

Wednesday Sept 27. 1916

My dear Agnes -

Yours of 20<sup>th</sup> received to day and it was indeed a welcome visitor. I'm sure it must be very tiring in that shop all day, of course I know it is. Do be very care full throughout the winter and I'm very glad the Doctor has put the bar on the theatres & picture houses in your case. The atmosphere of those places is very bad, when a few thousand people get packed in close together think of the effect on the air. I'm sorry I'm not at home that I could help to make the time pass for us all together but patience will do all that. D.L. I am delighted to hear of your success with the Rowe. It must have surprised you very much. Annie, girl, spare as much as you can, don't be too anxious to throw it around it will undoubtedly come in useful later. I'm very very glad to hear it, indeed, of Siobhan; I at first thought she was too young to send away, but I quite agree that she is much better off. These during the winter and the discipline of the place will be just the thing for her. She is a square of spirits that I'm afraid

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Lizzie could never keep her under control, with all the other cares she now has to contend with. Yes, you are quite right and I'm now very glad she has been sent to the nuns. I've written to the Superior (whom I met once) about Siobhan and have asked her to teach her as far as possible. Tom's O's must be a bit on the heavy side when he hasn't yet succeeded in guiding his own helm. Lizzie always pays special attention to the bodily comfort and I dare say "our hope" has not been neglected, and therefore finds it hard to carry his own weight. I've always thought that Lizzie was very practical in that respect, really the most practical of you all. She always paid special attention to sound wholesome food, and I always admired that idea as practical common sense. I don't know whether I've ever praised her for it, but indeed I should have, but you know its always the way with men (and women too) they never say really the things they ought say and at the right time; although as far as Lizzie is concerned I think I did say a few things at the right time - ask her -

But, your pardon, good patient Annie for bothering you with my domestic affairs, I'm sure it doesn't interest you, but I'm



inclined to allow myself ramble off into  
 side issues and I'm sure you won't be too  
 angry to waste me. You are still the patient  
 wife looking little Colleen. I first got to really  
 know at Middleton Hall when you won the  
 Medal, always serious-looking, indeed you  
 didn't seem much elated by your success on  
 that occasion - any way not at a distance  
 you were quite cool - but I could see when  
 I met you coming out the gate that your  
 heart was jumping with excitement and  
 you were quite aglow with the pleasure  
 of winning. Undoubtedly we started ~~abandoning~~  
 on that day a custom which will hold through life  
 and help keep to help in our difficulties along  
 the narrow way. Again through you, I met  
 Lizzie, and his then only life for me began,  
 whether sorrow or joy, even heavy sorrow  
 loses its bitterness in perspective and when  
 that sorrow is shared by a loyal and true  
 partner, ~~you~~ a person looks back upon it  
 more as a victory over adversity, and it  
 becomes tinged with a feeling of having come up  
 well under trying difficulties and standing the  
 test - of being tried and not found wanting -  
 I only know how, after ~~life's~~ <sup>life's</sup> certainly is pleased when

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trouble knocks at the door) much your help and  
 Hannahs and Mary's (God rest her soul) and Susan  
 Ma's in fact you all, have been to me in  
 some pretty serious difficulties which I have  
 been up against for the past eight years,  
 and greater than all the material assistance  
 was the powerful use you always made of  
 prayer on our behalf and I will always  
 bless you for that. Forgive me again for  
 rambling so much into my own affairs, but  
 the mood happens to be on me and I  
 like to say to you what really is in my  
 mind. Jerry and I will not forget the Novena  
 on Oct 1st and afterwards and we won't  
 forget the Little Flower. Many thanks for the  
 pictures, they are very appropriate - I mean  
 the lines. I enclose an Irish Hymn which  
 I am sure you will like. It came back from  
 Kerry and now goes back to Cork to you -  
 I'm very glad the school is doing so well  
 Rosie's sketch is ~~so~~ splendid and has gone  
 the rounds. I wonder how she likes the new name  
 I have given her - I am expecting a  
 word from L. any day. - Remind her -

I'm writing Hannah to know how I have offended  
 her, she hasn't sent me alive - Good bye  
<sup>dearest</sup>  
<sup>lovingly</sup>