

2008.1.1.1.1.242

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St.  
July 13th

My own darling boy,

Your dear letter of June 7th lies open before me awaiting an answer, but not an acknowledgement. You know every time I have received money, for I tell the date of every draft, & the date of its reception by me at once. I do hope you fully understand that I have not wasted or misused one cent of what you allow me. The fact is that all the amounts paid out are so large, it gives me no

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

chance of catching up. The books I sent by Col. Gordon came to \$50.00. I do hope you received them safely for I could scarcely replace them. I sent them as quickly as possible. I have not finished paying Belcher & as you say he will have the wash-up to pay himself. Jarvis I have not paid either. In the first place I did not know how to do it - the express goes to Pelly P.O. & no bank. He told me he expected to return to Dalton trail sometime this spring - if he did

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

there would be no use sending the money to Dawson, so being in a quandry, I wrote asking him what to do. Besides that your saddle will come to over \$100.00 & Mr. Meanea says you gave him no address & wishes to send it to me, so that I will have freight or express & duty as well to pay over & above the amount mentioned so that I must reserve the last hundred in the bank for that purpose & must pay the Great West next week their \$33.45. I need money to dress & pay for the making, to clothe the little ones & myself for the trip & have not a cent to do it with. I sometimes do not know which way to turn to make ends meet & will thank God most earnestly when we are together again. Indeed if we have to pay full fare from here to Capetown [sic] & it costs what the papers say, \$200.00 or more from Eng. not to mention the trip from here there, I don't see how I can ever do it. All

the little ones will cost half fare so you can count & figure up at your ease!

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

You say "draw on me at sight for two months" but I have no money now to make my preparations - \$281.68 went for Life Insurance (Federal) & Uncle John out of the last \$486.00. Then as I say there is your saddle, etc. I do wish you would put down the amount you send & the amounts I pay in a book & try to keep track of them. I never mention the small items, which are many where there are three children, the clothe, feed & dress. You are quite right to remain

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

where you are as long as God gives you strength & health to do your work, which I hope will be for many a long day to come.

I am sure the Thanksgiving service must have been very impressive. Poor fellow! you seem anxious to see us now that you have made up your mind to bring us out, & may find time long, but I am sorry that I cannot arrange to go sooner - you know why! As for your pension, you will have had the letter Mr. White

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

wrote in answer to mine & which I sent at once to you, so that you might know what steps to take in the matter. It does not look as if the Govt. here expected you to leave your present position to continue in the N.W.M.P. It is well known it seems to me that the Force has, as you say, gone to the d--. The Indians at York factory have been giving trouble as you will have seen in a back number of "The Star" - invaded the post, killed & wounded the Hudson B. manager & others. They need looking after yet, as you see & the N.W.M.P. must be kept going for a few years longer at any rate. What a goose Sir Elzear Taschereau made of himself in trying to get his lovely young brother-in law Panet, a position. Auguste was just furious at having written at Uncle Henry's request & wrote the latter at once informing him of the way things were. He will feel rather small, I fancy. I cannot imagine how you do not get my acknowledgements for the money. I write at once as I said before & do hope you know

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

I would not neglect such an important affair. Thank Heaven! we will have nothing like that to bother us when we are again united! I do

hope you will not think too seriously of joining the mormon ranks, for I would be in a very bad fix, if you do. You would have had a willing companion all along had it so pleased you, but I was compelled to remain & look after our three little ones. I have feared ever since you first left, that some one [sic] would usurp my place & I dread meeting you again, in case it may

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

have happened! - anyway, you have a fair antagonist & fighter in our eldest daughter & she is armed to the teeth, ready to stand up in my defense. Poor fellow! when they see us, they will think you very much married, will they not? Flora flew into a perfect rage when I told her you were going to turn mormon - you would have beheld her with the greatest delight, I believe. She is a chip of the old block. We will all enjoy the trip. I want to be nicely dressed when I join you, so that you will not be ashamed

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

of myself & children. I have not got many clothes since you left a year ago, in fact nothing, so need some, to be in the style & my pride is such now, that I want to be dressed when we are together, so that people will appreciate me a little. As you tell me I am to be president of a new musical society, it has put me in my mettle - also the position you mention I am to occupy & I must endeavor to keep up the good impression you have evidently produced.

Poor old [Champness] is dead & buried - he asked for a few weeks holidays but was refused "unless he found a substitute, was responsible for all during his absence & got no pay during his absence". Those were too harsh to comply with, having so many depending on him - his friends applied again, but ere the answer came, he sickened & died in two days - his funeral was the largest one held in Lethbridge, children being there in large numbers - he was a favorite with little ones. I fear his wife

[/pg 9]

[pg 10]

[&] Mrs. Neale & child must be left penniless. Mrs. Mac writes in low spirits about our leaving, etc. Dubbie was quite sick last night - suffered from severe, colic caused by constipation. I sent for Regie, who relieved him at once & he is all right today after a good dose of castor oil this morning. I feared appendicitis at first. I spent most of

the night awake, so feel tired, but he is better so I do not mind. I am asked to the Brierley's for late

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

supper tonight to meet the Rae's who to to P.E. Island tomorrow. Flora & Gertrude returned from Vaudreuil on Friday & they are sorry they were lonely, not knowing what to do with themselves here. no place to run wild in! They look very well - Gertrude has tanned such a nice color! I sewed all week with a girl & one was to come tomorrow disappointed [us], so we must go & secure another if we possibly can. The last one comes next week again. My mother is fixing herself up very fine to do you

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

honor, & I do not wish to be too far behind.

There is not very much news. Last night's "Star" is filled with interesting paragraphs here & there re "Strathcona's" - Lord Dundonald's sketch, I mean concerning him & his life will interest you without doubt. Look out for it & see review of Colonials in London too.

All the little ones join in much love to dear old Papa - my mother also particularly desires to be mentioned - she at times fears you may not care to have her come. Mrs. Hilliam will not go without me, that is, ahead of me, although I told her not to hesitate if she was ready. We do want to try & sublet this house so that my mother will not have to pay all the years' rent. Our chances may be slim, still we must try. Well my dear boy, do not think me extravagant for telling you my monetary troubles, but I have no one else to turn to. God bless & keep you safe until we have the pleasure of seeing each other. All send many sweet kisses - with

[/pg 12]

[pg 13]

very many warm hugs, believe me

Your own, warm-hearted

loving, devoted, lonely little

wifie,

Maye