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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
July 17th, 4 p.m.

My darling,

Your two dear letters of July 12th I received yesterday morning & was pleased to hear all you tell me. The pension money came - \$33,35 cts went for Great West Ins. I got \$50.00 from Gus & out of that must give Shaw \$25,00 on piano today - left the balance as \$5.00 & a little more is required for [T.O.F.s] at end of month. I have just made out cost of convents for one pupil - Villa Maria makes a slight reduction for two sisters & the other convents likely do so too.

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Villa Maria per year - 269.00

St. Urbain's - - 180.00

Calgary - - 250.00

This is the very lowest of course - a private room for two is \$40 extra [at] the Villa - they are not mentioned in the other prospectus'. The children favor St. Urbain's more than the Villa, being nearer relatives & they will be more apt to see friends if in the city than at N. D. de Grace which is some miles out. If you only knew the tears that are shed, you would understand the very difficult position I am in. These convents all have black costumes & the dressmakers

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do little or no work during July & August - many of them go to the country & seaside. I have tried several & always with the same result. As soon as you decide what is best to do I will endeavor to find someone & may be more successful. It is impossible for me to go up until they are settled, as the poor dears would have no one to see to them & no place to go. You understand that of course. If they were all coming up, I could go at once, or by Aug 1st. I must get them all they need, sheets, [towels], pillow slips, table napkins, knife, fork, three

spoons, napkin ring, etc etc. boarders must have these things - all extras - the Villa appears very strict in their eyes & they evidently fear they will be like prisoners. I send three prospectus' which please return when you have carefully read them over & decided. The "Shea" used to be "O'Shea" but cannot say when they dropped the "O". Frank is elated so all is well. Mother also seems well pleased & when he is settled will have not have to worry over him & will again flit to visit her sons & daughters - travelling so much has made her feel that she must be on the wing all the time & she likes it. The pension is the first money received by Gus - no word yet from Buchan to my

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knowledge. I know the Federal Life is paid for six months is it not? Or is the payment a yearly one? I forget at the present moment. Indeed! I do not think poor old me is beyond looking very sweetly & saying nice things to pretty women, especially widows, when an opportunity occurs, but I do not think that you have been flirting. I am pleased that you can find agreeable & handsome companions to accompany you to any function when you go - it makes it much more

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enjoyable in every way. It would be a strange turn of events if Mrs. Neale & Deane made a match of it! truth is stranger than fiction, so who can tell? There are several nice, frisky widows in the west - enjoy yourself when you can dear - it is best to take all the pleasure one can, is it not? I suppose not many care to have "old age creeping over them" but many permit it without a struggle. The people certainly show a very mean spirit where the Indians are concerned & should have given more than three dollars

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worth in prize money - they got more in the old Macleod days, did they not? It is truly a spirit of sport that animates them for they race to win. Your's telling me of Col. MacDonald's wire I now have near. I do not think I will have anything like a carload if I bring only the cases we have here - if I purchase some furniture, that would be a different thing. The furniture here is very nice, but of course the difference in way of freight may be great. Supposing we get a car, that means we can take what we please, does it not? There are sales in different places here where there is a great reduction in price. You see dear the family, if I leave the girlies will consist of Harwood & myself alone

with Bagnall and Annie second class, but they would have to get their meals any way would they not? I suppose, they could not come first. As you know, we have no furniture at all, no curtains - have linen, house[linen, & things like that. Mrs. Mac writes she has some silver & a few odds & ends we may make use of if we wish. We went to little Dick's birthday party yesterday. The youngsters & myself bringing him a [linen] book, & a pair of reins with a lot of bells on

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from ourselves - two lacrosses + balls from Grandma & 25 cts from Uncle Frank. He was delighted and Gertie had quite a fine spread - rain prevented their playing under the trees. They are all well & send kind regards. Gus lunched with us yesterday & showed me your two letters re Col. M's wire & my going up - you know if I do not go at once, it is because I cannot on account of the children. I want to do the right thing by them & you. The prices I mention for convents are without any monies they will need, for stamps, music,

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& such things - expenses always crop up one way or another. Well, my dearie, I will now close as I must away & do some sewing - the day is beautiful & invites one out. God bless you my darling - write soon. This is the Belcher wedding day so if you are going you must be in Lethbridge now. I hope everything will go O.K. & that your scarlet & gold will enliven the whole affair - it will give you an opportunity of seeing old friends.

With many sweet kisses from all-

Your own devoted wifie,

Maye

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