

[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater; Arno is working in Colorado]

Maysville Apr. 11, 1881

Dear Olive:

I received your letter of the 8th inst. yesterday and judging from its contents you must have been very blue when you penned it.

I am truly sorry to learn that you are so dispirited and unhappy, and I deeply regret my inability to contribute aught to your happiness.

Sometimes I feel desperate, wicked, rebellious, that circumstances or fate, places me in a position so galling to one of my disposition

You think I feel well but I feel dissatisfied with myself, my circumstances, my prospects in life and everything else, except the consciousness of trying to do my duty, and striving to make the best of the circumstances in which I am placed

If I fail to rise in the world or to make my life of use to myself or others I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I have made an honest effort, and shall not have to regret that I have ruined my prospects, by a life of folly and dissipation

Neither do I propose to be forever aspiring for something unattainable, and building all my hopes of happiness in the future

The future never dawns for us as we anticipate or hope, and when the future is merged into the present we are just as dissatisfied, and look forward again to some blissful dream in the future, only to be disappointed

I have had experience enough in that kind of life, and I am convinced that it is much wiser to make the most of the present instead of scorning the offerings it may bring, in the vain hope that the future has something better in store for us

Reality is better than anticipation therefore I believe in making the most of the present and hoping the best for the future

Am very sorry your mother is so ill It is truly hard for any one to be so helpless

I told Ernest what you wrote about her

Yes I went on board of Franks Vessel. Am not well enough acquainted to know whether I should like him or not

I would'nt go to Sea as a Sailor. I could'nt stand it to have an Officer bossing me round like a dog. Give me freedom even if I have to take poverty with it

I and Ernest are going to build a house here in Maysville We went over and staked a mining claim in Greens Gulch Sat. There is considerable excitement there over a recent strike

Have been to Church every Sunday night but one since I came here so, has Ernest God boys you see

Regards to all the folks
Write often as convenient
Try and not be so down hearted Ollie