

October 4, 1941

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

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your special delivery letter to Bryce's house was delivered last night and reached me this morning and I am deeply chagrined that you had to write to inquire about my silence. It has been tormenting my soul for these three weeks and I wanted to write but was so low in spirit and sunk in a fit of despondency that I hesitated to write lest I convey to you my own gloomy outlook. I had become so discouraged that I wanted to leave it all, and if it were not that I had promised you to give it a fair trial, I would have been out of it three weeks ago.

I have been trying to concentrate on a plan and have been vainly writing a sort of welcoming talk, but it is so poor I am disgusted with my efforts, but I am sending it to you 'as is' hoping for your always patient and kindly criticism. I have been reading and trying to post myself on many items regarding shrubs, trees &c, and hope to be ready to answer many of the usual questions. I have taken several people around the gardens, individually and in groups. On Thursday, Mr. Thacher asked if I would come over to the house to be present at his welcoming talk to new students and staff and afterwards take any who wanted to around the gardens. Yesterday he asked if I thought it would be practicable to use the recently vacated stack room in the underworld for my working quarters. I said yes I thought it would be a good place, being adjacent to the orangery and easily accessible to the garden &c., so he has promised to see Mrs. Sessions about which half of the room she wants to retain, and I am to have the other half. This is the first sign I have had but I know Mr. Thacher has more than he can handle in getting things in running order and I think he has produced something very useful and pleasant to look at in the Quarters, and I'm sure it will be a fine thing when it is going well.

I have not done anything about seeing classes or groups as I have not been able to find out how much has been done. I have taken around the people I have been asked to meet and there are to be two open days this month and also the Potomac Rose Society is coming on Sunday, the 19th, as well as three branches of Bryce's N. A. G.

This space assigned for my use has been most disturbing and had me down to the point where I wanted to run outside - just couldn't keep at my table or write anything - too much talking and telephoning and workmen in and out all the time, besides the embarrassing inconvenience of having no wash room or even drinking water. However, I really feel that now with the advent of new accommodations and the impetus given by Mr. Thacher will start things moving. I really am anxious to do all I can but I hope you will believe me that it has been most disappointing up to now.

Mrs. Farrand (2)

My visit to Bar Harbor remains one of the shining lights and I look back on it and our nice talks and rides often. So many times I have wished for a rink of that grand Bar Harbor water and for another glimpse of the view from my luncheon table in the 'penwiper'.

I'm so happy to know of Mr. Farrand's improvement and I realize how you dislike leaving him until you feel that he can be alone and take up his neglected duties and much as we shall miss seeing you on the date planned for your visit, we know that we can anticipate your arrival later on and that will give us something to look forward to.

If Miss Walters has returned from her holiday, please give her my greetings and say again how much I enjoyed our drives and her kindness in looking after me. Also my regards to nice Mrs. Stever and the rest of the household.

I am keen to get moved now and hope the plan meets with your approval and next week will probably be taken up with getting sorted out in the new room. Books are still unpacked here since we moved downstairs as we have had no place to put them, besides the dirt and plaster and paint haven't made the premises any more orderly than the carpenter shop used to be.

I'll try to write you as soon as I am installed in the new working quarters and shall be grateful for any comments or suggestions.

With every good wish to you and my grateful thanks for your continued interest ,

Very sincerely yours,