

2008.1.1.1.1.230

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St.  
June 1st

My own darling boy,

Well dear I am not as early as usual with my letter today as it is now almost three p.m. & I am only commencing to write. We, as we do every Sunday went to Mass at half-past nine. Then we walked down to Dorchester St. near St. James Club to see the Corpus Christi processions pass - it was most imposing & very impressive & we enjoyed viewing it; the first the little girlies have ever seen, you know. The day is an ideal one

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& the Bishop & priests cannot fail to be pleased. The Archbishop himself carried the Blessed Sacrament, the 65 Batt. furnishing the guard of honor.

I will now continue answering the letters received last Monday & some of which I answered during the week. The first today is dated Apr 26th & in it you tell me the pleasure my nice sensible letter gave you. [Now] as they are evidently very scarce articles, I need not say more about it, only I am quite in the dark about it & what I can have said, to deserve such an [unlooked] for compliment from such a

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competent personage & such a critical judge!!..

Anyway, I can look back & say "that one must be a red letter to be so very much appreciated". Your leave has been granted as the enclosed from Mr. White received yesterday will tell you. Speaking of this house, if we go we shall have to try & sublet it, as we will have to pay the \$460.00 for the year, you know. The Senate presented the tiara of diamonds to Lady Laurier I read in the papers some time ago. Strange, Major Dixon is unmarried, when from what you say, he must be very nice.

The Ladies of the Soldier's Wives' League were delighted with your letter. I got Kerr's letter & the poor fellow seems to have been much pleased with the simple gift. He is sincere I think & I will write him a few lines to encourage him on his new departure. Poor Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Fred White's sister, died suddenly of hemorrhage of the brain on Friday p.m. She lived west on Sherbrooke St. - not going out I have not seen her since she came. I am not surprised that half of the Force want to come to your division & it pleases me immensely, I assure you to hear you say so.

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If the attention you paid the sick in hospital is so much appreciated, it proves to you how very little it takes to turn the tide at times. The Steele in Australia may be a connection after all. Perhaps he may be mentioned in the fight or "battle of Lundy's Lane?". I hope you got "Butler's Rangers" safely & long ere this. No! I have no teas & do not receive in any way - we cannot afford it. My mother has too many places to put her money & cannot spend it in that way. When the boys are all settled & able to do for themselves, we can be society people. Yes dear, if I do not receive I know best & would like to do it

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if I could afford it. I rather like it but when one's dearest one is away one lack's [sic] heart to entertain & fool away one's time. Esther was disappointed when she heard we were going out, not to have got the position as school teacher for a year, it would help her so much with her writing to travel & see more of the world. Then she became reconciled to the idea - now, she will regret it again, I am sure. I see Tudhope, Lib. got in - Jupp defeated once more. Mrs. Moon must feel [sore] over her candidate being so [often] on the shelf. The Liberals had a maj. after all! The "Star" mentions

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the death last week of "James Ball" a prominent rancher of Macleod district - it must be "James Bell" they mean. I enclose a letter received a few weeks ago which explains itself. I had never heard of the accident, nor had you I suppose. I feel so sorry [for] poor Boyd - he was a nice fellow & must have been kind to the colored people when they liked him so much. So the sisters & Hildegard take opposite sides - not to be wondered at when one knows the reason - even nurses can at times be fooled, eh! dear?

I enclose Elme's & Dubbie's effusions. I told you why my poor Torla's penmanship was bad, poor dear - she writes under difficulties, but loves you as much as ever she did. You will yet be very proud of them all if God spares them to us. I will look up Willie Lewis' letter to see if I have made a mistake on his age. I am positive he is more than ten & Harwood's illness kept Flora at home all last winter you know, as owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever & diphtheria, & a cold she had herself, she missed school from Xmas 1900, until the end of April 1901. She is doing well at school in every other way.

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Well, of course, there may be truth in that story re Mrs. Cole, but I believe in her anyway - she is nice & affable to me. I thought [Foster] very ugly indeed - repelling - of course, some plain men have other redeeming qualities which make them lovable & fine in people's eyes, but when they have good qualites, handsome, commanding presence & many virtues which cannot fail to make a woman happy all combined, you cannot wonder if some pretty girls are found celever enough to appreciate such important personages!!

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Do you think I was not very hard to please for I was, am yet. Gus & Marie leave for [Terrebonne] tomorrow - the latter is pretty well & her children in good health & nice looking. It is too bad Miss R. is not all right - it will do her much harm in every way I fear. So you are picking out a beautiful black horse? You have always been so fond of bay ones, that it will seem strange to see you on a black one. If the horse is so fine, people will block the streets & prevent your getting on, they will stand & stare so. I had a p.c. from Grace written after they

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they saw the paragraph in the papers re the cable from you. She says "they are filled with consternation at the thought of my going & hope they will see us for a short time to say good bye." They are nice to us, so we, are fond of them, as you know. The houses of the McGillis estate were put up at auction this week. There were no buyers worth mentioning so Mr. Dumford [bought] them in for, Mamma, Jack, Bob & [Emm?]. Mrs. Mac & Alice insisted on their being sold & Auguste bid them up to \$8,000.00 or something like that, otherwise they would have gone for half that [money].

I would have been so pleased to call on Gen. & Mrs. French when they passed through on their way to England, but I knew it only when I read it in "The Star" & they were here a short time, a day or so only. A good thing he has not forgotten the young & reserved soldier "who helped him to organize the N.W.M.P." When the draft for the saddle comes, I shall call on Mr. Taylor as usual - he will likely come to my assistance once more. Well, the Coronation Contingent passed through on Friday & Elmes was out with them. [Courtenay] commands the

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twenty five "Strathconas" who are going. Mr. Taylor was saying it was too bad they had not a bigger, more distinguished looking man in command - they are having special collar & sleeve badges made with "Strathcona" in gold, so that they will be well known owing all the rest. I do not know the names of those who are to go. Several of the N.W.M.P. [47's] must have also gone, Cartwright in com'd - Green, Perry does not go, is it not? - Parker, Serg't Major goes with "Strathconas". There is not much more news. Marie, Gus & the little ones have just been

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in to say good-bye. Be sure & tell me if we need bring any furs if we should go - what will I do with my Raccoon coat if we do not need them & your buffalo coat too? - also the furniture I need bring etc. It gets very warm after we pass the equator does it not so we must be prepared for all kinds of weather. Again I say, reflect well over the matter & if it is to be the cause of much expense we will wait, as we are not very flush just now. I told you so over & over again - you are a better judge than I am. Well, dear it is late & I want to mail this so I will leave you. God bless & keep you safe until we meet. I wrote Mrs. Hilliam, but have not yet had an answer. All are well & send fond love. Regie says you owe him a letter & when you have time hopes you will write. The little ones have colds, but will soon be all right as I am doctoring them up. They send much love & many warm kisses. Looking forward to letters from my darling tomorrow, believe me, as ever

Your own true devoted, warm hearted  
loving little wifie,

Maye

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The letter referred to I cannot not find at this moment - it is written by a lady from Ft. Steele for Mrs. Clark last Aug. acknowledging a photo of you sent her & saying "Mr. Clark's body had been found exactly a month after he disappeared - that Mrs. Clark was bearing up well in her grief & that Herbert had his father's position & a good boy". I was shocked & will write her, you will also no doubt. Will send it in the next letter - sure - I put it aside purposely - strange, R.L.T. Galbraith did not write & tell you of the affair. As they only got my M.

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address in May. They sent it on telling me so.