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J.C. Olmsted  
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MRS. W. B. CALDWELL.

Conference by J.C. Olmsted . . . . . 15th May, 1906.

As arranged by telephone, I called on Mrs. Caldwell and the Misses Norton, after dinner, about 8.30 or 9, and left shortly after 10. They were very pleasant. We looked over the planting plan as to which they had made notes. They had no criticism as to the design, but had likes and dislikes as to particular plants.

Leave out New Jersey Tea, as it is scraggly and gets killed back on Geo. Norton's place and they do not like its appearance anyway.

Leave out Stephanandra flexuosa. This also has much dead wood, as it is killed back every winter. Fraser later said he had had good success with it in sheltered spots.

They want the following: tree box; pink horse chestnut; pink dogwood; pink Robinia (say it is fine in Cherokee Park and fragrant); common and Persian lilacs, especially distinct flowers, dark and also white (our list simply says common lilac. They would want the most striking named varieties and with room to grow wide); Irises (by the Beargrass Creek), also other attractive planting along creek. Want some or a Pecan tree for nuts if hardy. I said I thought, as magnolia lasts for years in sheltered places, the pecan might. They want fruit trees. Part of vegetable garden may be given up to fruit trees, but as it may be small, a few could be used along fences of garden and horse paddock. They said apples, pears and cherries. Would probably want grapes and small fruits, but they were not mentioned. Selection must be special for the southern climate and soil. I mentioned Japanese chestnut and they said Yes and mentioned a particular variety, perhaps "Trophy", but I have forgotten. They asked about gardener's entrance to formal garden. I said we had intended a door in north wall of garden opposite the central cross path, but they said the architects had not shown it in their drawings. I said we had asked them to. This request should now be repeated. (Done! J.C.O.) They showed me Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge's stable plans. Said the lowest bid was over \$20,000, and their brother had advised them to cheapen by making separate gardener's cottage and fewer stalls, as they would probably use the automobile almost exclusively. I said it was a fine plan and they ought not to cut down number of stalls, as this is a permanent investment while automobiling may be a temporary fad. Anyway they ought to have several saddle horses, as they are out in the country and can certainly use them with pleasure and advantage. Also the combining gardener's cottage made it cost little if any more and pro-

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duced a more imposing architectural composition and used up less of their limited upland.

Asked if F.L.O.Jr. was going to Biltmore and said Beadle had done nothing about bridge at Woodnorton. I advised that the bridge be well anchored down with iron rods to deep foundation. Probably span should be doubled or more.

I urged them to get Fraser to complete specifications and get bids for all work on grounds, as otherwise I feared the grounds would not be ready for planting in fall, which was extremely desirable. I said these earthwork contractors are in a small way of business and very slow, and no time should be lost in getting started. They said they were now ready to begin and would do so. I advised them to write a letter to Mr. Fraser directing him to complete specifications and to obtain and submit bids, as a verbal order was too casual and he might neglect it. I also suggested that they keep pushing him at intervals.

They asked about what they had come to know as "The Wilderness", the proposed woods on slope north of house to hide McFerran's stables, etc. I said I had originally advised a wood with undergrowth, but that when this had been explained to them they had vetoed it as a dangerous lurking spot for evil-minded men, etc. They said it was a misunderstanding on my part and that the woodsy idea was just what they liked and would have. I said I was glad to do it, but could not think I had been mistaken as to their former opposition to it. They finally concluded it had been a passing joke between them and anyway they wanted the undergrowth. They asked what it would be and I said mainly small bushes, such as some Viburnums, Indian Currant, Ceanothus, Ferns and some evergreens. I thought it would have to be planted sparsely and be allowed to develop naturally as the shade increased, as it would cost considerable to cover so large an area with small bushes and ferns, violets and other wood plants. Could best be done by spreading wood earth full of woodland plants and weeds as soon as or before frost came out of ground and rolling it down and mulching very lightly to retard wash.

They called my attention to the omission of hedge along the Alta Vista Avenue side of vegetable garden. I said I had supposed they would have a vine-covered fence there. This idea was discussed. I advocated a vine-covered fence as being generally preferable to a hedge. They said if they had a hedge it should be an evergreen hedge. I said it was liable to get weak below and top-heavy and to get gaps and weak places, especially when the street trees got large. They finally decided on fence covered with Japanese Honey-suckle. They want a durable, substantial fence. I said it would cost at least \$1.00 a foot, but they seemed inclined to go that much, so I said I would look the matter up and

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recommend a pattern and submit price. I suggested that it was an item they could postpone till other heavy expenses had been taken care of; otherwise change hedge of garden to fence and vines.

They wanted to know what I thought they ought to do as to the long drive up the hill. I said it was costly and injurious to the landscape and not essential, as they could use Mr. McFerran's drive when in a hurry and their brother's drive as a more enjoyable route when they had time for it. It might be many years before this approach drive would be forced on them by a purchaser of Mr. McFerran's stable lot. They agreed to this view.