

[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater]

Maysville Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1880

Dear Ollie:-

Received your welcome letter yesterday and was very pleased to hear from you once more The sentiments expressed in reply to my questions were, as I felt confident they would be, the ideas and feelings of a true and noble minded woman. The chief charm, even of a beautiful woman, in my eyes, is the nobleness of the mind, the purity of character and the sweetness of her disposition. Beautiful as you are, (and I don't know as I ever flattered you as a beauty) it is for your pure, noble, womanly qualities that I love you, though not insensible to the charms of beauty.

Was glad to get a letter from Llewellyn and will try and answer it Sunday if not before Sent him some Colorado papers this morning I want you to read some of the pieces I marked especially a piece called Leap Year Spunk, Leap Year Ball etc. It is very cold in these mountain towns 20 degrees below zero Some have been frozen to death in the mountains and several frozen so that amputation of limbs was necessary You will see an account of a shooting affair at Rosita in one of those papers I know that D. Camp who done the shooting He is a Doctor in that town. A young fellow of this town buried day before yesterday One of those young men shot here last Aug. has since died Started to go home, died on the way That was a cold blooded murder for he was shot next morning after the drunken fight and was unarmed Not a bad fellow either, only about 22 years of age Knew him in Rosita and never saw him quarrel or drink

So Nettie is going to be married to Ed. Coleman is she? Well I think he is quite fortunate to win her. Presume I ought to feel sorry and perhaps I might but for the simple reason that the dearest girl in L..lle is still unmarried and I hope to be more fortunate than Mr. Coleman by winning her so I shant mourn for Nettie but wish her happiness with her chosen one in the bonds of matrimony

My Gosh! the idea of accusing that School-master of greenness for walking the opposite side of the road Very sensible of him I'm sure to hold him self aloof from the snares of female charms. Probably he was rehearsing to himself "Yield not to Temptation" and I think you was very ungallant to allow him to walk in that manner considering your Leap Year privileges If some rich old girl don't propose to me this year, don't know but I shall cease to dream of rich widows and think that rich husbands seldom die. Oh by the way I saw Allen Neals, marriage in the Belfast Age of Feb 5<sup>th</sup> I shant try to comfort you for the loss of your old lover, unless you try to console me for the loss of Nettie. We might offer a little mutual consolation ha! ha! ha!

Yes Ollie I want to come home next Fall if I am sufficiently successful the coming Spring and Summer

Write often dearest, - Don't get blue nor have any more bad dreams of me please.  
Bye bye for this time