

2008.1.1.1.1. 272

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

162 Hutchison St.
Aug 1st, 7.30 p.m.

My darling Boy,

Your telegram has just this moment come in telling me "Your letter Sunday re schools! satisfactory" So I consider the thing settled & St. Urban's is to shelter our dear girlies – Flora who is out will be pleased when she learns it, but my poor little Gertrude has wept much over the parting in store for us. She is young & will, I hope not pine for me too deeply & I must recommend them to the sisters as I said before. Your letter of the 28th came this p.m. when I was out, as I went to endeavor to secure bargains for my little girls. [Black] stuff for

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

costumes, pinafores, etc. I shall be very busy getting them ready, I assure you & must get a spurt on. It is needless for me to pretend I do not feel leaving them for you know I do & very, very keenly: however, it is for their good I know, so I must not let them notice it. They will be more of a credit to me, I suppose & the separation must come sooner or later. As I said before I write so many letters to you that I cannot recall what I say in each one, but I am sure I said I thought St. Urban's best, did I not? You know dear, you are anxious that they should remain here, so that they may not be familiar with the children up there, so that is enough for me. I have always tried to please you in every way, my darling.

[/pg2]

[pg 3]

I mentioned that I intended going to a Band concert & then that I had been. I may have answered one of yours of a previous date first, but would be sure to mention it. The Johnsons are determined to make up for their neglect I think, by having you there as much as possible, especially when you are alone, dear. I feel sure you must enjoy it &

talk yourself blue, do you not? I suppose answering one of mine is filling, so you can go without dinner!!...

We cannot get any nice mutton here at all - even find it difficult to get good beef. Essie wrote me also, but have not yet had leisure to answer it. I am sure I do not know why Mrs. K does not like you for you were always nice to her, especially before you married. My dislike to her dates from years ago, for even when Minnie was very intimate & kind to her, I could not get on with her at all. We see few people, as so many are still away. I saw Capt. McDonnell when we went to Gus' yesterday & he was to go to Vandreuil for the day & Dr. de Lotbinière had been asked to meet him at lunch - likely they went fishing in the p.m. The day was cloudy, but we had very little rain, so I hope he had an enjoyable day. It seems to be wet every day. The weather being so unsettled makes it disagreeable as one can never make any plans for an outing. I see by tonight's "Star" that poor Henrietta [Kavanaugh] (Mrs. C. J

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

Maguire) is a widow - he died after a few days illness, yesterday p.m. I am so sorry for her - have not seen her yet of course, as she spends the summer in the country, some little distance out. Will likely send flowers. Would you dislike very much if I brought Gertrude up? Of course, I have not said a word to her, but Flora & myself discussed it over a little - she does not get on very amicably with Grandma & sometimes there are spats. Gertrude is not always wrong, an innocent remark misunderstood meets with a sarcastic answer & then comes the climax - Grandma will be one of those who will see them oftenest & I do not know how things would go.

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

It might be all right you know, but she might go through what was Flora's lot in the past; not at all times, but when she came out now & then - however, we will see what you think of it & decide later. She could join Torla next year, if you wish that - she will be twelve tomorrow, poor dear- almost four years difference between them, you know, my darling. I bought her a little blouse & a cheap book. There is very little news. Torla advises me to bring Gertrude up. I asked her if she would not be very lonely, but she says she will not have time for that - she is going to study hard. God bless you, my darling - I will now close - all join in the fondest love. With sweet embraces from your own true, devoted wifie.

Maye

[/pg 5]