

2008.1.1.1.1.47

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
June 11th / 89.

My own darling loved Sam,

Your dear letter of the 1st came to cheer me up during a very busy day & gave me more pleasure than I can possibly tell you. We were up very early, as five of the family were off by the eight o'clock train to attend Gilmour's Concert. I am up first always, so it was not so hard for me. You can imagine the excitement with baby making more racket than any one else, so delighted was the little pet at the prospect of a trip in the cars. You must not be anxious about me as I am feeling pretty well now. I am far from being careless of my health – on the contrary have always found I was too solicitous of it, so banish that thought from your mind. Thanks so much for your pleasure at my success in singing – it is just what I expected of my darling pet. Were it possible for the sweet lilies to express one half the happiness I wish to fall to my darling pet, their freshness & fragrance would be

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perpetual! They may have given you a faint idea of all the bliss I hope the future has in store for the treasure I prize so dearly, by their effort to bloom afresh. if so, they have partly accomplished the mission I entrusted to the tiny blossoms ere they winged their flight to the darling of my heart! – God bless you, my own pet for your deep love & the confidence you have placed in me!!..... You find I always have kind, loving words for you. Why how could I pen any but such, when I love you so dearly & every letter I receive from you increases the affection, when you give me so many proofs

of your kindness & esteem. would I not be very ungrateful not to appreciate the marks of your devotion to the little girl who is so very far from your sight? You have many letters which cannot fail to recall my faults & good qualities as well to make up for the absence which is the first for you & I. Mrs. Mac waited so long for the shelves for her flowers, but your thoughtfulness has them “waiting for Maye” as well as your dear self,

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my sweetheart. I regret Lex did not come this far, for I did want to see him so much to have a talk with him as he has seen you lately - but it cannot be helped. You will be here yourself I hope, ere he desires to come East again. Indeed! if you come East after we are married, you will have to put me in your pocket, if you cannot find a more comfortable place, for I will not part with you, make up your mind to that. You may not relish the prospect of bringing me, but that is one of the inconveniences of having “a wife to bother your life” which [Benedick’s] have to put up with! I will of course require a few brackets & shelves, but cannot tell you where to have them put until we go back together. You are more thoughtful than any bachelor I ever knew. What will you be later? Mr D.’s improvement will be more marked, as my two last will have told you the trouble he was in. Summer has always been my favorite season & autrefois I used to say I was born to live in a warm climate, I hated cold so much. my heart is warm, my feelings are warm & naturally, I feel thoroughly [sic] at home in a warm place. I hope Julia & her husband will favor us. I shall be so pleased to renew acquaintance which I trust will ripen into friendship with time. I hope the Majah is very charming & that her eyes are as bright as of old. You do right to screen my loving words – others might view them in a different light & forget that they may have written far more affectionate ones!. How can I live through a whole week without a letter from my love? it seems to me you are always inspecting detachments. I have come to the conclusion I would sometimes like to be a detachment instead of an attachment, I might possibly see you somewhat oftener! still, under the circumstances the latter is the better of the two & I would not change places with any one, even

though my pet is so very far from me. Mrs. Mac is lucky to have such a darling nephew in store for her & she can thank me for it too! Your poetry on the sweetest nectar is very good. I enjoyed it so much & have kept wondering all day

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which verse you consider most suitable to me. I know the different places & can imagine what pleasure Mrs. Mac had when perusing the lines. It sometimes seemed as if you were near & conversing with your little girl when I read several parts of the “Ladies’ Gallery”. The sentiments & very words even were so familiar. I have read other works by the same author & political speeches as well. I am fond of the latter, & used to take so much interest in all questions of that sort. I cannot understand how it is that our tastes are so similar – it has struck me before several times – perhaps it is but another proof of how happy we should be in the future. I too wear a cloak of matter-of-fact sufficiently thick to hide all my nice little romantic traits, except from your dear eyes, my own old pet, so we are alike there again. it puzzles me as well & as yourself & is a mystery we must try & solve later on! – I have several nice books but have read them all. my pleasure now in keeping them is the

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thought that they will afford you amusement of an evening & will bear ~~reading~~ reading again, provided they have the music of your voice to render them attractive. I remember quite well when they took the nuts off the axles of his wagon, though Mrs. Neale never mentioned it – for a few days I was inclined to be suspicious & did not relish going out in Lex’s rig, but that soon wore off. I hope no one was driving when it was noticed the last time the cowardly thing was done. No soft nothings were said to me by any one & all your words were dear, very dear to me, my pet & well you know it. Women are never blind to one another’s faults & are sure to tell somebody else when anything disagreeable comes under their notice – men are different, far more lenient to their own sex & ready to make

allowances. I do not give a thought to the fact that the Harwood's [sic] die young! I have good tough Scotch blood in my composition & a double dose of the Scotch too, having some on my father's side as well as on my mother's & the mixture has made

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me a sterling lassie!!.... With such a compliment to myself, I fancy I had better leave you. We had a woman doing all our ~~hours~~ washing of blankets, quilts & etc & had to superintend all day – the consequence is I feel fatigued & as it is past eleven, I will kiss my own darling boy good night & pleasant dreams.

June 12th. I have a few spare moments this morning to devote to my own darling boy. Our weather seems to have settled at last, thank goodness, as we have had rain every day for over two weeks. I think you will like my dear Mamma. Mrs. Mac is like her in looks a little, but has not her energy & strength of character. She is a splendid woman & has been a most devoted wife & mother. I only hope I may resemble her & be as true a companion & comforter as she has been!. I am also very fond of Papa – in fact, often ask myself which of the two I love best. Has Mr. Campbell fallen a victim to Miss B.'s charms? Mrs. K. had the B.s in for dinner, in order that Mr. Campbell might be the first to meet the heiress. she was anxious to make a match & has evidently succeeded – what about the lady, Miss [Hendrie], whom he was so attentive to during the races? is Miss Browning pretty? Dr. Allan was talking of her all the time when she first appeared on the scene & charmed the people of Macleod. had I not been near, you might have aspired as well as others! but no! I must not tease my own dear pet, in that way, knowing his love is all mine. If you only knew how often I long to see you!! You may miss me more than I do you, but it hardly seems possible – my heart feels so lonely sometimes when I allow my thoughts to dwell on the great distance that separates us, my darling true-hearted boy! – it is passing quickly though, so we must not complain. Providence has been kind to me & given me the deep love of a good, noble man & my dreams will

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be realized far beyond my most ardent expectations. I think I must try & make myself out quite ill, in order to persuade you to come down & take a peep at me! – Bringing me to my senses will be more difficult than you imagine – my heart is gone & my head is turned by my dear boy, so what can you do with such a little girl as that? My brother still perseveres in his good endeavors. I think Mr. D.'s trouble impressed him & gave him an idea of our horror of drink, so it was not lost after all - he is such a kind-hearted fellow & clever too, that it grieved us beyond words to see him wasting his life & money on such vile stuff. I should perhaps not worry you with such things, but it concerns me so closely that I naturally turn to you for consolation when anything pains me. I am sorry Lex did not come down, as I have a little gift for my pet, which I desired him to bring you – it is more

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useful than ornamental & will I trust, when it comes, prove a welcome addition to your den. do not imagine anything nice, for you will be sadly disappointed. it is only somewhat pretty & will be an ornament more. I shall send it by Grandmamma when she goes. Mrs. Mac. must be expecting her anxiously & no wonder – she comes well provided & will furnish her house very nice – she gives Mrs. Mac almost everything which I in my love for Mamma consider a great injustice, as well as the rest of us. Mrs. Mac writes to Grandmamma that my pet is having everything he can, done for me & that I shall want for nothing. You are a darling I know well, & I love you dearly for it, my own pet, but I am not surprised at your kindness. The concert was grand & they all enjoyed it very much. Mrs. Hubert will remain for three or four days. Well, my own pet, I think this letter is quite long

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enough to fatigue you if you have had a very busy day. With kind regards from Papa & Mamma who seem more anxious to meet you than ever, with many sweet kisses & very warmest love, I remain Ever

Your own loving
little Girl.

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2 p.m. Wednesday.

My own darling,

I have received your dear sweet, charming, comforting letter of the 4th & merely add a few lines to my lengthy one commenced last evening & finished a short while ago. You asked if there was anything more I might want done & it has just struck me that hooks on the door of the wardrobe in the large room & some on each side of it, on the partition inside the wardrobe, might be forgotten - they might be overlooked, but my pet thinks so much & is so very thoughtful that they may be there now for aught I know. Your letter I reserve to answer on Sunday, fearing your trip may prevent you from writing any more last week & deprive me of your sweet words, my own treasure. God bless you, pet, & give me all the virtue necessary to make you a good, true wife!. You could also have hooks in the wardrobe in the

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hall & some in the small room off your dressing room to be just as Mrs. Mac has them. She will think me a perfect mimic having things just as she has, but they are convenient, so why should we not have them too? We all are well & trust Lex was not too fatigued by his long trip. Give our warm love to Mr. & Mrs. Mac & tell the latter I shall answer her last as soon as possible. I have so many to write to, that some must wait but my darling never will, that's sure. God bless you, my own love & keep you safe is the heartfelt, earnest prayer of

Your own loving
Maye.

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