

[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater]

Maysville May 2nd 1880

Dear Ollie:

I recd. your very brief letter to day and will answer it before I return to the Mts. Have just arrived in town from the mines 6 miles distant. You do not care to answer my questions now and perhaps it is better as you say not to do so if you cannot trust me out of sight. Now Ollie please not to be so hard on me for I really intend to give you no reason to be doubtful of my love for you although I may have done so unconsciously and unintentionally You have written so coolly indifferent of late that it gave me reason to believe you wished to cast me off and feel yourself free from any and all obligations to me, and I am not the man to claim any rights which a pure and noble minded woman could not freely concede to me. As for speaking well of you, I did not say that a dissipated life was preferable to your society Nor do I think so for I think the society of a good and true woman is one of mans greatest blessings. Such society at the present time is denied to me and yet I have labored earnestly and truly, to be worthy of the regards and esteem of those who are dear to me, and to win success by a straightforward and honorable course I trust I shall ever have to much self-respect and to much regard for my aged Parents to disgrace myself and them by dishonorable actions or dissipation. For all that I dont see that one is always happier for doing his best, and recklessness might relieve the terrible monotony of such a slavish existence as one has to endure here. And if a man has no hopes for any thing better in the future Heaven save him! I have met with some misfortunes since coming here but I have tried to bear it all like a man and strive for better things hoping and believing by my efforts I should be enabled to live a happy and prosperous life in the not distant future and be blessed with the love of one who is, and has been for a long time dearer than all else to me (Your own sweet self)

You are right in thinking this world would be a dreary place if love, fidelity, and all the noblest attributes of the human heart, and mind, could be bought by Gold Perhaps I place to high an estimate upon its value but there are many things I value far more I only care for it for the blessings and happiness which it can give and the good I might be enabled to do with it Had I even millions of it, the lady who could not give me her love for what good qualities I might possess should never be tempted by my wealth to give a perjured love and prove as false to herself as she would surely be to me If as you say you do not wish to cast me off forever and

really care for my correspondence please answer this and I can trust your answer to my questions till come future time

Will you tell me what you meant by insinuating I had another Lady correspondent

Your letters really afford one the greatest pleasure when you are not so indifferent or spiteful, but if my own have become irksome to you I suppose I must forego the pleasure of receiving yours

Snowed all day yesterday