

2008.1.1.1.1.115

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

Macleod, June 29th 1898.

My darling Husband,

I received your letters dated June 4th 7th & 8th on Tuesday last & must confess, that for the first time since your departure I completely broke down after perusing them & gave scope to my overburdened heart, by shedding many bitter tears. I felt better or rather relieved, still my worry has not by any means disappeared. I wrote you telling you of my determination to go even without Marie, after the Comr. [illegible] Const. Skirving could accompany me. Did you not receive the letter? I cannot understand how you can imagine that I can remain in my present quarters – you have been transferred to “depot division” & I must leave as the Deane’s come up “some time about the middle of July” so “Mrs. Deane says, “as soon as Mrs. Steele leaves.” The Comr. said I need not hurry the quarters were not needed, but there was more talk than anything else in that. Alice leaves, as she is to be married in

[reverse]

Sept. & must get home to prepare. Regie has not his house, nor has he commenced it, being unable to borrow the necessary cash to do so. I must either go to you or go East. It is very hard to have so many misunderstandings about the matter & I suppose I should have decided upon going to Montreal at once. I did want to be with you, dear, on your own account & for the sake of our little ones. I told you so before. I still await another letter, for I wrote & asked Major Perry about the steamers & all some time ago – he may have let you know of it. Did not Mrs. Godson mention me at all? strange, for I had her answer to my letter. Elmes is not all he might be, but I will say nothing of that until we meet. Regie is so busy, it is very hard for him to get away & he has been down but twice since you left, three times I should say. My mother cannot possibly leave owing to business, the boys & the wedding which come off this autumn & it would be too lonely for her here with you away – she cannot ride & enjoy things in the same way as Alice & I could not bring her up anyway. Regie says he thinks the sea voyage will do us all good & the change make Dubbie

strong. Mrs. Deane says "We are too devoted a couple for Capt. Deane & myself to live like this – we cannot live

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

apart, so if he must reside in Macleod, we will all go up – the Comr. has given us leave to have the house all repapered, repainted & done over as soon as Mrs. Steele leaves" – what can I do in the face of that? I told you I had seen Mr. Macfarland who said he would not think of harming or annoying me in any way. the furniture is safe. Alec is endeavoring to sell "Empire" – yesterday was the last day & I fear the deal fell through. He is determined not to sell stock until autumn. McKenzie is doing all he can & will represent you if sale of "Empire" is made at my request. I gave your revoking of power of Atty to Alec through Mackenzie, as Alec was then staying in the house. I would have written at once on receipt of letter just answered, which came on the 21st (that of June 4th) only was too ill. I also had a concert in aid of the new church building fund on hand, & met with so many mean, hateful drawbacks that it worried me so that I got very ill. Capt. Deane refused to let me have the Barrack room always used for such things saying "there were men to be turned out & it was not fair to expect to do it & he had to draw the line – after the R. C.s, it would be the Methodists, then Presbyterian, etc"

[reverse]

his way of acting won for me the sympathy of all & we made over two hundred dollars – no one of any denomination would have made a remark if I had been the last to get the room, as "Mrs. Steele was different to any one else & the Major had always been so kind & in charge so long". He let the English Church & Hospital entertainments take place, then drew the line. I will tell you all about it when we meet, if we ever do. – Life is not pleasant here now & I could not stay at any cost. Yours of June 7th is now open before me. Major Perry sent money & I acknowledged it at once, it seems to me, ever so long ago now. You must have been disgusted at the loss of your nice [illegible]. It is all very well to say "never mind Deane" but I cannot help it – he can hurt, as he is very sarcastic & the Comr. cannot be bothered with all small things. Mrs. Wood may now be on her way to Skagway & you will see her before this letter reaches you. She went to Vancouver on the 20th to meet her husband & the Wilson's moved into her house at once – she had to leave her quarters. I had a wire from Mr. Z.T. Wood on Tuesday the 21st & answered. Your English goods have not yet come, but I sent up a lot you had here & which I am sure, will be useful. The box left by Saturday's train, the 25th & should be all right –

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

Your letter of the 8th is now in my hand. Did you get the paper "Stars" of May 14th Auguste sent? It was a copy of what appeared in "The Globe". I cannot understand how Major Perry could wire that I wired him I was not going in answer to his telegram re registered letter I said "Send letter here – cannot leave until the beginning of July" – or something equivalent. Const. Skirving will not go, if I do not, as he only comes as escort to me. I have spoken for a serge out of store, as the English goods may not be here for some time yet. I wrote & told you all about them when ordered some weeks ago. As I told you in one of mine, the little ones are devoted to you now, but their little hearts are but human, & distance & separation will surely lessen the deep love they bear you now. I will as I told you, go to Montreal if in one of your letters on the way now, you tell me to do so. I have done all I could, God knows! & if we are apart, it will be through no fault of mine. I feel that I cannot reproach myself in any way. I have tried to do what

[reverse]

is right. Your letters of June 14th 15th & 18th came yesterday afternoon, the 28th – so they met with no delay as you see. You give me a nice description of your trip to "White Horse Rapids" on the 9th. Poor women! is not a mother's love ~~strang~~ strong in the face of danger? I am not settled down to be a grass widow, but it will not take very long now. as I said a few seconds ago, a word from you will do it. If I go to Montreal, I intend to have as pleasant a life as possible. If the Strickland's are quite comfortable, why cannot we be? I am not any harder to please than other women I think? we could have wire screens to windows & doors to keep mosquitoes out if necessary. I hope you will succeed in all your claims & that the Indian River scheme will turn out well too. Mrs. G. must indeed be a flirt – you made a break, but one which I would never have noticed had I been present. women are not all the same, you see, my dear!. but she is plucky any way, they are not all that!!!.... I now take up yours of the 15th, but oh! dear, let me before I go further confess I was well nigh heart broken when after reading them yesterday, I still saw you were under the impression that I was not going up to you. I did hope you would have received some of my last letters

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

There is a rumor that all Officers wives & families are to be moved to Regina while the Officers are serving in the Yukon. I would not care for that, I assure you. You will have a large number of detachments to look after, will

you not? There are children there, why not ours? I used to know two of Mr. Fred Young's sisters in Montreal & Mrs. Mac knows them well too – very pretty girls. I hope to heaven you will not have gone on a trip to Dawson & we arrive in Skagway to find you gone. I think Mr. Hope, Jarvis' brotherinlaw died suddenly when on a fishing expedition a few weeks ago. I wrote Major Perry re sailing of "City of Seattle" & he answered that it sailed on the 19th June & every ten days thereafter – my present intention is to leave here on the 11th of July, go by Medicine Hat, being so much more convenient & sail from Vancouver on the 19th of July, if possible. No inquiry took place. Capt. Deane was hauled over the coals & had letters from Mr. White – things are running a little more smoothly, but really I see so few, that I scarcely hear what goes on –

[reverse]

I also wrote Zach Wood to tell you I was going, but he will not see you before I leave, I am sure. Mr. Casey handles all the money of your salary & I get what is left. I cannot help it, you spoke to him before you left, you see, & I must take the consequences. He is kind, but do not say anything about it please – will explain when we meet. Your letter of the 16th re- nuggets to Birks I now take up. I will write Auguste & get him to go & look after them, until Alice goes down. It is so good of you, my darling, & we are all delighted. Alice will write & thank you herself for it. I will give Auguste all particulars & I know he will be charmed to see about it all. The Comr. has just sent me a cheque of \$220.80 ct. your pay in advance for July & ~~Augu~~ June in order to enable me to pay every cent I owe, your life Insurance, as I did not wish to break on the \$200- sent for the trip. all that is left I will bring back to you, my dear boy. The Comr. has been very kind indeed. I will tell you when we meet. The pistol I will bring up myself & more ammunition too. God bless you, dear, I hope we shall soon meet again. Alec & Minnie spent a week here – they brought Flora back with them – she seemed so frightened of the cars, that I

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

was glad to let her go, on account of getting accustomed to the train & noise before we start. I have written you a long letter. Alice will accompany me to Vancouver if I go up, the ticket to Montreal being cheaper from there & she will be a great help & it will give her a trip. I am going to get a pass for her. The Comr. has given me all necessary transport as you know. I will go, unless I hear from you to the contrary & hope we will be very happy together once more. All join in much love to you. I hope you will dream I am near you & that the dream will come true my dear. Heaven bless you. Your

ever devoted,
loving, warm hearted wifie,
Maye.

[/pg 5]