

2008.1.1.1.1.55

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
July 20<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own dearly loved Sam,

Tonight, having a few leisure moments to spare, I gladly profit of the opportunity of a short chat with my own darling pet, & to show him that I also think of him all the time, night & day. If I wrote every second that my thoughts are with you, my pet I should do nothing else. You are my first thought on awakening & my last as my eyes close in slumber & you know not how eagerly I look forward to the days which bring my love's missives to me. They are so kind, good & affectionate, not to mention the sweetness with which they are replete!! is it surprising I love them so? I am sure Mrs. Mac must have been delighted to welcome her pet – knowing his absence was caused by a very laudable desire of trying to make money for her sweet sake, should have reconciled her to his loss for a short while & his success must have more than made up for being deprived of his society for some days. It pleases me very much

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to know that you are to profit by it & for his sake, but far more for yours, I sincerely hope it will prove a good thing. She must be having a lovely time driving about in her future nephew's wagon & no doubt enjoys the privilege [sic] of being the only lady you are so gallant to, more than she cares to let on!. She appreciates it very much & cannot say nice enough things about my treasure & seems to fear, I may not be nice enough & do not thoroughly [sic] realize what a fine fellow I am to marry. she little knows how very little heart I have left of the original one I used to call my own – it has been exchanged for perhaps a larger one, but not a more affections one, my sweetheart, & time will tell how true my words are. How is it that Craig drives your [trap] now? is it merely when Mrs. Mac has it at her disposal that he has that honor? Indeed, I fear that once you are married, your men will not care to remain, as they fancy a lady in the house, makes it much harder for them. I would regret it very sorely, for they have proved faithful &

know how kind you are.

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Mrs. Mac often told me they would not come, once their reign was over, & feared that would be the case with me. I cannot see why, as I am sure I will not be difficult to please, particularly as you shall be first & all my endeavors shall tend that way. I wrote Mrs. C. Wood & hope the accident was not as bad as at first thought to be - she must have been severely hurt & will I hope soon recover her usual health. She is not a strong woman by any means, but has an unusual amount of energy, as I saw when camping in the Mts. Mrs. Zach escaped well & will not, I am sure, feel inclined to go driving with any thing smarter than the first little Cow I rode, for a while. never mind dear, that famous slow pony caused your fall & made you dream about the ring which you lost, & I was fortunate enough to find – for a moment when I told of it, my very heart beat joyfully, but it soon calmed, when I recalled the many heartaches your apparent indifference had given me. However, like the dear old fairy tale, it seems as if things would end well, judging from the way in which we stand towards one another now, my own dear pet. You know long ere this that my illness was of short duration, though the pain was severe. I fight against it as much as I can, but in the end have to give in. I wish my pet were here now – how I should enjoy talking to him or even seeing him would be sufficient – as Owen Meredith so well expresses it in “Lucille,”

“You know,

There are moments when silence, prolonged and unbroken,  
More expressive may be than all words ever spoken.  
It is when the heart has an instinct of what  
In the heart of another is passing.” - -

Such was often the case with us, my own one, but happiness was there all the same & made itself felt too. After such poetical fancies, I must come back to reality & retire – my sisters have come up & are talking so much that I cannot write without repetitions, so I will say au-revoir & kiss my own sweet pet very fondly “Good night & many pleasant dreams” –

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July 21<sup>st</sup>. After a nice night's rest, having been to church & my duties over for a while, I come to continue the letter commenced last evening. Has my pet really not become accustomed to my absence yet? Why, I shall be with you before you have realized my departure time is fleeting so swiftly!! What books do you find the nice sentiments you tell me of in? I came in my room

to write peacefully & they have all come in one after another, so you must not wonder at the turn I have given the above question - however I shall leave them & try the next one, in order to collect my thoughts & write a passable letter. Do you sincerely believe a man who loves when past thirty, loves more truly & really than when younger? His ardour has cooled by then it may be, & his love is more apt to be guided by ambition, love of money & such things. Of course, there are exceptions for no person could ever accuse you of either of the two things mentioned. You love me for

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myself only as I have none of the things likely to influence a man in giving me his heart. We are having beautiful weather for the last few days & I must say, do not envy you your fires. It must aggravate the Wilson's [sic] very much to be obliged to go to Regina, after being but a short time settled in Pincher Creek. I trust you will not be treated in the same style just as soon as our little nest will be comfortable & snug. The Comr. seems to take perfect delight in knocking folks about in that manner & may do the same to us. Is Mrs. Deane the vixen you allude to? She can I have no doubt be very disagreeable when it so pleases her. I would have written to tell you how I felt, but the illness not being serious & having no interesting news I thought it as well not to afflict you too often. So you are still uncertain what sort of a welcome will await you on your return from inspections or any other duty which

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will call you from my side for a short or long time as it may happen? have I not told you over & over again how lovingly I shall await you, my own pet, & welcome you as sweetly & charmingly as I know how? The cold, haughty looks & ways are a thing of the past for you, my own one & well you are aware of it, though you will pretend to be ignorant of the fact. Still, Lex's welcome was a warm one I know for she thinks the world & all of him - it makes me smile sometimes & I know it is wicked of me, but if you knew all the in's [sic] and out's [sic] of it, you could not restrain your laughter either; that is, if you can see the funny side of things & in your quiet sly way, I think you notice far more than you would wish one to imagine. Now that the songster which proved such a strong attraction for the night hawk has taken flight, they no doubt, keep much earlier hours. I expect to be taken to task about it when I return, but I will have my dear big Major to defend me then, so shall not mind it so much. How is it Mrs. Mac has changed so much & sleeps so peacefully now? I as a rule am not nervous, but I believe

no one will ever convince me that I was wrong in thinking a man had come into the house the night I told you of at the time. I firmly believe it, you see – it may seem strange to you & cause you to wonder why I am so silly, but I cannot help it, dear. I cannot imagine what would bring a man in at that hour, but I assert it all the same & felt some one was there. It appears to me the Comr. is visiting you very often. I had been in Macleod nearly two months & had heard nothing of him, but the minute you arrived, his coming in the near future was announced. The Review which took place on or about the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sept. I enjoyed, & then had the pleasure of meeting the ogre & surprising him by my coolness – ah! that afternoon I am not likely to forget – you were so stiff & seemed so very, very far from me, though I could feast my

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eyes on my dear darling unknown to himself or any body else. Every one was too much occupied with all that was going on to notice this little girl. I was determined not to let the new arrival Mrs. Zach, have an opportunity of saying I was seeking to attract you in any way & convinced you, my pet, I fear, that I was a very haughty, heartless coquette. When I sit & recall all that took place during the few short months I was with Mrs. Mac, it seems to me I must be dreaming. If I could see & spend some hours, once in a while with you, I should realize the reality of it all – but such as things are, it is difficult for me to know it is true. Grandmamma comes tomorrow afternoon for a short visit. I have no idea when she leaves for her new home with Mrs. Mac. What do you think of Mrs. Mathews, or did you know her before? that makes three ladies in the barracks now & the fourth will be there some time between

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this & next year I suppose. What a number of the fair sex there are now in the country, compared to what it was ten years ago! – They have developed a great taste for travelling lately & the inducements to return are too numerous to resist – with such fine fellows up there, our hearts are too generous to compel them to live alone, if we can in any way alleviate the loneliness [sic] & unhappiness of their lot! & one after another they find their mate & marry. I trust you will never fancy you made a mistake in your choice, my darling & never meet any one you could have loved better than your own poor little girl, if fate had otherwise decreed. The doctor will thaw out & may be a very nice fellow after all, my darling. You thought very much of Dr. P. I know & were sorry to part with him. Well, my love, as I must go

out this evening, I will kiss my pet “good-bye” – Write me soon & write me long letters, if time enough is at your disposal, but do

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not sit up till the sma' hours to perform the task. With a heart brimful of love for my own darling boy & very many sweet kisses, Ever

Your own true loving

little Girl.

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