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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
May 12th / 89.

My own darling Boy,

It is now evening & rather late at that. We have just come in from church, where I sang for the first time for at least seven years. I succeeded admirably, notwithstanding the cold which still troubles me. I was congratulated on every side you will be glad to learn. I had to resort to mustard blisters after all & my chest is very sore from the effects of the remedy. I hope it will leave me entirely this week as I do not like being on the sick list. Well my own old pet, you did not favor me as often as usual this week & as I answered both yours in my last letter, fear this one will be but a poor excuse for an epistle: however as you are to blame you must take "the [will] for the deed" & suffer the consequences in sublime silence. We have been very

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busy for some days, preparing the house for the warm season – as the family is so large, it gives one plenty to attend to. Mrs. Mac knows what it is & she can tell you how gay a home we have, particularly in summer. Papa brought my brother home Thursday evening last. he has had inflammation of the lungs but the crisis had passed & he was on the road to recovery, ere we heard of it. I hope it will be a lesson. he is very imprudent & will not profit of the good advice I can give so well sometimes. He is to remain here a month recruiting, then goes to his old place in the Montreal Revenue office: he has benefited very much by the few days at home already & has enjoyed a days fishing & had success. I saw an old friend of mine this

afternoon whom I had not seen for over two years. She found me looking so well & if anything younger & asked for my secret happiness! I might have told her, only she made a most unhappy marriage

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some eight years ago. She was a very pretty girl & clever too, but fear of not finding a husband if she waited too long, made her accept a man in no way worthy of her. I told her at the time but she would not listen. Now she says "Ah! Maye you were wise to wait!" – She is older than I by at least three years & is faded & careworn looking when only in her prime. Of course I too begin to feel the weight of the many years passed over my head, as another has lately been added to the number; yet, expect many happy ones in the future when with my darling boy. We have had very warm weather & not being prepared for heat, feel it more. today has been somewhat cooler & we anticipate a pleasant night's rest if the mosquitoes give us peace. We must be very sweet as they seem to relish a meal off one of my sisters or myself!!. You must have had a lively time during the Comr.'s visit & I pictured the square very often in my mind while he was trying the horses. Papa received your paper all right, but when I saw no letter accompanying it, my sorrow was very great I must confess. You seem to have rushed in all the sports & pastime's [sic] already. Are you busy learning the intricacies of tennis, as you had not sufficient leisure last summer after your arrival in Macleod, I know? it will make you thin, as there seems a certain amount of running & stepping around. I suppose Lex will soon be down now, Grandmamma having returned so long before she intended. They say she looks very well indeed! – some how or other, I fancy she will tire of the monotonous life in your town & sigh for Montreal, though I believe she will spend next winter with Mrs. Mac if she thinks the ~~winter~~ cold will not be too severe. She is very fond of home comforts & dislikes boarding-house life. Papa is very much occupied having his [sowings] done, the weather being very favorable at present. My pet, I am ashamed to send such a letter, but I really feel tired as we practiced a long time this afternoon. I trust you will forgive such a stupid

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letter & I promise to do better next time. With very much love, believe me
ever

Your

own dear

Maye.

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