

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington To Errol T Elliott, March 8, 1957

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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March 8, 1957.

Errol T. Elliott,
Editor American Friend,
Quaker Hill Drive,
Richmond, Indiana:--

Dear Friend:--

Enclosed is a bit about the closing of his work in British Columbia on the Doukhobor problem by Emmett Gulley. I could write a book about this, but doubtless it would not be necessary as far as you are concerned, for you are doubtless familiar with this Doukhobor problem, and of Emmett's work on it.

There is a lot of this story that is not the right sort of thing to go into the American Friend, though I am not sure that it should go unchronicled. There are some features of the relationship of Friends to this work of which most Friends know nothing, which is perhaps quite as well. One of the hardest things that the Gulleys have had to face has been the opposition of some Friends, and some who had definitely approved every step that he had taken. Sometimes when we meet again and you have a day off, I'd like to tell you the story, but not now.

Some of the other things that Emmett and Zoe have had to face have been:

1. The monstrous lies that have been told by the Sons of Freedom, by word of mouth, by paid advertising in newspapers and by publications at least one of which was more than half a hundred pages in size, printed on fine paper, a really fine production, beautifully illustrated. I have been favored (?) by a good deal of this literature, according to which Emmett is a liar, a thief, a double-crosser, a man enriching himself at the expense of the government, with a salary of \$10,000.00 a year (they should worry; they pay no taxes), a traitor comparable to Judas Iscariot, and a persecutor who will go down in history as Torquemado the Second.

2. The constant threat of having his house burned over his head. He and Zoe have slept for years with an amateur or at least a home-made fire escape under their bed, and the Sons of Freedom have twice definitely tried to burn the house, and once only the fortunate arrival of a neighbor an hour ahead of his usual time prevented the burning; this neighbor was looking after the furnace during a Christmas time absence of the Gulleys.

3. Personal violence. Twice Emmett was attacked by mobs of Freedomite women, his clothing torn, his watch smashed, his face scratched and he was generally man-handled by these husky women, who had vowed that they would make a nudist of him, whether he would or not.

Twice Emmett has saved the Sons of Freedom from Vigilante violence; he has traveled over a large share of Western Canada to find a

place to which these Freedomites could emigrate -- they were determined to move, according to their claims; he made an arduous journey to Costa Rica for the same purpose; he has steadily guided the counsels of the government, mitigating the severity of some of the penalties on the law violators -- he helped to get hundreds of them out of prison; he ----- I'll quit before I get half started.

Enough!! Those are some of the things I thought you'd be glad to know if you do not already know them. Emmett was not intending to send any news item to the American Friend, but I have his consent to write something. He and Zoe will live, at least for a time, in Brookings, on the Oregon coast near the California line, where their son Ross is in the building materials business, in which Emmett is joining him.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington

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[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

With best wishes to both of you,

Sincerely your friend,

Levi Pennington

Levi T. Pennington.