

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

Poncha Springs
October 18, 1880

Dear Ollie:

I recd. a letter from you last Sunday, since which time I have been at this place nursing my Brother, who is very sick, and so weak as to be unable to help himself. I have been at work in the mines since the first of August till my Brothers illness. Have been in the mountains all Summer making only two visits to Maysville during the whole time. Previous to the First of Aug. I was prospecting, that is hunting, and working claims for myself in Company with several others. Have several good looking claims which will not sell for what they are worth before another Summer when the mines already discovered in that Camp will be developed.

Had I worked for wages all Summer I should of course had more ready money at this time. But I would not sell my claims for twice what I could have earned working by the day. It is now too late in the Season to prospect and I shall probably work in the mines this Fall, and Winter, if so I can.

Hope to get Ave help in a few days so as to return to my work. Don't know but he will go home or soon as able for he can not work for a long time, even if he can stand the Winter climate here at all. I dread the Winter here in the Mts. myself But think I shall try it, if I can get \$3.00 per day. Hardly think I could make that East this Winter. Would like to be back there though for a short time at least for several reasons I think I would take the crooks out of something which don't look just straight to me from here (Perhaps I can't see straight so far) but I would soon find out if I was there and Ave will too if he goes home.

Frank Young will please not to insult a Sister of mine with any attentions, if he does he will soon find her Brothers to deal with

Because Ave saw fit to employ Cy last spring is no reason why the whole tribe of Youngs should feel at liberty to crowd themselves upon my Father, or that such a low Vagabond or Frank should be even tolerated at the House. I would like to see my old friends in L. (if I have any there) but best of all your own sweet self to have again the pleasure of your society, as in the (to me) happy evenings when alone with you.

Give my regards to your Mother

Do you know Ollie that your devotion, and fidelity, to your Mother is one of your noble qualities which taught me to appreciate, and love you for what you are, - a true and noble woman.

Hoping no act of mine, will ever forfeit your love. I shall ever try to prove worthy of it.

Sorry if Minot is so very bashful, but a man of worth you know is most likely to have a modest opinion of himself. Whoever knew a worthless Vagabond who didn't have the check of a Government Mule?

Then you think O.W. Gould has been haunted do you? Well if his feminine Ghosts have "left him alone in his glory" he may become quite corpulent. Deaths seem to be quite frequent in Lincolnville. Winnie wrote Clifford Mahoney was drowned at Sea also that Louisa Blood was dead. Where is Ernest now? Write when convenient. Feel pretty well played watching and nursing my Brother. Have been up with him every night and every day.

Bye, bye ma'chere

[written along the side] Ink is so poor it will not work only part of the time.