

Levi Pennington

People

1-3-1966

Levi Pennington To Mary, January 3, 1966

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington

Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Levi Pennington To Mary, January 3, 1966" (1966). *Levi Pennington*. 362.
https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/362

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the People at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Levi Pennington by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

97132.

January 3, 1966.

Dear Mary:--

For some time I've been thinking more and more of the possibility of publishing the third, and last, of the trilogy, All Kinds of Weather, Variable Winds and Vagrant Breezes, each title supposed to suggest wide difference in the contents of the books. There was wide variety in All Kinds of weather, but only five pages that ~~that~~ did not have some claim to being attempts at serious poetry. Perhaps there was more of a lighter sort in Variable Winds, such as Preposterous, Frustrations, Modern Fables, and so on.

There is not half enough serious stuff to fill a book another volume that would match the first two, and I'd not publish another volume unless I thought I had more of the serious if not substantial stuff, Charity Clinic, Unforgotten, Memorial Day, A Legend of Calvary, Ben-Hur's Typewriter, Jesus and the Children, James Doyle Penrose and the three-page narrative poem, In a Castle. I think you have read most of these, perhaps all of them. If I had enough of such material I'd definitely plan to get out this third book; I think it would please Rebecca if she were still on earth. It would not be as hard to do as was Variable winds, that was published so soon after her death.

I have a considerable amount of material that has no more sense in it than some of the things that have made Ogden Nash so popular and well-to-do. I'd not want to put anything into a book that would make you ashamed of me after I am gone. while you were here ^{with me} The Pocket Book of Humorous Verse, No. 153,467,846? It contains Brown's Descent by Robert Frost, MiMiniver Cheezy (more like tragedy than humor to me), Plain Language from Truthful James (often called The Heathen Chinee), by Bret Harte, Municipal, by Rudyard Kipling, and a string of others. Then there are short ones like these.

I shoot the hipopotamus
With bullets made of platinum
Because if I use leaden ones
His hide is sure to flarten 'em.
Hilaire Belloc.

^{hermit}
Sme prim~~e~~val, knocked on wood
And tasted it and found it good,
And that is why your Cousin May
Fell through the parlor floor today.
Ogden Nash.

The rider
Is fat
As that ()
~~Or wider~~ Or wider ()
In torso
Of course
The horse
Is more so ()

Wey Robinson.

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
 which practically conceal its sex.
 I think it clever of the Turtle
 In such a fix to be so fertile.
 Ogden Nash.

And here's the happy, bounding flea--
 You cannot tell the he from she.
 The sexes look alike, you see;
 But she can tell, and so can he.
 Roland Young.

Well, I think I'm going to do a thing that I wish I had done while you were here last summer. I'm going to send you a lot of stuff that may rate in some cases doubtful and some of it certainly not to be used -- maybe you can just lump it all off as not to be thought of. If you think that I should not consider using any of it, don't hesitate to say so, when you send the stuff back, as I hope you will.

The stuff marked "High Brow Stuff" was done as part of my graduate work in English, and the Professor of English under whom I was taking this course gave it a good grade, but remarked that I could have done things of more importance if I had tried to handle some of the material of ancient myths and legends as Brooke did in Menalaus and Helen. Some of the stuff would have no meaning now. The one about the labors of Hercules was written when President Woodrow Wilson was turning over so many jobs to his son-in-law William G. McAdoo that it seemed that McAdoo was pretty nearly running the government. That's what made that quatrain of interest with its closing couplet,

But don't you think 'twould keep this master worker on the run
 If ^{McAdid} ~~what~~ Mr. McAdoo has McAdone?

And the government had taken over the railroads and the telephone systems, and things were really in a mess.

Then there's "In Flew Enzy", and you may think that this is unwortht of any consideration. If you think that, don't hesitate to say it.

this stuff
 The third bunch of ^{has} to do with animals and birds and fishes. I'd surely not use all of it, and I'd not be surprised if you advised me to use none of it. I once thought of trying to sell it to some publication as the start of an unfinished treatise on (Un)Natural History, to be used all at once strung along issue after issue, but I never got around to trying to sell it.

I'll ship it along, and wait for your suggestions, maybe by just an O beside the ones that you are sure should not be used, and an X beside anything that you think might do if..... Anyhow please return it, for there is some of it of which I do not have copy, or if I have I do not know where it is.

With love all the time,