

2008.1.1.1.1.36

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

Vaudreuil  
April 30<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own dearly loved Sam,

Your charming, long letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> delighted me today & has given me many sweet thoughts since its reception. My last will have told you I imagined you had missed a mail, as my third weekly letter was not awaiting my arrival from Montreal – however, once more my good heart made allowances for my pet, knowing his numerous & arduous duties, particularly on mail days. Besides, mine coming in the meantime gave you something to write about & cheered you up, so you say. Ah! You tease, so you fancy another few months would fully prove that the cynical ending you are so fond of giving the old proverb of “absence & etc” would be verified?. You know well it would not, as every letter I write contains some words about my deep, unchanging love. After waiting all these years, a few months should seem nothing to me when the happiness I have so longed for, is almost within my grasp. You take good care to cite cite yourself as an exception to the rule & would wish me to believe everything of you, when you so relish the idea of my being tired of waiting. You are beginning to be afflicted in the same way as myself & give in, that a sight of me would please my dear old boy. While I am sorry to hear you are so busy, I feel glad your duties keep you from being as lonely as you might be. Though I have not always had my own way in everything, your promise to give in shall not be abused. Where my love is great, I too can make sacrifices, no matter how ~~trivial~~ deep they may be: so you will not have to set your will aside to conform to mine very often. It is nice for your future wife to know you have been so well trained & that you do not consider the house your

province, but should she desire you to rule, be her king & prove her fealty in every way, would you refuse her request? of course, the ruling would be done in such a soft manner, that she would fail to notice it & you should have a very slave personified. It will be nice to order you about, torture you as much as possible & then pet you into good humor again. What a pleasant picture the thought brings to my mind & how I shall enjoy it, my own darling Sam!! I never was a flirt, my pet, as I told you several times – I always was too sincere for that, though never given the credit of it. I could not help it, if some persons cared for me, without my knowledge, & I always discouraged them when I found it out, unless it pleased me very much, as in your case, my darling.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

On turning to this page, I will not write so closely, as my pet's eyes will be fatigued & that would not do, if I desire an answer, as soon as my letter is received. I never said any cutting things to you, dear, did I? if so, I cannot recall them & must be very provoked to be sarcastic to any degree. not like my pet, who was fearfully so, for no reason whatever, in the beginning of our acquaintance & only gave up, when convinced of "the folly of his ways". Mrs. Neale has made quite a nice visit to the "Creek" & as the people of the west are hospitable, she enjoyed it no doubt. I cannot imagine how a woman who loves her husband could remain away from him so long, especially in a country where there are so few amusements to be found as he is sure to miss her more than if surrounded by pleasures he could taste & thoroughly appreciate. I know you will never give me cause to regret the step I have taken. You are too good & kind hearted for that & value a woman's love to such a degree, as to be blind to her faults & failings. we are both human & are sure to have some ideas that may clash, but as both aim at perfection for the sake of the other, it will only make us more lenient. I always thought I felt more than Mrs. Mac but fancied I might be flattering myself too much. I can assure you that if I were deceived

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

in you I never would have confidence in man again. When your duty calls you from me I shall never accuse you of neglect. were it pleasure, you perhaps can imagine what I might say. I shall go with you, whenever you care to take me, no matter how great the distance may be. it would be lonely without my pet forever so many days or hours, as the case might be: fatigue can be restored, but it takes a great deal to cure loneliness [sic]. You may be surprised at the many times you shall “rock me to sleep” – I love it, & it is a long time since I experienced the delightful sensation of resting in any one’s arms. I hope the Majah’s words will be true & that you shall find it difficult to leave the barracks but know for all that, that duty will be first with you; I shall come next in hand & must be content to take second place always. You desire to know why I asked if Col. Herchmer is larger than yourself. Simply because Mr. D. & myself had a discussion about it & he would insist that Freddie said, “You were not taller than Col. H.” while I said the contrary & having seen you pretty often & Col. H. several times, was positive I was right. Mr. D. did recall the evening you mention very vividly to my mind, when he asked me if I were not frightened? but, as that was only a slip of the tongue, never intended that you should hear, you must forgive me for it, will you not? I have proved that I am not frightened & will do so again – being small, they imagine having an intended as big as my pet is, should appall me. I am well aware that you cannot come before Dec – the time is passing quickly & will be here before you can realize all you will have to give up, for this little girl & perhaps you will wish it a year away. Who knows? While you might be constant in all else, you might be changeable where January is concerned. You will grow thin ere you have ended your travels, if you have to run about as much as you seem to anticipate – poor fellow! it is sad to have such a prospect in view. that is only another reason why you might wish it further away than ever. You will only enjoy your well earned rest better after several day’s hard work. Mrs. Mac must be on the qui vive about the saddles & I hope you have heard something of them. She is so anxious to become quite an equestrian ere I return & will throw me entirely in the shade, after a years constant practice. but I will not be daunted & after several rides, trust I may again be a credit

to the one, who while initiating

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

one in the art of riding, gained complete possession of my heart & have sufficient power to retain it evermore. It was wicked of Dr. Allan not to wish Mrs. K. to see her mother. they are a strange family & not of the kind one meets every day. Waltzing is forbidden, but is tolerated & like many things, is not a sin for every one. You will find that a queer way of viewing it, but I will explain what I mean later. For the sake of example, I gave it up when at home, but danced when away. ignorant people used to say "Miss Maye does it, why not we?" – so I thought it better to deprive myself of a very great pleasure, rather than have them defend themselves by following my footsteps. I feared my poor blossom would not stand the long journey & regret "the power of love" could not restore its fragrance & beauty. it was pretty when it left me, but what a change, ere it reached your hands!. the devotion & love are yours just the same however, & hope for better luck next time. Since you cannot enjoy the shade of some of our lovely trees when you come down this time, I hope you will be able to return in a year or so. Would you prefer putting off your visit till the trees are in full bloom? if so, say but the word & your wish shall be mine – you, I know would relish the summer, where it

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

it is pleasant, & you must know that if you like to come later on in 90 than the first month, you are at perfect liberty to do so. it will suit me anytime you choose. The weather has been quite unpleasant today, dark & windy. I caught a slight cold on board the train Saturday. it rained when I was in Montreal & compelled to visit the dentist so I am enjoying the results of my outing. It is a wonder you have not been to Lethbridge lately, as you have many warm friends there. I hope the ladies will not make pretty eyes at my pet, when he does go, as he will expect too much, when he gets me & that is an accomplishment I am not proficient in!! Mrs. Bradley will have a pleasant time when in Macleod – does she talk as much as ever? She is

good-hearted & means well. It is now late & my ears tingling – today being mail day with you, I am not surprised at it, as my letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> has broken a week's silence, unintentional on my part as you know. Desiring to be as nice as possible when you deign to favor me with your company, my peeps warn me, it is time to seek my rest. with my deep, warm love all aflame from thoughts of my darling, I kiss him “good-night” – pleasant dreams be yours, my pet, & love me even more

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

than in the past, if in your power. such is the sweet wish of your dear little girl, as she softly whispers “au revoir” – May 1<sup>st</sup> – I today expected a nice, long letter from my pet & was very much disappointed when none came. You are very regular in writing, so I should not complain, when you fail me. I have just been having a frolic with the baby & she will not give me any peace at present; however, her mother will soon rock her to sleep & she must be tired, as she runs about all day. I fear your heart is playing truant & that the young lady you mention in such glowing terms in yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> is a great rival of mine &. I really am quite jealous. She must be very charming indeed, to have won such a heart as yours & I hope & pray she will always be sufficiently attractive to retain possession of her kingdom, until she takes her long last sleep! Why should persons who do not carry their hearts on their sleeve & whom nature has not favored by giving them bright, warm eyes or soft features, be thought cold or heartless? They are really those who have the strongest passions & whose love or hate lasts longest & burns more deeply, as it takes more to impress them. You have had many proofs of my warm affection & should appreciate it all the more, because not lavished right & left even before my meeting with you, I desired to keep the better part of it for the one who might “someday” seek me for his wife & I do not hesitate in saying you certainly have as much love as I have ever given to all others near & dear to me, & you are the first for whom I willingly leave my dear home to live so far away. I fear I am in for a good cold, as it feels worse today. I will doctor it up & trust it will not last too long, as it is very tedious: it is a cold in my chest & I cough a little. it

has been a season for them. I saw in the "Gazette" that Major Griesbach was recruiting for the M. P. & that Dr. Powell was with him – his leave has been a lengthy one – it is a wonder he does not marry some nice girl when down here, as he is very affable & would be charming, were he not quite so bashful. I thought Major G. had left the Force – did he not resign some time ago? Well, my own old darling, since you have not written me today, I shall punish you for misdemeanor & cut

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

my letter short – the penance for you will be slight, as it cannot be very interesting. Write me soon like a pet & with very many sweet kisses to my own darling, loved & to be petted Sam, believe me, as ever

Your

own dear Sweet

little girl

[/pg 7]