

2008.1.1.1.1.269

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.  
July 29<sup>th</sup>.

My darling boy,

Your dear letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> has just come in & as my routine of dusting etc, is finished, I come to the most pleasant part of my daily duties, answering your charming missives. You, no doubt, enjoyed seeing so many fine horses, after those in S.A. & the prices were high, were they not? Having a [ruminant] depot in Calgary, must be very beneficial to horse breeders in the West & give a good market for their [stock].

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The weather is cool everywhere & according to the papers they have had very cold rains & disagreeable days in England ~~there~~ all this season. The farmers here are complaining, as they cannot harvest the hay & they fear it will prove a loss. Why did Minnie send on my letter? I wrote you at the same time & gave you all the news too. It is very nice that Mr. McHugh succeeded in purchasing such nice carriage horses for Major Dupont; he may have many more occasions of doing it, after these reach their destination & are seen & admired by Victorians. It is strange that George H. being so very fond of

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the fair sex & such a Lothario, does not marry again. It is a mistake, do you not think? he would be happier & run no risks of a stray bullet someday. He is not too old & can do like Jim Dickey - I am sure many would be delighted to marry him, for he can be very nice, if it so suits him.

I am not surprised that they fancied you in Lethbridge - you have the knack of making the children like you & know that is the way of winning a woman's heart too, for who can resist one who is kind to

the bairns? Chocolates are very sweet & so acceptable at all times, so you have scored again & made several new friends by your thoughtfulness. It is best to buy coal in the summer, as it is cheapest then & we have heard the continual shovelling of coal since we came, all day long. Of course, we will purchase it when we go into the house, as it would more than likely be stolen if bought too soon. I went & had a long chat with Mrs. Brault yesterday afternoon, seeing her husband as well. They find me

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looking so well & anxious that I should take a run up to Cornwall for a day or two, ere I go west. Mother & Frank went to Gertie's.

[Conconine] and her mother have both been suffering from malaria I think, due to the rain & the spot they live in - it is not a healthy place, I am sure & I do hope they will soon get another house - it is too swampy & always damp - no wonder they are so pale & delicate looking!. Charlotte is still at de Lotbiniere's, but is expected back today, I believe. Young Henri Panet, Eugene's son, came up to play with Harwood yesterday & is here this morning. He is a year older than ours & all say is a nice boy. History

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repeats itself" - fathers & mothers played together too! As you say, it takes a lot of scratching to make ends meet, but I will see that you get what you require, as soon as any cash comes from Ottawa, which has, so far, not made any visible sign of remembering us. I wrote [Murrie Feast] a long letter last evening & [once] so many I do not know where to begin, but will try & [farons] all in due time. All are well & join in much love to you, my darling. Folks are surprised that after all these years of married life, you & I write each other every day! God bless you, my own dear one - with sweet kisses,

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Ever your true devoted wifie,  
Maye

I have said nothing of telegram to the children & await your letter of yesterday, due to arrive on Thursday morning next with the deepest interest.

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