

2008.1.1.1.1.186

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Dec 29th

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letters of Nov. 18th & 19th came to me on Thursday & were indeed! a very nice Xmas box, as I was terribly blue at not hearing from you. I cannot say they satisfied me, for I am never that, but they pleased me very much I must confess. Your large photo's came yesterday & while not very good are nice to have. The horse as you say looks fine & must be a beauty. I think I prefer the full face of you, as the pole telegraph or electric

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is not a good background for a profile. O! dear how I do wish we were together again & how long time seems without you, my own darling boy. It is Sunday here too & my day seems incomplete if I do not pen you a letter. I have written several – the first to Moir, asking for all the papers, regimental orders, diary etc related to S. Horse". I saw in the Star last night that he may go as paymaster with the next contingent & I want all he has ere he leaves. You will get his last letter safely I hope, I enclosed it in my last & let me know how to act re papers he says he sent Mt. Taylor at your orders. It is a shame not to give you every possible

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convenience with regard to carrying out your many onerous duties & your transport should be of the best, considering your work. Rinderpest must be hard to contend against but it is fortunate inoculation can save them sometimes. You are I know out now & I cannot tell you how very anxious I have been ever since I saw the report that Major Ogilvy had been murdered on the 17th. I knew you were not very far & then I saw the report "that you had captured a laager on the 18th etc". Heavens! how eagerly I pray that this war may end! I am so anxious, my darling. You will I know feel Major Ogilvy's death very keenly, you thought so much of him both as an officer & friend – he so young too, poor fellow & life so bright ahead of him. He got on so well.... I feel very deeply for his poor old father & family.

I was going to call, but heard they had sailed for England in the early part of the week. I quite agree with your views re the squadrons of horse from Canada & when men go from here, let them go as Canadians not Scotchmen – some people think Minto fine, but some know better, do they not? he is a great lady's man, that is one thing about him, any way. There are any number of histories of the war up to date – some are good, others perfect trash.

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Buller redeemed himself in the eyes of many by saying "his lips were sealed" at the last dinner in Nov. – one thing sure is that he is the idol of the army & of the mob. You say in yours of the 19th that "there has been a terrific thunderstorm & ones thoughts are gloomy" poor dear! I do not wonder at it, mine are so very often & how different life will be when we are together once more, my own dear pet. I recollect Sir H. Vincent, that is reading of him. You seem to think more of the horse than you do of the appearance of the rider – it may be natural..... the photo's are dark & therefore somewhat indistinct.

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the nurses are not at all pretty, all the better as you say – you will not be tempted to flirt with any of them, but they may be very charming for all that, my dear. I will not tell you where I would like to live when we settle down, because as I have often said before, wherever you go, I will go. All places are alike to me as long as you are near & I shall be happy anywhere near you. So the thought of where I should like to be, need never trouble you, I assure you. Whatever place will best suit whatever calling you may follow, will do me so whatever you decide on, I know will be right so do not stop to think of

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me in the matter. I only hope things will be decided one way or the other soon, as we must give our landlord warning on Feb 1st as to our moving – at any rate, we will leave this house – it is comfortable, but too old for us to remain here any longer – it needs too much repairing. The McGillis properties are to be put up for sale on the 15th – they will not bring much I fear, as real estate is low just now. I had a note from Belcher written on Nov. 17th – it is somewhat stiff & he seems to be under the impression that I neglected him & that the delay in sending or wiring the money was my fault. I have written him today & hope he will understand – there still remains a lot to pay, six hundred & seventy seven dollars & twenty cents

(\$677.20 cts.). I told him I would pay as promptly as I could. No news yet from Bethune, but suppose he is all right. The Millers are delighted with their Xmas gifts from me, I am pleased to say – they are so kind, I am delighted when I can give them any pleasure. Jane is doing well & the baby strong & healthy. There is not much news. Frank is having a fine time, enjoying himself – the city is pretty lively just now. He leaves towards the end of the week. The children are better & send much love & many sweet to dear old papa – they got your letters & were much pleased. Take good care of yourself & write often. All join me in warmest love –

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God bless & protect you during all the dangers you are exposed to, my darling & bring you home safe to me! – Again good night – With a warm embrace, believe me, as ever

Your own true, devoted, loving
little wifie,

Maye.

[Cameron] goes as Major with the present contingent – Leckie also goes – Snider of Portage la prairie as well. we will see how they like their new commander, Col. Evans –

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