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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1902

My own darling Boy,

I cannot tell you how I rejoiced yesterday when on returning from my bi-weekly visit to the Drs. I found two of your dear letters awaiting me, as well as the one you sent Mr John Ogilvy & which I at once redirected to his house. He is to sail for home on the 15<sup>th</sup> I am told & when he comes I intend calling on Miss Ogilvy as she was in the [Australasian] with you, my darling. You made three little ones very happy I assure

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you with your Xmas letters & they are put away with their greatest treasures. I turn to your first dated Kroondal, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> & which tells me of your enormous mail. I trust there were many friendly letters among them which would prove to your friends that you are not forgotten. I make a point of mentioning the dates of all your letters in order to let you know whether they all reach me my dear. Yes, Strathcona is all right I think my pet, at least in the way he speaks of you. Torla's teeth take some time to come straight – one is turned

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somewhat that is the centre one, but when it is well out of the gum & down, it can be made all right – the other seems to be coming in very naturally & as it should be. The dentist can do nothing until they are quite out, you know. I am anxious to know whom all your parcels are from. I am aware that the Ladies of the S. Wives' League here sent some things, but I do not know of any one else doing so. I hope everything was nice & acceptable anyway. They were well informed as to whether you had Canadian on your Div. or not & sent the things knowing that you had not – I hoped you would accept them with their kind wishes. I am delighted to learn that Dr Borden has righted you in the place of dates in Militia list & put you where you should be. By the by when I think of it, I must tell you there are rumors that Capt Deane is to be made Asst. Comr. in Capt. McIlrees place. I suppose it will not surprise you very much. Perry has been in Ottawa for quite a time with his yearly report no doubt, so may have pulled wires to have him appd.

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I shall write Charlie & try to get a militia list for you. Henry [Panet] is engaged to a Miss Bermingham, of Kingston I suppose. Mrs Humfrey's letter is a very nice one which I shall put away with the rest. Do you ever hear of White-Fraser? I do not but suppose they are somewhere in B. C. There is no fear dear – even were the war over & peace declared, I would not start until you told me to do so & all is well settled here & there. You have met Baden-Powell, have you not? I should be much surprised if you failed

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to pull with him, as you usually manage to get on well with everybody; however time will tell. Who is your Second in Command? is it not Major [Cantan]? You will, I am sure miss Ogilvy very much. I heard long ago that he was not liked in the Can. Infantry & they said he was one of those who never wanted the men to rest. "Strathcona's Horse" did well & all are jealous of the record they left behind them, but they can thank you for being what they were – no one else could have handled those men but you, dear. I saw Barry today & he inquired about you – he is

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enthusiastic about the country & thinks it very fine. He says he would return – only he is doing so well in his business. Indeed! You would not find the house too hot this year & it would suit you beautifully. We have no man looking after the furnace, Antoine attending to it, & as he does not know much about it, the house is never too warm. You seem to have a great deal of rain down there – we make up for it in snow & the storm we had on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> was as bad as we had when you passed through on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Mar. two years ago. Snow is piled high all over & we cannot complain of no snow this year. Traffic was at a stand still on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – no cars in or out of the city – no electric trams, no milk or anything else; but things are getting all right again. They have given work to many thousand [illegible], so the poor are delighted I am sure. Sir Redvers Buller will be righted in the eyes of the world I hope – he is such a very fine man in every way & the idol of the army. It was nice of the Colmer's to be kind to Miss Richardson & I am glad you gave her the letter. She seems a nice person & I am sure must have lots of hard work in her present place. Is she

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in your district? I went to see Mr Taylor but he is Inspecting in New York just now & may be here next week. I am on the watch & will see him as soon as possible after his return. Well my darling I was out calling this afternoon so feel somewhat tired – Mamma took Auguste, Marie & myself to hear "Florodora" last night – it is a pretty bright opera & the ladies were lovely – the costumes & scenery fine – we enjoyed it very much indeed. I will say good night & God bless you hoping to continue this tomorrow.

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Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Well, my dear old darling we have dined, Mamma has gone out on business, the two girlyies are at school, Dubbie is entertaining Duffins who is in bed with an attack of bronchitis & I am adding a few lines to this, so you are with us in spirit & can picture us all in you mind's eye in a few moments. I had a massage treatment today again & think it will do me good – the Dr. has hopes of being able to put a little fat on my bones after a while. I am taking electric treatment as well which is very good for relaxed muscles.

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When we meet again I may be an entirely new woman, you will be pleased, I am sure. It has actually begun to snow again. I wonder when it is going to cease – we will be buried in it, at this rate. They are working hard endeavoring to clear it all over the city. Wilson-Smith was defeated for Mayor, Cochrane getting it. He had a contract under James Ross in the C. P. R. & lived in Winnipeg for a long time – do you know him? I wonder how he will turn out! perhaps be knighted at the Coronation!!.... Prefontaine is in Paris, came forward then retired. I am going to spend the evening at the Kavanagh's – a snow shoe party – but I am not going on the tramp. Miss K. has a convalescent cousin staying there, so I will keep her company while the rest are enjoying it, as I dare not go, it would be too violent an exercise just now. I had a long letter from Alice this a.m. Fred is going to Montana to report on two mines & if near the line will run over & call on Minnie & Regie – in fact, see them all. He then goes to [Moscow] again, so he is away from home a great deal. She is very enthusiastic over her boy & finds him such company – he is, of course the very

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finest that breathes: so much the better. She would like Mamma or myself to go & spend some time with her, which is quite an impossibility, as I have my three little ones to look after & when I cannot leave for any length of time. They anticipate going to St. Louis to see his people & on business & may come as far as here. [Doncet] came home for a couple of months just after Xmas – he says he wrote to tell you he was coming but had no answer – he thought you might want to send something out. I told his sisters

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I was sure his letter never reached you, as you never left a letter unanswered. Louise finds the hospital very hard work & I only hope for her own sake that she will be able to stand it. When I think of her terrible match, I just boil – but the sympathy is lost, for she says she would do the same thing again!!.... that is stubbornness, for you. That cannot be love, for I do not think love could possibly

exist under such circumstances. What is it? Gertie & hers are well & send love. Mamma is to see the judge today – he has been ill with cold

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so she could not see him when she went over. Indeed! he has just been in & wants \$500.00 again for next year. I do not know how Mamma will like that – he is looking miserable, I must confess. O! dear if we could only be together – this house business is a terrible bother & if I thought I was going to live here always, I would buy one in preference to renting. Surely it will soon be decided one way or another & that we are not always going to live like this. I would give anything to be with you & end this life of separation.

Well, my darling there is no use grumbling – I must make the best of it & submit to fate I suppose, but it is very hard [lives] & I would be spared a lot of truth & misery did we not exist in this horrible uncertainty. The little ones join me in much love to dear old Papa & send many sweet kisses as well. Be sure & write often. With many a fond embrace & many sweet kisses with lips pressed close to mine, believe me,

Your own true, warm hearted, devoted wifie,

Maye.

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