

2008.1.1.1.1.309

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary, Nov. 10th

My own darling,

After writing my troubles re Draper, I now take up your nice, long letter of the 5th, which came yesterday & gave me such pleasure. You tell me of all your doings en route, & of those you have seen since you left. The Davidson's were kind, I am sure. It will be a sore trial for Gen'l Lake to lose his dear mother just before his departure from Canada. Mrs. Gwynne treats you nicely, I must say. It is wonderful the memory you have for faces, or names, I mean & that you should have recalled the young man's mother at the mention of his name. I suppose it was because Bliss hinted at his appt. that our friend was so sure we would not be moved. That is funny about kissing the Bishop's ring in humility etc, is it not?

You would not suffer too much from heat, if you were here - it has been warm at night, though once or twice, but as it is not very cold, we do not mind it much, especially if it saves coal. Capt. Mackie does think a lot of the young man you mention & would feel bad if he knew what he was at. They certainly could not live on \$1500.

If what Genl. Macd says is the case; it is a wonder the Ottawa people put up with all the nonsense

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they do, from certain people. I do hope they will soon appoint some one, as if Col. Evans were alive, his pay would go on & they could not economize in that way, It was too bad you had to write during the night instead of resting, but I enjoyed it very much, I assure you, my dear.

Your next of the 6th is a short one, & you mention the loss Major & Mrs. Hodson sustained - too bad!

What a scamp he was to go off & leave the family without cash! - he must be an awful fool! I hope you enjoyed the Banquet on the 9th & did yourself justice in replying to the toast of the Militia.

I think Frank starts discussions to tantalize & get them all by the ears - American's, English & Irish - viz, Louise, Flora & Esther. I do

not know what paper you wished me to look for, as I got no letter asking me to do so; am pleased you got it all right.

Yours of the 8th came this morning when I was resting a little longer than usual after my dissipation at the Ball. I trust the Dept. will do what you suggest with regard to the officers you mention.

About the Xmas cards - Capt. Mackie got Mr. Young to send up his sample books & I chose & ordered fifty (50) as I thought that sufficient, with the official ones, so you will not need to get any more - \$5.50 for the 50. I thought you wished me to do that & I selected them on Wednesday, the 4th I think.

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I hope it will make no difference to you, my dear. You poor henpecked married men! - you understand each other. It was nice of the Mitchell's to ask you to supper - we dare not do such a thing! I suppose they object to my having any one without first consulting them in the kitchen.

The house you now are in seems a good size. It pleases me to hear about everything that concerns you, dear. I thought we might have a change in our meat & priced chickens for the 9th, but they were 25 cts. a pound - turkeys 30 cts. per lb., so as it was like eating gold, we did without. It was very nice of you to have your name put on your grip & despatch bag, as there is always a risk of losing them & very nice to have it done for a thank you! only.

I shall now give you the little news, since I wrote last. I told you of Harwood's operation & we go down every morning to have it attended, as naturally there is a scab formed where the piece was cut. On Saturday, after going down with him in the morning, as there was a terrific wind & dust storm I did not go out again. Sunday, church, then wrote Flora & Mother. Mrs. Wilson returned from Banff about half past two & I invited her to tea at 4:40 asking Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Costegan, Mrs. Rouleau, Mrs. & the Misses Harris, Capt. & Mrs. Mackie - the two latter were not at home when I phoned. They seemed to enjoy it & Mrs. W. was evidently pleased. Mrs. Costigan wanted us to go there in the evening, but I did not, as I could

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not go alone & Min had a cold. Yesterday, was a quiet day & the 15th Light Horse Ball came off & was a great success. Capt. Mackie escorted me, Mrs. Mackie & Min went to the gallery. I wore the same red gown as last year & they say looked well, it being the only one of

that colour. I had every dance except the last & feel played out, especially about the knees today. My partners were Capt. Mackie, Dr. Macdonald, Dr. Mackid, Larry Clark, G.H. Johnston, the Col. & young Walker, the Col. bringing me to supper, Mr. Mills, Dr. Costello, Mr. Talbot, Capt. Moore, Wooley, [Dod] - another fellow whom I met at Mrs. Harris' & Mrs. Hamilton's & whose name I am not sure of. I gave two to Mr. Talbot, also to Capt. Mackie & enjoyed it, the floor & music being good. I missed you so much, dear & so often wished you near. Every one asked about you & hoped you would soon be here again - also danced with Mr. Vibert. This morning I brought Harwood to Dr. Blow, where Dr. Smith attended to him. Dr. Blow lost his old mother on Sunday & she was buried this p.m. Then I had this lively tussle in the kitchen & here I am. It is now dusk, or near five & I shall have to end. D.J. Young has just sent in "Through the Mackenzie Basin" by Mr. Mair, which you ordered? shall I send it to you? All are well & join in fond love to you, my darling. Be sure & write soon again. With sweetest kisses ever

Your own devoted, lonely loving little wifie

Maye

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Enclose some bills - the electric light sent theirs out so long after the 1st that they do not give one an opportunity of paying before the 15th, so no discount.

M.

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