

November 6th, 1941

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Reef Point, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

What good news that you are coming to Dumbarton Oaks after all. Thank you for your itinerary. I shall be most happy to see you and to tell you some of the things that concern us both in the venture so recently started.

Don't worry about my staying powers; I'm feeling very well and if the pedal extremities hold out I shall be tip-top. Today is a bit quiet, being a showery day no visitors have come so it gives me a chance to get some letters written. I am writing Mrs. Bliss also and sending her a copy of the letter enclosed received from one of the school children. I felt she would be pleased and it is the first recognition we have had from any of our visitors so it is pleasant reading for all of us.

The questions I think need pondering are the need of a lavatory and a drinking fountain -somewhere other than the Swimming Pool. You know how children are, when one wants a drink they all must follow suit. Then, the question of large crowds - I think more than 20 people cannot be shepherded by one person and when 52 and 54 people arrive I should have some help in guiding them around - they will wander off and I can't keep them in tow. So many don't want to go along with the crowd and insist they are on their own tour. Yesterday the gates were open only to the children but 6 or 8 people wandered in and refused to leave - I also refused to ask them to leave. There are so many friends' friends that you can't tell one from tother.

I feel that it would be a mistake to permit the American Horticultural or any other Society to assist in guiding visitors around. I have not heard anything since Miss Milholland was here and think they were just a bit eager to jump in on something that looked easy.

I have also learned that two groups in one afternoon is more than I can manage and I believe it is better to give one group more time than an hour. By the time the children get here it is nearly 1*30 and it makes such a rush to take on two groups and have them out by three o'clock.

I have taken the matter of some books for reference up with Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Sessions but have not been able to get anything, so am making up a request to present to Mr. Thacher for some of the books we spoke of and which I believe are necessary, particularly Hortus Second and the Hottes group of books on Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs &c.

My contacts with the teachers and children have been very pleasant but I haven't been able to use any of my 'speech' on them - can't get them to listen. My method is not right evidently, but I manage to get in a few interesting bits. I suppose I'll improve as I go along - hope so anyway.

I'll be available any time you want me while you are here and will set all things aside during your visit here as I know how rushed you will be.

I hope Mr. Farrand is much better and won't be missing you too much.

Very sincerely,