

2008.1.1.1.1.33

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
April 19th / 89.

My own dear Sam,

Yours of the 11th I received a few hours ago & was delighted to hear from you. Not being certain of having leisure to devote to you on Sunday, I profit of a short time I have at my disposal, in order that you will be sure to get your two letters next week. I am glad you find Mrs. Cotton nice & she will, perhaps, make up for her husband's shortcomings. Mr. Huot will get to like the place more as time goes on, but know how much he thinks of you & am not surprised. You are a sincere friend to him & he has sufficient good sense to appreciate it. Mrs. Mac has no reason not to feel glad I am not to be married until

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January & I feel happy at the thought, that another Xmas will be spent among those so dear, with you near. She must be very anxious to go riding, as the weather is so lovely. You must find me very matter of fact, my pet, & now I regret that I have been so in a way. Romance is more thought of these days & when a girl shows a little sense, she is often misunderstood. Of course, you must not imagine you have been doing or saying anything for such is not the case. I only am to blame for this little outburst of the temper you think so soon! No doubt Major Cotton would like to get your position, having always been fond of the place, but trust there is no fear of that. You are entitled to it as much as he & since you are capable of fulfilling the

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numerous duties, should remain where you are. Your weather must be very warm, since you can wear summer uniforms. While it is pleasant here, it is not sufficiently so to allow us to lay aside our winter wraps. It will soon be, however, as all the ice & snow have entirely disappeared. So you look as if you are longing to flirt! do not deprive yourself of that pleasure when an opportunity presents itself. Ladies are few in the barracks, so flirt while you can. You must be pitying yourself when you see Lex so busy & wonder how you ever made up your mind to ask me, as it is weaving a web around yourself in good earnest. all the troubles & worries of married life are a mystery to you yet, poor fellow! I regret very much the loss Mr. W. has sustained & he has my heartfelt sympathy – please tell him so. I hope Mrs. C. will always be surrounded by nice looking people. if that is all she requires to be happy, she is not hard to please, in my opinion. I trust you enjoyed your dinner at the Cowdry's. Why was not Mrs. K. of the number? She goes out, as she has put off her deep mourning some time since. I feel sorry for you all if Mrs. C. sang after being out of practice for some years. The voice soon gets rusty & is very apt to jar one's nerves when heard for the first time. So winning the rubbers is not all that is necessary for you to enjoy whist? Why you used not to be so hard to please my pet, in the days gone by! I do wish I could see you sometimes & would give a great deal for even five minutes conversation with you. By the by I have changed my mind about the house linen & do not feel in the humor of making it now. I have other things to attend to, & that will keep me busy, when I return to Macleod. Many a time you will have to leave

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me for some days even when inspecting detachments & if I have nothing to occupy my leisure moments, will be lonely, so reserve the house linen for then. It may suit you better & does me. There is your matter of fact little girl, & even at the risk of being thought changeable & not knowing my own mind, have decided not to have anything to do with it now. "Do not ask the why & wherefore's [sic]" & let the matter drop, please, as a favor I request

it. Forget what I said in my last letter as if it had never been written, about that, I mean. You see for yourself how silly some people can look – it is a lesson to us, which I shall profit of. Sweet looks only make people laugh at you, so will avoid them in future. Grandmamma leaves San Francisco on the 15th of May & comes straight through to Montreal, so we will see her, before Mrs. Mac does.

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She is anxious to be settled for the summer, as the long journeys will fatigue her very much, not being strong. If you prefer sending the saddle right on to me, do so – you know how welcome it will be. I can have the pleasure of looking at it even if I cannot try it, before I return with you. I intend going to Montreal Tuesday, to be away a couple days, so you may not receive a letter from me for a few days. business before pleasure, my pet & trust you will forgive me for it. It was wise of you to decide upon January – it is better for all parties concerned, as it gives more time & I am inclined to take things very coolly you know. I have that reputation so must keep it up. I will try & be ready then, but if perchance, I am not, what then? No, but joking aside, does not Lex give me that name? he finds me matter-of-fact I am sure, but,

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one's best intentions are sometimes mistaken, particularly when a long distance separates the persons, as in our case, for example. I did not know Ed. Allan had been absent – has he been long away? I saw of the dinner given to Mr. Freddy A. previous to his departure. The old Mr. must miss him, he is so fond of him. I am told a new Dr. has entered the force who is blessed with four grown up daughters – a chance for the bachelor officers who may feel inclined to relieve him of one or two of them. do you know anything of him? Is he not to be stationed in Macleod? I sent you a book by yesterdays [sic] mail which may prove interesting & help pass the time, when you do not feel equal to the task of writing me. The next one I will send I am sure you will like. I did & enjoyed it very much. I never asked you

if you cared for novels, so trust if you do not, that you will not read them only to please me. Oh! My love, why are you so very far from your own little girl? True, I should say nothing, when you write me so often, but, what comfort it would give me to see you & have a little chat with my own dear Boy. My own pet, whom I love so much & who seems to understand me better than many who have known me for longer – at least your letters lead me to hope you do & surely I am not wrong. The Col. My uncle was telling me yesterday that he is very anxious to meet you & is so favorably impressed by your appearance & all he has heard is sure that he will like you very much. You see, pet, you need not fear the ordeal as you call it. Although,

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I cannot say it is late, being but four p.m., I will say bye-bye. My letter is quite long enough as news is scarce & would not interest you in any way. My pet, I cannot close without sending my fond love & many sweet kisses from

Your own true

little Girl

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