

2008.1.1.1.1.324

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St.W.
Calgary, Dec. 13th

My own darling boy,

Yours of Dec 8th is open before me & received the usual warm welcome on the 11th when it arrived at the same time as the one written on the 9th. Certainly, I shall be pleased to move if it in any way contributes to your welfare. They certainly are nicer to you in Winnipeg than they have been here & for that reason you must like the place better. I cannot imagine the true reason of their being so peculiar in their treatment of us all here. It cannot possibly be jealousy! that seems so small! still they certainly entertain every other person who comes [this] way.

Yes, my head ached very much during the time that my arm was so sore; it was very painful, still it is gradually improving & the scab will, I trust, soon drop off.

It strikes me very forcibly that you are in quite an amorous mood my dear boy, of late. I suppose that the prospect of returning home for a short time has something to do with it. It is very kind of you to see about the fish knife & fork - it is a fish servers I mean, my dear, as they have the individual knife & fork. I am sure they

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will be pleased with your usual good taste. They are so kind & nice to the family, that we feel we have warm friends in both Capt. & Mrs. Mackie.

It is pleasing that the T. Eaton Co. are thoughtful enough to take a lively interest in the militia & that the head of the firm personally presented the cup & medals to the recipients.

I sincerely hope if we move the Mackies would come too - she would be very lonely without us, being almost all the time with us, & he, I know positively, would not care to be here without you - he would not like the responsibility of the district & would like no other C.O. than yourself.

You enjoyed the Ketchen dinner. I suppose the Scotch music

appealed to you very forcibly. If we want Clan Ranald ribbon we must send for it soon, so that we may not be caught napping when next St. Andrew's day comes. If Mrs. Macdonell plays with expression, her music, particularly Scotch airs, would be sure to please you. I never heard her.

The servant is pretty well trained. I suppose he was some time with Col. Evans: it is good that a cold bath agrees with you - so many cannot take them. I think I should be tempted to try your regime only that my face would get thin, then I should be a fright. The teeth are no doubt, a blessing you were long without. I knew

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you would soon realize how beneficial they were. I have left all the arrangements of Flora's trip to you, my dear, being so much nearer her. I particularly notice your little paragraph re bed & a good time. "Three weeks" is not in it with you, my dear. I fear old age has me in its grip & I am not ~~what~~ "as good as I used to be" by any means & much to my regret.

Yours of the 10th reached me yesterday & I was delighted to peruse it. Col. Walker called yesterday, Saturday morning, to see about the Policy & Assignment paper of Federal Life for the Molson Bank. I told him I had sent them the Policy, Minnie bringing them the letter I wrote, enclosed in envelope with the Policy, by hand & giving it to one of the clerks for the manager. I told Col. Walker of the mistake made in the number of the Policy & how Popham sent it back corrected, your having to initial it, I did the same & returned registered to Popham who will I suppose send it to the bank. I mean of course the assignment paper which is evidently the cause of the trouble.

It is indeed kind of Mr. McNichol to give Torla another pass - you have the right kind of friends my dear. Yes, your affectionate letters please me & both Minnie & Mrs. M. were amused at my delight when I perused them.

Do tell me dear, what the serious matter you have on hand is. I shall divulge it to no one.

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What is serious for you is the same for me & it worries me not to be fully in your confidence, my dear. no matter what it is, tell me please. I promise you it shall be kept a secret.

Flora will just about reach us by the 24th I think. It is true - "I am

only an insignificant little body with a great big heart". The "chunky major" is coming down tomorrow & will, of course, call. I fancy the correspondence is fairly well kept up - it is none of my business, you know, so mum is the word.

I am much disappointed at the decision Tilsey & Antoine have come to of not favouring us for Xmas - we all looked forward so to their visit, that I am most grieved than words can say - however, they know best. Yes, they are fast becoming favourites in Edmonton, much to my delight & I hope, will be appreciated.

Your dinner at the Governor's was nice & must have given you pleasure, as you have known him for so many years.

The exercises you take daily must keep you in good health & do you much good.

Josie Gigot spent four days at the Alberta buying her trousseau & we saw her several times. The Bazaar commenced on Thursday morning & ended at eleven last night. As I told you [Mesdames], Deans, Cardell. Hutchinson,

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& ourselves had the 5 O'clock tea & we made only \$25.25 - it was not a great deal of trouble, still it meant a good deal of fatigue - some of our English church friends, Mrs. Macdonald, [Mrs dawes Darker], Mapson, Hamilton, Lilly & one or two others came to encourage us. I told you of the clock & cocoa sett given me - well, Mrs. Mackie worked hard getting [throws] at 25 ct.s a piece in each article & succeeded in getting \$46.00 - was not that fine? She enjoyed it too, I think. On Friday evening, Capt. Eaton, Josie Gigot & a Mr. Cooper, a friend of hers, came & we had such a pleasant time. They remained until we left, walked us here, had coffee & cake, spent an hour & left. Capt. Eaton has gone to locate his land grant & will be here for Xmas.

Saturday p.m. we went down at two, served tea, remained to supper, Capt. & Mrs. Mackie coming to the Bazaar with me & were my guests. The raffles took place, there being a fine cow & horse among other things - a lovely Morris chair & all sorts of small things. Father Jan won both the clock & cocoa sett I had & was delighted with his good luck.

I wrote Mr. Wilkin re the poultry last week & his bill come on Friday p.m. but he had not received mine.

Capt. & Mrs. Mackie had supper & are now in the library conversing with Minnie while I finish this. I saw in "The Star" of the 8th

of old Mrs. Draynor's death on the 7th.

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Louise came back just in time. I wonder if she leaves her anything. I shall have to end this as I am very tired & I must mail this [before] 8 as it is now 7:30. The Bazaar took place in the Con. Committee Rooms, under the Alberta Hotel. There was no ventilation it was very low & electric light necessary all the time - being central & the only place to be had we were compelled to take it - every person is much fatigued in consequence. God bless you my own darling. Hope you are well & that we will see you soon, my dear one. With fondest kisses from one & all, in which I of course send the biggest share, I am, as ever

Your

own devoted affec'ate little wifie,
Maye.