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Pennington to Daniel Poling, April 2, 1965

Levi T. Pennington

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Dear Friend: --

You may be sure that I join in your hope that we may meet some time this summer. So far as I know I shall be here, especially since I have a hope that my daughter Mary Pearson and her husband may come from their home in Greene, New Your, to spend most of the summer in Oregon. There is no certainty of it, but some of the difficulties that made their coming doubtful have been overcome, and the last word was that if their health permitted they expect to make the trip. And a favorite niece is definitely planning to be here and help me to observe my 90th birthday.

I live alone in the house which Rebecca for so many years made a happy home in spite of poverty and hardship that would have embittered one less brave and loyal than she. For a long time my monthly pay check was \$57.50, and two Decembers in succession there was no check at all -- Merry Christmas! The sense of loss and loneliness is with me always.

As though it were somebody else of whom I wrote, these verses almost said themselves:

WEALTH AND POVERTY

They had been poor as this world counts its wealth But vastly affluent in real love, A love that did not fade with passing years But brighter grew, as sunset lights the heavens. Now she was gone, and he was left alone. He was my friend. I waited at his house To be with him awhile after the service When they had laid to rest her precious body.

Not knowing I was there, he came back home (Though he could never call it home again) And as he closed the door I heard him say, "Had I not been so rich and now so poor I could not be so deathly broken-hearted."

With the hope that nothing will prevent our meeting before the summer is over,

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.

Dr. Deniel A. Poling, 27 East 39th Street, New York 16, N.Y.