

William Ottawa

909A/13

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25 Feb. 1894.

My dear Mother,

I have been meditating for some time, writing to you about the piano which you have so kindly offered to present us with, and I only hope if I do so that you will not think we do not appreciate your offer. It appears to me at the present time, that it is rather a time for selling, than a time for buying and increasing our goods; as there is so much need

everywhere, and such
innumerable directions
in which a little money
would do so much good.

Our position here is
not so very settled either,
as the work I am taking
up cannot be made a
definite or permanent branch
of the Civil Service. And
in any case we may hope
for something better before
long in some other direction;
and in moving about, now
that we have begun moving
from one city to another,
a piano is rather formidable.

So on the whole, if we can be \$300⁰⁰ richer as a family by parting with it, it seems to me right and wise to do so. I can show you too that you have had the use of it very cheaply during these years. Thus:—

Original cost (say)	500 ⁰⁰
Selling price	<u>300⁰⁰</u>
Loss on sale	200 ⁰⁰
Insurance during 25 years	30 ⁰⁰
Tuning &c. \$2 ⁰⁰ a year	50 ⁰⁰
Total outlay	<u><u>280⁰⁰</u></u>

Which amounts to \$11.20 a year during 25 years for the use of it, which is very low.

You may retort that you
are offering the piano to
Florence & not to me! Well,
I feel sure she will be quite
content, if you see fit to
do as I now suggest, from
what she has said about it.

The real question for us
all is, how we can best
glorify our Lord & Master, &
advance His cause.

It keeps very cold here.
This place seems to deserve
its reputation for cold -

With much love to
Father and yourself,

Your affectionate son

Will.