

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to Lester Haworth, January 7, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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January 7, 1947.

Dear "Bush":--

Your diatribe about the Haworth tribe is received, and enjoyed more than once. Same old originality, to make things that other folks would not know how to tell about most interesting to anybody who had the chance to read about them, and still more interesting (that's going strong, as you can see, to make things more interesting than most interesting) to those who know the Haworths. We were glad to know about the whole "tribe", and hope that the year 1947 may bring opportunities and rich service and blessings to every one of them.

Hope your own work is going well, and that you may soon have \$8,650,000.58, and if a few cents more, that would be all right with me. If a certain man who gave a site for the United Nations had given the same sum to your work, I believe you could have raised the rest without wearing yourself completely out. Would it have done more good on your job than for the United Nations? well, John D. Jr. (as he still insists on being called, though John D. Sr. has gone to his long home) is a great fellow, and maybe you can get a big gift from him if you approach him aright. If I had to raise even a measley \$8,000,000.00, without the chicken-feed beyond that, I'd certainly try to see him.

I keep fairly busy for a man who has retired and has nothing to do. I helped to usher the New Year's in by being the speaker at the watch-party at the Christian church, where a very good audience listened to me as if they were interested -- their mammas had trained them to be polite. The next day, at our church fellowship dinner, I raised \$125.00 toward the \$160.00 we shall pay for one of these Heifers-for-Relief. This is in addition to nearly \$3,000.00 that our church has sent to the American Friends Service Committee since last April. On Friday I attended a meeting of leaders for this campaign in the county, where I was the principal speaker, after organizing the county. I am in the executive committee for the county, and am supposed to be the chief pep-rouser, on call for any meeting of church, grange, farmers' union or other organization that wants me. Sunday evening I preached to the Friends church here, our pastor being away for some evangelistic meetings at Springbrook. Last night I was in an executive committee meeting for the promotion of united publicity for all the relief organizations of the state. Tomorrow evening I am to be in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Northwest Institute of International Relations. And so it goes.

The college situation here is not all that could be desired. The man who succeeded me, who is in the east right now, adopted an appeasement policy toward a certain element of the yearly meeting, putting on the faculty certain members who have since cooperated with a hostile element and he is out on his ear. With him went \$250,000.00, which a man who has known me for a third of a century and Gulley for half that long, and who believed in us both, had put into his will. He decided to cut it down by more than half when there was an attack on Gulley a year and a half ago, but when Gulley was given a five years

contract, with a pledge of support and loyalty, he went the whole way, and wrote the will as Gulley and I wanted it. But when he found that the persecution of Gulley had led to his resignation, he changed the will, cut the college out of it entirely, and is giving it all to another school and plans to get it to work while he lives -- and he will need to hurry, as he is nearly 90 years old and his health is poor. It's the first time I ever lost \$250,000.00 or more (the bank that was to administer the estate assured us that it was nearer \$300,000.00 than \$200,000.00) in one lump, "at one swell foop" as the souse said, and it gives me a pain that is not confined to my neck. Maybe I ought not to let it worry me, but a fellow does not enjoy seeing an institution go to smash after he has worked for it for 35 years.

But maybe there are things in the situation that I can not see now. One of our former faculty members tells me that he knows the man to whom they have now offered the presidency, and that he is a real educator, and that one of the first things he will do will be to get rid of some of the trouble-makers. Hamlet, if remember aright, remarked

"It is the sport to see the enginer

Moist with his own petar."

If some of the folks who have made it so disagreeable for Gulley that he has resigned should find themselves on the outside lookin' in, not by their own choice but as a matter of poetic justice and dramatic irony, I'd bear up under it with heroic fortitude -- and I could make it fifty-tude if necessary.

But I must end this and get busy. I really have some work to do today, even if it was after midnight before I got to bed after that session in Portland last night.

With best wishes, to you and all yours, for the New Year and all the years that are to be,

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.

Lester C. Haworth et al.,
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New York 63, N.Y.