

2008.1.1.1.1.347

Marie Steele to Sam Steele  
6 sheets

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1513, 1<sup>st</sup> St W.  
Calgary, Mar 30<sup>th</sup>

My own darling pet,

Your dear letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> came to me yesterday morning & as usual brightened me up for the rest of the day - it seems to me my first thought on awakening is "I suppose I shall have my letter from my darling in a little while". Sometimes I am disappointed, as I was this a.m. however,

Wednesday. Mar 31<sup>st</sup>

I got this far in my letter last evening when D<sup>r</sup>. Costello came in to spend the a few hours. Shortly after Miss Allison did ditto, so that ended my writing, much to my disgust, as I prefer devoting my time to you than conversing with folks who do not care. We had a most varied topics of conversation & they had a pleasant time remaining until 11.30.

It is very nice of Sir H. W. to write concerning the squadron & it is certainly a great mark of confidence.

The [Bleis] children should not be left

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left here if the rest of the family leave - it will be harder to get them down later on & I do not think M<sup>rs</sup>. Costigan would care to have to look after them.

Yes, the rest of the party were not nice to M<sup>rs</sup>. Ketchen as you know, especially on the return journey [sic] M<sup>rs</sup>. Taylor gave you an idea of what she thought of her, by calling her a cow.... I felt bad for her, poor woman, for after all she was parting with her husband & felt as we all did, you may be sure! I know how that was.

Yes, the silk belt will do for Gertrude who is delighted to get it & feels very proud at having it.

Torla is writing her own life my dear boy - bringing in all she can of your dear father & all the interesting facts she can learn of all that ever happened on your side of the house. It is not the Macdonald clan she writes of, but the Steele's & her own career, which she feels has been a very important one so far.

I think it is a fine idea to write an English as well as a Canadian edition.

Lord Strathcona's last gift is a magnificent one & his name should be included in whatever name they give it - he is so patriotic & nothing seems to be forgotten where he can do good.

It is indeed very nice of the "Old Timer's"

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to wish to put your speech among the archives.

You were asked by the "St Mary's" club to give them a talk, do you remember? You refused, not caring for the people, I fancy.

The typewritten speech came this morning & we enjoyed reading it very much - no doubt it was well received.

I now take up yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> received this morning & enjoyed very much, my dear. I wrote you three letters last week, writing one on Friday which is not usual as you know, so you must have got it on Sunday night or early Monday.

I am feeling pretty well & busy. Am glad you have a typist & stenographer to suit you, my dear. He will, under the circumstances be a good, trusty man, I hope. The book will be most interesting, having so much material to work on. I am more than pleased at the very good opinion you have of me, dear. I cannot imagine how you can possibly say I have a good command of language, for I speak so little as a rule. I think a lot, but say little. I do not see why you should not speak of your origin, childhood, & work prior to coming west - all the tales you tell of your father's career, pioneering in the/30's etc is all very interesting reading, you know.

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Hope the Macdonell children are now better - they must be for you do not mention them. Very nice of Col. [Georgonne] to ask you to join them in a theatre party & suppose it was most pleasant & a good piece on as well.

Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup> is a short one asking me to pay Bank of Montreal a cheque for \$5.00 - it was too late for me to do so today, but will attend to it tomorrow. You had a busy day on Sunday with afternoon tea & supper. it [sic] is nice that people are so very kind to you, my dear. You miss the plump arms & the kiss right in my favourite spot on your neck I suppose. Please God we will soon enjoy these little luxuries once more.

On Sunday evening Miss Guilmette, M<sup>rs</sup>. Hutchinson's cousin came in. Monday p.m. I went down with M<sup>r</sup>. Bull & J. S. Macdonald, of the Children's aid society to interview the Mayor & Com<sup>rs</sup>. M<sup>r</sup>. Bull did all the talking or most of it for our side. Jack Clark, one of the Com<sup>rs</sup> said he knew you in F<sup>rt</sup>. Walsh, thirty four years ago - he looks like Alec, do you know,

only much younger & is a finer looking man, still is like him. Today there was a meeting of the society. M<sup>rs</sup>. Col. Steele as M<sup>r</sup>. Bull persists in calling me is a good listener - the men do most of the talking of course. M<sup>r</sup>. Niblock leaves

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tonight for B. C. to be absent a month or so. His wife is still away, so is the daughter.

I have very little news. D<sup>r</sup>. & M<sup>rs</sup>. Macdonald spent Monday evening here - both were bright & happy. Had a long letter from M<sup>rs</sup>. Mackie this morning - she seems to expect us down shortly, but as you know I have had no word re move yet. Yesterday I went and paid some bills

H. B. C <sup>o</sup>	\$29.65 <sup>ct</sup>
[ <del>Toole, Peet &amp;</del> ] Lott. (coal)	24.00
Farmer's meat market	19.60
Rent	<u>75.00</u>
	\$148.25

Will pay for board of house, \$15.00 Bagnall etc. brings it to 198.25<sup>ct</sup>. \$34 for Insurance & \$5.00 to bank. \$237.25 - it [soons] goes up. I must reserve some for church at Easter, for the tea, then the sewing girl comes on the 18<sup>th</sup> & I must have her, for the children need clothes, & her price is \$2.00 per day, but they all ask that & I cannot do without her - then light must be paid before the 15<sup>th</sup> to get percentage off, so it keeps me busy - will have the girl for six (6) days only if I can manage on that. Forgive this stupid letter - the children talked so much that I could not write well & now am dropping off to sleep much against my will.

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The weather has been lovely of late, so spring like. Miss Walsh is to be married Easter week - the cricket club give a ball on Easter Monday, but have not included me in their list of invited guests. rather [sic] strange, don't you think.

As I am getting very tired, I shall have to close this uninteresting letter. God bless & keep you safely, dear until we meet again. Be sure & tell me as soon as you hear any news re the move, as I have a great deal to get ~~m~~ done.

All are well & join in my<sup>any</sup> hugs & kisses. God guard you, my darling.

Your own true devoted affectionate  
little wife,

Maye.

Where are you living, since the Macdonalds moved into the house you occupied on Monday?

Maye.