A LITTLE WORD..... ABOUT A BIG MAN

IN HEIGHT, HE IS ABOUT SIX FEET,
ALTHOUGH HIS FEET ARE TWO;
BUT IT IS NOT HIS HEIGHT OR FEET
THAT MOST IMPRESSES YOU.

NOR IS IT THAT HE WEARS HIS CLOTHES
SO WELL ON THAT TALL FRAME
YOU'RE SURE THE FITTING MUST HAVE SEEN
BY TAILOR OF GREAT FAME.

NOR IS IT YET THE DIGNITY
THAT MARKS HIS EV'RY MOVE,
NOR THE ASSURANCE THAT HIS MIND
IS ALWAYS IN-THE-GROOVE.

THERE IS AT ONCE BOTH POISE AND CHARM
COMBINED WITHIN THIS MAN
THAT EVEN ON FIRST MEETING WILL
MAKE YOU AN ARDENT FAN.

ITS SOMETHING DEEPER THAN ALL THIS,
MORE BASIC, DOWN-TO-EARTH,
THAT MAKES FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM ONE OF
INESTIMABLE WORTH.

THERE'S 'TENDERNESS' THAT REACHES OUT
FROM SOMEPLACE DEEP WITHIN
HIS SPIRIT, AND LAYS HOLD OF YOURS,
IN MANNER OF CLOSE KIN.

THERE'S 'UNDERSTANDING' THAT BECOMES
AN ANCHOR WHEN STRONG GALE
WOULD THREATEN TO UPSET THE BARK
IN WHICH LIFE'S SEAS YOU SAIL.

THERE IS 'A WARMTH' THAT HELPS YOU FEEL
SOMEHOW YOU'LL MAKE IT THROUGH,
AND GENERATES AN INNER STRENGTH
TO FACE YOUR TASKS ANEW.

THERE ARE SO MANY QUALITIES
MERE WORDS CANNOT DEFINE
THAT GO INTO THE MAKE-UP OF
MY GOOD FRIEND "JAKE VANHINE."

10/9/65 MT. VERNON, NEW YORK

DEAR JAKE: THE FORM MAY BE "DOGGEREL." THE THOUGHTS ARE "SINCERE." TOGETHER WITH BILL AND EVA NEWBERN, YOU AND NELLIE HAD MUCH TO DO (PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHERS) WITH THE MOLDING OF A YOUNG AND VERY GREEN MISSIONARY'S LIFE..... NAMELY, MINE. I SHALL ALWAYS BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL. ALWAYS AFFECTIONATELY YOURS,

Charles M. Pennington

CHARLES M. ("CHUCK") PENNINGTON