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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
Oct 1st / 89.

My own dear old darling,

Your dear letter of the 21st [illegible] came yesterday & filled my heart with joy, not to mention the love it made me feel for the one so dear to me! Heaven bless you, darling for all your trust & love – would I were more worthy, my pet!! After we have been together for some time I shall venture to express an opinion as to what nation you most resemble – until then I shall be silent, only saying en passant that which you know so well already, that like all Scotchmen you are superstitious, but that is no fault in my eyes. If it is possible for me to make you a better man, I shall leave no stone unturned to do it, but I think you are now about as perfect as you can be, so I do not see

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how any improvement can take place. I feel as though the feeling of kindness I entertain for you can never change & if perchance such a dreadful thing should come to pass, I shall never, never again believe in warm, fond love. I do hope when you are my partner luck will be truer to me than ever, & never desert me when you are by – it will be for longer than a rubber of whist though, & I hope sincerely we shall understand each other as well as when whiling away the happy moments by our trivial, pleasant games!!. Lex has been very good to his mother & sisters, so one cannot wonder they think so well of him – the day may come for you too dear, when sisters to be may think as much of you, my own one. You know not how much your words of affection please me & how I pray your faith in me may be forever – if love could make perfection, I should indeed

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be “the very pink of courtesy & the very pink of perfection” with such as yours to make my life happy. Mrs. Mac always was demonstrative & used to shake me often for displaying so little feeling outwardly. I often used to

tell her, I felt my heart was there, but could not show it. Lex has given her as much love as he is capable of, I have no doubt, but one thing I will say is, that he cares for her far more now than he did when he married. I know it, or would not advance such a thing even to you. he may have confided in you, but I am positive there are certain things he never would breathe to any one & that I could not help knowing. he now is sure I am discreet, so feels safe, but I had to right myself in his eyes when I went up for my own satisfaction not that I cared what he thought of me. I had been lowered in his estimation & I was determined he would know who was to blame. Mrs. Mac is not sure of all, for I will never tell her but the day will come for you, my pet, when you shall learn everything. Your privilege [sic] as my husband shall entitle you to that honor – it may not be much in your idea, knowing so much of the world, & but it was a something in my life. The Majah! never favored me with a great deal of conversation, so I cannot form any notion of what expressions she makes use of. I felt from the first moment I saw her, we should not get on & I do not think I am mistaken. Indeed! my pet, you did write “my darling Major” but I knew you meant Maye all the time, but Maye means Major now dear, so there is only a wee difference in the ending of the words, which really does not amount to much. I fear you have too high an opinion of my heroic powers & that if put to a

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severe test, the heroine world dwindle down into a very weak, clinging woman. do not expect too much of me, pet, for you may be sadly disappointed. My headache was caused by the strain the dentist gave me, but was of short duration – my head throbbed for a while, but my heart does that so often that I am becoming quite accustomed to that state of health so do not pay much attention to it. We did not go this morning after all owing to incessant rain, but the Huberts go tomorrow – I have changed my mind & will go down later when Louise returns. That picnic was our last for this season – the weather has been very unfavorable since & we have been too busy. I am feeling a little stronger & hope it will continue until you come for me, my pet. I had a letter today from Mrs. Mac – she will pay us but a very short visit, a day or two

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two only, as she cannot spare more time. I am very sorry as I would like to return some of her kindness to me. Time does fly, say what you please & you cannot realize more than I can that you will be here in three months! Just fancy, three months from now will soon see a change for us!!... Had

you remained the evening of the concert, your darling would not perhaps have been alone – as it was..... I see the officers still love to have a talk with you, my pet. Well, your den will be as comfortable as I can make it & I promise faithfully I shall never intrude, when any of your friends are enjoying a smoke with you. are you not pleased to think that some of the sweet habits of bachelor days will be left to you? You will have ample leisure after the Governor goes to write your report which I believe must be sent in about the end of Nov. You will have the

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opportunity of finishing it more speedily than last year, not being quite so busy. You will, I am sure manage things in such a manner that the beginning of or middle of Dec will see you in Vaudreuil, am I wrong? Lex might take a lesson from you in the art of writing love-letters, but might retaliate by saying he has not had your experience in that line – it is easily learnt though, that is sure. We sometimes have lovely weather in the Autumn, but have been very badly treated for the last two years. the soil being clay it is very muddy & damp at that season, so as Lex has told you, you can prepare for mud. our macadamized roads are somewhat an improvement, thank goodness. I am rather surprised Mr. Stames should forget all his previous efforts to be thought a gentleman & omit calling on Grandma, who was always nice to him – he is & [rather] fond of coming forward & must always be sat upon to keep him in his place. is he coming down on leave? – we hear nothing more of his engagement. Your dear epistle of the 25th I read over & over again since its reception today & although it is rather late, turn to it now in order to answer all the dear messages of love it conveyed to me, my own darling boy. I am glad it restored you to your good humour & hope a line from me will always have the same effect. If my head was turned away, my heart was always with you, my dear one & it was to quell the beatings of that truant, that I tried to hide my tell-tale eyes. Who spoke of me that was piqued? I fancied it might be Mrs. K. but I find I am mistaken. I did not think any one else had mentioned me very particularly. Mr. Wilson must have surprised you by his assertion & strange so many came to the same conclusion – had I known I should have treated you even more coldly, so

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it is well I was in blissful ignorance. the haughty young lady is very humble with you, but you are about the only one living who could tame her spirit. If my questions are not satisfactorily answered after marriage, I shall be to

blame so will abide by the consequences. it will not bring trouble, that is a sure thing. I dare say you have heard strange secrets – you are the kind of a man one of your own sex would be likely to confide in. I will avail myself of the liberty of questioning you & will not forget to grasp your little finger firmly when I wish to know anything of your secrets, when you are deep in slumberland – now is not the time. Lex's boards did not amount to a terrible ~~amou~~ lot of work. I know something of them for I wrote some for him – boards became a by-word when he wished to get out of any work Mrs.

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Mac set aside for him to do. I told you Mr. Zach would soon recover his usual spirits – that is the way with all of you – it may be a good thing after all.. If my words were “I can't trust you” that alone is positive proof of what a surprise your sweet declaration of love must have been. You seemed to think then that I should have known, but I did not, as the very words I answered imply. The day we rode to the Hogs' back you asked me if you might hope for a favorable reply & if I thought I might ever care for you? – my answer could only be “don't ask me” when I knew how much I loved you all the time, still did not dare to tell. I only realized how much I had hurt you by what you said afterwards & silence alone saved me then. I should have apologized, but I had a certain feeling that you knew my words were not what they might mean – had I not, I should have given way & all my pent up feeling would have given way & lowered me in your dear eyes, my own old pet, so things were better as they were. Your flash at me when playing cards showed me I had been understood & set my heart at rest for a while. Col. H. being chief of Police must be very much occupied, but that silly woman has him in her net. she is dainty & a good musician, but know not if she is clever – she does not always prove it by her conversation.... Freddy D.s mother was a Miss Fisher of Quebec – she seems to be somewhat a queer person – is a Catholic, but does not kill herself practicing her religion, I believe. I fear I did not display my usual tact in telling you about the fatigue you caused, but when persons we love are spoken of in that way, one usually shows fight. it grieved me & I knew you would be mortified when told of it later on. She may have written it differently to the way she intended, but it worried me for some time before I would speak of it. knowing you are sensitive, I should perhaps

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have said nothing about it. Mrs. Mac tells me she may be here six weeks only as Grandma is blue & anxious to be off to Cal. She finds Macleod a

dull, ugly place after all the lovely spots she has seen. in that case, Mrs. Mac will be back ere you leave for the East. All find her looking very well & fatter than when she left. I am very anxious to see her in order to hear all she has to say of my pet. She will in a way, be sorry her visit is so short having many friends to see. I am as usual, very much occupied – every moment is precious to me now, as time is passing so quickly & my pet will soon be here now. Well darling, I must get up early tomorrow to send the travelers on their way & the hour being late will fondly kiss you “good-night”, my own true love, my sweetheart. Heaven bless & protect you, dearest, write soon, to the one who loves you so truly & warmly. With many sweet kisses I am as ever,

Your own loving
little Girl.

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