

2008.1.1.1.1.66

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Aug 27<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> received today & warmly welcomed – though it is late, I cannot resist writing you a few lines. Mamma, Gertie, & baby went to Montreal today to have their photo's [sic] taken. Grandma joined them at the photographer's & they had the four generations taken in a group – they were a great success. Instead of coming home at six, they never came in till after seven, having missed the earlier trains. In consequence I missed a party at Uncle Henry's which takes place this evening. Alice & [Unwin] have gone alone, as Beau & Regie went up to Coteau tonight to visit the de [Beaujeu's] – they will be very much wanted, as every beau counts in the country. Of course, had I been very anxious to go, I might have done so, but I feel tired & no inducement to shake off my lazy fit.

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As they all attended a party last night, Gertie & Richard, after a busy day in the city, feel too fatigued to favor another dance with their presence. I did not go last night either & they enjoyed it very much. I really have so much to do, that I do not know where time flies to! I have done very little sewing since the beginning of the holidays but, have hopes of it now awaiting my busy fingers – when the boys have left us & we are quiet once more. I must set to work & stitch as quickly as possible, for my pet will be here before I have leisure to realize it. I know dear, I should not complain when your letters are short, but you must forgive me if I always long for more. Father Lacombe must be pleased to be in Macleod again & the people glad to see his kind old face. In conversing with him, try & find out if he received the letter I wrote thanking him for his photo. Your news about Miss H. surprised me. she wished to visit Mrs. Mac in order to prevent the unwelcome suitor pressing his suit, but I see he has won

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the day. Faint heart & etc – true again!! I hope she will like him soon, or else may perchance awaken to the fact that she has loved him for some time, without knowing it. The young gentlemen of Macleod have lost many an opportunity of enjoying a flirtation with a very pretty girl & I feel sorry they are deprived of the charm of her society. Well! well! I am astonished that a man of Capt. Mathews [sic] position should ill treat his wife, but a man can be a brute, no matter how good his birth may be. to think that he should so far forget himself as to thrash & kick her shocks me. I should never stand that & would leave my husband if he ill used me in any way. I am pleased to learn you sent him off & trust you will keep him there until he gets his senses back – it must disgust a good, kind man like you, my darling, to hear of such conduct. Grandmamma leaves Thursday, in fact will get there the same day as you have the pleasure of perusing this missive. She will receive a warm welcome I am sure. She may tell you I am thin & not looking well but you cannot be surprised at it. I shall be quite rosy & fat ere you come down, in order that you may not regret your choice & find your eyes were blinded during the few months I blessed your sight. I shall be so happy when you have met the family & know you will like Mamma – it will console her for my loss when she becomes personally acquainted with the dear old darling who steals me from them. she often says all the good she hears of you is very much in your favor & you may be sure, one can trust a mother's heart. You have ere now I suppose seen Mrs. Reed – do you find her pretty? The place must be very gay with so many strangers – the races are very much earlier, - than last year, are they not? they were memorable dates to us, dear, & I recall those three days with the greatest pleasure. my pet was then treated a little less haughtily, but he spared me also & gave me less sarcasm than usually fell to my lot – when you changed your cruel, cutting manner of warfare, I became mild & docile. So the Dr. had part of your quarters! that must be agreeable! were

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were it your friend Dr. P. you might tolerate him as long as your bachelordom days (as Mrs. Gallagher says) last, but that is all. then I will be your first consideration, pet. I am delighted that you have had all the upstairs rooms papered & hope we shall succeed in making it a nice, attractive little home, my darling: it is so kind of you to do so much for me dear. You must not feel miserable pet, as the hour of our meeting is rapidly approaching – three months will soon pass, - do not fear that I shall be unhappy. with love & devotion my life should be a golden dream, my darling

& as long as your love lasts, I shall desire no more. You still persist in believing that Mr. Barnes had a warm feeling for me – of course, it is nice to try & think it true, but I am sure you are mistaken. what pleases me most about the familiar air, is that his [whistling] it brought me before you, if your thoughts were playing truant for a moment & that you both may have been thinking of me! – it was a catching air to me, when I managed to catch my pet & tighten

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my hold over your heart, by singing the song you wished to hear at the concert, without letting you perceive too clearly how your wish was all to me – if the others had been wide-awake they might have noticed, but it was blank to them. By the by, who entertains the Governor General when he visits Macleod? are you the one? will he not be compelled to remain one night, at least? I suppose you will have things in splendid condition & am inclined to regret I cannot fly up to see how grand everything will be. My pet will put on his sternest, military air & would make me wonder where the soft, warm feelings I now know he possesses, have found rest!! you can freeze me with a look, my pet, so I hope you will never do it. They played “progressive euchre” at the Dorion’s on Sunday & I won the booby prize – a pretty brown leather card case, just what I was wishing for. Frankie returned last night & had a delightful trip, according to himself. We had visitors all yesterday afternoon & today also – tomorrow others are sure to come &

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Thursday we are having a Mr. & Mrs. Cassils of Montreal to tea, as well as their niece a Miss Freeman of Quebec. he is very fond of Beau & is a charming old gentleman – they have built a lovely residence on one of the islands & spend six months here every year. He is of course Scotch & very fond of music & is very anxious to hear me sing “Robin Adair” which is, ~~what~~ my father thinks the song I sing best. I am out of practice but must tune up a little & endeavor not to disgrace myself. Until the vacation is passed we will not be alone I am sure, but as this is the last year I am at home, I say nothing. Lex’s sister, her husband & little son surprised us today. I have never visited her but promised faithfully

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we both would favor her ere we left for the west – if you are too busy, well, I shall have to go alone, for go I must – it is quite near Montreal, in the

opposite direction to Vaudreuil. You must excuse this paper. I really feel too lazy to go to my bureau for another sheet & this is all I had in my blotter. it is almost midnight, but my brotherinlaw goes to town tomorrow & will not return this week – not wishing to disappoint you I have been obliged to dash this off in a hurry. I hope my darling is well & that your lonely fit has entirely disappeared by now. With deepest, truest, fondest love & a warm, sweet kiss, I am, as ever

Your own dear, sincere, loving  
little Girl.

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