

2008.1.1.1.1.92

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil.  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling,

Your long looked for letter dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult I received Monday last. You cannot imagine how delighted I was to read the dear words you pen to me. I see that Miss F. has not succeeded in winning your affection! I told you what she used to be, but hoped time had given her a little sense, but find I was mistaken from what you say. I regretted ~~for~~ once in your presence that I had not put on airs for I certainly would have made a better impression on the youths of Macleod, do you remember? it amused me so to see your expression at my silly words though I merely said them to see the effect. I fancied some of the officers were very attentive to Mrs. K.s guest

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but she will find they are not more attracted than the Toronto beaux – all are not as hard to please as you are my pet, & I should feel highly flattered at the good opinion you have formed of me. I heard as soon as I arrived in the west of Mrs. Mac's & Lex's [spooning] & was even asked if it were true – no matter what I thought I would not give them away so very quietly snubbed the person who was so curious & was not questioned on the subject again. Well, my dear we will both think we are not worthy of each other at the rate we are going, but I sincerely hope we may find out we are labouring under a delusion. Now look here, if you cannot leave by the 15<sup>th</sup> & be here in time to be married on the 26<sup>th</sup> let me settle the question & say it will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January – if you can come for then. it will perhaps

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be more satisfactory to you in order that you may not hurry too much on my account, & I assure you I am very willing to put it off as long as you please, without the least inconvenience whatever, only, I would be more at rest if I

were surer of the time of your coming. If you do not leave by the 15<sup>th</sup> we will consider the matter decided & not talk of the event taking place at least for two weeks after N. Year. If next week brings me a letter saying you cannot leave at on the date mentioned, do not worry over it, for you will see from this one that I understand & do not expect it to be before five or six weeks. Your description of the H. family is anything but inviting & the ogre's queer ways can be a little accounted for! – Mr. Macdonald is a man of over sixty but looks younger – he used to be a hard case & drank a great deal, but is now all right & says his wife did it – he praised her up to the skies & she seems worthy of it – she is a bright, pretty little person & though I have not seen her very often I rather liked her. I am sure my little home will be as comfortable as you can make it for me, my pet, & I shall be very happy in it. Perhaps you may like the carpets down stairs with the painted edge around them – if so, have them made with a border all around & about six inches of the wood exposed will be sufficient – upstairs it would be preferable to have the entire floor covered, as it is warmer I believe. Yes I am fond of dancing & some years ago could have danced all the time, but I am now more sedate & while I enjoy it, can live without it if necessary. You will find there are many more like me. Mrs. Mac was a beautiful

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dancer, but gave it up because the church is so down upon the fast dances. I never did, so you see how much better she is than I am!!..... Ah! You terrible fraud, to try & pretend you had no sufficient sarcasm. I have felt the taunts of your biting tongue, pet, sometimes, so know from experience what you can be. Your dear epistle of the 26<sup>th</sup> I had the extreme pleasure of perusing yesterday – mine from Montreal are fearful & I should have been ashamed to send them, but, I knew my Sam would be merciful & forgive his little girl. You may not leave dreamland after we meet, but may soon awaken from the long dream in a short time... Mr. D. said what I told you of his own accord – he never hears from his brother except when Freddy wants

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anything. Louise asked me some weeks ago if I had heard anything about F. lately. I said, no! the Major does not mention him – she then told me his mother was furious at him for something he had been doing, & said she would tell only she had positively promised Willie not to say a word about it – he simply gave his opinion upon the way he has heard you spoken of by others, not from any thing I said so do not be anxious. Wilson is like the

rest & follows the sun. You cannot trust them further than you can see them & I have not much affection for Mr. W. I owe him one you know & he must get it sometime or other, sure. I was not love blind in Lex's case, as Mrs. Mac is, so it would have been much more difficult to fool me – she would think less of him in

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a manner – she would persist in calling him Col. Mac in '87 until I told her she might be the cause of his arrest for sailing under false colors & that he had no right to the title, being only Capt. – it was wicked of me, but it served the purpose well enough. You would have died had you seen the whole affair & will enjoy it when you hear of it. She always liked to be first in everything & some used to say, "When Min is the head of a place she will be supremely happy," so you will perhaps understand why she desires me to know you are Lex's senior by two hours. Why is Mrs. Macleod anxious to know when you leave? is it to condole & mourn with you over the terrible step you have in view, my darling? she is very nice though, so I do not mind her deep sympathy in the least. So Col. H. thinks it is a love match on your side! Well, so it is I hope, for you will never have any golden ducats with me, at least as far as I know at present – now what does he think it is on my side? I should like to have his opinion on the subject, but this much I will say, that I am not the kind of a woman who carries her heart on her sleeve, or whose heart is a mirror for every one to see all reflected therein – only a privileged [sic] few are favored & I intend to be that way always. one thing is sure, that did I not love you dearly nothing should ever tempt me to marry you – position does not bring happiness & it is not the prospect of all the society I may meet that could influence me either. You are all one could wish for I suppose, but matrimony has too many trials & sorrows some-

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times to enter upon its stormy sea without Love to guide us safely through its dangers & nothing but my deep, ardent affection ever made me consent to be your's [sic] my pet. I suppose I should feel flattered to receive that much attention from the Col. but on the contrary would be far better pleased were I passed over in silence. Perhaps Miss F. is just testing how matters stand about the Comr.ship & likely went home & reported to The Gossips all Lex may have said. When I recall some of the remarks made on the evening you mention, your memory may prove more faithful & your remark about two in answer to mine may be present to your mind. Well, indeed, if they found me looking well last week they will not say the same

thing when they see me on

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Friday. I have had a most fearful cold caught on my way up but I feel a wee trifle better this evening – it is very disagreeable indeed, especially as I go to town on Friday. I will meet one of Cousin Joly's daughters who they say is charming & so unaffected – she has come up for a two weeks visit. Our weather is very cold – ten or twelve below zero this evening they say. The snow is deep enough also. Just a year ago tonight we were in Dunmore together. I wonder if you have thought of it – really time has passed so speedily that it seems more like a few months than twelve – the next time we are in that place, things will be greatly changed & instead of the timid, shy young lady opposite you, your wife will have taken her place – do you not quake at the prospect? I do sometimes & so do you if you will tell the truth about it. Harry H. is still very ill & they have been unable to bring him to the hospital yet – his mother who is now well, returned this morning to relieve Uncle who has been with him night & day for the past fortnight almost. Papa received the paper & I was much interested in all the news it contained. Mr. H. is not spared that is certain, if it only does good. I still am very busy & if I finished all my work sometime previous to your arrival if you come in January only, I shall enjoy a well earned rest. Louise went out this afternoon & was surprised to learn you were expected to arrive this evening – all the villagers were on the qui vive to see you & some of my own family indignant that they had not been told of it –

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she however settled matters & told them it was not sure when you were coming, but might possibly be here before Xmas. Well, my pet, will we decide as I told you in the beginning of this letter? that is, if you are detained after the 15<sup>th</sup> we will not speak of the 26<sup>th</sup> any more & arrange everything for the 15 of January? You will let me know in due time as this may be the last letter I will write until further orders from my darling. It is not late & after a long days work I feel somewhat fatigued this evening, likely due to my cold so I will say & kiss Good-night. Hoping you are quite well & that your weight is not increasing, with much love & very many fond kisses, believe me ever

Your own dear truehearted little Girl.

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