

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
REEF POINT  
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 13, 1943

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
1537 28th Street  
Washington, D. C.

Dearest Mildred:

In thinking over the situation at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden it doesn't seem as though a letter even from you would do much to clear up the situation with the trustees and Mr. McCoy. It is too bad that the trustees don't realize that a mere vote of confidence after an attack on the director is really not enough and does not give the director sufficient support. However, if you should dictate a letter to General Lassiter in these next days he must inevitably know that the report of the meeting must have reached you through me, unless you have been sent a copy of the minutes. If you have a record of what transpired it would give you an excuse to write as it would be possible to ask for information.

To both our minds it would be a calamity to have Van Rensselaer resign from the Botanic Garden as he fits into the picture in so many different ways, but there is obviously an undercurrent of opposition to him and what its source is I have never been able quite to make out, but neither Mr. Kellam or Mr. de Forest or Mr. McCoy are whole-hearted supporters of the director and, as I told you, I think they somewhat resent the interest you, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Fithian and I have shown in the director and his works.

You are not likely to have time to dictate anything to General Lassiter while you are unpacking cases and struggling with the mass of material in the music room at Dumbarton. This line is therefore merely sent you for your midnight reflection, if indeed you don't sit up until three in writing letters!

The gain in weight of 5-3/4 pounds in five weeks on Max's part is all to the good but he will need to pick up strength and vigor as well as weight and that is going to be a longer job. But the doctor here seems satisfied and he appears to me to walk more like himself and his voice sounds less like the traditional "dying duck in a thunder-storm". Day before yesterday we had sixteen of the local Garden Club come in the evening to look over the garden and yesterday twenty-three of the summer peoples Garden Club. Both groups seemed pleased and

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interested at what was being done and in the plans for the future.

What fun it was last Thursday but how I wish you were already on your way to a holiday and away from the Washington chores.

Yours my very dear always

Beamy Fawcett