

2008.1.1.1.1.74

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> lies open before me & could it but speak, would tell you how many times it has been perused since it came into my hands. Lex has long ere this returned from his trip to Dunmore & must feel the absence of his pet very much – he will appreciate her even more than he did when she returns, for they say separation does that. he has Grandma to look after, so that will help him pass the weary hours, not to mention the bustle caused by the Governor's visit - entre nous, Lex is not one of the kind likely to fret himself to death. I know him pretty well so feel certain of that! – Well, there will be no standing Dr. A. after he receives Lord Stanley!! it will be an event in the annals of the family & my Maude will be more independent than ever. he has

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ample leisure to make all his preparations & will do things well, I am sure. his house is very nice & his china & etc also. he is very proud of it all & takes such delight in showing it to intimate friends, such as I for instance – he took me kindly under his wing when first he met me, but found the birdling rather restless & unfaithful I fear, so did nothing to stop my flight. I am sorry you are not blessed with all the rain we have for no prairie fires would trouble you. Capt. M. may not think them a Godsend, though his wife may. he would much prefer being at home caressing his wife, I have no doubt but for her sake, I hope he may be kept pretty busy for some time yet. I trust dear, the day is far off when you shall awaken from the happy dream of love in which you seem to dwell & the rosette hues which surround me be dispelled! I must strive to keep it in the very distant future for your sake, darling, even more than

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mine, for you seem to forget I am just like all the rest of my sex, my pet –

no better than most of them, except in your dear eyes, darling. I do not think any good words are needed in regard to me, for nothing could make me think more of you than I now do & some day you may be able to realize the full extent of my warm, true love. I recall every day with pleasure which now comes, remembering things which happened on the same dates last year. Friday evening was a sweet anniversary to me, for that night a year ago you had the dream which in a measure spurred you on & gave you a wee bit of confidence in your success with me. I cannot see why you should feel any anxiety on my account & I must not be the cause of any worry for you dear – when we are married it will be time enough for you to feel anxious, for I then shall have but you near & we shall be all in all to one another. I may leave many an anxious heart behind in my dear old home, but I must not let my thoughts dwell on that, for it saddens me too much. We cannot complain of warm nights for it has been very cold for the past week. the sun has been hidden all that time & we have sighed in vain for a ray to warm & brighten us up a little. Is the Governor General's party a large one? they will enjoy their trip for this is a nice season for travelling & they meet such a warm welcome everywhere. Lord [Lome's] A.D.C.s were nice – some of them, at least, for one can be excepted – he was Lord Stanley's A.D.C. last summer, but I cannot at this moment remember his name. he was a perfect fop & looked down on Canadians & everything Canadian. Grandma does seem to like Mrs. Mathews – poor soul! I am not able to judge not having met her, but she cannot help being queer having such a specimen for a husband – it must have beaten all the spirit & life out of her & it is terrible to know nothing but death can relieve her from such a man –

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Evidently the parson had been very much impressed by the sweet, low voice & must be disappointed at the way things have turned out – he, as you say should make a study of men, but he is young & years may teach him all their faults. but he is a man, you see, & in consequence their faults are only small failings which do not amount to much, so they are passed over for Greek. You are I fancy, very firm & not easily discouraged – will gain your point, come what may, without letting the others see what your game is. I do not think I am very decided & strong-willed, still you think I am, so you can judge from that how it is with you. The Northwest should be favored with railways now – we have plenty down here & they are sadly needed where you live. Miss Fraser will have any number of admirers, no doubt. She is a stylish girl though not pretty. She is a Catholic, that may

make a difference to some. By the by, Mr. Willie Sharples is engaged to a

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daughter of Judge [Bouthien] of Quebec – he lives some where near Macleod, does he not? they say she is very nice & charming but has no pretensions to good looks. You never found out why the old Dr. acted so strangely to me, did you? I had heard stories of him when he resided in Cornwall, but thought he had been very much slandered. I met him for a very short time once only before I saw him last summer & cannot say why he was so very polite for a time. The only reason I can think of is because poor Freddy had a very sore heart at that moment, & that he wished me to help him mend it, but the young man did not wish to trust himself to such skilful hands, so did not come within distance. I was not sorry, you may be sure. I sometimes date his annoyance at me from the day before the “Sun dance” when I refused to go with him alone. it strikes me forcibly that until then he was very nice – after that “a change came over the spirit

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of his dream”. Gertie has been very busy packing up today, though it is Sunday. we had a cry yesterday – of course, womanlike you will say, but when she returns next summer, I shall have left. I never allow myself to sit & think – all I do conclude is that I must really love you very much & then wonder if I have sufficient strength & courage to do all demanded of ~~her~~ me. it takes a woman of courage to go so far from all those dear to ~~her~~ me, but darling, I love you too & feel that if bereft of you, my life would be miserable & I should never know a really happy day again!! You see how hard the fight is for poor little me, & hope you will forgive me if I show signs of weakness at any time. We had frost last night, & as some of my flowers were nipped I took them into the house this afternoon – nice girl! you will say, but I did not wish to lose them after all the care bestowed on them this summer. Has Mrs. C. Wood entirely recovered from the effects of the accident? She was very lucky indeed, to escape like that. The Wilsons must be pleased to live in Macleod now. the W.F.s will not find Pincher Creek as nice a place as Lethbridge, as it is so very much smaller. You have not mentioned Mr. Pritchard lately – is he still as much enchanted by his Siren as ever? it is fortunate every person is not of the same taste, for many would remain unmarried, that is sure. the house will be very quiet without the dear baby & no Antoine! we miss him so much & Papa as much as any one – he is always speaking of him. Mrs. Mac I have heard nothing more of. she is enjoying herself I can imagine & her old friends will be glad

to see her again. I may go to Montreal for a day or so this week & if I do will go Tuesday next with Gertie. Should you perchance not hear from me Tuesday week, look out for Thursday's mail, as I will favor you, if but a few words. Well, pet it is very late & I must write a short letter ere I retire, to some friend

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so will kiss you good night. with much love, my darling & sweetest kisses the hope that Heaven may bless & protect you warm in my heart, I remain as ever

Your own loving, affectionate  
little Girl.

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