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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

6a Pasadena Court  
July 11<sup>th</sup>

My own darling boy,

I feel like a sinner this morning, as owing to a perfect downpour at the hour we leave for church, I missed mass - it is now almost eleven & there seems a slight break in the heavy clouds, which gives promise of a change later in the day. You can see from that, that we are still having rain & it has been unsettled all week - if moisture was needed the farmers cannot complain as the fall has been exceptional since June, or almost the middle of that month. Your first letter to acknowledge today, is that of

[/pg. 1]

[pg. 2]

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Your calves will be getting into fine shape with hill climbing, etc & you will feel just as you did in the old Yukon days. I am so delighted dear, that you are feeling quite strong & do hope it is really true and not said to put my fear at rest & make me less anxious, my own darling. You did not mention a Mrs. Danes to me, but I quite forgive you for not doing so, when you are so awfully busy all the [time]. Sam Hughes is with you now & Sir Robert will likely take the same stand & view, as Gen<sup>l</sup> Hughes. I do hope the affair is settled now & to your satisfaction. I know how you feel in regard to the matter & hope the result is satisfactory in every way. I am pleased my laddie

[/pg. 2]

[pg. 3]

gets on so well with the other A.D.Co. & know he is doing his best to please you & do his duty. He does not write very often but we hear of him through you, so we make the best of it. Hope you found a suitable house for the mess, as no doubt it would be cheaper for all concerned to live that way, instead of in a hotel. It is nice for you to meet all the [Panets] & get better acquainted with my relatives - they are all nice fellows, but I know very little about their wives, except that I have been told they are favourites. Your next of the 22<sup>nd</sup> acknowledges mine of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Yes, you are good with your letters. I might write oftener, but I fear boring you so refrain from penning too many, as you are so very busy all the time. Poor Mrs. Henderson never got your kind regards as you know. They miss her terribly. The youngest boy his Aunt brought east for the summer, the eldest John enlisted & is training at Sewell in the 61<sup>st</sup>, so

Elsie, about sixteen & her father, are alone, Mrs M<sup>c</sup>Kay tells me. I got your first cable & acknowledged it in the first letter written after your arrival, so evidently some of my epistles have gone astray. My mother's heart was filled to overflowing at the nice things you say about our darling lad. Coming from you, I believe them more than if written by an outsider. Thanks for the pension money which will help towards Life insurance. I.O.F. \$10.86 monthly, Great West Life \$61.90 quarterly. Yes, the income will be \$586.50 with pension, but there is still quite

[/pg. 3]

[pg. 4]

a large amount owing, due when you left. Rent \$165.00 I.O.F.'s \$10.63, maid \$18.00 = \$193.63 always to be deducted from the full amount, so for some months there will be no surplus. Really dear, it is very hard to know what to do in the future. This submarine warfare which may extend to this side rather frightens me & keeps me thinking what it is best to do. I shall have to know by Aug, as the lease expires on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct & it will take a long time to pack to store my goods, if we decide to go. Am not surprised Alderson wants the next dir., as the others did so well.

Hope your second edition will be more satisfactory than the first &

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

that the publisher quite understood what a mistake he made in curtailing so many items of interest in your book & leaving out numerous others. If I go over, I do not know what her nobleness will do – she likes living with us better than any one else, I really believe. Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> I missed a few moments ago, so will proceed to answer that, knowing you will not mind as long as they are mentioned. Harwood too will be getting hard as nails with all the climbing & out of door life. You speak of your dinner with the [Panet]'s. I know of the Mrs. Macdonell you mentioned, but her youngest sister or at least Mrs. Watt of Montréal whose husband you also knew, is the one I was at school with. She was a

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

grown up girl with long dresses, I wore mine just below the knee, thirteen at the time - it was in Ottawa at Rideau, & I was the only one there of the family. Young Mrs. [Panet] was a Miss [Larus] of Quebec & married Edward just before they left Valcartier. Harwood is quiet, his ways are prepossessing & he makes himself very agreeable when he likes - naturally, people think him older than he is. Hope you enjoyed your luncheon with Genl. B.P. & Mrs. Baden Powell - of course you saw little Peter, one of Lord Strathcona's god sons whose \$1000.00 will represent quite a nice little sum when the boy is of age. Wish he had remembered ours in the same way! Yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> is a short one & only tells me of your letter to Flora. She has recovered her equilibrium & seems to

understand better that if you are rejected as you put it, that we all must remain here, until the war is over, when we can then take a trip over. She is at this moment writing you & no doubt, giving you her views on the subject. I enclose a letter from Archie which speaks for itself. I make two remarks, beyond saying that they paid no attention or took no notice of us when in Montréal - now that you are what you are & they want a favour (an impossible one) they find me. The boy, mother says is not well educated - he is a handsome fellow, but that is all. I ask for nothing, as they are very little to me. Why does he not write Henri [Panet], if the boy is in the

[/pg. 6]

[pg. 7]

machine gun's [*sic*]? he is nearer to him than you are. I hate people who only want favours & never give any signs of life, except at such times. The patriotic carnival has come to an end – they did all in their power to make it successful, & succeeded when the weather was propitious, but several days were bad. Flora went down once & demonstrated first aid, etc. I never went near the place; had a dressmaker for four days making things for the girls & fixing - have had her twice & another comes tomorrow – must use up what I have in the house & be ready for emergencies, at any rate. I sew with her all the time & get on quicker [in] that way. This week has, in consequence been very dull for me. Flora

[/pg. 7]

[pg. 8]

will have told you about their trips - they always go together. I have succeeded in that any way & they understand it is better for them to be together in their [jaunts]. Mrs. Gordon usually chaperones them. She has a [pass] too, her husband being head of the Dominion Express Co. here, so it costs them nothing & I have the pass kindly sent by the C.P.R. as you know in the spring. The girls have an invitation to go to Lang to visit Mrs. [Larson], great friends of Lionel Strutts - they have kindly asked our girls, who are wild to go. It keeps them in good humour, so I think I shall let them go somewhere about the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. Minnie wrote a long letter yesterday's mail brought me. She finds the country lovely, the wild flowers are beautiful & birds sing their throats off. She is very

[/pg. 8]

[pg. 9]

happy, as Fred is so good to her - if reserves are called, she says he will & in that case, she would come to Winnipeg, or go to England - would not remain in Grouard, at any rate. Angus de B. phoned me on Friday to tell me Blanche Pennefather had changed her mind & would not marry him. The 20<sup>th</sup> was the date set, as I told you in my last: he is rather unfortunate in his matrimonial affairs, is he not? He said he would call

before he returned to work, but evidently did not care to, as he intended going west on Saturday, that is yesterday. I hope you will get the "Free Press" regularly, as I ordered it sent this week - there is more news in it than the "Telegram." This scandal grows daily & one never know what the next day will bring forth. Kelly is in the States, I believe. Dr. Montague has an appointment in England in the medical line & will go, in some weeks "The Telegram" said last night after resting at Kenna for a while. I suppose you know Mayor Waugh's son, Dick, is very dangerously ill - wounded in France, & blood poisoning has set in from the wound in his knee- he is in an English hospital & his father had a cable yesterday telling him of the son's relapse. The lad was in Strathcona's & is only 21 years old. Antoine, Tilsey & the boy have gone to visit some friends in the country - he is always very busy & all are well. Genl Botha has done some fine work, has he not? I wonder, should he go to England, if he would be turned down for an English officer with much less experience! Would not be surprised if he were treated in that manner - it is a little way of theirs which they must change some day soon, if the idea of imperialism is to continue, or certainly there will be some great surprise given

[/pg. 9]

[pg. 10]

by some of our grand dominions sometime, after the war, when the common enemy is settled with. I received your typewritten letter to [Seylis] & Co. & shall see them personally this week. Mrs. Wright, I.O.D.E. desires me to go to her residence this p.m. to meet Mrs. Spence of Calgary, the head of the order there - merely for a talk, so I shall to go now, as she wants me early. God bless both my dear laddie & your dear self. I shall write Harwood on my return if it is not too late, but shall certainly do so by this mail. Much love & sweetest kisses from all her nobleness included.

As ever

Your own devoted loving  
little wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 10]