

2008.1.1.1.1.158

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St,  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1901

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of Aug 9<sup>th</sup> desiring me to inquire about the prices of harness etc came on the 20<sup>th</sup> & received as usual a very hearty welcome. Of course the [highest] Cheyenne saddle is for yourself so that I may know if I have to carry out your wishes & is it "steel tree" as you write it "Steele". I suppose the wife of the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command is not going to have her first child, is she? If you find a position for Critchley I am sure his wife will be grateful, but this is such a strange world & things are so very

[reverse]

soon forgotten. You can depend on my not forgetting my side saddle & my heart jumps even now in expectations of the many nice rides I may have in store for me, my dear. I saw that Vaux did not get a position in B.P.s force, but he has another, has he not? You know I am willing to do all you may ask of me so if you require all this done at a future date let me know in good time, please. I must practice up my singing if I wish to hold my own down there & do you honor in some way, dear. I am much pleased to learn [messing] is not as expensive as you thought

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it might be & hope as the country settles, it will be cheaper. Mamma is well & was I fancy very glad to see us, for she missed us exceedingly when we were away. She spent all her evenings alone & although the little ones are noisy & troublesome at times, I verily believe she prefers it to being by herself so much. You have not given me any address & I sent my last to the same address as this one, as you said you would be in your present quarters until November – where will your head-quarters be? is it Petersburg? I fancy the letters will reach you safely.

[reverse]

This last week, that is on the 20<sup>th</sup> I mailed you 5 "Stars" all about the reception to the Duke & Duchess & the details of the President's death &

funeral. I hope they will reach you in good condition. His loss will be greatly felt, as he is no doubt, one of the very best Presidents they ever had & the great respect & sympathy shown by all nations & religious denominations, proves how much he was appreciated by all countries. I now take up your dear letter of Aug 14<sup>th</sup> in answer to mine of the 7<sup>th</sup> July. You will be in splendid condition having so much riding

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to do. How very nice it will be for you if everything in the district goes well – it cannot fail to do so, if the officers are willing. Capt. Burstall could not fail to be pleased to see you – strange how you were together in the Yukon & should meet down there. I think if there is game down there, I must learn to use firearms so that I can go shooting as so many ladies do now a days. I shall become quite a sport, do you not think? Nellie Ives is married as I told you in one of my mine – do you know she was engaged to Billy Humphrey for a long time? Mr. Cowdry

[reverse]

told me that when he was here in June. I hear Mrs. Browning is out this season – she does not often come now. Mrs. Sanders will have the honor of receiving the Royal party for breakfast & a troop of fourty [sic] from Calgary are to accompany them to Victoria & Vancouver. I am sure I sincerely hope you do miss me, for surrounded by so many nice people, living in a nice country & with so many duties to keep you busy, you might forget the poor little wife so many thousand miles away from you, with her three little ones. Your praise is very sweet & it will make the song bird

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as you kindly call me, tune up & endeavor to sing her sweetest songs once more when she meets her mate. I suppose you wrote James B. re the claim “Soldiers Three” in Chilkat Pass. I have heard nothing more from him, & have written him. Mrs. Moon also wrote when I was there, but got no answer, so he may be away. Duffins & his mother are as you know ere this away. It would be very hard for me to leave my mother, as she would not have taken this large house two years ago, had I not been coming to her - & having to give such a long notice to the landlord, handicaps a tenant

[reverse]

tenant considerably. I could not leave on that account. You see Louise gave nothing for board & I do, which makes a big difference. Frank leaves in a short time & Antoine will be the only man left in the house. If we do not go to S. Africa, we shall positively move next May, as the house is not in good

condition. If there is any chance for a dentist Antoine will come with us. You understand about the house, dear – things are all right now, if the Dr. Louise is with can manage to make the two ends meet. It is too bad to see her slaving for strangers, but really & truly Louise never did appreciate her home & what is

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what is done for her there – she never thinks my mother does enough & is glad to leave, but doubly glad to get back. Willie does nothing whatever for her. If your health is good, it is a great comfort to me. Well, Flora wrote all her letter. I think it a better plan to let her do all herself – you can then judge of her yourself. she has a good imagination & reads a great deal. Flora is better & can be very sweet & nice when she pleases. Duffins does tantalize fearfully – even when he comes in for a short time, it makes quite a difference – he is rough & bites & quarrels all the time

[reverse]

especially with her.

I now take up your next letter of Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> a short one, telling me not to see about the horses, carriage etc. I am going down to the Bank tomorrow to see if any cash has come, as I must let Frank have some. He seems to be rather blue at leaving – he says he will miss Gertrude – he is very fond of her.

Your dear letter of Aug 16<sup>th</sup> is now open before me & you tell me of your visit to Johannesburg [sic] & call upon Miss Richardson. I am pleased she will be one of your nurses, as you can both

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keep an eye on each other. How well you must look on your beautiful horse! I fancy I can see you as I saw you the day you had the first mounted parade below the hill, after coming across the Mts. from Fort Steele. How my heart did thump when you rode up to the trap Min, Grandma & myself were in & I did not wish to let you imagine I saw you, until you spoke to me directly. Long years have passed since then, it was in 1888 as you may remember, & how dear you have become to me since – even then

[reverse]

my whole heart had gone to you unasked, unsought, as it has been yours ever since, my darling. Time has flown since then, but my love is just as warm as the first time I really knew how deeply you had wound yourself about my heart & that I tried hard to persuade myself how impossible it would be for us ever to be nearer to each other. If your little ones feel such

deep love for, my dear, you must not be surprised – they inherit it from their poor little mother, who does all in her power to

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cultivate the feeling in their little hearts & time, in their case, as with me, but increases the affection they feel for you. Your [sic] tell me you look so well dear – it but makes my desire to see you all the greater; however I hope when we do meet again, we will not have to part so soon. [Tennant] is out there? ~~wh~~ well, Miss Allen came back from England unmarried after all! – she is so queer, poor girl! – You must indeed, have a splendid name, when so many wish to get in your division, especially such swells as you mention. I am so thankful you are comfortable

[reverse]

when at home. Kerr looks after you well I know – the little ones speak of him so often & fancy themselves on their ponies scampering about with Mr. Kerr for company! – Dubbie & Gertrude are very fond of peaches & can never get enough of them – when they are refused they shake their heads wisely & say “never mind – when we are in Souf Africa we can pull them off the trees ourselves & will eat all we want”. Are you really a teetotaller? I do not wish you to abstain from it altogether on my account, but I am sure, you know yourself you are always much better

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without it, eh? dear? – Really, the prospect of either having you home again, or going out to you makes me feel so happy that I am not worrying half as much as I did before. John writes in good spirits & likes the Country – their house will I hope be such that they can be comfortable for this winter – it is not commenced, that is, was not in the beginning of the month. Regie has finished his & is very comfortable & the house pretty – he is doing splendidly all say – he has a Tartar for a wife though I fear, *entre nous* – she is a nervous, excitable creature

[reverse]

& he leads a life in consequence. Her sister who was the peace-maker passed through on her way home to P.E.I. at the end of Aug. She will be much missed I believe. The baby is fine they tell me & growing well. Alice says her boy is improving & Gertie's also, so every one is pleased. Richard was delighted to receive your letter [Conconne] tells me. Auguste had a bad cold so did not come back to the city after he went out on Thursday, so he has not received your letter but will be charmed tomorrow when he sees it. He is very fond of you I assure you.

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They will come back to the city on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – the weather has been so cold of late, that they must be anxious to be well settled once more. Their youngsters are well. The Hebden's are well so far & were very nice the evening we were there. I must call on Alice Brierley again – her father-in-law died during my absence this summer. James Henderson wrote me last week that he had sent the \$20.00 due for Aug & Sept. for Uncle John – now, my dear people around Coldwater are under the impression that you give nothing whatever to Uncle John, as well as the old

[reverse]

gentleman himself – would it not be as well to let him know that you do give him that sum? He is under the firm impression that the Henderson's do it all & between us I found him rather cool the time I called. Of course, Mrs. Moon came to the house with Dubbie & myself, but she was going to get a bite elsewhere. Mrs. Walker & Uncle John himself pressed her to return to take a cup of tea & she did. I may fancy he was cool, but that is not usually my way. You know I had to tell him you gave him something

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when we were there in May & as I have sent nothing myself or you either, he may fancy it is not true. Mrs. Wilson, Tom Moon's sister told Mrs. Moon, it was strange you gave him nothing & when she (Mrs. M.) asserted the contrary, said she was sure you did not – that is only one instance & I know of others, my dear. Did you meet any of the Doucet boys? You remember you had a trunk for one of them when you went out? – They are in Johannesburg [sic], I believe. The city certainly looked its very best, although the weather was so disagreeable during the

[reverse]

Royal visit. Well, my darling I fear you will wish this letter in Jericho, as it is so long. I am not always able to sit down quietly you see & when I do, could write forever. All are well & send many ~~love~~ sweet kisses & much love. I send by the same mail two photo's of our dear wee ones. They do not do them justice in any way, but I will have others taken as soon as possible as well as my own, to please you, my pet. They are much too dark, being such fair

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children. They all look well, especially our boy who has got so plump & Flora too. Gertrude has a cold, but is on the mend. Well, my sweetheart, I

must, although very reluctantly say good-bye. God bless you, my dear & Heaven protect you until we meet again. With many fond embraces, believe me, as of old,  
Your own true, devoted,  
lonely little wifie,  
Maye.

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[reverse] [in Marie's writing]

Dear Papa - your little Gertrude loves you very dearly & sends you a great big load of kisses.

Your dear little Dubbie would like to see you very much - he sends a big kiss.