

[Letter from Arno Knight to Olive Drinkwater; Arno is back in Colorado after coming home to tend to his ill father, Rufus Knight; Rufus died on February 4th]

Maysville March 23, 1881

Dear Olive:

I am once more in the fair west, having arrived in Maysville Monday 21st Inst. I was somewhat surprised to learn Ernest was going with me, he did not tell me he was going, until I went out after my horse, after bidding the rest of you good bye, that Sunday.

I presume your mother and the rest of you, thought I induced him to come, but truly I never gave him, or any one else, any encouragement to come here, more than to tell him as near as I could the chances for, and against, a young mans success in Colo.

Knowing the facts of the case as they really exist is'nt much of an inducement to any one unless they are ambitious and have the courage to dare, and endure.

I of course was glad to have his company, and glad to know there was at least one young man in L..lle, with courage enough to make an effort, But I was sorry at the same time to have him come here with me, for the reason if he should be sick or unfortunate, You, and your mother would feel, I was in a measure responsible for it. I believe he has written once or twice so you know how he got along. He is driving a team in Maysville to day.

We had a whole day in New York at our disposal so we went over to Brooklyn and saw Frank Dyer.

It is dull here just now There is so much snow in the Mountains there will not be much doing for a month to come, but I think it will be lively here after that.

I cannot get my old situation in the Pride of the West Mine now as they have all the men they can work at present, and I cant do anything on my own mines till the snow gets off more.

I'll risk Ernest if he has his health he's smart and plucky enough to do better here than he could going to Sea. Of course if I can help him any I shall be glad to do so. I expect to Contract this Summer and if he wants to work with me, or for me, I will give him the chance and learn him how to mine.

Have one of my claims bonded for Three Thousand dollars (or expect it will be rather) Saw the man Monday and talked with him and if he bonds it he is to do Three Hundred dollars worth of work upon it, and pay us Three Thousand or not, as he likes. If he takes it I am to have the contract to do the work So you see we shall get paid for developing our own mine even if we don't sell

Not much sentimental gush in this letter is there? It's about as matter of fact, and practical, as yourself I fancy. Well life is full of stern realities and the sooner a person crushes out all tenderness, and feeling the sooner he is able to cope successfully with the hard realities of life, and the practical selfishness of those, who have grown worldly wise.

Ideal pictures and youthful dreams are tender, and sweet if they could only be realized, but anticipation stones itself to death and if I were hungry for want of food I would prefer a cold potato, to the anticipation of a sumptuous feast

Yours truly A.W. Knight