

2008.1.1.1.1.299

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary, Sept. 19th

My own darling boy,

I got this far this a.m. when I was disturbed & have been unable to continue until now: it is eight, p.m. dinner is over & I am awaiting a call from our old friend "Buzz" whom I met this afternoon a few moments after his arrival on the Edmonton train, & who was on his way here to see me. I actually have seven of your dear letters before me & although so anxious to do so have been unable to pen you a line since Sunday.

I cannot begin to tell you how much I enjoy & appreciate the many kind, loving letters you write.

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I do not think you uxorious, for naturally do not find your fondness foolish & as I say am yet young enough & love you enough to fully appreciate all your attentions. Your third letter of the 3rd is the one I am now replying to.

That was strange all that the palmist told you & wonderful that she should hit everything so well. She really read your head & hand well & must, in a way have surprised you. She did indeed! give you a fine character, etc. The good you had not time to complete was of course, in the Yukon.

Your affinity was dangerously ill as you know, but a little previous to the age she mentions. I shall have to look out for sixty five, will I not?

I shall certainly call on her if I go to Winnipeg & learn what she has to say of me.

The Evans house is not

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is not so bad after all.

Friday a.m. Once again I come to continue this very much interrupted epistle, & I simply feel most guilty at having written so seldom this week, but I know you believe it is not my fault. So many have come & disturbed me! You actually said I would not take much pleasure out of all you say re palmist, etc when I have read & reread it many times enjoying every word.

The p.c.'s of Laidlaw's ranch came safely - it is a pretty place & looks prosperous.

Yours of the 5th acknowledges Tilsey's & mine - she was simply charmed beyond words & awfully [proud] at your reply - she admires you immensely & respects your good opinion I assure you.

As Capt. Burnham will not be here it is very unlikely that Mrs. Helm will return after all. They say he had been living too high of late & that his system could not stand it - she was away for a while I believe, & he tried not to be lonely.

Genl. Campbell will likely look after his [son's] widow. I believe they are in fair circumstances in Scotland. I mean Mr. Rickards not Richards & he is getting better the papers say. I saw the enclosure re Press' son in the Star & sent it on to you.

The cash you send I keep account of & make it go as far as possible. I am finishing the \$40.00 you gave me when you went away: have bought potatoes & such

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at the market getting them for less than at the shops, saving something in that way, you see, my darling.

I also bought a few cups yesterday at "The Fair" where they are having a dissolution sale - the things are nice & half price, so it is too bad not to profit of such an opportunity. The sale continues this month & the place is crowded. I have not much in the china line & it is better to own, than to rent such things when one desires to entertain a few & they are being sold for not much more than the rental.

I did not mean Miss Boulanger would please you, but that we called would - they were out.

Your next is that of the 6th enclosing one from Mr. Clark. is he a cousin of Hugh's? he is evidently very

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grateful for your good advice & writes a most interesting letter. So Parker came back to Winnipeg! what is his wife doing in England? Was Fred Taylor pleased to see you again? we looked out for him,

but his stay here was a very short one & did not know he had passed through.

Perhaps poor Cameron did like you after all. Some men are strange, you know & show their liking in a peculiar way. I am delighted people are so nice to you & that Mrs. [Devine] admires Torla.

Your next is written on the 7th & settles the question re Capt. Burnham. I never worried one minute about it as I am sure you would let me know as soon as anything transpires - you see I want to make jam etc & my experience has been such that it is folly to bring much of that sort of thing when moving & they

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broke quantities of my jars last Oct. & so much glass got in it that it had to be thrown away so it is in economy on that score - again if we remain here, I should like to have it, as it is nicer than what we buy. I remember Capt. Donnelly well, having seen him often & met him once I think. The O'Donnell's were great friends of theirs.

The Esquimaux are a fine people & Mr. Jarvis says so - will entertain you more than he did us, I am sure, in all their virtues. He is looking well.

Torla has of course written you ere this & told you that she wants to come home at Xmas - will send her letters as soon as I have answered them.

Yours of the 8th is open before me & convinces me that you meant all the sweet things you wrote to me. It is short & mentions Genl. Macdonald's telegram re letters & it is hardly probable that B. would get such a responsible appt. on the face of all that happened in the past & might happen again.

You will wonder why I could not write, so I will give you the news now. Monday evening I wrote our friend, Mr. Johnston. Tuesday we were making cakes & preparing for the little entertainment I gave for Tilsey on Wednesday & was really too tired to pen a line.

Wednesday all day I was occupied with the same, as our help while willing, cannot do a thing in that line & are awfully slow. I had thirteen folks besides ourselves & they had a jolly time - Mr. & Mrs. Lilly, Mr. & Mrs. Talbot (Bermuda) & Mrs. [L-Aunt]

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Miss Thiel (an old lady who is seldom included in the invitations I fancy & who was charmed to come & enjoyed it, thanking me many

times for thinking of her) Mrs. Costigan & Miss Gardiner Miss Lee, Dr. & Mrs. Macdonald, Dr. Costello, Mr. Mills & last but not least, "our dear little Capt. Mackie" as the children say. We had a table of bridge, one of whist, & a round game for the younger ones. Marcella was here too & remained until next morning about eleven, having a gay time. Music & dancing kept the ball rolling until near one. I had sandwiches, cakes, [cursts], tea & coffee & some delicious lemonade, - all missed you & your ears, no doubt, burned red hot all evening. It is really pleasing to see how much they enjoy themselves when they come. Mrs. Costigan said "Mrs. Bliss says

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Col. Steele is sure to get the command" but I shall indeed be very sorry when you leave - we want you here." She means it too, I think & would not miss coming for anything. Dr. Costello was flattered at being included & deserves it for his politeness & calling often - he can crow over the rest of those who neglect common politeness & courtesy.

On our way up town at five having been detained until that hour by Mr. & Mrs. Hyde who paid a long call in the afternoon, although Mrs. Hyde was here for two hours in the morning. I had just reached the Massey Harris building when I heard "not so fast Mrs. Steele" & knowing the voice, turned & eagerly welcomed our old friend "Buzz" after his long absence. He was delighted to see us & walked with me for a time, leaving me to go & report to Capt. Deane - arrived just as they were going to dine & had that meal with them.

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He then came & spent the balance of his time here. Capt. Mackie whom I had phoned joined us about half past eight & we had a most pleasant evening - after coffee & cake they went to the station, "Buzz" going at once to Regina. He does not know what kind of a reception awaits him from the Coms. but he does not care a pin - is disgusted with his treatment since you left the Force & will not put up with it any longer. He is so anxious to see you & if he cannot get his leave & see you en route east, hopes to see you as you come west. Is the same old "Buzz" & Min made a great fuss over him - one would think he was a long lost brother, but she knows how much we all think of him & that accounts for it, I suppose. The children pleased him - he really likes us, but we were always nice to him. Tilsey leaves us tomorrow after a three weeks' visit. She has enjoyed it & the

change has done her good, but she feels she cannot conscientiously remain longer - Antoine is sometimes very busy & cannot find time to cook a meal for himself. The weather is beautiful - we go to call on Mrs. Macdonald & Mrs. [Ellen] & spend the morning at the Talbot's. I fear you may find this a very long letter, but there seems to be so much to say that I cannot write fast enough. So far, there has been but a slight frost & our beans only nipped - we have had a few cucumbers from our hot-bed. Too bad you were not here to enjoy them.

Well, darling, I will not pen any more as it is lunch & the gong sounds. God bless & keep you safely.

All join in much love & many kisses - all are well.
With fond embraces & much affection,

Your own, loved, devoted little wifie, Maye
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