

2008.1.1.1.1.57

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
July 28<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your very short letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> reached me on the 26<sup>th</sup> & pleased me exceedingly – the only thing I objected to was its length, for it was really brief if sweet. I am charmed to know the whisk case arrived safely & without any blemish, for sometimes, no matter how strongly a parcel may be fixed, they manage to smash the box, some way or other. it is, as I candidly told you, a useful present more than an ornamental one. You had no trouble finding me in the view taken of the Summer house, for I am indeed very visible – find me in the view of the ruins, in fact the whole of us, for we were four & I will pay you the first time we meet, for you certainly would deserve a silver medal, if you succeeded. The young girl standing in the door is Alice,

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the one to my left, Louise – the face of the latter can be well seen, as her features are round & she stood in the best light. she is considered very pretty. I know you were very busy when you wrote so must excuse your short letter on that account, just as you will have to forgive me mine for the same reason. We are eighteen today & I have been very much occupied & feel very tired this afternoon – in fact, done up & sleepy as well, so I fear my missive will be a very dull one. I trust the Comr. was satisfied with everything in general & my own dear pet in particularly & left well pleased with the way in which my darling performs his duty. I did not know [but] what you might think a little less of me when we had our disagreement. It sometimes takes a very small thing to change all!!... Your vows of eternal love but increase the faith I have in you dear & make more easy the many partings – I am compelled to leave some very dear to me, but, you will replace them all &

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though their places in my heart shall be very warm, yet the largest share of my affection must be yours forever. Mrs. Mac will I am afraid have to wait some time for news, but Grandma will write her from here no doubt, so she will not miss my letter quite so much. Uncle Panet, the Deputy M. of Militia is with us today & congratulated me very sincerely on my engagement to “such a distinguished man as Major Steele” – is not that very nice, my own pet? it makes my heart beat all the faster, I assure you. Uncle says our unknown cousin Mr. Beard is a very nice fellow, fine looking though boyish, well read & very much liked by his employers. “The fancies that are facts” are to begin with your love for me. I fought hard against imagining you could possibly care for me – a stray word would sometimes lead me to hope it. then again a look or sarcastic cut would speedily dissipate the faint delusion & I too would become scornful in turn. I shall never forget the war I felt must be between us – no quarter. Mr. Joly is one of the nicest men I ever met – he is fascinating & talks so well – English & French are perfectly familiar & he makes use of such pretty language. He has two sons in the Army now – the one Mr. Wood knows is in India & married a Miss Campbell of Kingston. The eldest, Edmond, resides in Quebec where he practices law – he also married a Miss Campbell of Quebec, but, the ladies were in no way connected. The youngest, Gustave, left with another cousin, a son, of Col. Panet’s for England a year ago & both are, I think, in the Royal Engineers. We are rather a military family, you see, so you must not be surprised if the weaker sex has displayed a fondness for scarlet coats. I have been making some more nice jam & you will be just too sweet for anything – you are I think fond of sugar & will like it, I know, particularly when it comes from my dear old home. Mr. D. is supposed to be clever, but is

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blind to his brother’s faults. He seems to believe him when he tells him such trash as I mentioned – even went so far as to say that “owing to Freddy’s fine horsemanship he often had charge of a large expedition, even when a Supt. was there or not”. to tell me that, when I know such is not the case & saw from my manner how incorrect his statement was, I am sure. I heard of his silly talk on the train last fall, so from one thing & another have become familiar with his numerous qualities. Mr. D. will never, I thoroughly [sic] believe, be liked by the family & I would not be surprised to see that engagement broken off yet. Many a time I pitied the Bachelors for the few comforts they seemed to possess. I once said I should like to see the Mess & Mr. Starnes said it really was too poor to ask a lady in. Mrs.

Mac was almost shocked at my cheek for expressing a desire to see rooms inhabited by bachelors only. I on the contrary saw no harm in it. Some

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day I will tell you of a remark I made very innocently & how others took it up. I know those I said it to saw no harm, but Lex & Mrs. Mac were scandalized & she sought to lecture me with Lex to back her. I showed my pretty teeth & Lex quietly left. It is no wonder he pitied you my darling, for falling a victim to such a one as I, with my many faults & liberal ideas. He saw my independent character pretty often & knows I never allow a person to be under a false appreciation as to the value they have in my eyes. I am, in a word, true to myself & to my sex. The boys will not go out without me this evening, but even the conviction of being thought very selfish, cannot make me summon up sufficient courage to make myself as sweetly pretty as possible & go & deserve the name I possess for amiability. Some other time I may feel more in the humor. Well, my pet, dearly as I love you I must say au-revoir.

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With many sweet kisses & very fond love, trusting your next will be a very long letter, believe me, my own one, Ever

Your own warm-hearted

little Girl.

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