

2008.1.1.1.1.343

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

8 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary Mar 21st

My own darling boy,

Having been to eight o'clock mass, received Holy Communion, finished up the daily work which falls to me, I now come to have my usual Sunday chat with the one who is nearest & dearest to me - the one whom I love better than myself & for whom I am ready to sacrifice all for his sake, if necessary. God bless you my darling. I prayed for you. The enclosure re "Strathcona's Horse" was in Friday's evening Herald - they have an inkling of something, but of course do not know the truth - many here consider this something of an election dodge. Much money will change hands I believe on the [result] tomorrow evening. Many say Bennett will head the poll! if [sic] so, I know of over two thousand dollars on that alone. As D^r. Blow is a candidate & going daily to D^r. Smith for my throat spray, I hear a great deal about it. Blow seems a great favourite & they say speaks well. Egbert, though a D^r. too, is not well educated & of course it is perceptible in his speeches. I send the "Star" report of your old friend. Col. Turnbull's death, which was so awfully sudden. I deeply regret it,- he was a nice man & seemed very fond of you.

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Sir James Gowan has also joined the great majority - he had a long, honourable life.

I now have three of your dear epistles to answer dated 16th & 18th. I am sure you enjoyed your family tea at the Mitchell's. I am delighted that they want you to speak at the Canadian Club & trust you shall do yourself credit in every way. I am particularly glad they desire it in Winnipeg, because those here had not the gumption to ask you to do so & it will make them feel small I fancy, when they read of your success. The subject is one which always interested you & to which you can do justice & it is time for you to come out of your shell, for you can do it well, I know & the work done by the Horse is too apt to be forgotten by those who now enjoy the benefits of all the hardships endured by the pioneers of our great north-west & who can so ably put before the people the loyalty & devotion of those splendid fellows as yourself, who has been here for so long & knows every

interesting fact connected with its history.

I trust you shall also be most successful in your replies at the banquet on the 24th. We shall think over an appropriate title for your book, my dear.

You know, dear I am with you in all that you say concerning the book & feel sure it will prove interesting

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reading to every Canadian anyway.

You had it very cold - our weather has been changeable. Snow has fallen frequently of late, the fall last night being some inches, still it is beautiful - the sun, which is breaking through the light clouds will soon melt it & the roads will be very dirty for a few days, no doubt.

How will Major Devine like the transfer? I remember Major Vaux very well, though I never met him. Devine will bear you a grudge may be, but I am sure you gave him no more than he deserved.

I shall try hard to have some spare cash. I know I can pay the life fees of \$34.00 & may have more to give the Calgary Furniture some. You see, my dear, I had to purchase a new suit & after looking everywhere, had to get one at the H. B. ^{Co} it costs \$40.00 they are all that or little less & as this country has developed my charms to such an extent it is difficult to find a fit. I do not get taller, but my bust is now 36in. I never was more than 34 - it is a pretty costume & I know you will be pleased with it as I thought of your good taste and the colours you like me best in, when I got it.

You may be certain of one thing, I take very good care of the money you entrust to me & I

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I put everything bought & paid for down in my book.

I thoroughly enjoyed perusing your interesting letters, you darling. So you did honour to St Patrick by having your hair cut - a good way... we were very quiet. I told you how we passed the day & about the "children's aid" meeting. I think E. Devlin who made the speech in Ottawa is Cecile Masson's (Marie's sister) husband - am not positive, but that is his name "Emmanuel" & he is a brother of the Devlin who was in Ireland for a time.

It is Cap^t. Ketchen who gave M^{rs}. Mackie the news as the page I included from her letter shows. I feigned ignorance in mine, evidently successfully since she thinks she gave things away - in reality she did not tell me anything I did not already know.

So Major Macdonell [moves] into the house! Well, I suppose it will be all right - he was determined to get it, was he not? You know the city & my

taste by now so whatever you say or do will be sure to please me. I prefer not having to move next year of course, so if perchance there is a "higher command" it is as well if we are settled at once.

No! we will not worry over it. May would be a good time to move, I think - it is fine long before that here. So you repeat yourself! Well,

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well, sometimes.... but then people do not seem ever to be satisfied where certain things are concerned & are ready to repeat several times a day, are they not?

Hope you had a lovely, refreshing sleep & pleasant dreams, my darling...

Yours of the 18th is now before me. The Pennefather's [sic] are musical evidently. You got mine in which I told you of meeting the son's wife here. We shall have to give you lots of music, will we not?

I feared M^{rs}. Mackie might have to have an operation - it is too bad - it is not worth the risk to enjoy flying through space for a minute or two then have to suffer for months - she might have guessed that I was likely to know something of what was going on, re the changes.. Ketchen is fond of giving the news for me. I am sure of it. It is as well to let the officers know you are not accustomed to that - they would not be much good in a police corps!!...

I could not go down & choose a house. You can do that well without me. I am sure you would choose none but the most suitable in every way.

Gertrude & Torla could room together if the room was a large one & two single beds could be in it. Harwood's could be much smaller. I think seven bedroom's [sic] would do. I am sure we

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I am sure we [sic] could do with that, as only good large residences have that number. a parlor, dining room, library, good pantry, kitchen - the usual ones, you know. I could not possibly move until May, as I cannot begin to pack until we hear officially & I must give a farewell tea, likely in Easter week, if we hear before then. I am going to get a girl in to do some sewing if possible, so that we shall have some done before we move. That is why I cannot say how much cash I shall have over, as I must keep some to pay for these things I try hard but find it very difficult to do sewing, even in Lent.

I do not think Torla will relish the idea of a university degree. You will see when we get there - people consider her well read and educated even now.

Thursday evening we spent at M^{rs}. Howe's - had a nice time. Eight of us, M^{essrs}. Vibert, Speakman, Thompson & M^cGowan - the Misses Harris & ourselves. Her brother in law, Big Jim, called to see her that afternoon & told her of the death by meningitis of their baby boy. Eighteen months old - his wife was visiting down east, the child took sick & died - she brought the body west to Vancouver. I am sure a line in sympathy from you would please him.

We received on Friday & had a number of callers.

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No new ones. We were invited to a tea but could not get away in time. That evening we went for a chat to the Talbot's on 17th Ave. They are up to the neck in politics & she attends every conservative meeting. I have been to none of course. Did not go to a S^t. Patrick's dance - they did not invite me, so I remained at home & wrote my old darling.

Charlie Gigot left last night for his trip with his dad & is charmed to go. You may see them as they pass through. No news yet from John, whom I have written to once more - it puts me out not to know as I want to get this sewing girl & do not want her when they are here - hope they will soon let me have an answer one way or the other.

The Xmas card sent to M^r. Loudon, in Pretoria was returned - he has gone to the U. S. America.

There is not much more news to give. I fear my letters are sometimes too long & weary you.

There is no mention made of M^{rs}. Turnbull - she lived for a long time with her cousin, Denham Molson, I think is the one - the poor Col. was heart broken over her conduct, but she is still living, I believe. He called on you, did he not when he last passed through Winnipeg?

I am sending Bennett's speech. You may

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like reading it - also a piece of M^cConnell's interviews but, that may be the one sent by that ex Const. Mutch if I remember his name correctly.

Well, my dearie, all are wel -. the chillen's [sic] are off to Sunday school. Flora is going out to see the Eltons later on. Minnie to see M^{rs}. Howe. I stay at home & will perhaps write other letters.

God bless & keep you safely until we meet again. All send love & kisses. Many warm amorous hugs from

Your own devoted, loving lonely little wife,

Maye.

Bennett says "opposed by at most one & a half" because [Hiebert] who was a con. has come out as an independent so that Robertson of Red Deer, is the sol Con. & he is a very weak man. Even the libs here are voting Bennett I am told, because they say he is clever & a worthy representative - one they will not be ashamed of.

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