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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Oct 23rd 1901

My darling Boy,

Your dear letter of Sept. 15th written in Modderfontein came as I expected on Monday, the 21st but it was the only one for myself. Auguste told me he had one too, but have seen nothing of him, so do not know what news you gave him. One also came addressed to our friend, [J. T.] Bethune. I received one from him myself which I inclose [sic] – strange that he should have written about the

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time I wrote him – mine to him trying to find out his whereabouts was penned on Sept. 20th – his is dated 30th & from Dawson, so it is not an answer to mine. Knowing you have heard long ere this of our little visit west, which was not a very long one this year, I will pass over that part of your letter in which you allude to it, my dear. I wonder where you now are my darling? The press reports did not mention any change in your quarters, so I am quite at sea just at present. are you going to establish a new post as your headquarters?

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I had no idea you had to walk such a distance for your meals – why! it was a days work in itself, dear. People all seemed sorry Gaundaur was beaten but as you say, these men hold out too long – they forget that age sometimes makes a difference & that good young blood is continually coming to the front. Indeed, dear, I felt quite sorry when I read that you wished me to look around for a home in Ont. There really is nothing for you to do here, my dear boy & you are altogether too young to retire – it would kill you were you compelled to lead an inactive life.

You know, my pet how very lonely we all are without you & how anxious we are to be together again, still I cannot see any opening for you here, so far – were there any ways or means of making enough money to keep us

comfortably it would be very different, but as things are now, we have only your salary to depend on. It is extremely hard but, you understand me dear, do you not? As you say they gazetted you as a Colonel in the militia, but of what good is that?

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Junior to such as Lessard & Evans too, who have not seen half as much service as you have! – I have not called on Lord or Lady Strathcona as I told you – society is so strange & I would not have them imagine I was fishing for anything – they would not notice such an insignificant little mortal as I am, in the midst of the social world here, so I concluded it was better to keep within my little shell, as long as you are away my darling. As you are aware long ere this, no reception took place & I was smart for

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I did not spend a couple of hundred dollars on a dress for nothing. Indeed! it pleases me very much to know General Barton is nice to you & gives you all the help you need re transport etc. Dr. Drummond at a meeting of Insurance men at which Strathcona was present, recited a new poem of his “Strathcona Trooper’s address to his Horse”. I do not know what it is like but suppose it is excellent. It has not appeared in any of the papers to my knowledge. Very nice eh! dear of the lady to say the “Strathcona’s” were adored

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by the people of Capetown. I am not at all surprised when you make the assertion, for they were deserving of it, I fancy. I see by the clippings from tonight’s “Star” that Buller is disgraced! oh! is it not extremely hard to have to face the world in that way, after all the good work he has done, the hardships he has gone through etc – what was the matter? do you not fear dear, too much champagne ran riot with his usual good sense & unloosed his tongue too much? I feel very bad over it, knowing how much you admire him in every way. I send you the clippings referred to, but you will know all about it long ere this reaches you.

Poor Nicholas F. Davis was buried in Beechwood, Ottawa yesterday – it was rather a quiet affair – what a sad thing that was too! So far we have no servant – we have been disappointed over & over again – they object to children & will not come for love or money. I do not know what the world is coming to. We expected a girl from Sweden yesterday &

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a man went to Portland to meet a number of them, but the one intended for us changed her mind at the last & did not come. They are very difficult to get I assure you – it is not that we do not try & do all in our power. Louise is out a great deal, attending lectures, hospital etc – if possible she wishes to go west in January. I would not care for the work I must say. I have a sewing girl, but she needs watching – her great fault is making things too small & that is a great mistake with growing children, especially if they are not apt to wear out

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their clothes quickly & ours do not. I had a letter from Essie on Monday – they were all well, had heard from you & answered. There is very little news this time. Am too busy to go out, in fact cannot leave the little ones at all. God bless you dear – be sure & write me regularly & often. Your letters are such a very great comfort to me, dear. All join in fondest love – many sweet kisses to dear old Papa. I hope photo's have reached you all right ere now & that you were pleased to their dear little faces – how much they love you, my darling & how much they miss you & look forward to the day when we shall be all together once more. I pray you take care of yourself & let me know where you are as soon as possible. Heaven bless & protect you until we meet again is my earnest prayer. With oceans of love from our little treasures & myself, believe me,

As ever,

Your own true devoted warmhearted

lonely little wifie,

Maye.

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