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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
June 5th / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Sunday's letter you will not I fear, read with as much pleasure as most of the others I have been so happy to pen to you, my dear, but the little girl was really vexed at your long silence with good reason too, you must be honest enough to confess. I had no letter dated later than the 21st [illegible] except today, when both those written on the 23rd and 26th May(e) as you unknowingly put it, came to assure me that you had not quite forgotten the loving heart that beats for you so far away from the sound of your voice & the touch of your dear hand. I feared you might not like being called my "boy" as it might seem derogatory to your dignity. but you know the way in which I mean it, so cannot be offended!. The ladies must have been charmed to have such a nice cavalier to look after them when at the cricket match. Poor Louise has at last found out that Mr. D. is carrying on with

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out regard to his promises & she is very wrathful this evening, being determined to break off her engagement & return all his presents when he comes in a few moments hence. he will be rather surprised I fancy, but she is determined never to marry a man who takes too much liquor & thank God! has sufficient courage to show him all her love is not so blind as to believe happiness can dwell in a home where a drunkard rules: he would do the latter & in my opinion rule with an iron hand, being selfishness personified, though he loves Louise about as well as his cynical nature will

allow him to. We always found her far too good for him, but having a strange character, did not like to interfere too much, she not being of a kind apt to care for advice with regard to subjects where she is intimately concerned. Your letters of the 23rd did not leave Macleod until the 27th. that will account for the long time it has taken to reach me, my pet. Your lines are very pretty & appropriate, although my bashful lover was coolly riding or rather standing by my side when he bade me give him hope!!.....

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I am inclined to think owing to your very short letter that all the ladies you were surrounded by during the races caused your thoughts to play truant, & your mind was so filled with their witty sayings & wise remarks that you could not compose yourself sufficiently to write me one of your dear, sweet old letters. still you did your best to make up for it on the 26th so your little girl must forgive you if you promise not to be as false to her on the same date next year! – I let last evening pass without devoting my usual time to my darling, as I had no letter to answer & had I not heard today had made up my mind not to write one line before next Sunday. You are right not to seek a quarrel with me as my temper is not sweet when aroused. I regret to hear poor Woolly is ill & trust he will soon recover – he suffered very much from ague after living in Texas for some years. I hope you proved a ministering angel in your round & that the patients were consoled by your kind words! Yes, I am pretty busy & though I cannot give you all my leisure, am never too ~~busy~~ much occupied to let my thoughts be with you the livelong day. I find paper looks better than paint, making the rooms appear more furnished. [ours] walls upstairs are painted, being more healthy. We are a large family & there is more danger in contagious disease when there is paper, as paint can be washed.... Well, it is done? Louise has just returned & she has done it. poor little girl.. I feel very sorry for her, as it is hard for a young girl's dreams to vanish in such a way! – I hope & pray she may find some one more worthy of her pure love. I know how I should feel under the same circumstances, so can fully sympathise with her, poor child!!.. it may bring him to his senses, when he sees he

cannot trifle with her... You were right to put up the door as it will keep any amount of dust out & I often wished for it, when visiting Mrs. Mac. I hope the carpenter left no planks out or spaces in the floor of the wardrobes, for the mice to slip in & out of, as in Mrs. Mac's – they used to frighten the life out of us, when we would be chatting in her room & you know I hate the little animals more than I can say.

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The rides were no doubt far more pleasant than the walks ever could have been. I remember so well the first one & Mrs. Mac. spoke of Lex's trip down in '84 & how "he proposed to somebody but she was not the one". I was furious at her for her want of tact, but never alluded to it, fearing she might see how much I already thought of you & knowing Lex would not be pleased were he aware of it. You had a grand time during the races & must have enjoyed them. Your mind was too much occupied with judging to allow it to wander to Sept. last when you saw your wagon filled with so many of the fair sex, was it not? The people of Macleod must have been elated at the success they obtained in all the games. Cricket is a game I know very little about, but will try & seize the point when I first view a match with some one who can tell me about it & make me appear interested in it!. I trust your wish was gratified & that your divisions beat ["Le" or "Ye"] on the 1st. if so, you must be very proud of their proficiency. I would be very jealous if I did not believe

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I was your "Queen" & hope to remain so!. I, as a rule sing better when alone, as I am not compelled to restrain my feelings for fear that they will give me away & let my listeners know the amount of passionate love that sometimes sways my heart. I have always endeavored to sing without too much expression & have fought against it very often. Our home is not by any means a grand one, but it is comfortable & pretty. I expected some one would try to ~~make~~ create bad blood between your friends and yourself on my account & am surprised it was not done before. Capt. N. is so insincere!

though he never treated me in any way but the way I wished to be. he was exceedingly polite, but I never cared to be any way friendly with him. I hope when you find out the guilty party you will tell me his name – it is but right I should at least ~~that~~ know that concerning a person so very much interested in our doings. I am sorry to hear I may not have the pleasure of meeting your dear old brother, but trust it is a pleasure reserved for a little later. My letter contains some repetitions, but Louise talked

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to me every now & then. Lex is waited for in Montreal. he will I suppose come & see us, if only for a flying visit. Time will reconcile my mother never fear – a great comfort is the knowledge that you are such a good man & worthy of me. What happiness it would have been for me, had my pet been able to come East! time is passing quickly now, so [bear] up, my darling – you will get tired of me yet, “someday”. time will also cause my fear to disappear entirely to make way for love, warm & deep, the love has always been, though a little fear would bar the way! – I do not remember Lex say to either Mrs. Mac or I “that you were very much in love” – he used to tantalize me often & said so much, I never believed what he uttered. I cannot recall any part of my letter of the 19th which would give you reason to say if “heat had the effect of making me write in a certain way not to complain of it” – was I languid, or seemingly fatigued? & - was the next letter really an improvement? – You see it was written so long ago, I cannot remember what I actually penned to my pet. Mrs. Mac will have Lex back almost before she she [sic] misses him – a month is not long. she chose a very bad time to cross the square on the 24th & would no doubt be very indignant were she aware of how much you enjoyed her discomfiture. I want you to buy the plucky lady you are somewhat smitten with a small pistol & teach her how to shoot well, for she desires to be as perfect in everything as possible. not now, my darling, but later on when she has been with you some time & that the leisure necessary for such an important task & trial of patience can be at your disposal. what next? You will say.. Mrs. Z. looks after her health very well – if she fears riding will fatigue her,

she should not indulge in the glorious pastime. she was very selfish to wish a seat reserved when she might know Mrs. Mac. could find some other lady to fill it. I hope the champion's cut hand is better & causing no pain. Mr. S. is confident of success, but his conceit [buoys] him up in his expectations. I hope he will not be disappointed. You never told me whether Mr. W. had met the baronet's daughter & if he was made

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a victim to her many charms. You know I take interest in all that concerns him & hope he has met her at last! – Mrs. Mac's first cousin, Lt. Col. de Bellefeuille died on Monday evening & is to be buried tomorrow with military honors. he expired almost suddenly. His wife's father died suddenly on Monday morning, just as he reached the chapel door of the Deaf & Dumb Institution where he had been boarding with his wife since Saturday only. She crossed over from Longueil to visit her mother that day & on reaching home found her husband just breathing his last – it must be a terrible trial for her. Col. de B. is Mrs. Antoine Harmond's brother, so is doubly related to us. Mrs. Charles H. & Mrs. de B. are sisters so their grief can be better imagined than described. Col. de B. has been in poor health for some months but the Drs. Said he might live until autumn so his death was not altogether unexpected – tell this to Mrs. Mac – although more than likely she will hear of it, ere this reaches you – she should answer my last letter soon now, as she has had it for

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some time. Mamma went to the city on Monday to see Grandmamma – she is thin but looks well & very anxious to return to the west again - her business gives her a good deal to attend to, as she desires it well settled before her departure, not knowing when she may ~~ret~~ visit the east. My brother is behaving very well since some days & hope he will see the folly of his ways. he cannot stand liquor, in fact, none of the H.s can, they are of too nervous a temperament. his vacation ends on the 9th, to his sorrow, as time has seemed short since he came home. Are they going to continue

the choir all the time, or is it only for Grand occasions they practice? it will keep Mrs. Mac. busy. Give her my fond love & tell her to write me when she can spare the few moments. Lex will not expect to hear from her every day, I am sure. Well, my darling boy, it is late, going to midnight & no beauty sleep for me tonight, so I think I will leave you, my pet. I hope you will write me often & soon for I look forward to your

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dear letters with such pleasure. A fond "Good Night" I kiss you & trusting God will bless & keep my own true love safe. believe me, Ever

Your own Loving

little Girl.

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