

Mrs. Max Farrand
1650, Orlando Road
San Marino, California

March 4, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Farrand,

Thank you very much for your letter of February 18th and for enclosing a copy of your letter to Mr. Sachs of the same date. I have read them with interest and care as well as your letter to Mr. Bryce which he showed me.

Mr. Bryce will proceed with the pruning of the "Bride", but he feels that as the sap has already risen in the buds that it is a little too late to pluck them off.

In regard to the green garden ground cover, he thinks that as the ivy will take some time to prepare it will be wiser to plant it in grass now and then to take up the question of ivy later. The idea of abandoning the little flower bed on the south side of the orangery seems to me very sensible, so Bryce will proceed with that also. All simplifications of this kind sound sensible and are moves in the right direction.

The chairs for the museum court have been finished and are now in place.

Mrs. Bliss did speak to me in regard to finishing the finials for the south wall of the flower garden, but as far as I can remember, no definite decision was ever made.

I wonder whether for our needs it would be necessary to plant vegetables in the upper as well as the lower level of the vegetable gardens. My feeling is that it will be cheaper and more economical for us particularly as there will be no one here in residence during the summer months, that is, between June 20th and September 20th to buy what vegetables we need rather than to raise our own. Mr. Bryce does not entirely agree with this view and therefore I should appreciate a frank opinion from you.

The inscriptions have not been carved on the forsythia gate, but the lettering for them has been given to Mr. Coles and he is proceeding with it, so I hope that will be finished very shortly.

The position for the lantern for the service court was taken

up with Miss Havey and I shall confirm with her my idea as to where it should be placed. I shall be glad to have it attended to.

I spoke with Mr. Bryce with regard to abolishing the beds in the central grass plat of the herb garden. He says that it does not need any planting until May and that in May he will have sufficient plants to put in without any additional expense. To my way of thinking, this is another simplification which, although it may not be a great economy, is at least a step along the road of the Dumbarton Oaks of the future. If you agree with me, will you please say so and then I shall ask Mr. Bryce to plant grass in their stead.

There are no engagements here for Thursday, April 24th, nor on Friday, the 25th, excepting for a lecture by Professor Doro Levi at five o'clock. On Saturday, the 26th, the gardens are open in the afternoon for the Home for Incurables. However, I should think that these three days would give you enough time to attend to the various things you are looking after for Mrs. Bliss as well as to discuss Harvard's problems.

I shall now turn to the points which you brought up in your letter to Mr. Sachs. I have noted the five items about which Mrs. Bliss said she would like you to help her. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

The painting of the Forsythia and Hazel Walk gates is being attended to and I have also told Mr. Bryce to go ahead with the tennis court entrance to the Box Walk. He assures me that it will not be an expensive or difficult undertaking.

I have asked Mr. Bryce to prepare for me a memorandum of what he thinks it costs per year to run the greenhouses. When we have these figures in hand and have had an opportunity of discussing the whole policy of the greenhouses with the Committee, we shall be in a better position to take up with Mrs. Bliss her suggestion of sharing these expenses with Harvard. I do not believe that we will be justified another year in maintaining them on their present basis.

I appreciate your writing to us in regard to Miss Sweeney's salary. It is most generous of Mrs. Bliss to wish to continue with it until the Catalogue House is finished and we are, of course, grateful to Mrs. Bliss for wanting to take care of the various unfinished items which you have mentioned.

I wonder if it is necessary to have tree lights placed near the new wings. Isn't this a thing we could discuss together during your visit?

I shall hope for an inspiration for an ornament to replace the

shell on either end of the inscription in the loggia.

I trust that the inscriptions for the R Street piers may be eliminated. Your suggestion of having a larger tablet in the middle of the wall between the two entrance gates appeals to me much more.

I am afraid that nothing can be done this year in regard to the tennis and swimming club for reasons which I shall explain to you when we meet.

For reasons on which I can throw more light when we meet, we have decided to move out all of the plants from the orangery so that the storage space for the orange trees etc. will be inadequate. I wonder whether we will ever need the orange trees in the future as I do not believe that the orangery will be used for its present purpose in time to come. What are your views in this regard? Mr. Bryce suggested giving the orange trees to Mount Vernon as they are in need of them, but naturally, I would not want to do that without consulting with Mr. Bliss and I should like to have your judgement before taking the matter up with her.

I hope you will forgive this rather uninspiring letter, but I have tried to answer the things in the order in which you took them up so that my answers might be clearer.

I cannot begin to tell you how glad I am that we may turn to you for consultation and advice in regard to all these matters. I am impatiently looking forward to your visit here in April and I sincerely trust that at that time we may make real headway with future plans.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,