

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 4, 1944
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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street,
Georgetown
Washington, 7, D. C.

Dearest Mildred:

This morning was made a gala day by the arrival of your letter to "Bill". It was at once read and as I rushed through it and again re-read it, it did not seem as though a word could be changed or a method of expression. Fluttering with excitement and pleasure I took the letter to Max and he read it through carefully and said with a nod of hearty approval that it was admirably expressed and that he thought you had made your point without the slightest insistence and yet you had put the accent in such a manner that the Trustees could not fail to agree to the suggestions. If you would rather not have me keep a copy of the letter it will go back to you for a duplicate in your files, but it may be of real use to me next winter if certain questions with regard to the gift come up in any of the Trustee meetings. You have long known that the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was a thoroughly worthy enterprise and the work it is doing under its Director deserves what you have done and will mean that it will be established for the future as an asset not only to horticulture but to the whole Southern California neighborhood. Thank you for all the past and for the sunny future.

The last days have been what we here call hot, as when the thermometer dares to go near 90 we collapse and feel ourselves much ill treated. The days have been busy ones also as Mr. Judd, the head propagator of the Arnold Arboretum, and Robert Cameron the former head of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, are here to help with suggestions for culture and varieties of plants for Reef Point Gardens. We ambled around the garden yesterday broiling and complaining and Maxtrix think that the professional visit of the experts will be of real use to our project.

Is it surprising that you have so many devoted and admiring friends? It is not only that you see what the right things are to do but that they are done with such grace and competence. This outburst applies to the Chinese tiger whose place is awaiting him here, but about whom I feel dreadfully guilty as though I had wheedled him out of Dumbarton and Mr. Thacher. However, the gift is going to be so much loved and is going to fit so well into this curiously un-Chinese landscape that I am going to forget all about my own shortcomings and be grateful once more to Dumbarton and to you.

Yours with deep affection

Trix