

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington To T Edmund Harvey, March 27, 1940

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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PACIFIC COLLEGE

LEVI T. PENNINGTON, PRESIDENT  
NEWBERG, OREGON

March 27, 1939

*Suggested  
Letter, not  
sent*

T. Edmund Harvey

Leeds, England

Dear Friend:-

Pacific College, from its very beginning as Friends Pacific Academy in 1885, has forbidden the use of liquor and tobacco to its students and faculty, as did practically all our American colleges and academies in an earlier day. Nearly all of them continue in some form the ban on the drinking of liquor. And nearly all have relaxed in varying degrees the ban on the use of tobacco, Pacific College being the only one which still requires its students to abstain from its use, both on and off the campus.

I probably do not need to tell you that there has been opposition to this ban on the use of tobacco. And with the greatly increased prevalence of the habit of smoking since the World War, it has become increasingly difficult to enforce it without barring from our student body those who otherwise would be desirable students.

I have recently enquired of all the Friends colleges in America what are their regulations in the matter of the use of tobacco by students; and these vary in a way that has not a little of the ludicrous, not to say ridiculous. Surely, we can't all be right; if some of us are right, some others are very far from right.

But whatever are our practices, I feel that we have not arrived at the root of things unless we know more about what is fundamentally desirable than any mere information as to college practices can teach us. And so I am trying to go just as deep as I can into the problem. To this end I am asking the help of some leading Friends on both sides of the water.

I hope you will not consider me impertinent, for I do not intend to be. I know many people feel that such things are purely personal, and nobody has any right to question them about it; but I do not believe you will feel so, especially since these habits do affect others, and since you may help in the solution of what is a real problem, not only to individuals but also to Pacific College.

2. T. Edmund Harvey

I have understood that you are one of the English Friends who use tobacco. I know of your prominence in so many ways -- doubtless there are many notable services of yours of which I am ignorant -- that I am wondering if you would be willing to tell me why you use tobacco, and what would be your advice to others who are facing the question of whether to use it or not.

I need hardly tell you that if this is to be of real value, it will need to be specific and perfectly frank. And I can assure you that if you desire it, your identity will not be disclosed in any further study we may make of the subject.

Assuring you that I shall appreciate any help you may be able to give me, and with delightful recollections of your kindness to us and keen appreciation of your great and varied services to the Kingdom of God and to Quakerism, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington  
President Pacific College

LTP:DV