

2008.1.1.1.1.348

Marie Steele to Sam Steele  
5 sheets

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1513, 1<sup>st</sup> St W.  
Calgary Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>

My own darling pet,

I mailed you a letter this morning, but again tonight I come to spend my evening with you, as I have so many letters to answer with my numerous correspondents, that I may not be able to get them all in tomorrow.

To go back to the third letter written on the 30<sup>th</sup>, I feared you had signed a lease with M<sup>r</sup>. Allen. M<sup>rs</sup>. Mackie wrote me of the tea she intended having & hoped for your company. Miss Belcher may be like so many girls of today & may be fancies that every man she meets falls a victim to her charms!. [sic] We were not like that! it [sic] took a good deal to convince us. Cap<sup>t</sup>. M. is training his wife to be discreet, is he not? she [sic] will learn it is much the better plan in the end. You did not say anything of the evening at Major Jackson's, but I am not surprised. You are out so much, it is difficult to keep track of the different entertainments. I tell you what, you will be quite a beau, by the time we meet again & no function will be quite complete without Col. Steele.

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I am delighted my dear & know you enjoy it too. Very different to the people here I must say. You always did converse well, but all this practice will make you perfect.

You can write newsy letters, but really we see very few people. I attended a meeting of this "Children's aid" society this afternoon at M<sup>rs</sup>. Burns & find that instead of nothing to do, we have a great deal. M<sup>r</sup>. Niblock & M<sup>r</sup>. Bull were also there & want M<sup>rs</sup>. Burns, M<sup>rs</sup>. Jamieson (Mayoress) M<sup>rs</sup>. Robertson & myself to canvass the city from house to house for subscriptions & to inform the people of the aims of the society - we are at liberty to enlist helpers, but are heads of the committee. I do hope we shall soon know of the move, for it is a big piece of work & entails weeks of walking every day, before the thing is done - it appalls me, I must say with all the sewing, etc, I have to do & still, it is hard to withdraw, without a good reason - the packing up, for instance - then, I know the city so little, except

for calls & business streets & that is not where our field of labour lies.

I have just had a long phone talk with M<sup>rs</sup>. Macdonald. Minnie went out to spend the evening with M<sup>rs</sup>. Howe, as they have such heaps to say to one another, so I have my confabs over the

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the phone, which is very convenient for folks who have no one to bring them around.

I attended to the Great West Life Assu. \$33.45 also paid Bank of Montreal \$5.00 as you requested - that is all right. I have to pay \$30.00 to Biddell as I forgot him last month, I am sorry to say - if I cannot pay him all, he will have to wait - I must reserve some for emergencies you know.

Your next is April 1<sup>st</sup> & came this a.m. You had a fine time at the theatre party & enjoyed it - saw the play twice so the leg show was not a novelty to you! Was the play a "Stubborn Cinderella" or a "modern Cinderella" - the first is what you call it! The Huebach's [sic] I know of. Nellie used to call me a connection as she was related to the Munro's [sic] I think in some way. I cannot quite remember as I have not seen her for many years - she was M<sup>r</sup>. Huebach's sister. You met M<sup>rs</sup>. Roger's of Lethbridge I suppose when in that place - they are sisters-in-law.

House hunting will keep you busy, my dear. Evidently the convent down there is not a gov<sup>t</sup>. school as it is here. You did not send a list of charges. Flora got your letter all right & is no doubt, answering you tonight.

Sunday 2. p. m. I got so tired & it being it long after ten

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last night, I concluded my letter rather suddenly.

We were at church & being Palm Sunday, the fathers sang the Passion, which makes it very long - commenced at 10.15, ended at 1 p.m. I am fatigued & fear I will not do as much writing as I intended. The weather is not as nice as usual - cold & cloudy - looks like snow.

Be sure you do not forget to get "The Courier" of Mar 27<sup>th</sup> mentioned in my last. I am so anxious to get a copy or two & you will, I think be pleased.

When do you expect to hear of being transferred? If a "higher command" comes, do you think they would still wish Winnipeg to be head-q<sup>rs</sup>? It would not be as central a place as this or Edmonton, would it?

Antoine & Tilsey said they might come for Easter, but I cannot say I expect them - it all depends on his work & I really think it is foolish to spend the money on the trip when they need it so much.

John has not favoured us yet - they must have fine weather travelling with three children. The horse show is this week, but I am not going to take it in.

Flora says you may answer the "Army & Navy" toast at Portage la prairie tomorrow - then your speech at the Canadian club on the 7<sup>th</sup>! You are indeed kept very busy.

M<sup>r</sup>. Drew is now Manager of [Ashdown's] in Winnipeg. he left very suddenly & will not care much

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for the cold, which he says he feels very keenly.

Gertrude has a cold so I have kept her in bed: she is feeling better this p.m & is as lively as a cricket. No late news from Montreal, so cannot say how any of them are feeling or whether Esther returned home as expected on Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>.

God bless you, my own darling & keep you safely until we meet again. Minnie is feeling blue, due to the season & the anniversary of Lex's death drawing near. I fancy M<sup>rs</sup>. Howe & herself have great weeps together when no one else is around - that is why I keep so persistently out of the way.

All join in love. M<sup>rs</sup>. Macdonald told me to be sure & give you her love last night - she is looking forward to her Island trip this summer.

Hoping you are well, with many great big hugs & wishing often you were here to help me warm cold feet, with many sweet kisses,

As ever

Your own devoted, lonely little wifie,

Maye.

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