

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
REEF POINT
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

August 23, 1944

4254

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 28th Street
Georgetown
Washington, 7, D. C.

My ever so dearest Mildred:

Your great epistolary effort came yesterday morning accompanied by the day letter to which a reply was sent later in the day lamenting poor Robert's phlebitis which at the best of times is a tiresome and disagreeable complaint but in the hot weather and when he must want to be actively on foot it is - as the British charwomen say - "cruel hard". Our best love to him and our deep sympathy.

The excitement in Santa Barbara comes across the continent by air-mail in waves of happiness and relief. Your generosity in giving not only what you had originally suggested to me but adding another considerable sum to the amount has evidently not only assured Van Rensselaer to the Garden but he says he thinks it has added years to the General's life. As a matter of fact the gift came at a crucial moment as Van Renssealer told me that the day before it was announced he had had an inquiry from the Beverly Hills Park Commission as to whether or not he would consider the appointment as Superintendent - and he added happily that he was now going to answer he was not interested. Evidently things have not been too easy this summer as he says his wife has not been well and anxieties have worn them both, so with a sign of happy relief he is now settling down to his real work which he means to make more important than ever. You and I must have a word or two on projects for the future so that the Garden really takes its place as an honored scientific institution. You have far too much to do to bother with Van Rensselaer's proposed pamphlet reviewing the needs of the Garden and so on, so send it on to me and I will have a crack at it and dispatch it from here if you will give me your blessing.

If my letter to you implied that I had sent a telegram to the General regarding your gift it must have been completely twisted in transmission as I have been as mum as a clam about the whole enterprise since it seemed to me fitting that you only should speak of it. What I intended to say was that Max and I both read your letter to the General and approved it without reservation. Of course the Garden and all concerned with its welfare must know that your recent great gift to it is the limit of your generosity except for certain small occasional contributions. If we need a \$5.00 this or that I shall come to you without hesitation but shall keep all of the Board as far as possible from bothering you with Garden friction and only tell you of work in which you are likely to be interested. There is no need to burden your mind with other details.

