

BEATRIX FARRAND  
~~1650 ORLANDO ROAD~~ Reef Point  
~~SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA~~ Bar Harbor, Maine

August 25, 1941  
29

Mildred dearest:

Truly we are twinning too much as set-backs on poor Robert's part do seem an unnecessary amount of copycatting! Thank you most deeply for the Western Union telegram which came promptly and quickly. I am grateful to you for remembering to send the wire by this method rather than by Postal.

My Chief came home on Saturday afternoon with his two nurses and seems amazingly well and almost able to take up his normal life again. Naturally we shall have to be very careful about fatigue whether physical or nervous, but the doctor wants him to go back to living as nearly as possible his usual day, short of exhaustion. Fortunately for Max's peace of mind the surgeon who operated on him in Boston happened to be in the neighborhood on a yacht and called Max up Saturday. They had a considerable conversation and the very reassurance from the man in whom my Chief set such confidence has done much to quiet his mind as to his condition and the future. Yesterday he was able to take two tours around the garden and this morning has been for a stroll with his nurse. Last night was the final one for the night nurse but I hope that the other (who has been with him since the operation) will stay for a few more days.

As far as I am concerned I seem to be thriving on the necessary number of quiet hours which are spent in the hospital with Max. There has not been the slightest anxiety as to the ultimate outcome and I know from personal experience that to try and boost and cheer a nervous patient is the last thing needed as all that is wanted is quiet and time to realize that he himself has got to be the doctor, and all one can do is to stand ready in case of any obviously false discouragement.

Perhaps the Nazis have perfected a system of underground communication but it cannot compare with the method of those who love you and Robert. Just as soon as Mr. Russell or Mr. Thacher or I receive news we dispatch it to each other, and therefore I learn from Mr. Russell and Miss Draper of the possibility of your being in Tucson in the later autumn (be sure and don't go there too soon on account of excessive heat). I also hear of your plan to be at Casa Dorinda during most of the winter. Of course

Mr. Bliss 8/25/41 -2

you know the deep and real joy it means to both Max and me to think that we may be actually in the same community for three or four quiet months of building up and resting.

A good deal of unfinished work has now got to be attacked and I am going hard at some of the Dumbarton Oak problems as it seems to me wise if we possibly can manage it to get the historic tablet into place and some of the odds and ends cleared off which you and I set ourselves to accomplish.

Miss Sweeney may be here within the next few days to go over and rehearse some of her preliminary talks, and probably some time in September I shall trot down to Dumbarton but hope to see Mr. Thacher during this coming week and get his report on the new library. He is certainly trying his best to make the room a fine one, characteristic of Dumbarton Oaks and a useful part of the living creature which is Dumbarton to you and me.

More will go to you in the course of a few days,

Your always fond,

Trix