
Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington to Aunt Dora, May 3, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

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May 3, 1946.

Dear Aunt Dora:--

Your letter of the 28th. has just arrived, and we were glad to know that you had a good time with Bertha May Pearson, as she certainly had with you. She must have fallen in love with you quite as definitely as you did with her. Her letter telling of her visit with you was most enthusiastic.

As we grow older, we do miss the folks that are gone. Of the five brothers and five sisters of us, only three brothers and two sisters are left, with Father and Mother both gone. You are the only aunt I have left, and all the uncles are gone. And Both of Rebecca's parents and all of her brothers and sisters are gone, with a nephew and a niece, one of each, the closest relatives she has on earth. You have a lot more nephews and nieces than that, though we know how true it is that you must miss Otis greatly.

You and I both had mothers that were the best in the world. The years do not lessen but increase my appreciation of that dear sister of yours who brought me into the world. I realize more and more her wisdom as the years pass, and her unmixed goodness was something that few of the saints of the earth could equal.

Speaking again of Bertha May, I do not know whether it will be possible for both the girls to be in Earlham next year or not. They thought when we were there that it might be necessary for Esther to be out a year and earn some money after she graduates from Oakwood. Wish I were a man of money, so that I could see to it that they both went right through college without the necessity of spending too much time and energy on work to help pay their expenses. Bertha May's last term record was very fine considering the extra work she has to do outside.

We came home Sunday afternoon from a ten days stay at El Tee'ee, our place out at the coast. We think we may go back next week for a while, though we'll have to be back Friday evening if we go. The Presbyterian ladies want to hear about our trip, and we've promised to spend an evening with them and tell them some of the outstanding things.

Hope that threatened cold is not giving you any trouble. I've found that going to bed in time sometimes keeps me from having the time that seemed coming on with a threatened cold.

Hope you do get to Jimmie's some of these days, though I am sure that you cannot look forward to it with any pleasure. Poor old Jimmie! How we wish, as we have for years, that we could do something to help his situation.

We have both been in Portland for a medical check-up lately. The doctor who examined me said I was exceptionally healthy for an old man. He suggested no medicines, but did advise me to eat less and drink more. Says I ought to take off some weight. We were both glad to have him say that there is

nothing seriously wrong with Rebecca's health, her blood-pressure, which was high, being down where it belongs, her heart action good, etc. He did give her some medicine to take for a nervous condition that he thinks may be due to defective action of the thyroid gland. You perhaps remember that she had a terrible time with exophthalmic goiter the year after we were married. Most folks do not get over that without an operation, but she did, and never have they been able to find that she was having any difficulty there. But Oregon water is especially free from iodine, as from everything else except H₂O, and he is giving her a bit of iodine to make up that deficiency.

I've known all the time that Rebecca has given me the best of care, especially during that terrible illness from October of 1944 till well along in 1945. But it is good to know that other folks also realize what a good wife and nurse she is. How I'd have lived without her last year is more than I know. She was just grand, and I must have been a "problem child" for her those long months.

It was a real disappointment to us that Hannah and Tom had to give up their trip out here this spring. But they say that they still intend to come out to the Pacific coast some day.

This was "May Day" at the college, and I spent some time over there. The celebration was only the ghost of what it used to be, and I think we have had ten times as many spectators as were there today. I got my garden plowed early this morning, and spent the entire forenoon getting some seeds into the ground.

My three trips to Portland this week (one day I took Bertha May back to the city to begin her new job, once I took Rebecca for this medical check-up, and once I went in to a ministers' luncheon to hear Homer Rodeheaver) have made me fall behind in my correspondence, and I must try to catch up a bit, so I'd better end this. Anyhow it is nearly time for me to go over to the college for the May Day concert.

With love from both of us to all of you,

Affectionately your nephew,

Mrs. Dora O. Masten,
411 North Delaware St.,
Indianapolis, Indiana.