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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille Street
Oct 6th / 01.

My darling Boy,

Your three dear letters of Aug 24th & 25th came safely on Monday last, after I had mailed a long letter written the previous day – they as usual gave me unlimited pleasure for the week & I now take them up to answer them. Well, my dear, if things go on all right, I will be able to save a little anyway – as you told Auguste you had written Gillespie to settle with Belcher. I have done nothing in the matter so far. Belcher has not as yet answered or acknowledged

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the letter containing the licences so far. I addressed them as he dated his to you, [Hunker] Creek, so hope he received them all right. Bell, assistant Gold Const. has lost his billet - fraud & the Govt. could not possibly pass it over or whitewash him in any way. I lent Frank two hundred to start with & as I asked you before, do you intend me to repay what Mamma loaned you – I do not know the exact sum, but she does, as you do, dear. My Lex is building a nice comfortable home on the ranch – “[Lochgarry]” they call it, as near “Glengarry” as they can get, Min says. They will occupy it in Nov. I believe. I have acknowledged all the [money].

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I will tell you at the end of the letter the cash that I have had since Aug 1st. Powell, Chief of Police in Ottawa seems to have cleared himself of all the charges brought against him – it was when I was away that the investigation took place & although the papers were sent me, I did not get very many of them with the result that I lost track of things. I fancy I sent a few clippings on the affair, any way. the accusations were rather hard on him, intemperance, frequenting women & houses of ill fame over twenty different charges. I think myself the Canadians are as well where they are & if they do get into your command will know how to appreciate you. Young

Lt. George is anxious to get with you – his father told Frank so – did you or rather Kerr find the parcel sent to him in your care? it has never reached him I believe & they are somewhat anxious that he should get it. Yes, I know Charlie Ross as everybody calls him has done good work & distinguished himself – he is a brave fellow too. He has risen to the rank of Major? is he not in command of poor “Gat” Howard’s scouts? where is Mrs. Ross? is she in Canada. Before I forget, I must tell you Dr. Helen Macdonell came back from the old country on the same str. as Miss Amy Scott, who was a nurse in Dawson.

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She told Dr. M. all about you & said all sorts of lovely things – there does not exist such a fine man anywhere on the face of the globe & she chanted your praises all the time, telling her she had lived near you in Dawson & had seen & known you under all circumstances & could vouch for the truth of all the nice things said of you – it is lovely for me to hear such reports from strangers, eh? dear. Miss Scott said she was anxious to meet & Dr. M. gave the address, but I was away & I know she left no card if she did come. She was to go to Toronto, but I know not where after that.

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We hear such conflicting reports of the war, that we do not know what to believe. I do hope this will be their last stand, but the engagement in which Kekewich was wounded seems to have been a serious one. It all depends on you my dear, as to whether we go out or not. If it suits you, it will suit me, as long as I am well. I hurt myself even more than I thought I had when I fell getting off the Midland train at Port Hope. I have injured myself internally & am now being attended, but hope it will not be too long. While suffering quite a lot of pain, I can of course go about, as usual & attend to my

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many duties – one sure thing is, if one can save anything, I can do so too, for I am an economical little woman, as you know to your cost at times. The servant question cannot be any worse there than here – we are minus one again – they are so hard to please, that there is not the least doubt that things will have to change soon –

I got this far this p.m when darkness came on, as you will easily see from the way the above is written & now that the little ones are in bed, although not asleep, I will continue to plague you for a time –

I am pleased you got more bath towels – you may not remember you particularly requested me not to buy them as you wished to purchase them in London – hence the scarcity of them among your things. I saw Mr. Taylor of the Bank some time ago & found him looking well – his wife & children had just returned from a trip to the old country which they very much enjoyed. I paid back the loan with the very first money you sent me on Aug 1st so they know I am good pay. Richard Jr. is growing fine & looks like the Hubert's – he will be dark too, but is very good natured & will,

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will, no doubt be a sturdy little fellow, if spared to them. Your next of same date as that just answered speaks more of the draft sent & which I acknowledged in my last viz for £250.63 or \$1218.18 cts. came all O.K. & very many thanks for it, I assure you. Up to date I have received \$2,428.45 cts. paying back Bank Loan of \$426.14 cts., sending Hicks & Sons \$100.00 paid loaned Frank \$200.00 paid my brother about \$250.00 or more, besides my own expenses, Holbrooke \$56.00, Topley \$10.30 & still have \$1402. [cts.] but from which must be deducted \$144.00 paid Briston for Typewriter yesterday

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so you see dear, I have had even more than you thought. I will render a good account of it. I also paid \$15.00 dues [T.O.F.s] before I left for Mt. Forest & must pay some this week – the fees now are \$5.86 cts. as in the Yukon per month. I will attend to all your bills as soon as you let me know of them & will send more to Hicks this week also. I have asked Briston for receipt in duplicate & will send you one. I sincerely hope the photo's I sent of little ones will reach you in good condition – they are not very good, still you will see their little faces & enjoy a sight of them, eh? dear. Mine was not a

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a success & I must go again. Yes, it was the money you cabled on the first of Aug. 1st \$725.83 cts. which enabled me to go on my trip free hearted & happy in the knowledge that my big debts were paid. There is no chance of my flirting, dear? people are not apt to flirt when there are wide awake youngsters like Torla around – her eyes are open & she has your interests at heart & is not apt to let people forget that you exist. I am going to do everything in the world to try & get well – am to take massage treatment & will leave nothing undone to go out to you, or have you come home in

anything but the very best state of health. This fall did upset me very much, I must confess but the Dr. says she will have me all right. Flora is studying well & will, I think get on – all little ones in her class are older than she is if that is any comfort. Gertrude is bright & is very earnest about her work – you would imagine she had a terrible load on her shoulders when she has to study her lessons. I felt sure the bed & tent from the Earl of Dundonald were intended for yourself, my dear boy & very much regret the mistake you made – it will not be half as much appreciated as if you had kept it yourself.

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You will find lots of use for it & of course, it cannot be remedied. He writes a charming letter, does he not? how I would like to meet him! I also got Capt. [Gablett's] letter & that pleased me immensely too. I hope you will get the four bottles of Poison I sent this week & that all will be well. I had to make a declaration & not knowing it was to be put outside the parcel, said "Nitrate of Silver". I suppose it will be all right, but will know better next time. If they reach you in good condition, will send more. Yes, I do wish you to accept all nice invitations so if the day comes when you return

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to this country & have to keep quiet, you can look back to your stay with pleasure, recalling decisions, etc, & your different meetings with celebrated men with infinite pleasure – retailing all you have seen & heard, to the poor little wife, among others, who stayed at home. I had a long letter from Minnie this week – she says Marcella is failing & is always ill. Davidson got hemorrhage of the lungs on his way to Calgary to get his medal & Cora had to come & bring him home. I suppose he is better now. I sent papers so you could see the doings there on the Duke's visit. Perry was en evidence.

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I have not been able to pen you a line since last Sunday, so I hope you will forgive me for my seeming negligence but it was really not my fault. There is not much news. Auguste comes on Tuesday with his family. You cannot imagine how very cold & disagreeable the weather is – if our winter commences now, we will never get through it especially, if the snow lasts until the end of April – we have none yet, but are likely to have it any day – it is very unreasonable & seems more like Dec. than early Oct. I hope Gen. Kerr is well – the little ones send him regards & are always asking when he is coming for us. I told you of poor Mrs. Lafferty's death, did I not? she died

when I was at the Moon's. Well, my dear boy, although it is Sunday I have several things to do, so will have to leave you. I am very anxious to get well & must take care of myself, needing a great deal of rest. God bless you, my own true hearted husband. the little ones join in many kisses & much love to the dearest Papa in the wide world. With a sweet kiss & many loving hugs, from your poor lonely devoted loving wifie,
Maye.

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