

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington To Errol Elliott, August 22, 1965

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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August 22, 1965.

Errol T. Elliott,
Earlham School of Religion,
Earlham College,
Richmond, Indiana.

Dear Friend:--

Your letter of the 14th arrived on the day of the opening of Oregon Yearly Meeting I believe, or maybe it was on the second day of that gathering, which closed more than an hour ago. Perhaps its most important action was the acceptance of the proposed constitution of the Evangelical Friends Alliance, which is declared to be, among other things, a means of strengthening the bonds of unity which now exist. A certain former president of Pacific College suggested a fear that it might not conduce to this end, and there were a number of others who shared in this doubt, but the action was taken and now Ohio, Oregon, Kansas and Rocky Mountain Yearly Meetings are united in this organization of Evangelical Friends, leaving all the un-evangelical Friends on the outside.

Concerning "Random Recollections", Haverford College has offered to seal up the production, if it ever is produced, until after my death or for any other length of time I prefer to name; but the intent in writing it is pretty largely to give some of my friends and descendants facts about my life, etc. Maybe it would not be safe to have anybody know about it or to read some of the unkind things it contains already -- unkind if the truth is unkind. Most of the folks whose participation in some of the events recorded have passed to "the great beyond", though some of their descendants are left. A. Clark Smith, who declared that "The American Friends Service Committee is spiritually rotten", that Kirby Page is a Communist; he admitted it in Boise, where he was hooted out of town; he is supported by funds from Moscow"; and things of that sort, is now clerk of Oregon Yearly Meetings Meeting on Ministry and Oversight. Lewis I. Hadly who declared that "The Five Years Meeting is a thing which God hates" died a good many years ago. L. Clarkson Hinshaw, Lindley A. Wells, Edward Mott, and other leaders whose names appear in what I have already written have gone to their reward; but Emmett W. Gulley, Roy Clark, George Moore and others are still alive.

Well, maybe the things I have written and hope still to write will never get beyond the present state of disorder, some hand written, probably more than 100 pages of it, and all needing a lot of revision. I'm leaving out a lot that would make very interesting reading but the recording of which could do no good so far as I can see.

Right now things have piled up scandalously, and with company and no chance to get away from it, and more coming, with a roof leaking all over the place, with a toilet to be replaced, an appeal to secure a place for an African teacher to live while attending the college, with his board and room provided, I'd better end this and get to work.

Sincerely your friend,