

2008.1.1.1.1.96

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, Feb 2nd 98.

My own darling old Husband,

Hearing that you are likely to be in Vancouver for some days, I cannot resist writing you a few lines knowing they are sure of a hearty welcome. To tell you how much we all miss you every moment of the long day, how much we would give for a sight of your dear face, would be simply impossible. I go about from room to room & see you everywhere & the uncertainty of your movements & the length of your absence being unknown to me, only tend to make my heart grieve more. One never knows the depth or the strength of love, until the loved one is far away then every action, look, or word comes back vividly to one's mind. I am not alone in my sorrow, as your little one's [sic] speak constantly about you. Gertrude kneels at my feet morning & evening & lisps her prayers for your safe return to us & when you did not come back with us on Saturday & she heard you had gone to the Yukon, she wept bitterly, poor little pet! Flora misses you very much also, but being able to play out, seems to console herself to your absence

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more readily than the rest of the us. You must keep me well posted as to all your movements & where you are going, for I shall be anxious all the time I know. All here are already wishing you back & say they do not know how they will get on without you. Sergt. Morris was telling me the Dr. has had his tooth on him since Sunday – “he was afraid of the Major but now he will nag all the time”. Sergt. Pattison “I have never had the least idea of going to the Yukon, but if the Major does not come back soon, I am going to try & join him – the square seems deserted without him”. they all seem to abhor the idea of having the present O.C. for any time. Alec came up on Monday evening & went to Calgary yesterday – he may have gone to see you as he said he was very much tempted to do so. A telegram came on Tuesday a.m from [Bucke] saying “that the stopes had proved almost a failure & that it would be better to shut down the mine immediately” – these are not the

exact words of course, except the latter part. He was dismayed & wired judge Scott to meet him – if he would not go to Kaslo with him, he (Alec) was not going alone. he was not going to take any more responsibility

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on his shoulders, he had \$1500.00 in the mine, had had the trip east & no chance of being recouped etc, etc.” Of course he may have gone to you so that all may be satisfactorily arranged. I spoke to the Sergt. Major who did not seem at all alarmed & said “Capt. Mac was too blue”. I hope I am not worrying you unnecessarily, my darling for you have enough on hand I know. Capt. McIlree went off on the same train as Alec & never came near me during his whole stay here. Capt. Deane has not done so so far either. Mr. Casey came in to see if I needed anything & said to be sure & call on him at any time. Elmes comes & stays here every night. I really felt so downhearted & lonely that I thought it a good thing to do, for I have some one with me in the evening anyway. He was delighted & says it is doing him good for he got very little exercise. he is off in the morning at 7.15 & returns about eight p.m. He is a good, kind fellow & seems pleased at the confidence I have in him. I hope you do not mind my doing so, for it is very nice to have him. I have not been able to eat one meal since your departure, but hope

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to feel better soon. Every bite seems to choke me. Alice was very much grieved at not seeing you – she says “she never can thank you for all your kindness to her & her fate is so undecided that she does not know when she will be able to do it. Had she known it at the time, she would have come up with Capt. Deane on Saturday. She was just lifted off her feet & could not believe it true”. Mr. Davidson told me he was ordered in, but could get no answer from Capt. MacIlree as to quarters” – that was on Monday p.m & I have seen or heard nothing since. Macdowell is re-engaged on the 1st as special – I wonder how that will work. He sold the cow & heifer to Mrs. [Anderton] for \$38.00 so I gave him a receipt & Sergt. [Murison] has made out a bill of sale & sent \$35.00 to Capt. Armons for the new cow & calf. [Mone] would I think have done better, but he seemed so eager to do it, that I let him. It is a beautiful day, so bright, clear & no wind to speak of. The Comr.s went up to Pincher Creek yesterday & are expected back today, I believe. Dr. Haultain gave a prescription to be used with the spray which could not be put up here, so I enclosed it in the same box. Be sure & have

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have it filled in, as you may need it. I send you in the same parcel as [Skirimy's] hat which the Sergt. Major sends him by Thursday's train. Your large cow boy hat & a half dozen navy blue handkerchiefs which you may find very convenient when away. I could not mark them. I also send one of your flannel collars which was forgotten in the hurry of your departure. I hope the things will reach you safely & that you will not find the articles in the way. "a big kiss to my darling Papa from his little Gertrude who misses him very much" – This message the little pet was eager to send you & I know it will please you. I am mailing you the private letters which have come since your departure, hoping they will reach you safely. I had to take the envelopes off, of course. Well, my darling, as the mail leaves early in the morning, I will have to stop. Baby has cut another tooth since you left & seems to be well. Flora is trying hard to be a good girl for your sake & hopes you will soon return to us. Write me as soon & as often as possible during your absence, & be sure & take good care of yourself for my sake. With ever so much love from the little ones & myself,

Your lonely, far away wifie,

Maye.

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