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Marie Steele to Sam Steele
6 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Apr 28th.

My own darling,

Yours of the 23rd reached me yesterday & I was charmed to peruse them you may be sure, as I had none on Monday.

Col. Cruikshank will no doubt get on very well in this place & his wife being a great "English church woman & zealous worker in connection of with the same will be a great acquisition to society in every way" - this is what a lady said to me last night!

No! indeed [sic], your staff here do not like the change & M^r. Clarke feels very sorry over it - he would give anything to follow you. He is fond of Cap^t. Mackie & they work harmoniously together.

The papers here say the "camp commences on June 29th & ends on July 10th" which will enable them to parade on the 5th is such is the case.

However, Gen^l. Lake's letter to you says it will end sooner & I hope they will not score on that point, as they hope to, there is so much of this american [sic] spirit in this city.

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reply from Ottawa. I am sure you can select pretty paper & the paper hangers must have some taste too. You did not enclose M^r. Bennett's letter. Yes, they find out that you might be able to interest them for an hour or so, when they hear you have done so since you left.

Well, it is a good thing Major Macdonell is pleased at your appointment. I might be able to go to camp next year & see M^{rs}. E. E. D. but think it could scarcely be managed this year - am so ple delighted M^{rs}. Wood has found a physician who understands her ailments, as she has suffered for years, poor woman!. [sic]

The [Bleis] girls left here on Monday morn & have reached their mother ere this. He must be a poor kind of a man & have become much depraved to behave in such a way.

So you could not stand the lonely meals dear & have joined the merry messers again - well, I do not wonder at it - things are not so appetizing

when eaten alone.

I read of the murder - it is terrible to think of the risks women run when alone for hours. You will not be so quiet when all are near & may sigh to be lonely once more.

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Yours of the 25th came this morning & am charmed you enjoyed your supper at the Mitchell'. "you had [Sandon] & then Maye the dearest", the latter only in imagination of course.

So all the Moore family are now in Winnipeg - well, he is a nice fellow & she is a nice woman - they have money so should be well liked.

I would not be surprised if your successor took this house, as it is rather good, the grounds fine & convenient to the office. The house will not be topsy turvy when you are here & I shall have to manage the packing afterwards. I hope you will not be obligated to pay rent until the first of June as the place will not be ready till that date.

Yours of the 26th came this afternoon when I was busy sewing. I knew you were busy when you wrote W. instead of Calgary, but sent it as a joke. If the house suits, I hope we will not have to move for some time. perhaps [sic] business may keep the proprietor away from the city for some time years longer than he believes. I shall give M^r. [Thoburn] Allen notice tomorrow.

Yes, the dining room needs a colour that will light up well & look comfortable - whatever you do, do not let them put any terracotta in any

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of the rooms - it is a colour I hate. I like light pretty papers - may be M^{rs}. Mackie would help you choose & am sure it would please her very much to do so. I want some pink bedrooms, it always looks well. our [sic] parlor is a pretty shade of green & lights up easily - they must have many pretty kinds I have never seen, so it is difficult to decide at such a distance, so I must leave it to one on the spot.

Poor dear! I fear you did not think you got a warm welcome on your xmas home coming! I shall not forget to have a cab to meet you this time, if I know what time the train comes in

The Cunningham's [sic] asked Flora to visit them, but the ticket costs \$7.50 & I could not afford to give her that at present, knowing she would need more to spend. They are nicer in L. than here I believe - more [sic] hospitable any way.

M^{rs}. Mackie wrote me a lovely long letter giving me all the news

expressing her delight at our removal to be with you, but does not want to think of this place without us. I know how she dislikes writing, so appreciate her's in consequence.

Regie was well enough to call on Minnie on Sunday p.m. so was fortunate in a speedy recovery.

Minnie had a nice trip down & expects a very

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enjoyable visit as her friends are so pleased to see her again.

Yes, I suppose I shall be tickled to death at seeing you again, my dear boy - four months is a long time!! [sic]

On Monday I was still suffering from the sick headache which troubled me the previous day, so I did not go out that day or yesterday. Sunday evening, we had a dreadful dust & wind storm, turning to snow & it has kept at it more or less since. Today was very stormy - cold & a high wind - blizzard in fact - looks more like winter than in Jan.

Last night I accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Talbot to the Lilly's for bridge. They have a Miss Rose visiting who came up with the little daughter who went away last June - a nice girl, quite young. The guests were Dr. & Mrs. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. McLeod Hawkins, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. [Foulkes], Miss Brigham (Mrs. Hall's sister) the Misses Leach, Mr. & Mrs. English, Mr. Vibert, the Talbots & my little self. Mrs. [Foulkes] lived in Niagara & they know the new A. C. & family well, so she told me of the great acquisition in store for the people here.

To my delight, Miss Millar, the dress maker 'phoned last night, asking if I cared to have her

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come & sew the rest of the week - of course I jumped at the offer & we have been very busy all day. I retired at 2 this a.m & getting up before seven, makes one feel tired with so little rest.

We are threatened with another coal famine so with this cold weather on us, it is anything but a nice prospect to contemplate.

Well, dear, I have written a long letter. I trust you understand what I said re paper - no terracotta at any cost, I abhor that colour. Ere you get weary, I had better cease my chatter.

God bless & keep you in health my darling. The children have written their effusions & send all kinds of loving messages. With kisses & hugs, I am as ever,

Your loving, lonely expectant little wifie

Maye.

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