

2008.1.1.1.1.407

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1<sup>st</sup> St W.  
Calgary, Apr 6th

My own darling boy,

Your first letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> came yesterday morning & the second one this a.m, by first delivery. needless [sic] to say both had the usual warm welcome.

You had a very pleasant time at Mrs Colin Campbell's "At Home" I am sure, especially as you had some of the clans near.

What Macdonald's [sic] & Macelod's [sic] was Mrs. Rose being a [Cattanach] connected with? I knew a fellow in Williamstown when I was a wee girlie called Andy [Cattanach], at least he was known by the first. he [sic] was a good looking man & very kind always to me. I am delighted you are beginning to appreciate the fair sex so much.

I shall have to change & learn to talk before I meet these Winnipeg folks. Reading is what keeps one in trim & really I have not a minute for that.

I too have thought it would be a good idea to purchase a house & let the rent go towards

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paying for it, as we really have paid out a great deal & have nothing to show for it. it [sic] can always be sold, consequently there is some return for the money. I hope you will be able to find a suitable residence & not too high in price & let me know all about it as soon as convenient.

The Portage la Prairie 6.30 luncheon must have turned out to be a dinner as luncheons are not usual at the hour mentioned. I trust you are satisfied with your efforts & that you were successful. The Canadian Club will hear you tomorrow. When again may the best of luck attend you & all go off well. Yes, dear, people do expect much from you & you will not disappoint them.

The courses being on will make things lively for some time & are now in full swing, just like the Horse show. We are not going to the affair. it [sic] is Holy week & it takes too much money. I enclose a slip. note [sic] the name of "[Turner's] filly" [sic] May Steel" do you not

think that strange? it [sic] is my name with the final e's left out!. This is the big rancher, [Turner] of course.

Yesterday p.m. we had the musical club at Mrs. Hamilton's. it [sic] was very nice. The Hamilton's [sic] leave for Collingwood today to see his mother, who is ill.

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Mr<sup>s</sup> Hamilton will remain some weeks & stay over in Winnipeg on her return journey.

Your second letter lies open before me. Yes, I saw that Ketchen & Cap<sup>t</sup> Mackie were gazetted poor old dear! if [sic] you take your meals very long alone you will be more anxious to see us come down, I believe, for eating alone is not pleasant. Where is your room now, anyway?

You must not mind Harwood's demands. he [sic] is always thinking of something new, consequently writes on the spur of the moment everything that comes into his head. he [sic] bought a book to write down expenses in + found that he spent 15<sup>cts</sup> on sweets + 15<sup>cts</sup> for a matinee the last days of the week. "by [sic] George! I must economize. I had no idea one spent so much. 30<sup>cts</sup> in two days is a lot & I never knew until I put it down in book." it [sic] will teach him the value of money. He is now writing a play for some of his chums & himself & proposes acting it in Dr. [Rouleau]'s barn.

Gertrude we kept in bed for two days on account of her cold, but she is much better & attends school tomorrow. It is strange Clarke never called on you, when you were here. he [sic] seemed proud to say he knew you well in F<sup>t</sup> Walsh.

I am looking forward to hearing of the

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the [sic] move soon, as I dislike the idea of running about the city for weeks canvassing for friends for the "children's Aid Society."

I paid the Water rates today for three months as well as the electric light. I have changed from the "Eau claire" to the "City" & I am happy to say that while the light may not be quite as good, due a great deal to the old wiring, the bill was very much less. last [sic] month's, that is February's bill was \$13.50. This months [sic] \$5.16<sup>cts</sup> without the 15 per cent off & we need as much light as usual so you see, my dear, how this other Company has been [soaking] us. M<sup>r</sup> [Hind], city electrician said the wiring was bad, but it would mean a lot of dirt before it could be changed, so as we may not be here long, I

told him I would wait & see. I also paid Biddell \$15<sup>00</sup> for board of house. that [sic] animal must be eating his head off there. it [sic] is too bad you bought him, is it not? We shall have a hard time praying this week. Marcella we met on the street this p.m [sic], as she has just returned, but I do not know what her plans [~~H~~] are. she [sic] ~~young~~ is very well, younger than ever, poor old soul.

Flora is well & has not returned to school, as exam's [sic] are going on. spends [sic] her time reading & writing up important family history.

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Well, dear it is now getting late & I shall have to cease this uninteresting letter, my dear. God bless & keep you. pardon [sic] these seeming blots but the ink well has just been filled. Minnie is well & joins in love. Flora also & will be writing you.

As I am beginning to yawn, Good night

As ever

Your own lonely, devoted little wifie

Maye.

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