

2008.1.1.1.1.344

Marie Steele to Sam Steele
5 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Mar 22nd

My own darling boy,

This morning brought me your three dear letters of the 18th, 19th, & 20th - needless for me to tell you of how much I enjoyed perusing them, as usual.

Yes, the people are beginning to appreciate me a little, but it is now too late. Some have been friendly always as you know & those I think a great deal of.

You can choose the house very well. M^{rs}. Agnew's would no doubt be a nice one & comfortable too. I do not know the city & never saw the river, so have no idea where the residence is.

Harwood is almost too ambitious & would earn money continually. Every little counts when one is trying to run things economically & yet have things as nice as possible. These other boys earn money at odd jobs here & there, but he cannot do the same as they.

Yes, Father Lacombe is [cute], but they are always wanting money. Now Father Jan is going about getting subscriptions for new chapters they wish to erect in the east & west ends of the city.

The tartans are all very pretty. The Munro belt is particularly so, but really I cannot say

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which I prefer - there is no M^{rs} ~~Lan~~ Clan Ranald belt - it is strikingly pretty. My waist measurement is 24 in that style of belt as well as Flora's - it is 25 in a skirt belt - at this rate, my waist will soon be as big as yours, will it not? They were indeed a most pleasant surprise to us all & we thank you heartily for your kind thoughtfulness.

I gave M^{rs}. Macdonald your message - there is no chance of your being moved here again at a later day, is there? in [sic] that case, it would be silly to move, would it not?

I hope M^{rs}. Mackie received the long budget I wrote her on the 14th - it is a wonder she did not mention it when you dined there - it is awfully nice to have her so fond of me, poor little woman!.

By the by, I must not forget to mention that these last envelopes do not remain closed, so you had better seal them my dear, especially if there is anything private written.

Am so glad you enjoyed your dinner at the Waugh's [*sic*] - it is very stupid of the teacher trying to teach that child how to dance the hornpipe to the tune of "Pop goes the weasel".

Yes, I saw the paragraph in the paper, as you will know from mine of yesterday.

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If they make the "higher command" it will be within the year, I suppose, & you think you will live in the 'peg'. Gertrude's waist measures 21 inches.

I can wear the Munro belt & will have to give the M other large one to Torla. I mean the M^c[Lan] one - the 20 inch one is the silk one of M^c[Lan] too - there was no clan Ranald belt, only ties of the latter - as I mentioned in the beginning of this, 24 is my waist size now. & [*sic*] Torla's is 24^{too}. Agnes Laut has been writing some new books lately, but I cannot remember the titles.

There were only some priests & the pupils at the concert in which Torla danced.

Hope your duty calls were pleasant ones. You know my dear, how willing I am to help you in every way with the manuscript when you write.

Harwood was delighted to get the tie you may be sure - we shall be a credit to our scotch blood when we all appear in our tartans. I find them all pretty, but if I were getting a dress would choose Clan Ranald the others being too bright for a gown.

I had a letter from mother today - she says Fred & met a M^r. Bernard who said he knew you well. I believe he called on them, but will send you her letter, which please return to me at once so that I can reply to it.

Our musical club met at M^{rs}.

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Hawkin's today - it was very nice.

I have to pay \$24.00 for three tons of furnace coal got in Feb & two tons on Mar 15th later on. this [*sic*] is terrible I think - there must be something wrong with the beast or Bagnall does not know how to run it. M^r. Allan our landlord has a residence as large as this one & he told me about three weeks ago he bought eight or nine tons in Aug. & had then still two tons left - quite sufficient for the whole winter.

I am indeed glad to leave this house on that account - it takes too

much coal - apart from that we have the soft Galt coal to pay for that is used in the kitchen. I have had to purchase much more than what I mention in months passed, but it is all receipted in the accounts paid. I think were I here another winter it would pay to have an outsider who knows his business to attend to it - more economy in the end. I have some money left over from last month \$40.00, but I was flabbergasted when this coal bill came in. I will send an account of expenses as soon as I get the things paid up at the end of the month.

I must have a hat or two fixed up for myself & for the two girlies as well - then the sewing girl as soon as convenient must come for a week or ten days - she asks \$2.00 per day, but it is less than having everything made outside the house.

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hard [*sic*] coal is now \$8.00 per ton, so you can understand how quickly it goes up into two figures. I shall be pleased when that item is off household expenses.

This is a rambling letter, but the children were talking and prevented me writing intelligently, I fear.

Still no news from John, but I may hear tomorrow. M^r. Cross' little ones are slightly better - they feared they would lose the little girl yesterday, but she rallied - the boy is doing nicely,

Our little chicks have gone to rest & all send fond love & very many kisses.

God bless you, my own darling. Every one I see asks if we are leaving & my answer is always the same, "will know about the beginning of April". With very many sweet kisses, I am,

as ever,

Your own devoted, lonely little
wife, who longs to see you,
Maye.

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