February 16, 1942.

Mrs. Beatrix Farrand,
Valley Club of Montecito,
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

Your letter and mine crossed on the way it seems. In mine I sent you a sort of report made out for the tax-exempt plan but having had so few visitors it has seemed hardly worth-while making up any weekly report to Mr. Thacher. I have had no talks with him until today when we discussed the matter of the first spring open days for school children and adults and I have already given him some notices to be sent to the various Washington papers. I am also sending Mrz. Power material for an article which she has promised to write for the Washington Post.

I am so happy to have news of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss and, of course, I have a mental picture of Mrs. Bliss running the whole war program in Santa Barbara. I'm glad I'm not there. I hear they are well protected with sandbags and fire-fighting apparatus and already saving on tires &c. I agree with you Mrs. Bliss' mind needs suchactivity and she thrives doing a thousand jobs at a time. Mr. Bliss' continued gain is very encouraging and I know he is always happy in California, even though besieged by clamoring letters, there is more peace than here in Washington.

The new building for the S.B. Botanis Garden sounds very nice but I know your patience must be tried often trying to get some action and approval of plans. I know only too well what it means to wait and wait for decisions. I wish you luck and maybe before you are ready to start Eastward something will have been accomplished so that you may feel you have set the wheels moving in the right direction.

As for my own mind, it's utterly blank. I'm hoping the 'sap' will rise with the Spring and give me some new inspiration for the season's work. I'm writing some of the schools and if they don't bring in the children I'll have to think of something else. Some work has been done on the toilet accommodations at the stairway near the Orangery but nothing has been done about moving the whirligig as Bryce is much against it and perhaps after all it is just as well to let it stay.

I had six young ladies on Friday afternoon, Cornell graduates, who are now studying at Newark Museum. No visitors to report for Saturday but a few snowdrops have put up their whitecaps and a few aconite are out near the terrior seat but this is a cold rainy day and doesn't look like Spring though knowing how Washington springs to life without much notice, I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see The Bride burst forth very soon. There is very little bloom on the Winter jasmine this year, unlike previous Februarys.

I had a letter from Bryce this morning telling how much he is enjoying his Florida holiday, fishing and loafing to his heart's content. I am staying in their cottage and taking care of Trigger while they are gone.

Mr. Thacher is talking to Mrs. Bliss on the telephone at the moment but I don't suppose there is anything of particular interest to my department. He probably is asking advice about the movement of certain impedimenta in the attic and other stuff in the basement vault which they would like to have moved out. How much one can accummulate when one has an attic'.

I hope Mr. Farrand continues to improve in the balmy Santa Barbara air and that you too have found some measure of peace and quiet after the year's work and anxiety. Do write me if you have anything to suggest for my Spring's tours. You know how I count on your advice and cooperation.

With many kind messages,

Sincerely yours,