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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St.
Aug 31st

My own darling,

Your dear letter of July 25th received on Monday, the 26th & was as usual much appreciated. You acknowledge no letters between June 23rd & July 8th so that that of June 28th & June 30th & of July 3rd must have been lost for I then wrote every Sunday & Wednesday morning as well having more time at my disposal. I trust they

/pg 1]

[pg 2]

have since reached you. I did my dear boy, notice that you told me to draw on you for the amount necessary to take us out, but it is the money for our preparations that I have needed so much. I knew I could not draw on you too much & all that I had to pay has worried me very much. Your telling me there had been no snow was great surprise as the papers had it that snow to the depth of six feet fell in

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

in Pretoria in a day or two in June. Of course, you know it is getting ready & getting to you that costs money at first - afterward, I hope our expenses will lessen considerably. I also trust you are not making a mistake in asking me to go out - you may regret it. I do not think I ever will, unless things have changed very considerably - it was my not anticipating it & being ready that is the cause of all the delay. I did not know you would bring me if you could. You always said "you would return to Canada". I am still trying to arrange as to the best way of going. "The Ontarian" was not to carry passengers - now I believe, they will. Lord Strathcona has at last replied - the delay was at the War Office. "They will give indulgence passages provided there is a transport available about the

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

time we wish to sail" - now I do not want to wait for weeks in Eng. as hotel bills will be high - see how I am situated & how much thinking I have to do. I have written the War Office to please give me probable dates of sailing of transports. You know full well I shall do for the best & I will cable in time for you to meet us if possible. Capt. Hilliam has only his wife - you have your wife &

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

children, however please yourself about that. You cannot read the papers as carefully as usual, otherwise you would know there are no direct steamers to Capetown [sic] & there has not been for ever so long. "The Ontarian" is the first & goes by Eng. The Millers & Alex Harvie chose the trap so I have had nothing to do with it. I know the people I shall meet are equal, if not far ahead of those we have here.

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

That is why I am so particular & desire to be well dressed, so that you shall have no reason to be ashamed of myself or your children. The War office will bring out furniture etc except piano's & [biggies] so that will not cost us as much as I feared. You know why I have delayed so long - however, this month will soon pass & we have a terrible lot to do. I got some poison, but the difficulty has been to find a box to send it in. It must be of tin, square not round, as I cannot tie the latter so that it can be opened if necessary in transit. I have not forgotten you, never do for a moment my dear. It must be fixed in such a way that there is no fear of bottles breaking & destroying other mail matter - otherwise the consequences would be serious. I will bring out a quantity of it, when I go. I think I shall have to rub your head pretty often, for

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

you are again getting too smart & your old sarcastic voice is coming to the front again. Never mind, my darling, if I am sparing of my caresses, there is one thing you can be sure of - that no one but yourself ever gets any of them - that should comfort you. I am not as a rule demonstrative, still I do feel as deeply & love as many of those

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

who go about lavishing their kisses & embraces on every one. "No one can come between yourself & Torla!" you say, very true - still, there has not been one moment of my life which has not been true to

you as you know well, if your usual justice comes to the rescue & pleads for me who is too far way to speak for myself.

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

Torla is a fine girl, but you must give me a little credit. I have tried hard to make her worthy of the name she bears & for five years have done it alone & under trying difficulties at times! The two others are fine children too I assure you & there will, I trust never be a reason for you to be ashamed of being their father. They are bright, clever & healthy little ones & are much liked. I am working hard with all I have to do. Dubbie & Torla are still in Vaudreuil - it is doing them much good & they are well. Tillie has not been at well since the ninth day - her boy is two weeks old today. I trust however she will soon be all right again. We have been having beautiful weather & I assure you, enjoy it very much. Our summer is really only commencing, it seems

[/pg 9]

[pg 10]

it seems to me, although the leaves are turning & falling. There is not much news. Things are rather quiet, but society folks are looking forward to the Minto's coming it is said, to occupy Lord Strathcona's house for three months. Of course, I will not be here. We saw Mrs. James Ross for a few moments in Morgan's the other day - she was as usual, very nice - her sister, [Wherring]

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

you know accompanied her & both desired to be remembered. They were off on a trip the same afternoon. They enjoy their money & show the comfort it brings them. Mrs. Ross looks very well. The boys are gone camping in Vaudreuil for a few days - it is the last time they will be together for many years perhaps, as Antoine is coming out with us - better try his luck at once than wait.

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

Mrs. Leclair, a cousin of my mothers spent three days with us this week - she resides in Brockville & we had not seen her for a long time. She feels very bad over my mother coming with me, but is pleased for Mamma's sake, knowing it will do her good. Col. & Mrs. Biggar came home yesterday. I tried to find out where there were but could not. I wished to call - they may have caught the Ottawa train & gone home at once. They went away in January I think. Well, my dear, I will say au revoir. Be sure & write often. We cannot possibly

sail until Oct. 4th anyway, perhaps not even then. God bless & keep
you safe until we meet again.
with loads of love & kisses. Ever

Your own true devoted, loving wifie,

Maye

[/pg 12]