

2008.1.1.1.1.70

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own dear Sam,

As you know ere this, your dear short letter written on the 3<sup>rd</sup> I received all right & proved my wisdom by keeping it until today, fearing you would not favor me on Friday. I was in consequence, not so very much disappointed when the day passed without news of you. You no doubt enjoyed Mrs. Gallagher's visit. She is a blarney to say I was a [darlint], but she knew it would please you: she looks upon you as one of her dear friends & seems a good-hearted, honest woman. As for your face looking or being so Irish, I do not agree with her. she evidently sees through a veil, still she means well. Ah! indeed I know there are many married women who would tell tales of their husbands [sic] cruelty only shame prevents them. unfortunately, it is but too true & you cannot wonder at the opinion I hold of many men.

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I know & have heard of too much & it, in a measure, robbed my life of a great deal of romance. The good men are the exception & how could I be sure of choosing a good one? Until I met you I had no confidence in them & somehow or other you have raised them all in my estimation a little. there are many unworthy ones, but I think more of them than I did previous to our meeting. Today is as warm as any day in Aug & the heat makes me so sleepy & languid that you must make allowances for what may be a very stupid letter. The Governor leaves tomorrow for his trip west, I believe. what pleasure is in store for him, as he cannot fail to enjoy it - his trip through the Rockies particularly, the scenery being so grand. The "booby prize" pleased me very much & I did not mind my bad luck for once: as we changed partners every game I did not try the patience of any special one too severely, as I did so often last year. Lex's sister, [is] Mrs. de [Bellefeuille], sister-in-law to Col. de B.

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who died some months ago. Lex is their only brother now & they think him the biggest piece of perfection that ever lived & think Mrs. Mac must be the happiest woman on the face of the Earth. The Majah must be pleased to come east for a while. one likes a change & the N. West must be quiet to a person who has always had a certain amount of gayety. she is fond of society & misses the excitement I suppose. Mr. Gight & D. J. C. went with you to Kootenay Lakes. I fancy the shooting must be good at present & they went to enjoy some sport. Mr. G. is a nice, jolly person to have near, but having seen so little of Mr. C. cannot say how agreeable a companion he may prove to be. You were evidently somewhat hurried when you finished your last, as you say "Write soon, my own darling Major" – if any one saw that, they might accuse me of having used those loving words to you & that would not do at all. I could not be guilty of such a thing, could I dear? I went to town on Thursday & had the pleasure of Aunt Emma's company up & down. my first visit was to the dentist, who was kind enough to extract my tooth. he wished to give me gas, but I would not take it, telling him I thought I could stand the pain. he did not take long & was very gentle, still it hurt me very much: he congratulated me & said I was very courageous, but that is nothing new. I then went up to Mrs. Hubert's, (Richard's mother) for lunch, as I was suffering from fearful headache caused by the heat & pain. In the afternoon I did some shopping & came home, although several wished me to remain over until next day. I was anxious to get home & sighed for a breath of country air. Gertie went down on Friday to rent a house. She found one near Beaver Hall Hill – it is not as large as she would have liked, but being in such a central locality it is better for her husband & my brothers who will remain with her. She will

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thus leave us in the beginning of Oct, the house is furnished & everything beautifully clean, so she will have no trouble when she goes on. We had a picnic yesterday. Richard remained to go with us. The party consisted of Mamma, Gertie, Alice, Baby & I. We rowed about three miles down to some pretty islands...the day was glorious & we had a very pleasant time. we left about six & the wind rose a few moments after – it blew so much that Alice got frightened & begged Richard to go to shore: trying to do so we ran on a shoal & as the water was coming in the boat the baby began to howl. At last we succeeded in getting off & after rowing about ten minutes more we neared shore sufficiently to enable Richard to get into the water & pull us near enough to jump out. Alice & Gertie were very much frightened I assure

you. we had but a two mile walk up – it was late we feared Papa would be very anxious, so we walked quickly & that is why I feel so fatigued today. We intended going out next Saturday, but

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think no one will venture the weather now being so uncertain. Beau has his friends here today – they have gone visiting this p.m. to my delight. I am feeling a little stronger now & trust the new remedy will do me good. I want to appear as nice as possible when introduced to my new relatives in order that they may not think you were too blinded. Mrs. Mac must be very happy now having Grandma for an indefinite time. She must have been tired when she reached Macleod, as it is rather a trying journey. I found it long when I returned & naturally desired to reach home, having such a tale to tell!!.

Three months from now you may be here – just think of it dear. time flies! – Thursday next a year will have elapsed since the concert. what an unsettled state my heart was in then, between the hopes & fears that assailed it. Well, pet, it is near twilight & I must see about tea, so will leave you. With much love, many sweet kisses & the hope that God will bless you, I am ever

Your own warmhearted,  
loving Maye.

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