

February 6, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

It was like news from home to get your letter of January 29th and to know that all is serene at your end in spite of expected Japanese invasion. I realize just how Mrs. Bliss must be and it is very disturbing, but there isn't anything to do about it. I think it is a wonderful outlet for her energies.

Yes, it is always nice to see Mr. Russell - he is so quiet and reassuring and a grand tonic. He was very busy while here but we did manage to have a talk about 'our family'.

I am so pleased that the Ambassador is improving and I know he must enjoy having you and Mr. Farrand for neighbors on whom he can call for a chat in between the excursions hither and yon.

About myself, I feel like a woodchuck or one of those animals who hibernate in Winter and hope, like them, I shall emerge in the Spring with new energy and some ideas, but at present I am 'moulting'. I have no interviews to record with Mr. Thacher - the only contacts we have had have been in regard to the report to be handed in to the attorneys who are clamoring for a reduction in taxes. What they need with such detail is beyond me, but I am enclosing a few notes given to Mr. Thacher who wanted them in as brief a form as possible.

We had four visitors on Wednesday, a nice mild day and I suppose as soon as weather breaks we will get busy on Saturdays. To date not one aconite or snowdrop has appeared, nor a Christmas rose, but the winter jasmine occasionally flaunts a bud or two and the magnolia buds are swelling.

Bryce left on Wednesday for his holidays in Florida and said he would write you before he left, but whether he managed it or not I am not able to find out - I know he was terribly rushed, as usual, setting things to rights.

Mrs. Farrand:

Kearney tells me he doesn't think Bryce did write as he asked Kearney to give me a list of the number of roses required to make some changes in Rose Terrace. Kearney has promised to bring the list to me today so I will include it in this envelope with any remarks he may have to contribute.

Mrs. Bliss wrote me before Christmas asking if I had any free time in which to do some work for her and I replied that I would be very glad to help since which time I haven't had a word, except a card telling of Tango's departure for dog heaven. By now the two little black dogs escorted by Siposs will have arrived and I am sure will give their new owners much pleasure. Bryce became so attached to them the parting was pathetic. Mrs. Bryce said she was glad they were going away so they wouldn't miss the dogs so much.

I will get in touch with the schools this week telling them of the proximity of Spring and the opportunities for their classes in botany and natural sciences to visit Dumbarton Oaks.

Kearney has just brought me a list of what will be necessary for replacements or additions to the rose garden, but in the state in which I have the information, I can't tell which will be fillers or new beds - perhaps you can.

Aaron Ward	18	(Betty	4)	Mme Butterfly	6	Maman Cochet	18
Mrs. Henry Morse	30	(Kaiserin Aug. Vic 8)					
		Old Gold	18				

I tried to cut the nail off my thumb on Saturday, so am fumbling around the keys like a bull in a china shop - this accounts for the delay in finishing the letter.- it's not much except the bandage gets in my way.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,