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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Nov. 5th 1901

My own darling Boy,

You cannot imagine the very bitter disappointment it has been to me not to get any letter at all from you by Monday's mail. From that, I presume I shall be a whole fortnight without a line to comfort me in my lonely watching & waiting, dear. How weary I feel tonight & how terrible the distance that separates us, my darling. I try hard to do what I promised you, not to worry

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but be bright & cheerful as much as possible, but sometimes it seems more than I can accomplish I must confess. The news the press gives us of late is anything but reassuring & it must be a braver woman than poor little me, to keep up under the circumstances. I see the Govt. is considering the question very sincerely of sending out another six hundred men & six hundred & fifty horses. It puzzles me very much to understand how tenacious these Boers have

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been & how they can keep it up so long, without help from outside powers – they must be aided in some way. I think I shall grow twenty years younger the day I learn it is over & my worry at an end for it is truly awful to have one's nerves strained to the highest pitch all the time. Our little ones have had very bad colds but are now on the mend. I have been compelled to keep Dubble in bed all day, having bathed his feet in mustard & water last evening & otherwise tended – dosed him up – he is better & seems to rest easier than he did last night. I do so hate to see them ill – baby particularly gets very bad colds, when he does get them, so I have to watch him well. A woman came from Terrebonne today to do our housecleaning – she is quick & clean & will, I fancy suit us very well. The girl is all right so far. Mamma is having tea at the Masson's tonight, to meet an old friend – she

sends her fond love to you. I sent Mrs. Davis a photo of the little

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ones on Monday. I think she will like it, although not flattering. I also wrote a long letter giving all the news I could think of. Mr. Bethune has not acknowledged my two letters as yet – I do hope they will not get lost as yours to him are in the same envelopes. We have never heard a word of Mr. Harwood since he left us a little while after you did – no doubt he is getting on all right & the boy must be well for there has been nothing whatever in the papers of his death. They were to be in Baltimore for a while, so I suppose

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are there still. Strathcona gives a large dinner Saturday night – [covers] laid for one hundred & fifty & then Lady S. a reception afterwards. No invite this time for any of us. They leave for England on Sunday. The Soldiers Wives League asked me to attend a meeting on Monday. I went – they are going to send Xmas boxes to the 44 men from this district who are in the S.A.C. I will send you a small parcel just to help you remember us & hope you will be in good health to enjoy it when it reaches you. The boxes will

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be in Major Dixon's care, & I really hope they will be forwarded so as to arrive in time. That was the first time I had been invited to the meetings & I do not know whether they intend me to become a member or not. I shall very soon find out, I have no doubt.

Gertie's boy is better; poor little chap, indigestion made him a sick boy for some days. We are having nice weather, but it is slowly & surely nearing winter. Vaudreuil Station had a fire today & seven houses were burnt. it was near de Lotbiniere's summer residence but that was not touched. I wrote Katie Steele a long letter on Sunday, Alice & Lizzie Clarke, so I am trying hard to pay my debts, you see. Well, my darling, I will close. I feel tired, having been disturbed quite often these last few nights – our dear little ones join in fond love & send many sweet kisses. A long, fond, warm embrace is the goodnight of your poor, lonely, devoted wifie, Maye.

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