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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
Montreal, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

My own darling Boy,

Your dear letter of Aug 12<sup>th</sup> reached me as you know after those of Aug 16<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> & I believe I acknowledged its receipt in my last dated the first days of the month. Your letters are so interesting that I keep them all & later, when we are united you can read them & go over all your work once more. I follow all your movements & see that the correspondent of "The Herald" copies almost verbatim what you write me, so from that I judge how very accurate your accounts are. Yours are always first – of course I say nothing & your letters are eagerly waited for. Thank Mr. Mackie for the maiden hair fern – it is somewhat different from

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ours, but how comes it to be so green in Aug? I thought you were having your winter at present. Mr. Taylor tells me Mr. White telephoned him he was doing his best re customs money last week but I have heard nothing of it. You will be happy to learn I got \$704.88 cts. "Separation Allowance" on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> & I at once paid what I owed the Bank of Montreal that is, \$347.76 cts. (three hundred & forty seven dollars & seventy six cents) & sent a draft to Cowdry for the sum of \$350.00 (three hundred & fifty dollars) leaving me a small balance of seven dollars. (\$7.00.) I am now on the lookout for the pay which is due us for June, July Aug & Sept. You must not worry because I tell you this but I want to keep you posted as to the state of our finances. I paid up Martin & [Louis], \$73.57 cts. by borrowing \$150.00 from the Bank. I had to give them a cheque in July, so concluded

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it was better to owe the Bank only, so thank goodness, I am rid of them. The Great West is soon due too as you know so I am not wasting the money, my pet. My next bête noir will be The Federal Life in Dec – another \$221.00, steep, is it not?. This last pen was too pointed for this thin paper,

so I have changed it to try & go faster with my letter, as my little chatterboxes, with Duffin's help bother the very life out of me, with their continual talk. The day I went to the Bank I had the pleasure of going up in the elevator with three old gentlemen, one of whom was Lord Strathcona who came out on the 8<sup>th</sup> for a fortnight or so. Not being acquainted with them of course I did not speak, but Lord Strathcona looked at me very attentively for a few seconds. Had he not been at a meeting of the Board, Mr. Taylor would certainly have introduced us. I anticipate the pleasure of meeting him, as I will call on him & bring Flora – the others would be too hard to manage & hinder my conversing with him. I now turn to your dear letter of Aug 24<sup>th</sup> which as well as that of the 31<sup>st</sup> came yesterday. It was written from [Gulick] Farm, how very careless of the Imperial Cavalry to enter a place without scouting – are they never going to learn how to fight the enemy? They need scouts all the time – it seems to me their methods of fighting are similar to those of the Indians, only they are not brave enough

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for an open fight & are like rabbits. It is a good thing you could help the Gordon's, as if there was any jealousy on their part, a thing that could easily happen, they will never forget your kindness & the "Scalp-Hunters") as you are often called, I hear, will be spoken of with respect & kind feelings. How busy you must be, my poor old pet & how you will enjoy a rest after this is all over & we are once more together. I am sure you must enjoy reading a paper now & then, but tell me dear? did you ever get those I sent with notices of deaths of Col. [Thagwritt] & Hon. Arthur Dickey? I forget how to spell the first name but you know who I mean – he was one of the Simcoe M.P.s. I have not sent many papers as I feared they

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would never reach you. You have, I hope ere this received all my letters with news of Perry. I also cabled you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & hope you received it all right – it will show you that I was perfectly correct in my statements about the appointment. You see he told the Editor of the "Yukon Sun" upon his departure from Dawson that he was coming down to take the position & he published it in April, so I was sure it was true. Did you get my letter in which I enclosed Col. Herchmers? surely all those have not been lost! Thank you dear for saying "may you be happy is my daily prayer" but it is an impossibility, for as long as we are apart we cannot be – at least, I cannot be. I am so glad to hear of Elmes' promotion & hope he will continue getting

on all right. The poor fellow no doubt felt his poor

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old mother's death keenly. You have not as yet mentioned it, but true! although it seems so long, I am only now getting the letters you wrote me at the time. Poor Sergt. Major Hines has since you wrote gone to rest too! he was the [non Com], who was in the Cars once when we went up town together in Ottawa & who spoke with such a brogue, was he not? can you recall the circumstance? He was an old member of the N.W.M.P. I know. How many fine lives are cut off in their prime & how many of the brave boys who left Canada are sleeping in that far away country, far from those they loved best. I hope your fears concerning Kerr are not well founded & that he has come back to you long ere this. It would be too bad if he made a mess of his life, would it not?. Your next letter is written from near Kirk Farm & contains a lot of very interesting news concerning the doings of the regiment. You say you wrote on the 27<sup>th</sup> from [Gulick] Farm. I only received that of the 24<sup>th</sup> penned there, so the other has evidently been lost. The news your last contains will no doubt come out in the "Herald" in a week or two. I think it but right that these things should be published, for people are not then inclined to fancy "you & your men are not doing much & there is no need for anxiety on my part". This will make a very experienced soldier of you now, dear one, but I firmly hope it will be the last time you will leave me to battle for your country.

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How hot the fire must be sometimes, my darling! oh, how I pray you may safely escape all harm!. What can there be in the stories about Jarvis? they insinuate all kinds of things & is there any militia officer among yours, who would be likely to give color to any tale that might be going around? – there certainly is something. I had an interview with Col. Ibbottson the other day to get some pipers to pipe Lord Strathcona into Windsor Hall the night the Stereopticon views of "Strathcona's Horse" came off & he spoke as if he knew something to his (Jarvis') discredit. I of course, spoke up & befriended him in every way, telling him that he had always had a good record in the N.W.M.P. Some person is certainly at work with

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the end in view of doing him all possible harm. Try & found out what it is! – His sister Edythe came down a fortnight ago. I dined with Mrs. Hope two evenings after – tell Mr. Jarvis it was a case of [Coney] & Wally, Edythe &

myself. Mr. Hope was in St. Andrews by the sea, where he has purchased ground & intends building a summer residence. Mrs. Hope intends increasing the population some time early next year; she is looking very well. Edythe is engaged to a Mr. Gamble from Toronto & seems very much smitten, I assure you. They were much worried over Mr. Jarvis & I did all I could to reassure them. You know I mentioned that the Herald insinuated in a paragraph from Ottawa that he was in disgrace & was returning home. that was at the end of Aug, but you say or hint at nothing of that sort.

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Mr. Fred Taylor's little daughter, a girl of eleven has been seriously ill all summer with appendicitis – they were preparing her for an operation dosing & [toning] her up, when she had a severe attack this last week. I do not know how she now is – he certainly seems to feel it, but I do not know if she is much troubled about it – she is fond of pleasure & has a good time generally, I am told. I had a long letter from Essie Miller & she says they miss us all very much – the house is so quiet without the little ones & they will take a long time to become accustomed to their absence. The children were all fond of them too. Regie has a hard time saving his wee boy – he is very delicate & they fear he may not live. Marie (Auguste) is still on her [pins], active as ever but her time will soon be here – poor little woman! she is so plucky & bright with it all. Her father & mother returned from a month's stay in Atlantic City yesterday & come into the city from Terrebonne, this week. He is not well & from his looks, I would not be surprised to hear he had lost his head some day. Auguste says his heart is affected he fears – he is a very nervous man & of course, no one would dare hint at such a thing. John has been under the weather, suffering from dyspeptia [sic] – he is on the mend, but worried over his future prospects, which are anything but bright. Thibaudeau Bros.

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close down in Dec. & he has no place in view as yet – cannot get out – some of the clerks in the store are going at fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month – a married man cannot live on that. Things are very dull – elections are now in order – nomination on the 31<sup>st</sup>, voting on the 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. – I wonder who will get in. The children are fairly well. Flora has been troubled with indigestion & [summer] complains for a short time, but is now quite well. The other two are just the same as ever. They do not grow very much & have already lost the tan & roses acquired during their visit to Orillia – strange, they should disappear so soon!. I can say the same about myself.

I go out quite enough too & so do they, as we have had nice weather since our return, still.....

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Gertrude & Dubbie are very sweet at times & say such funny things. Flora is so too & smart. They were great favorites in Orillia, I assure you. All here send warm love. Uncle Jack called this p.m. he is so altered, has been & still is quite ill – he desired to be remembered. They have a song out “The Charge of Strathcona’s Horse” which is to be sung by Miss Hollinshead, by special request at a Thanksgiving concert on Thursday next. It is good I believe & composed by the Drum Major of the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots. The words are good too. Well, my old darling, I have written a long letter & no doubt, being tired you will be glad to see it end. God bless my darling & protect you from all harm. The children send sweet kisses as well as your own true, warm-hearted, devoted wifie, Maye.

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My dear, Auguste wishes to know if you got his letter enclosing copy of letter which appeared in “The Witness” of May 8<sup>th</sup>? would you like him to ask Mr. Harper, Editor of same paper who wrote it? Capt. Woodside of Dawson called here on Aug 24<sup>th</sup> four days after I left for Orillia. They entertained him & he remained a long time, regretting my not being here exceedingly –

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