

2008.1.1.1.1.345

Marie Steele to Sam Steele
6 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary. Mar 28th.

My own darling boy,

Your dear letters of the 24th & 25th came to me yesterday morning by the first delivery & needless to say I enjoyed perusing them as I always do.

It was indeed! perfectly delightful of you to "drop me a line" when all dressed waiting to go to the "Old Timer's" banquet - that was not necessary to make me think of you, dear, as my evening was spent writing to you as you know now. I thought of you every moment until sleep closed my eyes.

I hope you were pleased with your speech - every one whom I have seen thinks it was fine. D^r. Costello drew up to the sidewalk yesterday p.m, told me of it & his admiration & asked if he might bring the "Free Press" over tonight. I said certainly & expressed my pleasure at seeing him. When I got home M^{rs}. Basil Hamilton had come up & kindly left it to me.

Yes, my darling, it is time for you to come out of your shell & do justice to yourself. I trust the Agricultural College dinner was also all

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that you could possibly desire. I am certain your speech was much better than it reads, as if reporters are not good they mar it in the way they word it.

Lady typists are dear in every way & dangerous too at times. Do you not think it better to wait until I go down & bring everything to get the paper out of the big case you had made in Africa.

You are getting quite domesticated, my dear having your shirts & collars fixed - it is nice of you & I am sure you are proud of the fact. I will not have much time for sewing here, I fear - but I must get some done. I have had two blouses made this week & must have a skirt & another blouse done too.

I think the Conservatives may have one or two more in the House when all is settled.

Yours of the 25th had the cheque enclosed which I acknowledged in pencil at the head of my letter yesterday before I closed it.

The furnace in this house is an old one & requires lots of repairing -

the men who did it said "they would not like to be the ones compelled to feed it!!..". [sic] Bagnall does not I think thoroughly understand it, still I suppose does his best he [uses] the ashes at night, but it needs to be thoroughly well shaken & attended to, ashes emptied daily & I do not

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think,

he does that, but of course I cannot go down there & inspect it, so we have to be content this year - the winter is almost over, I trust, & I suppose we are fortunate in having him - servants are hard to get & we really needed a man in the house to do the furnace, especially as you are away. This winter was very much colder than the last I assure you.

I have not as yet told one person that we are going, consequently have done nothing towards packing up - not even Minnie knows, as I fear in confidential chat with her many friends, she may give it away. As soon as you can conveniently let me know, please do so, in order that I may be able to arrange things. I shall have to give a tea or reception, as I must return some of the politeness extended to us. Then packing is a long and tedious thing. What shall we do in regard to the house? is [sic] it rented by the year, or month? I hope you can come up for Easter - it is so much easier talking over matters; then again, you may not wish to spend the money - let me know, dear, will you not, so that I may govern myself accordingly.

Bagnall does use the screenings of the coal as you say M^r. Mitchell does.

Do you think we will be promoted this year? a big We. You will tell me all about

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everything in due time, I suppose.

It seems to me I saw nothing of M^r. Sanford Evans' speech. I must look once more. I am sure you met many familiar faces & had many hearty hand-shakes: in fact, felt among friends.

Awfully nice dear to get me a clan Ranald belt & I shall certainly need one for shirt waists.

Harwood is now busy preparing for a bazaar - there is nothing he will not try - he would as you say earn all my money, if he could.

[Bleis] must be a hard case & succeeded in fooling people for many years, I suppose.

Our friends say "they feel we are going to leave" but I always laugh it off & tell them "nothing is known yet". I think you must have been dropping

off to sleep now & then when writing the 25th as a few hieroglyphics here & there in your letter give me that idea, my dear, but I am not surprised, going to bed at 3. a. m gave you little rest.

M^{rs}. [Uye'] letter proves that they appreciate being remembered. I am sure the years he spent in the S.A.C. with you will always be recalled with pleasure.

D^r. & M^{rs}. Macdonell intended coming up last evening, but he was called out - they will endeavour to do so tomorrow evening.

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We are very quiet, see few people. M^r. Ryall (R^{ev}) left for the coast this morning to remain a month - he had grippe "& toncilitis [*sic*] & it has left him very weak, so he has gone to see what the air there will do for him. We had a long talk yesterday in the H.B. they are inclined to be very friendly, but took a long time to be so. I fancy she may have been influenced by remarks made by others to my detriment & has found out for herself that I am not half bad & by the time I go, they will awaken to the fact that I am "pretty nice" as women go now a-days. Saw George Hope [J]. one day last week for a few moments - the first time since the "Old Timer's" ball in Oct. - he says he has had bronchitis all winter, still, entre nous, it did not hinder him from going out when M^{rs}. M^cD. of Vancouver was here.

It is snowing again today, but the weather is mild - the ground will be beautifully moist for the crops. Major & M^{rs}. Jamison, of Strathcona, are off on a tour to Europe for some months - who was she? is [*sic*] inclined to give herself airs I think. I may be mistaken.

Gertrude & Harwood are off to Sunday school. Torla is suffering with a wisdom tooth & her face is somewhat swollen. Minnie is well & busy with her numerous correspondents. Carstairs favours her now & then.....

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Vibert is flirting somewhat with Nellie Lee & sent her a dozen beautiful crimson roses: he is very flippant & would flirt with a child or his grandmother, if encouraged - it lowers him in my estimation, for it is so undignified for a man in his position, with those two boys growing up. Called on M^{rs}. Sutherland on Wednesday - the room was full so had no conversation with her beyond "how do you do & good bye" - very unsatisfactory & the people would never think of asking you to come in some other day.

Well, my dear old darling, I must not continue worrying you with this letter any longer. All the children send love & very many kisses. I have so

often wished you move near dear of late, & am so anxious to meet you again.

God bless & protect you, my own one. With deepest affection & many warm embraces, made even warmer by your long absence,

I am as ever

Your own devoted, loving little wife

Maye

Be sure & let me know as soon as possible, if you are coming up for Easter, will you please, like a dear old duck or drake, I suppose, I should say.

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