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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W
Calgary, Sept. 14th

My own darling Boy,

Your two nice letters of the 10th & 11th came as a breakfast relish & as I have been writing a letter to Mrs. Waugh, thanking her for her kindness to Flora I think I will pen you a few lines so that I may come as an unexpected surprise, but do not wish you to stampede as our old friend McFarland was inclined to do.

I am sorry that you are so lonely dear & trust that we shall soon be together again - under the present condition of things, dissolution being so near in Ottawa, if the press reports this a.m.

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are true, I suppose they will appoint a successor to Col. Evans very shortly. Then you will wend your way homewards I fancy, as speedily as possible.

How you must have enjoyed your lovely moonlight drive with Mrs. Mackie. You are getting quite romantic, you two driving under the light of the moon & we shall have to bring you home to your mates, or else the nest will have no attractions, after, a time!

I did not know the Polo teams were down there - having a tournament I presume, as our American cousins say.

I did not remember Capt. Donnelly calling at Skinner's Court! I am sure I never met his wife.

Our weather is simply grand & so far no sign of our usual storm to my delight, as I should

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be sorry to see our lovely flowers destroyed when they give us so much pleasure & delight - certainly they have proved a success.

I am sorry to hear that you are thinner & hope you do not feel any ill effects from the change. I am anxiously awaiting any news concerning a move, as I would like to do autumn work which good

housekeepers all attend to at this time. They will not keep you much longer in suspense, I hope. Too bad your office is such a miserable one - a person can work so much better in comfortable, pleasant surroundings. Flora has surely written Mrs. Mackie by now - she is usually so very particular in that [line] - she has written as you see per enclosed desiring to come home at Xmas - what she says is true in a way & I suppose she feels that when mother is gone no one there will take an interest in her or care what becomes of her a very miserable feeling, I assure you. So far, I have not referred to the matter when writing, hoping she may change her mind, as she was so anxious to return there in the first place. It is very evident Alice is slowly [turning] round to her own & you see what mother says in her letter. I have heard nothing whatever from her for a long time as you know.

The p.c. is very fine - they tell me they have a directoire dress at the H.B. Co. - I wonder how it would suit my style? Mrs. Costigan says she saw them at the theatre but it was a long stocking & bare legs above there, hardly suitable for afternoon wear, eh dear? tights are too modest, for some folks.

You did right as you always do, to call on the Kitchens.

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She is what he makes her & may improve more as time goes on.

I trust you sleep well & are not obliged to get up & play as Hendrick used to say. My bedfellow is Gertrude & she does not rest as quietly as some one else I know - her knees are on the centre of my back sometimes & she kicks away at a great rate, however, it is such a pleasure to sleep with Mamma, that I put up with it all & do not say much.

I am awfully sorry I disappointed you with no letters last week, but you know the reasons why & forgave me, I hope. Will try & make up, but you remember asking me not to write long letters? somehow or other I do not seem able to cut them short.

Marcella had some kind of a foolish scheme on of touring the west

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with a woman she met at the hospital & who said she could sing & dance. Then they were to get local talent at every place & she intended taking Evelyn Craddock along to sing too - a crazy idea, that

will not, I trust materialize, as she is sure not to succeed - people want professionals, not amateurs.

Why do you call yourself "your bad old man!" I cannot see where it comes on. Have you seen the fine new book called "The Flag" which is so much advertised? be sure & get it as soon as it comes out the price is one shilling & it is something very highly spoken of. "The [Boadenender]" is another you must get - it also is a beautiful work.

Capt. Mackie came with some mail for a few moments this morning - he says he will move into his house tomorrow & bach for a time - he is lonely too, I think - we had a little talk & he

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says it is true that poor Helen was drinking - they went duck shooting & were out almost a week - Helen, G. Hope J. Percy Barton, the [Lowes] boys & some others & I think the ducks were beyond their reach & that the bottles suited them better. it is very foolish, is it not? one would think G. Hope would have more sense, especially when he has to set a good example to his boys & keep them steady.

Dr. Macdonald was ill last week - suffering from gallstones, but is feeling better - he says he suffered much pain & that is why he could not come to my small evening, although his wife came, but had to leave rather early.

Well, my darling, I must not keep you too long. Bagnall, Annie & baby were up yesterday p.m. he leaves his cooking job today as he says a man's life is not safe just now - the strikers broke the doors, windows etc & threw immense stones at those who are working - he takes over looking after the lamps etc at the station today - he has had a sickening of [Ringham] & they are not on speaking terms now - he let out a lot of things yesterday, I assure you - of all the meals he (B) got at Steele's some friends told him (Bagnall) when he was living here & the little his [board] cost him then etc - he (B) was worked up over it & gave it away. I simply smiled in my quiet way & said I knew it. I fancy he must have pondered over it afterwards. God bless you dear & keep you safely until we meet again - all send fond love to darling Papa. Capt. Dudley's letter is most interesting. Hoping to hear from you soon & do not forget to send some cash as I have only 50 cts left - if a cheque, you should endorse it, should you not? you did not do so with the last you sent & maybe you forgot to do so. With deepest affection, every your own devoted little wifie,

Maye

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