

2008.1.1.1.1.179

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1901.

My own darling pet,

Your four dear letters of Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> reached me on Monday & received the usual warm welcome that always awaits them. Needless for me to tell you, my darling how eagerly they have been read & pondered over. The three little ones also got theirs & were delighted beyond words at dear Papa's remembering them. I may have been mistaken about John being cool, however I did not mind it very much, as he is an old man & does not know me very well. It is all right if he is aware that he gets the money for you know he was not that when

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we were there in May. I fancy it will be best to send the money as you say for six months at a time. \$10.00 per month is what you allow him you know, my dear & will see from Jim Henderson's letter enclosed in my last that Jim sends it direct to him now – it used to be given to Maggie by Mr. Shephard as you may recall. It is as well that the family should know that you help him & Viv is a good one to tell. I am pleased to learn that the family do not neglect you & write often – nice to get letters from all over the world when one is far away eh! dear. I had an opportunity of showing the fan as you know ere this at Lord Strathcona's reception.

I did not know Moir was married until told by Elmes last week – that

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I suppose accounts for his not sending me the records yet – I must write again about them. You go to bed a good deal earlier than I do, as I usually sew, practice or write until long after eleven. I rise at seven or sometimes earlier – I do wish I could see you riding down the streets unknown to you, my dear. What would you say if you suddenly saw me looking at you I wonder? I am not surprised at the looks of admiration cast at you as you pass by, for I know how fine you look on a horse! – I also have the keenest

desire to see the horse, you think him such a fine beast that he must be particularly so.

Gertrude is I believe, convinced that you love her & seems charmed at receiving your letters.

The little ones talk of their trip to you very often & look forward to seeing you again with the keenest pleasure. I saw the horse sickness mentioned in the papers & hope it is decreasing by now. It must indeed! give you much trouble. Yes, I saw that you are all to be honorary officers in the army – that is nice for you. I wonder how many of the Strathcona's will return with Evans – they say [Leckie] Mackie & some one else is going – also A.C. McD. Insp. N.W.M.P. de Vine goes for one, so he is all right for he is one of [Sam's] pets. They are to concentrate in Halifax rather far from Ottawa & very inconvenient for Govt. officials I fancy.

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Your next dear letter is that of the 26<sup>th</sup> & thanks me for the photo's of the little ones. The cat that was photographed belonged to the studio & as Torla dotes on them, they became very friendly & did not require much coaxing to be one of the group. Although it is dark, the picture is a very natural one & is much admired. I do not know how many of the N.W.M.P. are going with Evans. Sergt. Maj. Church is one. Evans was very hard on Sanders, was he not? he I feel sure was blamed because Sanders did not get the V.C. he got the D.S.O. I think. Well, if the girl Col. Herchmer is to marry is Miss Cardell he is very lucky – she was a pretty, bright girl of about fourteen or so when

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we travelled together in '88 & must be a handsome person now. He is too old for her & she may lead him a gay life, but she has been much admired I know. she must be about twenty eight & he is over sixty – a great difference, n'est-ce-pas? The Herchmer blood, is as you say warm so that may not make very much difference – of course, she will be quite a young woman for many years yet & he is old... Flora does look like your father very much – we always found that dear. You must be proud of them & have been showing them around I fancy as you say "they remark" – are they truly found nice? You can say the picture is not as flattering anyway.

Gertrude is not as good as the others but it is extremely difficult to get

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three or four good photo's – a child is sure to get fidgety & move at the wrong moment.

You must feel a very important personage to be driving about in [Oom] Paul's phaeton, my dear boy – you are certainly the personage now & not the poor, humble little girl you once called so with such a sneer on your face. I went to Mrs. Busteed's tea on Monday – small but very select – she made a great deal of fuss over me & I felt quite happy. On Tuesday I was at a big luncheon at Mrs. Ross' – eighteen & mostly old ladies. Lady Galt on her right, I on the left – it was a fine affair. I only wish I could tell de vive voix all the funny things that took place & the strange way some would be swells act on such occasions – you would enjoy it, I feel sure.

Last night I took Mamma to hear "The Burgmaster" it is an opera with no plot at all – more spectacular than anything else but made us laugh heartily, so we enjoyed it. I would not care to hear the like very often, for it spoils one's taste for good music, although the music is pretty & catchy – it is by an American & suits their taste. There were any number of pretty girls who exposed their fine limbs in silk tights & looked pretty..... fine figures they have.....

Mamma & myself called on Mary Hebden this p.m.

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she was well but her youngsters are suffering from colds too.

Gertrude & our Harwood are better & will I hope keep so for some time. It is so hard to keep them well & it is not that the house is too warm. You would not complain of heat were you here this winter.

Flora is well too. her birthday is on Saturday & I ordered a fine cake for her today – we will have a few little friends in for her – her present is a nice tan leather music case with her name on it. I feel sure she will be pleased & she is anxious to get one.

Gertie's all are well. I was revaccinated on Monday but cannot yet say whether it will take or not – if not, I need not

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have it done again as this is the second time this year & it was no less than four places on the arm the last time.

Well, my darling it is getting late & I feel tired so I will say "good night".

Heaven bless & protect you, my own darling & keep you in good health – write as often as you can. The little ones join in much love & very many sweet kisses. believe me, as ever

Your own true, devoted affectionate little wifie

Maye.

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