

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to Charles Haworth, November 14, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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November 14, 1947.

Charles C. Haworth,  
2271 North Beechwood Drive,  
Hollywood 28, California.

Dear Friend:--

It was good to get your letter of the 10th., which just arrived. My correspondence with Hollywood people is not extensive, and my acquaintance with persons in that widely publicized area is decidedly limited.

It was good to hear from you again, and to know that you have recovered from the flu, though it would have suited us better still if you had not been troubled with that infection. (Of course if you had not been ill you could not have recovered. A boy in the Sunday School class was asked what a boy had to do before his sins could be forgiven, and he replied, "He's gotta sin." )

I have no doubt that the matter of the ministry of the Clarks will be favorably passed upon by the committee on ministry, and I'll miss my guess if it is not done in such a way that it will amount to nothing; I don't imagine that any more will be accomplished than if they had just been received as ministers, without any provision of the discipline that would seem to say that nobody but Oregon can tell whether a man should be a Friends minister, unless that man comes to the sacrosanct position of pastor. I've not changed my mind on a single objection that I made to the proposed new discipline (which may prove to some that I am fossilized and can't change), and some of the meetings are disregarding its provisions, and acting in direct opposition to some of them, but in a way that will not bring matters to a crisis in the yearly meeting so far as I know. I have felt that we should follow the discipline strictly, even when we do not approve of its provisions, and I so held in the monthly meeting. Some wanted to receive the Clarks as ministers and let the yearly meeting know, and see what they would do about it, but in addition to my objection to violating the discipline there was the additional difficulty in which it might involve the Clarks. Suppose we had so recognized Scott Clark, and he had performed a marriage ceremony, and then the matter of his recognition had been raised -- I can well imagine that the courts might hold that since he had not been received as the discipline required, he was no longer a minister, and the situation would not be at all nice. Well, I'm sure the matter will be satisfactorily or at least legally settled, and that in a month both these Friends will again be recognized ministers.

We were interested to learn about some of the meetings there. Hope George Moore will not win for himself the sort of hard feeling that is pretty widespread here because of his conduct in connection with his work for the college. His prophecy that at the opening of college this fall there would be 250 students, and five or six new Ph.D.'s, with their salaries all underwritten has fallen as far short of fulfilment as I expected.



Farther, as a matter of fact, for I thought the enrollment would be higher than it is, and that they would have at least one or two more Ph. D.'s than they actually have. I'd not want to put anything in the way of his success, but as a member of the college board I am not telling you anything that you did not know.

I wish I could have full confidence in the college board under the present situation. The fact that you were left off the board, as far as the yearly meeting was concerned, and a man put on in your place who so far as I know had never shown any great interest in the college and whose loyalty was by many supposed to be to another school -- well, this and remarks attributed to a member or two of the board make me wonder. I asked Joseph Reece whether Gervas A. Carey was really the permanent president of the college, or merely a stop-gap, as was indicated by statements attributed to board sources. I waited a long time for a reply and did not get any, so I wrote again. He referred my inquiry to the secretary of the board, with the request that he send me a transcript of the minutes in the matter. I had to tell him that he must know that that was not an answer to my inquiry. The minutes of the board meetings would not show the sort of campaign that was carried on against the former president -- as I see it Emmett W. Gulley was fairly hounded out of his office by members of the board, the faculty and the student body. (And it cost the college from a quarter to a half million dollars, and when I think what that would have meant, you cannot wonder that I was and am unhappy about the whole proceeding.)

But things are going fine at the college now, so far as one can judge by outward appearances. The president's new offices in the southwest corner of the building look fine; the new buildings make a fine showing so far as volume is concerned, though I have seen Greek architecture that I thought more beautiful than any of it. And faculty salaries have been increased, on paper at least. The whole program of progress has of course involved considerable additional indebtedness, but maybe new sources of income can be tapped to cover all this and much more.

Old sources of income have been stopped in large measure, though on the face of it some say they do not want any help from some of these sources. Tomorrow we shall have as our guests, and for a considerable time thereafter, two prominent Friends from England. The parents of one of them gave the college considerably more than \$25,000.00, and the two daughters after the death of the parents added \$7,000.00 to that sum. There will be no more help from that quarter, I am sure. Another friend of the college, who had promised to leave one third or one half his estate to Pacific, died recently without leaving the college a cent; and I was sure that that would be the result if he learned how things have gone the past few years. You know of the withdrawal of gifts already given and pledges made by the Hinshaw family, and that I suppose means a loss of \$7,500.00 or more. I think you know of the woman in Portland who was to give the college \$5,000.00 and cancelled it when she learned that Emmett had been driven from his job. The family in Philadelphia who have given us nearly or quite \$40,000.00 are completely and I fear permanently alienated. And so I could go on and on, with losses to the institution in addition to the



one biggest loss. Less than a week ago I learned of a man who has come into a considerable sum by inheritance and who wants to give it where it will do good year after year, and I think he could have been led to give it to the college except for the happenings of the past three years.

But here I've been "thinking out loud" in a way that is perhaps inexcusable. But I know that you are interested in the college, and regret as deeply as I do that there has been such a heavy loss to the institution in a financial way. If it has had corresponding gains -- and I know some consider it a great gain that there should be offered public prayer before a game of football or basket ball or before a concert or a play that has in it nothing but foolishness.

Did you mention weather? Oregon has certainly had it, the wettest October in 65 years, and the cloudiest since records have been kept. The Willamette Valley has been wet enough, but Valsets takes the banner for rainfall, 28 inches in the single month of October, more than large areas of the United States have in a year. And the rains continue -- right now it is raining outdoors, as it has been most of the day, and yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that, and so on.

The rain stopped Tuesday long enough for the football game between Pacific and Reed, a very good game to watch from the spectator's standpoint. Pacific scored in the first quarter, but failed to convert. Twice in the second quarter they threatened, but Reed staved off another touchdown. The third quarter was scoreless, but early in the fourth quarter Reed made a touchdown and converted, so that the score was 7 to 6 in favor of Reed. This seemed to fire up the Pacific team, and they made another touchdown in rather short order, but again failed to convert. Reed threatened toward the end of the game, and carried the ball deep into Pacific territory, thanks to two good passes; but Pacific held, took the ball, and were about midfield with the ball in their possession when the final whistle blew, the game ending 12 to 7 in our favor. The banquet was well attended, as was the play which followed. We had the privilege of meeting a good many of the graduates and old students, though some who are usually present were conspicuous by their absence.

Rebecca and I have been back two weeks from a two months trip to the east and the middle west. The trip included the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Indiana Yearly Meeting, where I was asked to preach the opening sermon, the Earlham College Centennial, where again I met many old friends and college mates, and the Ministers and Workers Conference of New York Yearly Meeting, in which I was the one outside man. And we got to spend a month with relatives and friends, with a visit to my old home in Traverse City, where I met some folks I had not seen for forty years and more. It was a great trip, and we appreciated it, for we know that there is every chance that we were seeing some of those whom we hold dear for the last time.

Now that we are back, there seems to be no lack of things to do, local, quarterly meeting and yearly meeting tasks, Heifers for Relief, Northwest Conference on International Relations, American Friends Service Committee, the proposed Friend-