

2008.1.1.1.1.187

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St
Jan 3rd 1902

My own darling boy,

Yours is the first letter I pen this New Year & would I could express all I feel as I write you my own dear pet. I can only wish among all the other good things which I hope it has in store for us, that we may be happily united ere it is many months old, for, I certainly feel that we have been long enough apart to thoroughly appreciate being united, do you not agree with me? Your birthday will be in two days and how I wish you were near enough to give you a hearty kiss & wish you many

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

returns – that like so many other things is denied me, however, so I can only hope your heart will tell you all the fond hopes I have [fancied] for you, my dear one. I have again been deprived of any letters from you my dear, since those of Nov. 18th & 19th answered last week. I awake in the morning with the fond hope of hearing without fail, only to retire feeling as blue as possible disappointed after every mail has passed. I must make the best of it I suppose & hope on until the day my hopes are realized! I feel sure you are deprived of writing through the force of circumstances, duty or something of that

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

sort, not because you wish to neglect us, my dear. Well, the New Year was a very quiet one here – no calling at all, hardly the family even & it was a cold day too. It has lost most of the nice associations connected with it in the old days & is now like an ordinary Sunday. I had a letter from Lizzie Clarke yesterday in which she tells me Alec fell on the sidewalk on the 6th of Dec & broke his leg near the ankle. She was in Toronto at the time & he was brought to the hotel where he has been ever since – he is getting better & they hope to return to their own home in some short time. He must feel it very much & it must have been a bad break, he is such a heavy man. James spent [Xmas] at Hugh's – he was to have gone to Mrs Morris, but as he was not well enough they went there instead. Mrs Morris is delighted with my gifts, so you can fancy I am pleased, as it is difficult at times to be sure & select a suitable present, which will please the recipient as you would like to do. I sent Mrs Mac a feather – I had them curled & made up & as it takes two for one you can understand that

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

they are dwindling down fast. I gave two to Marie ditto to Gertie, also Alice having as I said before the feathers curled & dried – they are lovely & much admired – all are charmed with them. I have given fourteen away so far, my dear, so I hope you will not think me selfish any more. You see, not being sure of going to S. Africa I wanted to keep enough to trim our Girlies' hats later on when they could wear them – however, my friends I am sure were more delighted to get them knowing how much I value them, my dear. I am asked to a

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

“Euchre” on the 7th given by Mrs [Power] of the G.T.R. I have accepted as you will be pleased to have me seen sometimes. Well, dear I wrote Moir again on Sunday last re Regimental records etc & have had no answer yet. Col. Biggar came to see some of the Contingent off as far as here on Monday last & called, so I spoke to him about them & he promised faithfully to attend to the matter for me. He is looking very well indeed & intends leaving for England accompanied by Mrs Biggar & his two youngsters to take a short course about the end of this month. I

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

think, he said. They will be away until May, but he would much like remaining until after the coronation, only he fears he has too much to do. They are all well & he seems to like living in Ottawa – she will like it being musical, charming & fond of society. Mr [Godsal] also favored me with a short call last Monday – he remained a very short time, just inquired very particularly about you. Said nothing whatever about business – mentioned an intended visit to Toronto this week, then again a few days in Ottawa then home.

I heard that he was very attentive to Mrs Geddes long ago, that is a couple of years ago, but she seems unwilling to return to the west..... I do not wonder for he is certainly not exceedingly attractive. Grady of Macleod sent two calendars [sic] with the request that I present one to you. I do so & hope it will arrive in good condition. I was much pleased with the idea & it shows with what good favour they still look upon you & that although far away, you are not forgotten. I went in last night to the [Reiffensteins] to spend a quiet

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

evening & sang for them. Old Mr [Reiffenstein] from Ottawa was there – he knew your brother Henry well – his two unmarried daughters are here too. Our Mr [Reiffenstein] looks almost as old as his father, a wonderfully well preserved man. The old lady died in the Autumn aged ninety-four. I enclose a paragraph which came out in today's morning & evening papers – this clipping is from “The

Star” - you will know what to do – where do they get their news, I wonder? Frank intends returning to Philadelphia on Sunday night.

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

I do hope he will get on all right. There is not much news. Things are pretty quiet. Tobogganing seems to be the favorite pastime this winter, just as it was some years ago. Of course, it is too frivolous [sic] for me to indulge in. The children are well & send much love & many kisses, in fact before Gertrude went to sleep she said she sent “Papa a hundred hugs & ever so many kisses” - they all joined in her wish – God bless & keep you safely dear until we meet again is my fervent prayer. Hoping to hear from you soon, with kind regards from all, believe me as ever your own true

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

warmhearted, devoted little wife,

Maye.

[/pg 9]