

2008.1.1.1.1.137

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Montreal, July 2nd

My own darling Boy,

Your dear letter, of May 28th has just come to me & has been a long time on the way, as Auguste's of the same date reached him exactly a week ago. I have up to now answered every one of yours although a week has at times passed without a missive being promised. I have followed your movements as well as possible from the different press reports & think the Kormati [sic] Poort bridge affair was the work of your men. Some deny it, although

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Graham of "The Star" published a private cable confirming the rumor on Tuesday last. I was pleased to know you were chosen for such an honorable duty, but of course, the worry over it all is very trying. The Boers are very determined it seems to me & will extinguish many a fine life ere they give up. Poor Sergt. [Patteson] was among those killed on June 22nd at Honing Spirit & Fred Morden & Kerr of Pincher Creek also. There is universal grief over the death of the former as he was such a great favorite in Pincher Creek – his mother & sister are inconsolable – he was Regie's bosom friend & he too feels

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his death very keenly. O! what a lot of broken homes & broken hearts there will be ere this war ends! I do hope my darling, you have made up your mind never to leave us again, if God brings you back safely to your poor little wife & our three little ones!. Well, indeed my dear, Perry is installed as Comr. in Regina & he is the man you will have to [curb] and bow to when you return – there is no use denying it, he is there all right at present. The Liberal's are doing all they can before the elections & are doing it as quietly as possible. Henri Joly is now Lt. Gov. of B.C. they must be pleased to be rid of him – he was blamed for things he had nothing to do with, I believe.

You will be pleased to know the Bank of Montreal kindly paid me \$150.00 for July on Friday. I was stranded & could not pay board for two months owing to this delay in receiving the money from the Imperial authorities & the life Insurance premium being due in June – they are very accomodating [sic], still I did hesitate for a long time before I made up my mind to ask them to oblige me. With three children to dress, & feed, I cannot get on without money. Were I alone I

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would never ask for a cent. Mr. Taylor wrote Lord Strathcona in order that he might hurry up the war office I am told. The Bank officials were very kind indeed & made me feel very nice about it – it was a compliment to them to be asked by me, to allow them to do it, etc etc. Mrs. Ketchen is still in Ottawa, but will soon leave now, I suppose. Mrs. & Miss Percy have returned from Paris – they called the very day after their return as Mrs. Percy was very anxious about the accident that happened her son on the voyage. I reassured her as much

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as possible. She wanted to know if he was doing well, etc so be sure & mention him in your next letter after you receive this one. was very much surprised that you did not say more as I, of course, have to make up a few little things to satisfy her. She wept bitterly as she thought she might never see him again, not very comforting for me, I assure you. Mrs. James Ross called the same day & is exceedingly nice – she is a fine looking woman, very affable & refined. travelling certainly improves one, as I am sure you will find. I will return the call this week – she is a leader of society here & heard from Mrs. Hope

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of my being here. The Hope's left for York Cliffs last week – it is a fashionable resort near Boston & Mrs. Hope telephoned Auguste she would write me from there. The Percy's wanted to take the children to the Mt. on Saturday & give them a picnic, but owing to the weather they could not go. We have had lots of rain & for three or four days it has been very, very cold – more like November than June – there is an improvement in the air today, but it is very far from warm. Viv is here, captain of the Ottawa C.C. & plays the McGill's today. I would have gone, only the papers do not say where the match takes place & I have no one to go with me. The boys always have other engagements & are never on hand to take us anywhere. John has his

wife. Auguste is in Terrebonne..... Viv said he would call, otherwise I would take the poor little ones out to one of the Parks for a few hours. How nice it will be when you come back to us, my pet! – I dined with the Hebden's as I may have told you in my last & enjoyed it – they were very nice & their girlies whom we saw in /90 quite grown up now. Percy Henderson came in during the evening & asked if he might come & see me – of course, I said yes, but so far, have not seen him. He seems to be a nice fellow, but is not at all good-looking. Milicent, his sister, is quite a young lady now – eighteen.

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Gertie & their family go to Vaudreuil this week for the summer – they have rented a small house, out of the village & anticipate a pleasant time.

Antoine goes also – he was disappointed in his trip west, as Mamma found she could not well stand the expense. Regie & [Tillie] feel very badly about it as they will see none of the family for some time. Louise & her boy left yesterday afternoon for Grandmère – they will, I suppose return in Oct.

Richard does not, as you know, touch a drop of liquor – he is getting on & feels very happy over it – life there is now very different to what it was two years ago – then they were almost starving – now they are

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very comfortable & can indulge in a few luxuries & all because he gave up this cursed liquor. Corinne Hilliard has a daughter, Mrs. Mac tells me. he will, I suppose, feel very proud. Min wrote me a long letter, received two days ago – she says Alec is so lonely & misses his old friends so much. I really feel bad for the poor old fellow – time cannot but hang heavy on his hands, with no employment & he can find no work – there are so many young men who get first choice!. I had a letter from C. F. Harris, in Macleod, concerning the Moore's claims for services rendered. I have written Mr. Moore & sent cheque for \$25.00 for the five months he worked two years ago, but

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told her I knew nothing about five or six years ago & that you would settle that when you returned. I wrote Harris also. I wrote Percy [sic] Belcher a letter & sent Miners' Licence's also about two weeks ago. Mr. Willie Jarvis wrote asking if Alec had taken out a Miner's Licence for yourself & Buzz in B.C. so I wrote Alec asking him, but have had no answer as yet. Mr. Jayne wrote from Victoria last week – he has been very ill, but that did not

surprise me, as he looked that way when here. He wanted me to try & get Uncle Henry's influence for him in obtaining [a] position ([Norwood's] he wants) through the use made of your letter to him (Uncle) but as yet I have not replied. I do not feel inclined to meddle in politics & Uncle has really no influence whatever – witness, the senatorship ~~ship~~ given to a young man with no interests worth mentioning, over his very head. Alice is getting along nicely, goes everywhere & says she leaves in July, but I will tell you positively when she does go – she seems in no hurry whatever to get back to her dear Fred – there is not the same love there as there is between us, my darling, I am sure of that. Mamma is fairly well & we at last have a servant – she is an old person, but is as good as [Allmia] was in the winter & much easier to manage. The little ones like her & being a grandmother she is kind to them. I owe Uncle John & Essie Miller both a

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both a letter & intend writing them soon. I am very busy making clothes for our little man – he has a linen dress, he calls his “Swabcona overcoat” - & asked me to buy him a horse the other day so “as to be like Papa”. He is growing, but is not very fat, I must confess. If I could get away for a while it might do them all good, but cash is scarce & I do not know where to go. I want to be on hand, in case a cable should come to me & I hate to leave the city. The city is quiet today, very quiet indeed. Well, my darling, I have written you quite a long letter & have enjoyed writing it very much. The children are well, but not very fat. Flora

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is somewhat thinner than she used to be. Her holidays began on the 27th – she was crowned for learning her catechism so well all year & got two books. 1st prize for History, reading & other things; then a prize for music – she did very well I think & was very proud of her success. Gertrude is as elfish as ever – she is considered a lovely child by every one & is an imp, with a ready answer all the time. Baby is growing & looks well – he is such an affectionate little creature. Be sure & write me when you can – even if only a few pencilled [sic] lines, they will comfort my poor lonely heart. All send their warmest love to yourself & Elmes. With oceans of love & kisses from the pledges of our ardent love & with ever so many affectionate wishes for your safe return, believe me as ever,
Your own true, devoted, yearning
wifie, Maye.

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