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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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A6 Pasadena Court  
Winnipeg, June 13th

My own darling,

Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> of May came to me on the same day last Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Your interview with Lord K- was just what you expected & his opinion of our countrymen & the capacity of our officers to fill high commands has evidently not changed, notwithstanding the great fighting qualities displayed by our gallant troops in the last two months. I know you will do what is best & hope your mind will soon be set at rest about the matter & that it will be decided

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satisfactorily to you, my dear. I have of course said nothing of this & await the outcome with anxiety & impatience. The other evening when at a meeting of I.O.D.E. I told them Lord K had said to you "The Canadians fought nobly & they died nobly" & they said "that message thrilled us through & through." I merely mentioned it, but coming from you all looked on it as an inspiring message. I do as you said & do my best not to worry - keep busy all the time. Yesterday I went with a member of I.O.D.E. to the opening of the W.W. Rifle Association field day & shooting 3 to 6. The weather was cloudy cool & windy, but I dressed warmly was comfortable, & rather enjoyed it.

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Col. Mitchell was there & made a nice little speech. He spoke, <sup>to one,</sup> of the very fine horse they have secured for you, Sir David McMillan's gift, the finest on the continent, excepting two owned by Vanderbilt, they contend. I hope he reaches you safely & in perfect condition. There does not seem to be much news to give you this time. Mrs. Ketchen had a cable last night saying "All well" or words to that effect, so I suppose everything is O.K. Harwood wrote us a perfectly delightful letter full of description of his trip, his feelings when the convoy arrived, in fact of everything, & very interesting. He certainly writes well & is never at a loss for a word to express himself. Am glad to know he is in good health & hope he keeps so. He too says not to worry, but it is very hard not to do so, when two so near & dear are far away & the mission such a terrible one! I sincerely hope the British are going to use those gases &

that they will do as much damage to the Germans as they have done to us. They stop at nothing, why should we? Bryan's resignation must have been a surprise to many, but the press in the U.S. seem to welcome it if one can judge from the reproduction's [sic] in our local papers. This Royal Commission on the New House of Parliament is simply appalling in the developments coming out daily & I much fear, some in high places may be in the penitentiary before the whole affair is ended. It is terrible & there is some talk

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of bringing Dr. R.M. Simpson back as he is very much in it too. Howard & Salt are the tools maybe. Kelly was too grasping & may too end in a bad way - is it not awful, when they had had the respect & confidence of the public? The Hon. [Bob] is most anxious & no wonder Mrs. B. was crazy for him to be appointed High Com<sup>r</sup> before all this terrible expense. He has been here all week & will be for a while longer, no doubt. Gertrude is now sealing a letter to you. I do not know what she has written, as neither Flora nor Gertrude ever read what they write at any time to me. I know though, at least feel that it is about going over to England in October.

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They are most unreasonable, & [loss] at times, life is not worth living when that subject is brought up. I have told them that there are many things that must be paid before that, but nothing seems to make any difference - they are both determined to go there. Flora says "she is going to nurse & Gertrude will not remain here if Flora leaves" - "living is cheaper in England;" "we will be near if anything happens Harwood or Papa." "We will see them if they come for the weekends now and then." So it goes on. "Mother is no sport & let her stay here then if she likes." "We can look after ourselves, we are old enough," so my heart is torn with my duty to you, in trying to pay off all the bills you left me to attend to & my duty to them, not to let them go on a wild goose chase without me: you

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can perhaps picture me then - not at the piano, etc where you so often see me, but with these girls worrying me to go over. "They have no friends here" "are sick of Winnipeg" & so on one thing after another until I get so tired of the whole thing. Upon my word, Sam, I regret bitterly I did not decide the matter & go with you, or at least at that time. Mr. Sharpe might have done something re the lease under the circumstances. Mrs & Miss Hughes are gone, to be near Garnett, & every one of that sort who goes over, unwittingly makes it harder for

those who are left behind. I am going to write a business letter apart from this, to give you an idea of what I am doing & have done in that [line] - it may surprise you to know the real amount you have left me to pay & how long & hard it is going to be to do it all. You must remember I am not complaining it is all your money to spend as you like, but the bills are numerous & [loss] [time] & thought to satisfy everyone. I am sorry I cannot send the pension \$86.90 this month, as not knowing you would need it, I have paid it out, being desperate to pay the bills. The H.B.Co the day after you left asked me to send a substantial check as the bill was large, but I tried the credit manager who was speaking over the phone I was going to cut it down very quickly & sent \$75.00 then & more since. As Cara has asked mother & myself to tea I shall end this letter & write again in a day or two, enclosing the business letter. God bless you, my darling & pray do not misunderstand me. I am trying to help you, not to complain. Much love & many kisses from  
Your devoted, loving little wifie.

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Business letter, Marie Steele to Sam Steele  
\*2 sheets of accounting lists not transcribed\*

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6a Pasadena Court  
Winnipeg, June 13th

My dear Sam,

Just as we were dressing to go to Capt. Davidson's Marcella phoned to say he was quite ill & that they expected the Dr. The tea was

postponed & it has enabled me to write a statement of monies received & expended which will I hope prove I am trying hard to help you pay the bills. I shall go on, as there are several small a/c<sub>s</sub> which have come since you left. The change of some \$47.36 to \$73.50 at Russell Langs is due to seven (7) "Forty years in Canada" purchased by you & four of Harwoods [sic] by me. You, I suppose remember buying yours. One thing, I am

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sure of, a bill is not a good thing, as any one can go in & say it is for you & you may know nothing about it. I must pay May [meat] bill, bread, light, wages, & endeavour to get rid of some of the rest with the balance left \$121. 29<sup>ct</sup>. Next month I shall have just the \$500.00 as I must send the pension to you. When the next \$165.00 is paid, the balance is \$335.00 & there is still a large amount owing on the \$1542.34<sup>ct</sup> you left me to pay, so it is going to take some economy & figuring. I trust you will be satisfied & pleased at my efforts. Gert & Flora must get their \$5.00 each as you know. The sundries are items that are household necessities & small expenses that come most unexpectedly at times. I regret I never learnt bookkeeping, it would help

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me very much just now. A storm seems to be coming up & as I want this mailed I shall have to end hurriedly, so forgive this abrupt termination. Be sure & write soon & tell me what you think of my efforts.

In haste, with much love,

Your own devoted wifie,

Maye.

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\*Accounting lists detailing withdrawals\*