

BEATRIX FARRAND
~~1650 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point
~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

August 14, 1941

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Dearest Mildred:

As soon as a message comes to one of your Dumbarton Oaks group it is at once relayed to the others, so that your good news to Mr. Russell as to Robert's steady improvement has come to me yesterday and filled my devoted heart with rejoicing for both of you. It would seem as though at the end of nearly two weeks the fear of complications might be almost cast aside, although mine had his set-back two weeks and a day after the operation was over.

Max is still in the hospital and I find him physically and surgically doing splendidly but his nerves are anything but steady and he is profoundly depressed and feels he is never going to be really well and strong again! This of course is only one stage in any recovery but I am sorry poor Max has had to go through it, as he is usually so courageous and so cheerful that this particular knockout blow seems to have hit him in the midriff.

I seem to have kept on pretty well. The last few days have been heavy on account of his excessive despondency but probably I am not the best person to be with him and so am tapering off my visits. He doubtless will be brought home within the next few days, and the nurse's report this morning is of decided improvement physically and surgically and apparently reasonably cheerful.

Will you some of these days when you think of it tell your Postal Telegraph people in Santa Barbara that their service is exceedingly unsatisfactory here. If the telegrams to me could go by Western Union I should get them some hours earlier than by the dawdly Postal, who are both careless and inaccurate. I know it is hard to separate oneself from a service to which one is attached but truly the Postal is hopeless for this neighborhood!

Isn't it magnificent news that Madame Cantacuzene is already better and said to be improving and with a prospect of much better sight than for some previous years?

You may imagine how thankful I am to have Max here in the quiet and good air and when he gets home he will doubtless be in the garden if I can persuade him to go out of doors, as he is not a good out-of-doors subject unless he has something actually to do, like fishing or gardening.

Mrs. Bliss 8/14/41 -2

Don't bother about me as quite frankly I am surprised to find myself as well as seems the case. Perhaps the household finds me somewhat peppery but they are used to that!

My dearest two my fondest love goes to you - the well and the nearly-well.

*Your always fond
Frix*

P.S. Some of these days I am going to start pruning the Dumbarton Oaks historic tablet as to number of words if you will permit this, and let me know some time whether or not I may have a preliminary sketch of the tablet made by Miss Havey, expensive as she is!