you could expect & Harriet is A. 1. getting ready for her wedding which comes off in August next and then we are all alone. We will feel our latter years lonesome. I have not heard from any one of the family since I wrote to you so they are treating us very cooley. George Stewart & his wee party are getting along fine. He has beautiful little girls & good lads. Peter G. G. & Bob they come to see us pretty often & M^{rs} Stewarts son Edmond & G. G. has helped me with the Turf Cutting a little.

(e) Mr O'Connell Harriets intended is still quartered in the Curragh. He got a run down to see us since I wrote you. He always comes in uniform & well armed no great sign of the times. He is good to me in the line of fishing tackle & papers & writing. He never drank & would not engage in anything that was not of a high standard. (In a word) he is a highly educated gente/man. We have a house & accomodation fit for any man so we can entertain properly. He brings Harriet out in his motor to Ballina &c to Pictures when visiting us. Of course you have my other letter on this matter. I am wondering how I will

get over all. You know we cannot treat him in an ordinary way. I am Trusting God will bring us through all victorious.

(f) The weather has been very wet for along spell now which leaves us backward in all our pursuits of labour &c. I have had some good fishing. There was a man died on the bog the other day close to where I operate on it and a good many of my old acquaintances passing away.

(g) Yes Dear Tommie your wish & prayers are truly shared by us here that we shall all share that Heavenly joy of meeting in our Heavenly Father's home through the atoning blood of our Redeemer. All the joys pleasures & happiness we enjoy here are nothing in comparison to what God has prepared for them that love serve & obey Him. One passes away now another again & so shall it be to the great & terrible day of the Lord Come. We shall then be divested of all our earthly things. It is then we find a Friend in Jesus. He is our advocate. We are His Temples if we accept & obey Him.

(h) I don't know how you got all my letters. I do be uneasy about poor Jack, on account of his accident but I hope he is safe. Give to your Fatherinlaw & all your friends our best wishes & regards. I think Master Da[erased: f]vid should have a letter from me before this & tell your Dear wife that I am joined by your mother & Harriet in wishing her joy & comfort over her fine son & that I am the proudest man in Ireland over my fine Grandson. Love & best wishes to you, Dear Dorie & all friends.

Your affect. Father.

R. Hughes

(Hu 5)

14.7.24

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) Your letter of 30 May last just received. Very glad we are to see by it that you Mrs & baby are in such fine health, also all your people. Your Mother & Harriet are delighted to see that baby is thriving so rapidly. We will be delighted to see his little self in Photo. I infer from your letter that he is a real "Hughes" but I'd like to know what Mrs (Mother) says to that.

(b) We are all in our usual health thank God. I am making great struggling along keeping on my old feet and carrying on the work at a rapid rate doing all myself. You could not employ labour wages are so high. I have fine crops far the best around here. We are digging the new Potatoes which is a famous crop but rather young yet. It has been a very wet season up to now with high winds thunder and lightening. The saving & cutting of Turf is a most difficult job. I have built a hut on my bog so that I can take shelter from the torrent[i]al rains that come off the ox mountains. To hear the peals of thunder & flashes of lightening [*erased: flash*] darting here & ther[e] brings to my mind the fierce battles faught between the National & Republican arms. The *the* terrible conflicts were fierce on both sides. The ambushes were more horrible. Many a fine man & comrades of my own were cut down like grass & don't think for a moment that old Ireland is finally settled yet. There are plenty eager & watching for a new fight and to strive and get the British back to power. I'm glad it is the British pays me my coffers.

(c) You need not expect any other address for Harriet save the one already given.

Yes Mr O'Connell is everything I have said & is doing splendid in the Army. It would be impossible for me give you any other address for Harriet than here. At the very furthest they will be married by the middle of August. It seems it is just like your own final & finished. Your mother had a letter from your brother George. He is in Dublin & says he is doing well. He further states that he is getting married to a beautiful young lady in Dublin by the middle of this month, named Callaran and that they are going to start business in Dublin after their honeymoon. He is to send us their Phos so there we are. I am getting that many honeymoon shocks that I think I will soon be proof against all kinds of shocks. No news from Jack. I am getting very anxious about him. If I don't hear soon I'll write the War Office.

(d) Yes we got the Paper with your Pho. in it. I soon picked you out. You must be getting a fine pension. I wish you long life & happiness to Enjoy it. Yes house rent is high out there but you have something for your money there. Convey to your dear wife how pleased we are to know she is so well & happy and her fine young son. I am sure Master David must assume a solemn attitude over his new title, "uncle". I wrote him a letter some short time ago. I wonder did he ever get it. It will help to make him a little more important. It is not easy hitting on what will please a little boy. I was striving to arrange with him meet me half way with his yacht & bring me over on a visit. Now I see fully what a wonderful stretch of Sealife you have had though I outdone you by a few years in Service. I put in 30 years & Seven months & I struggled along as best I could with a family of nine, then God took little Lizzie so I was left with eight & now we are almost cut down to naught. What wonderful changes comes round in a few years.

(e) On the 12th of this month I was returning home tired with backache and all the other aches attributed to Turf Cutting &c I saw in the front garden amongst other flowers a beautiful Orange lillie just burst into bloom. It at once reminded me of my birth-day and that I had just entered on my seventy second year in this life. I have been most unsuccessful in fishing up to this but many a one I left with a sore jaw. I expect the fishing will get better when the net season is out. That will be Sep.

(f) I just omitted to state when giving Harriet's address that Mr O'Connell's pay is good & that he is a man looked up to much by the authorities & he may not leave the army for a considerable time yet so they may have a military address by & bye. George Stewart & little family are all fine.

(g) Yes I had a lot of hard work to bring out this place to my wish. We have really a nice comfortable place but three times too high. However we will stick it for a while. Your mother & I would feel it a bit strange in a mean house & low people around us.

(h) What wonderful changes of ships you have had. That will be a big cruise the Dunedin is going on. You will just be twice as happy on land & always at home with your nice wife & darling big son. I think of you by day & by night. I pray God bless you all every night & morning.

(i) I read a portion of scripture & a hymn every morning & evening. I am unable to attend the church services but I read my Bible at home & other good books if I can get them. I love words. Glad your Dear wife will soon be able to write to us. Tommie she has a great place in my heart & Master David. You will do me a favour to thank Mr Daniel young ladies who so kindly sent me such nice papers & periodicals. I should have written & thanked them long ago but sometimes I am shy and others shakey so I hope you will polish them off with a better shine than I could give them & Please Convey to Mr & Mrs

Daniel and entire family our warmest and best wishes. So joined by your mother & Harriet in love and best wishes to yourself Mrs & darling son also your people.

Your affect Father

R Hughes

(Hu 6)

14.10.24.

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) An old saying better late than never. Well an[*d*] sure that is my case this time but as I was very busy with Potato digging Turf saving and humping it home on my back for the fire no road and the whole place in a regular swim of water then the fishing. Your mother says I'm a pity. No sooner out of one job than into another.

(b) I was delighted with your very interesting letter of 11th August. When I was just about answering it in came one from your Dear Wife also one from her Dear Mother. Well as a matter of piety I was bound to write them and left you out for later on. So I have just received your other letter of 29th Augt and really we are all so pleased to see you Mrs and darling fine son were in good health & spirits also Mr & Mrs Daniel and family and especially master David to know that all are well and so happy gives us here real sunshine of pleasure. I just think of you & miss jessie at school. I hope ye are very obedient to your teacher and that you give her no undue trouble.

(c) Well I am glad to state that your Mother & Harriet are in fine health & form, but your Mother says her & I are getting very old & no doubt about that. I can find myself going still I keep going and I think is the best way to finish up.

(d) I'm glad you have finished with the Navy. You will have a fine pension. Reserve money &c will bring you closed on the 100. I hope you will be successful in securing the newly sought job. I'm sure it should carry a good pay with it and between all and Gods goodness you will never find any want. "The Lord will provide". It will be interesting to know.

(e) We had a letter from Amelia. She & the husband are well. She has the second son since she left here called after you. He is a year old now, & little Bobby the eldest child is a fine little fellow going to school. Amelia got a lot of sickness while living in Glasgow but now they are changed to [omitted: a] much better place outside the city and doing well. I have not heard from George or the Bride but once since they got married. He was to send me some Salmon flies and the Wedding group but behold you I have got neither. I think I mentioned a flie to you but it would be late for this season. George Stewart & family are all well. He & a friend paid us a flying visit when out on a shooting tour over the mountains so he was very delighted to see your Photos & to hear of all the good news from you. No word from poor Jack. I am going to look him up at the War Office. I am thinking would he have married a black woman.

(f) What wonderful sightseeing & travels you have had around Rotorua. What a wonderful country boiling mud ponds & the hot and cold water Rivers &c. Our Rector was here on a visit so we met for the first time after he being over a year & a half in the Parish, so we had a very good Exchange for a little while. He was greatly admiring your Photos and views of Residence &c. I gave him a couple of War Crys to bring home & read. He promised to call soon again. I said that I might Expect him any time the

assessment money became due. So he looked at me as if I considered him a doubtful shepherd. However we parted after I gave him a few amusing lifts as to what I saw Parson do. You know Tommie the will do & say [*word illegible*] things by times.

(g) Your letter was found open when it reached Dublin but the closed it & put on a stamp stating the fact the old Maori Chief came all safe. I showed him to a few Paddies around here as my uncle. Would you think the though[*t*] him not a bad looking old man. Thought we will have big trouble over the Bound[*a*]ry question. Still raining away. Mr O'Connell is expecting to get back to the west.

(h) Hoping to hear from you very soon. Joined by you mother & Harriet in best wishes & love to you Dear David and darling son.

I remain your afft. Father

R. Hughes

P.S. Our very best to Mr & Mrs Daniel & family. R. H.

(Hu 7)

3.11.1924

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) In reply to your very nice letter of 5th Sep & I think of 29th August. We were very delighted to see that you Dear Dorie and the beautiful and wonderful baby (Master Bobby) also M^r & M^{rs} Daniel & whole family especially Master David were in the pink and getting along so very fine. God bless ye all & keep you in that happy state. Your mother & Harriet are very well thank God & myself not too bad. I am wrestling against many

difficulties inferior health, bad speed on foot & too much on hands still I am bringing the corners with me pretty well.

(b) We had a nice letter from Amelia. Herself and babies & Bob Reynolds are all well. Also G. Stewart & family are well but we have not heard from George or the Bride for the past fortnight but I suppose they are too much taken up amongst themselves yet to have much spare time for writing. No word from Jack yet. M^r O'Connell is very well and has passed a very successful exam. He may be promoted Capt. by now, but he was very near being sent to glory the week before this when doing night scouting. The driver of his Car to avoid a collision ran on a ditch & capsized into a field but happ[i]ly no one was killed though he got his knees cut & a bad shaking "but all is well that ends well".

(c) Well Dear Tommie I have had wonderful experience between sport & work. Sport first and work after has been my lot. I thank you much for the flies. It was just in time I had them for we had sportmen visitors to no end & how delighted I was to be able to show some of New Zealand flies to a gentleman who came 14,000 miles on a holiday to fish & fowl. He was well known to me before he left for North America. He is one of the best sports men I have ever met. His brothers & lady also came & spent days with us. They would not stay in the Hotel at Dromore but all for us. Well we fished it out day after day then George Stewart came & the Dist Justice Officer of Civic Guards on a shooting tour so don't you think your Mother & Harriet had something to do.

(d) The street at our house was litterly thronged with motors guns & Rods. One large room in the house was well decorated with big Salmon hanging around the [*erased:* the] product of my squad then grouce, Wood Cock Pidgeon May Birds &c. George Stewarts squad it was one of the greatest rings of sport I have had for years. How pleased the gentlemen were that we could put them up. They were three brothers One Bank manager Portadown, Armagh, another Great Bacon Stores &c &c Sligo & lastly the

younger runs a great Bank in South America. He & Geo. Stewart faught together in France during the great war. He is coming back to our place for a months shooting before he returns to America. He says I was the first man made him a fisherman when he saw me catch a big salmon some years ago. They were the nicest lot of men I have met yet. They added to my store of flies & left their addresses for me write them and got mine with them. I was very much attached to them. After our days port & supper over all would sit around the big Kitchen fire & each one besting the other in good yarns but the South American could whip all "thier name is Pettigrew Scotch formerly.

(e) Now I have to tackle into the work & winter is fairly in on us bitterly cold high hurrican[e] winds & I may say a continual downpour of rain. The Turf is almost lost & no getting it out of the bogs. I am hewing down some timber to help & then the Potato Crop. I am sending you a Connaughtman. It will show you a little of how things are moving back here & up north.

(f) How I delight in your letters & I love to read about my grand son & Dear Dories letters are so dear to me. War Cry &c I was delighted to see you taken your stand with Mr Haggard. Your Dad over there is a great man. I am pleased to see him forging ahead for good things. The Gentleman who were here greatly admired all your Photographs & especially you holding baby shold[e]r & Dorie & your Dads residence & your sisters Annie & Poor Mary Jane both gone & George & his young wife also Amelia. Poor Bob & Jack they said we were a great family of people, and of course Harriet was here in the flesh.

(g) You had wonderful travels since you left the Navy and great sightseeing. Why in fact you will become an Explorer in the finish. There was a similar disturbance at Birmingham England. It covered a radius of 50 miles, just similar to what occurred over with yous at Rotorua. It may be due to slides under the sea or perhaps disturbances in

mining Dists. It is only a few years since the Bogs of Allán in this Country removed for miles.

(h) Yes Tommie isn't the ladies far from what the men are. How quick they can see the dads features in baby beside what a man will. I am sure Dorie does be amused. If I were there I would say it was a pretty picture of herself and no matter how lovely it was it could not surpass the Dear mam. Now Tommie how do you like that. I do always be troubled writing knowing how much I owe and then so forgetful by times. I see you have made a start with your garden. Well I hope it shall be fruitful of many good dainties and that your whole work shall be prosperous.

(i) We have had Harvest. Home thanksgiving services in Easkey & Dromore Churches during past week. Harriet was the only one of us that could attend. The attendance & Preaching were good and best of all a good turn up of cash.

(j) I will not trouble you about the Country & how it stands as the Connaughtman I am sending will fully explain our attitude some & ex[c]ept that Devalar [*de Valera*] is arrested every time he crosses the Border into northern Ireland & Mary M^eSweeney [*MacSwiney*] another of his supporters gets so many searchings and tumbings about that I really believe she is beginning to like it. Nothing will do us now but a sound Republic North & South. Well many say thats the stuff to give them but all I have to say is they have not got it yet.

(k) Well I am glad to see that you have got such a good fat pension and I hope you have been successful in getting your new & civil position. Why both that its your pension & its would bring you in a fine lot. What a price houses are in that Country. House rent is gone mad in this Country too. I nearly wonder how I carry on and all I have to pay and especially of late times. I just see the older I am and more helpless the more I have to shill out but I hope if God spares me and that all goes well to finish up good. I dread the winter

and that old unwelcome visitor the Flue. I pray God keep that guest far away from me & mine. I have got my nerves shaken badly using a hatchet cutting wood for the fire. I have awful pains in my back & the calves of my legs at night but I think it is overwork and exertion that causes the most of it and that it will pass away after I get a good rest. You will soon forget the whole surroundings in Ireland. M^{rs} Devaney Jim & all are well but lamenting her only grand son who died.

(l) Now Tommie xmas will almost be on you by the time this reaches you and fearing anything might turn up or I be turned down that would prevent your mother & I & c sending greetings for the very holy season of the year it will be just accept our best for I tell you a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. I hope your Dad will win the worlds prize in a good hen & Cock. I don't think we could raise a prize even if we had a hen that would lay every day in the year but Sunday. Not much value set on them here.

(m) Now Dear Tommie I will lay off for this time and pray that God will bless & safeguard you Dear Dorie and darling son (lovely little Bobie Daniel). Please Convey to your Dear people Mr & Mrs Daniel and entire family our very best wishes & regards especially Master David. Your Mother & Harriet join me in those good wishes. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Your affect Father.

Robert Hughes.

(Hu 8)

15th Dec^r 24.

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) In reply to your nice letter of 29th Oct duly received. Delighted we all are to see you all enjoy good health save your dear wife. We hope the cold has banished & gone from her for good and that she is back to her former good health. Also very pleased to see that M^r & M^{rs} Daniel & family are well. Do you know we are over joyed at our wonderful grandson. Why he is a picture out of a thousand & to see how he sits for his Photo to be taken why as solid as any man. He is the most wonderful child of his age I have ever saw & so says your mum & Harriet and all the girls & visitors say they never saw the like of him at his age for beauty & strength he surpasses all. God bless our Dear Son. We have him in a beautiful frame. To distinguish as to which of the fam[*i*]lies he most resembles would be a hard test but to put it plainly he is just the picture of myself when I was his age.

(b) Now Dear Tommie it is just getting into the xmas week. I know xmas greetings &c will be far behind time but better late than never. I got a bad cold & was confined to bed for over three weeks. Am only a few days able to move about the house but thank God I am improving & your mother & Harriet were so busy caring me fearing I might kick it out that writing was out of the question. Your mam has a cold just presently but Harriet is keeping good. The whole Country is suffering from same & I believe it is a form of Flue. The weather is fearful wet stormy & cold. The want of Fuel is badly felt. Harriet had to collect boys & girls with bags to carry a supply out of our bag for the xmas so you can say

there was some sport at that. Then she got home several Carts of timber so are fairly provided for now. We will have M^r O'Connell for the xmas so we are just tidying up a little.

(c) When I was lying sick many a caller came asking how the old boss was others how is ould Sir others with a drop of Poteen spirits saying I did not look too bad after my Confinement so you see the are not a bad lot after all. In fact all are nearly Republic back again in this area & Mayo.

(d) We hear regular from Amelia. Her & Bob & two children are real well but I have not heard from poor Jack but now that I am on my feet I must hunt him up. The strange thing is he knows where we live & why not he write. I only hope nothing bad has befallen him. George Stewart & family are fairly well. He and the boys pays us more frequeunt visit than usual and right well the all looke. All were quite delighted with Sons Photo. George & the young wife has not sent us their wedding group yet but I suppose they are enjoying the times. I get War Crys fairly regular. Thank your wife for me for her great Kindness to me in sending War Crys &c. No one could ever have a larger place in my heart than she and to see you her & my darling grand son all joined in sending me such a xmas gift it really makes me very happy.

(e) I was very glad to see you got the position you sought. It will keep you going fully lively. I hope it carries a good salary with it. I would prefere it to an indoor job & then when yous are all living so near other and mixing it makes the time so happy & bright. I often think of yous when I be out by myself what a happy united people ye are. You will give Master David my very best & all the pupils of the short hand school but I think that includes yourself. I hope you got my last letter & the Connaughtman. I must write your Dear wife in a short time. I am just thinking do I owe her one. Mother & Harriet will

write Dorie in a few days. Harriet & us all are delighted with the beautiful Present you & Dorie sent her.

(f) Well dear Tomie it is strange how qu[i]ck the time flies. When I was laid up I lost count of the days of the week not being about seeing the people goeing to Mass Church &c. So on a Sunday evening M^r Morrison called to see me. Your mother had War Crys &c on the table by the fire for me & mark you this was sunday but I did not know it and after an hours conversation I asked what day it was and he very gravely said Tuesday so when my sunday came which was Friday by right I got up dressed gathered my Bible Hymnal &c and sat down to keep the Lords day in a befitting manner. I saw Lorries of dead Pigs & all sorts of traffic going on outside and I said to your Mother what does them brutes mean working that way on Sunday and all the time I could see there was a rather amusing smile or hidden grin on her face so then they had the laugh at me. It looked like my memory failing me but it was morrison the man that would not tell the truth unless where a lie would not suit but thank God I have a little memory yet.

(g) We all join in wishing yous all happiness & hopin[g] yous have spent a bright & happy xmas & new year and now Dear Tommie Dorie & great man of the house darling grandson Boby accept our best love & wishes same applying to M^r M^{rs} Daniel & family.

Your affect. Father

Robert Hughes.

(Hu 9)

6th [~~erased:~~ Au] Sept 26

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie

(a) In answer to your letter of 6th June last duly received with order for Postage on Books for which I thank you. Mother & I are very rejoiced to see you all injoy the blessing of good health especially master Bobie that he is growing such a fine sturdy little man & baby Joan. Why at the rate you are going you won't find to your home quite a flock of little angels. I am very glad to say that mother & I are in very good health and getting along wonderfully well thanks to God for His great goodness and mercy to us. How wonderfully He has brought me back to health & enabled me carry on with the toils & necessaries of lifes existance.

(b) We have had a very good dry summer & harvest with good crops of all Kinds. I had very hard work at the Turf with no help but I secured good little boys with their Donkeys & carts & creels and has all out of the bog on the Road ready for home & hopes to have them home in a week or so. What expense is attached to such work but I have got all well done & has plenty for twelve months. I have done little or no good at the fishing so far but hope to get some good sport now that the net season is over.

(c) We feel very lon[e]ly after Harriet. She & Mr O'Connell are in the pink of health & happiness. We hear from them regular & gets papers & Periodicals from them also. Bob Reynolds Amelia & children are well and quite happy. He also sends me Papers weekly so I am well catered for in that direction. George has forgotten to write us since his

last visit or no news from George Stewart Mrs Stewart & his youngest daughter are here still. Yes Tommie it is good some one cares for them.

(d) We do have horse Races, Football matches &c but your mother nor I go to any. I never leave home always busy with my beautiful garden that is so much admired. Yes Dear Tommie if mother & I could only get over to you & see the beauties you describe of the situation of your beautiful new house &c & then the Dear little ones & your nice wife, no doubt it would prolong our days. Now Dear Tommie I pray God bless you & make your new home a paradise of joy, happiness & peace.

(e) The Rector Rev Mr. Glynn of Skreen our neighbouring Parish died suddenly the other day. Also one of our good old neighbours Jas. Reynolds as time passes on and people pass over the road no trav[er]ler returns.

(f) I hope Mr Daniel Mrs & family are all well. Please convey our best wishes to each & all of them. Now Tommie I am entered well into my 74 year & I am undergoing a course of mechanical treatment for Rh[umatism] & stiff joints and good circulation of blood with an instrument called a "Pulsehaun" and great results are following it. The inventor of the instrument went down with the "Titanic" so is a rare little instrument worked on wheels with a Batt[er]y inside that vibrates the whole frame. I have two Patients under my treatment along with myself.

(g) Now Dear Tommie this is a poor letter but it will show you at least we are alive. The Country is Crowded with tourists & no doubt there is great sightseeing here with fashionable motors &c passing to & fro from early morning to night. Now Dear Son & Daughter and grand little children mother & I join in fond love & best wishes with xxxxxx to the Dear little Babies

Your affect Father & mother

R & M Hughes

(Hu 10)

14th Feby. 27

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co.Sligo

Ireland

My Dear Tommie & Dorie

(a) In reply to your kind letters of 19th Nov^r last & 21st of same month, duly received and delighted we were to see that you were all so well & happy & to see that the dear little children were so well. We were so pleased with their photos. Why Bobie is a man any day & is very good looking and little Joan why she is a beauty. Mother & I were so pleased at the very nice xmas gifts you sent us and the very kind way the little ones sent their gifts in Kissmas Kisses. I also got the papers War Cry & xmas number &c.

(b) I am wondering did you get my last letter. It was addressed to your old address "Onehunga". There was a photo in it of part of the house & garden. I got the photo of your house. It looks lovely. Well I thought before this I would have had groups of photos of ourselves and different parts of the garden forwarded to you for the xmas but the lady that took them only gave us a sample which I sent you and when she got the money for a good number when she would have them finished absconded with the money so we were done out of all but please God if I pull through to the summer I will secure some & forward them.

(c) I dare say by this time you will say I am dead & gone. If you got my other letter you could see I got a bad turn. Well I was taking double care of myself but finally I was knocked down. I kept up on xmas day and had dinner with Mother & Mrs Stewart & little Jennie but the following day I had to take the bed, and there I remained up to a few

days ago & what an anxious time we had. I suffered a lot just the old form of ailment. The Doctor could do little or nothing for me. Mother also got a bad turn. We were both down together but she struggled up after a few days & that was a good job for me. She is pretty well again but I am only able to get up a little while in middle of the day. I am far from well but very thankful that God has spared me yet another while.

(d) We had an awful storm about a week ago. It swept over all this country. It came from the S. W. It raged for a full day carried away houses, sheds, hay & corn stocks uprooted trees causing terrible destruction, loss of life and hundreds injured. Our house got a bad tearing, hundreds of slates carried away walls around the garden leveled to the ground; vegetables &c blown clean away. Scotland & parts of England were even more severe hit with any amount of people killed & injured damage[*erased: d*] to ships &c. I was in bed on this terrible day when the house began to shiver from the foundation & the slates flying like chaff. I got out of bed thinking the house was going to collapse. I thought of going under the bed for safety but saw it would be death to me so I went back to bed & the storm abated in the evening.

(e) Well this has been an awful winter with cold high winds & rain. Just now there is a piercing wind & frost. I have to keep very close by the fire but thanks be to God I have a good one. I do be wondering what will be the next calamity. The flue is raging in this Country & a great number of deaths. Also a lot of suicides & murders here & at Tubbercurry & Skreen. All those places were familiar to you so you see the Country is not in a happy mood.

(f) I have letters regular from Bob Reynolds and Amelia. Them & the little children are all fine & though xmas day is not kept in Scotland they had a happy time. New year day is the Scotchmans day. Little Bobie & Tommie & Molly sent mother & I nice cards.

(g) Well Dear children We do have nice & frequent letters from Harriet & Mr O'Connell. They are getting on fine. They are now stationed in Limerick City. The last letter we had from them I was informed they were going to have an addition to their Jaz Band so I suppose like myself yous will be wondering what sort of a band it will be for I confess it puzzled me but another letter to Mother made it look like something else.

(h) I am just after getting a letter from Peter Stewart New York City. He also sent his Pho. He is got a fine boy & states his father (Dodo) is doing well & working every day. He states is father does be greatly troubled over the way the family is seperated & so he should. He also says the father is as gray as a real "scotch grey". There is a number of people from around here living just in same locality as the Stewarts. He states they be always talking about me.

(i) I have had no letter from your brothers John & George this long while. I am thinking John may be drafted from India to China. There is big trouble out there & some sad happenings. All the Reserve in this Country are called up both Naval and Military. I hope it did not touch on you out there. Mrs Stewart & little Jennie are still here. I am beginning to think it rather funny for me to be keeping another mans wife along with my own but some how I am loath to turn her out on account of how she minded poor Annie's children. I fear something strange has happened your Cousin Hugh Bell. Though I wrote him twice I have got no reply. I was glad to hear the news you sent me re your Uncle J Pakenham, Owen Vahey &c.

(j) Now Dear Tommie & Dorie I think this is all for the present. Hoping I will be able to send yous a better account next time. I just have no Flower seeds now nor is there any in the shops but I hope to secure some during the summer which will be winter with yous. Please give our best to Mr & Mrs Daniel and family. Your Mother & I join in best

love & wishes to your both & Dear little children wishing yous a pros[p]erous & happy
year

Your affect Father & Mother R. Hughes

PS. I am looking at my Rods & wonders will I ever be able to go out again. It will
be time for you send me a few flies. Good bye.

(Hu 11)

11th July 27

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

(a) Well Dear Tommie and Dorie Its high time to reply to your letter of no date
duly received a short time ago. We all were very glad to see by it that you Dorie & Dear
little children were in the very best of health & spirits. We had a good laugh over Master
Boby & the sugar stealing. We are all fairly well thank God and getting along in our usual
style. Harriet & her husband are here and is the possessor of a fine bouncing young Son
that was born on 30th May. Dr. Clarke and all who came to see the new arrival say he is
one of the most beautiful babies. They very seldom saw its equal so I have another
Grandson (Boby) added to four other Grandsons all Bobies. Mr O'Connell is having a nice
time fishing &c. He has left the army & is going to settle down on his farm. Its only seven
miles from Mullingar.

(b) We are just right into the summer, weather very unsettled. One part of the day
you could go in your shirt another time you could do with your overcoat and a blanket.
The Country looks fairly well just now but Crops generally backward. My garden is a
picture to look at. It is one blaze of Roses Orange Lillies & thousands of other varieties.

Tourists & others motoring stop to have a view of it. Well the Crops in it far exceede other years. The agricultural instructor wanted me give him a demonstration plot in it but I would not let him in. All his plots &c could not compare with mine either in style or stuff.

(c) I am very busy and hard worked at the Bog saving the turf for a good fire for the winter. God has been wonderful good to me for even in March last I had no hopes of ever being able to do any useful work. (Well I can say see what the Lord has done for me.) I fish very little though I keep my Rods in good order & Mr O'Connell gets me plenty of flies but none to beat yours. On tomorrow the 12th July I finish up or commence my 75th year. It will be my birthday & I have not yet decided whether I can spare time to make a big day of it.

(d) We were very pleased to hear so good news of Bulla &c. They all seem fine Except your Uncle John. Its good to know he is improving and poor old Owen & Johney Burk. Yes what wonderful changes in Athavallie. The house of God turned into a den of thieves. Yes Tommie it was sad about my brother Samuel & Hugh Bell but God knows what is best. Your brother John is about finishing up with the Army & Expects to be home to see us by the fall of the year. He desired me convey to you Mrs &c his love & best wishes. Bob Reynolds Amelia & children are all fine & sends their best to yous all. Mrs Stewart was very pleased with your kind regards for her &c. Your brother George is still in Dublin but seldom we hear from him. He got quite unsettled after the death of his young wife.

(e) I dare say yous saw the news of our General Election. Well the Republicans &c outvoted the Goverment party by long odds. Still they would not take the oath and got chucked out like dogs and the Goverment with President Cosgrove [*Cosgrave*] as head formed the new Goverment and will carry on for five years more.

(f) I was glad Dorie got th[e] snaps. You never made mention of how you liked the song as I thought it a [word illegible]. The Bicycles are going to be taxed same as the motors 5/- per head so that will add greatly to the Exchequer. Yes America did get a Clipping. What wonders are occurring all over.

(g) Now Dear Tommie & Dorie as I never leave here I cannot give much outside news but all your old acquaintances are fairly well. Mrs Devaney Jim Mrs & c.

(h) Now Dears I will stop joined by mother, Harriet & husband in fond love and best wishes to you all and little Bobby here through it's mam sends great new kisses to his dear Cousins Bob & Joan. I send my best to Mr Daniel Mrs & family & hop[e]s all are well.

Your affect Father & mother

R Hughes

(Hu 12)

5th March 1928

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co. Sligo

Ireland

My Dears Tommie & Dorie

(a) Just a line to let you know that I am still on the land of the living thank God & in reply to your nice letters yours Tommie of 9th Nov^r last & yours Dear Dorie of 20th of same month. We were all delighted with the good news from both sides of the house & to see that the Dear little children were so well & that your place was so beautiful.

(b) We have just emerged from the worst & severest winter that could be ever remembered. I put in a hard time. I succeeded in keeping out of the bed to the first day of

the new year, but I got from that on a hard time. I was over a month confined to bed and now I am creeping on slowly towards recovery. Mother is far from well but still able to be about but greatly failed. Mr O'Connell & Harriet are in fine form & little son M. R. is getting a wonderful child very big & strong & a real playboy. I had to cut my whiskers so that he could not *not* get a grip on me. Many a time he is compared with your big mans Pho[*to*]. He has nice bright hair.

(c) Well Jack has landed at last. He is a fortnight home now & is in great form. He is great Company & has us much delighted with all his travels &c. Mr O'Connell nearly covered the same ground during his military service so you may say they are well met. They have my place altogether improved. It is an up to date place. They have hen runs wired off new walks walls &c the garden all tilled & ready from one end to the other & onions & cabbage down but it is rather early for potatoes yet. I have great work directing & keeping the soldiers in order. One will have the work in Indian style the other in Jap so I often have to say this way lads.

(d) We hear George is married again to a Dublin lady though he made no mention of it when writing to your mother recently. We hear regular from Bob Reynolds. Amelia & children are fine also himself. They have another young daughter now. They are all coming to see us in July next so we will have quite a crowd. We hear also that George Stewart is married in America. I have not heard from himself.

(e) Now Dear Tommie I have gave you all news of your friends so far so I know. We never hear from Mayo or Monstroboise [*Monasterboice*] so I cannot say how them folk are. M^{rs} Devany & son Jim & his wife are well, and nothing very strange around here. But it has been a year of tradgies and calamities &c & as you will remark by the Papers. It's nothing but that the world over. All the disasters to the poor fishermen on the western Coast here & on the Donegal, Galway & clar[*erased: ke*] coasts. All the lives that were

lost and fishing gear, and then the flooding of lands. Miles of Country under water and Cattle & lives lost. This is a safe place we live in good River that carries all floods to the Sea. M^r O'Connell goes up to his farm occasionally, but he feels so lonesome that he does not stop long at once. He says his place which is within seven miles of Mullingar is all in flood.

(f) What a wonderful lot of notable deaths this year Earl Haig W^m O'Brien Lord Oxford and hundreds more. I often take note of their ages & it reminds me of something in that I am almost senior to any of them.

(g) What do you think of the church of England & the Prayer book. It seems we will have to pray by Act of Parliament. What about Mexico. It is in a fearful state. I see our Free States built yours a new ship. Some of your high officials visits this states and gives it & the Government great praise. I see Lord Jellico[e] has got a new sit. The President of this State had a great tour through America & Canada. He got a great reception ever[y] where. The Government is working well here now.

(h) I hope you got my last letter & the seeds. I am just going to try the Pop[p]y seed Dorie sent me. I hope it will grow. Mother & I were delight with the nice Xmas box you so kindly sent us. We were like two kids comparing what we would buy. We were delight with your seafaring expedition and in fact we are very pleased to see how happy & well ye are & I hope Mr. Daniel, Mrs & family are all well. Kindly remember us to them all.

(i) Now Dear children I think this is all. I am joined by Mother, Jack Harriet & M^{rs} O'Connell in best wishes & love to yous all & Master MB sends kisses to his little Cousins.

God bless yous all & your home,
your affect Father & Mother.

R & M. J. Hughes.

(Hu 13)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Co Sligo

Ireland

28 August 1928

My dear Tomie

(a) In reply to your very kind and sympathetic letter which I received the first week in August I was very pleased to hear from you for no doubt your letter comforted my sad heart very much. But dear Tomie I feel very lonely after Father and he passed so quickly away but his end was peaceful for he was a very good living man. Just 47 years we were living together and Father was 10 years older than me. If he had lived to July he would have been 75 year and I am 65 since last January and strange to say I look a lot older than Father did. If I was living in Engla[n]d or Scotland I would get the old aged pension at 65 years but not in the Free State until 70 years. So if I had been the age 10/shillings a week would have been a help to me. Father had not much [*word illegible*] money when he died but had plenty while he lived but sickness and Doctors costs something. I got £70 out of the constabulary force Fund so that finishes my money in that quarter and when I paid up all expenses I havn't got a lot to live on. I'm sorry to say I'm not feeling very well. I had two bad turns for the last few months.

(b) All the rest of the family are keeping well. Jack is still in Scotland. I think he would rather be out in India for he liked that Country very much. The warm climate agreed with him best. I had no word from George this length of time. I know he is in Dublin but I hav'nt got his address. I heard he was married again but I dont know how true it is. Harriet and her husband & Baby are all very well and getting along splendid. They

are very kind to me. Her little boy is just walking and he is so very like his Grandfather and a busy boy.

(c) I hope Dorie and the children are all very well. I'm sure they keep her busy.

Many thanks to you for your kind remembrance to me. You were always very good and kind to me. It is a pity we are so far apart but I expect we will all meet one day where there will be no parting. Now dear Tomie I will draw this letter to a close. Hoping to hear from you soon again. Give my love to Dorie and children and accept the same.

Your loving mother

M. J. Hughes

(Hu 14)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Ballina

Co Mayo

Ireland

th 8 January 1929

My dear Tomie

(a) It is about time for me to answer your very kind and welcome letter which I received the end of November. Delighted to see by your letter that you and Dorie were enjoying good health. Yes I'm sure Dorie has a troublesome time of it with the children. The whooping cough is very severe while it lasts. No fact no member of the house can get any rest. Well Tomie I hope the letter will find you & Dorie in the same good health and the children quite well again as the departure of this letter leaves all here in fairly good health thank God. We all had a slight cold at the Xmas but all are well again.

(b) We are having very severe weather since before Xmas with frost and snow and bitterly cold winds. Needless to say we had a very lonely Xmas. We all missed dear Father very much but I know he is much happier than we are. Little Michael is the only cheer I have for certainly he is a pleasant child and so old fashioned. He will chat me and he is so like his grandfather and very tall for his age. He is a year and 7 months.

(c) Well Tomie you will be sorry to hear that Amelia buried one of her little children six weeks ago. It died from Diptheria and was only 4 days ill. Little Eileen the youngest the one age with Harriets little Michael. Then that trouble was only over when two more of them took it Bobbie and Molly. They are out of Hospital and going on all right. It was lucky the second little boy escaped for he is not a very strong child. He has a weak chest all the rest are in good health. Natural enough Amelia and Bob feels it very much to loose their little child.

(d) Well Tomie I thought I would have written to you for the Christmas. Anyway I am getting very bad at writing. My eyesight is failing very much. Jack is still with Amelia. He is in hard luck. Cannot get anything in the line of a situation. You know Tomie Jack has only a small pension £48 per year and that would not look at keeping him. As for George he never writes & I do not know where he is I had a letter this time last year and never had a line since. Many thanks to you for your kind Xmas present also the Auckland number and war crys. You are very kind and thoughtful. Now dear Tomie I will draw to a close. Joined by Harriet Michael and little Michael in love to you Dorie and children

Your loving Mother

M J. Hughes

(e) P. S You will note a change by the address. Owenbeg P. O. is now in the Ballina Area.

(Hu 15)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Ballina

Co Mayo

10th Decr, 1929

My dear Tomie

(a) A few lines in reply to your very kind and welcome letter which I received on 9th Decr. I was delighted to hear from you and so glad to hear that you and the children were quite well but sorry to hear that Dorie has got such a bad turn. It was fortunate the operation was successful. Was it a serious one. She will want to be careful in future. I hope and pray Dorie will be restored to her usual good health by the time this reaches you. Im thankful to say we are all in fairly good health. Little Michael is growing a fine big boy and very smart at picking up anything he is taught but full of mischief. Yes Tomie it must be hard on you to manage the houskeeping and looking after children together with your other duties. You were fortunate to get a suitable maid. Good girls are very hard got in our days.

(b) It is good for you having summer and us having winter. We have had three terrible storms here one after the other. We thought the roof would have been blown off the house and terrible floods. We are having a fall of snow today. It might clear the air a bit. I saw on the papers where they are having very severe weather in Scotland.

(c) I have not heard from Amelia or Jack this long time. I think it was about September last I had a letter from Amelia. They were all well then. Jack was knock[*in*]g about doing nothing. The fact of the matter he does not want to work. I never heard from George since he went to London. I do often think to myself how he is getting on. I had a

letter from Anita Stewart. She is getting along splendid and has a good situation in London. She got into a very good family as governess and Jennie Stewart is getting on well in France. She will never [word illegible] until she is able to do for herself.

(d) Well dear Tomie I think this is all for this time. Trusting Dorie will be back to her usual good health when I hear again. I will now close. Joined by Michael & Harriet and little Michael in love to you Dorie and children and wishing you all a very prosperous New Year.

I remain your loving Mother

M. J Hughes

(d) PS. Many thanks for your kindness. I receive the war crys quite regular.

(Hu 16)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Ballina

Co Mayo

Ireland

14th January 1931

My dear Tomie

(a) In reply to both of your kind letters. So sorry to hear of your Illness and hoping that nothing serious is the matter and hoping you will be back to your usual good health and form by the time this letter reaches you. Glad to hear Dorie and the children are well. She must have been very worried over your Illness for it is very seldom you complain. Glad the children got over their little turn alright. They are great company to you and Dorrie and you are training them so nicely. I hope they will be a blessing to you and Dorie. You will never find them growing up.

(b) Well Tomie we all got a bad turn of Flu before the Xmas even little Michael. Thank God all are well again. It has been an awful time with sickness. I think the wet weather accounts for a lot of it together with the [*word illegible*] of fire stuff nearly all timber no turf all flooded with water. This has been a very severe winter.

(c) Well Tomie I had no letter from any of the family this Xmas. I heard from Bob Reynolds last October. They were all well then. Jack had no job that time. Having a good time walking about. He has two pounds a week between his pension and unemployment money and expecting a rise in his pension. Jack never worked at any time while in India. He was nearly all his time in stores. He often when he was here said he would work for no one so I see his words are coming to pass. If he remained in this country he would have to work. Mrs Denbury Bob Reynolds Sister spent 8 weeks in Scotland and Sailed on the 17th out from South Hampton for Capetown. Bob seemed very lonely after her. She was very poorly in health. She was very good to Bob and the family. She had plenty of money. I think she never wrote to any of the friends since she left. I was speaking to a lady from Easley that has friends in Capetown and she told me that Mrs Denbury is in Hospital and not expected to live long. I was very uneasy about her when she was here afraid she would get knocked up with us. We feel sorry for her. She was very kind.

(d) Now dear Tomie as I am not feeling too well and my eye sight is very bad I will draw this letter to a close and trusting that you will be back to your usual good health by the time this letter reaches you and that Dorie will be over her trouble and well. Many thanks for your kind present to me. You never forgot me at anytime. Now I will conclude. Joined by Harret Michael and little Michael in love and good wishes to you Dorie and children.

I remain your loving Mother.

M. J Hughes

P.S. Thanks for the Auckland Xmas Number.

(Hu 17)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Ballina

Co Mayo

Ireland

September 1931

My dear Tomie

(a) In answer to both of your very kind and welcome letters which I received some short time ago delighted to hear you are all in the best of health and spirits. Glad to hear you have got another little baby girl and that Dorie is back to her usual good health. The baby seemingly is very quiet. I think baby girls are much quieter than boys. Im sure Bobby and Joan are quiet proud of their little sister. I like the Babys name very much. What a blessing you have improved so well after your long severe turn.

(b) Well Im glad to say all are very well here. Myself is the only one complaining. I have a cold this long time and my eyesight is failing very much. I expect about this time next year if I live so long to be looking out for the old age pension. It would be a help to me. Harriet has another young son since the 19th April a lovely little Boy a fine strong child. He is not a bit like little Michael. His name is Albert Joseph. Harriet has got plenty to do now her Husband is away about 20 miles from here working. He comes home every Saturday evening. He was nearly two months out of work during the summer. The land commission were unable to carry on work with the terrible weather. The country flooded. No turf or potatos. Every thing perished with rain. This will be a severe winter on the people.

(c) I saw on the paper where George Pakenhams place was sold. He had two holdings. One was sold by private sale in Balla. That must be the Lisnolan[*erased: n*] House & land.

(d) I had a letter from Amelia a short time ago. They are all well. She has four of a family 2 boys & 2 girls. Her eldest boy will be soon 12 years. He is a fine tall boy for his age. Jack spend every Sunday with her in the City of Glasgow. He is staying about 10 miles from Amelias. She says Jack is very thin. He is getting very frequent attacks from Malareal fever and that he has got very contrary. I suppose he cannot help it. I dont know his address. I think it is mostly about the Military Barracks he spends his time. He appears to be always lonly for leaving the Army. I had no letter from George for the last three years.

(e) Well now dear Tomie I will draw this letter to a close and hoping you will forgive me for not writing to you for so long and thanking you ever so much for your kind rememberance to me and that you will be back to your usual good health when this letter reaches you. Now I will conclude joined by Harret & Michael & little Michael in love to you Dorie and children.

I remain your loving

Mother M. J. Hughes

(Hu 18)

Camphill

Owenbeg

Ballina

Co Mayo

Ireland

12th April 1934

My dear Tomie & Dorie

(a) In answer to your very kind and welcome letter which I received some time ago. Delighted to hear you were all in the best of health and hoping this letter will find you all enjoying the same. Glad to say all are fairly well here. The children got a bad turn from the whooping cough and just as the were getting out of it a bad cold set in and every one in the house took it.

(b) Little Michael eyes are coming against him very much since he started going to school. They are taking him to Sligo to an eye specialist. Our own Dr says he is afraid he will have to be sent to Dublin for an operation of the eyes. The Mother and Father feels terrible about him. He has a slight cast in one of his eyes. Im hoping when he gets the proper glasses his eyes may come all right - and to keep him from school for a while.

(c) Albert is a lovely boy. He is the picture down of his Grandfather and very like yourself. I had a letter from Amelia a short time ago. They are all in good health. Her son is getting on well and likes his job all right. I seldom hear from Jack. I think he enjoys life all right. He spends a lot of his time in the Military Barracks. They do have all sorts of games and the pass away the time for Jack never intends to work. I had no letter from George lately but I expect he is going on alright. Michael has got a position in the land commission again. He is away in Ballymote your birth place. He comes home on

Saturday evening and away early on Monday morning. He was very lucky to get a job.

The times are terrible bad. Fancy Beef & Mutton selling for 4 pence a lb. The farmers are well down and out and fancy Bacon one shilling a pound. Michael does not like the fresh meat at all. Its so cheap he imagines it is not good.

(d) Fancy you digging new potatoes at xmas. It seems so strange to the people in this country. It is only now we are having the winter terrible rain and storm. Hardly any work done around here yet. Many thanks to you and Dorry for your kind present to me. Indeed you never forget me. Im glad to hear how well the children are getting on at school. Dorry must be kept very busy with the children for any place they are the mother will be kept going. I hope Tomie you will excuse me for not answering your letter before this. It is only be times I am able to write with the rheumatic and my right hand is so bad some days my fingers are all swollen. Still I am very thankful to be as well as I am. I will now close joined by Harriet & Michael and children in fond love to you all.

I remain your loving

Mother

Mary J Hughes

(Hu 19)

[circa January 1937]

Dromore West

Ballina

C^o Mayo

Ireland

My Dear Tom & Dorie

(a) Just a few lines hoping they will find you all in the very best of good health. I am pleased to say that this leaves all here in fairly good health now. Well I am sure you

are wondering at my long delay in answering your very kind & welcome letters received for Xmas. Many thanks for your nice present to Mother. You are real[ly] too good.

(b) Well I will explain now about my long delay in answering your letters. We spent a very happy & quiet Xmas & enjoyed it fairly well. Anita & Jean Stuart were here for the New Year & what happened then every one in the house got the Flue except the visitors & little Michael. What a house we had. Michael was in bed for ten days & that was the longest ten days in his life time. Mother was in bed for five weeks. She was very bad & as for myself I thought I was going to die but it seems my hour was not up. I have more to go through. Albert & George got out of it handy. It is terrible all the deaths from Flu four & five funerals every day. Michael will say to me we will get over the sickness some time but a death is a thing we never can replace. Anita Stuart was nursing a case [omitted: of] pneumonia for Dr Clark. The patient got out of it. They were here for four weeks & we never got right sick until they went away. We can thank God to be so well again after all we went through.

(c) The weather is keeping very bad. We had a snow storm yesterday. Michael finished work in Skreen last week. No sign of another job until the end of this month March. Jack is keeping in good form. We hear from him every week. Amelia Robert & family are in good health.

(d) Well now Dear Tom & Dorie I will draw to a close as George is giving me a hand to write this. He is very busy. He is after burning his shoes. Every thing he gets is into the fire. I will now close with best love & wishes from all for a happy Easter to each and every one of you.

I remain

Your loving sister

Harriet O'Connell

(Hu 20)

Dromore West

Ballina

Co Mayo

Ireland

13th June 1937

My Dear Tom & Dorie

(a) Just a few lines hoping they will find you all in the very best of good health & spirits. I am just thinking that I never answered you last letter which I received some time ago. Delighted to see by it that you were all so well. Many thanks to you for all the papers.

(b) Well Dear Tom & Dorie I am sorry to say that mother is keeping very ill. She is all her time in bed but thank God she is not suffering any pain. I will miss her when the Lord takes her from me. She was a dear Mother too me to us all but Gods holy will must be done & to make matters worse I feel in very bad health myself since Xmas last. I hope the Lord will give me health & strength to look after mother while I have her. Michael is in good form & working again. He was a long time out of work.

(c) Jack & Albert are going to school. George is keeping delicate. He says he is his Grannys Angel. I hear from Jack very often & Amelia they are all well. No letter from George this long time. We are having beautiful weather. Michael is getting some turf cut this year. He has the garden very nice. This day twelve years we were married. The time does not be long passing.

(d) Well Dear Tom & Dorie I will now close. Excuse this short letter. With best love & wishes from all to each & everyone of you

I remain

Your Loving Sister

Harriett

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Ire. pos., Cl 6g, 9j, 10h, 12c, 12d, 15b, 17h, 18g, 18h, 19c, 20i, 23g; Hu 9b, 20c.

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tram, Hu 1g.

water, Cl 11d; Hu 1g.

communication and transport, N.Z.

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N.Z., Cl 9c; Fl 1a, 8a, 11a, 13b; Il 16e.

crops

Ire., neg., Co 3e; Dw 1g; Gr 2b; Hu 11b; Ki 4i; Ly 7c.

Ire., pos., Co 3a, 3e; Cu 4e; Hu 1d, 4c, 5b, 9b; Ki 4i, 7d; Ly 3e; Ne 1a.

N.Z., neg., Ca 1c; Il 26d, 29b.

N.Z., pos., Ar 1k; Il 6d, 7b, 14b, 20b, 22b, 32d, 34d, 37e, 38b; Ma 2b, 2c, 2d.

curiosity

about Ire., Il 27a; Re 1b.

about N.Z., Cd 1i, 2g; Ke 2d.

deaths

Ire., Ca 1a; Co 8d; Fl 1e, 11b, 13e; Ge 7a, 9d; Hu 3d, 4f, 5d, 9e, 10e, 11d, 12e, 12f,
13a, 14c, 19b; Il 16a, 16b, 31a; Ke 4a, 5e, 6b, 6c, 6e; Ki 2b, 4b, 5c, 6b, 6c, 7b,
7c, 7f, 9c, 9d, 15c; Ly 5a; Qu 3c, 4d; St 3b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 6d, 6k.

N.Z., Co 1f, 7e; Fl 11a, 13b; Il 7d, 8d, 14c, 33b, 34b; Ki 12c, 14c, 14h; La 6a; Ne 1f,
1g; Qu 4d, 4e; Su 1b.

depopulation of Ire., Il 6h, 7d; Ly 1e.

De Valera, Eamon (1882-1975), prime minister, president, Hu 7j.

distance, sense of, Ar 3g, 3h, 3i; Be 1c; Cl 1e, 4b, 8b, 13i, 17b, 18f; Cu 4c; Fl 2c, 7c; Ge 6a, 6f, 7d, 8b, 11h, 13a; Hu 7c, 7g, 11a, 12e, 17b, 17d; Il 3b, 6e, 6f, 6g, 7d, 18b, 18d, 19a, 21a, 25c, 30b, 30c, 32d, 33c, 35d; Ke 5c; Ki 1c, 15b; Ky 1a, 1i, 3c, 3d; La 4b; Ma 2b; Ne 1d, 1f; Sp 1a, 6c.

doctors/hospitals, Cl 5f, 6j, 7b, 18e, 20b, 21j, 21s, 23h; Co 1a, 1d, 7a; Hu 9f, 10a, 11a, 13a, 14c, 15a, 16c, 18b, 19b; Il 33c, 33d; Ki 11b, 14c; Ky 1i; La 4b; Ly 5a, 5b; Qu 4b, 4d; St 3f, 5b.

dreams, Ki 1e, 2d, 4b, 8c; La 1c; Qu 1d; St 5e.

Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, Co 8c.

education

Ire., Ar 2k; Hu 6e, 18b, 20c; Ke 6d; Ki 4e, 5c, 7e, 8d, 9e; Qu 4a.

N.Z., Ce 5i; Co 5c, 6c, 8b, 8c, 8f; Hu 6b, 18d; Il 30b, 32b; Ly 4d; Ma 3d.

See also England; North America.

emigration to N.Z.

advice given from N.Z., Ca 1b; Ge 11d; Gr 1a, 1c, 2d; Ki 1b.

advice sought from Ire., Gr 2g.

agents, Ge 7h.

assistance, N.Z., Ar 1d; Il 27e; Ke 1c; Ly 1g.

discouragement, Ki 1h; La 1d.

effects on Ireland, Il 6h, 7d; Ly 1e.

effects on NZ, Il 10b.

encouragement, Ge 9b, 11b, 11f; Gr 1c, 2d; Il 24e.

encouragement sought, Cd 1d.

grief at departure, Cd 1a; Cl 15a, 18a, 21d, 23b, 24a; Cu 2a; Ki 2d.

motives, Cu 4b; Il 14b; Ke 1c; La 1b; Ly 2h; St 3d, 6h.

passage (of acquaintances), Ca 1d; Il 13c, 25d, 25e, 25f, 26a, 27a; St 6h, 7a.

reception, Cu 4d; Ge 11f; Il 25b, 26a; Ma 1b; Ne 1j; St 7a.

reluctance, Ge 11d; La 1d.

requested, Il 24e; Ke 3d, 3e, 3f.

schemes, Ge 7d, 9b, 9c, 11h, 12a.

See also voyage.

England

connections, Ce 4f; Hu 15c; Ki 13c; St 3g.

education, Ke 8c, 11b.

emigration from Ire., Cl 11b; Fl 3c; Ki 6c, 9e, 10b.

marriage, Ce 1a.

newspaper, Ge 4c.

pension, Hu 13a.

return to Ire. from, Cl 6h; St 3g.

wages, St 3g.

war, Ar 1e; Ly 1f; Ne 1h.

work, Cl 6h; Hu 15c; Ke 4b, 6b, 9b.

family, Ire.

conflict, Cl 6h, 6l, 8e; Ke 1c, 3e, 5c; Ki 15d; La 1b; Ly 5b, 8b, 8c; Ne 1b, 1m, 1n; Sp 7a; St 3d.

harmony, Ca 1a; Cd 2b, 2e; Cl 8e, 9k, 10e, 12c, 12e; Fl 3c, 13e; Gr 2c; Il 10c, 13c; Ly 6b; St 1b, 1e, 2a, 4c, 4e.

reproach, Fl 13c; Ge 4c; Gr 2c; Hu 4d; Ke 3c, 3e; Ly 8b; Qu 5c.

family, N.Z.

conflict, Gr 2c, 2e; Ly 4f; Qu 1d.

harmony, Be 1f; Co 3h.

reproach, Gr 1d, 2c; Ly 2i.

See also North America.

family name, Ly 2b, 2c.

Famine, Great, Dw 1g; Hu 1h.

farming,

Ire., Ar 2k; Cl 12d; Co 1b, 5a; Gr 2d, 2f; Hu 3c, 4e, 6a, 18c; Ki 7d, 7e, 15b; Ly 2e,
3b.

N.Z., Ar 1k; Be 1c, 1d; Ca 2e; Ce 5c; Ge 6f, 7e, 12a, 13b; Il 6e, 8e, 12f, 20b, 33g,
35b, 35c, 37e; Ma 2a, 2b, 2d; Ne 1j.

fertility, Cl 17e; Co 3g; Il 12e; Ki 7g; Ly 2b.

fire, Ar 1g; Ca 1c; Ge 11a; Hu 1e; Il 35b; Ne 1d.

food and drink

Ire., Be 1e; Cl 5e, 6k, 9j, 12c, 18d, 18e, 18g, 20e, 21j; Hu 4e, 7d, 8c; Ki 2f, 8b, 8f; Ly
5d.

N.Z., Be 1e, 1f; Cl 3c, 13d, 18e, 21j; Cu 6b, 6c; Il 13e, 20c; Ki 1d, 1f; La 4c; Ma 2f;
Ne 1i; Qu 3d; Re 1c.

France, Hu 7d, 15c; Ki 15a.

gardens/flowers

Ire., Cl 13i; Hu 1c, 1d, 3b, 4b, 5e, 9d, 10j, 11b, 12c, 12h, 20c; Ki 4c, 4f.

N.Z., Cl 9b, 21k; Ge 13c; Hu 1f, 7h; Il 7b; Ki 11a, 13i; Ma 1a; Qu 3d.

gifts

exchanges, Cl 24d; Co 3d.

from Ire., Ar 1d; Cl 18d, 21q, 21r, 24d; Cu 4e; Il 4c, 7d, 10c, 13c, 24a, 27c, 28d; Ke 11f; Ky 1k; Qu 3d; St 4f.

from N.Z., Co 8f; Hu 8d, 8e, 10a, 12h, 14d, 16d, 18d, 19a; Il 4c; Ky 2c; Ly 7b.

within Ire., Cl 21j; Co 2a.

promised from Ire., Cl 9i.

Gladstone, William Ewart (1809-98), prime minister, statesman, Il 34e.

gold diggings, Ce 5c; Cu 5b, 6b, 6d, 6f; Fl 2c, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 8c, 9b, 10a; Il 3h, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5d, 6c, 14e, 26d; Ne 1h; Sp 4b.

graveyards/funerals/burials

Ire., Hu 3d; Ke 4a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 11d; Ki 6c; Ly 5d; St 2h, 6b, 6i.

N.Z., Fl 11c, 11e; Il 7d, 8d, 33e; Ki 14c; Su 1h.

Grey, Sir George (1812-98), soldier, explorer, colonial governor, premier, Ar 2e, 2h.

health and illness

Ire., neg., Cl 11e, 14e; Co 2b, 6a, 7a, 7f, 8g; Cu 6f; Hu 1b, 3b, 4b, 7a, 7k, 8b, 10c, 12b, 13a, 16b, 18a, 19b, 20b; Il 12c, 37b; Ke 1b; Ki 4d, 9c; La 2b; Ly 2a, 2g, 4b, 4g, 5b; Qu 1a, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5a.

Ire., pos., Ar 2j; Ca 2a; Cl 6i, 11b, 16c, 18a, 24a; Dw 1a; Fl 13e; Hu 6c; Ke 1a; Ki 4g, 5b, 7d; Ly 7e.

N.Z., neg., Hu 16a; Il 5a, 28a, 30f, 33d, 34b; Ki 3b, 5a, 12a, 13d, 14g; Qu 3c, 4b.

N.Z., pos., Co 8c; Cu 4c; Fl 2c, 10a; Ge 7c; Il 6a, 18a, 26c, 28e, 32b, 34b, 35d; La 1a, 4c; Ma 1c, 3a; Ne 1b; Sp 4f, 5a.

reason for emigration to N.Z., Qu 2b; St 2b, 6h.

reason for moving within N.Z., Cl 13c, 17d; La 4c; Qu 2c.

reason for return to Ire., Gr 1a, 2b.

home in Heaven, Co 4b; Ge 5f, 9d; Hu 4g; Il 31b.

home in Ire.

address, Ar 1a, 2j, 3a; Ca 2a; Ce 3a; Cl 6a, 21r; Cu 5a; Fl 1b, 1f, 2b, 12e, 13c, 13e;

Gr 2g; Il 7a, 30b, 33a; Ke 2a, 2b, 4a, 9b; Ki 1h; Ly 5b; Sp 5a.

characteristics, economic, Ar 1d; Be 1c; Ca 1b, 1e; Cd 2e; Ge 12a; Il 7d, 14b, 17b,

20b, 24e, 37e; Ke 2d, 3f; La 1d; Ly 2h, 4g; Ma 2c, 2g; Ne 1q; Sp 7a; Su 1c, 1g.

characteristics, physical, Cl 5e, 5g; Il 5b, 6c, 7c, 20b; Ki 11f; Ma 2f, 3a; Su 1h.

characteristics, social, Cl 4e; Fl 11c; Ge 5h; Il 19d; Ki 5c.

country, Cd 1a; Il 33a; Ke 2b, 10d, 11e; Ki 1g, 13c; Ky 1e, 1i; St 3k.

dwelling, Ar 1i; Cl 1e, 8b, 8c, 9i, 10b, 11d, 11f, 11g, 12b, 14d, 21q, 23c; Co 1d; Hu

5e, 5h, 5i, 6a, 6f, 8b, 9a, 9b, 9d; Ke 5d, 11d; Ki 13f, 15b; Ma 1c; St 1b, 1e, 3d,

4c, 6b.

emotional associations, Ke 2a, 2c, 10a, 11d; Ki 5c; Ma 3a.

household, Cd 2e; Fl 2d, 3c, 10d; Ke 2a, 2c, 7b, 10a, 10b; Ki 4e, 9c; La 4d; St 3h.

neighbourhood, Cd 1g; Fl 10b; Il 28f; Ly 3d; Ma 3a; St 3c.

place, Be 1f; Cl 8d, 11h, 13i, 16f, 22b; Cu 4d, 4e; Fl 10d, 12e, 13b; Ge 7f, 7g; Hu 7i,

11d, 12c, 17b, 18c; Il 4b, 6a, 6g, 6i, 7d, 9a, 12f, 13b, 17b, 17c, 17d, 18a, 23d,

28b; Ke 8d, 11f; Ki 1f, 5e, 10a; Ky 1j; La 1c; Sp 1d; St 1a, 5b, 6k.

return to, Ar 1b; Be 1e; Cd 2b, 2f, 2g; Cl 3c, 3e, 5h, 6h, 6j, 7b, 11b, 13e, 13g, 18g,

20e, 24d, 13i; Co 3b, 3d, 5b, 6b, 7c, 7g, 8e, 8f; Cu 6f; Fl 3b, 3c; Ge 7d, 12d; Gr

2a, 2g; Il 4f, 10d, 14a, 15b, 15c, 18f, 19a, 26d, 27a; Ke 5d; La 4b, 4d; Ly 1g,

2b, 2e, 6a, 6b, 8c; Ma 3d; Sp 2b, 3b, 4c, 4d, 6a; St 3h.

home in N.Z.

address, Cl 2m; Ke 9a.

characteristics, economic, Ge 13c.

country, Cl 8a, 11a, 13a, 13b, 13c, 14e, 19b, 20a, 21d, 23b.

dwelling, Ar 2m; Cl 1c, 14b, 21h; Ge 1f, 5h; Hu 5h; Il 29d, 33e, 33f; Ky 2c.

emotional associations, Cl 13a.

place, Hu 9d, 12i; Il 24e, 33c; Ki 14g, 14i; La 4b.

return to, La 4d.

home in North America, Fl 4b.

Home Rule, Cl 1f; Ke 10d; St 3k.

household furniture

Ire., Cl 24c; Ki 15b.

N.Z., Be 1d; Ce 5c; Ky 3f; Ma 3d, 3e.

household prices/rents

Ire., Cl 13h; Hu 3b, 7k; Re 1b.

N.Z., Ce 5b; Cl 1b, 16d; Cu 3k, 4b, 4f; Hu 5d, 5g, 7k; Il 15b; Ki 1c, 13b, 13f; Ky 2d,
3f; Ma 2f; Ne 1j.

housing

Ire., Ce 5h; Cl 24c; Co 3g; Ge 7b; Hu 3b, 3h, 4e, 5g, 10d, 17c; Ki 6c, 15b; Re 1b.

N.Z., Ar 1g, 1h; Be 1f; Ce 4b, 5c; Ge 5a, 5c, 7b; Hu 1f, 9d, 10b; Il 5b, 7b, 15b, 21d;
Ki 1c, 13a, 13b, 13f; Ky 1b, 2d; Ma 1a, 2f, 3d, 3e; Re 1a; Su 1c.

hymns and verses, Cd 1g; Co 2d, 4c, 6d; Ki 2e, 11d, 14j.

independence

N.Z., Cl 21f; Ki 4c; St 6h.

India, Hu 10i, 13b, 16c; Ne 1h.

inheritance, Ca 1f; Ce 1d; Cl 10e; Ke 6c; Ki 9g; Ly 2h, 3b, 5a, 5b, 8d; St 3d, 6d; Su 1b, 1c,
1d.

intermediaries

Ire., Cl 11e; Cu 4f; Il 7d; Ki 3d; Ly 6c; Ma 3f.

N.Z., Il 27b, 36c; Ki 1g; St 6h.

Ireland

neg., Cl 21i; Fl 1a, 3e; Gr 1b, 2b; Hu 2b, 2d, 3d, 5b, 10e; Il 6h, 10d, 17d; Ki 9f; Ky
1g.

pos., Il 14b.

Irish abroad. See Australia; China; England; France; India; North America; Scotland;
South Africa; Trinidad.

Irish counties named

other, Cl 7b; Ge 8b; Hu 1g, 2b, 3c, 3f, 8c, 12e; Ke 11e; Ki 3b; Ly 5b, 6g, 7d; Qu 3e.
own, Cu 5d; St 6f.

places, Ar 1b, 1d, 1i, 2a, 2i, 2j, 2k, 3a; Cl 1d, 3c, 4c, 7b, 8b, 9i, 10d, 10f, 11b, 11d,
11e, 11f, 12c, 12f, 13h, 13i, 14d, 15b, 16b, 17b, 17h, 18f, 18g, 18h, 19a, 20g,
21e, 21j, 23a, 23d, 24b, 24d; Co 2a, 3g, 4b, 7f, 8f; Cu 3l, 4e, 5d; Fl 1e, 1f, 11b,
12b, 14a; Ge 1b, 6d, 6e, 7d, 7h, 9b; Hu 1g, 2b, 3b, 3f, 3g, 4e, 5c, 7d, 10e, 10g,
11a, 11d, 12d, 12e, 16c, 18b, 18c, 19e; Il 1a, 3i, 4d, 5d, 6i, 10b, 15a, 17c, 18f,
20e, 24c, 25b, 25f, 26c, 27a, 27d, 34e, 36c, 37b, 38b, 38c; Ke 3d, 4a, 5c, 11d,
11e; Ki 3a, 4f, 5b, 5c, 5d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 8d, 9d, 9e, 9g, 10a, 10b, 15b, 15c, 15d; Ky
1d, 2c; Ly 1h, 3c, 5a, 6c; Ne 1g; Qu 1c, 3e; St 2g, 4e, 5a, 6d, 6f, 6g, 6i, 6k; Sp
1f; Su 1f.

Irishness, Ar 2j; Cl 5i; Fl 13b; Hu 4a; Ki 1e, 13g.

Italy, Ar 1e.

Jellicoe, John Henry Rushworth (1859-1935), naval officer, governor general, Hu 12g.

Knox, Uchter John Mark (1856-1933), governor, Ky 1c.

landlords/agents, Ce 2b; Dw 1d; Ki 9f.

land comparisons, Il 6e, 7c, 14b, 20b.

land extent

Ire., Gr 1a; Ki 7d; Ly 1c; St 6c.

N.Z., Be 1c; Ge 5c, 6d, 6f, 7d, 11h, 13a; Il 6d, 6e, 14a, 15b, 20b, 21b, 21c, 29b, 29d,
30h, 37e; Ma 2a, 2b, 2d; Su 1c.

land grants, N.Z., Ar 3j; Ce 4c, 5h; Ge 7d; Il 8c; Ne 1h.

land tenure

Ire., Co 7e; Il 18f; Ly 1c, 2h, 3b.

N.Z., Be 1d; Ge 6f, 7b; Il 5c, 6d, 6f; Su 1c.

land quality, N.Z., Be 1c; Ge 6f; Il 7c; Ne 1h, 1j.

land values

Ire., Ce 2b; Dw 1d, 1i; Ki 7g, 9f; Ly 1c; St 3e.

N.Z., Ce 5b; Ge 7b, 7d; Il 5c, 6d, 6f, 15b, 18b, 21b, 21c, 28e, 29b; Ma 2d; Re 1a.

See also North America.

letters of introduction, Cu 2b; Ki 4d; Ky 1c.

livestock

Ire., Gr 2f; Ly 1h, 3b.

N.Z., Ce 5c; Ge 5c; Il 5c, 6e, 12b, 21b, 26d, 32e, 37e, 38b; Ma 2d, 2e, 2f; Su 1c, 1e.

Lloyd George, David (1863-1945), Liberal prime minister, Cl 1f.

loneliness

Ire., Cl 11d, 13i, 21d, 23b; Fl 10a; Hu 4d, 9c, 12e, 13a, 14b, 16c, 17d; Il 5a; Ke 3b,
4a; Ki 4g, 6b, 15b, 15d; La 4a; St 2b.

N.Z., Cl 9h, 11c; Ki 14n; La 4a.

MacSwiney, Mary, Hu 7j.

male-female relations, Ar 1h; Cl 4i, 9e, 13d, 18c, 18g; Il 8b, 9a; Ly 6d.

Mannix, Daniel (1844-1963), Catholic prelate, archbishop, Cl 1f.

Maori language, Ge 6d.

Maori people, Ar 2h; Ce 4e; Hu 6g; Il 8c, 10f, 19e; Ki 1d; Ky 3e.

Maori Wars, Ar 1f, 2e, 2f, 2g, 3g, 3h; Il 6h, 7d, 8c, 12d; Ly 2f; Ne 1d, 1e, 1f, 1h.

marriages

Ire., Ar 1c; Cl 1d, 20i; Cu 5c; Fl 12b; Gr 1a; Hu 3f, 4d, 5c; Il 10e, 12d, 12e; Ke 3e;
Ki 2b, 3c, 7f, 9b, 9c, 9e; La 2b; Ly 3d, 4b, 4c, 5b; St 3n, 4d, 6b, 6d, 6k.

N.Z., Ce 4g, 5d, 5e; Cl 9e, 13d, 18c, 20c; Ge 8b; Il 15a, 15b, 20d; Ke 2a, 3a; Ky 1a;
Ly 3f; Su 1c.

See also England; North America.

Masonic Lodge, Ge 8a, 12d; Ky 1j.

Massey, William Ferguson (1856-1925), farmer, politician, prime minister, Cl 4f, 6e.

Mexico, Hu 12g.

money and credit, Be 1e, 1f; Ca 1f, 2e; Ce 2b, 5g; Cl 1d, 5h, 9b, 9g, 10e, 10g, 12f, 17d,
17f, 18f, 20h, 21i, 22i, 24e; Co 3c, 4a; Cu 4g, 6b, 6f; Dw 1b; Fl 7b, 7f, 8b, 8c, 8d,
11d, 11e, 12c, 12e, 12f, 14a, 14b; Ge 9a, 12a, 12b, 12c; Gr 2g; Hu 10b, 13a, 16c; Il

10f, 29b, 32e; Ke 3d, 7d; Ki 8a, 8b, 8f; Ky 3h, 21; Ly 2b, 2g, 2h, 3b, 3f, 4a, 4c, 4e,
5c, 7d, 8c; Qu 4c, 4e; Sp 6b, 7a; St 1c, 1f, 3c, 3e, 6f.

naming patterns, Fl 13e; Hu 4a; Il 13f, 16c, 19b, 21e, 29c, 30b; Ki 11e, 12b, 13a; Ne 1b; St
6b.

natural disasters, Il 14c; Ky 3d.

natural environment

Ire., Cl 9i; Hu 3c.

N.Z., Ce 4d; Cl 2a; Cu 6c, 6d; Ge 6d, 6e, 7d, 7e, 6e; Il 6f, 7c, 22c; Ki 1e, 14l; Ky 3c;

Ma 1a, 1b.

neighbourliness, in Ire., Ar 1b, 1i; Cd 1e; Cl 5e, 6k, 12c, 13a; Cu 3l; Gr 2f; Hu 4d, 8d, 9i; Il
4d, 14b, 29e; Ki 7b; St 3c.

neighbours, Ire.

conflict, Cl 24d; Ge 9d; Gr 2g; Hu 10e; Ke 3d, 3f; St 2g

harmony, Ar 1i; Ca 1h; Cl 5e, 6k, 17a, 19b, 24a; Co 2a; Ge 4e; Gr 2f; Hu 8c; Il 4d,
28b; Ki 7b, 8f; St 6h.

reproach, Cl 5h, 24d; Fl 12f; St 1d.

neighbours, N.Z.

conflict, Il 16e.

harmony, Cl 9d, 17e; Fl 7b, 10b; Il 6i, 26a, 28b; Ki 8a.

Irish, Ar 2m; Ca 2d; Cl 3d, 20f, 21l; Co 2e; Cu 4c, 5d; Fl 5b, 7e, 10b; Ge 8f; Il 5d, 6i,
7d, 10b, 15a, 15c, 26c, 28b; Ki 1g, 3d, 8a; Ly 1i, 2d, 3c, 4g; Ne 1g; Qu 2c, 4b;
Re 1e; St 6e.

numerous, Cu 5d; Il 10b, 12f, 17c, 26c.

newspapers

from Ire., Ca 1e, 2a; Hu 7e, 7j, 8e, 12e; Il 12c, 35a; Ki 3a; Ky 1h; Ne 1p; Qu 5d; St 3j, 5a.

from N.Z., Ar 3e; Cl 5j, 9c, 10a, 11c, 16a, 17a, 19c, 22a; Cu 3l; Hu 2a, 5d, 5i, 10a, 14d, 15d, 16d, 20a; Il 7e, 34a, 35a, 36a; Ky 1h, 1k; Ne 1e, 1p; St 6a.

non-receipt in Ire., Gr 2a; Ly 4h; St 3j, 5d.

non-receipt in N.Z., Il 18h, 34a; Ly 4g; Qu 3f.

promised from Ire., St 7b.

promised from N.Z., Il 31c; Qu 3f.

wanted in N.Z., Il 31c.

within N.Z. Fl 6g.

See also England.

New Zealand

neg., Be 1c, 1e; Cl 3e; Il 10d, 13d; La 1d, 4a; Sp 5b.

pos., Cu 4b; Ge 5h, 11h; Il 6g, 17c, 21b, 28e, 32e; Ki 1a, 1e; La 1c; Ma 2b; Sp 3b; Su 1g.

North America

connections, Co 7f, 8d; Dw 1c, 1d; Fl 4e, 10c, 12b, 13d; Hu 10h, 12d; Ke 5d, 7b; Ki 7g, 15a; St 1a, 1f, 3c.

education, Ke 5d.

emigration, from Ire., Cl 24b; Ke 1d, 2e, 3b; Ki 4i, 7g, 9e, 15a; Ly 5b; St 6d.

emigration from N.Z., Fl 13c.

family conflict, Ke 8d, 11c.

Fenians, Ly 1f.

land, Fl 4e.

marriage, Ke 2e, 8b, 8d, 10e.

return from, Cl 10f; Dw 1b; Hu 7c.

success, Dw 1d.

wages, Fl 4d.

work, Dw 1c; Fl 3d, 4c, 4d.

work hours, Fl 4d.

old age, Cl 8e; Ge 8g, 11d; Hu 6c; Il 15d, 30g, 31b, 33b; Ki 2a, 5b, 11b; La 2b, 3a; Ly 2i,
8b.

'Old Ireland', Cl 1d, 21d; Hu 5b; Il 33a; Ke 2b, 10d; Ly 1f; Re 1e; St 3n.

Parnell, Charles Stewart (1846-91), nationalist leader, Ki 9f.

photographs

exchanges, Ge 13e.

from Ire., Ce 4g; Co 3f; Hu 10b, 11f; Il 14d, 15d, 22a, 23d, 26b, 28c, 28d, 28g, 33f;
Ke 6a, 10e; Ki 15d; Ly 5d; Qu 1c, 3c; Sp 3c.

from N.Z., Cl 1d, 5j, 6b; Co 3f, 6c, 7b, 7e, 8f; Ge 8f, 9d, 9e; Hu 1a, 6g, 8a, 10a, 10b;
Il 10f, 19e, 23d, 30a, 36a; Ke 6a, 6b, 6e, 9c, 10c; Ky 3c; La 6c.

promised from Ire., Ke 5b; St 5g.

promised from N.Z., Ar 3d; Ge 13d; Gr 1e; Il 19b, 21a, 23d; Ky 1f; La 3a, 4d, 6c, 6e.

taking, Ke 5d, 11f; Ki 5e.

wanted in Ire., Hu 5a; Il 7e; Ke 5a, 5f, 9c; Ki 2f; La 2a; St 4g.

wanted in N.Z., Ge 13d; Il 23f; Ke 2b, 5b; Ki 5e; La 4d, 6c; Ma 3b.

within Ire., Hu 5c.

physical resemblance, Co 7b; Hu 5a, 7h, 8a, 12b, 14b, 18c; Il 22a, 28d, 29c; Ke 10a, 10c;
Ki 5c, 7c.

physique, Ar 3c; Ce 1a, 5d; Cl 1d, 4d, 5j, 6c, 6h, 10f, 13c, 20f; Gr 2e; Hu 1a, 8a, 10a, 12b,
14b, 17b, 17d; Il 5c, 6a, 7e, 8f, 9a, 14d, 22a, 23d, 28c, 28g; Ke 5b, 11c, 11f; Ki 4g,
7c, 7d; Ly 4b; Sp 3c; St 2a, 6j.

politics

international, Hu 12g.

Ire., Be 1c; Cl 1f, 3c, 13f, 13h, 21l; Fl 1a, 3e; Hu 1e, 2b, 3d, 4e, 5b, 6g, 7j, 11e, 12g;

Il 6h, 12d, 17d, 34e; Ke 10d, 11e, 11g; Ki 9f; Ly 1f, 2f, 2j; St 2d, 3k.

N.Z., Ar 2e, 3e, 3f; Ca 1e; Ce 4c, 5a, 5f; Ki 1g; Ky 1e, 3e; La 4c.

See also Maori Wars.

prayer, Cd 1c; Cl 12a, 18g; Hu 4g, 5h, 7m, 9d, 12g, 15a; Ki 6b, 7h; St 1e, 1f, 2b, 2f.

prices, farming

Ire., Dw 1g; Il 14b.

N.Z., Ca 1c, 2e; Il 7b, 12b, 13e, 14b, 15e, 18g, 20b, 20c, 21b, 26d, 30e, 32d, 32e,

34d, 35c, 38b; Ma 2e, 2f; Sp 6b.

prices, general

Ire., Cl 18e, 18f, 20e, 20g, 21i; Hu 18c.

N.Z., Ca 1b; Cl 2b, 2c; Ge 7f, 11a; Il 7a, 20c; Ki 1f; Ky 2d; La 4c; Ma 2c, 2f; Ne 1i,

1q; Qu 4b.

See also Australia; housing costs.

Protestant belief/practice, Hu 4g, 5i, 8f; Il 6g, 23c, 28d.

Protestant churches

Ire., Hu 1h, 7i.

N.Z., Cd 2c; Co 5e; Ge 7h; Il 6g, 18c, 19d, 29a.

Protestant view of Catholics, Ge 5f, 6a; Hu 8c; Ky 1g.

proverbs/sayings, Hu 6a, 7l; Il 18e, 35e.

Public figures, See Atkinson, Harry Albert; Cameron, Duncan Alexander; Cosgrave,

William Thomas; De Valera, Eamon; Gladstone, William Ewart; Grey, Sir George;

Jellicoe, John Henry Rushworth; Knox, Uchter John Mark; Lloyd George, David;

MacSwiney, Mary; Mannix, Daniel; Massey, William Ferguson; Parnell, Charles

Stewart; Rossa, Jeremiah O'Donovan; Selwyn, George Augustus; Stewart, George

Vesey.

racial and ethnic groups, Cl 1f, 4c; Cu 2b; Ge 5b, 5e; Hu 6e.

Ranfurly, Lord (5th Earl)

See Knox, Uchter John Mark.

recreation

Ire., Ce 1g, 4i; Cl 2b, 8b, 8c, 13e, 16b, 18g, 24c; Hu 1b, 4e, 4f, 5e, 5i, 6e, 7c, 9g, 10j,

11c; Il 4d, 32c; Ki 13h; St 5e.

N.Z., Ar 1g, 1j; Ce 4i; Cl 21g, 21h; Ge 7g; Hu 2c, 6f, 7d, 7g; Il 10b, 18d, 25e, 28a,

33c, 34b, 37d; Ki 13c, 13h; Ky 3c, 3d.

restlessness, Sp 3b, 3c.

return migration from N.Z.

analysis, Il 17d, 18f, 19a; Re 1b.

desire, Co 3b, 4b; La 4b, 6d; Sp 4c.

hope, Cd 1a; Il 4f; St 2h, 3d, 3h.

possibility, Be 1e; Cu 6f; Fl 11b; Ge 6g; Il 14a, 14e, 15b, 18f, 19a; Ly 1g; Sp 2b, 3b.

promises, Ce 2a, 2e.

reluctance, Il 18e, 18f.

reports, Ar 1a; Cl 3a, 3c, 3d, 3e, 6f, 20e; Co 3d; Fl 3b; Ge 7d; Gr 1c; Il 10d, 15c, 25e,
26d; Ly 6a; Ma 3d; Sp 4d; St 6h.

reports of promises, Co 3d, 6b, 7g, 8f.

reports of requests, Cu 6f; Il 15b; Sp 3b, 6a.

requests, Co 5b, 7c, 8e; Gr 2a; Ly 1g, 2b; St 3h, 3n.

See also Australia; England; North America.

reunions

Heaven, Cd 2c; Co 3i, 5e; Hu 4g, 13c; Il 30g, 31b.

Ire., Il 4f; Sp 4g.

N.Z., Ce 1b, 2a, 5d; Cl 10a, 13c, 21d.

unspecified, Il 14e; St 2a, 6j.

Rossa, Jeremiah O'Donovan (1831-1915), nationalist, Ly 2j.

Scotland, Cd 2e; Co 1f; Hu 6e, 10f, 13a, 13b, 15b, 16c, 17d.

Selwyn, George Augustus (1809-78), missionary, bishop, Ar 2d.

South Africa, Hu 16c; Il 36b; Ki 12b, 13a, 13b, 14g, 14i; St 6d.

sport

Ire., Cl 13f, 16b, 18g; Hu 3g, 7c, 8b, 9d; Ly 1d.

N.Z., Ce 4d; Il 10b.

Stewart, George Vesey (1832-1920), farmer, coloniser, local politician, Ge 7d, 9b, 11h,
12a, 12b, 12c, 12d.

strikes/unions, Ky 3e; La 4c.

taxes/rates, Hu 11f; Il 21c.

towns, N.Z., Cu 6e; Fl 2b, 6a; Ge 6e, 11a; Il 18b, 18c, 18d, 21b.

Trinidad, Ki 4i.

voyage

accidents, Cu 3d; Ge 4d; Il 3d, 3e, 3g.

agents, Cl 2c.

animals, Ma 1e, 1f, 1j.

arrival, Cl 5a; Ly 6a; Ma 1b; Sp 1a, 1d.

cabins, Cl 3b, 3i, 3k; Ma 1f.

climate, Cl 3f, 3g, 3h, 3i, 3k, 4a, 4b, 4d, 4e, 4h; Il 3f.

clothing, Ma 1j.

confusion, Il 2b.

cost, Fl 8c, 9a.

crew, Cl 3g, 3j; Cu 3e, 3g, 3h; Ge 2b, 5b, 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g; Il 3b, 3e; Ki 1d; Ly 6b; Ma
1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1i.

crossing the line, Cl 3h, 3j, 4a; Cu 3g; Il 3f; Sp 1c.

dead horse ceremony, Cu 3e.

deaths, Ge 4d, 5b, 5d, 6b, 6c, 6d; Il 3e.

disease, Ge 5c, 6b.

disputes, Cu 3g; Il 3e.

distance, Cl 3a, 3j, 3l, 4d; Ma 1a.

Father Neptune, Cu 3f.

food and drink, Cl 3c, 3f, 4i; Cu 3c; Il 1b, 1d, 2a; Ki 1d; Ly 6b; Ma 1h.

inspection, Il 2a.

messes, Ge 5e; Il 2b.

other ships, Ce 3a; Ge 4d; Il 3g; Sp 1b.

outset, Cu 1a; Ge 3a; Il 1a; Ly 6b.

passengers, Cl 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3j, 3k, 4a, 4i; Cu 3b, 3j; Ge 1b, 2a, 5d, 5f, 6b; Il 1d, 2c;

Ma 1e, 1h, 1j, 1k; Sp 1c.

preparations, Cl 2c; Ge 1a; Il 1c.

quarantine, Ge 5b, 5c, 6a, 6d; Il 3a, 3b, 3c.

recreation, Ce 2d; Cl 3f, 3g, 3l, 3j, 4i; Cu 3j; Il 1d, 2c; Ma 1j.

rules and regulations, Il 2b, 2c.

sealife, Cu 3d, 3f, 3h, 3i.

segregation of sexes, Ge 2b, 5g.

ship details, Ge 1a, 2a.

sickness, Ce 3c; Ge 5f, 5d; Il 1a, 3i; Ma 1k.

sighting land, Cl 4e; Cu 3j; Ma 1b.

speed, Cl 4d; Sp 1c.

storms, Cu 3g, 3i; Il 3f; Ma 1d, 1g, 1h; Sp 1b, 1c.

time, Ar 1a; Ca 1d; Cu 3a, 3b; Ge 5a, 5b, 5d, 6b, 6c; Il 3a; Sp 1c.

within N.Z., Fl 5a, 6a.

worship, Il 2c.

wages, Ire.

army, Hu 5f.

customs, St 3f.

farm labour, Hu 5b.

police, Hu 5b.

teaching, Ki 9e;

unspecified, Be 1e; Cd 2e; Qu 5d; Re 1b; St 6f.

wages, N.Z.

agricultural labourer, Cu 3k.

apprentice, Ge 11b.

boy, Ge 11f.

brewing, Cu 4b.

carpenter, Ge 11b.

coachsmith, Ne 1l.

farm labourer, Il 20c.

farm servants, Sp 6b.

general, Be 1f; Ki 1e, 1f; Re 1b; Su 1g.

girls, Ge 11e.

gold mining, Fl 6d, 7e, 8c.

gum digging, Qu 1b.

horses and drays, Sp 5b.

housework, Ge 11e.

manager on goldfields, Fl 6e.

medical doctor, Ky 2d.

milking, Il 5c, 24e.

militia, Ne 1c.

railways, Sp 6b.

smith, Ge 11b.

unspecified, Be 1e, 1f; Ge 11c; Gr 1d.

wheelwright, Ge 11f; Ne 1k.

wine and spirit merchant, Il 8b.

See also Australia; England; North America.

Wales, Ke 6b.

wars, Ar 1e; Cl 1f; Hu 7d, 10i; Il 36b; Ke 9a, 9c, 10b; Ki 5d, 15a; Ky 1d; Ly 1f.

work, Ire.

army, Hu 3f, 4e, 5c, 11d.

artist, Ki 14d, 15c.

bank manager, Hu 7d.

carpenter, Co 1f; La 6b.

clerk, Cl 24c.

farm labourer, Hu 3f.

fishermen, Hu 12e.

hotelkeeper, St 6c.

housekeeping, Co 8g; Ki 5c, 7c, 7e, 8d; St 3c.

Land Commission, Hu 17b, 18c.

marine engineering, Qu 4a.

midwife, Ki 9d.

milking, Il 24e.

mill, La 2b.

nursing, Cl 1e.

painter, Co 1f.

police, Hu 5d; Il 16e.

publican, Cl 14d, 20i; Il 15a; St 6c.

railway worker, Cl 24b.

servant, Il 16e.

sewing, Co 1f.

shopkeeping, Ki 3b, 6c, 15a; Su 1i.

smith, Ki 6c.

solicitor, Ke 5c.

teaching, Ar 2l; Gr 2b; Ki 8d, 9e, 15c.

unemployed, Ca 1e; Fl 1d; Hu 17b, 19c, 20b; Ke 1c.

unspecified, Hu 17b.

work, N.Z.

agricultural labourer, Cu 3k.

baker, Il 16d.

blacksmith, Il 18d.

boarders, Cl 6a, 9b, 9f, 14c.

bookkeeper, Ge 13c.

brewing, Cu 4b.

butcher, Ge 13b.

carpenter, Ge 11b; Il 18d; La 6b.

carrier, Ge 8b.

coachsmith, Ne 1l.

dairy station manager, Il 5c, 6e.

domestic service, Ma 3d.

employers, Ca 2b, 2c.

flax mill, Dw 1e.

general, Ce 4b, 4c; Ki 1f; Su 1b; Qu 5d.

girls, Ge 11e.

gumdigging, Qu 1b, 2c.

horse & wagon, Sp 2b, 5b.

hotelkeeper, Gr 1b, 2d.

housework, Ge 11e; Ki 11b.

ironmonger, Ge 13l.

laundry, Gr 1d.

medical doctor, Ky 1e, 1i.

militia, Ar 2b, 2c; Ne 1c.

milking, Il 5c, 24e; Su 1c, 1e.

navy, Hu 3a, 4b, 5d, 5h, 6d.

painter, Ky 3e; Ne 1l.

ploughing, Be 1f; Il 5c.

police, Il 7d.

roadmaking, Ki 1a.

saddler, Il 18d.

sewing, Ki 12c.

shoemaker, Il 18d.

shopkeeping, Fl 7d; Ge 13c; Ma 3c.

skilled trades, Ge 11c.

smith, Ge 7d, 7e, 7f, 11b, 11c, 11h.

solicitor, Ky 3b.

teaching, Ki 13h.

unskilled labour, Re 1c.

unspecified, Be 1b; Ca 2b; Cu 4d; Ge 6g, 7b; Hu 7k, 8e; Ki 1c; La 4a, 4b; Re 1b.

wheelwright, Ne 1k.

wine and spirit merchant, Il 5c.

See also Australia; England; North America.

work hours

Ire., Cl 1e.

N.Z., Be 1f; Ca 2e; Il 37e; Ki 1f; Ne 1l; Re 1b; Su 1g.

See also North America.

