

2008.1.1.1.1.339

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

5 sheets

[pg 1]

1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Mar 9th

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 4th, 5th, & 6th all came to me yesterday morning & gave me more pleasure than I have experienced for many a long day, I assure you. I do congratulate & do congratulate you most heartily & sincerely my dear boy at the new honour that has been conferred upon you in regard to the Royal Canadian Horse (Strathcona's) & I am sure every one in the corps, both officers & men must be delighted at the turn of affairs. This is a move that will please the majority of people in our grand dominion & afford infinite satisfaction to Lord Strathcona & his family - it was a good time to do it as life is uncertain & when a man reaches such a fine old age, one never knows how soon the summons may come!.

How very fortunate M^r. Taylor has been in his business transactions & his brothers must be glad they gave him the agency. It is a good thing he succeeded in escaping from the toughs in Toronto.

I am pleased you think I stand a chance of passing muster in the crowd down there - they will

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

will be more agreeable than very many of those here.

Very nice of "Buzz" to remember the mess waiter & cook, but he is a gentleman, you see. Your letter to Col. Perry is no doubt, the cause of the change in the treatment he met with on his return - it must have surprised him somewhat.

I hope M^{rs}. Donnelly is feeling better as rheumatism is a painful thing. Banff would be beneficial.

Yes dear, I did meet M^{rs}. [Pennefather] at M^{rs}. E. E. Taylor's our neighbour, who specially invited Minnie & myself to meet M^{rs}. P. & I told you all about it at the time. She is grey, & told me her husband was much younger than herself. They once lived here I believe. she [*sic*] looks much older than I do, dear. She was here quite a while, but I only met her about a week before she returned to Lethbridge.

I have not yet written Essie, but will do so - am always so busy, & there is time yet any way. As we may not be here, I did not wish to write too soon. She is right to take six months at the coast, instead of three weeks

flying around Scotland.

Is Dixon returning to Winnipeg? You say Russell is a good substitute! I am certain all [beam] on you, my dear. You had a nice time with Col.

[Gwynne] trotting him about buying [hussiss]! No wonder

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

the Eaton girls enjoyed it.

You could not let the Noah joke pass, eh! dear? no [sic] opportunity of telling it is missed - it is a good one & so few know it, that it would be a terrible pity to keep it from them. You wrote no letter from the 28th until the 3rd - just look in your book, for I received none written between those dates.

I have always anxiously looked forward to your letters & been much disappointed when they failed me dear. You are pleased no doubt, that your weight has decreased and feel better for it.

Good for Col. [Gwynne] that he has such a good authority to refer to when he wanted to know how things should be done. You know all about it without consulting books, mon cher - practice makes perfect, you see!

I do not think Lent will compel people to abstain from everything - the world must go on just the same. When Duffin was in L. during his illness, Miss C. was walking about with another fellow!!.

Yours of the 6th begins by telling me of your intended weekend with Col. Irvine. I know you enjoy the change & that it affords him much pleasure too.

Very likely Addie B. did not know about M^{rs}. Mac's tea - in fact, I am almost sure she was ignorant of it

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

for she would be too proud to go uninvited.

It is but right that you should be the 1st [O. C.] of the R. Canadian Horse (Strathcona's) for who is more closely identified with the original than yourself? You put everything aside where it was concerned & sacrificed everything that it might be the very best.

I can well imagine the disgust of the people here when they find out what has been done, but I am very much pleased - they were too slow & indifferent here to rouse themselves & now they have lost the opportunity of having anything of the sort.

We had M^{rs}. Power, M^{rs}. Ashburner his friend, Mr [Vibert] & Miss [Guilmette] on Sunday evening - they sat & conversed until almost midnight.

Yesterday p. m. the musical club met at Mrs Macdonald's - it was a

success. I walked home with M^{rs}. B. G. Hamilton. Saw M^r. W^m Pearce en route & had a short conversation with him - he asked about you, of course. Sewed today. M^r. Grieg has taken Miss Lee & Torla to hear "Dolly Varden" by the San Francisco Opera Co tonight - he is very kind.

The children are well & have just gone up to go to bed - they are always busy at something. Gertrude had the keenest delight over your letter & your description of your visit to M^{rs}. Mac's & the danger of your

[/pg 4]
[pg 5]

your [*sic*] coat tails being torn off in the struggle tickled her to death - they all laughed heartily at poor dear old Papa's confusion at sight of all the ladies.

There is really not much news, I do not see many folks now & want to try & get some sewing done, but it is a very difficult matter, something seems to turn up to prevent my doing so.

Minnie is well & is kept occupied attending church these days. All send fondest love. I hope you will be able to come up & spend Easter with us - there will be many things to be attended to, should we leave, which would require your attention.

God bless & keep you safe until we meet again. So far no word from John, but the change in the weather (it has been snowing today) will likely prevent their coming at present. Write soon again, my own darling. With sweetest kisses from the [chicks] & very many sweetest hugs, tight, tight, ones,

from

Your own devoted, affectionate,
lonely little wife,
Maye

I told Harwood of the R. C. H. & he said "it is time for them to make Papa Gen^l. there is not one of the Canadian Gen^{ls}. who has had his experience you know, so I suppose that will be the next thing, Mamma" - not so slow, eh, dear?

[/pg 5]