

2008.1.1.1.1.3

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
Dec 26th / 88.

My dear,

Your long & anxiously expected letter came today & in a measure made up for the great disappointment I had yesterday at not receiving news from you. Xmas day was a very dreary one for us – the day before, it poured rain & when the hour came for midnight mass, the snow had entirely disappeared – although the sun rose brightly in a few hours it commenced to shower again & it continued today. As I was sure you had written on the 18th I longed for a letter & when the mail came & none for me, I could have cried

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& of course, thought “he does not care for me sufficiently to write often”. One thing sure, I trust you will not wait for an answer to every letter before favoring me for if so, why you will write but twice a month, as it takes eight days for a letter to come into my hands. The Mr. Jenkins who proved such a friend is called Frank W; he has been here in Canada about four years – has an elder brother who is ranching with him, who has been here for fourteen years. I think he told me the brother had lived in Wyoming before going to Calgary. Really, he was very nice & I shall always recall him to mind with pleasure. As he had heard all about us, he promised to call upon me when I returned to Macleod. I said he should, & would receive a hearty welcome from

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you in consideration of his [kindness] to me. Was I not right in saying so? I am glad Papa’s answer pleased you & hope you will write to him & thank him for giving you his treasure. You should feel very highly flattered & gratified for many a one would like to be in your place, only feared to venture to ask for me, as they knew Papa was so very particular with

regard to his daughters. Joking, aside, it would please him if you did so. So will look forward to your writing him. My last will tell you how anxious I am to get the ring, which I hope will come soon. I gave Mr. Steele one of mine so that no mistake would be made. I am so sorry to hear you have had a bad cold & hope you are quite well by now. You want some one to take care of you & no mistake, for you are always ailing & very imprudent with regard to your health. So you used to consider love absurd! I always thought there was a great deal of imagination in it, but one certainly does feel where the heart is supposed to be if you entertain affection for a person. You miss me, I am happy to know. ditto here, my own pet, but you know it is for the best & will only prove the truth of the old adage "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" – You seemed inclined to doubt the truth of it, but when you learn by experience are more apt to believe!! [sic] So you do give in that you were indifferent!! how well I knew you. You see – did not study you for nothing & knew your character far better than you thought. You must cheer up at the

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knowledge that this is your last year of freedom & that you will have enough of me for the rest of your life! Just think of it & no getting rid of me after the eventful day!! That alone will cause all gloomy thoughts to disappear & make you what you need to be!! – I begin to regret writing as I have to you. You may find fault with me for being too affectionate & with reason in my case for I should receive but perhaps not send such loving words; however, knowing you are discreet & that it will please you, to hear me say or rather write them, I will not promise never to do it again! – Was it the small photo Mrs. Macd___ gave you? I propose having some taken the first time I go to Montreal, so hope you will wait till

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then for me, which I may persuade the artist to make very flattering. You will then fancy me lovely & will console yourself at my absence, by looking at me through a microscope! So I must stand the trying ordeal of reading your loving epistles – what a penance! – how do you know they are not the very pack of the letters I read oftenest & love most? but I must not give myself away at such a rate for it will spoil you fearfully & you are that already. The news of your attentions to me reached Montreal some time ago & it seems Dr. Allen only confirmed the rumors which were the topic of many a conversation, I believe. Fancy the engagement being announced in

the Quebec papers – a cousin of mine, Miss Pauch who was visiting there
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heard of it in that way. Mr. Drayner had written all about it to his mother, who in turn wrote to my sister's fiancé about it. I am glad you are so busy, as you will not miss me so much & feel more inclined to wait the two years for me – is that not true? I trust you enjoyed the dance & looked lovely in your new outfit – as well as Mr. Huot. Give him, I was going to say, my fond love, but refrain & will substitute kind regards instead. I can read your writing very well & will do so better, after hearing a few times from you. You must take good care of yourself my dear, for my sake so that they will find I have chosen wisely & well. When they heard here of my carryings on, my sisters said “Well, Maye has not refused so many fellows to take a Goose, or one unworthy of her in the end” – that consoled my father & he concluded I must have acted with judgement [sic] & good sense, a conclusion I fully confirmed. The weather here I find miserable damp but not cold. Well, my dearest one, my letters you will find very long I fear & perhaps you would prefer them shorter – if so, tell me. Yours just suit me, so go on, only write as often as you can find a spare moment. Mrs. Mac____ wrote me & I will answer soon. Very many thanks for your pretty card. You see your letters make up for the [visit] you should pay one were you not so far, so you cannot write too often: but seal your letters as they are not very well closed when they reach me. Give my fond love to Lex & Mr. Mac____. For yourself, keep the greatest share. God bless & keep my darling through the N. Year

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about to commence & give him very many happy birthdays with me. With very sweet kisses, beleive [sic] me, ever

Your own loving Maye.

Write soon – I enclose a few scraps which will perhaps prove useful later – take a lesson –

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