

2008.1.1.1.1.41

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
May 19th / 89.

My own darling Boy,

Though the heat is enough to melt one were such a thing possible, I come this afternoon with as much pleasure as usual, to have my chat with you. Your dear little letter of the 9th was duly received, & after several perusals I sighed for more – never contented! you will say, & pity yourself I know, because Fate has been cruel in allowing your choice to rest on such a tyrannical little girl, but you will tame this imperious young lady & take delight in it, I have no doubt. Not having sufficient nerve to make three letters a week interesting, I inflict you with two & think that more than will satisfy your longing & try your patience. I am delighted at your having obtained the authority to have your house papered instead of painted – it looks prettier & makes a room easier to fix up, though you know nothing about such things, that being a feminine art!. Mrs. Mac must also

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be charmed, as those ugly spots on the walls in her house, were eyesores to us all during my visit. I trust Lex will get some lady's taste to aid him in selecting, as he has not to my mind been brought to a very high standard of cultivation. The carpenter will also keep you busy supervising in order that all may be as your little girl wishes it & I know your desire is to please her. "Whatever you do it will sure be right" as the song "My Queen" says & yours says it too! No! my darling, I do not find you matter-of-fact for mentioning the carpets. it only shows me how cosy a nest you wish to bring me to, & I appreciate your kind forethought for our comfort far more than

you imagine. How nice it will be to have a sidewalk, & one can enjoy an airing without striking your feet on stones all the time. I rather like walking, but did not enjoy many strolls on that account when with you. I can actually count those that were pleasant & I fear my pet would figure prominently, were I obliged to confess why they were nice & he might blush at being thought so much of, by a little girl he considered indifferent at the time I allude to. The work given you by the Comr. will keep you very busy & forbid your

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thoughts winging their way eastward too often – time will seem shorter & diminish your anxiety to meet me again. in one way it will be a good thing, but summer is very warm & one feels lazier in hot weather & would prefer more spare time than when it is cool. I only think it another proof of his confidence in your ability to perform the work & know it could not have been given to a more competent personage!. The mess being so very fine my darling will wish to enjoy a good rest & talk there after dinner & in that way deprive me of a short while of his company, I fear – selfish girl, am I not? My faults will be very perceptible after you have known me for some time, will they not, my darling? They come to the surface one by one, - you will realize ere long how many I really have & you have been blind to! I trust you will have the lovely horses when I return. I will enjoy seeing them I know. The Indians will keep you very much occupied intercepting their entry into your district with their stolen property. I hope however that you will not be absent too often, as it will punish me very severely to be deprived of my pet's letters. We are having lovely weather & I only wish you could have a peep at my home just now – it is so pretty owing to the large number of trees we have which dear Papa planted himself & takes just pride in! You would, I am sure be tempted to remain a short time. Mrs. Neale's imagination is rather vivid at times! – she would I know prefer being at Lethbridge, as her parents are there, but she has always lived near them, so it is but right that she should move round a little. Why send you from Macleod when you have only assumed command & can fill the

position well? You have, I believe been to nearly every post in the country, so it is only your due to remain some years where you are at present. My cousin, [Elzear Taschereau] who is a private in the Force & was stationed at Wood Mountain is in Ottawa on two months leave. I will likely see him ere he returns, as he always pays us a visit. They tell me he is looking very well. Do you know my darling, that your telling me if "I got angry with you any more would make you take a run down" has made me very keen to pick a quarrel, & that is just the way to make me all the more anxious for an excuse to see my own dear boy once more! You had better beware now for the least trifle will have the desired effect & you may regret it. You perhaps

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were aware of the fact when you wrote that. Lex will be pretty busy having several places to visit while East. of course, I do not suppose he has any business to attend to, so will have ample leisure to see his many friends. While I will be charmed to see Lex, what delight for me were somebody else "nearer & dearer" the expected one! oh! my darling, could I but have you near me for a short time, what joy it would be. Your brother must look forward to your arrival with the greatest pleasure, not having seen you for so long a time. I imagined Mamma was becoming more reconciled to the idea of losing me, but I made a mistake. The nearer the time comes, the more acute the pain of separation. I speak of it in order that they may be accustomed to the fact of my really leaving them, but very often, pet, it makes me heart-sore I must confess, but I love you so. I love you so! that I never could live were I compelled to part with you forever. had I not been so long at home, the parting would not be the same, but they have been so familiar with my face around the house & my willing hand to aid whenever it could, that like myself, they fancied I should never

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cheer another home or make a man happy! – how I trust & pray the latter may come true – that you may be happy, my own one, with the girl of your choice & that God may bless us both. I feel now as if the better part of me

was far away & am awaiting your coming with feelings of hope, love, confidence, & fear all intermingled. What a strange thing love is & how wonderful is fate sometimes..... how we were bound to meet the different circumstances which landed to effect such an end, [our loving] everything in fact, gives me pleasant thoughts when so far from my own pet. I do not know if it affected you as it did me, but the more I think of it, the stranger I find it!!!..... This is a stupid letter I am well aware, but the heat is such that I can scarcely think or express myself correctly. I trust you will forgive me for it, my pet. I will do better on Tuesday. Major Short's death is a very sad one, is it not? he was such a favorite. The Sergt. wounded at the same time has since died. Although it is quite early, my head aches a little, so I will say "au revoir". My own pet, how I wish I had wings to fly to you – may be I should refuse to leave you any more! Until then, I must kiss "good-bye"

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as of old my darling. I trust you are well & take good care of yourself for my sake. With much love, I remain as ever, my pet,

Your

own warm-hearted, loving

Maye.

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