

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

September 9, 1946

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
El Mirasol Hotel
Santa Barbara, California

My Dear Dear Mildred:

The last weeks have not been altogether easy as it is difficult to learn the lesson of an entirely new rate of speed. Please tell Robert that in the last week I have been greatly concerned to hear from Mr. Thacher of Mrs. Warren's serious operation. Apparently the news so far is reassuring but these things are never easy to bear, especially at a distance. My deepest love to you both.

Your generosity and understanding of the needs of the Botanic Garden must have transformed the whole aspect of the future for the Garden as the new members are really forward looking and hope to make the institution what with your help it now can be.

Mr. VanRensselaer has told me that you have made it possible for him to come up to see you and that you and he have had talks about the future which seem to him, as they do to me, both farseeing and wise and therefore characteristic of you.

Certain things with regard to the Garden are bothering me a bit, but of these more in a later letter, as I have spoken about them to Mr. Bullard, though he may not feel he wishes to discuss what I felt was a confidential statement. Unless we had been so close to each other and so deeply attached and so understanding of each other I would not have felt justified in the long silence which has separated us in the last weeks. Physical and nervous progress is slow and there are occasional backslides but on the whole the motion is forward although all over fatigue and strain must be avoided - and this is not an easy matter.

Fortunately Mr. Patterson and I work very smoothly together so that while I am deeply sorry not to be at Dumbarton this autumn, through his eyes the problems will be presented clearly enough for me to give judgment.

Mrs. Bliss 9/9/46 -2

A letter regarding Dumbarton and its problems will meet you in Washington but I didn't want you to leave Santa Barbara without a hug and a thank you for all that you mean to everybody concerned with the Garden and its future.

Yours with deep and unalterable devotion and with a hug to Robert

Joel
Trix