Aphrahat 2000.

Before proceeding with this I must apologize 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. Mulcahy and one of the Hittis from Kilkenny 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 on your ride 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 Kinfield House can no longer be used for the present purpose it was put to. It was move to me too that theCurfew was now in operation in Kilkenny and County as well as other places. Of course the Railway Strike was on before I left Cork, but I hear it has developed much further since. It must be rather awkward without the trains.
From time to time, and I suppose getting papers will be difficult too. He said that Swane was released too, and that Tom Cole 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 pit of the news he brought. I daresay 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. I came here on July 23rd. I am not allowed to write 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. Do you know yourself what the interior of a jail is like, but of course you got political treatment worse 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 is represented here even to the "Heaven Chine.", Not the drags of Liverpool but the world are here, so you see it is a vast different from anywhere. 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.
Heals out the general items every Sunday. 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.

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 paper carefully. Wrap them in monthly bundles. As you will probably be "On the run" or in fact 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. To my Aunt with ye all. I think J. Moloney said she was.

Mr. H. McConnell, solicitor from London visited us here on behalf on Sinn Fein. 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 asked at. I often think how they never fail, in rain hail, or snow to turn up all last winter - some of them more babies. A good spoken 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 Mullingar affair? Did you get the receipt for the four pounds? The police have belonging to me. It may be among my property box. I can write again in six weeks or so. Write long - very long, reply as soon as you have given everything you think of interest. Take care of yourself - at least keep your head. Best wishes to all, and God bless on the work. I wish I could be there. They are glorious times. I got the Greek books and am very glad to have them. Also, have a notebook to take notes. To all a fond farewell for the present from Seosamhi.