

Levi Pennington

People

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1-17-1948

## Pennington to Lillian Shepherd, January 17, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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January 17, 1948.

Lillian White Shepard,  
101 So. Eighth St.,  
Richmond, Indiana.

Dear Friend:--

Your letter of the 12th. is just received, stating that you are not sure what to say about me in the identification column. Well, I could tell you a lot, and my wife could make some contributions, but perhaps all we might say would help you very little. I'll tell you some things that I am sure you will not use, and try to make the situation as clear to you as Einstein made the theory of relativity before an audience in New York. Before that address, there were only seven men in the world who understood his theory. One of them was at that meeting, and at its close there were only six men who understood it.

When I "retired" in 1941 and was made president emeritus, the college board passed a resolution which said that after commencement of 1941, "he shall be free to serve the interests of Pacific College, the Society of Friends and the kingdom of God as he sees fit and is able." Since then I've given advice when I was asked, which was not often and the advice was not taken at all times; I've given service when I was asked, taking the place of faculty folks who for any reason were off duty for a while; assisting the president in financial solicitation when asked has been another part of my service to the college. Most of my time and energy are spent in relief work these days, through a number of different agencies, the American Friends Service Committee, Heifers-for-Relief, Church World Service, and of late the Christmas Ship which the northwest is sending. My brother says he wishes I were not so "actively retired."

Well, I should think that "President Emeritus of Pacific College" would be enough, unless you wish to "splurge", as I do sometimes in writing recommendations for former students, when I put after my signature the words, "President Pacific College 1911-41, now President Emeritus."

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.

*My wife remarked, "The less said the better." See how well she understands me!*