

Feb 19 1930

Dear Mother:-

We recently had a kind letter of advice from you. I thought I might partly answer some of the thoughts you suggested.

Sylvia does get something from her position at the church and it is quite a help to us.

As to my earning money by singing. I have dropped our choir. I don't seem to be quite good enough to get a regular soloist position but have assisted or substituted once or twice and have been paid. At present I am practicing once a week with a double quartet (of the Kiwanis) which is pretty good. The director is head of the music department at Western State Teachers College. We have made a couple of public appearances. There is no money in the job at present.

Sylvia also was paid for work with the college women's glee club where she substituted several weeks for the director. Also she was paid for directing their Christmas carols.

What you say about it being easier to go out and earn money and hire house help is something we consider of course.



Hired help can not handle all the duties of a wife especially where there are children and I hate to give up the things that we would lose if Sylvia took a position taking a large part of her time but of course we told her ability as our reserve in time of trouble and we are having her keep up her proficiency which you know means practice. She is practicing now as I write. After the children are grown I feel that she may wish to take a more active place in community and business affairs.

At present I feel fortunate in that she really prefers to be a home maker. She has never had the chance to do that.

We are doing a lot of studying of budgets this year and are keeping track of our expenditures so that we shall know where we can cut down and how much we can afford to spend for different things. Our rent, coal, and carfare we think we can reduce materially next year in a better house <sup>we think we more centrally located</sup> and with one or two rooms rented. John has to go a mile and a half to school and is unable to come home for lunch, while Laurence is so far that she often takes the car too. It is about a mile and a half to town so that we ride as often as we walk. Next year we



will be quite a little closer in and can manage not to use  
the street car - in fact we won't be on a car line but  
likely we will depend on the auto very often. We haven't  
used it for about two months now.

Sylvia might take some <sup>additional income producing</sup> work next year but  
I rather hope she won't. We need her so much at home

I hope you are feeling stronger and better every day.

Our vacation would allow us to be in Oberlin  
part of the time from March 29 to April 7. School  
starts the eighth. Mother Alford has recently  
written that it would be handy for her to  
come up for her visit to arrive <sup>Chicago</sup> April 8. We  
will have to adjust our plans somewhat to  
the time when sister Anna can come north to  
Konsar in April. I don't know whether it would  
be best for us to visit you in March & April or  
not. The children might be a way to you  
and in vacation time they need a certain amount  
of supervision. I wonder if our vacation coincides  
with Mary's.

Lots of love

Willie

My work is easier this semester - only 16 hours, 3 subjects 115 pages  
I can't see how I can do any study of time activities  
maybe I can do some

activities  
maybe I can do some study of time



DAYS RETURN TO

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