

Levi Pennington

People

8-26-1964

Levi Pennington To Glen Reece, August 26, 1964

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 Glen Reece, August 26, 1964" (1964). *Levi Pennington*. 383.
https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/383

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.

August 26, 1964.

Glen Reece,
101 Quaker Hill Drive,
Richmond, Indiana.

Dear Friend:--

In our recent yearly meeting reports were received from the Association of Evangelical Friends and the proposed Friends Evangelical Alliance. Oregon Yearly Meeting approved the proposed organization of this Friends Evangelical Alliance, with only one Friend expressing his deep regret that we had to continue our splitting up, divisive tendencies, and the wish that we could unitedly advance in our work for the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

One of the leaders of these two Evangelical organizations arose promptly to reply to this speech. (I tried to get in writing what he said, and I got a two page letter only four lines of which had to do with his speech, and did not cover all that my notes show that he said.) His letter stated that he "stressed that this particular organization (Friends Evangelical Alliance) is part of a movement back from dispersion, not an extension of a separatist movement, and is in fact so recognized by members of the Five Years Meeting."

I wonder if I might know whether you agree with this statement. He also stated with emphasis that this was a "healing" movement, and not intended as a rival organization to the Five Years Meeting. Do you agree with that statement?

It has been my understanding that leaders of the Five Years Meeting do consider this a rival organization, which intends, starting with four yearly meetings, to accept other yearly meetings as they withdraw from the Five Years Meeting -- there is a definite provision in their proposed charter that other yearly meetings are to be accepted as members with Ohio, Oregon, Kansas and Rocky Mountain on vote of the members already in the organization unless more than one of the member yearly meetings votes against the acceptance of the applicant yearly meeting. Do some of the leaders of the Five Years Meeting look upon the Friends Evangelical Alliance as a rival organization?

I see no reason to quote you by name, but I cannot feel as sure as this representative of the Alliance seems to be that all is "sweetness and light" in connection with this new organization of Evangelical Friends, as distinguished from non-Evangelical Friends. This Oregon Friend of whom I have written called on me last evening and we spent more than an hour, for a guess, reviewing the fight (that's not a nice word for Friends but it is accurate) that has been carried on against the Five Years Meeting more or less ever since its organization. The bitterness of it was never better expressed than in an article in the old Evangelical Friend by one of the leading opponents of the organization, in which he concluded his argument by saying, "The Five Years Meeting is a thing that God hates", and

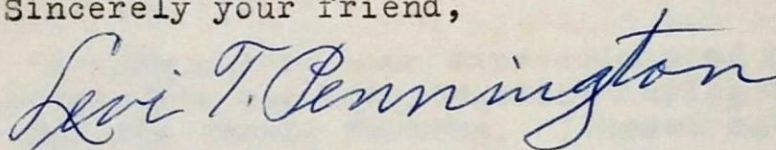
and urging Friends to withdraw from it, by yearly meetings if possible, if not, then by quarterly meetings, if that was not possible in any case, by monthly meetings, and if not so, then as individual members.

It seems to some of us that this new organization is just carrying farther the separation that has progressed on this wise: Ohio refuses to join the Five Years Meeting; after a long fight Oregon secedes; after a further fight Kansas secedes; then the movement splits Nebraska Yearly Meeting, and Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting is formed outside of the Five Years Meeting; then the Association of Evangelical Friends is organized, supposedly composed of Evangelical Friends from all the yearly meetings of "orthodox" Friends but dominated by the so-called "independent" yearly meetings; and now Friends Evangelical Alliance, composed of these "independent" and Evangelical yearly meetings, with a provision for the reception of other yearly meetings as they secede from the Five Years Meeting. I know folks who are convinced that there is a definite purpose to break up the Five Years Meeting, though that is definitely disavowed by some at least of the leaders of this "Evangelical" movement.

If you are willing to let me know how the leaders of the Five Years Meeting feel about this latest movement of these four "independent" yearly meetings in forming Friends Evangelical Alliance, I shall appreciate it greatly. I'm not wanting to stir up past antagonisms, but when the tide is running out I do not go swimming at the outlet of the bay.

With best wishes to you and the work that you are doing for the Kingdom of God,

Sincerely your friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Levi T. Pennington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Levi T. Pennington.