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Marie Steele to Sam Steele
3 Sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, May 18th

My own darling,

Yours of the 16th reached me on the 17th & was very warmly welcomed, I assure you. I am pleased your trip is over & trust you will feel no ill effects from the miserable weather which seems to have been prevalent all over the country. This is the first fine evening we have, as it has been raining constantly since it began just about the time you went to the dinner given by Mayor Jamieson for the press delegates, a week ago yesterday - think of that, dear! You meet people every where who

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were in or had relations in "S. H" - they all look on you as a very dear friend or father may be & do not forget that you brought sons & brothers safely through many trying circumstances.

It is too bad that Bill Parker's son is so ignorant & uneducated. I do not suppose he will ever amount to much, but it is sad to see men with so little ambition, when schools are to be found everywhere.

I am sure you had plenty of good food of all kinds & that the open air sharpened your appetite making you enjoy everything put before you. Then selecting two good townships will compensate for the discomfort undergone. Am sure you found a fine place. Your description quite inviting. It was strange you

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you should meet Mackay who killed the last buffalo. I sincerely hope you had a favourable reply from Ottawa. You were right, as you always are about the banquet - had you accepted, they might say you had been bribed. I am better than I was on Sunday, when I wrote last - have been sewing, making a shirt waist for Torla, not yet finished - it looks nice. My letter written then you of course received, as I sent it to the "Alberta Medicine Hat." Sunday p.m, M^r. Vibert, his two boys & our friend M^{rs}. Macdonald called & we had a pleasant two hours - the evening being very cold, snow & rain, we saw no one. Your next is dated the 17th received this

morning. M^{rs}. D. can keep one posted in all the gossip & news.

I had no idea the Cuthberts sent their daughter to Cornell - of course, the mother is American; Cuthbert, although such a weak man & Catholic in name only, should have known that the convent is the best place for girls - they are looked after so well, especially their morals & get the best of advice from those devoted sisters. They may have many faults, but are not troubled thinking of men. M^{rs}. Jonas Jones is remarried & the new husband is a widower with several children & perhaps there were too many, my dear - that sometimes happens you know. It is a wonder principals of boarding schools do not change & become stricter in looking after their charges, as they cannot be ignorant of the results that follow their leniency.

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It is a good thing for the D.s that their friends are so nice to them.

Needless to say the house seems empty without you, but we are kept busy, so have not much leisure.

We have not got any coal lately - the Galt was to be \$12.00 on Monday but the papers said the Lethbridge miners were going to work on that day. The Ben [Nevis] is no good at all.

No letter from the owner of the house has come to my knowledge. At least, I have heard nothing of it - is it [Thoburn] Allen you mean? anyway [sic], none has come.

Minnie was sure the bank & real estate men did her out of the property, but there was no one ready to help tide her over, or advise I may say, so all had to go.

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I felt the earthquake shock but said nothing, not wishing to frighten Minnie or the children - it was slight.

Mother wrote me an interesting letter received yesterday - she is well, but does not say when she intends coming this way. will [sic] send it to you for perusal, as soon as I answer it, my dear.

M^{rs}. Lilly phoned me a short time ago & wishes me to pour tea for her tomorrow p.m. a small affair - she said they had a delightful time here & enjoyed everything. All have said the same & am pleased it was a success.

M^{rs}. J. S. Hall left for Montreal this afternoon - she has rented her house until Nov & comes back to settle up her business. He made

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no provision for her at all, in fact, treated her shamefully. I was surprised at

the things I was told - he completely ignored her, sometimes not speaking to her for days - was in fact, a perfect crank: one would not have thought that meeting him occasionally - he was ill & suffering still that is no excuse.

What did you tell me to do about those Edmonton lots, the assessment, I mean. I suppose they are worth the value put upon them. I believe you paid the school tax before did you not? last [sic] year they sent the same, I suppose.

The children commenced school again & seem all right. Harwood may make his 1st communion. I hope so, I assure you. Nellie Lee spent last evening here - the youngsters sang & danced for her - after they retired, she told us plenty of gossip - it agrees exactly with what Brankley told you, & about many more of these lovely society people.

Clarke Dennis has returned from the east. I was surprised, as I thought he might not come. Nellie told us his better half, when Miss S. got into trouble with a policeman in Banff - is it not fearful? such [sic] a state of affairs!! [sic] Well, my darling, I must not write too long a letter. I know you are not partial to long ones. God bless you, my own dear boy - the children join in kisses & love. Warm hugs from

Your own devoted, loving little wifie,

Maye.

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My dear boy,

Re Federal Life, I have not got the receipt you refer to in your short note from Medicine Hat. You did not send it to me. I paid the "Great West" & have theirs, but cannot recall getting the other in question from you.

Please look for it in Winnipeg & let me know. Have searched got it, but if you have not got it, will look again. Do not think me negligent, for I usually lock these things up in my trunk. Hoping you have it safely,

As ever

Your own wifie,

Maye.

Tuesday,

May 18th.

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