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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
July 11<sup>th</sup> 01.

My own darling boy,

Although I have had no news from you since your two last written from "Knebworth House" on June 23<sup>rd</sup> & answered on Sunday last, the 7<sup>th</sup>, still I feel today that I must come & have a little talk with you in order to relieve my poor sick heart a wee bit. I feel that you are on your way to S. Africa & that the hours as they fly by, are bringing you further & further away from me. Your two drafts

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for \$244.36 cts. in our Canadian money arrived on Monday p.m. I went to see the Bank & found I had overdrawn, by giving my cheque for the account you drew, some eighty three dollars & a few cents (\$83.16). Mr. Taylor very kindly came to my assistance by lending me the amount out of his own pocket yesterday & some extra seventy (\$70.00) to go on with. As soon as you send me any I will repay him at once. How much did you say Mr. Fred White had, or intended to give you? & what for? I may have to call on

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him some day. I had to draw \$700.00 to pay Cowdry Bros, Life Insurance & some to my mother since you left, so there only remained a balance of \$160.00 in the Bank when your drafts came to be met. Do not think me extravagant for I do not spend a cent uselessly; in fact, you know how many times you have accused me of being mean & close with money, so I feel sure you will not think me extravagant. Louise is busy packing up & goes to take charge of a hospital on St. Catherine St. run by Dr. [Hansford] a lady Dr. – she has made all arrangements without even a whisper to me, whom she, as you know treats almost like a stranger – she did not even consult Mamma until the affair was almost settled. I told my mother "I did not want Louise to leave on my account – that I was much more

independent etc & I do not wish the boys to imagine I have any thing to do with it". Mamma says she has always wanted to be independent & as she gets half the proceeds it is a good offer. She is to look after the servants & take the housekeeping off the Dr.s hands – she lives in

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the house & has too much to do looking after her patients etc to be able to do all. I hope Louise will succeed – any way as long as my mother has a house, she knows she can always return to her. Willie never sends a cent, in fact, scarcely ever writes her, so the longer she puts off trying to do something for herself, the harder it will be for her. My letter of Sunday may make you feel bad, but, I really could not help writing as I did. I felt so bad, my dear. I enclose Jarvis' letter, sent to me by Jim Clarke – I answered at once, telling him I knew nothing about that price &

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leaving it to himself & Jarvis, feeling sure they will do all for the best. You may have time to write Jim about it when this reaches you. Beau wrote you a day or two ago & gave you some messages from me re the same thing. Gertie is still up & I am finishing my sewing & await Mrs. Clarke's invitation. I am beginning to think she may not renew it, perhaps she has other friends there & may think the little ones would be too much trouble. The weather just now is very pleasant & were it always like this, it would be unnecessary

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to go to the country for fresh air. I hear you made quite an impression on Miss Ogilvie's heart on the trip across & she is sounding your praises far & wide – so entertaining, interesting etc etc. There is not much news – things are quiet & so lonely sometimes!!.. God bless you dear & keep you safe until we meet again is my earnest prayer. All the children are well & send fond love & many sweet kisses to their dear old Papa. In haste, with many heartfelt kisses & a long loving embrace, believe me

Your own true hearted, devoted

wifie

Maye.

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