

Copy

Sept. 16, 1941

Mr. James Bryce
3203 S Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bryce:

Your letter of the 12th came yesterday and I have taken a day to think the matter over so please don't blame me for undue delay in answering. I am so glad to hear from you that the change in the garage for Mr. Thacher's lodgings is an improvement as it was too bad not to have the building more used.

Like you I was profoundly sorry to hear that the Ambassador had had the nuisance of an attack of phlebitis. The fact that none of us have heard from either of them in the last days is to my mind reassuring rather than alarming. Probably before tomorrow is over there will be an answer to a telegram which I sent Mrs. Bliss a couple of nights ago asking for news.

Mr. Farrand gets on very slowly but to the doctor's satisfaction if not to his own. The doctors are both satisfied that his progress is normal and that one must expect everything to go more quietly with him than for a man of fewer years. It seems rather unlikely, however, that I shall want to leave Mr. Farrand for at least another two or three weeks until he is more independent and has more liberty of movement. He is up and about the garden a good many times a day but as yet isn't strong enough for driving or walking any distance.

Naturally all the news was greedily read and I was glad to hear that you are re-making the lawns and that the new Manageress appears likely to use much of your material. Certainly it is not worth while to grow *Primula malacoides* or *obconica* as the only reason it was put on the list was that we thought the English seed would germinate. As to the *Ranunculus* and *anemones* you seemed so sure last spring that you have have a plentiful stock of them that these were put on the list and I am sorry that you have lost them. Have they rotted or what happened? If Waterer can increase the *Freesia* order I will ask him to do it especially in the sort *Maryon* which you so much like.

I shall look forward with pleasure to seeing your lovely *Chrysanthemums* which you say promise well.

Mr. Bryce 9/16/41 -2

As to the question of using the cool greenhouse on the west side of the service court for Miss Sweeney, eventually this may be the wise thing to do but to my way of thinking it would be exceedingly unwise now to ask Mr. Thacher to make a complete shift in everything we have previously asked him to do. He at present is working on the question of using a part of the storage of Mrs. Bliss's and perhaps a piece of the laundry for Miss Sweeney's use and until Miss Sweeney or another guide (if Miss Sweeney finds the work less interesting than we now think it will be) has really made herself a part of the organization and has proved her usefulness it would seem to me a mistake to think of changing the Catalogue House and its exhibits from its present position up to the cool house. For the immediate present it seems to me that we had much better go ahead on the plan as outlined. This first year is as we all know a trial year, if we succeed as well as we hope we will we can almost dictate our own terms and where our meetings are to be, but until we have proved that we are as useful as we think we are going to be I don't think we would be listened to by people who really are far more interested in the Byzantine and Medieval side of the work. There is no doubt that if the work for Miss Sweeney materializes a meeting place perhaps better than the Orangery will have to be thought out but it would seem to me rather bad policy to whisk the material out of the Catalogue House and install it elsewhere before I had had time to talk the matter over with Mrs. Bliss and get her to agree that it was a wise move. I think you will understand from this letter that I am most interested in your suggestion and will of course bear it in mind but for the moment it would not seem to me wise policy to change our minds and ask for something different even before our first request is granted.

I shall hope to write you within a few days again. With best regards to Miss Sweeney, and please tell her that the weather is as lovely as it was while she was here,-perhaps that will make her even more homesick.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) Beatrix Farrand

cc to Miss Sweeney