

[Letter from Elmer Gould to Arno Knight in Bassickville, Colorado; Arno just started a new job mining]

Marshall Mo June 22 1879

Friend Arno:

Yours of 13th came duly to hand. Was somewhat surprised as I did not know you had gone west. I have not become exactly a Prof. of music, though music is my profession, or at least the selling of musical instruments is. The "Monitor" was published as an advertisement – to bring myself before the people and to show them if possible that I am possessed of some talent – Of course this is not said in a boasting spirit. Music is certainly more congenial to me than any other business or profession and if I should not "die rich" I expect to "die happy" – I thank you for kind wishes and hope your next move will be more satisfactory to you.

Would have been pleased to see you in Mo. but I don't know what you would have done unless it were to edit a Radical newspaper – guess that wouldn't have been any more congenial than your present situation

A young friend of mine is just starting a daily paper here. He called just now. Wish you were here to go in with him and edit it. Believe you would make a success of it. Am afraid he will not. I have been offered a salary to edit a neutral Temperance paper, but was too much interested in music. I should much prefer this state to any newer location. Society is much higher advanced here than in Me. and by contact with smart, stirring, and educated people, ones mind is constantly improved. Then there is much more wealth here than in Maine, which is better if one has brains enough to get it.

Joe and John Dean have bought 320 acres of land, have put in a crop and it is doing well. Joe has gone back to sell out and get his family – John has borrowed my mare and buggy and gone to take a girl riding. He is well and, I think, likes first rate. I have heard little from Me. You have written more news than I have heard for ever so long. How did you leave Olive? The last I heard from you, you were calling on her. I thought it would be a match sure. I should like to see some of my old friends in Me. Wonder if there would be as much satisfaction in squeezing Flo as there used to be –

Shall be glad to hear from you often. This letter has been very interesting. Yours as ever

Elmer