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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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266 Ste Famille St.
June 20th

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letters of May 15th & 16th reached me on Tuesday & needless to say the warm welcome they got, as usual my darling. I have been to the oculist with Dubbie & he also examined my own eyes. Gave us drops to use & the result is that the pupils of mine are dilated to such an extent, that I

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find it very difficult to see at all, especially in the street. I went out this a.m. & paid "The Federal Life" their two hundred & twenty one, sixty eight cents (\$221.68). I trust this is the last high premium they will get & that ere the next is due in Dec. the state of affairs in S.A. will not necessitate such heavy rates. Yours of the 15th says the house is ready - now I wrote & asked what furniture would be needed.

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Of course, you know I am anxious to go, but we must settle our business to our satisfaction before I leave Canada. Your pension bothers me & so many of the Ministers at Ottawa are away for the Coronation that I do not know when they will return to their duties. That is one thing that delays me dear & I am sure you prefer that to be quite settled. Now dear am I to bring the furniture necessary to furnish all our own house? As you have some & I will bring some also, it may be better for us to wait & get the principle things when we can discuss those together & order them from England. As for beds now - I think I will bring out [twin] beds for ourselves. Then I have Flora's & Dubbies & I will buy a single bed for our Gertrude - my mother has two single beds we will bring too. I have several carpets as I said, some of my mother's too. I have lots of pictures, curtains etc Dining room table I asked about

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in my last. My mother's is a fine one you know. I much fear that the bad [snow] storm you had must have spoilt your garden, my poor boy. I am sorry for you dear. I feel that you will gladly welcome me when I come & you may be sure that I shall hurry all I can. It strikes me that there is not the least doubt about your being a great lady killer & it is time for me to go, if I ever want to keep my place in your heart of hearts. You need

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your Torla & her mother to keep you in good order. How strange it must be to meet so many who know the same people as yourself. Bob [Giveen]! I have often heard you mention him. I have written Jarvis asking him where I am to send the \$200.00 necessary for "Soldiers Three" & expect an answer without too much delay. I sent his last which I answered at once. I have made enquiries & find no transport of any kind going out, was told one goes at irregular times from New York, but there is not

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accomodation [sic] of any kind on board. Capt. Main comes at the end of this week & I am going to see him at once when he comes, as he may prove of great assistance & do as he promised last year, helping us all he can. The Elder Dempster line sent no more ships. I have asked, but Mr. Cook, man. during Mr. Campbell's absence in Europe is to keep me posted. Mrs. Hilliam is anxious to come with me & will, I think wait until I am ready - she seems very nice judging from her letter. I am delighted that Capt. Hilliam has been promoted - congratulate him warmly for me, please. What de Blagniere have you there? is she from London, Ont. The name is not a very common one & is she pretty? The family is a handsome one & has that reputation you know & it has proved fatal to some of its members. As you know Louise is now settled with Regie & it makes the greatest difference

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difference in the world to the house. There is no quarreling, consequently the house is more habitable. He, Duffins, came for a few hours the other day & it was a continual row with the children in the street as well as ours, all the time. He is very troublesome. Your next letter dated May 16th is now before me & you tell me of Flora's saddle which I have ordered as well as yours to be sent direct or to

the address you gave [S.A.] Meanea, Cheyenne, Wyo. I do hope your hundred "Strathcona's" are going to go to you -

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if so, do they go in a body or by themselves, for I might be able to go at the same time. How can I find out? my decision is taken [to go], it being so unexpected, I need time to attend to things here, that is all that keeps me. Any information you can give of the "Strathcona's" who want to go, I shall be glad to get, be sure to remember what I say. Do you want me to bring out a dog cart or nice buggy from here, dear? If so, I will do what I can about it.

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The little ones are charmed over the prospects of a pony & their plans are amusing to listen to. Hendricks is a fraud & will be making you conceited. The children are so anxious to see him & "hope he will be with Papa when we come". I said we might frighten him away, but they feel quite [sure] over such a thing. You see people find you a fine rider. I must get a new habit, mine will look too old fashioned to wear near such a swell, as you are & I might go out with some pretty fine folks at times. I do not think I shall find more change in you than vice versa. You know dear, once more I say, if you prefer me to remain in Canada, say so - but I really do not believe you prefer my remaining here, unless you are only going to be another year away. Beau got you letter today. Elmes wrote & I enclose his received today. Did you not pay £19 when you were here that you were supposed to have overdrawn - it seems to me they sent a draft from Capetown for that amount & you said it was mistake of Mackies' - I am not positive of course.

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This is hard on Elmes & I had no bank book then, so cannot tell what I got. I was always indebted to the Bank & they were paid as soon as the drafts would come. They cannot help me, as I spoke to Mr. Taylor about it. I wish I could help Elmes, but Mackie & the others should pay their debts & not allow Elmes to remain under a cloud for a thing he did not do & get so little pay for. The order books are not all copied

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yet. If Lord Strathcona does not get the originals you should make a row about it - but I fear you will get very little to keep as heirlooms in

your family out of "Strathcona's Horse" except the honor of having commanded it & having made it what it was. Well, my darling, I want to catch the steamer, so will say good-bye. All are well & join in much love & many kisses to dear old Papa. Heaven bless & keep you safe. With many loving hugs, from your own true, devoted little wifie, Maye.