

2008.1.1.1.1.81

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Oct 23<sup>th</sup> [sic] / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Before commencing this I must tell you that if this letter is very rambling & unintelligible you must forgive me & attribute it to Mrs. Mac & Mamma who are sitting in my room & talking away as fast as they can. Your dear short letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reached me on Thursday last & this one must really be called short in truth for it is but eight pages, but I cannot expect too much knowing how busy you are & how little there is to tell me. I would not very much mind being called "Your own dear little girl" for the words before make up for my distaste for the last – "my girl" I detest hearing, but all the other nice things are very sweet to me. So Col. Herchmer found Miss Fraser very nice. it is a good

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thing for others will find her very charming too. You have met her by now I am sure & will agree with the Col. Miss Hubert's (Mrs. Cuvillier's) I should say) reception was a grand success. Mrs. Mac was there & enjoyed it immensely, seeing numbers of her old friends. the presents were numerous & costly amounting to about three hundred or more. She was a pretty girl & a great favorite – her sisters engagement to Mr. McDowell was announced that day – they have been in love for only eight years or more & the understanding has been of four years duration anyway. So you see what good my intended dreadful step has done for my friends. Ah! no, truth to tell Maye could not have gone first for you never seriously contemplated such a thing. you laughingly suggested, but never meant it I know. it is too serious to act on the spur of the moment & requires to be very much thought over first. I find Mrs. Mac's

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teeth very nice – they are so regular & white. mine are not regular & will not last as long as hers, not being as hard – my mouth is different, my lips

being so much thinner than Mrs. Mac's. I thought you fancied I must be a terror on the evening I gave Lex the benefit of my tongue & half regretted it, but then I did not care what you thought of me, for I was sure you disliked me & would not pretend to be what I was not. Your eyes were shining & opened pretty wide in wonder at all I said, but I did not for a moment believe you admired me in any way. Mrs. Mac finds our group very good except myself. She will tell you what she thinks of them no doubt. You are too complimentary by far to say where I am it is sure to be delightful, for I do not think every person would ~~the~~ say it. Mrs. Mac says Mrs. Mathews is very nice & anxious to meet me – it is better that it should be so than that she should be prepared to dislike me as the Majah does. The long looked-for visit is over & I trust everything went off well. I know all must have been perfect as far as you are concerned. It is unusual for the ladies not to care for a dance, but perhaps they fear the criticisms of the ladies in the G. Generals suite & I do not blame them. Mrs. Mac says to tell you to be sure & take good care of her Lex as you promised her you would do so – poor little pet that he is, he is so small & young he must require your constant attention!. If the C.P.R. goes through the Crows Nest Pass it will bring Macleod nearer the railroad & will be of great benefit, particularly if the Coal oil is so good. Mrs. M. has told me all the news & everything nice has been said of you, I assure you. They all are more anxious to meet you than ever my pet & you truly have a fine

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friend in her. I regret now having told you about the Sunday dinners as from the way she speaks, I begin to think Grandma may have wrongly interpreted her words & taken them in a different spirit to that in which they were written in. however, you will act as your judgement thinks best & forget anything I said in the matter. Why are your friends in B.C. anxious to hear of your return from the East? true, they show they have not forgotten you by their attention, & it pleases me exceedingly I assure you. Mrs. Mac will be more careful of Mrs. K. in the future, I can see from the way she speaks of her & she detests Miss F. as well though she is dear Lex's Cousin. we will not kill ourselves in her behalf once I am her neighbour; she (Mrs. Mac) will have almost sufficient company in me & has told me of all our pets fine plans when I

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am your wife. Our rain has ceased & we have had fine clear cool weather since Friday. we are enjoying it & I went out yesterday for a walk –

Something unusual as I have not been down the village since July when Grandma was with us. Just a year ago about this hour Mrs. Mac & I were entering the barracks on our return from the Mts. There will soon be a year since I promised to be yours & proved my love by giving all my future life into your keeping but that end is coming & in three short months there will be no more Maye Harwood – it seems like a dream to me still my pet & only your arrival will make me fully realize what is before me. This is a very stupid letter but somehow or other I cannot write today so forgive me & my next will more than make up for it. Heaven bless & guard de you, my

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dearest. with sweetest kisses & fond love, I am as ever

Your

own dear little Girl.

I am almost ashamed to send this, but I know any attempt at writing another will be useless, so I must trust to your kindness to be forgiven –

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