

2008.1.1.1.1.119

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, Aug 4th 1898.

My own darling Sam,

Your two letters of June 26th & 28th came to me from Washington D.C. on Monday & needless for me to tell you how very welcome they were, as owing to my delay in getting away & your thinking me en route I knew full well I would be a long time in hearing from you. Your first is from Miles Cañon [sic] & etc & is very interesting indeed I assure you & was perused with much pleasure. I am happy to learn the cook takes care of you when you travel, for it is a fortunate thing to be in with the lord of the soup pot. The trips up there are full of excitement & as such are enjoyable no doubt – the scenery also is fine & the weather pleasant, nice people as a rule, so taken altogether, it is not bad. The rivers up there are awful, the rapids terrific & your description appals me, I assure you. I understand quite well, my dear, that you had to run the rapids but confess, would you not have done it, even if not compelled to do so? the excitement is too nice to be missed.

[reverse]

I wrote you a long letter on Saturday & trust it will reach you safely. Sergt. [Murison] addressed it, as my ink was very pale & I feared to go & ask for more. when the autocrat was away, I ventured & got it. Yes, dear I am pretty sure we will not meet for a year, as things are at present. Do you think there is any chance of your coming down next Spring? No doubt, the quarters for the fifty men at Tagish are now commenced. I wonder who will go? Mr. Casey received his orders for Prince Albert tonight direct from Ottawa & leaves with his family in a fortnight. Mrs. Casey left on Monday for a month's visit to Butte with Mrs. Bucher, but Mr. Casey is not going to tell her until they are ready to leave, so as not to spoil her trip. The Sergt. Major is ordered to Battleford & leaves on Monday – he seems rather cut up, but Mr. C. is delighted at the prospect of a change. The present O.C. is as unpopular as ever – he is so short with them all, that he is not liked by any. You must indeed! by [sic] very sylph-like if your waist is as small as it was when we met. I now turn the scale at 97, so you see I am still

decreasing in weight. Flora weighs 40, Gertrude 27, Baby 21 – so you see what a load he is for me to carry about, particularly when the Dr. told me not to do so, or lift anything heavy. There is no fear

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of my allowing you to have a rival, I think more of you now that I did even when you were near, which is saying a great deal. Flora continues to improve & her face looks well, but her poor legs are still very shaky – her feet seem too weak to support her. She got a number of books during her illness & when convalescent, learnt quite a lot – very likely when we get East she will want to go to school with Gertie's two eldest. I intend remaining with Gertie, will furnish my three rooms & pay my board – it will help them & be nicer for me than boarding with strangers or keeping house all alone. I wrote you regularly excepting when Flora was so ill & you know the cause of my silence then. Mr. Herchmer saw me in April or May, but I have had worry since & am really very thin. the change will be very beneficial & after I have been attended, I will improve. [my] darling, were you near, my worries would be few, so I am far from glad to “be rid of the worries of a husband”. I owe Miss Miller & Uncle John letters, but, my leisure moments are so few that all I have I devote to you. Candidly, I make those for I have work all the time. Alice is still in Pincher Creek having a nice time evidently. Elmes is

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drowning his grief at her absence in a very foolish way & his whole topic of conversation when he has taken anything is Alice Alice, until I am almost sick of it – he sees no faults, in fact, all her faults are perfections in his eyes. I just hate his coming in when he has taken anything – he broke out several times as I told you before. in fact, Regie had to doctor him up & tell him if he did not cease, he would have to put him out of the house. he was almost in [D.T.s] & still thought Alice would think well of him after such an exhibition. You know our style with such as that! – it finished him in her eyes. they are friendly nothing more & often have spats – he frightened us & we did not know what he might do – he behaved well for a while, but unless she returns soon, will go on I suppose. that worried me terribly, shamed me & kept me from sleep many nights – because he belongs to you & when all right, is a nice fellow I was patient, but if he goes on, I will have to stop it. The nuggets reached Birks all right & the bracelets are made in the rough awaiting my coming to be finished. Your letter of the 28th now lies before me. It is very short & tells me to come up, but you know how Providence changed all our plans. It may be very fortunate as you

would not have cared to have us in Dawson. Mr. Casey is under the impression Constantine is going to get Lethbridge, but I think a B.C. paper said he was leaving the Force. "The Empire"

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deal is not closed yet. Ross went up but did not see Godsall – he tried to buy Morris out, but for a wonder, I believe Morris refused. He is still here, I fancy, Elmes saw him last evening. Jim Clark wired from Rossland for highest offered & said he thought he could float it I think. Lex & Min went home on Monday so I know nothing more about it. I think Alec wrote you about it. Mrs. Harwood & children arrived yesterday. Dr. Mewburn holds out great hope of being able to cure the boy, I hear. The R. C. church had a picnic today. Mrs. C. N. Campbell was at the head of it & worked hard, but the weather was very unpropitious – we had a most terrific storm yesterday – it lasted for over half an hour, hail as large as robins eggs fell & the back yard was like a lake – they froze ice-cream at the Sergrts. mess with the hail & so they did they down at the station. Gertrude thought they were lovely balls & amused herself watching it fall. They say it poured at McFarlands where the picnic took place. I trust they made money, as it is another entertainment towards the new church. It is now eleven & I will have to say good-night. God bless you, my darling –

[reverse]

Friday evening. Well my own darling, I waited up until midnight for your silly nephew, who however never came in until three, & awakened Marie to open the door, as I locked both on returning – there are so many strangers about & so many new men in Barracks who look somewhat tough that I will not go up & leave the doors unlocked. he rested until late this p.m. & left after rising without eating – he is so queer & Sam, my darling, I would not live any longer in this place without you for the world – these things have happened several times, then other disagreeable things have occurred [sic] which sometimes have made my life here almost more than I could stand! – how I miss your loving, cheering words & voice, my own pet & how I long to see you, my own dear boy! Pray God will keep you safe until we meet & are reunited once more! Alec did not return tonight so very likely will not come until Monday. I went to the "Gazette" office today to have two advertisements inserted re sale of Piano, furniture (parlor) dishes & odds & ends. I hope I will succeed in getting \$250 for the first, otherwise will keep it. I must hurry & pack for I will have to do most of it myself. I can get very little help – Alice enjoys herself & Congdon is as lazy as can be –

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he spends most of his time in sleep & is almost worthless. The cow being now gone, I think he had better go too. Mrs. Cuthbert has just come in to spend some days with Mrs. Sanders & then goes on to the Oxley for a while, also visited the Willie Cochranes, so she must be a swell! There is very little of interest to write you about, my dear fellow. Morris leaves shortly I hear – some say he has a good position in the States – he has never been the same since his engagement was broken off. Every person is on the qui vive expecting more changes. Mr. Gigot went off to Germany in a hurry on Saturday last. Charlie says things were pretty lively during the ten minutes he had to get ready & his trunk went by the next train. There is a Scotch entertainment going on in the recreation room – I believe it is very good & I feel sure you would have enjoyed it had you been near. Well, dear old boy, good night once more. God bless you, my darling.

Saturday. The day is lovely & I hope such is the case with you my dear. Your English goods came all right as the enclosed

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will show, but are somewhat expensive. I sincerely hope they will prove satisfactory in every way. You can answer them & if you want me to do anything about the payments, tell me. Mr. Davidson moves into the Casey's house I am told – she will be delighted, but I do not think the others of her sex here will be, as the youngsters are about as dirty as any could be in every way. Well, my darling I am going to pack in good earnest & try & get away some time the last week of Aug. after the 20th any letters you had better send to my mother's care – they will be sure to reach me. Flora says "she is going to be a good girl just for Papa's sake," "say that" & sends love & hopes you will soon come back & kisses & kisses. Gertrude also sends the same & so does your dear old boy, Dubbie who is getting five new teeth all at once, poor little man! With ever so much love from myself hoping to hear from you soon, believe me,

Your ever true, devoted, longing-to-meet-you
wifie,

Maye.

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