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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Jan 27th

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 21st beginning in such a charming & unusual way "my dear darling duck" the first time you ever wrote me in that strain or by that name came to me on Monday morning & gave [me] the pleasure of the day when perusing it. I am sure the mess dinner must have been very nice altogether [*sic*] & that you enjoyed it. The Miss Howell (Mrs Pontland's sister) is one that I believe was much in love with our gallant Capt. Mackie. She is coming to visit her sister I know. Alec's nephew must be a [McKinnen] as that was his sister's married name & she lived in Alexandria. is [*sic*] the Miss [Nauton] who was there a relative of [Nauton] who married Miss [Foly] de Lotbinière?

The brooch came safely & will do until I go to Winnipeg if I ever do - it was made to order in their Montreal house, of that I am positive. They could see the name of the firm on the [mider] side of the brooch.

Your Scotch bluid [*sic*] flew faster I am sure when ye heard the [skril] of the pipes & the dinner tasted ever so much better, I am certain if the "Pibroch

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of Donald Dhu" gladdened you ears.

You mentioned "well cooked food, eight-courses, waiting good" but said nothing about the [tracts] in healths drank

"The Daily News" published Col. Irvine's interview so Torla got that copy - do not worry any more about it, as she is quite satisfied.

I now take up yours of the 22nd, written after your evening walk & when you were lonely - of course I cannot possibly be as lonely as you are poor dear, having the children who keep me busy & lively & the house to look after & all that, but I know full well how you must feel. The disagreeable duty of writing confidential reports is sufficient to make a person lonely, especially if you cannot converse when once in your quarters, to take your mind off your work.

I got an invitation to the 18th L. H. ball, which I shall answer soon. wish [*sic*] I had [miss] or a fairy godmother! I should certainly go &

surprise my prince charming!!! I trust it will be fine when Parliament opens, so that you can show the [brass] clothes.

The weather today is not fine - it is snowing & there was a miniature blizzard for an hour or more this p.m. - it has lulled & does not seem too bad tonight.

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I had no idea Jim Henderson was 70 years - he does not look it I must confess.

Mrs Hilliam never answered my last letter & was to let me know when she passed through, but failed to do so.

Yours of the 23rd now lies open before me & I am glad all mine reached you safely. I know well you are not "old & decrepit" & do not think you are either when you write that way. Mr Clarke found the paid cheque ordered by Dr [Blow] all right, but not the receipt, so I will take it down to him the first time I go that way. It is not right that you should not be compelled to pay for extra light fuel etc. Am so pleased Mr Fred White is better & trust he will keep so. We have not had anyone spending an evening lately - they are not given to that here unless invited.

I now have yours of the 24th which reached me this morning to answer. Trust you enjoyed your tea at the Mitchell's. The letters I enclose from the children will amuse you - all are so different in every way. I do not think P. Barton [here] a nephew of the Genl. either & think had he been so nearly related that the Genl. would have alluded to it. The bad streak comes out in Jack H. I always thought he would not

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he would not amount to much.

Very likely there is some plotting going on between the [two]! - it is aggravating to be compelled to sit quietly there & say nothing!

The electric treatment Dr Macdonald has commenced giving me is doing me good. These awful nerves of [ours], must be looked after & better now than later. The quarterly receipt for "The Great West" came safely & is with the rest of the policy. Tomorrow is Mrs Burns' tea. she [sic] called at the house on 11th Ave - two or three days after we were in it & has never been near me since we came to this one - her way of doing things is to give a tea, invite those to whom she owes calls & polish them all off in that way, but this chicken is not the kind that accepts that sort of an invitation.

You made a mistake or did not read my letter right. Mrs McCarthy

married long before I came - her baby was born in Ottawa during last session. Mrs Peterson her sister was married the Aug. before I came, consequently should have called on me, as I was a newcomer - they do not know better I think & want to be first in society. Sir Fred Borden is home by this I suppose & you will soon know what they propose doing in the matter. The straightening up you had to do, being such a disagreeable task will surely be

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favourable to you my dear.

I shall now proceed to tell you any news I can think of. Sunday evening I went to the Taylor's next door. Miss Phillip, Mrs Biddell's sister was there. She is a very fine pianist. Miss Shibley & another young lady were there also - the former is Dr [Aylen's] sister in law & head of St. Hilda's - we had music & conversed. On Monday the musical club met at Mrs Scott Dawson's on American Hill - it was pleasant, but several were absent through illness. The next meeting will be here on the 8th Feb. & I must have the piano tuned before that & write a paper on Beethoven, the composer chosen for that day. Tuesday I went to Mrs Proctor's for tea, only a small affair - in the evening went to Mrs Peake's for 500 - there were four tables. Mr & Mrs McLeod [Hawknis] Mrs [Mapsens], Mrs Dr Macdonald, Mrs [Darker] & others whom I did not know - it was an awfully slow affair played cards from eight till twelve, then had bad music until half past one - all left feeling played out - got to sleep at three, rising at 7.30 as usual. Monday & Tuesday Gertrude was ill - indigestion & in a high fever. Monday evening I went to electric treatment & asked the Dr to look in yesterday morning - he did so, gave her a little medicine & she is better tonight. Minnie has not been

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been well, but is also on the mend.

This afternoon I went with Mrs [Talbot] to call on Mrs [Perley] - her husband used to have "The Alberta Hotel". I then went to the Dr for treatment. I feel sure electricity will be very beneficial to me - my head is a little relieved & my nerves improved slightly. I cannot get a lump of hard coal from Lott's & they are the only people who keep Banff hard. Toole, Peet & Co. promised to send me some soft today, but have not done so - we have none, nothing but dust. I hope it will come tomorrow - it is an awful shame to have people in such a predicament!!... I enclose this notice from C. Furniture Store re note. I paid them \$30.00 as you

know & requested & got the receipt for same. It is now getting late & I have written you a long letter, so I will close. I need rest as I am going to a bridge party at Mrs Talbot's tomorrow evening & must not feel tired. God bless you my own darling one. You did not send back butcher's bill I believe! All join me in much love & many kisses. Hope you are feeling well now. Write soon to

Your own true devoted lonely, little wife,
Maye

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