

[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater]

Top of the Rocky Mts.

Aug. 17th 1879

My Darling Ollie:

As I have a few moments leisure I will devote it in writing to you although I am obliged to write with a pencil and have only a piece of board for a writing desk. Have not heard from you for a long time although I have answered all letters received from you and written several besides but it is hard to get mail where I am now and if you get this it will have to reach you in a roundabout way by messenger thence by Stage and the by Rail I am in the Rocky Mts. 7 miles from any settlement and about 75 miles from Rosita There are Bears Wild cats, Mountain Lions and Deer quite plenty here Charles Moody I suppose started for home last Monday Was quite sick when I saw him last in Rosita Erastus Thomas is here in the Mts. with me and he is the only one that I know from Maine within 75 miles Say my dear old girl have you written to me or dont you like to take the trouble to write to a forlorn old Bach – 2,000 miles away if you don't want to of course I dont like to insist upon hearing from you often although about the only pleasure I find here is in perusing your rare little notes and in anticipating the time when the necessity of our being parted shall no longer exist I am making money thus far and hope the longer I stay the faster I shall make it my chances are better the more I get acquainted but I don't propose to stay here forever unless at some lucky moment I fail to catch my breath but when I do come back to a White mans country I am coming so I can live like a white man or else I don't want to come

Otis Heal will go home in Sept. I think also Fred Wiley. And Charles Moody will be at home before this reaches you probably Charles looked as if he had consumption when I saw him last I shall be here to Rough it alone and you know your letters will give me courage and pleasure if you choose to favor me with them I cannot write often much as I would like to I am so far from a P.O. but do not imagine I think the less of you because you are daily in my thoughts and often in my dreams and the dearest girl in all the world to me I must close as I have to go to work

Ever yours Arno

[margin]

Direct to Maysville Colorado

Care of B.C. Wheeler