

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington To V.M. Sackett January 8, 1942

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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January 8, 1942.

Mr. V. M. Sackett,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Sackett:--

Your postal card mailed December 29 should have had an earlier reply but for the fact that I have been swamped with communications as a result of my letter to the Oregonian. I was surprised that my letter should have aroused so much interest; and you will be interested to know that only three of these communications were other than commendatory. One of these, a postal card, was a bit insulting, and naturally anonymous.

If what I wrote to the Oregonian gave you the impression that I felt that the Japanese exclusion act gave any justification for their diabolical attack on us, then I expressed myself poorly or you read carelessly. It did not justify, but it did create enmity against the United States.

You and I would probably differ pretty widely in our interpretation of the biblical "proofs" to which you refer. There would probably be little advantage in discussing it.

To me modern warfare seems irreconcilable to the ideals and the teachings of Jesus as I understand them. If modern warfare, with all that it entails, seems to you consistent with the life and teachings of Jesus, then you and I do not see alike. I think there are better ways of serving my country than by killing other men for whom Christ died as truly as He died for me. I am glad that I live in a country where I have a right so to believe, and so to express my beliefs.

With the assurance that I do not set myself up as the judge of those who differ from me conscientiously nor try to force them to my way of thinking, believing that they should follow their consciences as I should follow mine, I am

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.