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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
March 12th / 89.

My own Darling Sam,

Your nice sweet letter of the 2nd I received today & you know not what pleasure I derived from its perusal. Words cannot tell how eagerly I longed for an answer to mine of the 24th & your dear words comforted me so much - it was like pouring sweet balm on a bleeding wound & has made me feel so happy since I read the loving expressions you penned to me! I would write to you every day my own pet, were it possible to make a letter interesting, as it is one of the greatest enjoyments a day can give me: however I refrain, more for your dear sake than mine, as too many would fatigue you & you would tire of your little girl. My heart is forever with you darling; I often catch myself dreaming wide awake & when my scattered thoughts come back to me, they are laden with sweet memories of all the happy moments we were together. ah! Could I but find words to declare the deep true love I

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bear you, you might perhaps, be able to understand all you are to me! The fit of the blues did not last long, & now I promise that I never will allow the same cause to ever give me them again – it is done! nothing can change either of us & we throughly [sic] understand each other do we not, my own pet? I am sure of myself & do not fear to trust my happiness into your keeping – it was for your sake I troubled lest the felicity you sought might

be withheld & thus give occasion for bitter regret! & your future is so dear to me, that any sacrifice I could make to procure you pleasure, I would willingly do perform, so true is my love & so unchanging the heart you have won!! Had I not confidence, I would not speak so openly to you my pet, & your kind words but give me more. You seem anxious to have all arrears paid in & will I trust, not fail to give me a receipt when all is paid up in full – will it take very long? You will learn to waltz & having given lessons several times before, you will see how easily I can teach, if the pupil is inclined to do it well - the thing will only be reversed & the old pupil, becomes the new master. if the sentiments that sway them still

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remain the same, what old memories will revive when they are together once more! You will never seem aged to me, my pet, for is love not always young? My sisters were saying the other evening that I was so much gayer & brighter since my return from the N. West than I used to be! Of course I feel far happier, but, I never for one moment, imagined it was so perceptible to every one. See what your love has made me!. I am glad you can have a little pleasure with your brother officers – it passes the time & keeps you from being too lonely for your little girl. You have always respected women I know, but some men have such a poor opinion of us! Unfortunately, it is owing to ourselves, sometimes, but there are good women in the world yet, my pet & I hope you will be blessed with one, worthy in a small measure, all the warm love, you have bestowed upon her. Mrs. Mac's nice letter reached me today also & she tells me of all the fun you have - she makes me envious, my darling. I only hope it is true that you look happy – it will speak well for me, my own pet: only reserve some brightness for the future, to prove the reality as pleasant as the dream. What you say of the Majah does not surprise me. she tried so hard to put on several times before Mrs. Mac & I, once in particular. She never worked in her life & could do nothing. I astonished her by telling all I could do &

must have gone down in her estimation, as she is of the kind who look down on a woman when she can perform a woman's work or attend to household duties! a lady is never ashamed to work & you know not how much I admired Mrs. Herchmer, the Com.'s wife, because she did not blush to own up having done her own washing!. It is women who have some stamina in them who should go to a new country, not ladies too dainty for the slightest toil!! I am proud of what I can do, though of course, there remains a great deal for me to learn!. I like both Mr & Mrs. Macf. & having met but kindness from them, take people as I find them. Mrs. Macf.'s thoughtfulness for you, my darling, when in trouble, only gives me another reason to respect her & I, as well as yourself, shall ever feel grateful - what was done for you in the past, I appreciate & will help you to remember; as all that concerns you, my darling, affects me now. There will

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be no carnival for some years I believe but hope we both will enjoy the next. Mrs. Mac. did speak of our trip to Dunmore, but fear I must be a very naughty little girl, for advice like that always nettles me & I never thank a person for it. I can take care of myself & do not fear to trust myself with any one: particularly with a gentleman who respects me & has the amount of love sufficient to desire me for his wife. I knew I was safe with my pet, & I would have defied any one, with you to take care of me & have dared a person to breathe a word against me, while with you: that is the feeling you give me, my darling. with your deep, warm love to shelter & protect me, I fear nothing. Indeed! B.B.B. is doing me good I think, though I did not feel ill. it is improving me there is no use denying it, for I do want to try & look nice when you come to me in order to recompense you for coming such a distance! What would the country be without the man? nothing to me, sure, very sure. Can it be possible two people can marry without love on either side? he wanted a housekeeper, she a home. When affection exists in one or the other, life can perhaps be tolerably happy – but where

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it is lacking altogether, it must be fearful! Some gentlemen considered her very nice; you evidently failed to notice the many charms Mrs. P. possessed, while Miss Ground. It is lovely for me my pet, & gives me endless pleasure, to have persons speak so well of you: it is not for love of me, as they all are strangers. it makes it only the more true & proves that all I told of my darling is not without foundation. I regret that your kind heart has caused you to lose with Capt. Neale. he cannot have a small spark of honor left, not to pay such debts. I hope your loss owing to the desertions will prove less than you anticipate & trust it will in some way be made good, as you are not to blame in any manner. Some persons object telling their private transactions, that is the reason, I hesitated speaking before, in case you might not like it. Curiosity, though a grievous fault invariably attributed to women, is not my motive – interest in all your doings & the love I have for you, my own true love, must be my excuse. March is almost half over already – time does fly! Do you know that the first time I entered Capt. Neale's house, a day after my arrival in Macleod, a shudder passed over me & I felt that somehow or other that house would shelter

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me “some day” – you will say your pet is superstitious, but that is true & I have felt the same thing when going in, over & over again; until at last, I used to long for the sensation & look forward to it with delight. All do not like to go back to the first – the world would be turned upside down, were such the case. You do not seem to consider yourself a bachelor any more – am I wrong? The Majah never asks Mrs. Mac for me I hear & blushed when my desire to be remembered was told the other day. no doubt she is quite amused at the amount of correspondence we keep up, but Mr. Wood must have been far worse than you, pet, judging from the number of letters

she has to show how often he favored her. I met Mrs. Macleod twice & was charmed with her. The Col. I hardly said five words to as it was at Capt. Neale's & he entertained the Col. as much as possible. I am pleased to hear Mr. Hilton likes me & trust time will not change his good opinion of your little girl. Well, I may look forward to having dear Father Lacombe's [sic] photo after all. I am glad & will treasure it highly. it is kind of him to say a good word for me & I trust I deserve the praise of such a holy man: but do not let their nice words deceive my darling, for fear I might not be all you thought me. My pet, all have retired, so I think I f will follow suit. Good night my treasure – God bless my darling – sweetest kisses from your own little girl. Wednesday 10th – Yours of the 5th in answer to the short one I wrote on the 7th came today & gave me great pleasure. Do not fancy me so unreasonable as to expect news from you every day when I know it is impossible, but a whole week without a missive is very long! It is too bad you missed the ball. I thought of you so often on that Monday night & fancied I could see you moving about saying all sorts of pretty things to the ladies. Fate seems to have decreed that Mr. W. & the baronet's daughter should not meet – it is too bad! Julia must be very happy & I am so glad, for she deserves a good husband. – did she wed the Scotch doctor you told me of, & what is his name? – did she know the place previous to her marriage? You need not fear my saying anything of what was said by Mrs. Mac. She has several times made me feel very uncomfortable by alluding to the same subject. that was one of the causes of a [coolness] between us & things went so far that I was told, it had all been

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imagination on my part, that Lex had never really cared for me, but that Mrs. Mac. was the one he wished to propose to. Strange, he could make such a great mistake. It was then I decided to keep his letters & if anything derogatory to me was said again, I had sufficient proof to let persons know the truth. I will show you some of his & some of mine which I made him

return, though I must candidly say, he destroyed all that had anything relating to my refusal in them: when you know how everything was done, you will understand how it is that Lex respects me so much. I could not enter into details before, but when I am yours, will tell all. You are such a friend of his that you might not have cared to know, but your wife will be dearer than your friends I trust & the interest you will take in her will give you ample reason to be a willing listener. Cortlandt Stames once asked me if Lex had not proposed several times, in such an unexpected way, that he almost took me off my guard & it was with considerable difficulty I changed the subject. You must have been

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very much surprised that Mrs. M. would allude to it & he has colored up pretty often before me, when she spoke - luckily for all parties, I am discreet & he knows it now. That is one of the reasons I was so anxious to let them see all the love I feel for you, my darling Boy. I respect Lex & like him as a friend, but never would have loved him. the affection I have for you is not to be compared with the feeling I ever entertained for him. I am ready to give my life for you, while he, I did not care a snap of my finger for. Mrs. Mac lacks judgment sometimes & does not reflect well before speaking. I have learnt it at the cost of my feelings now & then, but, we must forgive & forget – I do not often confide secrets to her keeping. There is nothing like discretion & tact! The first part of “Fate” I like - it suits us I find. Father Lacombe wishes you to send me the photo I am sure. Mr. Hilton might try & persuade you that you are too lenient if you think that better expresses what I mean. You will not be deceived in me I hope, as I am determined to do all in my power to make you happy. Your dear confessions of love for your little girl, make me love you more dearly, if such a thing is really

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possible & I believe the days but increase the affection - as the time comes nearer, the more I long to see you. with six months more to wait, I shall be quite consumed by then & there will be nothing left to greet you but a little coal of fire. Well, my darling Pet, I will say bye-bye. please give the enclosed to Mrs. Mac. With warmest love & kisses as sweet as are pressed on the cold lips of the pictures I have always near me, believe me,

Your own dear

Maye.

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