**NYPL Maloney IHP 2 - original**

**F.J. Bigger to Casement**

**17 August 1914**

Ardrigh

Belfast

17/VIII/14

**[Gaelic words]**

I have made full enquiries and wrote to Mrs. N. and all is well so far - She is coming to Ballycastle - Mrs. G did her part. I think you may have no uneasiness on you about her.

I have not written fully to you but sent on all letters.

Things have gone with a vengeance since you left. - the whole country is wild with the war - largely pro-English and anti-German. I do hope the Volunteers won't lose their heads but stand for Ireland only until Home Rule is decided anyway - then as a nation she can decide on her own course. If anything the Volunteer spirit has slackened since the war broke out & the arms proclamation removed. I reviewed a fair number on Sat. at Middletown (Armagh) and a large number yesterday at Lisnaskea.

The drill sergeants everywhere are largely gone, The Ulster Volunteers suffering most - they are quite sullen & anti-volunteer for abroad unless they get their own way - a day or two must settle this. The Times (English) has again rounded wickedly on Redmond - The I.V. must not take arms from England except on Irish terms - these will be the bribe I feel sure. All the boys are busy and well - Berkeley has surpassed anyone in detail, hard work and efficiency. The Ballycastle I.V. have gone rotten - the few good ones being unable to save them.

The S.C. is all right - and Brigid in her usual form – we have had all the Dublin relations down and she has been busy.

The war has smashed up the fishing at Ardglass and will play havoc in Belfast when work gets scarce.

[Gaelic words]

F.J. B.