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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

Vaudreuil,
Sept. 10th / 89.

My own dear old pet,

Your dear letter penned to me on the 31st of Aug. came to amuse & content me today. I enjoyed it ever so much, needless to tell you darling & am inclined to think my pet was in a sarcastic mood & eager to vent his humor on any mortal lucky enough to cross his path - were you not really so? Your little girl is fortunate in possessing such an amount of your dear, warm love & your sweet words please me greatly. Our entertaining has about finished for a while & I cannot say I regret it. Mrs. Mac did not succeed in raising my ire about the division of the house, only I should not have liked to have a third person continually prying into all our sayings & doings. it would be very disagreeable indeed, & I am charmed to know the matter is settled. It is a wonder Mormon bliss did not make you long to be one of them, still one may prove enough to look after, my

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

pet, so it is as well you had no desire to join them. I trust you may be happy with me dear, at least I shall try to make you so. I hope Mr. Fortescue made a favorable impression on Mrs. Mac. he is what I call a very nice, gentlemanly man & besides, is a friend of my pet's. I feel sorry for Craig & trust he will come out all right in the end. of course, the innocent often suffer, still the next judge may be an impartial one & see things as they really are. I know what style of men you are surrounded with & did not lose time in studying up the different characters. I saw Cotton on the train on my way up. no one told me it was he, but I feel it & I took a dislike to him for his [stareing] me out of countenance & I shall never forget it. I will not worry more than I can help, I assure you pet, but when you come, I shall be all right. I must inherit something from the Macgillis side of the house & that is worrying for you must have noticed what Mrs. Mac is sometimes. Your ordeal is, I fancy lessening every day for the way is well paved for you dear. You have only

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

the meeting of my family ahead of you & as they are ready to welcome you for my sake, have nothing to fear. I do not think Grandma missed me much on the trip up: having travelled so much of late has made her much more independent & I do not believe she thought of me once. Mrs. Mac will pour her troubles into a sympathizing ear & find comfort. Perhaps my friend does know I have been hard to win & he is anxious to meet the paragon I have ~~persu~~ allowed to persuade me that I really had a heart. I told him I had never met a man more worthy of my love & that I was wise to wait. I wish you had seen the flash of his dark brown eyes! My cousin, Mr. Taschereau can thank himself for his narrow escape – it seems he was very much the worse of liquor & backed his horse right off the wharf, which is very high – it is a wonder he was not killed by the horse who was plunging about frantically in his efforts to save himself. I thought all was not right at the time. cannot say whether he intends returning, not having seen him as yet. Frankie is the second to youngest of my brothers & a dear boy of fourteen, as pretty as you could wish to see. So Mrs. Reed was not risen in your estimation as you became more accustomed to her style of beauty. She has a very good opinion of herself that is sure. I saw enough of her for that & seemed to think he was very fortunate in having her for a wife. If they created a sensation among the unclaimed hearts, they must be pleased, for unless they have become more susceptible than formerly, many of them can resist some charms, so the victory is altogether in favor of the ladies. I speak from experience, pet, though I was more than blessed in winning a heart of gold, that of one “who is not at all a ladies man & never cared particularly for one of them; still if he ever does, she will be lucky, for he will worship the very ground she walks on” as Major Likely told me when speaking of you, dear some time previous to your arrival a little over a year ago.

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

While sincerely wishing to be ranked among your friends some day & hoping I might be dear, it provoked me to have so many mention you in such glowing terms, for I knew in my inmost heart, I was to meet my destiny when you first met my sight in the form of the photo thrust into my hand a very short time after we entered Mrs. Mac's house, the evening of our coming to Macleod. I saw Mrs. W. F.'s little game when I was up. she never called or at least returned Mrs. Mac's visit for ever so long. She saw what I thought of things & people the evening we had the meeting about

the concert. I expressed my views pretty freely, not feeling under obligation to any one – she seemed surprised, but agreed with me. I did not give in, in any way & held my opinions against them all, so she evidently thought it was better to side with me. I could not help enjoying the discomfiture my refusal to take any part in the programme caused. it may have been wicked, but could not help it. I sang more for love of you, pet, than for anything else for I should not

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

have cared to sing under the circumstances, had I not been sure you were to be present. You were perfectly right about the ball & it will give them a lesson. You missed a pleasant time, darling, but you will make up for it next year, my pet. I will be near you & for my sake you will come. Mr. W. F & the Dr. will owe you one for the dressing you gave them. You are perfectly right. I sometimes wish I were near to enjoy the whole affair. Does Mrs. Cotton improve on acquaintance? is he a very attentive husband? you will say what questions, but he promised so little in that line, that I am curious to know. Mrs. Mac did not go to the ball. she does not seem to care very much about them now. I owed her a letter for almost two months so wrote a long one on Sunday evening. she must have blessed me for my long silence, but I could not help it. I had no time for any one else but you, my own darling boy. What you say of Mrs. W. F. surprises me – I had heard she thought the world & all of her husband & when a woman loves her choice she should respect herself

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

for his sake. I should like to see the man who would take such a liberty as putting his arm around my waist even now. he should live to regret it, I assure you. I thought she had more sense, but can see how flattery & soft nothings please a woman sometimes. Where is Mr. B. stationed? I express my thoughts freely but there are always exceptions my pet, which you understand. I am sure Dr. Powell must be enjoying his stay in Germany – he writes you frequently no doubt. A year will soon have elapsed since the review took place on the 13th of Sept. if my memory is faithful. the day when we both were so cool & stiff. This time next year, you will if all goes well, be indeed an old married man! is it not strange the change a few words make in two lives? If Mrs. Mac's servant does not know how to get breakfast after all these months she must be exceedingly stupid & I feel sorry for her. better without one & saved lots of trouble. I went out to spend the evening with some friends on Monday. Mamma & Beau accompanied me. we rowed

there & it being beautiful moonlight we enjoyed it very much. Louise went to town this morning – Miss Hubert's wedding is definitely fixed for the 9th of Oct. Beau also commenced studying today – (we call Auguste, Beau). not having finished his last year of Philosophy he feared he might fail in his exams - for admission to study next January so he is going to a private tutor to be coached: his professor told him he was the most advanced pupil they had ever had. he is well read & though several have told him he is all right, still he will not believe so intends taking lessons for about three months. We had a letter from the boys today. Antoine writes he likes college, but wishes the holidays were here – asks me to be sure & not forget candy & cakes when we have an opportunity of sending them. We miss him so much & think we hear him everywhere. Gertie & Richard have gone out to see some friends – they will soon be leaving us, as they are going to take up house in the

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

city once more. we shall miss them very much as they have been here for eighteen months. Baby is such a pet & all are so fond of her. The house will seem large for out of fifteen, four will remain after my wedding. They have commenced building the new railway. it passes a short distance above us, but does not cross Papa's farm in any place. Papa & Unwin go to Ottawa in the fmorning to attend the exhibition. They will be absent about two or three days. Well, pet, I have another letter to write tonight & it is very late.

wishing you pleasant dreams with much love I love my darling.

Sept. 11th. I have a few moments of leisure & being too tired to sew I will continue this letter to my pet. I received yours of the 3rd today, but as you tell me you are to be away at the end of the week & in consequence miss a mail, I have come to the conclusion it is better to reserve it for my Sunday epistle. I intend going to Montreal in the morning to visit the dentist. I have the pleasant prospect in mind of having a tooth extracted. it has

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

not caused me any pain, but has broken by degrees & is now but a mere shell. As I am going so far, it is more prudent for me to have my teeth attended to as much as possible previous to my marriage. I hate the idea of it, but it must be done. If I am all right I shall return in the evening but if not will remain over until the next day. I am busy as I can be & profit of every spare moment, wishing to be ready when the bridegroom cometh – am I not a very good little girl, my pet? I enclose a letter received from an old friend who intends visiting Mrs. K. I want you to see a specimen of the

fashionable handwriting, & wish to know if you would like me to adopt it in preference to the old-fashioned unassuming hand I have. The young lady is a cousin of Lex's, but full of airs – so affected that you cannot understand a word she says. I wonder if she will be a success? she is an intimate friend of Mrs. K.s & was her bridesmaid. Mrs. Mac & I were at school with her when we were

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

youngsters. They incorporated the village at the station last night & have called it “Harwood”. There is a place in Ont. called by the same name after my grandfather’s brother who owned considerable property in or about it. Well darling old pet I have several things to see about ere I retire, so will say bye-bye. Hoping to hear from you once again this week, that you are quite well & that God will bless & care for my darling until we meet, I remain ever,

Your own dear, warmhearted
little Girl.

[/pg 9]