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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
Feb 9th 1902

My darling,

I received yours of the 28th on the same day as that of the 24th answered on Wednesday last, but reserved the pleasure of answering it until today hoping to make mine more interesting if possible. As usual, I have been to church but minus Flora, who is suffering from a cold, so I thought it better to dose her up at once. We have had so much fog this winter & that makes the air very raw & damp, people say it is like England, but never having been there, I cannot speak from ex-

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perience – that is a pleasure I hope in store for me at some future day. We had another big storm & heavy snowfall yesterday – today is fine & pleasant so far, but how I would enjoy a change for a time. This Canada of ours may be very fine but we have too much winter & I just hate it at times – one has to put on so many extra clothes to keep warm & comfortable when going out, that it simply makes existence a burden – six months of winter is too much!!.... You are as usual very busy & so am I, always at work, in a very different way of course. Mine is looking after our little ones & myself, comparatively an easy thing

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but one which gives little leisure I assure you.

My Xmas I enjoyed as well as I can enjoy anything while you are away. No person remembers me very much you know – that is, very few & my heart is always so full of sorrow, that nothing can make me forget the heavy burden Providence has decreed my lot. It is easy to think of pleasure, my dear, bring me to you or come back to me, then I can live again – my life for the past four years has only been existing. I try hard to cheer up at times, but oh! how hard it is. You are always moving, live in excitement & activity, danger too all the time, but the waiting woman has double grief, anxiety etc to bear. However, there is no use worrying you with all my troubles as well as yours, so I will change the subject. The little ones too feel this separation keenly, but enough! I am glad you enjoyed your Xmas dinner, of course. You were mentioned many times during the dinner here, it was a small family affair, as you were told at the time. I fancy you had several plum puddings & I hope they all were good. [Mine] is English, the Soldiers W. League sent Canadian

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make – you will be able to tell which are the best. The League here sent 1200 of them – one for each Canadian in the S. A. C. it was very nice was it not? When you get yours be sure & write Mrs Busted, wife of Lt. Col. Busted who is President of the Soldiers Wives' League here. The letter will be read at some of the meetings of course, so do your very best. The forty eight from this district each got a shirt, handkerchief, tobacco pipe, candy, gum, etc as I told you in previous letters. Was Bartram wounded when sniped at? He must be careful but I hope the apples were good & that he got

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plenty. I am sure the natives must have lovely soft voices & their singing must have brought you home to us. What language do they sing in? is theirs a musical one? Too bad about the horses! are yours all right? surely some one will be able to find a remedy in the future. I have heard nothing of Mr. White since I wrote in answer to his letter of congratulations in the summer. I suppose they are all well as they are entertaining now & then – I hope the act will be attended to as soon as possible. I see nothing so far, but believe the House

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opened on Thursday. Minto & his household are in Quebec enjoying the week of sports, which they say were successful. Tobogganing, snowshoeing, etc are all the rage again & they have already commenced to speak of a carnival here next winter. I sent the letters addressed to Mr John Ogilvy at once as I told you. I remember now that I heard when he Ogilvy returned that he spoke against the "Strathcona's" but could not imagine why. He went to Ottawa & was a guest at Rideau Hall for a while just after he came home. I am positive about that. He must have felt your being kind to him very much & regretted having said anything. The men who served with him say "he was a driver, just as bad as [Allen]." He was on the long five hundred mile march (I think that was the distance) & very hard on his men then. Indeed! Capt Main did not get here again as I told you, but as soon as navigation opens, we will see him the very first time the "Numidian" comes into port. It would not be hard to be in better health than what I have seen

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you for years! simply because you have been away for years and only here at a time when in ill health. Well, dear we attended the opera of "Florodosa" as I told you in my last. I bought it, will learn the pretty songs in it & sing for you when we are together again. Mrs Patrick Campbell comes this week, they say she is splendid. I will endeavor to secure tickets if I possibly can – it is an English company. The Primroses, [Nide] & [Grome] are supposed to have been here,

but if so, their names did not appear in the papers. Primrose will, rumor says, take Lethbridge

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when Capt Deane is made Asst Comr. The Force is much changed, is it not? I would hardly care to return under the circumstances. Mrs Mac wrote Mamma a short letter yesterday – they are evidently very happy in their new home but at such a very convenient distance from town that they have guests all the time. They are fond of company & hospitable, still it must grow monotonous now & then, especially when servants are so difficult to get. Well, you may be surprised to learn that we have taken this house for another year –

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we still live in hopes of going out you see, or else you will return to stay in another year from May. The judge made the rent \$460.00 an increase over last year, but Mamma says she would have to buy new oilcloths & carpets for several rooms & she does not want to do so, as she trusts she can give up housekeeping some day. If you come back, we will move & be settled before your return, that is, if you intend to remain in the city. The truth is that no person will rent a home to us for six months & my mother will not be bothered moving as I told you. We have to think of the children, must be near a school.

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This house has many drawbacks I know, mais que voulez-vous? Richard will move, theirs is too small & cold. I do not know where they will go. I will have to leave you now, my dear. Col. Macdonell published part of your letter I see by last night's "Star" - that part concerning Ogilvy & Lawless being in the [Scots] - Greys. Be sure & write often. The mail train from Halifax carrying mails & passengers from S. [illegible] was reached yesterday – passengers were hurt but none very seriously. I hope the mail escaped as there may be letters to your poor lonely, devoted

loving, warmhearted wifie,

Maye

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