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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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

My own darling boy,

It is Saturday night & fearing I may not have all the time I desire at my disposal tomorrow I think it a good plan to write my letter tonight, as I have four of yours to answer, viz, 22nd, 24th, 25th, & 26th. In the first you tell me of your loneliness & trust you may be able to accompany Torla home for Xmas - needless to tell you how ardently we hope so too, for what would the festive season be like if you are not among us? perhaps there may be work in the office here which will require your attention just about that time, my dear. I do not think you left the bottle with the prescription you want in the bathroom. I have looked on the shelf & can only find one with a fat reducing prescription on it & that cannot be what you want, my dear. There is a large bottle put up by Ward, Notting Hill, with the contents written on label, benzine is among the other ingredients if I mistake not.

I hope the Govt. will soon decide & let you know what you are to do - if things are as you state & you had, Ketchen, Capt. Mackie. & Clarke, would Capt. M. remain here, or move to the 'peg?

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We might be able to save a little if we got the house rent free - light is very expensive here, although we try to economize so much.

The evening at the Mitchell's was a pleasant one, I am sure & the Scotch songs most entertaining. I hope the oysters did not disturb your rest, my dear - being cooked, they were not likely to produce a bad effect & were not likely to give you bad dreams. Indeed! I know well you are not neglected & people are very kind to you. If the photos are not good, be sure & do not take them - make them try again; it is very trying to be compelled to go to all the trouble ~~aga~~ once more, bringing uniforms down etc.

So the Lib's have found B. out & know him in his true colors - he could not expect anything else, my dear - no more in "The Daily News" re "Eye Opener" - do not know how or why the former

recommenced their attacks - politics, Sifton is at the bottom of the affair, is what the people here think.

Yours of the 25th is open before me & tells me of the snow storm you were having. So far we are free from it & a dust storm blew furiously all afternoon.

The inspection of the 90th was a success & the evening afterwards also. Kind of Dr. P. to ask you to join them at Xmas, if you cannot come home.

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Perhaps Torla had better leave about or on the 17th, in case of any delay - however you know better than I do. I suppose she told you of what money she requires, etc - she is like you, my darling, & does not let the grass grow under her feet, like her old mamie does, eh! dear?

Your last came in this morning & I stopped in my dressing to peruse it, enjoying it of course. The Mackies we see daily. Mrs. M. & Minnie have been making blouses, so Mrs. M. comes every afternoon to sew. We have great times together. They spent last evening here - we played cards & Capt. M. looked over some of your interesting books, which he enjoys immensely. You wrote Capt. M. about the Pennefather dinner, but I certainly never heard any particulars until today from you direct.

Minnie knows Mrs. [O'lonc], Cara's sister very well & says she used to be a pretty dark girl: is not Dr. P. a cousin of Cora's father?

Mrs. Cortland ~~was~~ is a daughter of Judge Howells, & a pretty woman - we called on her in Sept. - her husband is a connection of the Taschereau's - did not know Judge Howell's was on the R.R. expedition with you my dear.

I hope your new offices are light & comfortable - it is so miserable to be compelled to work in a dark room & so very hard on one's sight & trying on a person's nerves, if I dare say so.

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Dr. Macdonald comes after church tomorrow to vaccinate us - it is compulsory for all school children & I must give them good example, I suppose - there are very many cases of small pox, but in a mild form. "The Bain Stable" & "Ruttle" are one & the same, so I hope you have not paid them twice. That is the way Mrs. Walker did about receiving, herself & the Col. only. I have heard lots of talk about Major & Mrs. Rose, that is, that they are not married & that he dare not bring her to his people - she is said to be only his house keeper &

you know what. If such is the case, it surprises me that he has the cheek to call her Mrs. & introduce her as such, as his wife to you & me: she was beautifully dressed at the 15th L.H. ball & looked well, but many of the women did not look at or speak to her. He should marry her & save her this humiliation if he cares for her. They left for Riverside for the winter about a fortnight ago.

On Sunday p.m. Mrs. Macdonald took me driving, but this is stale news, as I wrote since. We were invited to a reception at Mrs. Findlay's, only a few doors down on the opposite side of the street, but we had sewing & did not care to go yesterday, having been out in the morning. She entertained again this p.m.; these functions are "to introduce the beautiful, accomplished winsome daughter of the house, who makes her bow to society".

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The first "Assembly" took place last week, but I did not go. The gent's tickets are \$10.00, ladies \$3.00 this year, but we had such a slow time last year & as some of the lady patronesses especially the [Sec.] Mrs. Rowley, drew the line at calling on me I drew the line as well & remained at home. Sherman's is the dancing hall this season & quite near as you know.

The private cards came & are pretty, I think. I will keep some & send the rest on to you, giving you the names of those to whom I address them. I have not ordered any official ones & do not know anything about them.

Genl. Strange will feel badly over the loss of his old friend, cousin Henri Joly - they were intimate for so long! You might write him a few lines. I am sure it would please him.

Well, my darling, I am somewhat tired, so believe I shall cease writing for tonight. All are well & send fondest love to dear Papa - no news yet from mother, so do not know how she enjoyed her trip, or anything about it. Good night & pleasant dreams, my own dear one. Sunday - 12 p.m. Have been to church & prayed fervently I think. Dr. M. has just phoned that owing to the terrible wind, which is cold & a bad dust storm, that he will come up later to scratch us, as Minnie says. There is no more news. I am going to write my Torla now - letters keep me busy, I assure you. All join me in fondest love to you, my dear one.

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Hope for a nice letter from you tomorrow. God bless & keep you
safely, my darling. As ever

Your own true, devoted, loving little wifie,
Maye.

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