

2008.1.1.1.1.85

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your very short note of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult reached me on Thursday last, but I forgive you for its brevity, knowing you were really very tired & you might not have written had you loved me a little less!. it is kind of you to favor me under the circumstances, but you are well aware of the pleasure I derive from perusing one of your dear missives & that knowledge should alone be sufficient inducement for you to continue your good work. Miss F. no doubt enjoyed her trip to Pincher Creek & will ~~not~~ I am sure think a great deal of Mr. S. for bringing them there. "The Champion" seems very hard to please with regard to the fair sex & I would very much like

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to see a young lady who would be altogether to his taste & idea of what a lady is! It surprises me sometimes, for though he is not very old, his opinions are very decided. he used to make me laugh often when he came in of an evening. Mrs. Mac thinks a great deal of Mrs. Mathews, so the friendship is reciprocal – they will be better friends than Mrs. Mac & the Majah! I fancy. Mrs. Mac was saying you did not play cards quite as frequently as when I was up, but you see you miss the fourth for whist & it is not nice to play three, especially as you all would be likely to recall to mind the dear little girl who is missing. You are quite right about Grandmamma – she is strange & when you know her better you will be surprised at her ways – she seems to have very little affection for any of her own, except Mrs. Mac & her youngest

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son – as we are very much united, we resent it, very naturally feeling less love for her than were she otherwise. I speak of the other members of the family, as she has been kind to me, & I cannot say why – as we think the world & all of dear Mamma & she is in every way worthy of our deep love,

we cannot understand how her mother can be blind to her sterling worth, but I must change the subject & let you judge for yourself, as the time is fast approaching when you will meet. Mrs. Mac has gone I hear, but not knowing the day of her departure, cannot tell how far she is on her journey. her Lex will be delighted to see her & she was very anxious to go they say. All your newcomers are settled by now I trust & that worry over for some time. I see that the Comr. is to be hauled over the coals. he must be furious & the paragraph leads me to believe Craig's case is one of those he will be questioned upon. "So you must pretend to be in a good temper for the sake of the dear creatures" who are the bane of a man's life, you should have added. it is terrible to have to pretend what you do not feel to such an extent as that, is it not? why you must regret now & then the awful mistake you made a little over a year ago & wish you could gracefully retire, do you not? it takes a great deal of reflection you see & the nearer it comes the more serious it must be to you. All your friends will pity you, none more sincerely than Lex. I once remember hearing that you had made a compact. Lex was to try matrimony, & if he found it a success you might possibly venture to trust yourself on its stormy sea – has he candidly given you his opinion on the

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subject, & if so, may he not desire to have you, his best friend, endure the same amount of misery which falls to his lot? You may have far more, as your intended wife is not half as meek & mild as Mrs. Mac, consequently marriage with her may prove a failure. Many men are so disappointed in it, that it is a wonder such a thing as love still remains in the world. Let us go from matrimony to music, as I know a wee bit more of the latter I think & it may please you more, to have me discuss it just now, until you have given me an opportunity to prove that I have formed too hasty a judgement on the subject which is so near our hearts at present. I think 60 a good temperature to keep a piano in good order or between 50 & 60 – it is not an improvement to keep it too near the stove & I fancy the same place

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as Mrs. Mac has hers is preferable to the outside walls of the house, as they are cold – particularly as you will be absent for so long & will have to trust to your servant that it will be well taken care of. Mrs. Mac will be charmed to have the new help, especially as her trip up will tire her & she will wish to be as much as possible with Grandmamma previous to her departure for Cal. You must bless those who disturb you during the night.

Mrs. Neale used to say her husband was away almost all the time – it fatigues one so to spend some hours awake then, particularly if you have rested a little & are compelled to rise & go for some distance in the cold – driving is not as nice then as it might be, is it? Our weather still continues lovely & I only hope it will be pleasant when you come. You must be sure & let me know positively the

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exact day you will be here, as I will have to go to Montreal pretty often about that time & I might be away – if so, you would have to face them all by yourself, a thing which I suppose would not please you very much. so you see what is before you if you surprise me & besides, I would rather expect you than to have you come unawares. I heard yesterday that you intended leaving this coming week, but I said it was not the case, that you would let me know the exact date of your departure if you told anyone, as I was the most interested person besides your own dear self. I am going down next Monday for a week or so – business of course, all owing to you – do you not feel sorry for me, or is it delight you experience at the prospect of the event which is now so near us & which will I hope, be the beginning of a long life of happiness & love! Heaven bless my darling pet, how fervently I prayed God to bless us both in our new life. I seem to think of you day & night, my pet & am so anxious to meet you, my own one. Although it costs me so much to leave them all here, if I were put to the test & had to decide between you & they, needless to tell you, I never could leave you, my lover, my sweetheart & I would give up all for your dear sake. You have become part of myself now & the affection I feel for you is beyond words, my pet. The day is so lovely I must profit of it & tonight I go out again. I was saying the other day that as I am going now, every person seems to have developed an unknown friendship for me & they wish to see as much of me as possible within the short time left to me ere you come. Well, my pet I will now say au-revoir & fondly

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kiss you as I once more sign myself

Your own dear, loving

little Girl –

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