

2008.1.1.1.1.101

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, Apr 4th 1898.

My own darling Sam,

Your short letter of the 24th of Mar reached me yesterday & I cannot say how pleased I was to hear from you. I sincerely hope you are feeling better for these colds will pull you down very much & make you unfit for the arduous [sic] journeys you will have to take, ere you finish the tasks you have ahead of you, poor dear!. I have received your letters, although you do not answer mine very much – you must read them over when you write, in order to respond to any question I may ask?. I do not suppose Mr. White will try very hard to get me the rations, as all of the grass widows are in the same fix. Mrs. Wood is going to Regina at once I suppose, but fear she will not care for the change very much, having been so long in Calgary & all our men will not be on hand when required. As I said previously, I wrote the Comr. about the rations & sent you his answer with other letters which I hope all reached you safely. I do hope you will soon come back to us, for we all miss you as much as the first day you left, & cannot get accustomed to your absence. If Major Perry is made Comr. of the Yukon, surely you will not be compelled to remain there with a Junior in command? There are enough officers up there without you I think, & if you do not come back soon, you will have no division left to welcome you when you do return. Mr. Casey came back from

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Calgary after an absence of a few days. I gave him your message thanking him for his kindness & he said “tell the Major not to mention that, but just let him write me a letter”. I think he is trying for Lethbridge too entre nous so between, Sanders, Davidson & himself I wonder who will get it. Mr. Jarvis is still in Calgary & will be for some days I believe. Mr. Jephson who worked here all summer, wrote me such a nice letter today telling me he was going to the Yukon & asking me if there was a letter, parcel or anything I would like to send you, as he leaves Vancouver about the 26th. I have not answered it yet – he said you were very kind to one of their party who wrote him a letter in your office. I will send you a copy of “Canadian men &

women of the Time" which came the other day – there are four copies & instead of being less, each one costs \$3.00 so that is another nice little sum for me – what am I to do with them? keep them until you return? I fear the poor little ones have the whooping-cough after all, & they keep me on the dead [pump] – they are well enough during the day, but Flora gets regular spasms & gets purple; Gertrude coughs more at night. Baby's cough is not very bad as yet, at least does not seem to bed, but we can both thank God that we have him with us. His cold being bad, I called in Dr. Kennedy Wednesday last – he sounded his lungs, & said he would prescribe for him. he ordered Antipyrine powders of 1½ grams each to be taken at bedtime & a liquid mixture. I gave him a powder the first night & it seemed all right. Thursday, gave him another which made him ill. Friday night, the third one, made him sicker again & the Saturday night one almost killed him. He vomited very much, cried all night & on Sunday morning was very weak, could not hold his head up & lay perfectly listless – he was terribly altered, so I sent for Sergt. Morris – as soon as he saw him, he

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knew what was wrong, so told me what to do. The poor pet could not even retain a drop of milk & lay almost lifeless. Dr. Haultain who was returned to duty on Saturday came in to see him & found him very ill. he was shocked & said he never gave antipyrine to children. today he is somewhat better, in fact, tonight is resting easily. he was so weak that he could not use his limbs & beads of perspiration lay thick on his forehead. His digestion seems to be better too, so I hope he will be better in a day or two, although it will be a long time before he is his old self once more. The poor darling! his eyes were black all around & his lips drawn over his little teeth, in fact, another powder would have surely poisoned him. Now, do not worry over him, he is safe thank God, but we were very near losing him, I assure you, & mine would have been the hand that gave it to him – it makes me feel terrible; I never had much faith in Kennedy, but I have less faith in him than ever now. Mr. Harwood has not been well – the poor little man is very much worried over his boy who is very ill with diptheria [sic] in Montreal – he is a child of two or three. Mrs. Harwood was to have been here this week, but of course this illness will put off the trip for some time if he recovers. Mamma is not going to move as she cannot find

[reverse]

as nice a house, with the same conveniences for the same rent. Mabel & John are going to remain with her until Oct. Louise & her boy are there too, so there is little fear of my going on a visit while there are so many in the

house. I sincerely hope the gold claim may turn out to be a good one & that you will find some good fellow to work it profitably. I did not tell Regie about it, as I feel sure you prefer doing it yourself. I fancy he will come down soon, as I wrote & told him of Baby's illness this p.m. He has a great deal of work & seems to be getting on as well as ever. Now do not worry about Dubbie, for I assure you he is getting on nicely & will be all right in a few days. Marie seems to be pretty well & is the same; Flora & she have great battles then she threatens to go & marry Tucker & after a great palavar [sic] they end by making up & being friends again. Gertrude joins in now, so it is funny sometimes. Moore would take no money from me when I wanted to pay him & said he would settle with you when you come back. I feel sure he will not join as long as you are away, & his time ends on Apr 29th. They have him [bugling] now as Burke goes to Regina tomorrow & until another comes, he must take his place.

Tuesday. It is a perfectly lovely day & I do so wish you were near to enjoy it with me – we do not go driving much, as there seems to be a such a fuss entre nous when a team is wanted – of course, say nothing as I may be mistaken. Capt. Deane went to Lethbridge on Saturday but has not yet returned. The first train goes down there on Friday or Saturday – they intend having an excursion from there soon. Baby is much better this a.m.

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& seems so much brighter – he will be a year old on the 5th of May, as you may remember. Alec's sister (step) Mrs. [McGillinay] is dying, in fact must be dead by now – bleeding of the nose is what the trouble is they say. People are beginning to find that he is drinking very much – he went to the Davidson's two weeks ago & on his way out with Jarvis & Cowdry, he drank a whole ~~gallon~~ bottle of whiskey, drank all the time he was there never saying a word to any one. of course this is what I am told – he certainly does seem to be under the influence all the time – his wife is getting rather tired of it I believe. Eustache is beginning to get fidgety & eager to go to the Yukon – I hope he will have more sense. [Auger] did not stay long & has I think gone up – for Heaven's sake do not let him worry or sponge on you, a thing he is sure to do, if he can find you. Alec has found him out – he says he is not truthful & talks too much. he had a good chance here but would not take advantage of it. Elmes is getting on splendidly – he now has another assistant – a Mr. Morrow. Well, my dear old darling, I do hope my eyes shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you once more – our parting has been the longest period in my life

[reverse]

that is, these past two months have seemed interminable to me, still when I look back, it is but two months after all. I hope you will spend a happy Easter & that the day will be pleasant & bright. All join in much love & send many sweet kisses to their dear Papa. Hoping to hear from you soon again, that you are taking good care of yourself, with very much love & sweet kisses believe me, as ever,
Your own true, warmhearted, devoted wife,
Maye.
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