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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
July 2nd, 1907

My own darling,

Your dear letter of the 27th came as a very pleasant surprise yesterday morning. I much feared that it being a holiday I was to be deprived of the pleasure of perusing one. I am delighted to know the weather cooled, therefore your trip proved more agreeable in every way. It was nice for Tillie to have you to help her & see that she

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started on the final part of her long journey safely. We have heard nothing from them so far, but expect news soon. I hope Antoine will prove a good husband & do all in his power to make her happy & contented. He must never forget that she left all that until now filled her life, home, country, friends, to come thousands of miles, to a new land & unknown to all but a few, to devote her whole existence

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to him - to do all that is in a woman's power to love & cherish him in every way. You know

"Love is of man's life a thing apart-
Tis woman's whole existence"-

That is true; but the flame must be fanned by acts and words of kindness. The most loving and affectionate woman will become indifferent, if proof is not sometimes given that marriage has not totally extinguished the ardent feeling that existed in the long ago & after all, what is everything else in the wide world compared to the true, warm love that unites husband and wife, if they are congenial & know how to put up & excuse each others faults & failings. I am sure Tillie feels deeply & would fret over any cloud that would darken the day of sunlight which should be her lot, poor girl! It is rather nice for you to be acquainted with the manager of the Alberta. I hope he treats you well & takes good care of you. I trust the crops will turn out better than you anticipate & that there will be favorable

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weather that they may ripen, otherwise, the winter will be a hard one for very many.

I hope Cameron will prove better than your former knowledge of him was. He is old enough to realize that it is time for him to change. Is Macdonnell A.C. who was in the N.W.M.P.? he is good, I know and [Baren's] was in the same Corps was he not? It is very nice for me to hear that some people think me perfect, which of course those who know me well would never believe, but it is simply by being polite & affable

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that one gives folks that impression, & having left the country it pleases me that someone will say a nice word in my favor now & then. It will be a blessing for travelers when there is a line in opposition to the C.P.R. They charge what they like, I see, & it is a wonder to me how so many can afford to travel. I hope you will be able to find a house to suit us, as I would not like to be compelled to live apart, we must trust fate will be kinder than that.

I took Harwood and Gertrude over

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to Park Avenue yesterday morning to see the circus procession - it was not much - they were very quiet, as we could not go out, having no servants as yet. The "Lake Champlain" came in at eight last night, but having had no word at all from Bagnall, I did not know whether he was on board. I have just succeeded in finding out from the C.P.R. agent, that both Bagnall & Annie were on. They have not yet come, but I suppose they went to a hotel & are resting after the journey. It is now three o'clock & I hope they will be able to find us without too much trouble, as I of course have no idea of their whereabouts. It poured incessantly all day Sunday. Flora went to Gertie's on Saturday & is still there, but comes home this p.m. I hear such complimentary things of her - her charming manners being much noticed - nice, is it not? She is also considered a handsome girl. Viv & Jope surprised me this morning, having come down for Dominion day. We had a pleasant

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chat; they remained about an hour or so - saw the youngsters noticed their accent & Viv said "you & I were the just the same, but kids & youngsters like Cherry Gertrude & Harwood, picked up the nice English way of speaking, without noticing it." They were much disappointed at not seeing Flora.

Your two nice letters of the 28th came while they were here & afforded me much pleasure, I assure you. Would you like me to send up the folding chairs & mattrass? [sic], but no, they would

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be of no use whatever. It is too bad we did not think of camp furniture, but things were so uncertain & unsettled when we left England, that we really did not know what to do.

Perhaps we may be able to purchase the articles you require later on. I saw in "The Star" of poor Mr. [Mordson's] death - it is indeed sad for the poor woman - no son & a widow!

You were up early, but I suppose that is essentially necessary, to keep everything in first rate order. Just fancy young Steadman an officer! Aylen must have seemed

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like an old friend & is, I suppose an agreeable companion. You remember Mrs. Henry Steel telling us of the [Shelley's] (Mrs. Carey & her sister) staying with them. Dr. Aylen would not be likely to forget Torla, would he? I will get Bagnall to sort out the clothes as you wish, but I do not know what day, I will send up spurs and leather belt as you wish. So far, have heard nothing of the transport - Col. Buchan is away at camp - Gus wrote, but I cannot say whether he had a reply - he came up for a few minutes at lunchtime but was busy packing clothes, so we saw very little of him. I may hear tomorrow. It is very satisfactory for you to have those you gave

letters to doing well - was the Australian in the S.A.C.? Is it not too bad that Jack J. is drinking so much, when he has such a nice wife & children! He must have been very indiscreet or annoyed you in some way to have you write him "to be careful how he speaks to you".

Thank God! George Hope is not the same & has the sense to keep straight. When does the camp finish? I hope the weather will keep fine, for the sake of all concerned. Does Jack J. still keep up his old flirtation?

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Have you seen J.J. McHugh yet? He will be delighted to meet you, I am sure. The Agents have returned the list of repairs & breakages for Mrs. [Theobald's] flat and the amount is £5.19.3.

She has down things that mother asserts positively were not damaged or broken by us. That gas globe that was damaged when you went in (the one in drawing room) the chair in the bedroom, which she says "is impossible to match"; (you know the one you damaged in our bedroom & which is a common everyday stock chair). I saw nothing uncommon about it.

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the washing of the linen & blankets which she left dirty to us, cleaning the house, (which she said she did not wish us to do, as the paper hangers, etc were coming into the house at once) The charges £[7].10 - for - mother says the plumbers' came several times to see what was wrong with the W.C. is used, [given] the first days you occupied the flat, as it never seemed to work well. I cannot imagine how a bottle covered in cardboard would get there. In Bagnall's room, the jug had been used as a W.C. I suppose by the servant & he had to clean all that - besides, the bath was in such a filthy state that he simply lifted all the clothes off & sent them to the laundry. Mrs. T. left all the beds with soiled sheets etc, as you know & apologized for not having time to have them washed - people learn by experience & I assure you I will never rent a furnished house or flat without examining and entering into the very smallest detail. She expected us to sleep on the bare mattresses [sic] I suppose, & had we sent the things to the laundry there would have been no one to receive them, as she herself said the workmen were coming in. I am inclined to think the stories of her were

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were true - she is determined to make all she can out of us.

No mention is made of the 19\$ we paid Barker for having her chair repaired. I do not know whether to send you the bills & letter or not.

Well, my dear this has been of great experience to us, but one pay's [sic] dear for experience of that kind. I hope you are in the best of health as we all are. All send you much love & fondest hopes of seeing you soon again. Have not been out much & seen very few, too

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busy doing the work & cannot leave the house. I hope you will write me as often as possible, as your letters are the greatest source of pleasure & comfort to me, as of yore, my dear. God bless you, my own dear one. Wrote Min a long letter on Sunday & gave her all the news. J.B. Bright's invitation or notice of his wedding on June 27th came today, forwarded from London. With many warm embraces, as ever

Your own true wife,
Maye.

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P.S. Perhaps the bottle was in the servants W.C. I cannot believe either of them would throw one down intentionally.

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