

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

Maysville May 8<sup>th</sup> 1881

Dear Olive:

Your letter informing me of your mothers death was recd some time ago Last week while in the Mts. I received another from you bearing evidence of your grief, and sadness at the great bereavement which has left you motherless. My darling, I am so sorry for you in your trouble, and yet I am powerless to mitigate your grief. Death seems hard when it takes away the object of our fondest love, but I sometimes think, (with all its impenetrable mystery and doubts), it is still a messenger of love and mercy, to relieve us from the heartaches disappointments and afflictions of life. Every loved one who has been laid to rest, let us hope will be, and are even now being recompensed for the good they have done in this Earthly Life, and the trials they endured in Christian fortitude and faith. They have fought the battle of life, and now by the blessings of God they rest in peace, from earthly labors, and I trust have penetrated the dark mystery of Life and Death, and rejoice in the perfect bliss, of a perfect life, that a God of perfect love has given. Surely we are not endowed with life, and intellect, and hope prompted by reason, for no other purpose than to live and suffer and cease to exist. And if we are created for a higher and nobler purpose, for the good we can do, for the happiness we can confer and making better, and happier the lives of our associates we shall at least have the consciousness that our lives have not been wholly lived in vain, And though we may not achieve all that we aspire to, though we may often be thwarted in our ambitious hopes and disappointed in our fondest dreams we too shall rest at last, like the Loved Mother who has gone before leaving her children to mourn her loss, and live the noble life of which she has left an example, and like my own Dear Father whose troubled and stormy existence has reached the calm of eternal peace and rest.

Now my darling girl don't say I think or thought you were wicked or bad, and would now if I were there. I would have no love for a girl if I thought that and you know very well what my sentiments are in regard to a certain blue-eyed, golden-haired little beauty down in Maine.

I know you have some faults, as well as I know I have a good many or rather a bad many, and if I didn't think I knew you well enough to feel confident that you were a good noble minded girl, endowed with the qualities of heart, and head that will

inevitably make of you a noble true-hearted woman I might not be so exacting, or care so much what you think of me

As for Ernest I am sorry he came out so soon and wish I had remained two or three weeks later in L...lle myself but he will soon make up for last time as he can earn more in one month than he could in two months at Sea but I wish he had remained East till after his mothers death We have built a little house in Maysville and bought three Town Lots Have been working in mine past week and think will get a chance for Ernest this week Don't know yet whether I shall get the contract I bid on or not Am about to bond three of my claims for Two Thousand dollars for Sixty days Would like to be where I could call upon you as in days gone by when I was so hateful, and you was going to see if you could'nt be ditto [?]

Arno