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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1<sup>st</sup> St W.  
Calgary, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>

My own darling boy,

It is Saturday night & after practicing a short time I come now to answer yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> received yesterday thus getting a little ahead in my correspondence for tomorrow.

The weather has got milder & while we have not a real chinook it is very pleasant after the cold we have had. Well, if the "old goose" made a very natural mistake, we have suffered in consequence & paid the penalty dearly, I assure you. I cannot procure any hard Banff coal from [Lolt] as he has not got it & I do not know when he will have any. You know the situation on the coal question ere this.

We called on M<sup>rs</sup> Hall this p.m. of course did not see her, but left cards. It is too bad about W. Jarvis. I trust the operation will be successful & that he will be quite well afterwards. I do find it lonely at times & miss you very much. Flora being here makes it nicer;. [sic] She studies well & will, I think get on. She says she is beginning to understand arithmetic better & as you know that is her bête [illegible].

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I do like the photos very much & can scarcely say which I prefer. The one you like is very good - in some of the full dress ones you look a bit tired.

I would have liked going to the Garrison Ball & hope to be present next year, as I suppose one takes place every winter.

You did not enclose the beginning of the clipping "Col. [Irvine's] interview" much to Flora's chagrin - perhaps you may be able to find it.

The letter I wrote [Ewsy] Steel I addressed to Dr. Will's care fearing she would not be in [A--garemy]. My cough is better, but not yet quite gone. If I could only sing, I should feel so much happier, for I long to be able to do so & cannot. They are anxious that I should sing at our musical club meetings & it makes me feel sad not to do so & I only was able to do so at the first meeting in O<sup>ct</sup>. just when my cold first came on. Pardon repetition, [but] the children were talking.

Thursday we paid one call only, it being too cold to do more.

Yesterday was my day. M<sup>rs</sup> Basil Hamilton, M<sup>rs</sup> [Pontland] & M<sup>rs</sup> [Hamilton] ([Registrar]) M<sup>rs</sup> Allan ([customs]) M<sup>rs</sup> Woods. The [illegible] M<sup>rs</sup> Elton, M<sup>rs</sup> English, M<sup>rs</sup> Howe, called. we [sic] had a pleasant time. Minnie has gone over to see the latter this evening. It will help her pass the time

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& amuse them both. They are fond of having good talks, so I shall as usual, keep out of the way, as I never like feeling de trop. We called on M<sup>rs</sup> Macdonald also this p.m. her little Flora has [croup] & has kept her mother awake at night, so she felt too tired to go out. There is not much news, as we have not attended many functions this week. M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Carthy left for Ottawa with her husband this week, but never called on me - good [sic] manners! I shall get even with these folks yet, I assure you.

Have not heard from the Mackies since. I suppose she is having an enjoyable time & is too busy to write. Some day soon I think I shall make out an order to Eatons (their cheap sale is now on) & send it to you & you can get the P. O. order [or] pay the money. Minnie got some things & they are really very good. it [sic] does not pay to kill oneself sewing, when they sell so reasonably. Trust the box with diamond brooch, scotch pebble brooch & card plate will reach you safely & that you will kindly attend to it for me. God bless you, my darling. All are well & send fondest love. I enclose a letter which came yesterday. I am inclined to believe Pocock forgot he was writing me instead of you & really do not know what to say about the [illegible] in reply. perhaps [sic] you can enlighten me!

Sunday - we have been to church, & I now devote

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a few more moments to my own dear boy.

The day is beautiful & the snow melting fast. Sun shines brightly of course. There is nothing to tell you today & I must not weary you.

I have the photos before me again. The [serge] with Sam Brown belt is a good one. The one in blue frock with staff cap I like, only there is a shade on the peak of the cap - it may be perfectly all right; otherwise it is fine. The frock with [plumes] is also good. The frock one, seated is very good. I do not find the one in full dress with hands behind your back as good as the other. The left eye looks tired; others might not notice these things, but you asked me to pronounce on them, hence my criticism. Taken as a whole they are fine pictures. I shall be so glad when

you are home [for] you can amuse yourself talking old families with Torla. She is a corker as you would say on the subject. I used to think something of [Hue] Hood once upon a time, but as all we were led to believe as children seems to have been mere children of imagination,<sup>or</sup> fancies on the part of my predecessors or ancestors & my ideas have changed very much & I do not give a snap of my finger for [Hue] Hood now. Money is better than anything in the present time. Well dear, good bye. God bless you.

Your one devoted loving little wife,

Maye.

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Be sure & return Pocock's letter & give me an idea of what to say to him. better [*sic*] still answer that part & I shall pen him a few friendly lines.

M.

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