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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St.  
Montreal Dec. 9th

My own darling Boy,

Your dear letter of Oct 29 dated Pochefstrom [sic], came to me yesterday & as you know gave me great pleasure. It is one of the longest times you have been without writing, your last long letter written on the 17th & answered a week ago. I was getting anxious as you said you would write before leaving Pretoria, but you evidently had no time. It seems to me that my cable sent on Oct. 3rd re Perry never reached you, as you have not mentioned it

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& you have had time. I have seen Lord Kitchener's brother mentioned several times in reports of the war. I saw that one of the men was killed at Fredericksburg by his horse, but forget his name. It is well that you all are too wide awake to be caught by de Wet - I only hope you will always be cautious. I did not know George Macdonald had been ill, but he evidently has been ill sometime - Stephenson has I know since the summer. Katie wrote under date of Dec 2nd asking for news of Elmes who has not written lately & they are very anxious. I did not see anything of Thomas in the papers, so can say nothing on the subject. I see that Capt. [Anderson] sailed from Cape Town on the 28th

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what did you think of him? was he not one of the "Hm ah! ha's!! - he certainly seemed terribly so, when he was here. his wife was a [Cawthra], so he married lots of money. Mrs. Hope came a day or two ago for news, but I had none to give her. I will telephone her son. Mrs. Jarvis is always anxious about "Buzz" when he does not write as

regularly as he should - remember us all to him, please. Flora had a birthday on the 7th - she is a big girl of nine years now, just think, my darling. I gave her some nice white silk for a dress, as she is to take part in some [tableau's] on the 18th - she is very proud & delighted too - is going to recite & sing - it is got up by "The Daughters of the Empire" of which I am a very insignificant member & being her first appearance I trust she will do honor to the name. Grandma also gave her some little gifts & Aunt Minnie remembered her too. She did miss her dear Papa & sigh for him to be near to kiss her & wish her nice things. They are all in good health, thank Heaven & will I hope continue so. There is a great deal of typhoid & scarlet fever prevalent just now - due to the terrible state of the [water] the Dr.'s say. As we have to go to

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to a 5 o'clock tea at Auntie Louise's this p.m. I will be compelled to cease writing, as I must dress. God bless you darling, will continue tonight. We have had supper & the little ones are in bed, but chattering like magpies. The tea was quite fine - swells there but not a large affair. I met several people, Angers The ex-lieut governor of the P of Q among the number. There is not much news. Things are slow, every one preparing for Xmas. How much I wish you were here, you alone can tell! An ex-policeman called on me on Friday - [Warene], who used to be a Corp. at Maple Creek.

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He went with the N.W.M.P. to S. Africa met with an accident & was seriously injured. Then had enteric & dysentery - invalidated to Eng., then home - in Quebec the Dr. would not let him pass for the N.W.M.P. again - he then went lumbering, cut his foot very severely with an axe, came here & Col. Hughes befriended him. Bought him a ticket to Toronto but as he was stranded called on me. I gave the poor fellow a five dollar bill (\$5.00) & your [Nelton] - he said he would remit it as soon as he could. I gave him Jack Jim Clarke's address & he had several friends in Toronto, so hope he will be able to

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get something to do. He was married in Halifax on Sept. 3rd so no doubt "made hay while the sun shone" on his way in Jan. Tillie & her baby we expect any day - the child is exceedingly delicate so she

comes to consult the medical men about him. Min says Alec will be down here for Xmas - he, I fancy, imagined you would be here. The 2nd Mtd. Rifles will hardly be here until after the holidays. The papers say nothing about the date of their sailing as yet. A.C. Macdonald has sailed for Eng. I see. I hope he will be better sooner than they expect - he has such a fine constitution. Do not forget to tell me about your clothes - whether you want me to send them to Eng. or not. I hope you will keep well, my darling & soon return to me. Mabel is here tonight, the first time since her illness; she looks blooming & one would never know she had been sick. I wish I could put on flesh as quickly as she does. I would not be so thin, I assure you. Marie also looks very well indeed! Mamma has not been well - she is worn out with no servant

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& we have been all week looking for one. I do not know what we shall do, as it is a serious question now. We do not like taking a Chinaman on account of the children. I wrote a long letter to Essie today. The children are well & send all kinds of love to dear old Papa. All join in all sorts of good wishes for the festive season which is now so near. Frank desires to be especially mentioned. God bless you & keep you until we meet again. Kind regards & good wishes to Major Jarvis, Belcher, & the rest of those I know. Again with oceans of love & kisses,

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hoping to hear from you soon, believe me, as ever,

Your own true, warm-  
hearted, lonely, loving  
wifie,

Maye

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