

2008.1.1.1.1.199

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St  
Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1902

My own darling,

Yesterday's mail brought me a letter from Mr Sam Steel (Dr) but no letter from you, my dear boy – needless to say how awfully disappointed I was, as the last is dated the 25<sup>th</sup> of Dec & was answered long ere this. Even the press gives me very little news from the front & of course, as usual we are on the qui vive to find out how things are. Every now & then we hear that the war is surely nearing the end, then again, that it is likely to continue

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

for ever so much longer. [One] can only wait & pray – pray & wait! There is really very little to tell you this week. When I get letters I find any amount of news, but with none I seem dumb. I only wish you were here for a few minutes. You would see & hear enough to keep you busy thinking for a week or more. It is so hard to keep these youngsters from fighting – it is the boys now that are at it as a rule & it worries the very life out of me – my nerves are gone pretty much, you see & this bickering I cannot stand. When I think that a long year from June may have still to pass ere we are together again

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

I almost give up – it is indeed true “that the women who wait” endure as much suffering in every way as the men who are doing all they can for their country. Auguste & Marie have just come in to dine. Flora & myself went to church, then I gave my two girlies a nice bath & they look as sweet as peaches, dressed up with pink ribbons on Torla & green on Gertrude. I wish you could see them, for I believe your old heart so filled with affection for the little ones would feel very proud of two such fine girls. Gertrude seems to be getting darker & her face is fat & rosy. Torla is as fair as ever, her cheeks are filled out, her complexion very nice & rosy – she has grown tall & plump & looks well. They are much admired & all are considered clever. I know this will please you, poor, dear, deprived for so long of their companionship. The Dr. finds me improving, that is something else which will give you pleasure. The massage seems to agree with me & the electric treatment too. The day is lovely. Auguste & Marie have gone calling, the children are all out playing in the sun. Mamma & I are, for a wonder, quietly penning a few lines. Louise comes back from the hospital tomorrow to rest for a short time

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

before going into another. she cannot stand it there, being treated as a servants more than as nurses. She cannot attend to a furnace & such work besides all the nursing, attending babies, etc there is to do. She looks worn out & has only been in the hospital about two weeks or very little more. She will try to get into The Royal Victoria or The Western, both good places & is going in for general training & a diploma as you know. It is a hard choice she made & I only hope she will be able to stand it. If her old mother-in-law would only help her in some way, bu no! - her husband! such a thing as he is!!.

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

I have not heard from Orillia for a long time – I wrote Grace a lengthy letter on Sunday last & suppose they will soon favor me again. Mamma has a slight cold but is bright as usual. All are well & send warm love – be sure & write as often as you can, for I miss your dear letters very much when they fail me. God bless & protect you dear. The House opened on Thursday & I will watch proceedings closely & let you know as soon as I notice or hear anything. Again Heaven protect you with many a fond embrace & very warm kisses rained on your dear face, believe me with a sweet-heart clasp, your own true wifie

Maye

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