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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
28th July-

My darling boy,

The first thing I must acknowledge is the receipt of the telegram which came in last evening at 10:30 - pray, my darling tell me what caused you to wire. I have looked over your letters answered on 22nd & 23rd & cannot recall anything I said which would make you wish to have me bring up the girlies. I have decided on sending them to St. Urbain's & they have become accustomed to the idea by now.

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As I told you in several of my last, I think it will prepare them for the Villa & they will not mind the change, when they have once been boarders. The studies are the same, so they will continue them & it will not keep them back, you see. The house is too small to have them all up, so had we not better keep to the original programme & decide finally on St. Urbain's? I have in a way, commenced to get them ready & I think they will be all right, as I shall recommend them very particularly to the sisters & my family will keep an eye on them now & then.

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I now turn to your dear, long, interesting letter of July 23rd, received yesterday per 11 a.m. mail. I missed writing yesterday as I feared I could not pen an entertaining letter, as there seemed to be no news. We had such miserable weather that we had not been out - however, as it cleared up in the evening on Friday, Kate Brault & her niece, as well as Capt. McD & Jim Macdonald came. We spent a pleasant two hours talking, then had tea, lemonade & cake - all seemed to enjoy themselves in a quiet way. Yesterday, [Aurelia] & Louisa McD invited mother ^{&self} over to tea, to meet Phillippe Panet & his wife, whom we had not seen for years. Harwood accompanied us, as little Henri

Panet, Eugene's son, was with his uncle, on his way to Windsor to spend the balance of his vacation with him. We saw Aurelia, at least I did for the first time & found her much thinner than she used to be. She is going to Williamstown for a few weeks to recuperate, visiting old friends. We talked of course, but I did not take the cake in that line, I assure you.

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You must understand dear, that your last of yesterday dated 23rd completely sets my heart at rest & reassures me that we shall have sufficient for all our expenses re schools, etc. I did not know there was another Borden in the Cabinet besides Sir. Fred[?] - the leader of the Opposition R.L. is a cousin of the latter, so I conclude the P.M.G. is also. I shall settle all with the Bagnalls when I give them their months [sic] wages. I am sure they will be satisfied with \$35.00 at least, I think so. Flora is anxious to have her teeth fixed & Frank sent some time ago for the arrangement necessary for it,

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it has to be made in Philadelphia & costs something like \$40.00 She would much prefer remaining at St. Urbain's than going to Calgary - she dislikes the idea of the Villa but is anxious for St. Urbain's & wants to study hard, so as to finish in a few years. I shall not worry you any more [sic] on the question, so forgive me please for bothering you so much about it, my darling. I suppose you will see the expert when he has been to examine "The Empire" & I trust his report may be favourable. I know there will be a setback on account of the late spring & cold winter. There has been such heavy rain & hail throughout the country that the crops will

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suffer in consequence - even the Eastern townships were not spared & many farms devastated by Wednesday's storm. The weather here is very cool & the hay is being spoilt by the incessant rains. What a shame that reports that Jarvis was a coward should get about! he did his duty & I feel sure you will right him in the eyes of people who say such things - his reputation could not be in better hands! People at head'qrs do not think that of him, do they? The sweet embraces will be numerous, I fancy, will they not? at least, on my part anyway & we will be more than ever all in all to each other. Let other women enjoy their admirers - I want one only & shall be satisfied with that one until

the end. Since Mrs. Howe is comfortable as regards means, is she not silly to wish to marry again? Perhaps she thinks another would bring more sunshine & love into her life than [Joe] did!. She is young too & craves affection, I suppose. one cannot wonder, after all... it is such a comfort to know you have a protector & one to whom you can turn to for sympathy when in trouble. Mrs. Mac rather fancied Joe, as he was nice to her - he certainly did not treat his wife well.

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All the men you meet are surprised at your youthful looking appearance & I have no doubt, it makes you feel like a fine, young bird. The Ladies Club may not play for money now, but they did once, Mrs. Zach used to make plenty of it there & knew how to spend it too. Where are they now? Were they great social favourites? I shall have to run the gauntlet of many eyes & tongues when I arrive on the scene, & hope not to be too badly scarred as I pass through the fire. How foolish it is for people who have daughters to allow them

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to go to parties without accompanying them. I shall not do so - if they want our girlies & they will be pretty enough and sufficiently accomplished to shine in any drawing room, they must be content to have one of us also, otherwise our girlies remain at home. If we are not invited out at all, well - dear we must try & be company for such other. I feel sure I shall always be able to pass time pleasantly & find many things to do; so I do not mind - we shall surely have some friends. Women are so peculiar at times, & remarks made concerning one of their sex are always remembered by them years after. Mrs.

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Kennedy always disliked me so much, that she undoubtedly would harm me if she could to any one whom she knows in Calgary - however, I managed to live in the same place for years, so I shall not mind what she may have said. Flora is deep in "Gunner Jingo's Jubilee" & is roaring and laughing every moment - she cannot resist reading out funny snatches now & then, so it is somewhat difficult to write. I suppose you are at church, as it is nearing noon. We went to early mass as usual at the Hotel Dieu. It looks somewhat cloudy again, but I do hope it is not going to rain again, as I want to call on Mrs. Brault this p.m. she leaves on Monday or Tuesday for Cornwall & I may not see her for a long time. All are well & join in fondest love

to dear old Papa. God bless you, my darling. I do hope you are not bothered in any way over my letters for such is not my intention, I assure you. I know you are anxious that the children should go to school here, so I have instilled that into their minds & they are quite ready to obey our wishes.

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I shall await more definite orders, before attending to matters, as your letter written today will surely throw some light on the meaning of the telegram, which came like a bombshell as I was preparing for bed last night. I have been thinking over things & may be able to get the children ready at less cost than I thought at first, so as I said, I will not worry you any more about it. I forgot to mention how amused I was over Tilsey's letter merely beginning, "Dear" -- as if you & she were a pair of turtle doves! We all enjoyed it - she appreciates what you did for her, I am sure.

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It is a good thing she is not lonely & likes the country. As dinner is ready, I shall have to leave you for today. Hoping to hear from you tomorrow, as the letter box is watched by the youngsters & when a missive comes, they begin to sing out from the bottom of the stairs, "a letter from Papa, a letter from Papa," knowing what pleasure it is for me & themselves to know you are well. With many sweet kisses from all, ever

Your own loving, devoted wifie,

Maye.

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