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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Sept. 15th 11 a.m.

My own darling pet,

Your two letters of the 9th & one of the 10th have come since I wrote you last. I do hope you are getting better, in fact are well by now. We have had mother very ill indeed with bronchitis & [threatened] with asthma as well. She has been worse than at any time yet, so you can imagine how busy I have been & still will be for a while yet. She is somewhat better but must have mustard as well as linseed poultices for some days I suppose. I fancy she is bothering over my going & that does not help

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towards a speedy recovery. I have a sewing girl also in the house, helping me with Flora's preparations, as I had my usual bad luck & the dressmaker I employed spoilt them, & I have been compelled to have them done over under my surveillance. I cannot understand how women can say they can fit & sew & make such a botch of their work! - it is so unfortunate & of course, the articles in question must be right. I now have to purchase material for a drill costume, as I know you want her to learn it. I hope my letter re Morgans reached you safely & did not put you out too much. I went to Labelle's yesterday & looked over a lot of their furnitures & bought some carpets: you

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will say "why did she not buy?" but you know dear, I must calculate in the prices of everything, in order not to exceed the limit of the trim too much. We have drawing & dining rooms - halls, three bedrooms, lavatory, servants room & kitchen to furnish - it takes a lot of thinking & counting up to do it all. You want nice furniture - well, it is much cheaper than Calgary I find, but it is not to be had for nothing. Rest assured I shall do my very best & I hope you will be satisfied. This

refusal, or their hard terms I should say, at Morgan's had detained me over three weeks & I cannot help it. I cannot say yet what day I can leave until the car is gone. Believe me, I shall use all the haste I can - a proof of it is that I have not gone to bed until after midnight; many times not till one, sewing all the time so as to hurry. I am going out again in the morning tomorrow, Monday, & hope to get through more before the day is done.

I do hope people are kind to you & that their care has restored you to your usual health by now. Do you get the papers I have sent from time to time? You have not mentioned them. Had the McHugh's been wiser, we might have occupied their home, but I suppose things will come all right in the end. Antoine said Miss [Tilz] was in Edmonton staying with the Herring-Coopers, but was to return to S.A. as soon

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as possible. She will have a fine time I am sure, with the country in such a state. We know of the loss in cattle through the big prices for meat, which is going up quickly - it will be twenty three cts. more in a month, I am told. The winter will be very trying for rich as well as poor, if things go on like this! I am sorry to hear of the Johnston's heavy losses & it will take years to get over. Minnie must have been told she was in duty & honour bound to rush the sale of the farm & I suppose thought it would be better to do all quickly, never doubting Henderson's friendship & smooth talk. Many women think it not right to trouble strangers with their business, & I suppose she thought McGrath had too much to do.

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is there really no way of punishing such swindlers?

I am pleased Geo. H. stayed to dinner with you & goes often, as he is out of mischief & in good company then.

Our weather has at last turned & it is very fine today - so was yesterday, but we had two weeks incessant rain. Torla will, I think be all right once she gets accustomed to the convent. So many of her friends live at home, go out & receive at home, that it is apt to make her discontented - she studies well & knows her lessons.

The railway people have promised to rush the car through when it leaves & I am doing all I can. Some understanding had to be arrived at, before I could purchase you know dear. Fortunately, I am stronger this year than last; otherwise I believe I

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would be a wreck with all this worry over again. I now have yours of the 10th before me. The usual snow storm you say! is it not strange that should come every year. You have your usual share of callers, I see & it helps pass the time. The tickling sensation in one's throat is terrible & is the cause of your violent coughing - strange they cannot find the reason. It just breaks my heart to have you looking for me so eagerly & not be able to go as soon as expected. It is well I was here when poor mother is so ill - she might have been without a servant you see & it would have been hard on her.

As I said previously never saw a word of Cameron's funeral in the papers - am pleased your wreath had a prominent place.

French is a happy papa the [Reiffonsteins] told us - his wife is a connection of theirs - the son was born on the 12th. I so wish you were near to help me & advise on the choice of furniture - it is such a responsibility having to do all that alone, as no one here can come with me. Mother would love it, but will be in bed for some days yet, I fear. The children are well & happy, I believe. Torla has written her Sunday letter which I enclose with mine. Pluck up courage & do not find time too long dear. Be sure I long to see you & will do my best in everything. God bless you, my darling.

With warm embraces, ever

Your own devoted, true little wifie,

Maye

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