

2008.1.1.1.1.1

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
Dec 11th/88

My Dear Major,

When leaving you in Dunmore, I promised to write immediately on my arrival & I hasten to fulfill the very pleasant task I imposed upon myself. I reached home safe & sound & rather tired, after a trying journey. As I was not expected until later, the welcome I received was all the warmer. You cannot imagine how long the days seemed to me. Thursday, I did my best to try & read one of the books you gave me & before I was aware of it the book would be closed & I was once more with you. The different occasions we were together, the words you said & all our plans would flash through my mind & bring me back many a happy moment. I wondered to

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myself if you were as busy as I was.. Friday was more pleasant far as the car itself was concerned – I made a few acquaintances, among them a Mr. Jenkins, a young Calgary rancher, who was introduced to you there some time a year ago. He recognized you & having heard that you were engaged to a Miss H___ some two months ago, concluded I was the lady in question. We struck up a conversation & he proved a very great friend to me, on your account. Saturday before reaching Port Arthur I wrote Mrs. Mac. a card as she will have told you. Well, the conductor who came on after we left the [Caller] place looked at my ticket & asked me if the other had not told me to change [it]. I said no. Well, said he, it is of no use. I was of, course, taken aback & did not know what to do. [Mr. Jenkins] seeing it, asked me if he could oblige me in any way & requested

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as a favor, to be allowed to supply the funds – which amounted to almost forty dollars. I had quite sufficient for expenses, but not enough to pay that sum. I immediately on my arrival in Montreal, I went to the C. P. R. Office & explained, producing my receipts. They refunded the money at once to my

delight as Mr. Jenkins was to leave at three for New York, from where he sails tomorrow for a six months visit to England – he met me there, & he squared every-thing. he was so kind, that I shall always feel grateful. There were also another gentleman & lady on board, who wished to oblige me, but as Mr. Jenkins knew you, I thought he would feel more like trusting me, for your sake so you see how much good your coming to the train did me. The Porter was also to blame, & did, all in his power to make up for his negligence, even going so far as to wish to lend me the money, as “he knew the Majah very well” – he felt very bad over the whole affair. Enough of that, except that I must tell you, that my coolness & self-possession made people admire me & Mr. J___ said, “I was a splendid girl & could travel the world over, being so independent & decided” – You will be pleased to know that you have not made a mistake in my character. Friday we reached Winnipeg at four. Mr. Gautier met me & was so nice – my other friends also. I had almost given up seeing Mr. Steele, when Mr. G___ brought him up – he will have written you about our interview, but you must tell me if he was favorably impressed – I found him very nice – he looks like Julia, but delicate. We reached Montreal at eight Monday morning – the weather here is very mild, & no snow worth mentioning – They found me looking well, but tired. The news of your attention to me found its way down here long ago. [Mr. Col] Hughes

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of the 65th spoke so highly of you to Col. Harwood that my father seemed kindly disposed – his speedy answer to your letter will prove it – I do not know what he has said, but you must keep the letter to show me “some day.” all he said to me was “Major Steele will be a lucky man to have such a wife as you will be.” Dr. Allan, with his usual vivid imagination & long tongue went so far as to say that I was married & was returning with my husband – at least so report says. They were quite indignant here & very justly too. Every one knows of it in Montreal & all speak so nicely of you that my father is quite pleased & needless to say my own dear, that my heart beat faster when I found out that I should have no soliciting to do, though my love for you has not diminished since our parting. I hope you are not kept too busy to think of me, now & then & that I shall soon hear from

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you. Write me as often as you can find a spare moment, & I will [illegible] you with one of my [uninteresting] epistles whenever I fancy you will care to

hear from me. The dear little niece is a perfect pet & seems to remember me. She is just commencing to talk & is so cute. Well, for a first letter this is a long one & as I do not know if you like long letters, they are such a trial to some men's patience, I had better cease my chat. Trusting you will not regret the favorable reply Papa has given you, & giving you full authority to make the fact known believe [sic] me, [ever?]

Your loving Maye.

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