BEATRIX FARRAND

May 26,1944

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

Dearest Mildred:

Just as I got home this morning a touching letter comes from Lucking's wife saying that he has been gradually getting worse and that he had been taken to the hospital and operated on on the first of May. She reports "tumor of the bowel" and that the second operation which they hoped to do a few days ago had not been possible. I am afraid the poor old man is very ill.

Do forgive me for bothering you so about the Botanic Garden. I had not realized how tiresome I had been but my affection and interest in the place is so great that I am afraid I both think and talk too much about it. So when you want to say anything with regard to the situation will you open the ball.

It now looks as though I should be taking a train from here at the end of the week of June 24th or 25th and spending one or two days in Washington and coming back here directly if these dates are convenient to Mr. Thacher as well as to you;

I was glad I came home although sorry to have missed the beauty of Dumbarton at its best, but I found Max although well had had one or two "down" days and he seemed quite pleased to have his chattering old woman back again. Our best to you both and congratulations on your grandly busy and occupied Robert. Bless you both and our dearest love.

Maxtrix sends its devotion.

Joer Trix