

2008.1.1.1.1.214

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1902

My own darling Boy,

Although this is only Tuesday evening & not my usual night for writing you, I feel that I want to have a chat with you, so as it is not very late I will pen you a few pages, even if unable to finish the letter. Yours of Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> all came yesterday as well as one to Torla enclosing three or rather four small photo & a letter from Lt. Currie. To begin with the first mentioned I am glad to know you are doing such good work. the [block] houses must be a good system & I trust will eventually

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

bring the enemy to their senses. The press reports are so varied that one does not know what to believe. What do you mean by saying "how elaborate was their state of preparation to drive everyone into the sea & make a Dutch republic" - is it figuratively or not? I am anxious to be certain of it, so pray do not forget it on your answer. They have certainly been exceedingly obstinate & must have been helped a great deal by foreigners. They have fought well, I must say, but not as reasonable beings. Our poor fellows did well once more & there are many aching hearts as the result of the battle of Mar 31<sup>st</sup>.

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

There were rumours that Bruce Carruthers was [suing] the [slain], but the statement has not since been confirmed, so there is no truth in it. As he was married a very short time before he sailed, people take a romantic interest in him, besides his being very well known.

I do hope you will have no more trouble re remounts, & that the next you get will be as good as the last. Your two chargers must have been very fine indeed. We read in the papers a few days ago, where the British found a number of Boer horses & destroyed them, although within a short distance of a railway & within riding distance ~~from~~ of a good sized town. I am glad to learn Bartram is better & getting his stripes. So Kerr has left you! - All is for the best, but I must confess I am sorry for the poor [niggers] who have him for a boss. He must be horrible & to think he could deceive one so! - I noticed his black eyes here, but could not believe it anything but accidental. I knew he had a vile temper - you must be glad to get rid of him for his lies must have harmed you without your being aware of it. So [Tennant] is with you once more! I am glad & hope

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

hope he will do well, poor fellow – he has marred his life by his unthoughtful marriage & must regret it every day – she may wish she had acted differently if he gets on well. It will be nice for you to be surrounded by so many old acquaintances whom you can trust & have known for so long. Yes, I am getting many letters & you know how much I appreciate & value them without my telling you once more.

I must tell you ere I answer another that I went to see Mr. Taylor yesterday who received me very nicely – He said he had not the diary & that some of the order books were in Mr. Mackie's hands &

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

others in the Adjutant General's office in Ottawa – that if he had them he could not let them be taken as he had to refer to them constantly – that Mackie said “the pay sheets were in a rotten condition” in fact, read it out of Mackie's letter. When I said you wished me to get the books & have copies made, he inquired why? I told him, “you wished them copied & sent to you & that you would have them re-copied & sent to Lord Strathcona” he said “The originals would have the value in his (Strathcona's) eyes, not the copies” - also “that the War Office claimed the order books” - [even] where the diary is I do not know, as the book

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

I have here have many blank pages so it cannot be the one to which you refer. Mr. T. was in good humor & seemed pleased to see me. I also sent \$20.00 to the Secretary of the Alberta Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Macleod, as you requested me to do, paid for the military gazette as well – so that is off my mind anyway. Gertie had a small tea in the p. m. & we enjoyed it – very few you know, almost a dozen, not more. Mrs. Hope came today, but we were out – it was our day, but we waited until late & as we owed several calls in this street & it was the day, we went out ourselves – also Mrs. Alexis Smith, the bride of a year ago. Mr. Taylor told me to tell you that Mr. Hope went to him the other day & asked him about the stories that went around about Jarvis. They want to get him among the numbers going to the coronation & are evidently wire-pulling. He showed him your letters & said “he thought no better proof would be needed to right him (Jarvis) – Hope asked him to show them to [Ibbotson], Stark, Henshaw & other military men who might have anything to say in the matter. He (Taylor) did so & said all seemed to consider the question

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

settled by your testimony & accepted what you wrote as final – saying they were satisfied & would do all they could to help Jarvis or Hope in the matter. That is another good turn you have done Buzz anyway!!....

He (Taylor) enquired about Elmes & wondered why he was not working at the books with Mackie.

I now turn to yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> in which you acknowledge mine of the 3<sup>rd</sup> & the parcels (I suppose the Xmas ones) for you do not tell me which - ) it is now after Eleven & my eyes are beginning to close so I must leave you. God bless you, good night, my darling –

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

Wednesday, Apr 9<sup>th</sup> Well, my darling I trust you are in perfect health & not in danger today, my dearest. I was out this morning purchasing our little Torla's first communion dress – she will make it some time in May & I want to be ready – poor dear! how she wishes you were near to rejoice with her on that happy day! I am always busy too, so that time does not hang heavy on my hands & I have less leisure to be too lonely & fret my very heart out over your absence. So Miss Scott has perhaps seen you by now, if not before. I was very sorry to have missed her as I told you several times in my

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

letters, as Louise was charmed with her as well as Gertrude & Torla. Strange [Evans] should not endeavor to be nice to her en route – she seems to have influential friends all over. Yes, you have given one sufficient cause for a divorce, if only by your continual absence, still I must make the best of it I suppose, not being like most of my sex & my love being so deep-rooted & sincere enough to stand the test of time & separation. Well, it must be nice to have so many feminine hearts think you the very personification of all that is good & manly – virtue too, I believe must be added. But, indeed! my darling, the best women are not pretty & the virtues that go to make up a true woman are very often found in one with a plain face, who then cultivates & develops [sic] her talents to please men, knowing there are some among them who can appreciate something else besides a fair face! Yes, the children told me they “had given Miss Scott lots of big hugs & kisses that she was to be sure & give to Papa” - It was when I was in Vaudreuil that she passed through. Mrs. Davis writes a good letter & is, as you say, a woman with a strong mind, which comes out in her

[/pg 9]

[pg 10]

[mirth] of Ireland mouth, as you used to say! They think a great deal of you, I assure you. What railway is Bright building? I did not know [Maine] & McKenzie were building anywhere. I am indeed highly pleased to learn J. B. is doing so well & hope he will continue, poor fellow! We treated him as well as we could in the old days & he made our house his home as you may remember, but I was always pleased to welcome him & better pleased to know he has not forgotten it. I hope he will make plenty of money. You must not worry over the furniture. As long as

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

the war lasts it is useless to think of our going out, as it is too expensive. When we do, I may be able to purchase light wicker stuff that might not cost as much to bring out – we shall see later on. Am delighted to know the driving horses are so good & trust they will be well for a long time. Your division seems to be the favorite one, my dear. Your reputation will be the same as it is in the West for justice & good treatment of ~~his~~ your men. How perfectly lovely it would be for you to come & bring us over – that would be too lovely a dream to be realized I fear! Lydenburg is where you thought you would be – it seems very much further north than

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

your district is now – it will not extend as far as that surely – it must be a very large one.

The papers said Earl Gery [sic] was visiting his sister, Lady Minto – she is a sister I feel sure.

The poor Canadians had a sharp fight at Newcastle & did not take long to get their baptism of fire. He is the Snider from Portage la Prairie, is he not? You of course answered J. B. Bright's letters & told him where we are. I may write him, but you give me no address. I am corresponding with so many gentlemen that you will end by getting a divorce from me for that reason.

I wrote Fred White & Frank Oliver last night re Pension bill – the session is getting on & Parliament will be ending as so many are going for the Coronation, & nothing will be done in the matter, just to refresh their memories, only a few words. What Commission did young Sanders get? in your corps & division? You may well be proud of your success in that line for you have done well & of course, displayed your usual good judgement in the selection of your officers. The Millers were delighted with their Easter gifts –

[/pg 12]

[pg 13]

it is a pleasure to give to them – they always seem pleased with every trifle.

They are well, write in good spirits – had heard from you lately. The Moons were well – Essie spent Easter with them & made taffy with the sap – they wished our little ones were there to have a sweet, enjoyable time too. It is a nasty dark, rainy day, but one must expect it at this season. I brought out one of your green serges to make a coat for our boy & he just wept because I would not put the badge on his coat. The King's Color's must be there too, as he calls the ribbons

–

[/pg 13]

[pg 14]

I said the police would run him in if he wore them, but he says “the King does not live here & would not see them & he is going to be a soldier & serve his King

like dear old Papa"! - young, but the sentiments are there already, you see. It is late & this is long so I had better close, ere you are tired, my darling. I often fear you must find mine prosy & badly written, but I am always in a hurry & try to miss as few mails as possible. All are well & send many sweet kisses & much love to you, my darling – God bless & protect you, dear old pet – O! how I long to have you near, when I could kiss & caress you to my heart's content – it will take a long time to satisfy my hungry heart for all the sweet embraces I have missed in these long, lonely years of separation & which I sometimes crave for so much. I have no one to love me dear, as you do, but our three dear little ones, who try hard sometimes to make up for your

[/pg 14]

[pg 15]

absence, poor little pets! Again God bless you – write as often as ~~to~~ you can – many sweet kisses with lips tightly pressed to yours from

Your own true hearted, devoted, lonely little wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 15]