

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 25, 1947
27/5

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

TO BE READ IN THE TRAIN

Dearest Mildred:

Thank dear Robert for his reassuring and comforting telegram. While I deplore the strain of the long journey ahead of you I know what a grim disappointment it would be if you had had to completely give it up, so my blessing on you and I do not expect to bother you again until you come home. But I know your thoughts will be with me on September 22nd as they always are.

Reef Point and its future has grown out of years of slow thought and development. The original idea was fostered by Max and around it have grown the different possibilities which are approved by my legal advisers in the Delafield office and here. They think in its small way it is as much a contribution to the humanities and the beauties of life as Dumbarton is in its grander fashion. So I hope it may be possible for you to think out slowly some plan for Dumbarton which will give the minor humanities - such as gardening and the love of plants and beauty - a chance to step alongside of the scholastic humanities of the Museum and its collections. The general ideas you already have so that there is no need to repeat them, but all who are interested in the future of this plan seem to think a general reading room with the current books will be wise to divide from the student's library where the rare books and the source books will be housed. In order not to trouble you with plans and such like before you sail these will be withheld until you return and until you are a little rested toward the middle of the winter. We expect to go ahead on the alterations of the house this winter so that when I pass out of the picture the Trustees will have a living and valid entity to manage.

Your interest in the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens means much to it and I hope you will approve of the little push I have given to the continuance of the working of the parking space. The more I work at the Garden the more definitely its future seems to grow into a picture which will carry forward as far as we can see.

My heart and love go with you both. I shall follow you in thought and affection wherever you go.

Your faithful and devoted

Bless you my dear.

Trix