

Montreal, February 2. /46

My dear Mr. George

I have had such a nice letter from you today dated Jan. 15th that although I mailed one to you two days ago (& I know nothing about the times & ways that one ought to post letters) I hasten to thank you for the one received & to release you from all the aspersions I have cast upon you for persistently silence about our interesting home affairs. Then I feel personally amply repaid with gratitude to you for the loan to Anna indicated by the boys generosity towards her settlement. I did not think you must liberal if you had offered to export \$1100 on a present. I have not yet told her anything of the matter list on more mature consideration you shd. change your mind, but if you

confirm the \$400 or \$500 I wd at
 once suggest a piano - a costly arti-
 cle. That A. is already speculating upon
 the possibility of being able to purchase

What little savings Mr. H. had effected
 he had, before his engagement, locked
 up in the purchase of a lot in St.
 Catharines St. Wash, & that with part
 borrowed money cutting him interest.
 At first he thought he wd sell this
 at any sacrifice to get money in hand
 to furnish his house, but business
 depression is so great at present that
 Papa strongly advised him not to
 do so & he has lent him \$1000. The interest
 & Capital ^{of which} he is to return to Anna being
 half of the value. Papa is going to settle
 on her before her marriage. He has
 also made him a liberal offer of his
 house - a fine years has - the first

year rent free, the succeeding years @
 \$1500. per annum. & this I think it is now
 settled as accepted. Hitherto (just as you
 supposed) the house has been a constant
 worry to Japa & he has made up his
 mind to consider his mining specula-
 tion ^{with which he quits} a money failure & take what
 pleasure he can get out of the house
 in the enjoyment of seeing A. in a better
 home than Dr. H. ed. gives her, & in one
 that is thoroughly well built, well heated
 & well ventilated, for the real value
 is at least \$110000 guiney. It looks rather
 large for beginning housekeeping in
 but that is partly because the basement
 is so high above ground. The pub-
 lic rooms are not large & he must
 have a library so it will all be in
 use. & of the six bedrooms up stairs

two are very small & will be used
 for clothes closets & dressing room &
 two only of the three large ones will
 be furnished. The attics are not
 going to be finished & are shut off
 by a door. There I do not think more
 service will be required than for
 an ordinary summer house, there are
 so many labours sewing counterpanes;
 fixed basins with hot & cold water
 fixed washing tubs ditto, coal & vegetable
 cellars adjoining the kitchen, speaking
 tubs from bedroom & pantry flats
 &c. &c. I am giving her, in addition
 to her trousseau proper, all her horse linen
 & many other little helps that I wd. not
 if her husband had had larger means.
 But to return to the subject that
 started me off by way of putting A. circum-
 stances

more fully before you: what I will suggest, for your approval if you adhere to your money proposal, will be to take Mr. H. into our confidence in the matter of a piano, as he is so very capable of choosing a good instrument, asking him to be on the outlook, & for you to send me a note to accompany its presentation to A. after the junction is made. This will make it a delightfully pleasant surprise to her. Both furniture & pianos are unusually low in price this winter.

Thursday.

With our visitors family consultation is difficult, but I spoke to your father last night about your gift & he thinks you altogether too generous. In fact he disapproves

of your making such a gap in
 your hard earned savings, es-
 pecially as he supposes you can
 save but little in your present
 circumstances. He says it is uncalled
 for, that you are both kind &
 liberal if you give Anna something
 amounting to about \$100. I ask one
 to suggest useful thing ^{costing} _{to} that
 amount. Firstly then a handsome
 plated tea & coffee "service". Can be
 had from \$100. to \$120. & as I guess our
 day: each of tea, dessert & table spoons
 (solid silver) for the same. A chimney
 piece mirror for \$70. A dinner set for
 about the same. H. has already bought
 a dessert set at a sale. Mrs. Harington
 has told me wishes to give a tea set.
 A sewing machine \$70. but be a very nice
personal gift. I heard A. saying she

would like one. I gave her
 at 4 was a case of small drawers
 filled with small-wares. Now I
 think I have given you a good
 many hints & still you may prefer
 to send her a Chinese inlaid Cali-
 nest I send by express from B. C.

but I must hasten to a close
 as we have a great tea party
 tonight. The Mr. Howells. Baynes?
 Chatter Watts. Miss Linn. Mr. & Mrs. Austin
 Mr. Dulap & Dr. H. of course. With
 the Johnson's & some others coming
 in the evening. I have ice &
 I don't know what besides
 to get up. Our friends from
 Shrewsbury come on Saturday

I will do you the great
 favour of enclosing one of Mr's

letters — the truth is yours & his
letters are my treasures & it is a sacrifice
to part with them. I wd. willingly
forward wd. to you if you wd. return
them. I cannot send yours to him
because the postage is so expensive.

I am rather glad to hear
that Victoria is not over attractive
to you. I do wish my own dear
Penny that I cd. hope that this
year wd. be the last one of seeing
you. A settled position I am
sure cd. be found. I know paper
feels your absence more now after
the pleasure of having you with us
last winter. I want you to see many
last that wd. facilitate your settlement.

Ever yours affectionately

Mother.