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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
Jan 21st/02

My own darling,

Your dear letter of Dec 10th reached me yesterday after being without one for nearly two weeks & needless to say, it as usual was very warmly welcomed. Flora also received the one you wrote her. I have followed the reports of the war closely of late, but see nothing concerning you or your command. I do hope & pray all is well with you, although I know it was after your last was penned

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that Major Ogilvy lost his life. Be sure & do not forget to tell me the names & positions occupied by the different ones in the group you sent as I am anxious to learn their names & place them. I hope you succeeded in your undertaking against du Plessis & that you were in Pretoria for Xmas. If so, you may have enjoyed contents of the parcel sent when the Soldiers Wives League sent their comforts to the Canadians. You will if you move all your troops to the Krugersdorp [road], I suppose, leave Pretoria & reside in the

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above mentioned place. While you are suffering from the heat, we have any quantity of the beautiful & more falling. There is to be a carnival in Quebec the first week in February. Minto & party are to be there & they are working hard to make it a success I am sure. Several other English swells are to be present too, the papers say. Kipling's poems evidently do not make much difference & our "Lady of the Snows" will be better known than ever. The children are well & sleeping peacefully while I write. I intend going to Vaudreuil on Thursday & will bring Dubbie – the others, particularly my Gertrude are heartbroken & she weeps over my contemplated absence, poor dear! She is an affectionate little mite, but I am to return on Saturday so will only be away two days – as she goes to school & studies well she will not miss me as much – it is when bedtime comes that she will want me most, but I consoled her tonight by telling her they could sleep in my bed & play Papa & Mamma. The idea amused her immensely &

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her eyes brightened very much through the tears. Yes, indeed I like the photos very much – they are splendid – am pleased that you like mine in the group, but

I really find I look like a Japanese with my eyebrows all on the slant – considering that they are Notman's they should have been far better. They were so pleased at having me with them, poor dears. Dubbie is a fine little fellow. I had his hair cut again & he looks very well. He is learning his letters & seems quick too. The charming

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young lady Frank seems to have met is very likely Miss Percy, sister to your late trooper. She is a Canadian by birth – as you know. I may be mistaken, but I think she is the person in question. I much fear Frank has a very susceptible heart & must always be in love with somebody. What good it will do him, is more than I can say, for he has three years of study ahead of him & then goodness knows how many years it will take to build up a practice – que voulez-vous? if a person wants to wait for that length of time c'est bien!

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Too bad Col. Gordon missed seeing you at Pretoria – he arrived on the same steamer as your letters only I fancy he went straight up to Kingston, where his wife remained during his absence. Last night "Star" said that Lawley & Critchley had both left the S. A. C. for the same reason, I presume. Will they return to Canada? hard times for Mrs C. to come back so soon.

Wednesday – I got this much written last night when sleep overcame me & I had to retire, but knew I would continue & perhaps pen a more interesting end to my letter. I had a long one from Mrs Sanders this a. m. who was delighted to get the photos of little ones & yourself. The latter was one of Notman's large ones & she says she is very proud of it. She tells me Mrs Harper was to stay with her on her way to Banff where she goes to open a nice boarding house. Harper has deserted her, is it not a crying shame? poor soul & she has six or seven small children to support – he is a hound, not fit to be kicked

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by the foot of an honest man. I feel so sorry for her for all say she is a good woman, hardworking & all. The hotel at Banff is very expensive & the Sanitarium very badly kept, so Mrs Sanders says Mrs Harper will surely do well, being well known. Should you come across him & do her good in any way do not forget her, my dear.

Mrs Sanders is feeling better than for a long time past. All here are enjoying good health & desire to be remem-

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bered. Moir has written from Halifax & I am just going to pen a few lines wishing him God speed. He says "although an officer in this corps he feels he will not be half as happy as when a [non-com] serving under Col. Steele" - intends going to

see you as soon as possible. God bless & protect you, my darling. Our little ones join in many sweet kisses – a fond embrace & tight hug, from your own warm

devoted, loving lonely wifie, Maye.

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