

2008.1.1.1.1.2

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Seal your letters please.—

Vaudreuil
Friday Evening, Dec 21st 88.

My dear Major,

Yours of the 9th reached me on the 17th & received a very warm welcome as I was so anxious to hear from you. I feared you might be too busy or would wait till you heard from me ere you wrote so you can fancy if my heart fluttered, as I opened the envelope containing your first letter. You have by now received my first one, which was perhaps not as interesting as you expected it to be, but I told you not to look for too much, as you would be disappointed. I wrote you on Saturday, the 15th, also & trust both have reached you. My father's answer must have set your doubts at rest & you will imagine I may have exaggerated a wee bit when I said he would only give me to one whom he thought worthy. Well, all that is good & nice he thinks of you & when

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I told him what you were, your age & how much I loved you, he did not even hesitate in answering in the affirmative. I told you I could plead my own case well. I succeeded I trust for your happiness & mine. Do you know that I can scarcely realize that you love me well enough to desire me for a companion for the rest of the life God will be pleased to bless us with!! I know not why I fear you may be disappointed & find I possess ever so many faults you did not even think of! all I can say in self-defence is that I shall do my best to make you happy: stranger to say I never have a doubt with regard to you & am willing to trust my whole future to your safe-keeping & love. You found me very restless the last morning we were together. You little knew the feelings that swayed me & that were making my heart quail at the thought of parting from you!! we might never meet again with the same bond between us.

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Papa might raise some objection & though I was decided not to give you up, still we never know what “tomorrow will bring forth”!! so do you wonder now that for once I let my fears get the better of my good sense, & that my heart was very sore when I thought of the great distance that would separate us? however, in the end banished the gloomy fore-bodings & when we parted was already thinking of when we should meet again!! Girls are queer, or rather women are I should say & often, as I have said it you seemed to doubt it: but you will beleive [sic] it, at least will fancy I am after we have corresponded for some time, as things seem so different when spoken ~~as~~ to what they are when down in black & white. Mr. Jenkins told me Mr. Wroughton had got off at Dunmore & I was so sorry to have missed him – do you know I fancied he might be on the train, once or twice, but afterwards on reflecting that he had ten days leave, was sure he

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would enjoy his whole holiday. I fear you all give me credit for more force of character than I really have – however my father says one can read it in my face, so it must be there if even in a small degree only. I hope Mr. W_____ congratulated you – [ahem]!! Did Mr. Ward spread the report that we were married? You see it got here before me, as I told you before, & they were quite indignant that the rumor had even been whispered. My Mother & Father said I was above doing such a thing & they knew me well. They have always been too kind & lavished too much love upon me, for me to treat them in such a manner, at the eve of my leaving them forever & when I want them always to think of me with the tenderest feeling & beleive [sic] me, a grateful daughter. I am glad you are now in command & that Lex has “H” division – it will keep him busy & as you say restore him to his proper position. Then again you are such friends that things are sure to be right

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between you. The pony will enjoy his freedom & must be glad that the heavy-weight has left for home – my house they say is lovely & Mamma asked me the other day if I was going to bring “Myra” with me – on saying yes, she told me how pretty she is & has made me quite anxious to see her – it has been so cold & I have been so busy that I have not been to the stable yet: in fact, so far have only been to church. Last Sunday was a very disagreeable day raining & snowing – tonight, a snow-storm has set in, but

will do good, as there will be passable roads afterwards. Mr. [Cowie] saw my brother-in-law yesterday & spoke of me – he has heard of our engagement & trusts “I shall get a good fellow as I am worthy of one.” How I long for the ring & for your photo, a nice one, which will in a measure do you justice. I want to take a look at it my darling often, though my thoughts are forever with you & others are anxious to see it too. Pray write to me when you can – letters take so long to come & time seems endless when one desires for things that are far away!! Mamma finds

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me very reasonable you will be glad to hear, but I am old enough to be so now. My sisters see & hear from their admirers weekly & daily, while I - - - - . au revoir for tonight – it is late & as tomorrow’s mail may bring me a word from you, I shall live in hope. God bless & keep my own pet safe. I hope you are not troubled in the least with the pain in your side, due to me. I have been thinking of it often for the past few days. With the sweetest kisses my life ever could give, I wish you a fond good-night. Saturday – The mail disappointed me once more, after all – how far we are apart, my dear, when I hear so seldom from you. Seeing you as often as I did has made me selfish and exacting, & to be satisfied I should have news from you every day! What will you think of proud, haughty Maye after that? that appearances are deceitful? I hope my many friends think of me now & then & sometimes mention my name – The news of Mr. Starnis admiration for me reached Montreal & my mother was asked

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how she should like him for a son-in-law? I thought your imagination vivid & that because you liked me you fancied all others did, but now I see he must have mentioned me some time or other – this is entre-nous – The announcing of our engagement did not surprise any one I suppose – in Montreal every one congratulates me & good is said of you on every side. Your conduct in the Rebellion of '85 won the admiration of all the men who were in the West at the time & now my Father is charmed with the prospective son-in-law! hear! Hear!! Well, my own pet, all that pleases me you

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may be sure, though it does not increase the love I feel for you. I am ashamed to send a letter written on scraps of paper like this, but I have no

more of the same [kind], so trust the sentiments the sheets convey will in a measure make up for the deficiency. Remember me kindly to the Young Officers & any other who ask about me. Tell Mrs. Macdonell to write me a nice long letter soon & for your self? Well, the happiest wishes one can for another, I hope will be yours. That's '89 will crown you with blessings & love. I trust from the depth of my heart of hearts – With sweet kisses & fond love, Ever Your own Maye.

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