

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

Shavano Aug 22nd 1880

My Dear Ollie:

I recd your letter in which you speak for yourself etc the 20th inst. Although you wrote you hardly thought I would read it I managed to do it several times, and I will now proceed to speak for myself. First please to forgive me my hatefulness, and hateful letters and I will try to be less sarcastic in my future letters, providing I can write any which you will not consider to hateful to answer. You say the cause of the trouble between us, was a report coming through P.G. Hurd that I was corresponding with Abbie Wadlin. It was really exasperating to have you refuse to believe my statement that I was not corresponding with any young lady in Northport or elsewhere and I doubtless wrote just as I felt in a bitter and hateful mood.

If P.G. Hurd or, G.G. Abbott say, or, have said, that I am corresponding, or, ever have corresponded with Abbie Wadlin they, or, he, willfully and maliciously lie, and I can prove it to you, as to either of them For both of those young men I have entertained feelings of respect, and friendly regard, believing them to be honorable young men possessed of many good qualities, and I hope I have not misjudged them. Above all things, I despise hypocrisy and deceptions, I have written two letters to P.G. Hurd since coming to Colo. and no other person male, or female in that Town, has recd. a letter from me In neither of those letters I dont remember that I mentioned the name of Abbie Wadlin or any other young lady except Nettie Rackcliffe whom he wrote me was about to be married

You say you are disappointed in me, and should have thought I would have said so before, if I wanted to get rid of you, before things went as far as they have. From the tone of your last letters to me, and your final silence, and hearing you were accepting the attentions of another, what conclusion could I come to but that you had ceased to care for me and found admirers more congenial to your tastes and ideas? If I have judged wrongly I sincerely beg your forgiveness I have not changed, I am not of that fickle nature that my devotion wavers or grows in to cool indifference in less than two years time. I love you as truly, sincerely, and fervently as when I bid you farewell nearly a year and a half ago, but when all love for me is dead, and there is nothing to bind a loved one to me but a promise that has become irksome like a fetter if another has usurped the place I fondly imagined was mine alone what should I do? What man of any manly spirit would strive to hold a lady under such circumstances? What man with a fragment of honor, pride,

or self respect, would wish to lead to the altar an unloving, or indifferent wife? As for me better a thousand times would be the life of an old Bachelor hermit, even though I lived in a Cave of the Rocky Mts. and had to eat frozen potatoes Ollie I dont wish to back out of any thing I have said, I dont mean to give you up if you care for me, more than anyone else, nor will I until I am convinced you have grown indifferent to me. I want your confidence and love freely given in return. I do not want you to be unhappy or live secluded on my account, nor to refuse to speak to young men, nor hold aloof from congenial society I do not object to your riding or dancing, a lady can do all this and more to and not flirt I do not like to see a lady striving to make a young man, (or an old one either) think she is madly in love with him, when she only means to trifle with his purest feelings Nor do I like to see a heartless villain make false professions to trusting innocence a man may seek a ladys society and a lady enjoy the pleasure of his company in conversation or places of amusement without either of them giving the other reason to believe that there is any love or striving to make each other believe there is If this is not to hateful I please to address one whose love for you is still unchanged at Shavano Chaffee Co. Colo