

Invercargill. 12/8/88

Dear Felia.

Yours to hand this morning, I am pleased you are all well. I don't feel quite well, feel shaky and have a slight cold, brought on no doubt, by excitement and exposure at the fire. It started about 2 o'clock in the morning of Saturday, I had a bell ringing which woke me, in my drowsiness I thought it was a fire bell, but did not rush out at once, never thinking it was in the Hotel, till I heard people rushing about, when I rushed out of my room, the passage was full of smoke, I could see one man ahead of me, bending low to avoid the smoke, seeing then the danger I hastened up to him, as he had a candle. When arriving at the staircase landing being bare footed. I could feel the heat of the floor, and dense volumes of smoke

coming up the stairs, that I could not get out there, so I rushed to the other end of the building, got out of a window on to the billiard room roof, where a ladder was, by which I got clear. I am certain had I gone back to my room, I would not be here to write this, so rapid did the fire spread. I only saved the drawers & flannel I slept in. As my samples were in danger, I hurriedly packed them and saved them. As my pocket book is gone, I must stay here to take the orders over again. I had done pretty fair in business. It was not long before I was brought an Overcoat. Slippers, socks and a cap.

I will post you papers with particulars. Give kind love to all, except the same yourself.

From Your affectionate

Father

R A Elving

etc

P.S. You might show this to Hermann then I need not write