

February 24th, 1945.

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

Dear Mrs. Farrand:

I have your letter of February 13th written on typewriter with great success I must say, notwithstanding the handicap of having only one good hand. I am glad to know that you are making progress and hope you won't do too much typing as that can be just as crippling as "penning" your letters.

I was not aware of Miss Walters having had bronchitis and am so very sorry. Will you please tell her I send my best wishes for her speedy recovery. I can think of no better place to recover in than Santa Barbara. I still have a longing to see it again. I am sure the three of you invalids must have had a very dull Winter but sincerely hope you are all on the mend.

About postcards, which seems to be the important matter of the moment. Finally I had instructions through Miss Carpenter as to which of the cards Mr. Thatcher wanted to have printed on postcards, so I got the negatives from Stewart and had him make glossy prints of them and they have gone to the firm of Judd and Detweiler to have the cards made. He has promised to send us a proof this week but it hasn't been received yet.

You are not the only one who doesn't hear from Mrs. Bliss - is that is any comfort - I haven't seen her but once since November, but she came in to the Orangery late last Saturday evening with a Boston friend to whom she was showing the house and was taking him on a quick tour of the gardens which at that time were covered with snow and ice. She did something very nice though, having forgotten me at Christmas time she sent me a sweet note of apology and a nice Christmas check which, though belated, was very welcome and much appreciated. Mr. Bliss had been up once to see the pups, one of which is going to him to be given by him to Mr. Forbes I believe.

Yes, the pieces were certainly many to be picked up after Bryce departed; he waits until the last minute and then when he is driving to the station starting giving instructions to anyone who is around, consequently no one knows very much what he or she is to do. I thought he was very well, he got over his cold which had all of us worried and snapped right back to his old self. He looked forward to having an enjoyable time in Florida and to get in some fishing and swimming. I had a letter this week the first I have heard and he said they were having a very restful time and taking full advantage of the sunshine.

Certainly I shall find time to type any notes you may send me - If you can get the energy to remodel them I certainly will be glad to do the very necessary ^{shaping up} shaping up. So send them on whenever you can and tell me how you want them done and I'll do everything I can to help.

As for myself, since you ask, I'm really very well and have had no return of neuralgia since that siege five years ago. Can you believe I'm here eight years? Seems as though I ought to have made much more of a job of this than I have. I think if I had known it would last this long I wouldn't have considered it - but here I am!

Our first snowdrops appeared on February 17th and right now are a lovely sight, under the old beech tree and on the south slope of the lawn. A few winter aconites appeared yesterday for the first time and no doubt several other early Spring visitors will be rearing their heads, now that most of the snow is melting. I haven't seen even a glimmer of a scilla yet and that is usually what I see peeping out under the Chinese Magnolia. Winter jasmine has been very late getting started to bloom but now that we have a little sunshine it is beginning to look very pretty.

I spoke to Miss Carpenter about your not having heard from Mr. Thacher and she said she knew he hadn't written but he had it on his slate as one of things to be done - perhaps he is waiting for the postcards to appear?

February is nearly over and the Bryces will be back the end of the week and I shall joyfully relinquish my chaperonage of the house and the dogs. Its very wearing to do two jobs.

My kindest greetings to you and yours and very best wishes for your continued improvement in general health. It won't be long, I hope, before we shall be welcoming you again at Dumbarton Oaks.

Always sincerely,