

2008.1.1.1.1.149

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
July 18th 01

My dear old Sam,

Your two letters of July 3rd that of the 5th as well as the two short ones of the 6th reached me this week & as usual received their warm welcome. I will attend to your wish re M. P. button to Miss Clarke. I find on looking over the letters there is one written on Dominion Day which I now turn my attention to. You did well to accept the dinner given on that day, for I do wish you to come forward when you can – there is enough of one of the family in the

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background all the time – when you have the chance be sure & do not miss it. It gives you the opportunity of meeting prominent men & enables you to hear speeches from celebrated man – a thing I know you thoroughly enjoy. What you say of your secretary surprises me somewhat. I thought him somewhat green, but did not think him so innocent – however that is something that soon wears off & that one cannot get back again! I have been watching the papers, but so far see nothing of the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Garlick. Yours of the 3rd tells me how much you enjoyed the banquet. I searched the papers but did not

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see your name mentioned – how nice it was for you to meet all those cousins of yours who evidently appreciate all you have done during the past year, as well as what you did before you became so distinguished. I could not help smiling when I read your suggestions re putting some superfluous money in the savings bank. Why! Your last draft for \$146.00 came two days ago & once more the Montreal Bank kindly came to my assistance & loaned me the money – you will see that by adding the last borrowed I now owe them almost \$300.00. Then Hicks' bill is quite a sum, but he will have to wait. Belcher will, I suppose have to get some of the

\$77.00 & more due him – so counting all up, you will see that it will be some months before I can put by a cent – then if Alec has to get his \$500.00 for extra services, I would like to know where the extra money comes in. Flora is too young yet to put at a school by herself & she need not go before she can take care of herself. Fourteen or thereabouts will be soon enough, I fancy & if perchance I should go to Africa, the trip will do her no harm. My mother speaks of moving & houses are hard to get. I do not want to go too far from schools & fear we will have

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difficulty in getting a house. This one is not in good repair & the Judge will do nothing for us. It is a bother, but as I do not think there is much prospect of going out to you there is not much use waiting until May, as your leave will be up on the 1st of June & we may as well be settled ere you come home again. Your next is that of the 5th & I now look forward to getting the letter you may write me from Las Patinas. Gertie had a son on the morning of the 16th & is in very fine health. I must confess – he is a big boy, dark & the youngsters are delighted. Flora [illegible] [illegible] very much

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& is exceedingly anxious that I should buy one also. She predicts that I may be much surprised some morning upon awakening, to find one lying beside me. He is to be christened tomorrow & I am godmother, Auguste taking your place as you are so far. I hope Lord Strathcona was just as nice as he could be, during your stay in London – what about the \$1.000 [for] cheque? – You have said nothing about it so far. I will look up the dress shoes & box spurs - & send them as I address this letter, straight to Cape town. The photo's of the little ones I will also get, but it has been so intensely hot that I did not go this week. I will aslo [sic] attend to all you ask about my faculty

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for Col. John P. Steele as soon as possible. I will also write Col. Macdonald re regimental records, etc if Mr. [Moir] does not send them promptly. I assure you the chief of Police in Ottawa has got into the most awful mess & the worst kind of charges have been made against him. he has to appear & defend himself & if all they say is true, I feel sorry for him & am not surprised at Miss Lola – it must be a family failing. the enclosed letters came yesterday & as you may require them I send them on, as you may wish to keep them. I hope the reports we see in the press concerning Baden Powell are not true & that his health is not such as to necessitate his

return to England at present. How would you get on, without him? he is so very necessary just now. I have had a letter from Lizzie Clarke renewing her invitation to Mt. Forest but I cannot go until you have cabled me as I want to settle up a few things ere we go. She says the place is very warm & the hot spell has really been the worst since /81 here, & we have the Mt. & the St. Lawrence any way.

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July 19th. Well, my dearest boy, I have just come back from the christening & the boy is called "Rèné, Samuel, Richard," Rèné took your place, you know Richard's eldest brother. He is a big, strong boy, if not pretty & will likely be a fine lad if spared to them. It seems they are anxious to have you in S. Africa, if what young St. George writes his father is true. I hope all will go well & that you will return to me in good health in a year. There is not much news. So many people are out of town & so many going – there are scarcely any children

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left on the street, so ours are the only ones left to make a noise. Flora is daft for me to get a baby, so she is determined to leave no stone unturned to gain her heart's desire. [Tootsie] is so proud & important that it galls Flora terribly to think she is one better, & she threatens the other all the time that she will surprise her too some day. She has asked the Dr. to please bring me one too. They are playing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" here just now & they have begged me to take them to hear it. She will write you soon; its [sic] quite a task for her to sit quiet long enough to pen a letter – she is on the pump all

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the time. The others are well & lively as crickets. They enjoyed their visit to Mrs. Brierley's last week. The weather today is lovely, not too warm & one can breathe & find the air pleasant. Well, my dear old pet, I must not bother you by writing too long a letter for I know you dislike them. God bless you, dear; take good care of yourself. The little ones all join in fond love to dear old Papa & send very many sweet kisses in which I unite. Write me often dear – your letters are the very brightest things in my life now. Yours as ever, devoted & true hearted

wifie,

Maye.

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