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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St.W.  
Calgary, Dec. 7th

My own darling boy,

Your charming letter of Dec 3rd came by the first mail today & as usual, perused with the greatest pleasure. As you know, my telegram was what you desired me to say if I favoured your present place of residence - & was intended as a reply to your letter telling me of the cost of living in Winnipeg & what it costs us here. Were the expenses the same in both places & the same advantages to be had here as there, both educational & official, I should, on account of the climate stay here, but the advantages are so much better where you are, that I shall willingly move. If you get the district, of course you get the house, just as previous D.O.C.'s have had it. One thing is certain, if they lose you here, they will appreciate the one who replaces you, particularly if they are some years, or at least months, without one. It is a case of necessity & may prove a boon to me, for we never yet have had the opportunity of economizing.

My dear boy, the paper you signed, then sent to me I signed, returned to you & you wrote that you had sent it to Mr. Popham in Montreal. The Federal Life Policy (copy you got this year) is the paper you told me to send the Molson Bank Mang'r Mr. McBeth & I did so, writing him to the

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effect that I hoped he would take care of it, the original having been lost in transit from Africa & this copy obtained only after much trouble & correspondence. I am positive that is the paper "The Policy" you wrote me to send them, the other you, yourself sent to Montreal: it was sent here by Mr. St. Louis. I sincerely hope it is safe.

I trust you will succeed in getting a pass for Torla once more. Mother had not been out much when she wrote, as she was rather fatigued when she reached Denver. I do not think she fancies the Americans' much - they are all on a par, butchers, bakers, lawyers etc & she does not like that. am glad you enjoyed the haggis. I shall have to taste it some day. I am getting to be a good bridge player; it is very

like whist, you know. Miss Pentland is I believe, really a cousin of the banker here, but her family are poor & he does not look at them - they are an old Quebec family & related to the Taschereau's. Regie writes in good spirits & at last, their patriotic vein has been stirred!

I shall say nothing re move, but our friends are beginning to be suspicious, as the Dept. takes so long to make the appt. You would be a long time in Calgary before being asked to as many dinner's as you have been in Winnipeg, as we know from experience, eh, dear?

I shall endeavor to treat you to oysters when you come, but they are quite expensive, consequently folks learn to do without such delicacies in this country.

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I do not like the photo because you look ill & years older than when last here & I know it is due to the photographer, not yourself. We were all vaccinated on the Sunday, storm & all - my arm has been very sore, but it is now much better. It was Minnie who called it scratching & I am sure, she had no idea it meant anything out of the ordinary.

No! indeed, I am not worth a dozen of Torla & you. I am a very ordinary little body, with a great big heart filled to the brim with love for my very own. You thought Major Ross was married, did you not? I cannot imagine how a man can live with a woman for years without loving her - & how can he love her & not give her his name & save her from all this unpleasantness? You were in great glee when you wrote - & scratching tickled you immensely. I do not think you ever write with a bad pen - it always seems to me to be in good condition, however, you know best. I am the one who is lacking in that respect!!

Yours of Dec 5th came to me by this afternoon's last delivery & I was much pleased to get it - all these sweet sayings are so nice to read & ponder over, particularly as our Torla was seventeen today - think of it dear - yours & mine - & we are so proud & fond of her & our other two dear little ones. I know you have so many old friends in Winnipeg, that it is nice for you to be there. We shall manage to get on all right & spend the summer visiting the different Lakes you mention, if things are not too expensive.

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The school's are no doubt, very good & the advantages in that respect far ahead of here. I wrote & told Flora that all arrangements were in your hands & I did not wish to interfere, as I might cause

misunderstanding. It is so kind of Mr. Whyte to give you a personal pass & I appreciate his kindness immensely.

I am delighted to learn another artist was found who could at least make you look yourself & await their coming with anxiety.

January is not long to wait for their decision in Ottawa.

The clan tartans are quite a study, are they not, my dear. I did not tell Torla of Macdonald's death & she mentions him in her last, poor dear!

I sent you the Xmas cards, 25 in number & hope they came in good condition - as you are getting official ones, I thought it better to send these on, so that you might see them & send them to whom you pleased. The official ones are not doubt, much more imposing. Having a copy of the lists, I return them for reference.

I am sure the Mackies will feel very badly if they have to stay here without you - he does not care to be with any one else, believe me.

I may go to the old Timers Ball, but have not quite decided, it being advent. were you here, it would be different.

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Col. Irvine must be pleased to see you so often & have such chats on old times & friends. He has been to Virginia lately I suppose. Our weather is very fine - today has been mild, with a slight chinook blowing.

Having answered yours I shall tell you the little news I have. Capt. & Mrs. M. supped & spent last evening with us, nice as usual. The electric treatment is doing Mrs. M. a great deal of good & she looks a different woman at times with colour & her face is filling out. In the p.m. yesterday Sunday, we went up to the Holy Cross hospital to call on Miss [Woolly]-Dod who is convalescent from typhoid. She leaves for the ranch on Wednesday & is, I am told, to be married to a rancher called King from High River before Xmas. on our way back, stepped in & paid our respects to Mrs. Costello. This morning we went up town for a while, then served this afternoon, Mrs. Mackie joining us. We teased the life out of Minnie who keeps up rather a flirting correspondence with our gallant Major from Strathcona & who wrote today saying he would be in town on the 14th & would call: it is funny & do you know she does not liked [sic] being tantalized.

There is not much more to interest you & I must not weary you, anyway. Eighth ave. looks very narrow with the rails down & I fear there will be many accidents with horses, when the cars are running.

I hope to hear from you tomorrow as my day is unsatisfactory without a line from you.

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Am forwarding "The Standard of Empire" which came by mail this p.m. from I know not where & hope it will reach you safely. God bless & keep you until we meet again. All are well & send fondest love.

With [numberless] sweet kisses, Ever

Your own, devoted true little wifie,  
Maye

Tuesday 8:45 a.m.

The paper I signed, dear you had first signed & was concerning the \$2,000.00 loan. St. Louis had previously signed - that is the only paper which has come to me & I think he addressed it - you remember acknowledging it & telling me you had sent it to Popham.

God bless my darling - many kisses from

Your

own little wifie

Maye.

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