

"there is nothing here but hardship and starvation"
William Dunne to John Curtis, November 16, 1846

1846 Friendly St Belfast November the 16

Dear John,

I now take the opportunity of sending you these few lines hoping that they will find you in good health and all friends as they have and me and family in the present thank you for all his blessings to us I was and am very glad to here how well you have got on in America I think it was A good job that your father Mother and family went the time they did for there is nothing here but hardship and starvation our potatoe crop is all [ised?] all over Ireland this year but I suppose you have herd of it there was not one steme of potatoes in my house this three months it is very seldome that there does one come to market at all and what comes in not worth buying they cant be eat they, sell at 8 or 9 shillings per hundred Everything else is very dear also and bad Everyday went for the poor and bad wages the people are starving in the west of Ireland and turning out for something to eat we think that there will be a rebellion if there is not something done your sister Hannah has wrote to me prety regular wince all her friends left her she did not know what it is to be alone and til now she lets me know Everything she hears from you I believe they are prety well of she says

they get a prety good share of work but hard to get in the money I hope your father and mother gets their health well and all friends you will let them all know as soon as you can when you get this that you herd from me and family Hannah and family was well when I herd from you last she said she was going to rite to you she sent me your Address you will continue to see you Aunt Mary and Margret and all friends as soon as you can and let them know you herd from me if you have any opportunity of your uncle thimothy you will let him know also I am only struggling here at the present myself ther is nothing doing in my way in the north of Ireland at the present times one so bad your cousin John is at the Curragh of Kildare we expect him home to see us this witer I hope you will write as soon as posible in receipt of this as weating with patience for your kind letter which I will expect to get with all the particulars about yourself and all friends I suppose your Mother will be glad to see this Dear John only it is a thing I could not expect it is a very little thing would be of use to me at the present all is away long ago I hope you will not fail I will expect letters in the top of the letters from my sisters I might be with your myself yet now will let me know if you think a person of my kind could make out A living I could have done prety well some time Ago but Ireland is gone to the bad there is nothing but hardship and poverty in it nor no sign of anything Else at the present Dear John you will let me know what your father is working at I hope you are saving Money you will let me know if you have Ever seen your uncle Thimothy or if you know where he lives or how he is getting on I often herd he was well of and had a good farm you will let me know if you Ever see your grand Mother or how she is and all particulars about all friends Hannah says you talk of comeing to Ireland if you would think of it I would expect you to come by Belfast as it is generally the shortest passage I would expect you would call to see me if you were in Ireland there is cheap and speedy traveling by the railroads here now so you will let me know you will direct to friendly street Belfast for me my wife and children longs to here from yous all Especially your Mother although they never had seen her they all conclude in sending their kind love to you and all friends in America if I be able I intend going to see Mrs Lynch after Christmas [?] but Remains your Affectionate unkle and family until death

William Dunne X & O