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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Montreal, July 8th

My own darling Boy,

Here I am once more prepared to have a little chat with you, my own dear Sam. I have none of your dear letters near me to answer today, as none have come since your last dated May 28th & acknowledged & answered at once on the 1st & 2nd – I thought of you constantly on the 1st & am not surprised, as the press despatches told us of your being in battle on that day. Good heavens! but this suspense is terrible!! – I am with you heart & soul all the time

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& seem to think of nothing else. I am with you in spirit every moment of the day & night, & if you should see me, or hear my voice I would not wonder at it in the least. I was sorry to read that Insp. Howard was missing & trust he turned up all right or that nothing worse has happened than his being a prisoner, for I do not suppose they treat their captives very harshly. How I wish I could hear more & keep in touch with you all the time, but it is woman's destiny "to watch & wait" so I, no doubt, must have my share.

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We are having a great deal of rain, with thunderstorms – we had but one nice day for about ten of incessant showers & the mud is horrible – it poured again all night & this morning & I fear it will last all today – we cannot complain of the heat, although yesterday was a little that way. You will be sorry to learn of the sad drowning of the Hon. Arthur Dickey which took place on the 3rd. He was at Amherst Shore visiting friends, went to bathe & not coming to dinner they searched for him & found his body in about two feet of water – he evidently took cramps & could not get out, being very near shore. I sent you a "Star" with an account of it yesterday – the sorrow is universal & I am sending cards to Mrs. Dickey & Mrs. J.A. I am sure your old friend will feel it very much, they seemed so much

attached to each other. The press also tells us that the hero of Ladysmith, Sir George White comes to replace Sir William Seymour in Halifax in a short time – we are favored in Canada, are we not? It is not more than we deserve I must

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I must confess, considering the loyalty our countrymen have displayed in England's trouble & their devotion to Queen & mother Country is worthy of some consideration. The whole world will think & know more of our fine country after this. The state of affairs in China is awful – of course, you can hear very little of the terrible butcherings that have taken place & in fact, no one may ever learn the real truth of all that happened in Peking. I only hope they will not want your regiment to take any part in that war, as I find you have

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been away long enough. Nellie Ives of Macleod has been East for a while – she leaves on Tuesday & is just the same. She called on Thursday & we (Alice & myself) went up yesterday but found her out. Mrs. [C.L.D.] Wood is here too – she had two tumors removed & the third had to be left, being no doubt in a vital spot – poor woman! she has had a suffering existence – her energy is at times too much, but her constant use of opium & morphine injections under the skin seem to be all that keep her up. I called but she was out; will go soon again – she is visiting Mrs. George [Ham].

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Vivian was Capt. of the O.C.C. on the 1st & called in the afternoon – he was to dine with Oliver Smith – he looked well & saw the children too. They fancied him very much, but after he left, Gertrude said “how old he looks, Mamma” only a year or so older than Papa,” was my reply – oh! but Mamma, Papa is always young”. You see the power of love, dear, how strong it is, even in that little heart. Viv says his mother's health is just the same – she frets a great deal & has lost her memory – poor old soul! how hard it must be for her, who has been so energetic all her life. [Jope] is suffering very much from the deafness which has troubled her for some time - & Viv says she feels it very keenly. Cherry goes out on the Georgian Bay survey as soon as possible – it is some delay on the part of the Government, of course that keeps them back. It will keep him busy for a long time his father says. There is not very much going on but small pox is causing some excitement – it is breaking out in several places & will not, I

hope become epidemic. I think seriously of being vaccinated once more – the children are all right on that score. The Huberts left on Friday accompanied by Antoine who was charmed to go to the country

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he will enjoy the change I am sure if the weather is fine. John & Mabel are to go for a week, when John has his holidays. Frank starts with a friend tomorrow on a driving trip to some place in Vermont – he remains some days fishing at different well known resorts & expects to enjoy it – it will prove beneficial, as his health is not very good & his patients not exceedingly prompt payers, which worries him a good deal. Regie is again agitating the question of coming East – Tillie is lonely, so if they can settle it in any way whatever, they will leave the west. He has no chance of

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performing any surgery, having no hospital or accommodation of any kind. Uncle Jack was in here for a time yesterday – he sends all sorts of messages & kind wishes. his eldest daughter Alice has been ill for weeks with appendicitis & they fear they will have to perform the operation – he is very fond of her & would do anything in the world for her: she will be twentyone [sic] next month. I sent Mrs. Moore a P.O.O. for \$25.00 & wrote explaining all. I told her you would attend to the services of five or six years ago yourself, as I know nothing whatever about it. The story she told you

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of a lost cheque looks peculiar – you remember about it? why did they not tell you about it long ago & not allow so long a time to elapse without a word concerning it?. I called on Mrs. James Ross on Thursday – she wrote me a very friendly note on Wednesday asking Alice & myself up to lunch that day. Alice was in bed & I had an engagement so I declined – when I came in on Thursday she told me she had been very much tempted to send her carriage & pair around for me to go & have a cup of tea with herself & old Mrs. Redpath, but feared to interfere with my engagements. I thanked her & as she was showing Mrs. R. the house I accompanied them – the art gallery is lovely. She sent for Mr. Ross who was delighted to meet me again. I had a nice call, then she drove me down town. she seems inclined to be very affable & inquired kindly for my dear old hubby. They leave tonight & sail on the 11th for the shooting season & return about the middle of Nov. – she said she disliked leaving the house just now, the grounds & all are so beautiful. Well, my pet all are all; the children seem to

be in the best of health & would be happy with you near. They all send many warm kisses to their dear old Papa. Mamma & family are well & send love. With the hope that you will take good care of yourself, write soon & cheer me up, believe me with a heart brimming over with deep true love,
Your affectionate, lonely wifie,

Maye.

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Kind regards to Elmes & others –

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