

[Letter from Alice Drinkwater to Arno Knight; Arno is working in Colorado; Alice is Olive's older sister]

Lincolnville 12/5/1881

Dear Friend Arno,

Perhaps you may be somewhat surprised to get a letter from me but I have been waiting to write to you ever since you were hurt, but supposed you had so many correspondents that you would not care to hear from me. I know you never liked me very well, but I thought I knew the reason why, and that on closer acquaintance I could remove the prejudice that evidently existed in your mind. One story is always good you know until the other one is told. I felt very badly when you were hurt so bad that I could not help crying about it. I pitied you so much but am so glad to learn that you are likely to get entirely over it. You must try to retain the good courage you have shown in the past and not allow the blues to get hold of you. When I tell you they are a bad disease I speak from experience. Llewellyn tells me that you were very indignant about the present that was sent you. Arno will you please not be angry with me if I tell you just what I think about it. I think it was very wrong in you to take offence at what any society of civilized people would have done. In Mass [?] they would think it very strange not to help a man who had been so unfortunate as you have been for the last year no matter if he did have property. And I really think the very best way would be for you to receive it thankfully as an evidence of good will and friendship and after you had fully recovered your health and found yourself able to do so then you could have returned it with thanks and interest if need be. This is only my opinion about it and I am sure those who sent it only meant to express respect for you and sympathy in your time of trouble.

I am soon to make a great change in my own life and sometimes I think it a little hard that my home must be found in the distant state of Minnesota but there is no chance for us in Me. That I can see and so I try to be reconciled to it. I shall hope to see all my friends and relatives again some time but if you and I never do meet again in this world always remember what I have been and will still remain

Your Sincere Friend

Alice L. Drinkwater

[included is a wedding invitation: E.F. Whitney to Alice Drinkwater at her home, Thursday evening, Dec. 15th at 7 o'clock 1881]