

BEATRIX FARRAND
THE VALLEY CLUB OF MONTECITO
P. O. BOX 1140
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

March 15, 1944

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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
1527 - 28th Street,
Washington, D. C.

My very dearest of all:

A letter from the faithful John Thacher says that you have had still another relapse into bronchitis and a fresh cold - you poor lamb, you certainly have had a dreadful winter. It makes us the more sad that you have not been here where the weather has'nt been so unkind as it has with you. The proof of this statement is in the news that Max has gained during the winter, and has added a few pounds to his weight, and is decidedly stronger. You well know that one does not get over a big operation in a few minutes, especially if one has passed 70, but he is again at work on the Benjamin Franklin manuscript, which is a good sign.

The Botanic Garden affairs are a constant interest, and the beauty of the Garden at this moment is beyond my power to describe, as the little white stars of the wild strawberries are beginning to appear in the garden carpet, and the big sweep of California poppies, with the golden ~~corpses~~ finish the north and south ends of the meadow.

Thanks to Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne's wisdom, tact and common sense the Planning Committee report was accepted and signed unanimously by the four members. She had a hard time with Mr. Kellam, whose minutely accurate mind raised myriads of difficulties. At the last moment we thought that the whole report would be capsized by an objection of his, but Mrs. Thorne's obviously flashing eyes and the General's equally obviously rising excitement calmed Mr. Kellam down, and so the report was presented and accepted, and the Committee is discharged. The Garden is really, as usual, doing a very good piece of work, as its visitors are at least half Service men and their families, whose interest is pathetically keen. There is a deficit, even after your contribution of \$2200.00, which will amount to nearly \$3,000.00, and there still is the question of the continuation of the Director's salary at its present rate. Please remind me to speak to you of this when we next meet in Washington.

You will, I think, like to know that Max has appreciated how greatly troubled we have been with regard to the financial affairs of the Garden, so bless his heart, he sent a check for membership and also a contribution toward the deficit, entirely without my knowledge, because he said he thought the Garden ought to have it and it would give me pleasure. The wicked thing ought not to have done it, as his expenses the last year have not been light.

As soon as we know the date of our leaving, I shall let Mr. Thacher and Bryce know, and ask them to tell you, as it would be too grim

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to miss you in Washington when I get there sometime in May. We have much to talk over, both for D.O. and for the Botanic Garden, as well as to catch up on our own news of each other.

You see I am trying not to bother you with too long a letter, as I know how busy your days are.

Yours ever my dearest dear,

Your devoted
Trix