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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
Feb 13th 1902

My darling,

I have none of your dear letters to answer tonight as none came except the ones written by Mr Steel from [Blaenavon], which reached me on Tuesday. There is a great deal in his letter which I much enjoyed – he is evidently a clever man & expresses himself so well. I hope his son proved himself worthy of his father & that he is a true Steel in every way. I had a letter from P. H. Belcher by yesterday's mail so today sent him \$300.00 out of the money sent me last week. He seems very anxious to settle

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up the affair saying he cannot wait until the spring. I am anxious to finish paying him myself, hence my reason for sending the sum mentioned – it will help reduce the sum considerably – that added to this \$472.80 which I sent him as you ordered makes a nice sum eh! dear? I was out today & it blew hard & the wind cold – the result is that I cannot keep my eyes open & malgré all my good will you must forgive me & I will continue this tomorrow. God bless you & good night.

Well, my darling, I have had a good rest & my massage treatment this morning so will continue

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the very stupid letter I commenced last night. The girlies are just in from school & Gertrude is much disappointed at having no "valingtines" [sic] awaiting her – she says "some one should have sent her one." They are getting on well & Flora's last bulletin was very good. Gertrude is bright as a dollar & her name is on the board of honor – she is charmed beyond telling at seeing her name [beginning] there. O! dear where are you now & what are you doing, I wonder. I went to see Mr Taylor & he told me Mr Mackie had sent for the Order books, saying he had orders from the War Office to attend to some matters. In fact, I think you had better write him yourself. The War Office has issued duplicate discharges to the number of one hundred as fully that number were lost. Major Belcher has authority to sign & the character will all be "good" & "very good". Taylor seems to be under the impression that [Moir must have destroyed them as they never even came back to the "Dead letter" office – he seems to think

many more never even cared whether they got them or not. I told him it was unfortunate that there

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never was an office for the winding up of everything – he says the Squadron Commdr.s were not business men, that some things they (Taylor or [The Bank]) took for granted, but the war office will not do that. He also showed or read me part of a letter dated Jan 20th 1902, to whom I know not, saying “all the officers of “S. H” were on the retired list retaining the rank they had in the regt”. He said Elmes’ “name was not mentioned, but he believed every thing was not altogether regular with regard to his promotion” or something like that. Ketchen is the only officer who does not retain his rank or on the retired

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list, not having served six mts. with the Corps. Harper is mentioned though. Perhaps it would be a good idea for you to write him personally; true Auguste has told you about it, but of course, I do not know what he said. Taken altogether, I wish things were all right myself, but I may not understand all these things. He said you would likely see Mr Colmer on your way home & would settle with him, but you are not coming home, I fancy. Excuse so many repetitions but all the children are here all talking at once & I scarcely know what

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I am writing. Mamma is fixing up a box to send to Mabel, John & the rest of the family in the N. W. & is in & out all the time so do not be surprised at anything. There is not much news. Things are much the same as usual. Lent has set in & I will not go to the Theatre during that time. Mamma & myself went to see Mrs Patrick Campbell in “The second Mrs Tanqueray” - the play is not much, dealing with the life of an immoral girl. I sent the “Star's” criticism of the affair – it will give you a better idea than I can & I have not sufficient leisure either.

The children are well. Duffins is better & will I sincerely hope go to school next month – the place is quieter without him, I assure you. The day is bright & beautiful, but the cold still hangs on. Mamma is well & sends much love as well as Gertie, who came in for a short time last evening. Frank writes in good spirits – has passed exams he hopes successfully. Mrs. George [Durnford] gave a tea on Tuesday. Marie & I went, as Mamma & myself can never leave the house together now – Duffins obeys no one, so we cannot leave them with the girl,

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he will not listen you see so one of us must remain. I tell you what we both feel this, as were mine only here they are amendable to reason. It is one of my crosses I suppose as well as poor Mamma's so we will have to make the best of it, until we go to you or you return. Mr. [Durnford] is a distant connection of my

Mother's, I think he called on you last year my dear. The press reports tell us of De Wet's escape among the cattle. Richard glories over it & thinks

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the English are not very smart, when a man can escape like that. Lord Strathcona said at a banquet the other day there were no pro-Boer's in Canada, he little knows all there really are. Lord Dufferin died on Tuesday, poor man! The recent scandals on which his name was brought in hastened his demise no doubt. He was a fine man & was always well liked here, was he not? I must end, as I want to catch the mail. God bless & protect you dear. Ever so much love & many sweet kisses from

Your own true, warmhearted, devoted, lonely little wifie Maye.

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Distance separates "us", but not in the way "Mrs. Tanqueray" means I hope.

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