

BEATRIX FARRAND
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~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine.

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Surely there is no one like you in the wide world and no one but you could have stretched out your hand in memory and affection as you did yesterday. One does not forget these days but one equally does not want others to be saddened by them; but they are milestones in our lives and once past one cannot go over the same road. Thank you my very dear for the deep and understanding sympathy that binds us together.

Your news of Robert was most heartening and as I heard his firm step through the open telephone and the ring in his voice it did not need your words to tell me that he was well and strong and vigorous. You and I know what this means to us both. Max has seemed to gain lately but these intestinal infections are tiresome and weakening and while in no way alarmed about him I wish he could have a respite from some of the small ills that keep him back and that show what a load of fatigue he has been carrying for the past years. We hope and expect to stay here until the middle of November. He is better here and happier than anywhere and although he may be a bit cold I think he would rather be cold at home than toasty warm in a hotel. So we don't think it likely that we shall get to Santa Barbara before the 1st of December and hope with all our hearts that you may be there in the nearby cottage. We both know, however, that you and Robert will be guided entirely by where you can be of most use and as you both are vigorous and have capacity for work and endurance it seems as though you might be drafted to Washington.

The news as to the closing of Casa Dorinda is frankly no surprise as the great ark must have been a difficult one to navigate and clearly our loins must be girded and our lives remodeled to the new pattern as rapidly as possible. You will doubtless be far too busy in your work and house closing and moving to let me know much of your plans for the Casa and whether or not Lucking and the men are to continue or how the mechanical arrangements work out.

Miss Havey and I expect the final decision on the two tablets from Mr. Thacher and I hope to start Coles immediately at work on the stone cutting. The two inscriptions seem to both the Havey and me in final condition. The question on which we would like to know your mind is whether you would prefer having the historic inscription placed mid-way between the two piers or whether you have a serious objection to a position immediately west of the east entrance? Both panels are precisely alike in size so the drawing can be used in either place.

Mrs. Bliss 9223:42 -2

As I think over Robert's inspiration for the possible use of Dumbarton Oaks Park for another Kew Gardens one or two questions bring themselves forward, as in thinking the situation over I doubt somewhat whether either the acreage and the topography would lend itself to a "Kew Gardens". Dumbarton Oaks Park might be used as an adjunct to a "Kew" where plants of natural stream-side and hillside types would find themselves at home, but there is not room for any considerable variety of shrub planting or herbaceous "wild" planting. For these purposes it would be admirable, and if B.Y.M. could be interested and swung into the scheme he would, as you say, make the stream flow and dry up the mud. But he would be quick to see that the land at Dumbarton Oaks Park would only lend itself to a certain and rather restricted type of plantation, as a wide selection of garden plants such as Dahlias, Phlox, etc. would destroy the peace of that streamside valley.

In these days of preparation for Dumbarton and Princeton the agendas are being made out and as soon as the notes are ready for Dumbarton a copy will be flown to you so that if I have forgotten what Edith called a "Crucial Instance" you will jog my faltering memory.

It is a good world that has you and your affection in it and I am grateful for the day when I first saw you sitting against the sunlight and playing the piano in a room at Winter Harbor with the outline of the Island mountains shining behind your shining hair.

Your truly devoted

Trix