

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Harry Littlefield on 17 March 1918

Levi T. Pennington

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PACIFIC COLLEGE

LEVI T. PENNINGTON
PRESIDENT

NEWBERG, OREGON. March 17, 1918.

Dr. Harry Littlefield,

Dear Dr. Littlefield:--

You may be a bit surprised to get a letter from me, but you have been on my heart and in my thoughts a good deal, even before you left Newberg in the service of your country. I've wanted to have a talk with you some time, but we both were busy men, and the opportunity never seemed to come. Even now I am writing with the necessity facing me of preparing 16 lectures for next week, in addition to my regular work for this week, which will not be light.

I hardly know how to say what I most want to say. Some of the things I would like to say are relatively easy. It is not hard to express my appreciation of your offering your services to your country and mine, which we both love. It is not hard to say that I wish for you safety and success in your service for that country and for the interests of humanity. It is easy to say that I know your ability and experience will make you a valuable aid. It is easy to say that I hope your help to the young men especially will go just as far as possible, not only in helping them out of any of their physical difficulties, but in keeping them out of them.

But the main thing I want to say is not so easy. But I'm going to try to say it, and I hope you may believe me that it is not in any spirit of pharisaism that I want to say it, but with a genuine interest in you. I'm sure you and I both feel keen regret when we see a splendid human body crushed and mangled by accident or wasted and destroyed by disease. Well, you know I believe that sin is a soul disease, and that the destruction of a soul is very much more serious than the destruction of the body.

I know, as anybody who knows men must know by just a single look at you, that you have a powerful influence for good or evil in any circle in which you move. And I wish that that influence might always be for the best. I believe that this will be impossible unless and until you have the transforming power of God that comes in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. I know that I found it impossible to exert the influence I knew I ought on the right side until I had accepted Him.

But aside from the question of influence, I am mightily interested in you personally. I believe that you would know a joy such as you have never found, a peace such as you do not know, and a safety from the things that you wish to be guarded from, if you would accept Christ. I'm sure that you have thought of the things that are the very essence of life for millions of people in the world, and I believe that there is blessing for you, if you will accept it, such as your very heart will desire if you will think of

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the matter seriously. I want the very best things for you, and I believe that you can know what your very soul needs only in Jesus Christ.

Nobody knows that I am writing this letter to you. I do not know how you will feel about it. But you have been in my thoughts so much that I felt that I must write you. I wish you the very best that can come to you, and I am sure that my prayers can do you no harm. You have had them many a time, and you still have them. You will have them on the fields of France, if you cross the water, as I suppose you will soon.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,