

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to Cecil Pearson, August 26, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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August 26, 1947.

Dear Cecil:--

It was certainly good to get your letter of the 20th., with the copy of the abstract of your dissertation. Some day I hope to read the entire work in the form of a printed volume, though it may be as hard to persuade a publisher to put this into the form of a book as it was to get MacMillan, for instance, to publish a certain lot of verse that I could mention. (Hope it will not be as hard as that; that was impossible.)

That painful part of your story is painful to me, too. If it were Pacific College, now, and ten years ago, the problem would not have offered such difficulty. When an institution owes its president more than \$8,000.00, it is not too difficult for him to pay for some student's expenses with a credit on the college's debt to him, and then let the student owe the president instead of the college. And if the college could pay me what it owes me, or half of it, or a fourth, or even a tenth, I'd be where I could myself take care of the matter. But as it is, neither of those courses are open. And if I were president of Pacific College and it was a student who wanted a loan there, we'd have some thousands of dollars of a student loan fund which we'd be glad to use for just the purpose for which it was raised, and especially glad to loan it to a Senior. Or we'd have the income from a fund of \$25,000.00, to be used for grants-in-aid, outright gifts to the right students. And if the board wanted to make one of those grants-in-aid to a granddaughter of mine, I'd not oppose it too strenuously.

Well, of course none of these things that I could do or have done is available for Bertha May -- I wish it were.

There are other loan funds in Oregon, available for Oregon students but not for students who live outside the state. And of course I do not know of such things back there.

My first thought would be that Earlham College would have a student loan fund, some of which ought to be available for Bertha May. Have you made inquiry there? Every higher educational institution in Oregon, I think, has such a fund. That would be my first thought, to write direct to President Thomas E. Jones and tell him the situation, and ask him if there is any such fund available.

My second thought would be to enquire from somebody in the educational field there as to other sources of student loans. There are fraternal organizations, women's clubs and such groups that have loan funds in some places, and I should suppose in New York. And they do not confine their loans, at least out here, to children of their members. Some such organization might be glad of the favorable publicity that they would receive for making a loan to a Quaker preacher's daughter, especially such a fine student as Bertha May is.

And my last suggestion would be, a loan from a personal friend or relative. For my second year at Earlham, I just had to

have some additional money. My father's first cousin was general agent for an insurance company, and I knew he had some means, so I "boned" him for a loan, and got it. There ought to be somebody there or thereabouts, or in some place where you have been pastor, or somewhere else, who would be glad to make a loan for such a good cause. What about that garage man who put my car into shape while we were there? What about John I. Lane? And there are other folks in that yearly meeting who could help if they would. Maybe L. Hollingsworth Wood could help, or could tell you where you could get help. *and what about Gerald.*

I wish I had the money to simply enclose a check instead of writing all over a page with advice that may be no good to you. But if Earlham College has a loan fund that is not all taken already, there is the place where they ought to be glad to make the loan, for student loan funds are raised for that purpose and cannot be used for anything else.

It is good to know that Mary is better. I just had a telegram from her, and I'm answering it with an airmail letter as soon as I can get to it. (It won't go out till tomorrow morning now, and so there is no hurry.)

I am sure that you will be glad when you have reached a decision as to the work for the coming year. As you say, it is late, very late, to get an educational job this year. Next year, and I'd not wait even till late or even early spring, would be a better time. Wish South Glens Falls could pay you enough so that it would entirely relieve the financial pressure. You ought to be worth more to them the coming year than any previous year, now that the long road to the Ph.D. has been entirely covered.

Yes, there are schools where a graduate of Boston or Hartford or Chicago would not be acceptable, and one could extend the list ~~indefinitely~~. There are places where "sawing Isaiah asunder" would be considered an act of terrible heresy, to say nothing of carving him up into a number of pieces, dismembering some of the other prophets, or hinting that the imprecatory Psalms are not up to the level of Christianity. There are places where even a suggestion that the many greetings at the close of Romans, to people who we know had been in Ephesus and who so far as we have information had never seen Rome any more than Paul had, might have been originally a part of the Ephesian Epistle, even that would subject one to grave suspicions, to say nothing of teaching that II Corinthians embodies at least two epistles, and perhaps three.

Hope you have a good time and a profitable one at that Young Friends Conference. I'd like to sit in one of your discussion groups, though somebody might possibly raise the question as to whether I was a Young Friend.

I'll be saying some more things in my letter to Mary (I may make it a "form" letter with a copy to some of the other relatives) so I'll end this one.

Always lovingly,

Dr. Cecil E. Pearson,  
13 Marion Avenue,  
South Glens Falls, N.Y.