

[Letter from Nancie Drake to Arno Knight who is working in Boston; Nancie is Arno's cousin (her mother Ruth is sister to Rufus Knight)]

Lincolnville Ctr. Sept. 14th 1871

Dear Cousin

Your kind letter was received in due season and I can truly say I was very much pleased to hear from you.

I little thought when you requested me so particularly to be at the dance that night that it was your last night at home if I had I should certainly gone if only for a short time just long enough to have said Good-bye.

But Arno you know just how I happened to stay at home. Mother was sick, and Ella & Ida wanted very much to go, so I like a good girl staid at home with Mother. I have been very sorry since I wanted to see to say a few words but perhaps it was all for the best.

Your sudden leap caused considerable talk around the corner for some time, but has died away now mostly. I was surprised and yet was not for a knew you intended to go sometime.

Are you homesick any Arno? You dont know how I miss your accustomed walk with Charley B. on Sundays. Evans walks around and looks like a forsaken child. Arno, you are in a Saloon and some prophesy that you have got a good chance to go to ruin, but I tell them that is not your intension, you will not taste of liquor will you Arno? I dont think you will but say you wont the next time you write. Alpheus and I are of the same opinion in regard to yourself think that you have an aim father ahead other than being a fast boy. I think I know your disposition better than those that foretell your ruin, what do you think about it? Dont you think you will have a word to say.

I saw Winnie Tolman to day and told all you wrote of her she seemed very much pleased to know that you remembered her she sends her love to you and you to be a good-boy and she will try to be a good girl and I have not a doubt but that she will.

Arno we cannot have the good time going up to Winnie that we anticipated to bad. Arno, I do not know of any news to write to to you not very lively here now. Ida says tell Arno I have cut my finger off but it is growing on again. It seems as though she has the luck of being cut she cut her finger with the chopping-knife and has not done anything for a week she says she will sing that song for you when you come home. She has not received any music from Ed Whitney.

Well I think I will draw this letter to a close by asking a few questions. Do you see Henry Briggs? and Ed Whitney often. Do you and Charley Billing room together? How do you like your employment?

Remember me to Ed and Charley and Henry if you see him.

Have your picture taken and send it in the next letter which I hope will be as soon as you get this.

Mother sends her best wishes to you Ida her love, and of course I do too.

Write soon. Hoping this will find you well I will say good bye

From your Coz N.

[margin]

Arno, be sure and write me those verses from the peak of the Andes. Who knows but that you will yet. Take a sail on the river Arno in Italy too. For me.

Effie sends her love to you.

Arno I am going to teach school this fall dont you pity me?

In all probability you and I will never go to school again but we have one thing to cheer us that our school days were always pleasant and happy ones we shall often think of them.

Arno, your letter was all unsealed when I got it.

Effie D. sends her love again.

Be sure and write often