

2008.1.1.1.1.353

Marie Steele to Sam Steele
4 sheets

[pg 1]

1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Apr 18th

My own darling,

Yours of the 14th reached me on Friday morning & I am sorry that you have such difficulty in finding suitable premises. You have ere this had the short letter I penned you on the subject & as I told you then, if you think it better for us to spend the summer here, or remain until Aug. why! we [*sic*] shall do so - my sole thought is to do what is best for you, my dear. Really, my loneliness should not be taken into consideration, for it is only at odd times that I give way to it!, sometimes [*sic*] it gets beyond me, you see.

I have not spoken to Bagnall, that is asked him if he was coming if we move, because he seems to look upon it as a settled thing.

Yes, we will of course need cases, as few of ours are left. The furniture, that is sideboard, mirrors etc, I should have to get the Calgary furniture Co to attend to in order to save breakages. The chairs, etc would require paper or some sort of covering to protect them from scratches. It will take me some weeks to pack. The sewing girl is coming tomorrow to remain until Saturday. She is highly recommended & if a success

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

I cannot tell you how pleased I shall be. I shall be with her all the time so as to get through with a lot of work.

I hope the luncheon was nice. I see that M^r. Dawson is to be the guest of honour here in a few days. You are getting satisfied with your own efforts, & very justly too, when you say he did not speak any better than yourself.

Suppose the cadets both proved satisfactory companies in every way & that you spouted as you said you would. Those here are not what they should be & give M^r. Clark some trouble, I believe. The American spirit is pervading everywhere & the patriotic vein that was in the country some years ago is decreasing rapidly among the rising generation. I will send you the report of the meeting of the pageant committee.

I shall send in my resignation re "Children's Aid". I phone [*sic*] M^r. Bull about it & he was truly very sorry to hear of it, saying "all our best people

are leaving.”

M^{rs}. Macdonald invited me to dinner last evening one of her guests being unable to come & requested that I do her the favour of filling in - we had a very nice meal - the guests, Dean Paget, M^r. Tucker whose wife is a niece of Col. Jarvis of Edmonton, M^{rs}. Howe, M^r. Savary, a lawyer from N. S. whose wife is a niece of Joe Howe & who has come up to practice in partnership with Hart Nichols, a nice young man, Miss Harris & myself.

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

We discussed this 5th July celebration & D^r Macdonald & M^r. Tucker both said the people here were pandering to the Yankees & their dollars - it is all for the “stars & stripes” I brought your Portage Laprairie speech for the D^r.’s perusal at their request.

I think [Blakeman’s] sister in law was the actress did not know his wife was also. Yes, he was in S. H. I am delighted to hear you are more comfortable & M^{rs}. Mackie says you can see something from your window now, while the Evans’ house looked on the back of Gov^t house.

You are right about the “nigger on the fence” & I am surprised the loyal Canadians on the committee are so easily gulled, but I am sure it is the money making scheme. You will notice they want to bring over a regiment of American soldiers, & I suppose politeness will compel them to be first with their banners & flags floating ahead. What do you think of the idea? what [sic] comparisons may not be called forth if ours are also in the procession? [&] not quite up to the mark in the eyes of onlookers? they [sic] will cheer the troops this year as they want them as a drawing card!! Col. Walker is easily led I believe. Let Dominion day be kept on Thursday as it should be & be a holiday - do the Americans keep it? why [sic] should we all be compelled to keep the 5th or 4th?

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

No civility was shown you or any officers when in camp, but many came down to see all that could be seen & to enjoy any hospitality they could get. They do not care what inconvenience the military may be put to, provided it suits them to have them parade in their pageant.

George Hope has been suffering from bronchitis all winter Miss Lee says. we [sic] called there on Friday; it being the 3rd Friday I did not receive for once, as I have been unable to call on some of my neighbours who have the same day as myself. We had a big hail & snow storm in the afternoon which made it quite cold - signs of buds appearing on the trees give us hope spring is near.

Minnie is going with M^{rs}. Howe to call on Miss Allison at the Genl. Hospital, then for a cup of tea with the latter. Torla as usual, to call on the Elton's [sic] - the children are gone to sunday [sic] school, so I shall be alone with my pen & paper most of the afternoon - it is not very jolly is it, but I am just as well pleased. I shall write more letters after I end this one & do my duty in that line.

There is very little news, so I will cease, not desiring to grow monotonous & tire you. all [sic] are well & send fondest love to you, my own darling. Many hugs & sweet kisses. As ever,

Your own affectionate, eager to see you wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 4]