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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchinson St.
July 14th 1907

My own dear laddie!,

I found your three dear letters of the 8th here awaiting perusal on my return from Gertie's where I went on Thursday afternoon & was detained all day Friday, on account of a downpour of rain which kept up incessantly - had there been pavements from the house to the train, I might have returned, but the mud was too deep to walk

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through, so I had to remain until Saturday morning. This morning we all went to early mass. Flora received communion, so we are at liberty to write. The two Sisters had more than dinner, having slept in our house, remaining over from the Calgary train until next morning when they went to Lethbridge. As for the Villa, I have not been out, but I am told the fire escapes are not as numerous nor are they what they should be. I will have to go out & see

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for myself. Flora is so frightened, as you know. St^t. Urbains academy, where they used to go, taught by the same nuns & the system of education the very counterpart of the Villa in every way & where they take a few boarders, is very much better equiped [*sic*] in case of fire. I fancy they would like to have the children & would look after them well - they would also be near mother, who could look them up now & then. It is very difficult to decide. Flora has made up her mind that separation must come but Gertrude begs hard to accompany me West. What you tell me of the girls being in the street till late at night is not encouraging, is it? I will phone the Villa & ask them to send a prospectus, the other being mislaid. Will also get one of St^t. Urbains & send it on. The Johnston's are kind & evidently wish to make up for their neglect during the years you were absent. So it is George Hope & not Jack who is

attentive to Mrs. Paddy - well, better that it should be the widower than one with his wife to break her

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her heart worrying over his neglect. I think I remember meeting Mills in Macleod - if I did not, his name is very familiar. How did he make his money? I hope & pray that will be our luck some day, don't you? If the Band of the 15th gave a concert here, I would attend, but I hardly think they will. Well, dear from your description the house seems nice - is there a bathroom & W.C. in it, as you do not mention it & we could not get on without them.

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If you get the office opposite & that one can have the use of one room, I suppose we could manage all right. Are the bedrooms much the same as those in Queen's Club gardens, as regards to size I mean? Boarding is no doubt at least \$2.00 per day for one - that is \$180 you mention would include several no doubt - there is not much comfort living in hotels & one room gets monotonous after a time, does it not? There is no smoking room or library for you dear either - however, we will do the best we can & may be if the Gov^t builds for

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the men, they will not mind including a house for the O.C. Is there water in the house? Electric light? You mentioned seeing [Barior's] house outside, but do not state whether that is the one you describe. I feel sure that after Pretoria, we can get along anywhere. In any case, I could not leave until I get the girlie's settled early in Sept - they would pine away, were I to leave them before they had studies to occupy them & make them forget what they have lost by my departure. The furniture catalogue will come by tomorrow's mail. Mother was looking at some the other day for Frank - some is expensive, very if you wish for handsome articles, but you can purchase cheaper & have a nice house too. We went to one of the large firms, but there are other places we intend seeing to ere she decides. Flora does not wish to be hand in glove with all the young folks in Calgary, & says "she believes in democracy to a certain extent, but not to be called "Flora" by every person. Aristocracy is quite the right thing in many cases."

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That is one reason why she prefers remaining here. I now turn to your last of the 10th. I am pleased your official position is recognized in every thing. I hope you have felt no ill effects from the rain or wetting you got on the 9th - even if it is warm, one must be prudent, my dear. I am so glad that you can enjoy yourself & as it is not too warm, must rest well too. You did not finish the letter & may have forgotten to put in the extra

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sheet if you wrote it. The clippings sent by Strutt have not come either. All are well. Frank happy as can be under the circumstances! - he has written & informed all the family of the auspicious event, but I do not know when it will come off. Mother will then be free to flit about from one place to another & will never again bother herself with a house. The Edmonton quartette write in the best of spirits. Tillie says she is better. Tilsey & Antoine are as happy as two turtle doves & Antoine cannot imagine how he

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ever deserved such a treasure! I hope he will always write in the same strain! She seems charmed with her new life, the place & the people & is agreeably surprised in everything.

There is not very much more. I wrote a Min a long, long letter a fortnight ago, but have had no answer so far. She is having a pleasant time in Lethbridge & is in better health, I believe. Received the Belcher invitation from you, but have sent no present. The children send many sweet kisses & very fond love to dear Papa, as well as mother & Frank. Hoping to hear again soon, with warmest embraces, ever

Your own affec^{ate} & devoted wifie,

Maye.

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