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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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6^a Pasadena Court,
Winnipeg, Aug 1st

Be sure & seal your letters. the [sic] envelopes have scarcely any mucilage on, so do not close well & can very easily be opened & closed again without envelope being torn or damaged at all.

My own darling Sam,

Having been to church with mother, stopping on our way home to bid good-bye to M^{rs} [Keefler], who leaves tomorrow night by way of the lakes, en route to New York for Shorncliffe, I now come to have my usual Sunday chat. M^{rs} Ketchen & family leave [on] Wednesday night & they meet M^{rs} [Keefler] in Toronto, M^{rs} Moore also I believe, being with M^{rs} Ketchen. They cross on the S^t Louis sailing from New York next Saturday. They all are wild with excitement & delight at the prospect of seeing their own again.

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I must acknowledge your cable of last Monday "We are all well. division [sic] in good shape not likely to command it in the field. offered [sic] Shorncliffe District in splendid health. never [sic] better. tell [sic] M^{rs} Berry Kirkfield Park son is well". I endeavoured to do the letter, by M^{rs} Berry having no phone & not knowing her address, I could not deliver the message. The papers had your new appointment in officially, so I suppose you have accepted it. The first letter received this week is dated July 10th. Harwood had gone to Wales & you called on the Canadian ladies. So the Mackie's [sic] & the Cameron's [sic] are hobnobbing. that [sic] is a change! If Mackie leaves Strathcona's Horse, will it hurt him officially?. The Critchley's [sic] were such pets of the O.C. that the other will smile at the turn of affairs. Major Shaw has done

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well & I am pleased. Your next is that of the 12th & tell's [sic] of the lunch at M^{rs} Thompson's. How delighted I am, my dear to know my laddie is so well liked & has so many friends. Yes, I remember the M^{rs} Stubbs you mentioned. Strange that Will Steel & his wife do not

agree. I thought they were very happy. Well, the bucking of the Canadian War horse seems to have been of some avail, after all! he [sic] is emphatic in his way of talking & has done something to bring the powers that be to their senses. The Canadians are not mere fighting machines & their officers are not always going to be passed over. Your next is of the 14th. Harwood had returned safely from his trip & had a nice time. am [sic] looking forward to his letter telling me about it. Am charmed to hear Genl. Hughes fought for the Canadians & that the Premier supported him. I can quite understand the opening of eyes & feel sure the knight in question has a different idea of our countrymen now. Why in the name of wonder does K. object to you?. [sic] has [sic] he ever found you wanting? strange [sic] the British always think no one can do things as they can! it has always been their great fault & the sooner they understand the contrary, the better for the Empire. We are a power now. a [sic] dominion, not a mere colony!. [sic] The conduct in question must come out, if

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not before the end of the war, afterwards. To sacrifice precious lives in that way is criminal & it is no wonder a change was necessary. Perhaps a better understanding may now exist between yourself & the Minister & many clouds be cleared away. it [sic] will be a good thing [sure]. Col. Mitchell came over last night & spent the evening with Mother & myself. he [sic] was so pleased to get your letter & seems so anxious to go over. M^{rs} Davidson writes & says "Father would just love to be there with the General, for he is anxious to go." Hope you had an opportunity of presenting Harwood to Genl Hughes & also that you can or could correct any idea he

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has of my family & my religion. You next received on Thursday is a short one dated July 15th. You were preparing for the review for the Premier & Genl Hughes. I am sure Harwood must have been grieved deeply at missing the train & consequently the matinee at which the Boy Scouts of England, through L^t Gen. B. P. were to present something to the Boy Scouts of your division. How do they now take the change in the command of the division? are [sic] the [sic] very sorry at losing you? they [sic] rejoiced, no doubt, if it is promotion for you I know. Your last is also dated the 15th & contained the cheque & stamps. it [sic] reached me on Friday. shall [sic] bring the former to the Bank the first time I go. it [sic] comes in handy, as every little

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helps very materially in reducing the bills. I hope we shall see all the places you mention. Is it not a shame that such grand spots & fine old Castles as the one you mention should be torn down, when in good condition? The large hall used as a stable – what desecration!! Your review took place on the 16th. I do hope the weather was kind & that everything was perfect in every way. that [sic] every one did their very best & that you were satisfied with the whole affair. I await your letters with the greatest anxiety. This new command is, I suppose considered better than the 2nd! if [sic] it is not promotion I fancy you would not accept. I know one thing, if you returned to Canada, because you were not fairly treated it would have a most disastrous effect on recruiting in the country & many would seize your treatment as an excuse for not volunteering. in [sic] some parts, as you know, particularly Quebec, the province, they still keep back. the [sic] city of Montréal has been disgraced by the hoodlums who behaved so badly of late!. [sic] Even the tricolor will not induce them to come forward. They want security, but will not raise a hand to help the Mother Country. There is not very much news. The girls are as you now know, visiting in Lang, having Gertrude says “a gorgeous time.” I hope they are & that they will feel

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more settled & more patient when they come home. Mother & myself have been busy. I had a dress maker for five days & she is to come later on. I have so much to do & feel it is preferable to have things made up here, than wait until we go to England. You see the materials are in my trunks & it is handier to bring them over ready, than to wait. We went over one evening to see M^{rs} Haslett, bringing her Harwood's letter which was really very sweet & sympathetic. tell [sic] him I cannot tell him how much she appreciated it & was touched by his words. “to [sic] get such a letter from that dear boy is indeed a treat & I shall

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treasure it.” she [sic] seems fairly well, but oh! so lonely in that suite all by herself. another [sic] evening we went to see M^{rs} Ketchen. she [sic] is fortunate in having Baxter. he [sic] goes over on a troopship or transport some day next week too & has been a great help in every way since Col. K. left. Her house is rented unfurnished at \$50⁰⁰

monthly. the [sic] furniture to be stored in the attic or top story. Camp Sewell is no more, George [Berry] changed the name to Camp Hughes this week. a [sic] place up the [line] named de Wet is now Sewell. they [sic] tell me the camp this year is simply the most undisciplined imaginable. no [sic] good, in fact. The Artillery

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were detained, but leave on the 4th, Tuesday or Wednesday I believe. Are you surprised at the turn of events? They are not pleased at being in such inexperienced hands as Carruthers, but say he was with Rogers all the time & worked things as he wanted to, but very likely things will be different when they reach Shorncliffe. Every one seems away at present. M^{rs} Henson has gone to [Minaki] as well as M^{rs} McKay. the [sic] suites are empty of ladies, especially, not that I see them very often. one [sic] notices it in church, the shops & everywhere. When we get to England we will appreciate the [motor] now & then. no [sic] one ever thinks of us & I have had the militia [over] only to bring the two girlyes to the station in the last two months I think. such [sic] is life!. [sic] I might not be refused if I asked for it, but I don't, you see. [Luglir] sent for the gold belt the other day. he [sic] says [Sperings] ordered all these things & did not seem pleased, but I explained as well & nicely as possible over the phone. that [sic] reduces the bill \$58⁰⁰, a consideration. no [sic] wonder he was put out. I hope all my letters reach you & my laddie. I have been writing only on Sunday, of late, being so busy. God bless & keep you both until we meet again. With warmest love & sweet kisses, I am, as ever
Your own devoted loving wife.

Maye

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6^a Pasadena Court
Winnipeg, Aug 1st

My darling,

I write this separate letter in order to get all the information I can, in case we are to go over to England. This lease expires the 1st

of Oct. If we go, am I to bring over any furniture? if [sic] [I can] sell any, shall I do so, as perhaps storage rates are high. I [know] things are given away, so one scarcely knows what to do. I shall store the [Kruger] Coat of Arms, the old mirror I value so much in some vault, all packed of course. Perhaps M^{rs} Howe would take care of our large portraits & then I shall have the other pictures packed & stored.

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the [sic] silver I shall pack & store separately. the [sic] books, furniture etc in the Security Storage warehouse, I suppose. I am naturally much bothered, as I want to do the right thing & not pay out too much. This is in case of our going over to England, if you wish us there. If you have the position, commanding the Southeastern part of England, it may be for some years. that [sic] is, not only for the duration of the war. in [sic] that case again, things may be different. Shall I bring over any house linen? or [sic] pack what I have in that line?. [sic] You see, dear letters take sometimes almost three weeks to come & I must decide before I begin anything but the books, at any rate. Then I have no man to help.

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Shall I bring over the saddles, as the girls may have the opportunity of riding, which they are so keen to do, as you know & which they enjoy so much. Your civilian clothes & the tunic & other military things must also be brought. all [sic] these things must be thought of, & attended to of course, so when you weigh the matter carefully & think the whole thing out, be sure & write or cable what I am to do. Do not rent a house for us before the time I mention, as it will take some time to do everything. Mother, I think, would like to come too. Regie will be there I [~~illegible~~] believe. if [sic] he does not go in com^d of the 51st he will go as a surgeon & Tillie wants her, but she does not seem to care to go with her, as Tillie is so very changeable & hard to get on with, for any length of time. Your papers etc in your small bureau I shall pack & store. The typewriter is paid for. shall [sic] I bring that? it [sic] can be packed by the Remington people. Now, be sure & do not forget to answer all these questions, as they are important to me. Well, my dear this may be enough for today. God bless you & good luck attend you, my own. I trust & hope all is well. As ever

Your devoted, affectionate little wifie,
Maye.

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