

Levi Pennington

People

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10-30-1947

## Pennington to His Granddaughter, October 30, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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OFF WITH THEIR HEADS  
(AND SOMETIMES MORE THAN THAT)

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1. Cut off my head and I wrinkle the brow.  
Cut off my tail, I'm the mark of a cut.  
Cut off at once both my head and tail, now  
I'm a vehicle oft owned by a "nut."  
Put me all back as I was, and you might  
Give to yourself a most genuine fright.
2. Off with head, I'm a seabird.  
Off with my tail, I am three.  
Off head and tail, I'm a suffix,  
That is as plain as can be.  
Put back again my head and my tail  
And once again o'er the sea I can sail.
3. Cut off my head, I'm a drink that is heady.  
Cut off my tail, I am one of a pair.  
Cut off my head and my tail and I'm ready  
Sure to defeat you, by foul means or fair.  
Left as I was and I'll certainly bring you  
Back The Lost Chord. -- I'm not trying to "string" you.
4. Cut off my head, I'm a growth on man's face.  
Cut off my hear and my neck, atmosphere.  
Cut off my head, neck and tail, I'm a place  
Where Hebrews suffered defeat, so I hear.  
Left as I was at the first, I'm a seat  
Where you can sit as you read, write or eat.
5. Cut off my head and I grow on a cow.  
Cut off my tail, I'm a god of the Teuton.  
Cut off my head and my neck and tail, now  
You've a conjunction, as certain as shootin'.  
Left as I was and I grow on a tree.  
When on the ground you'd best not step on me.
6. Off with my head and I tear things,  
A heart or a sheet, right in two.  
Off head and neck, poor or rare things  
Come to a terminus true.  
Left as I was at the first, I'm a tendency;  
On this remark you can place full dependency.
7. Cut off my head, and a lady  
Once used to have me in tow.  
Off head and neck and it's shady  
With things getting wet down below.  
Off head and neck and the chest too,  
Then you have left Scottie's own.  
Use this and all of the rest, too,  
What muscles put on a bone.
8. Cut off my head and a planet am I.  
Cut off my tail, I'm an organ.  
Cut off my head, neck and tail, and still I  
Sometimes am bought at a bargain.  
Cut off the tail of this last at your pleasure  
And I become a metrical measure.  
Put me all back as I was at the first  
And I'm the place where you roast weinerwurst.

OVER



ONE, TWO, AND MAYBE THREE.

1. My first to genus equus belongs.  
My second you can keep your treasures in.  
And for my third a hungry squirrel longs.  
My whole would seem to other nuts akin.  
Many a Buckeye bears me as a charm,  
A pocket-piece, to keep a man from harm.
2. My first is coarse, as you can plainly see.  
Second, a bill, not from the grocery.  
My whole, a songster, red and white and black.  
When you hear him, summer is coming back.
3. My first is just a river the poet Goldsmith named.  
If you should have my second, 'twould make you feel  
ashamed.  
My whole might have my second, and 'twould make him  
scratch like sin.  
And if you steal or murder, my whole will run you in.
4. My first a carpenter will use.  
My second you should not abuse.  
My whole will oft be used by you  
When my first you try to do.
5. My first is an ungulate mammal  
As useful and swift as a camel.  
My second I wear, indeed I wear two,  
But I never wear three at a time, nor do you.  
My whole I am told the whole country over  
Is thought to bring luck as the good four-leaf clover.
6. My first oft is set in a hole in the ground.  
Just wait and my second will surely come round.  
My whole you should always supply without fail  
Or Uncle Sam will not carry your mail.
7. Sometimes my whole gives my first to my second.  
Often my second gives first to my whole.  
Often my first, when it's properly reckoned,  
Seems to be shared by my second and whole.  
We should be thankful that often my second  
Shares with my whole in avoiding my first.  
Often and often has happiness beckoned;  
These get the best and escape from the worst.
8. My first could own my second, and 'twould be his  
duddy, too.  
My second could not own my first, try all that he  
could do.  
To win my first a wife of old once sought to eat  
my whole,  
And afterward she won my first -- she did, upon  
my soul.



MIXUMUP.

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1. My first is a dude, a Beau Brummel,  
In dude ranch or on city avenue.  
My second, a cat; and the sum'll  
Give you a weed. Got it, Have n' you?
2. Off with my head, what you do to your gruel.  
Off with my tail, I'm a thing that you eat.  
Left as I was at the first, I'm a fuel  
That gives to the Irish a deal of their heat.
3. My first is a task that is easily done  
Or what a clay pipe-stem can do.  
My second a monster of days long ago.  
(You may think such stories untrue.)  
My whole, I'll bet you a dolla',  
Is a flower with a labiate corolla.
4. Off with my head I'm a tough sort of meat  
Many a person refuses to eat.  
Off with my tail I'm a sort of a tease  
Which modest people will surely not please.  
Off with my head and my tail I'm a tour --  
That very plain you can see.  
Off with my head, neck and tail, I'm a tear  
Right where the seam used to be.  
Now for my whole -- this will finish the story --  
You will find numbers of me in Old Glory.
5. My first is a porridge of corn meal or oats.  
Next comes an apartment, for men, not for goats.  
One kind of my whole has with death oft appalled.  
The Destroying Angel 'tis fittingly called.