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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St.
Aug 24th

My own darling Boy,

Once more I can come & have my usual Sunday chat with you, my dear. I have attended to my religious duties as always & feel that I shall enjoy writing you although I have a slight headache this morning. Yours of July 19th came on Monday last & gave me intense pleasure. Of course the

/pg 1]

[pg 2]

house you now are in has curtains but we shall want them for our own house when we have one. I see that you have ordered some nice furniture & suppose should we not require it all we can come to terms about that later. I expect you to meet me in Captetown [sic] & we might then be able to go & see the furniture in question, as not needing it until next May I presume they will

/pg 2]

[pg 3]

store it for us until we require it. I will bring Torla's iron bedstead & purchase the same kind for Gertrude, as it is far healthier for them to occupy separate beds, as they now do. The £10 per month will help considerably, I am sure. I receipted the £100 you mention & you now know how they were spent. I was compelled to draw on you for £20 (\$95.11) this week as I simply had not even a cent to purchase stamps to mail your letters. I am as economical as possible, still it takes lots of money to get ready & try to be decently dressed. The Bartrams no doubt enjoyed London & spent money. They brought home some nice gifts to their sisters & family. Indeed! you cannot imagine how eagerly my mother is preparing for her trip & visit. It seems to make her feel twenty years younger!

/pg 3]

[pg 4]

As long as there are not too many reptiles around we shall enjoy the garden, fruit & shade, but I fancy we shall have to be on the alert all

the time. There will be quite as much need for evening dress as there used to be in Macleod anyway - that is a good deal more than here for I have not worn full dress once since I came. Yes, I know full well Pretoria is the capital & that there are

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

lots of people there - also that your position is such that we are apt to be included when anything goes on. I will not need my raccoon coat will I dear? I must buy a fur cape for night wear, but everything costs so much that I just hate to spend especially when funds are scarce. I shall bring all I can I assure you - but you must not scold.

Tillie presented Reggie with another son on Sunday last - a fine big boy & both are doing

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

splendidly. I have been too busy to go up yet, but must do so soon or there shall be trouble. Antoine has decided to come try his luck.

There is no use waiting for a year - we shall all go together. By-the-by the Great West Mr. [Lyster], wishes to know if you want to change your policy - if so, to what kind? if you can let me know, the matter might be attended to, ere we leave.

I much fear the Federal Life will not do anything, as I have said before. They are not given to be too amiable. I hope your fifty Canadians & eighty three Australians will prove a satisfactory addition to your command. Edward Birdwood is among them, the Dr.'s son - the family are mutual friends of ours & they are pleased to know he is with you. You are indeed getting very frisky & it is really time for me

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

to get out there, else I shall be too late. Somebody will steal your love & heart away from me, I much fear. Why have we not wings & why cannot we wear feathers? We should then be able to dress without much expense & loss of time. I am sure if Billy [Humphrey] looked after the arrangements for the dance, things were well done. I trust some dances will be reserved for after our arrival.

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

The Canadians are good dancers no doubt & I can picture you, wheeling around with a bundle of charms on your arms, quite nice looking & your eyes flashing with delight at feeling so young once more. The air down there may restore youth to me too, who knows? If

not, I shall have to spend my time flirting, while you waltz. We shall reverse things this time. Well, I am glad you are

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

enjoying yourself - time will not seem so long while you await our coming. If I can only get a little flesh on my bones, I shall pass on the crowd; if not, I dread the consequences. I can assure you if Torla hit you hard, it was her own doing & because of your letter to herself. I truly have nothing to do with it. If we arrange to go direct from here, the steamer sails on Oct. 18th. I shall cable so that you may know when to expect us. If we never come - well, all I ask, is that you will not forget us too soon. The cabinet I shall hope to get later on. I dare say Mr. [Losoney] will hold to his offer - however, I shall write ere we leave so as to be certain of it. As I cannot make money in any way, I shall have to wait until we can afford it, my dear boy.

[/pg 9]

[pg 10]

Torla went to Vaudreuil on Friday evening with Richard & Tootsie - the latter spent the week here. Dubbie is still there & may not return until Wednesday. He seems to get on all right with his Uncle. They go fishing together - it will do him good, poor little chap & I do not think he is troublesome - he has a nice character, you see. Torla did not seem to care much about going up - she gets lonely for me she says.

Gertrude

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

went up at the same time as Dubbie did, intending to stay a week, but she landed in on Monday to my surprise. She is here quite happy. Duffins returned to Regie's yesterday as the judge has had the front door & steps painted. He was delighted to go & see the new baby. Freddie Draynor died on Sunday last & was buried on Tuesday. Jos Howe, Supt. in the N.W.M.P. dropped dead in Macleod on the same day, as you will see by the "Star".

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

Is it not terrible to die so suddenly? Fred Draynor was partially paralysed & unconscious for two days - he was out & around on Friday - paralysis must have killed him in the end - he died on Sunday early in the p.m.

Essie wrote this week expressing regret at our not being able to go up ere we leave. She also tells me they have chosen a lovely little

trap for us, so that I need not trouble about that - it is kind of you to save me all you can. No answer from Lord Strathcona as yet, & of course it will not come. I saw Mr. Taylor when I went to draw on you - he had just returned from a tour of Inspection as far as Newfoundland & looked well. He advised me to write Col. Pinault & Col. Macdonell to see what they can do to help me. It is a great responsibility especially when I have so much else to do.

[/pg 12]

[pg 13]

I shall be pleased when we meet, then I shall feel all the weight lifted off my shoulders on to yours. The weather is pleasant today. I heard the glow worm for the second time this summer this morning, so we may have some heat. It has been very cool all season - such rain! It poured all day Thursday in sheets - really, it was terrible & the thunder kept on for hours. There is not much news.

[/pg 13]

[pg 14]

Although I have not quite finished sewing for the children, Miss White has commenced a few blouses for me. It is slow work & we do not seem to get along very quickly. I am so often disturbed you see. Miss Macauley is on her way home & called yesterday to say good-bye. Gertrude sends much love & many sweet kisses to dear old Papa - mother & all join. Write soon. God bless & keep you safe is the daily prayer of your own true hearted,

[/pg 14]

[pg 15]

devoted, loving wifie,
Maye

[/pg 15]