

*[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater]*

Bassickville May 30<sup>th</sup> 1879

Dear Olive:

Received your welcome little note the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. and while I am deprived the pleasure of your society it is a source of happiness to me to receive assurances of your constancy and love

You spoke of those who wished to have you forget me and then vaguely hinted that I considered them friends but you knew very well that my faith in professions of friendship is not unbounded and that I regard it as a profession generally as selfish as true love is unselfish

Colorado is not to me an agreeable dwelling place but I don't think I shall go mad about it I think I can make money faster here at present than most anywhere's else and I knew the hardships and dangers I must expect to encounter before I started I don't remember what I said in regard to fickle young ladies, but I do consider them fickle in a general sense with of course some noble exceptions, (in which you may include your dear little self) Yes my darling I love and trust you because I deem you true and good and possessed of nobler attributes and higher traits of character than the generality of young ladies If I did not have confidence in you I could not love you nor would I express my feelings thus freely I do not see the impropriety of expressing the sentiments I feel for you freely and clearly of course I consider my letters are meant for you alone and I hope you have that confidence in me to consider yours as sacredly guarded by me I shall not promise to destroy them at present because if you knew how I appreciate them you would not deny me the pleasure of keeping them unless you doubted my sincerity If you cannot trust me I should not blame you for refusing to write As you are my only young lady correspondent (my Sisters excepted) I should be sorry to have you deny me the pleasure of your words of encouragement and expressions of your love and devotion to me I consider the love of a noble true hearted woman too sacred to be made to be confided to disinterested parties or to be made the subject of trifling conversation

I don't know to what particular thing you referred to that you told me before coming away that you wished me to remember But I think I shall not be likely to forget aught that you said to me especially the sweet promises you gave me but you

used to hint mysteriously of obstacles which between us and happiness I think I understood nearly what you meant and I believe there are none so serious but they may be overcome, that is if you have sufficient love for me and patience to wait a little Shall be most happy to receive the picture of the old lady, as you called her Hoping to hear from my little Goldenhead soon I will try and wait with patience for her reply

Arno

For the present good bye little one with kisses which I can only send