

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to Gervas Carey, November 11, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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November 11, 1947.

Dr. Gervas A. Carey, Prest.,  
Pacific College,  
Newberg, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

Your form letter of July 18 has been lying on my desk ever since, not forgotten but thus far unanswered.

I wish I could feel more confidence in the future of the college than I am able to feel. A year and a month ago I had that confidence, shaken somewhat all the time by the feeling that members of the board were working underhandedly against Emmett Gulley, and that members of the faculty and the student body were doing the same thing, imperiling the future of the college, especially its financial future. When Emmett Gulley was driven from the presidency by this combined attack of board, faculty and student body members, and I learned that Mr. Grohner had changed his will and cut the college off without a cent, I confess that my confidence went down to zero or perhaps somewhat below that point. A minority of the board, which has brought all this about, will have something to answer for, as I see it.

If I could have had my choice of all the men in Quakerdom to undertake the task from which Emmett Gulley had been driven, I should have chosen you. It seemed to me then and it seems to me still that there is no other man on whom the yearly meeting, both factions, could come as near uniting. And I hope you know that you have my very best wishes for the success of your administration. I hope that you may never have to face some of the opposition that I faced for thirty years, and that Emmett Gulley had to face for a shorter time.

I was shocked again when I learned that Charles C. Haworth had been removed from the college board and his place had been given to a man who so far as I know had never shown any interest in the college and whose loyalty had supposedly been to another institution. And as I have told you, I have been disturbed by statements that have been attributed to members of the board suggesting that there is only a lull in the proceedings, with you as merely a stop-gap to hold the place as president only for a year or so, when the position will be filled by one completely in harmony with the ideals of the Reece-Smith-Lee-Dunbar-et al faction.

I am not in position to make a cash contribution to the college, nor would I be if I were president. I sold the place at Rex in order to clear up some of the indebtedness that had piled up during the years that I served the college, such as delinquent taxes, a street assessment more than 25 years old that had more than doubled because of interest accumulation, and things of that sort. (I had already cashed in the last life insurance I had.) But I am willing, as a matter of hope rather than of confidence, to have another \$200.00 of interest

cancelled on what the college owes me. That is for this college year only. I'll have to consider the matter each year. Some folks, I am sure, consider that I am not thus giving anything, but unless the college is to repudiate its indebtedness, a thing I have never believed the institution would do, I feel that it is a real contribution.

I do not want to feel in any way unchristian about the whole matter. But lies have been told, statements made that the facts would not justify, promises made that could not have been fulfilled and others that have been definitely broken, and so many things of that sort done by folks who still hold-up their heads as leaders and make high professions, that it is hard to believe that they are now dependable. I hope that some of them are a lot better than they appear to me.

With best wishes to you personally, and for the success of your administration, in spite of all that was done before you became president to make success difficult, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.