

2008.1.1.1.1.340

5 sheets

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1<sup>st</sup> St W.  
Calgary, Mar 13<sup>th</sup>

My own darling old Pet,

You'r [sic] two letters of the 9<sup>th</sup> reached me safely & that of the 10<sup>th</sup> I welcomed this morning.

I knew you would be horrified at Fred Lowe's conduct - the girl was not an infant & had lived in the states & I cannot imagine any one in that position would ever be foolish enough to think a man of his stamp would marry her. she [sic] was not attractive, poor girl & very common in manner. I did not like her being so friendly with him. I have not seen the Neville's [sic] for a long time. I fear for that second one, but may be wrong - she is so frivolous!.

You are surprised at M<sup>rs</sup>. Walker! I am sure I am always very friendly & she should think of the expense it is for people to have to take a cab & drive that distance.

I am sure you enjoyed your week end at the [M<sup>rs</sup>.] & talked yourself hoarse.

We called at the Macleod's today & although it was her "at home" p.m, a card "not receiving" was on the door. I think it was very inconsiderate not to put

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it in the paper, so that people will not walk that distance for nothing.

[Marseau] thinks the world of you - do tell me what became of his brother who was in Macleod? What amuses me about Minnie's remarks is, that she does not say "what the gov<sup>t</sup>. will do with Col. Steele" but "we don't know what the Gov<sup>t</sup>. is going to do with us" as if we one & all were in the militia.

I enclose a clipping which appeared in tonight's "Daily News". You see how they get things mixed?!. Yes, if Sarg<sup>t</sup> Burroughs were here I might have asked him to do something in endeavouring to persuade that poor girl to leave her present place of abode, but Father Jan I believe did all he could in the matter. Of course Father Jan does not know I have an inkling of the affair. Paddy Nolan knows all about it & many others too.

I quite agree with what the Publisher said of the photo of "King

presenting the medals" being enlarged - it is worthy of a place in the Buildings & is the only one Canada can boast of.

The children cleaned the side walks today & I paid them. Harwood understands well that he cannot work for outsiders.

M<sup>rs</sup>. B. G. Hammilton tells me her sisters

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wrote "that they never had such a military night in Winnipeg as the last - that the house was beautifully decorated & people were wild with excitement."

The Constantine's [*sic*] were stationed here once, so know many "old timers"- she was lavishly entertained!.

Yes, I suppose the children could go to St B. daily, but I assure you Torla will not remain much longer at school. She was 17 (seventeen) last Dec. & does not care to attend school. She will study, music, painting anything we like, but hates being compelled to go every day. While fond of study, writing & reading, she dislikes the girls here & does not care much for the Teachers.

People who have friends in Winnipeg hear from them & they always say "the Winnipeggers want to keep Col. Steele down there - they like him so much". I always say "they welcomed him in their midst & received him well" - many tell me I would like the change, the people being so different.

I interrupted my letter to have a phone talk with M<sup>rs</sup>. Macdonald. She says to tell you "she fears we are going to Winnipeg. that [*sic*] they will be very sorry to see us go - that like the Gov<sup>t</sup>, she fears you do not appreciate all the good people there are in Calgary".

So you accompanied the L<sup>t</sup>. Gov. to the prorouging [*sic*]

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of Parliament, then went to the reception! such [*sic*] dissipation in one day! The women dressed in their best, of course. M<sup>rs</sup>. C. is a handsome woman - saw her picture in a magazine. You are good, indeed, dear to keep me so well posted on all that goes on & all the functions you attend. I know you did not look awkward whatever you may have felt.

I cannot say whether the M<sup>c</sup>Hugh's [*sic*] know what happened. I had not much faith in the young man & did not care to have him visit us - in fact, I am sure I am too quiet to suit his style. Yes, M<sup>rs</sup>. Mackie wrote on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>. I have not yet replied.

I will give you the address of the music publisher in Capetown at the end of this letter. He will sell "Strathcona Horse" very much cheaper now, &

the band fund could benefit by it. I mean your Winnipeg band, as very likely large numbers of copies would be sold. I do not know of any one who could copy mine out & I have not [leisure]. [Crean's] song I had I think, but fear it was lost.

You are quite right as regards the title of the corps, it should be "Lord Strathcona's Horse" (Royal Canadian) it sounds more euphonious. It is more of a compliment to the old gentleman,

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at any rate.

Walter Johnston sent the card on the 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec. poor fellow! he [sic] is unfortunate. I must write him.

Did you answer the letter Pocock wrote me, as I desired you to do, dear?

I am just as friendly as ever to M<sup>rs</sup>. Walker - pretend I do not notice it, whenever we happen to [meet]. I know Col. W. is a very old friend of your's [sic] dear.

Delighted the shirt bands are such a success - have not had letters from any one this week, but yourself, my darling. We paid several calls on Thursday, but <sup>met</sup> no new people. Have had to go to D<sup>r</sup>. Payzant - broke a piece off one of my teeth & had to get it repaired. He thinks of taking a run down to Winnipeg about the end of the month - if he does, will be sure to call on you.

There is not much more news to give you - Lent is on, weather not very good, so do not go out much. The children are well & join in much love to you my darling. God bless you. write [sic] soon to me my dear old pet.

As ever

Your own loving, affect<sup>ate</sup> [sic] lonely little wifie

Maye

(over)

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I got suddenly tired & had to end this somewhat abruptly. Very many hugs & kisses to my own dear one. Again with much love,

Your ain wee wifie,

Maye