

[Letter from Ella Watson to Arno Knight who is working in Norton, Mass. at a Woolen Mill]

Lincolnville Apr. 10th 1873

Dear Friend Arno

Your kind letter of 6th was received with pleasure and will now answer although it may be some time before I can get to the Office to mail it for it is raining hard and is fearful going. But I do not trust my letters to every one for there are people in Lincolnville as well as other places that are so ignorant that they think people should never have a true friend after being married. But I truly think as a general thing there are but few women that can keep a secret. I have seen some that every thing seemed to weigh so heavy on there mind's that they must tell every thing they knew and to every one they met. But it was never my disposition to be so. I don't tell every one my business or secrets you are my only confidant and true friend. And I want no other. For I know you are worthy of my confidence. Arno there was one thing that made me feel bad. That was that you was going away to sea Oh do not go Arno I beg of you if you have a presentiment that you will never return. Do you remember once what you done for my sake the last dance that we met when I asked you to drink no more that evening. I never shall forget your answer. No Ella I will not drink any more to night for you sake. How dear those words sounded to me for your sake. They were so tender it seemed to me you made a sacrifice that evening for my sake. Can I not hope then that you will not go away to Sea then. I shall hope until I here from you again. In the manner and tone of your letter did you give me to understand that Nell was the cause of your first commencing to drink. Arno I know Nell has not used you right if she is my sister I can see she has failings as well as myself. But still she has a tender heart. I had hardly hoped that after New Year's she would try and not wound your feelings any more. But she is passionate and thoughtless do think of her as kindly as posable. For she will some time learn what false hearts there are in this world. And perhaps will then feel if she does not mend her ways. That she might have lived in the sunshine of a pure & true heart but perhaps every thing will come out all right yet it is best to always look on the bright side if one can. But I do get pretty blue sometimes, but I begin to think as you do why spend our days repining when we can take comfort. I had a letter from mother a few days ago she wants me to come up there in May. She wants to give up her house and furniture to and wants me to take borders. Say I can do well. I think I shall as I want to send Waltie to school. John writes quite often and says he

will send me money. But never one dollar will I take as long as he stays out there and says he shall never come home. He can stay there and keep his money for all of me. The place is mine and I happen to have a little besides. How false men are as well as women. We can trust but few. I think a young girl or fellow before marrying should study the one they have chosen long and thoroughly these hasty marriages are soon repented. Now Arno if you do not go out to Waltham before I come out if you do not promise to come than I shall get huffy now remember and promise you will come and do not go off to sea will you Arno for my sake say you are not going in your next letter. Please write soon and write often for it is all I have to look forward to is your kind letters

I will now close this uninteresting letter I do not feel like writing today for I have a bad headache

I remain as ever your true friend

E.E.W.

Good night dear Arno

Please answer my question that I asked you in other letter about J.E.S offering to escort me home I would like to no