

2008.1.1.1.1.368

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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6a Pasadena Court
Winnipeg, June 9th

My own darling,

Your letters of May 23rd & 25th reached me on Monday morning, June 7th, & needless to say I have read & reread them many times I cannot tell you how anxiously & eagerly we waited for your letters. I scarcely closed my eyes all the time you were on the [ocean] without seeing sub-marines in the sky, under water, in fact everywhere, so you can well imagine how delighted we were to learn you

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had escaped that trouble any way. Col. Ponsetto is such a nice man & you had so many interests in common that your conversations with him would be interesting & while away many hours of your trip, had it been tedious. I am so glad to know Harwood is a favourite & keen at his work – it helps me to become reconciled to his going when you say these things, for I am sure he deserves them, otherwise you would not write in that way. The lad has a nice regard for ladies & women in fact, which I have tried to instil in him & I trust, his ideas in that regard will ever be the same.

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I acknowledged the cable in previous letters. I am pleased you find the massage has been beneficial - be sure he does it right. If you have thought of me, what have I been doing? For days I could not bear the idea of taking your place & do the duties you did so well. Carving, etc. We missed you both so very much & our meals were very silent ones for some time. Each & every one busy with her own thoughts & as Gertrude said "poor lonely females." However, I told them your wishes in that regard & that "you desired us to go on just as if you were here in our midst." I have been very brave, & doing all I can to help you in every way. I have commenced to practice of an evening - it cheers Mother up & then, when you return, it would be too bad if I could not sing a note of welcome! So hard as it sometimes is, I sing, & in that way pour out my loneliness which affords relief & sing my sweetest songs to one who is too far away to hear – as I say, I shall then be able to welcome you home once more. The Artillery seems to have gone to pieces. I have just been told that Major Bishop has resigned. French has written Ottawa, asking that Col. Ducharme tender his resignation & [fn] [sic]

that may have to leave himself. You see, the truth is that Col. Ducharme takes no interest in the Regt & does not want to go to the front. If French goes, the whole regt. will resign as he is the one man they respect & like among the seniors.

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The military spirit here has changed very much since you left. Everyone notices it – white feathers have been sent to several young officers & they tell me “Major Murray got busy, because he feared he would be [illegible] in that way too. Of course you have seen Col. Ketchen long ere this, as the press announced their safe arrival, & this morning’s paper says the 28th are safely landed. Harwood & Fred Manville will have met by now, I fancy & the latter will give him news. We had three dark rainy days & some frost which destroyed potatoes, tomatoes, peas & beans, particularly in places outside - too bad! Still it is early enough to plant again. The city looks very pretty just at present, although a cold wind is blowing today. Sewell is

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I see is uncomfortable due to cold. I now take up yours of the 25th & your saying “You had enjoyed running through the beautiful fields & hills of Devonshire”, made Gertrude & Flora feel ill & most envious - one would imagine your trip all pleasure! I am sure [Bez] must have been delighted to see you again. We saw in the press about Lord Brooks taking Col. [Denison’s] place - pull I suppose. Remember us all to Captain [Gagnon] & the other officers. You must tell me if I address you correctly, sending letters to Shorncliffe, or had I better charge to “Hotel Metropole Folkestone.” In my next, I shall hear I have no doubt. You will meet all the fascinating ladies who were here. Mrs. [Vaux], Mrs. Cowan & many others, I suppose.

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The other night after twelve the phone rang - it was the telegraph office – Louise & Alice had seen the death ^{from [illegible]} of “Col. Steele, CM.G in the papers & at once wired for information. I answered at once & thank God, was able to say, you were not the one. It afforded me consolation to know they thought enough of us all, to do it. Flora & Gertrude are having a fair time - nothing of course as it used to be for them, as so many friends have gone; still they manage to fill in the time. Mother & self went to movies yesterday & go today, all for the benefit of I.O.D.E. war relief work, which keeps us very busy. I mailed every order to Goodyear, [illegible] Florist, & Hugh Rees yesterday, so you see I am trying very hard to get rid of these bills. Gave [Lylie] \$50.00 on a/c. \$45 to H.B.Co \$30 Hinslow Smith, \$25 to Campbell, paid rent, & ever so

many other bills, \$6.50 to all saints too, so I can pat myself on the back & say "well done, good & faithful servant" - that is all with the money you left me as well as the paying of the two cheques you left for the \$148.00 & \$21.50 (for Major Moore the last was). Well, God bless you both & write soon. Give my dear laddie a great big kiss & hug for his little mother when no one is looking & let him do the same for you. All send heaps of love & kisses. As ever,

Your most devoted, lonely little wifie,
Maye.

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