

2008.1.1.1.1.65

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
Aug 23rd / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of the 15th came today & cheered me very much. I felt quite lonely without your expected missive on Wednesday & was overjoyed to see you had found leisure to devote to me. How did the sight of Mormon bliss impress you? do you think you would relish being one of them? Those who accompany you have all the fun & the work falls to you, my pet. fishing is a great pastime here, but is not good just now. I have not been out for an age, though I used to be very fond of it some years ago. No doubt Mrs. Mac's house is just cleaned & the building of the chimneys must annoy her exceedingly after all her trouble. You cannot imagine how pleased I am to learn we shall have the whole house to ourselves, for I should above all, detest having any one permanently residing

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there but ourselves. When Mrs. Mac mentioned about her's [sic], she feared you would be inflicted in the same way & although you would oppose it, thought words would be of little avail. You must have believed me very dull not to understand the pointed things you sometimes said, but it suited me to act in that manner, although the words often made my heart beat faster. No! pet, those who seek us for wives could not possibly be deemed fortune hunters, for we personally are the only fortunes they should win, but I sincerely hope we are worth the seeking & will endeavor to prove it to my darling, when the mystic words have been pronounced. I know quite well you can fulfil all the duties which your position gives you, but some men are so mean & jealous, they will stoop to anything to defraud another & I am well aware of the strange lot you are in contact with. Grandmamma found me very thin, but heat has that effect upon me, particularly when fatigued. Our house has been full all summer &

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one can have but a faint idea of the numerous tasks which fall to woman's lot. I shall rest after the holidays as they all find me altered. of course, if the truth must be told, I worry sometimes without reason, but I shall get over that by and by, so you must not mind that. I do not say very much but I think a great deal. I do not conceal anything from you, for I do not feel ill, only a little weary now & then. later on, it will be time enough for you to feel anxious about my health. When I have so many near, I would not think of [annoying] you concerning it – rest is all I need & a strengthening tonic perhaps – “intended husband” what a lot is contained in those two words, my pet!!! – There is no superiority in my remembering trifles better than my darling, for they were a great deal to me then & were indelibly impressed upon my brain, while he was too much occupied to remark them. We will not be half as interesting a couple when we return & can have all the riding we like without setting tongues wagging – then we can jump our horses without fear & I should love to shoot well, though I have never fired a pistol off. my riding will almost have been forgotten & you will find me very rusty, I am sure. I once or twice noticed Mr. Starnes' propensity for repeating & not always correctly, so was always on my guard. he likes to try & find out things sometimes & questions closely – such persons get little satisfaction from me as a rule. Your ordeal is not a terrible one as you will persist in saying, & will get through with flying colors. You are such of Maye in the end, anyway. Grandmamma intends leaving on the 28th so will reach Macleod about the 3rd I fancy, if she does not loiter on the way. She is anxious to go & leaves her business matters unfinished, so that will more than likely necessitate her returning next year. She is frail looking & thin & I am sure will feel very much fatigued after the trip.

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I take great care of myself, but do not always succeed. I am more solicitous than ever, having you to think of, my dear one. We have been having a round of dissipation lately. Had a large party last evening & did not get home until after one – enjoyed it pretty well, but missed you, my darling, I assure you. a friend asked me when the event was coming off & said “I am going to the wedding desiring to be an auricular & eye witness of the affair” & would not believe, until he heard my yes that I really was married. They found me so very hard to please. The young lady who comes tomorrow invited herself up & it bores me fearfully to be obliged to entertain her. while she is rather a nice girl, I know she does not care a fig for me, only that it suits her to favor us! – A cousin of ours, Rene de [Beaujeu] spent today here & remained over. he is a nice boy of seventeen or thereabouts. We

have a dance on Monday given by the bride & groom whom I mentioned in my last. All the guests leave the hotel on Monday & regret the season is at an end. So many

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propose returning next year. Elzear Tascherau had a very narrow escape from drowning yesterday. You may see it in the papers. I commence this tonight knowing the conversational powers of my friend are such that I shall not be able to write you during her visit – she is an American & can talk. Frankie has gone down to the Circus but must have been disappointed. the cars were wrecked somewhere in N. York state & men & animals killed & wounded – some of it reached Montreal & they are to have a performance tomorrow, they say. I am feeling very tired so will kiss my pet good-night. God bless my own dear boy & protect him from all harm. with many sweet kisses, I remain Ever your own dear little one.

Sunday, 25th. I will now finish this rambling letter begun two days ago – my expected visitor failed to put in an appearance after all – some beau I presume interfered with her projected trip & she is very fond of gentlemen's society. I cannot say I regret it. We have been holding a [levee], personal

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calling after our little party. St. Swithin's reign is over I fancy – yesterday & today are lovely. Well pet, your little chatterbox is not as talkative as usual this afternoon. Your next will be a longer letter I promise you, unless yours are exceedingly short. I love you dearly, my own pet & am so anxious to see you again. three months from now will soon see you here & then meeting the family will be a thing of the past & your ordeal over, my darling. Very many sweet kisses I would give were you near, until we meet once more, I am ever

Your

own dear loving

little Girl.

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