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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.  
July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1907

My darling,

Your very interesting letter of July 2<sup>nd</sup> came to me yesterday morning & it is needless to tell you of the welcome it received as usual. I do wish I had been near to see the ceremony you speak of & it makes me feel bad to think I am so far & cannot even be a spectator - having the military in a town seems to give it more life & is always a source

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of attraction. I think the Calgary people are prepared to like you & I trust time will but convince them you deserve their confidence and respect in every way. Is the horse you rode on the 1<sup>st</sup> to be your charger?

How very nice it must have been to receive with Mrs. Walker as she knows every one, it was much nicer than having "the little brown bird" as I once used to be called, by your side. I cannot imagine who the pretty French Canadian lady is who lives there

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& knows me. Dr. [desrosiers] sister-in law, Maria [Emond] I knew, but she was not at all good looking, being thin, with rather large features as a girl - she may have become a handsome woman & married for all I know - have not seen her for years. Mrs. Howe is, I believe quite pretty - it is a wonder she does not marry again - she is comfortable, is she not? Is Cowdry on the lookout for another? he has been unfortunate in his matrimonial ventures, but again may wish to have a companion. Jim Dickey could not stand the loneliness, you see & he seemed devoted to his first wife. Capt. Main was in port this week, but as there were none but females to entertain him, I did not ask him up to see us, fearing it would bore him too much. By the by, I see I have answered your last letter first & now acknowledge your short one of June 30<sup>th</sup> which came by the first mail yesterday. I suppose the

old fellow may be kinder than the younger men & has the knack of winning a girl's affection! -

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more than likely & he is an intimate friend of his daughters. I hope he will be happy, but there always is an estrangement when half brother and sisters come! Camp is now over, I suppose - do these men drill at fixed times, or is all at an end, until the next year. Where do these officers go? Is Cameron a fixture in Calgary now?

Jean Macleod was a pretty child & is a beautiful girl you say - very nice for her mother to have them turn out fine looking & marry well.

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Where is Norman & what is he doing? I trust he is a credit to his father & family. You did not enclose the clippings from Strutt as you said you would. "The Eye Opener" came all right & afforded me much pleasure - it certainly [bears] its name, but some one [sic] must have the pluck to let the public know the truth at times. My children are in fine condition and look well - Harwood's face is quite cured - they feel lonely and miss their father - also, the Gardens [sic] to play in & the companions they

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had in England. There is only the street here & it being summer, all the children are in the country. I hope yours are equally well. Well, Frank is engaged to Miss Mare - he is making the swell match of the family, if good family & title count - there are three or four Sirs in prominent positions. Sir Amherst Shea, [now dead], Sir Edward Shea her grandfather, Sir - Jackson, who has been Governor of Trinidad, etc, & I do not know how many others. None of the family but mother & myself are aware of it & I fancy I see the surprise on Marie's face when she learns of it, as she is under the impression he is [wearing] his heart away with grief, because her sister Cécile, whom Frank never cared for, married Devlin - it was all done in a little over a week. Mrs. Mare is very pretty & fascinating - is a widow with five daughters & one son - this is the third, I think - she is very nice & they seem very fond of Frank. I am delighted & trust they will be happy - we brought him luck, I think - he had such a lonely

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life when Mother was away & was not always treated as kindly as he might have been under the circumstances. He has told them exactly how he is situated, but that makes no difference in Mrs. Mare's estimation, so I do hope all will be well - he is a good fellow and deserves to succeed. No news yet from Edmonton from any one - Mrs. Hilliam wrote on the 30<sup>th</sup> & tells me Antoine is married - none

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of the family have written Mother so far, since the event, I mean. It has been raining all night, but it is [sic] clearing & promises finer weather for this p.m. Mrs. Hilliam writes cheerfully & was looking forward to seeing you soon. My long letter pleased her immensely, written some time in April, giving her all the news. He is, I fancy, getting on well. Bagnall and Annie are quite at home with us once more & find Canada nice. Well, my dear, I must not write too long a letter. I always forget you dislike them & [seems] [sic] to have so much to say, that I never know when to end. Please forgive me & I will not be guilty of the offense again. Have not seen Gertie since you left, but the girls have been there. Gertrude came up a while ago to spend the night. Charlotte has gone to Dr. de Lotbiniere's for a week - have not been to Vaudreuil myself as yet & have no idea when I shall take a run up. All are well & join in fond love to you, dear. No word yet re transport - I do wish they would act on the matter - it is hard to run a house with

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no funds & when one can go about & purchase with ready cash, things are very much cheaper. Meat at the market is "beef 12 cts, [fowls] 10 cts, veal 15 cts per lb while I pay the butcher "beef 20 cts, [fowls] 18 cts per lb" a great difference, is it not? The butcher gives me credit, but the interest is high!! There are eight of us, & visitors now & then. Gus is to try & get a reference for the charges on your luggage from the C.P.R. We do not see him often - he is too busy & cannot come up. God bless you dear - write often to,

Your devoted, affectionate wifie,

Maye

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