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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Oct. 8th

My own darling Boy,

There are several of your dear letters to answer, but not knowing where you might be, I could not write. Your first is that of the 29th telling me all about Lord Milner's banquet which pleased me immensely & I read the letter over many times. Lord Milner charmed every one here I believe ~~that~~ who had the pleasure of meeting him - of course, I had not that pleasure, much to my regret, but it will be for another time, I hope.

I did not answer the one about the brown braid as there was no time & the samples were not suitable. I am sure it will be a great help to have all the nice things Lord Milner said about you, as he is not in anyway concerned & cannot be benefitted by his remarks.

You fortunately were not under the weather for very long, my darling. I was worried until I heard from you again.

Yours of the 1st is now open before me & how I did enjoy perusing it. The furnace was finished today - we, of course, suffered very much from the cold, during the time that it was so disagreeable, but fortunately, the weather changed & these last few days have been most lovely.

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They had to take the whole thing to pieces, & the man has been four days at it, but he says it is perfectly all right now. Mr. Johnston never saw me once.

The whole city is on the qui vive over the libel suit between Edwards & the editor of The Daily News. You will have heard of it, as the excitement is intense. I have kept the papers for you. The letter by "Nemisis" is worse than anything that ever appeared in "The Eye opener" they say.

The interview in "The Herald" given by Col. Turnbull was not much, as you say - merely a little harmless flattery. It was Mr. Homer Dixon who answered Mrs. Mackie's telephone call & who promised to

be sure & tell you - that was nice, I know. The book "Three Weeks" has not yet come - did you send it or keep it to give me when here?

Mrs. [Samson] is a friend of Mrs. Turner Bone & one of those who treats me as if she feared I should try to belittle her - funny, are they not? I do not care a fig for them, that is the funny part of it.

Yours of the 3rd I now take up - am delighted the gymkana [sic] was a success & that the men did so well. I was somewhat jealous that you should stand by Mrs. Macdonell & suggest that she say "something sweet", for you never come near me when I have had to do the same thing! You always say nice things when you visit the men & are well received.

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B. must have been surprised when you put "a flea in his ear" - no doubt, he needs it often. The officers will like the place better now, perhaps, if it is run as you want it to be. You must be amused very much over the different accents that you hear & the difficulty some folks have in getting the refined accent.

Yours of the 6th from Moosomin came this p.m. I was of course, delighted to learn how far on you were on your [time] & was certain you would enjoy your stay at the Clark's in Brandon - O! my God! he [sic] talk I suppose until your tongues were tired - it is pleasant to meet old friends & discuss old times.

The folks at Moosomin were pleased to meet you after so long, & retain a warm spot in their hearts for their old commanding officer. I suppose you spent the night with the [C.L.D.W.'s] as you intended. You, of course, saw Mr. Jarvis & he must have been pleased to press your hand once more.

On Sunday the Mackie's came down about four & I kept them to supper & they left about nine, having enjoyed it, I think. We sat in the library, the only comfortable place.

Saturday p.m. was Mrs. Macdonald's day & we were there as well as about a dozen others. On Wednesday, p.m. Mrs. Nichol of Macleod (who had the mill in the old days) came to call - she was simply charmed to see us & almost wept - called us "you two girls" as if we had been the greatest of chums.

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It amused me immensely as I knew her slightly, but Minnie became very friendly when Lex entered the hospital - however, she certainly was pleased to see us & is dying to see you when you come, poor

soul! I had an invitation to dinner with Minnie at Mrs. Macdonald's, but some book agent called, a young girl & she kept me so long that I could not get dressed in time, so I had to go down afterwards.

Today we paid several calls & meeting some nice women enjoyed ourselves. Mrs. Hull was not at home, although the papers said she would be, so we did not see her. Mrs. Birkinshaw has changed her day. We paid Mrs. [Pentland] ~~was very nice~~ our first call & she was very nice & pleasant. Mrs. Peterson & Mrs. McCarthy, wife of the M.P. were there, but they have not favored me, so far. Mrs. Rowley & Mrs. Kerr came in but I have not the pleasure! Mrs. Macdonald & Mrs. Anderson of the College came with us - then we called on Mrs. Hart Nichols & there were several of us there together & had a friendly call - then we went to Mrs. Lilly's who is always nice. Mrs. Macdonald drove me home & after dinner I am having this chat with you. This letter is stupid, but so much talking is going on between Min & the youngsters, that I scarcely know what I am writing.

Tomorrow Mrs. Dr. Smith receives & we intend going - hope the day will be fine.

They have a card party at the St. Mary's Hall tonight, but we did not go, as I know very few

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very few of the young men & only Dr. Costello ever called. The Polo Dance is on tonight as well, but I would not go without you. The 15th L.H. Ball is to take place on the 9th. The King's birthday & Thanksgiving day as well. Dr. Macdonald hopes you will be here for it. They are going to cut down the list a bit, I fancy.

Torla says mother leaves for Denver in about a fortnight - she will miss her Grandma, poor dear! They were all well when she wrote on Sunday & she was out enjoying her week end.

I trust you found every one in good health in Edmonton - they are not very good correspondents, I assure you. Bagnall says that the gardener's a/c must be the money Mr. Johnston owes him for planting the trees & trimming the others. [Tycehurst] told him once when he met him on the street, after he left us, that he went out to Mr. J. & that the latter said you were to pay for all that. Bagnall replied you had nothing to do with it. B says you paid him all you owed him, he is pretty sure of that, & I think so too. I must not write anymore, as you will be tired perusing this badly written letter, so I shall say good-night. God bless & keep you until we meet again.

Many sweet kisses from the chicks & love from Minnie. I join in both.

Your own devoted, affectionate little wifie

Maye.

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Attached note

1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Oct. 8th

My own darling Boy,

I have asked you several times for the address of the firm from whom we got the butter & eggs last year, but you either did not get the letters or overlooked my request. You might inquire & perhaps succeed in getting some in Edmonton. Say 60 lbs of butter, if it is not too expensive - what we get here is now 30 cts a lb - 40 dozen eggs are not too many - they are 30 cts at present. Tillie or Tilsey I should say, told me they were much cheaper in Edmonton than here.

It is now late & I am very tired. Mr. Cowdry spent Tuesday evening with us: looks well - is on his way to the coast for some weeks, & after returning to Macleod leaves for the east, then off to Europe for the winter - lucky man, is he not?

God bless you

Your own little wifie,

Maye.