

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Minister Carl Byrd, March 8, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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March 8, 1948.

Dear Friend:--

You may be sure that all the Penningtons are glad indeed that you are getting better, and hope that you may soon be well enough and strong enough to "lick the fightin' editor", though we know you'd not be doing anything like that if you were as strong as John L. Samson.

They tell me that not all of the members saw eye to eye in the matter of the building of the parsonage, and that they appointed a special committee to look into the plans of the parsonage committee to see if they could not do something or other to get something or other done, or something of the sort -- at least that's about the best understanding I have of it from some who were there and some who were not.

I don't know what that committee will have to report. And not having been at the meeting Wednesday evening I perhaps ought not to comment on any of the discussion. But I do have some pretty definite convictions on the subject of the proposed new parsonage.

In the first place, I do not want to see an inadequate building. I have my own preferences as to one story or two, basement or no basement, and various things of that sort; but those seems to me comparatively unimportant things. I do, however, hope that when we build we may build a house that is fitting for the pastors of such a meeting as ours, the present pastor, who I hope will be here a long time, and the pastors in future years when all of us are gone. I don't mean that I want to see a mansion; but I do want to see a house that is nice enough and commodious enough so that the pastor and his family will not have to feel cramped nor embarrassed even if they should have company some time, or even if they had some kind of a party at their house.

And if we cannot be united in building such a house at this time, I wonder what you would think of just postponing the building till such a time as we could do an adequate job, and at a cost that would be decidedly lower than it would cost to build at this time. Everybody seems agreed that prices will be coming down in the not distant future, maybe in a matter of months, altogether probably in a year.

Of course there would be the problem of finding a suitable house to rent -- or even to buy -- in the meantime. Not easy to find a suitable house, but not so hard, for a guess, as it seemed to be before you came. And I have been told that there are some houses in the city that are for sale now and on which we might save some money over erecting a new building now, even if we had to buy now and sell at a lower figure in one year or two.

I think we have never talked this matter over at all. It may be that you are convinced that we ought to build now,

even if we have to go heavily into debt or erect an inadequate building. If that's the way you feel, I'd like to know it. I do not feel so fearful of going on with the building as planned as some seem to feel. But my guess is that the meeting could come nearer to agreeing on a postponement till prices drop a bit than on anything else. Maybe I'm a mile wrong on that guess.

I'd like it best if we could all move together when we do move, the entire meeting agreeing on the plan proposed and finally adopted. Maybe that is impossible. But I'd like to see it.

I know something of what a disagreeable thing it would be to have to move from your present resident residence to another and then a year or two later to move into the parsonage. But if we can't agree, with a reasonable approximation to unanimity, either of carrying out the present plans or cutting down the building nearer to the size of our present resources, I would like to know what you'd think of a postponement till prices come down and the money in the treasury builds up.

With best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, for all of you, in which Rebecca joins heartily, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.

Carl D. Byrd, Minister,
Friends Church,
205 East Third St.,
Newberg, Oregon.