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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Sept. 2nd, 8 p.m.

My own darling Boy,

Your letter from High River, dated 27th came this morning as well as that of the 28th, from Calgary & the usual warm welcome awaited their perusal. D.J. Campbell seems as if he was inclined to be friendly; is he as intimate with the Kennedy's [sic] as he was in the old days? I think I remember [Rissill] but am not too sure, after all. Your news of Bryan's expecting a commission surprises me & shows how the Force has degenerated, my dear. We will take a run down to the ranch & see the A. B. 's when we get settled. Too bad you happened

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to go to the "Alberta" when it turned out to be such a nasty noisy place. I never heard about any accident at the Macleod station - is it long since? Jimmy [Morse] has been lucky in keeping his place on the C.P.R. for such a long time. I am pleased to hear young [Stedman] has turned out so well & trust he will succeed. Did you see or hear anything of Gardiner who used to be with Ellis Millan? - his son was the boy whose leg gave them so much trouble & anxiety.

The places must have grown very much & I suppose all the land is taken up. How strange it must appear to you who have gone all over without hardly seeing a house for miles & miles, to view comfortable houses & fine crops growing everywhere about you & instead of a [spanking] [illegible] in

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hand to have railroads in all directions, to bring you to your destination. I have the letter written on your return to Calgary before me. It was remarkable that you should recognize the grey haired man after thirty three years!

I telephoned Adrien DesRosiers this morning after I read your letter & found out that his aunt, Maria [Ermond] married a Mr. Talbot & that she is living in Calgary, so she is evidently the French Canadian lady you met in Camp. I do not remember him at all, but that would not be surprising as I did not always go to the Bastion's very intimately. Poor Torla! she begins to weep every time she thinks of my leaving her & weeps for you, my dear particularly. I fear the teeth will worry her & affect her nerves, consequently she will be very low spirited for some time - she is determined to study well & will be in the superior or under graduating course she tells me. I really do not see how I can be there on the 10th as I must send the cases a little ahead of me & I want your decision re furniture buying. Minnie tells me it is very expensive in Calgary, but you know how I am situated & that I have bought nothing so far. It is too bad, is it not? I am glad to hear Capt. Stubbs is so fortunate & hope he will continue so. Poor Capt. Macd - is still without employment. Of the two, I think the latter the smarter of the two, do you? I have had all your letters & I must say you have been

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most generous, but I am fairly good too, am I not? Am very sorry to hear Mr. French is making such a fool of himself & not studying - he will regret it too late & will of course lose all chance of success in the militia. I have seen nothing more of Col. Cameron's death or funeral in the papers here, so do not know when or where he is buried, poor fellow! - Yesterday p.m. mother & self went to call on Mrs. Bolt, Mrs. Terreux & Mrs. Anderson - we saw the two latter & had nice chats. On our return found Gertie here, who remained to supper, & slept here. She spent the day, returning home with Charlotte who joined her, after supper in a downpour of rain. It has been raining since early morning, at times in perfect

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torrents & has completely spoiled the Labor day processions, sports, & picnics. I wonder if there is any truth in Sir Fredrick's rumoured impending resignation! I have heard nothing of it, but sent clippings from Star". Torla had a letter from Tilsey today & they are all well & the turtledoves very happy. I did some sewing today - am always busy, as you know. Answered Cara Davidson's letter, refusing the invitation for the present, after I finished yours yesterday. All are well & send fondest love to all. God bless you, my own darling - many

sweet kisses from little ones to dear Papa. With warmest love, sweet
embraces & kisses,

Believe me,

Your ever affect'ate true devoted
wifie, Maye.

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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Sept. 3rd, 3 p.m.

My darling Boy,

Your telegram & letters of 29th all came about 12
today. I have been figuring up & give you a list of the monies I must
pay out ere I leave. The storage on cases sent in the autumn from
Pretoria amounts to \$68.00 Gus telephones me - quite a sum, is it
not, but I suppose they charge for the value & insurance on the
same. That takes insurance also, in fact, pays [Blaiklock] Bros in full
- that must be paid before I get the cases out. I have this moment
phoned Mr. Richardson, of the Freight Offices & he says I need not
necessarily pay

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for the car in advance or before the things are in Calgary, though it is
usually done. I told you that Sir T. Shaughnessey gave them orders to
do all they could for me & if I did not fill the car, to charge me only for
the space occupied & Mr. R. said they would do it the cheapest way
for my benefit - were very nice I must say. My bills for grocer, gas,
light & fuel, milk, Ice, amounts to \$60.00 for this Aug. I have made a
list & could not include cartage as the cost is so much an hour. You
will not wonder that I am appalled & do not know what to do to face
the expense. I hate troubling you & have tried in every way to lessen
it, but can find no way out of it. The convent is for a month only, as we
can count on

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its being \$25.00 monthly with the extras, music, stamps etc thrown in. I have worried, as I tried to see what I could do to lessen the expense, but I cannot do it by "other expenses" I mean Flora's costumes for school & extra things I had to buy. All the items marked I am positive of, as I have the bills. Berths used to be \$13.00 each & the two would be for myself & children. Now, what am I to do? You alone can advise me. You cannot wonder that I put off as long as possible worrying you about this - I hoped to manage alone, but see that I cannot do so. Bread is 2 cts more a loaf, so that a book of 24 tickets is now \$2.40 instead of \$1.92 & they last about ten days, many times much less. Water costs 48 cts weekly as well. The sums for grocers & all these items are for Aug, so that Sept. will be extra of course. Now, your telegram re Morgan's I was pleased to get, but, we have such a terrible lot to pay, that I fear going there - we must have some furniture, I know, but I guarantee it will not be costly stuff. I have had enough of that. I would miss writing - reading & answering your dear letters are my greatest comfort! if I only had not to allude to money matters!!... Bagnall is quite willing to do a lot for me, but cannot help in the money question. You know pianos were going for a few £'s in Pretoria, so one did not know what to do. I may be wrong about Reggie's feelings towards me - hope I am, but no one could help

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loving & being nice to you, my darling. Gus phoned he has the \$240.00 for Aug & wanted to know whether he would send the \$100.00 to you at once. I told him to wait a few days - the pension \$89.00 will come soon. Perhaps you had better write Mr. McNichol yourself, as you may be able to do something, but I much fear this railway commission handicaps even the Pres. Sir Thomas S - he says - I will write Mrs. Landers when we decide on day of departure & that depends on cases, as they must go for a week ahead, I believe.

Had I not had to leave Torla here in school & had she been able to let her teeth wait for a time longer, I might have gone up before, but these arrangements handicapped me & compelled me to remain, as you know.

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However, I put my trust in God, & surely He will help me out of this difficulty, as He has many times done before. I hope you are well &

that we shall soon meet, as you say - things seem so much easier when you are near to help me bear them. The children are well and send much love. Torla is busy studying & says she much prefers the books they had in Pretoria Convent - she is full of courage & will, I trust, get on. You will notice that I have allowed nothing for cabs, or incidentals till we leave, but I must not say more. God bless & keep you until we meet again. With warmest embraces, ever your own true lovely dear (?) little wifie,

Maye.

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