

2008.1.1.1.1.56

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> / 89.

My own dear old Boy,

Your's [sic] of the 13<sup>th</sup> received today & eagerly welcomed by your own little girl. it pleases me very much to know you so concerned about my health, but previous letters will have told you I have quite recovered & do not feel any of the worse of it, thank Heaven. Mr. [Tweed] was, I believe married when I saw him flourishing around Cornwall in great style, some years ago now. How strange he should turn out to be a friend of yours!! You see how true it is when I say "Love is of man's life & etc" – your very words prove it, although you try to patch up your forgetfulness, by asserting you were so much in love, dates were of no account. now, I have treasured [up] & recall the dates of the different events connected with our friendship with the greatest delight & recall them ever with the most intense gratification. It is very nice of you to be so fond of home & your love for it will, I hope increase as time goes by & some one can make it more attractive if possible. Perhaps Mr. Davis wished to try

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& ascertain whether your brother had told you anything - had he had a chance he might have mentioned it, without pretending he had thought of it before. I hope you will profit of the first opportunity you have & let your brother know how far from an angel I am. There is nothing angelic about me [sure] & a great deal of the very opposite sometimes as you can vouch. Where does this brother reside? How could Mrs. Mac find out anything of the people of Maple Creek? She never lived there, though I am very well aware Lex was stationed there some years ago, when he would persist in favoring me with a puzzle to solve, in the shape of a letter now & then. Wicked am I not? I fear I may be inclined to judge persons on things wrongly sometimes & should have my sharpness tempered with a little of Mrs. Mac's kindness of heart, though mine is a very loving one, I can assure my darling pet. The evening I felt so sad before we left for the

“pass” you did not come in either to console your little girl. Lex went off to the Mess saying “No one will come tonight for I am going to tell them we will retire

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early”. Sure enough, he came back about nine, alone – I wished to finish my habit & remained up with my busy thoughts only for company, until half-past twelve. I thought of you dear pretty often when thus occupied, & regretted you could not join in the party. I did not dream I cared so much for you pet, until I had said my apparently cool “Good-bye” & had left you for some days. I realized the truth when in Pincher Creek & every step we made further away from you, I loved you more. While I enjoyed the trip, the pleasure was marred by your absence, love. I feared I might have divulged part of my secret in the morning & was certain you thought less of me, dear, for speaking as I did. I will tell you about it later on. You little knew, pet, that had you asked me then & there, you might have been saved a week of uncertainty later on, still things were nice as they were. I brought down my birthday book that morning when coming to see my darling, but timidity got the better of me & pride as well, as the fancy my actions might give you an inkling of all I thought of you, darling, flashed through my brain – you see now what feeling existed pet. the warmth was there & the fire was very bright. I feel very selfish for talking of the saddle as I did, but know Miss H. will wish to ride & if mine to be were there, it would be borrowed for her use. You see Mrs. Mac being fond of riding, used to feel it when I went out for my canter & she compelled to remain in – it would annoy her & make her cross with Lex. that day in particular, as he had so much to attend to, it displeased him & he vented his temper on me as well. he saw my independence once more, still it hurt me very much, though I do not think he really knew the full meaning of his words. It is late to be raking up old scores, so I had better change the subject. What fraud’s [sic] men are after all!! The Majah I am sure felt highly flattered at the deep interest you took in her & no wonder – to have a person like my pet concerned about you, will make one put up with a great deal!. It pleases me to know the Wilsons are not to leave at present & I cannot see why the Comr. amuses himself by changing people about so – he delights in putting them

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to any conceivable inconvenience. Mr. Whyte Fraser gave me the impression of being fond of rest & of the ha! ha! style. It must be rather embarrassing for Mr. Hilton’s sister-in-law to be scrutinized by so many &

know she is the cynosure of all eyes. I am sure some of the bachelors can look pretty well & many a one who does not consider himself as belonging to that class, can do so too. I only trusted one letter to Mr. D, that of the 30<sup>th</sup>, as my brotherinlaw [sic], Mr. Hubert was not going to the city, so I could not do otherwise. it may be prejudice, but I cannot help it, so prefer to ~~avoiding~~ putting temptation in his way. Grandmamma arrived yesterday & though she is thin looks well – she is anxious to go, but business keeps her here. It seems to me you are a very regular church-goer even more so than when I was up there. I am charmed Mrs. Mac likes her new uniforms & trust they are stylish & fit well, besides suiting her in other respects. She is, I believe trying hard to convert my pet, in order that I may have less trouble to persuade him when we are one. I am rather fond of heat,

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though I can stand a fair amount of cold sometimes, if near a warm stove. Joking apart, summer is my favorite season & has always been. You end your letter by saying you have made a fool of yourself & though I have read it over several times, have not as yet, been able to find out, where the foolishness comes in! perhaps you will enlighten me? Sunday evening I rather enjoyed – I met so many old friends & have become an object of interest as my departure “some day” for such a distant country, surprises them all. They cannot understand how I ever made up my mind to part with all & my dear old home, & wonder my parents ever said yes. We have been rather busy today, but that is nothing new. If you only knew how anxious my family are to meet you, you would I believe be much pleased. God bless my own darling pet & give him all the happiness my heart desires to be his lot. Heaven protect him & keep him safe until I once more have the delight of clasping his dear hand &

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welcoming him. With many Sweets & fondest love I leave you for tonight, my own pet, whom I so dearly love.

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July 24<sup>th</sup>. I was not surprised at the tone of my own darling's letter written on the 16<sup>th</sup> & received today. I knew you would be disappointed at not hearing from me, my pet, but are now aware that my brotherinlaw [sic] forgot to mail my letter. You were so full of expectation when you commenced to write that it grieves me deeply to have unwillingly been the cause of hurting your dear heart by the non-arrival of the missive. The

Comr. wiring from Regina & approving of your way of dealing with the Redskins must have gratified you very much – as a rule telegrams are known by many others, besides the one to whom they are addressed & the news spreads quickly. I am afraid I can never again say I know nothing of riding – it would be a poor compliment to my pet for his trouble in giving me lessons. but I can easily pretend to have forgotten, if you would like commencing instruction once more. We certainly seem to have a good many friends & I trust to meet some of yours “some day”. I went out calling with Grandmamma this pm – I saw several Montreal lady friends of

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mine at Uncle Henry's. They began to ask me about my trip & my Aunt said I was to return & told me of a person Uncle had met who is secretary to Mr. Royal. You may be acquainted with him, but I do not even know his name. This young fellow said “he had come down with the intention of getting a wife but could find none to return with him.” Uncle spoke of my going & was asked whom I was to marry – upon being told, he launched forth into praises of my own darling pet & said all kinds of charming things. You can imagine how much it pleases me to hear you so well spoken of, my pet, as none of the family are acquainted with you. It is nice to hear strangers speak to relatives about you, my dear old boy, in such glowing terms & it has made my heart quite happy, my own one. The men were certainly very attentive when I was mushroom picking, although I never asked them to help me. I do not know why they came, but they received my most hearty thanks. none of the officers ever came, but the privates did, much to my surprise. the former evidently thought it

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beneath their dignity & preferred being deprived of the pleasure of my society. I trust Mrs. Wilson's illness was nothing serious & that the Comr. will arrange things in such a manner as to permit them to remain where they are some time longer. I suppose you have perused “Yolande” by now & perhaps do not think much of it. I was delighted it came on the Tuesday as it proved I thought of my own dear pet. No! No! you will not offend me, my pet I know & I will not take offence at little things, never fear. It is better for you not to come now unless you would wish to return next March or April, as you surely would have to leave me, not being ready to accept you as an escort just yet. I see a long paragraph in today's “Gazette” taken from a letter written by a Mr. Patrick to his father in Ottawa. he is surveying coal oil lands at present & predicts great things – is he in any way connected

with Lex's claim? Lex spoke of Mr. P. before it seems to me. I know his sister now Mrs. Dixon. Grandmamma was telling me today there might be some of her furniture for sale. she could only decide when she goes up & all is settled at Mrs. Mac's. now, business is business & they may persuade you to buy – if so, do not go & give too high a price, for you may be sure, the best will be kept – do not fancy it will please me to have familiar things about me for if you can give a good price, it is better to have new articles. While things I have seen for years are nice to have, when they are not solid, I prefer new, especially if the amount they desire is too much. You will judge for yourself, my pet, for I do not know what has been sent up, but know the size of Mrs. Mac's house very well. You understand me, pet & will do things without letting on I ever mentioned the subject to you. We are very busy preserving fruit & it is a dirty as well as tedious work. Still they are nice to have when you wish & particularly in a place where things are as expensive as they are in Macleod – practical little wife you are to [illegible], my pet, eh? Your future Grandma thinks the world & all of you, my darling,

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so you can be certain she speaks well of my pet. I enjoy conversing with her, as she is one who has seen & talked with you – she was speaking of the saddles today & from what she says do not think Lex will buy his wife a saddle. She finds riding fatigues her somewhat – I will be ahead of her there you see & trust to have many a canter with my own pet for company. Your paper reached Papa all right & I of course was very much interested in all, particularly in the item about "Major Long & Sergeant Short". I see Mrs. C. Wood is not very badly hurt after all & hope she is getting along nicely. Mrs. Zach must be well as she has gone to Mrs. Wilson's for a while. You must have admired the views very much & my photo in particular – it is not very flattering to say the least of it.

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I showed Grandma your photo's [sic] & she finds them splendid. You dear pet! how I wish you were here that I might -- - but I must not say it & be content with the picture for some time longer. it will lose none of its sweetness by waiting, as my lips gather honey as the days go by, consequently the nectar will be more copious when the time comes for you to sip it, dear. The months are passing darling – August is almost here & there soon will be a year since we met. I wonder if the date will strike you when it comes!!! I am sure not to forget it, pet. My pen is bad, but I really

am too lazy to change it, so hope you will excuse the scrawl. "Good night,  
my own true love, a thousand times good-night" as I sometimes sing to you  
in spirit, my darling. Trusting you are

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well. with much love to Lex & Mrs. Mac of which you may reserve a share if  
you feel inclined for more than you have, believe me

Your own true, affectionate, sincere

little Girl.

Enclose a note for Mrs. Mac & tell her I will write as soon as I have a  
leisure moment - - -

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