

Cells will be heated here in winter and besides I have extra blankets. So I don't think the cold will affect me. I don't think of any more now. Write soon. It will be a god-send. Don't worry about me. I dare say you have a time as rough.

17. 9. 1920.

6

Adharnuid acaim.

Before proceeding with this I must apologise for the language in which I am forced to write it. Our own language is suppressed here, so you will understand that in replying you must use no Irish, otherwise I may never get it. We must take things as we find them.

After three months it is a pleasure indeed to be able to write again. I hope you are all well - my father, aunt, and yourself. J. Moloney and one of the Higgins from Kimerick called to see me here yesterday, and of course they told me the rather startling incidents in which you were involved. As the place where we were talking was a Bedlam more or less I could not catch half of what he said. He told me that you were arrested and that J. Mulcahy was shot dead at your side in Gleeson's house by the military. You seem to have had a marvellous escape. I suppose the bullets were intended for you. So they have another charge against you now! Not content with the murder of Mulcahy they must further wreak their vengeance over his corpse. I was glad to hear that White thought discretion the better part of valour by moving off, and that Linfield House can no longer be used for the foul purpose it was put to. It was news to me too that the Curfew was now in operation in Link. City and County as well as other places. Of course the Railway Strike was on before I left Cork ~~to~~ but I dare say it has developed much further since. It must be rather awkward without the trains

2

7

running, and I suppose getting papers will be difficult too. He said that Swane was released too, and that Tom Zoole was all right again. Seems to be some mystery about the thing. It should be a terrible shock to the people to have a man - and an honest, harmless one at that - murdered in cold blood. Such was the pith of the news he brought. I dare say he forgot many things as people do on such occasions and under such circumstances.

Well now for events since I left Cork. You got my letter from Belfast Jail I suppose. I never got your reply to that one, ~~tho~~ I came here on July 23rd. I am not allowed to say anything about prison treatment etc. but I can leave that to another time and place. I am in the library doing clerical work etc. every day. I am in good health and in the best of spirits. ~~The~~ You know yourself what the interior of a jail is like, but of course you got political treatment more or less. The best description of this place will be found in the opening lines of one of Milton's poems - the one will easily strike you. A pity there is not another Dante to pay this a visit. A nation's are represented here, even to the "Heathen Chinese." Not the dregs of Liverpool but the world, are here, so you see it is a bit different from Fenwick. "But what care we" as the song says. The news from Ireland repays for every indignity.

Three months cut off from the world is a long time, so you will know that I am very far behind the times as far as Irish events are concerned. Of course the priest

reads out the general items every Sunday. ⁸ Thus he says every Sunday that Ireland is in a "very disturbed state" still. Last Sunday he told us that there had been raids for arms on both sides. "I know about the round up of Archbishop Mannix, the case of the Lord Mayor of Cork and odd events like that.

How are all the neighbours, and the "boys." Give my best wishes to them all. I am due out in 12 months time from now, but I expect to be out long before then. Keep the papers carefully. Wrap them in monthly bundles. As you will probably be "on the run" or in jail I'll leave Annie Ryan in charge of that job, as I know she will be in and out as usual. I hope they are all well, and that you will remember me to them. Is my Aunt with ye still. I think J. Moloney said she was.

Mr Mac Donnell, solicitor from London visited us here on behalf of Sinn Féin. He figured prominently in the Casement trial if you remember. Will ye be able to carry on the Irish classes at all? I suppose it could not be expected that children could turn out to be shot at. I often think how they never failed in rain, hail, or snow to turn up all last winter - some of them mere babies. A good ~~word~~ token for the future. Was it a fact that there was an all Ireland Conference and what is likely to be the outcome of it? Let me know how the railway strike is getting on, and if developments are expected from same. Keep my bike clean, and also my books. Did the papers give much prominence to the Mulcahy affair? Did you get the receipt for the four pounds the police have belonging to me? It may be among my property here. I can write again in six weeks or so. Write long - very long - reply as soon as possible giving everything you think of interest. Take care of yourself - at least keep your head. Best wishes to all, and God's blessing on the work. I wish I could be there. They are glorious times. I got the Irish books, and am very glad to have them. I also have a notebook to take notes. So all a fond farewell for the present from Seosamb