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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
July 19th

My own darling,

Your nice letter of July 13th with that of Mr. A.B.M.'s enclosed reached me on the afternoon of the 17th & of course had the usual welcome. I am pleased to learn that Cameron kept straight & trust he realizes the importance of his position, if he gets the command he is striving for. Whom did Mackie marry? Do you think he will be your adjutant? I hope so, for he knows your ways & you like him. I am sure Whitehair is

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pleased that he took your advice & came to this country. naturally we are much interested in Capt. Godson-Godson & are charmed that he too finds the country fine & better than all has work to do [sic?]. he may be able to have his wife & children out soon if he succeeds & that makes life so much nicer for all concerned. The McHughs are sure to cross again & as she feels so well, may spend the winter in London once more, Calgary not being suitable. I would not be surprised if Mrs. Howe does take Capt. Deane - you will be able to tell in a short time if you see them together. She is pretty,

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too & has not many children, has she? She is light you say & Min in one of hers to me says "many of the married women in Calgary have their beaux ". I cannot say I admire women of that stamp & feel sure they will not care for me. How old is Mrs. Howe, for they were married a long time - she must be over thirty, anyway. We left Macleod nine years ago, you know. That is just like "Glengarry Ranch" to wish us to partake of their kind hospitality almost as soon as we arrive & I feel sure we would enjoy a week-end very [much] as soon as we can go.

Your long letter of July 14th now awaits an answer. Harwood is charmed that his letter reached you safely & has been much concerned over its fate & whether I thought you would answer. He is looking forward to receiving a reply, I assure you. I fear I confounded the Rev. John with Dave Macdougall, hence my mistake concerning his age. I do not think I ever met Dave, but have the Rev. John. Although you may have sent claims for June to the Paymaster Gen. so far no pay has come to my knowledge. I have this

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moment telephoned Gus & he says "he has had no word re the pay" nothing has come you see, but the pension mentioned in one of my previous letters & which I told you Shaw was to have \$25.00 of the amount I received, [illegible] \$50.00. I paid him that on the 11th. Re wages for Bagnall & wife, do you mean to say girls get \$30.00 per month, or £6.00 in that case I suppose I would have to make it \$40.00 pretty steep, is it not? Marie gives \$52.00 for her two I know. We would have to have most of the washing done out of course & we will have Minnie besides ourselves. I think \$40.00 good wages [sic]. Will speak to them when you answer. That

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added to the rent leaves me \$122.00 for other expenses monthly. You get no rations, or anything in that line at all, do you dear? Who is [Jock] Anderson? I do not remember him - the name is familiar but that is all. Too bad Frank S. spoke of him in that way, particularly if it is not true. Have you seen Frank yet? Evidently, the Johnston's will have you often for Sunday supper - I am delighted, for I know you enjoy it. Trust your dinner with Capt. Deane was nice. Gus will send you \$125.00 as soon as he gets it - I shall not forget it, I assure you. I really think the furniture is nicer here, but I suppose I should have to pay cash for anything I get.

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We cannot be extravagant, either, with only \$122.00 per month & the pension which suffices for Insurance only I think. If the children, girlies came up day school would of course be very much cheaper than boarding - you can judge for yourself as I tell you everything dear. Frank sent to the States to get the necessary arrangement for Flora's teeth, but it has not yet come. It will not need taking off for some months I believe & perhaps Antoine could do it - mind you, I

have not said a word to her about it, just mention it to you. We will decide all as soon as you have studied the cost etc. Flora favors St. Urbain's & will I think, be satisfied there. I feel sure that if I bring up nothing but what was sent from Pretoria & mother had three or four cases among that lot, that I will not need even half a car (1/2 car) - perhaps I might be able to purchase rugs, curtains & a few odd pieces of furniture here for much less than up there, but it may be more convenient to pay so much per month. I hope you get all my letters - it would be a good plan to make a note of every time you write & I will do the same. Then we would be sure that no letters are lost, or fall into other hands. We will feel quite swell flying a flag on holidays, will we not?

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pray pardon the blobs that disfigure the other sheets of my letter - I cannot account for them & suppose it is due in some way to my pen. Yours of the 15th as well as photo of Band came in about ten this a.m. Marie came with Roddie & after being on the [jump] for half an hour went off to shop, returning for lunch, so she says. We have prepared for her before & she has not come, but I suppose she will be here today. I have hurried up to write so as not to miss tonight's mail. As you say, whiskey will not help any one who is troubled with heart disease - hope J.J. will see the folly of it!

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Your landlord is a connection of one who used to be in the R.N.W.M.P. is he not? or am I mistaken in that I know I have heard the name often. What "Burns" did you call on, as the army must go first? & Mrs. B. was away in Banff! I trust you may be able to help John get something - I fancy they are very badly off - too bad, he did not keep on the ranch a little longer. I remember Serg. [Browne] quite well now - he married in Macleod, did he not? It is too bad Mrs. Macleod did not realize sooner how [unattractive] Mr. K is - she would have had more friends, if she had done so.

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We are all going to the band concert on the 24th & hope to enjoy it. That was a terrible accident that happened Mrs. Hall (sic?) - gasoline I always considered very dangerous - the same thing happened here & caused the complete ruin of almost eight or more dwellings a week ago, & rendered as many families homeless & perfectly destitute. I

am [perfec] - quite sure you are too wide awake to let "old age creep over you" but that, under the circumstances would be impossible you see. You addressed one of yours "162 St. James St. it came this morning being that of the 15th & I think they are beginning to know the address now. Marie came & lunched, packed up a box, at least, Bagnall assisted by us did, & she is off once more. She has asked mother, Mrs & Miss Mare as well as Frank to go up on Sunday for the day. Min wrote me again & enclosed one of yours in which she says "Sam says such nice things of you" - the one in which you say "I could bring even a Protestant to heaven or rather "take even a Protestant with her". She seems quite pleased at the thought of living with us & is anxious to see the children - we have not seen her since 1898, you know.

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There is not very much news. I have not yet paid Pattison or Patterson for Mrs. Theobald the £6.00 [more] they ask for. it is outrageous, I think, but to ease trouble & annoyance I suppose we will have to do it, but as I said before, no allowance is made for the chair repairing or anything you did in that [line] - you paid over 6£ to have the W.C. attended to the first days you were there Bagnall says. The weather is very warm & I feel the heat very much, I must confess. Capt. McDonnell called yesterday p.m. when mother & myself were out. Said he would come soon.

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Do not know whether he succeeded in getting anything to do – he has been in Toronto for some weeks. The children are well & join in fondest love to you, dear as well as Mother. She is beginning to wonder what she shall do without us when we go, having been with us for so long. I expect she will be lonely. God bless you, my darling & write soon again - no day seems complete without a letter from you dear. With warmest love & tender embraces right in the little place I so love to kiss on your dear neck, Ever

Your own true hearted, devoted wifie,

Maye.

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