

dear brother:

Hearing through Mother M.C. that you were not feeling well I thought a line or two from California might turn your thoughts briefly from your trouble. It is a long time since I have written, but considering how time flies from me, it is all too short. Some way or another I dread writing. I receive many letters through Mother M.C. but frequently I am unable to place the characters mentioned therein. I am sincerely sorry to hear that you are ill and will be much disappointed if you do not make your contemplated trip to the Pacific coast. I believe a few months in sunny California would restore you to good health. Nellie and I were eagerly looking forward to your coming. I hope and pray that you are better ere this and that you will come to see us. As for me, I have no hope of a trip just yet. Kathleen is taking a course in nursing at Providence which is quite a drain on me

She is getting along excellently and is about half through the course. Goes to surgery in two weeks and after three months at that the work is over.

Bertha has gone back to Pittsburg (Cal) with her new baby (Rita Francine) and Adrian has just started to work in the Steel Works in that city, so now we have three absent. Edward L. finishes High School in June and doesn't wish to continue school, so he will be going to work also. Reggie and Everdolyn are in 6th and 3rd grades respectively. Nellie is working just as hard as ever. She got very little rest for the past twenty years. It will be easier for both of us from now on as our crowd is growing less. Kathleen says she and I will take a trip East after she gets through.

School is as usual, only our attendance is diminishing yearly. I expect to lose a teacher this June. A \$12,000,000 bridge is to be built across

the straits here. I presume that will put an end to crossing by ferry which employs quite a few men and probably hurt our town. Some think it will mean the coming of a better industry.

I am still organist at Crockett, two miles from here. Have to attend four times a week during Lent. With missions, funerals and regular devotions I don't get much rest. When the weather permits I walk to devotions and one of the priests drive me back.

I have not been to Oakland for some time. M.A. Morris had been sick previous to my last visit but is all right again. Spent three days at Sweeney's (Celia McDoug) during convention time in December. Saw Anne & Mercedes. All are quite well.

We have had a very cold winter followed by dry weather, broken lately by a good downpour which lasted two days and it is raining again today. The agriculturists are sure of a crop which they almost despaired of. I did my gardening during the dry spell but then

is nothing up so far except onions.

Well dear bro, I suppose there are many changes at home. twenty years is a long time I don't think I would be able to recognize any of the new generation. I have so many relations that I have never seen that I often wish for a trip home. then there is our dear mother whom I am longing to see. It appears that fate has decreed that I be denied the privilege of seeing the old home and friends.

A photographer was at school the other day taking pictures of the children and I sat in on the game. I am sending you one result. You can judge for yourself if I have changed

Love to Georgie and family  
and all at home from

Yours affectionate bro.

J. H. McIVER