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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St.

June 26th<sup>th</sup> / 02

My own darling Sam,

Your letters of May 20th & 24th reached me by Tuesday's mail & you know what a warm welcome they as usual received. I much fear my piano would sell for very little here, my dear boy. They are so much cheaper, now that so many are manufactured in the [dominion].

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I shall get an idea of the probable cost of freight & then do for the best. It is of course a large one, still I might if necessary find [a] good sale for it down there. If I leave it with any one it simply means, giving it away & I have done enough of that before. it does not pay to be so very generous. If the furniture I have is taken en bloc, it may be as well for as the rest. The 2nd Mt'd Rifles

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are supposed to be returning to Canada very shortly & as the last contingent reached Africa after May 1st there seems to be some trouble re pay & they will get very little, if any. I had Capt. Main here on Tuesday evening & we had a most pleasant time - he was very entertaining & we enjoyed his society very much. I think we shall leave by his steamer in or about the 11th Oct. Sept. 6th, the previous sailing, being too soon for me. I have not yet succeeded in securing a sewing girl & we have much to do in that line. Then we must rent the house as you know, or pay eight months for nothing, which we must try & avoid. Taking all together, I am sure we cannot leave sooner, as I am anxious to go with him, a few lines from you will encourage him to do all he can to help me in London, a great consideration I assure you.

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I wrote Mr. Fred White (Lt. Col.) C.M.G. & he told me he would inquire if any steamers were going direct to Capetown [sic] & let me know. The papers say many or all are cancelled, but there may be others in the Autumn: If so, I may have a chance of sending furniture, but not of going myself.

I shall do my very best & cannot say more. I have a friend in the Allan Line offices who is pretty well up who may help me with the

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furniture. Your suggestion re putting both feet in one stocking may be very necessary. The mere thought of meeting you once more renders it more imperative than ever. I shall not forget your kind advice.

The Coronation honors are very nice, are they not? I only wish another loved name to me had been added to the list. The poor king - his illness was a fearful shock to everyone & even yet

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many fear the [worse] - however, care, skill & his own great pluck may enable him to pull through to the great joy of his immense empire & his millions of loyal, devoted subjects! my heart bleeds for Her Majesty, his devoted wife who has to keep such a bright smiling face, when her poor heart is well nigh breaking. I went to a sale of table linen yesterday & bought a nice lot, so you will have no reason to be ashamed of your table linen anyway. You told me to purchase here & I did so, getting the very best double faced Irish linen damask. It is lovely, but I got it for the price of fairly good in the stores here, this being part of a consignment sent to Hicks some time ago.

I do hope you will not imagine that I am waiting too long to go over, but trust you quite understand the cause of my delay.

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I await your decision re pension with anxiety & hope you may be able to bring some influence to bear in endeavoring to having your years in S.A. counted. You will be sorry to read that D.W. Davis has lost his position - it was in last night's "Star" - has been defrauding for some years - is it not too bad? Why will men do such things anyway? his wife will feel it keenly I am sure.

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Flora went up to Vaudreuil yesterday for some time. She was delighted to go I assure you & will, I hope, benefit by the change.

Herself & Charlotte are great friends & she likes the family in fact. Gertie has always been kind to her. Frank went up for a few days fishing, but as usual it has poured since early last evening. You will see by the papers that this is the rainiest month, save two in thirty years.

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When is the rainy season with you?

The little ones are well & I really believe Dubbie's eyes are better even with the little that has been done so far. He has to wear glasses for a time as I told you before. Gertrude saw a beautiful large doll at Morgan's this p.m. & she almost jumped out of her skin with delight, much to the amusement of people standing near. She got several first prizes all in one small book & a crown. Torla got two books, several first prizes, all in one too & a book for music. The Sisters are very stingy with books & never give more than they possibly can help.

Well, my dear boy I do not want to weary you & feel somewhat tired, so I will leave you. God bless you & keep you safe until we meet again. All join in fond love to dear Papa & send many delightful hugs. Hoping to hear from you soon, I am as ever

your own true devoted loving little wifie, Maye

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