

2008.1.1.1.1.4

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Pray forgive this letter – it is written at odd moments & perhaps rather muddled –

Vaudreuil  
Sunday Dec 30<sup>th</sup> / 88.

My very dear Major,

Your letter written on the 19<sup>th</sup> I received on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>, as a “Star” sent that day will have told you of. Today having a few moments at my disposal & my mind being constantly with you, I devote my pen to the one my heart loves best & trust you think of me only half as often as I do of you. Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> was very unexpected & in consequence the welcome given it may have been a wee bit warmer than that of its predecessor; but if the truth were told, every mail should bring me news from you, my own one, for I never could hear too often to satisfy my selfish heart. Distance seems to make my love for you deeper & somehow or other I fancy I feel more than I did when I had you by my side – so you see, the old proverb must have been the outpourings of a love-sick maiden separated from the object of her

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affection by the stern hand of fate & none the less true today than in the past. I do not mean to insinuate that I am love-sick, but still, am pretty badly hurt, I fear. I often wish you were nearer & could come sometimes. Then again the time may be long enough for you later, not knowing as well as they do at home, all my defects & faults. one thing consoles me, love is blind & will pardon many things & neither man or woman is perfect!!... Your letter to my father pleased him very much & not knowing whether you would think of writing, suggested it in my last letter – I hope you did not think me too familiar this time & trust you will forgive me if I outstepped my bounds in my anxiety to have you appear as perfect as possible in the eyes of all those near & dear to me!! Your kind friends gave you the good name

long ago & not from hearing anything about us both: that only makes it nicer in my idea & gives far more truth to the assertions concerning you. Do not consider yourself too lucky in having my love!

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You may attach far more value to it than it is really worth but one thing is certain, you have a very large corner in my heart & I really think a great deal of you. If you are affectionate, pray what † am I? very cold and haughty?... I am glad you enjoyed the “At Home”. I was just saying the other night how strange it is we are engaged & have never even had one dance together – that is a pleasure in store for us!! practice waltzing so that your head will not get dizzy in order that we can have some nice ones in the future. [but], no! if any young lady teaches you, [or Majaw]!! offers to do so, I should be very green-eyed & miserable being so far away & not able to keep my eye on you! so what are you to do, poor fellow?.. You must all have looked very well in your uniforms, particularly Mr. Huot & yourself – you ~~take~~ took the cake you say & I am not surprised – for size perhaps you meant, & were too bashful to say so! – The music gave you the blues! I am not surprised, for I hate to sing any of the songs I used to [treat] you to they brings me back to many a happy moment – do you remember the Saturday, the day after the episode as you call it, when you came in to spend the evening with Alec, I sang “Wilt thou Forget”? You seemed affected & Lex said “I sang as if I meant the words & took delight in torturing you.” My whole heart was in the song & then the thought of parting taught me how much I loved you & the sorrow I should feel were I to leave you forever – it was the evening before you left for [Stand]-off & were away until the Wednesday – if that absence showed you the state of your heart, it had a like result with me. I fought hard against fate, but in vain. I feared my love would not stand the test of time & was not sufficiently strong to cause me to leave all I had treasured for so many years, for you alone. I have just read this over and found it very uninteresting & there are so many repetitions that I hate to send it. You see every one is talking about me, music is going on downstairs, the baby is

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around me every moment & it is so difficult to collect one’s thoughts. I think I will say good-night & leave you till I go to dreamland where I am with you far oftener than you imagine. Pleasant dreams, my pet, & God bless my darling is my daily prayer for you – au revoir & sweet kisses from your “little

girl” whom you say has cured you of your indifference & sarcasm. Monday evening – Your dear letter written on the 22<sup>nd</sup> reached me today, as will mine to you posted on the same day reach its destination tomorrow, a New Years gift. I am so pleased to know you like the little pin & trust it will have the good effect of pinning [sic] our love more closely, if such a thing is possible. Your first letter was written on the 9<sup>th</sup> & reached me on the 17<sup>th</sup>, & mine with the pin left me on the 15<sup>th</sup> but the one which comes to you tomorrow will settle all things right – I have confidence in you, my pet, but when a thing is sweet one cannot hear it too often. That is why I like you to

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say you love me & the oftener I hear it, the better pleased I am. I do hope you will be left in Macleod for a long time, as I am already acquainted with so many & Min being there it will not be so hard for me to leave all here. It certainly is kind of Father Lacombe to say anything in your favor & his words have weight with the Government! – did not the Commissioner seem anxious to know who the fortunate girl was who is to bear your name? if not, I think it strange, considering how fine a young person-age he found me!! I am so sorry to hear of your illness, but am not surprised. I have worried so over my own pet, that I feared something much worse is wrong. I hope you feel better soon – write & tell me soon, for I am so anxious. My brothers came from college today to remain a week – Gus, [Roger] & Frank. Three very fine big boys whom I am sure you will like – I am very fond of them, I assure you & the thought of leaving them sometimes makes me very heart-sore. The two first play the violin very nicely & are at the present moment giving

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us some very pretty music. Alice is playing the piano for them – you will get plenty music when you come!!.. I trust you really mean it, when you say you like my letters for it would be too bad to inflict you with so many & such [?gets] were it otherwise. I told you about the ring in one of my last. I gave it to Mr. Steele with one of my own in the box in order that no mistake would be made this time – he asked me for my address & I told him to send it to you as I preferred to get it from yourself. I hope you have heard of it by now, as I look forward to its coming daily. I shall be delighted to hear from your niece & hope she will favor me. I wrote my Grandmother a long letter yesterday & told her of our engagement. I know she will be charmed as she thinks so much of you. Tomorrow we have our family re-union as we all

expect to be together, but not for the last time I trust – they would be dreadfully disappointed were I not here this day next year, with you added to the ranks. We will be sixteen for dinner. Mr. Draynor among the number – he gave me his lovely bottles of perfume & a very pretty photo frame to my mother, a [papeterie] [vase?] to my sister. Mrs. Herbert & a very pretty pin for programmes to Alice – very kind, is he not? We are not more friendly for all that than we were previous to my going West. I do not know how it is, but there is something about him I do not like so we clash!! I trust you have not forgotten the photo – they keep asking for it all the time & that small one in the group I do not admire very much. You will be frightened at the size of our family. Six boys, four girls & Papa & Mamma. Are you not appalled at the number? – Well, my own darling, once more I will bid you good-night. My brother John is just coming in. Heaven bless & keep you safely to my love & love me as much as you can in return. Sweet kisses & pleasant dreams – why are you so far from me?... New Year's day. Today's mail brought the cards from you all for which many thanks & if by the end of the year I am not

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performing the same nice attention, I fancy it will not be your fault. Alec's card we all enjoyed exceedingly & lets you see how much he pities you for caring for such a tartar but one thing is certain, I will not rule to such an extent as you fancy & if I did it would not be with an iron rod but a steel[e] inspired by an ardent fire of love. I am sorry to hear you have not quite recovered your health & do hope you will soon be quite well – is your side painful? “You hope you shall soon be able to meet me & be happy again” – What do you mean by throwing out such hints or feelers?... This is my fifth letter to you, so I trust the others reached you all right. Well my own darling, today my thoughts have been with you all the time

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& though I am surrounded by so many my happiness is incomplete, as you are not near. When I miss you so much, among so many, I am half convinced when you say it is the way with you. I little thought the day should ever come when I should care so much for one, who but four short months ago, was entirely unknown to me – such is the human heart! Such a woman's life & fate – love, love, her only kingdom, a man's heart the one thing she will sacrifice all to reign supreme in!!! “Love is of man's life a thing apart – 'tis woman's whole dominion existence.” All join in sending you

much love particularly Louise in wishing you the accomplishment of your heart's desires. With many sweet kisses & hoping you are not tired of my letters & that you will write soon,  
Your own loving Maye