

2008.1.1.1.1.141

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
Montreal, Aug 16<sup>th</sup>

My own darling Sam,

Although I have had no letter from you my darling boy, this week & have answered all your others, I must pen you a few lines, as I will be pretty busy for a few days. We are all going up to Orillia on Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> to spend a fortnight or thereabouts. Mrs. Miller has invited us & I accepted thinking the change will prove beneficial in every way – the children are looking forward to the visit with the greatest satisfaction, poor little things & will, I know enjoy it.

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The rain has ceased for a time & we have actually had two days of fine weather – just think of that!. I wrote Viv after getting his letter telling me of his mothers death, but have heard nothing further. Oliver Smith met me the other day & seemed worried that Elmes had not left Viv a power of Attorney, as it makes things hard to settle. If possible, could he send any kind of a written agreement that would answer the purpose for the time being? Her death came rather suddenly at the end, as she seemed as well as usual only a little weaker for a few days.

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I see by the papers this evening that it was poor Capt. Parker of Fort Steele who was killed some time ago. He seemed such a nice man & perfect gentleman. I took a fancy to him in Ottawa – no nonsense & always so polite & attentive. I do hope this horrible war will end & that you will soon come home to us – this anxiety is killing – always waiting for news. I know you are fighting since July 1<sup>st</sup> if not in any big affair, in small scraps which are just as bad & dangerous. Louise came back last week – Willie lost his situation, but not through any neglect or want of attention on his part – spite was the cause of it & he expects another place soon. he has been doing well of late, so it is too bad. Gertie came in on Sunday evening last to see

Alice before her departure – she looks well & [desires] to be remember most kindly. Alice left on Monday night for her journey to Denver, then on to Telluride – she much disliked going alone, but Fred was to meet her in Denver – she looked so much better than she did when she came, but will I fear, soon lose the good of the trip, if he is not nicer than he was before. I feel sorry for her – she is a great talker, but has made a great

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mistake in marrying such a man. She can thank her Aunt Min for being too officious & making a mess of her life, poor thing!. I put a bold face on yesterday & went & asked Mr. Shaughnessy for a pass – he gave me one as far as Peterboro, where I have to change cars. He was very nice in every way. Mr. Beasley who was twelve years in Donald interviewed me as far as the business was concerned - Mr. Shaughnessy coming in to meet me & have a few moments sociable chat. They inquired very kindly about you, my dear. Cela va sans dire –

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The papers are making great fun of Col. Sam Hughes on account of his foolish letters which of course, are printed. He must be a very erratic man indeed. I have heard no more from Col. Herchmer. I had a letter from Mr. Cowdry last week, concerning the amount due the firm. I wrote & told him the cause of the delay & penned a letter to Mr. White asked him to be kind enough to try & settle the business & get the customs dues for me from the Govt. I do not mean Mr. W. to settle the Cowdry business, but that of the customs. This is horrible delay & as the money was

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said to be in the hands of the Minister in April, strange to say the least of it. I have bought some little gifts for Essie & Grace Miller, Mrs. Miller & Uncle John – the latter has a lovely silk handkerchief, the best in the city & hope it will please him. If you were only here, my pet to take the journey with me, how much nicer it would be – it is a hard to have to depend on oneself for everything with three little ones to look after. I got this paper at Carsley's & find it very poor, but must use it, so I hope you can read my letters readily. I bought such a lovely muslin dress to wear if asked to spend the evening in Orillia. I found a good dressmaker & she has made a perfect success of it – it is very becoming & dainty & would I know please you immensely & make you feel very proud of your poor little wife. Well, my darling, the children are thank Heaven, very well & rejoiced at the prospect of meeting Papa's

friends. they all send their warmest love & many sweet kisses. All the other members of the family are well also. With many sweet kisses from myself, hoping you will excuse this short note, it being very late & that you are quite well, ever your own true, devoted wifie,

Maye.

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