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Marie Steele to Sam Steele
5 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Apr 12th

My own dear darling,

Today's first mail brought me yours of the 9th & I was of course delighted to get them both. I wrote a long one yesterday & sent papers which may interest you desiring you to pass them on to M^{rs}. Mackie when you have perused them.

I received the Portage la prairie address & we all enjoyed it very much. I am sure it was well received & you are developing into quite a fluent speaker. I mean before a crowd, for you were always that when conversing or addressing a few!. [sic]

I suppose you are right about the appearance of the house you wish to get & want it as nice as possible - strangers are so apt to judge one by these things. The people here are the same - one can get hundreds of houses for sale, but none to let. Which is I think very stupid - prices are high too. Our neighbour [E. E.] Taylor sold his own residence - it is really a well laid out house, no room wasted - his wife looked after that & it is nicely furnished. I am confident he lost nothing by the sale. The family go to the Maritime provinces for the summer to visit her

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family & I suppose he will build another during their absence.

I know dear what a higher command is - however it is as well to have it explained, so that I can understand it better. The papers had something about the 1st class commands the other day & ended by saying something concerning the districts 10.13, 11, the Yukon & all the Western prairie provinces being the same. I forget the exact words, but it was a despatch from Ottawa - perhaps you may have seen it.

Indeed! dear I should much prefer living in Winnipeg, as I really cannot stand the majority of the Calgary people - they are unbearable!. You will notice in the papers that M^{rs}. Van Wart is mentioned before the Gov^t party - they do not even know enough for that - it is money, money here & without that, they have no use for you.

You know my dear, pretty well, by this time the kind of a house we

require & I might handicap you by recommending or wanting too much. You know the number of bedrooms, we must have a spare room - plenty of clothes closets & cupboards are essential. I know we can not move if we have not a house - we are comfortable, if lonely. I do not know how you are situated, beyond the fact that you are pretty much alone, when in your own quarters. I believe what you say of the public schools.

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The pupils get on well & are well looked after as a rule. The R.M.C. is a fine place & I feel sure Harwood would do well - he is a clever boy, I think.

M^{rs}. Mackie must be appalled at the length of the budgets she receives from me, but I suppose it pleases her to hear the gossip & news.

You always do the right thing dear & I am sure M^{rs}. Cowan was pleased to hear from you.

We as you know, had a quiet time of it last week, so much so that I was quite blue yesterday. I could have wept, but dare not. I was so awfully lonely. I think if you purchase on reasonable terms, it is better than getting no return at all for the large sum spent in rent. I believe M^r. Rose is a brother of the young man I mentioned, for I think he was a brother of the lawyer in Toronto. Oh! You old humbug! I taught you to talk by being such a good listener my dear, not by talking myself. Yes, we could rent or sell, if we did not care to reside in Winnipeg after you retire, my dear boy. I will ask some person about the name of the filly when I meet some one who knows. Yes, I remember the Middleburg affair quite well. How foolish of M^r. Evans to [snub] people even if he did - it would have made them more popular & better liked. I notice the nice things you said of Col. [Herchmer] in your P. laprairie [*sic*] speech.

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We had more snow last night & I think are likely to have another fall tonight - it blows hard & it is very cold - of course, nothing like the winter, but for this time of year - the ground is clear now, for the sun melts it at once.

The "Eau Claire" is not out of business by any means. I knew we were not burning the amount of light & the last month instead of being 98 k.w.s was 43 k.w.s. less than half, although it is the same price, 12 ^{cts.} a k.w. - the "Eau Claire" said the meter we had did not register the full amount that we really used, 1 p.cent more than charged for, but you see how wrong they were!. [*sic*] I was positive they were not correct & the change has proved it, I think. The water rate is the same per [qr] as you paid.

Hope the St Boniface Cadets will do well. I believe Mr Clarke has a

hard time with the boys here - they show a bad, unpatriotic spirit & need some speeches to set them right - American's [sic] are spoiling them & they do not seem to care much for Britain or England - it would prove beneficial if you [spouted] here a bit I think - both for men & boys. They are full of the [Fair] again - pageants & all sorts on the [tapis].

It is strange Miss Robinson who was on the "Louisian" [sic] should know Miss Logan & be able to tell her all about you & the family - the world is small!

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J. J. McHugh is here, but I have not seen him - he is to call some time soon - do not know how long he remains. I have about given you all the news, so will close. The "Cricket Club" ball is on tonight, but we got no invitation. All are well & join in fond love to you, my darling. God bless & protect you, sweetheart. Hoping to have another of your dear letters in the morning.

Believe me,

as ever,

Your own devoted, lonely little wifie

Maye.

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