

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

Maysville April 2d 1881

Dear Olive:

It was an unexpected pleasure to me, to receive a letter from you yesterday. Did not expect you would write until you heard from me therefore I am very grateful to the "old girl" I left in Maine for the unexpected happiness conferred.

You expressed the hope that I would not do as I had threatened, also that I would not be so cross and scold as I did while in my brief vacation in Maine. Well my dear girl I will try and not be quite so disagreeable in future, and though I still feel cross, and dissatisfied, I'll try and not scold or fret any more over the past, which nothing can change, but try rather to look forward with hope to the future.

I am really ashamed of my unmanly threats that night, ashamed that I should so far forget myself, and my usual control of my passionate temper, as to make such threats to a lady, I have no excuse to offer except the feeling of bitter anguish and despair I felt at the thought that you cared so little for me.

I was weak enough to yield to my feelings then, though ashamed of it now. I have no idea of ruining myself by a life of reckless dissipation, or a fast life, with fast women.

Whether any one cares for me or not, whether any one appreciates it not, I hope I have got too much manly principle, too much self respect, to ruin myself because some young lady I loved did not care for me. If she loved me I would try to be worthy of her love, if she scorned me I would try and not live such a life as to give her just cause for scorn and contempt.

I think you at least have proved yourself a loving and dutiful daughter to your mother, and I respect filial devotion. Though it should bring no other reward than the consciousness of "duty done"; it leaves us with nothing to regret, and no feelings of remorse, when our earthly ties are severed forever.

Let the past serve only for a guide to the future. Bitter experience or bitter reflections are of no avail except they teach us to avoid the mistakes of the past in the future. Doubtless you have acted the nice part, in a worldly view at least. In regard to your going when I was there I may have mistaken views, but if we hold dissimilar ideas discussion would probably make them more so. I would judge a young lady by her acts, quicker than by her professions and as I have often told you if she did not care enough for me to do what she thought was right I should think her love was'n't worth having. If her ideas of right did not come up to my

conceptions I would not care for a woman with ideas of right, that I considered perverted

I would like to come home this Fall if it would be for my interest to do so I don't know whether I will or not

Sorry you are feeling so dispirited little girl, Happy be the future to you and to those who are near and dear.

Am afraid Ernest will get dissatisfied before the Snow gets off. It was rather early for him to come but I think he will be satisfied when the Season fairly starts

Regards to Alice and Lew I want you to tell your mother I had no idea Ernest was coming with me till after I left your House that night, and did not try to induce him to go with me I hope he will do well and any way I can help him I will do it

I am sorry she felt so bad to have him come here Think there is no more danger than at Sea

My Love to her and your own fair Self