

Levi Pennington

People

6-17-1946

Levi Pennington Responding to Franz Hohn, June 17, 1946

Levi T. Pennington

June 17, 1946.

Dear Friend:--

Your letter of the 10th. arrived during the busiest time of the year for us, commencement and yearly meeting, which immediately follows. There are two more days of yearly meeting yet, but I have a bit of time that is not full of necessary immediate things, and can write a bit to you.

I'm not greatly surprised at either of the things you told me by way of news, though I confess that one of them I read with regret. But I don't know any man who is wise enough to tell another what he ought to do -- not too many who know what they ought to do themselves.

Trying to direct another man's life, even in such a matter as helping him to get a wife, is pretty dangerous business. I remember once when a man wrote to me while I was president of Pacific College telling me that he had heard a great deal about the Quakers, was seeking a wife, and would appreciate it if I would suggest to him the names of some eligible widows or spinsters among the Friends in Newberg. I wrote and told him that I had hunted in the Michigan woods during the deer season, had walked across the river on the outside railing of every bridge in town except one when I was a boy, had climbed to the top of the house, stood on the chimney and swung Indian clubs, and had done many another dangerous and fool-hardy trick, but I never saw the time when I had the fool-hardiness to recommend a wife for another man.

Hope you have a good time this summer, and that you get some poetry written. It has been a good while since my Muse did any musing. I did give a talk to the Twentieth Century Poetry Class some time ago on what I consider to be the essentials of real poetry; and then they insisted on my coming for their next recitation period and reading verses of my own.

And you certainly have our best wishes for your work the coming year. Hope you do find some kindred spirits at the University of Maine.

The yearly meeting this year has moved along smoothly, so far as the surface is concerned at least. The Robert Dann heresy case has not yet come up, but I suppose it will day after tomorrow, the closing day of the yearly meeting.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Dr. Franz E. Hohn,
Rt. 2, Box 9,
Valmeyer, Illinois.