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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil.
Dec 1st / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of the 20th afforded me unlimited pleasure & pleased me to know my two letters arrived safely & convinced my pet that his little girl was not neglecting him. I came home on Wednesday afternoon. I left the city in beautiful weather & when I reached here it was blowing a perfect gale & snowing hard – not having written, no one was there to meet me so I had to walk up & battle with the elements. They were surprised to see me, but having so much to do, I could not loiter in the city any longer. The winter has set in without doubt, as we have several inches of snow & pretty cold as well. Mrs. Mac has several times mentioned the compact you made with Lex & seems to believe you ventured

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into the step upon seeing how happy your friend is – she did not mean it as a joke & sincerely thinks it is true. He may have had the choice of my aunts, but may be when you know the in's & out's of things, you may be surprised somewhat. Did you know Lex wrote me when you were in Battleford together? I cannot understand what you mean when you say "Lex has given his candid opinion & wishes he had done so before" – that sentence has puzzled me a great deal. Dampness hurts a piano even more than heat & cold, but the temperature I mentioned is just about right, I fancy. Now my dear if you leave about the 15th & remain a day in Winnipeg, you will not reach Montreal until Monday the 23rd – as your time is so limited, Papa had better meet you there in order that you may go to see Archbishop Fabre together – if you agree to this, tell me where he

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will meet you – the St. Lawrence Hall is about as good a place as any I think, & you see if we are married on the 26th have little leisure to dispose of. I am afraid that I cannot possibly meet you, if you do not come until the

23rd having too much to attend to at home, but Papa will replace me very well I assure you. No, you are wrong in your description of my Mr. Wylde – they are different persons for the one I met was very tall, slight, fair, very fair & had a small head & small features, just the shade of a lovely mustache fringed his lip – he was in O. in /80 sure, for I have the programme of the party I referred to still & he went west that year. It pleases me to hear you say you have had few faults since you met me, but can scarcely believe the mere mention of my name had any effect on you in that way. I have fixed upon the 26th, but if too soon for you, will put off for some time. Yes, buy what you wish in Winnipeg. Do not buy the parlor carpet with large flowers all over – small ones look better & do not get too dark a one – in fact, get them all in small patterns, for they make a room look larger. Would you like an oilcloth for the hall? of course, suit yourself, I merely suggest – for the up stairs, I object to tapestry – buy Axminster or Kidderminster carpets – the tapestry ones are cold & the spun [yarn] swells invariably wear tear them at a great rate – one thread catches & the whole of it rips from one end of the carpet to the other – get warm colors, crimson & yellow or anything you think will please a young lady of my good taste. The Kidderminster are four ply, last long & are very comfortable I assure you – a practical little girl, am I not?

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You might get Mrs. Steele to go with you – a lady knows about what will look best & is usually a better judge than a man!. Uncle Allan told me I could hardly remember Mr. Martin for I was quite young when he studied here & then was absent ten months of the year, so it would not be likely for me to recall him. Yes, I think he said his name was Saul – I saw in yesterday's "Gazette" that your district had done most work this year. Papa said "another feather in the Major's cap!" – You can fancy how delighted I am, for it speaks well for you, my own pet. They tell me all my friends were very much disappointed that I did not go for the ball, but I was too busy & could not spare the time – more than that, did not care to go. Now, my dear, if you desire to go to Ottawa to see Sir John before we are married, what am

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I to do? You see we must have things pretty well settled ere you come – if we wait until we meet it will be too late to write any person & I desire my Uncles & Aunts to be present, although without asking you, I have decided on having a very quiet wedding – you may wish some of your friends to be

here as well, so I do not know what to do under the circumstances. Xmas being on Wednesday, nothing can be done on that day, so you have only Monday & Tuesday at your disposal – if perchance, you were delayed by snow storms or something else, we could not be married on the 26th – I was very busy during my stay in Montreal & have to return at the end of the week to see about more of my trousseau. You will be worried at the way I am troubling you, my darling, but I will write

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you but once or twice more you see, so have to mention all I can think of! – Mr. D. has given me my first wedding present – it is the pretty little riding whip he sent for – gold head, richly embossed & a short place below the handle there is a carved ring, with my new name to be engraved thereon – it is very nice. He is here today & will not return until some time in January – he leaves for Quebec on the 7th, business I believe & always spends Xmas with his mother, so he will not be one of the guests at the ceremony. I am sorry on account of Louise, as I am sure, she would like him to be present. Harry H. still continues very ill – the storm we had was very hard on him, for he was feeling better when I left, but suffered very much on Thursday – they have not been able to remove him to the hospital, where his brother being one of the Drs., he will be sure to get the best of care. I cannot write today – my mind seems everywhere & I cannot settle it, so I hope you will forgive me, my pet. You will see me so soon now, that there seems little for me to say to you dear. By the by what way do you propose taking me when first we leave here? not up to Toronto pray for I do not wish to go there so soon – you see I will have to fix the hour for the marriage ere you come, particularly if I want the officiating priest to be a friend of the family – we have one in view, but he resides out of Vaudreuil & he would have to know some time ahead – the last morning train passes down at ten fifty (10.50) then the evening express from Toronto at six something, then the Ottawa train about half past seven. That is

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on the G.T.R. The C.P.R. hours are something similar, so you can have an idea of what is before you. Another thing, I do not wish to remain in Montreal, so you are in a fix, my pet, I suppose. You will say, Maye should not bother her head about all this but I must, as Papa wishes to arrange things to meet your views as well as possible. I am suffering a little from toothache just now – the dentist could not attend to me when last I was in the city & I must go next time – a pleasant thing to look forward to, is it not?

– It has got very grey looking & I fear we are in for another fall of snow – the roads will only be the better of it, that is certain. Grandma has ere this settled down for the winter. I hope she will write us, in order that we may know her address. Mrs.

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Mac will miss her very much I am sure. Mrs. Mathews seems to be a nice person – how is the new Inspector's wife? – his children are young, I suppose. I hear that Miss [Sicotte] has given out her engagement to Mr. Starnes? has he said anything of it lately? she is pretty, but does not seem to be of the brightest kind. Mrs. Mac has not written me since her departure & I am too busy to do so – give her my love & tell her I will favor her the first leisure moment I have. Well, pet, I will close this rambling, uninteresting letter. With very many sweet kisses & fond love, I remain, as ever
Your own warm hearted, affectionate

little Girl –

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