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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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830 Dorchester St.
Montreal, Nov 20th / 89.

My own darling Sam,

I received your very short letter of the 10th yesterday forwarded to me from home. I knew you would feel bad at my having missed a Sunday & I felt a terrible culprit, trying hard to persuade myself I should have written, even under the circumstances & your few words hurt me more & made me feel more guilty than if you had given me a down right scolding. I had your disappointment always before me, my pet but I hope you have entirely forgiven me. Grandma is very wrong to sing my praises to such an extent & your awakening will be all the more cruel, my own old darling. Miss F. resided in Ottawa for a number of years & likely met Julia there. So Mr. Huot has started on his

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journey east! what changes will have taken place ere he returns, especially for you & I, my darling. so you too have been enjoying yourself. I am glad to know it dear, though most of my pleasure consisted in speaking of you dear. Vaudreuil is a very quiet place at best & very lonely & dreary in the autumn. If I have made a slave of you, my pet, you shall never feel the chains that bind you, for I shall always endeavor to make your life as happy as it can possibly be & with so much love, surely I shall succeed. There will not be very many of us during Xmas week – the family only, my brothers & sisters. As for telling you what to do, you have my letter ere this – when you have seen me, we will arrange everything. I suggested the 26th of Dec as the happy day but all rests with you. I do not know what your intentions

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may be, consequently we cannot settle anything definitely – if you go to your brother's, well we will put it off for some weeks & that will give you full time to attend to all your business ere the knot is tied. it will not inconvenience me & may perhaps suit you better, but once more do not

fancy me very strange & think I wish it off for some time longer. I will be ready as much as I can be when we have named the day, & am striving hard to have everything completed before the 25th – it was merely to tantalize that I said you were only to remain one day & some of my last letters will have set your mind at rest with regard to that question. the programme will be all arranged when we meet my darling, unless you wish it otherwise & ignore the subject altogether – such a thing may be, now that the time is so rapidly nearing, my treasure. Papa brought me your dear letter of the 11th today & it filled me with delight, my own old pet – as you have granted me full forgiveness for my omission, I feel happy once more & my heart beats wildly at the thought of seeing you, my sweetheart, so soon. Mrs. Mac was no doubt delighted to reach home, as having been delayed the journey tired her, I suppose. Grandma must have been surprised at having her words repeated, but I am sure you fully deserve all she said of you & she will appreciate all you did for her, I know. My eyes are not blinded in any way, so do not for one moment fancy it. I have been wide awake though seemingly in a very happy dream, & am dreaming still. if you are “badly gone” I hope the object will in every way prove worthy of you, my own dear pet & that will reward you in a measure. I do not mind missing the ball because you were not there

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my pet, for I can only find real happiness now when near you, my own one. My father has kind feelings towards you, because he deems you in every way worthy of his little girl & says “she has chosen wisely & well” – he is a man, & knows men pretty well, so you see why he is pleased. Mr. D. was speaking of the Comr. on Sunday & said “he should not be surprised to hear Major Steele was next Comr. as he was such a through [sic] soldier & a great favorite” – it would be just what I should wish for you dear, though the promotion would be attended with more responsibility & worry I suppose. still were you in the highest position or the lowest, my love for you dear would be always the same, for now it can never change. You are all in all to me & grow dearer every day I verily believe. I hope for the sake of all concerned that they will hold an inquiry & give the ogre what he so richly deserves. as so many of the

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officers were present & witnessed his display of temper at Banff, it makes it much easier, does it not? Cotton is worse than I thought him & how dispicable [sic] a man he must seem to men who have any honor about

them!. You felt weary when the group was taken & it was the Sunday intervening between the first time of asking & the last! Your little girl was very cruel to treat you in that way, my pet, but that is passed now & only the roses will remain for us in the future, my own dear pet. Mrs. Mac may change & see things as they are when we are neighbors – she is kind hearted only has her faults just as your little pet has hers – he is wrong not to tell her just how things are. she would not mind it being so fond of him & she might be saved many a remark made by others over her ignorance. I fear Papa is too much of a man & would take your part even against me – he has a warm heart & has always

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been very fond of dear Mamma so he can feel for my pet, I suppose. I understand your permission to tease to my heart's content full well. I may say what I please, but you have made up your mind & it will take place when you are ready – is that it? Julia is indeed very lucky to have met such a treasure, but he is no more than mine will be – his profession gives him a little more ground to display his worth, but that is all & I feel I shall meet with all the love & kindness I long for once I am really yours. I expect you in Dec, but know how uncertain your movements are & you must be sure & set my heart at rest, for you will see that it is not my intention to write much oftener without being sure that you are in Macleod. I remember Lex's supper the first time you came after we had retired – that was the evening I thought Dr. K. was with you. You made an remark in answer to one of mine that caused me a good deal of thinking. You would not repeat it & said it to Lex in a low tone, but I caught part of it only & never dared ask what it was, but I may later on, when we are better acquainted with each other. Why do you recall the circumstance? is it for the same reason as myself I wonder? – I do like the suppers & enjoyed them very much when you were by – I became accustomed to them & the bracing air of Macleod gave me a very keen appetite. I am not one of the ethereal beings who live on air, consequently display my mortality in more ways than one. You must do just as if there was no question of such a person as your little girl & if you wish to spend the 25th at your brothers [sic], just let me know in time that is all I ask – all now rests with you, but of course we will have to put it off for some time, if we cannot arrange for the day mentioned. If grey eyes are an index of the

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true character, then they must be the truest if not the sweetest, for if my

experience goes for anything, they are true to the end. I am not one who forgets easily so the tiptoeing will be continued only, not learnt over again. One has to be very careful what one says where there are few ladies – there usually is one traitor who tries to curry favor with them all & repeats every conversation. I hate those kind & say as little as possible before them. So Dr. A. is inclined a little to Mormonism – too bad public opinion is so wicked, to deprive a man of so many delights as a plurality of wives is sure to give him – they would pull his hair out &

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make him walk pretty straight I fancy. I came down Monday & have been rather busy, but the rain put an end to my shopping, to my great regret as I am anxious to return home. I have seen none of my friends but the Huberts for I spent the evening there on Tuesday. they were delighted (?) to see me & found me looking very much better than when I came down in Sept. My cousin, Harry Harwood, is down with rheumatism once more – he boards not far from here & I went to see him today – he is completely disheartened & no wonder, for he is about twenty five & has suffered with it for the last ten years & has been at death's door many a time. I told him he should live in the north west & try the Sulphur Springs. He is studying chemistry & will pass his final examinations in April – he has been kept back for some years on account of his malady. You will find this a terrible scrawl but it is so hard to write – baby keeps climbing over me & will persist in sitting on my back, so you can imagine the difficulties I have to contend against. She is such a pet & talks of Major Teele for all she is worth. Well, my darling I must leave you now – it is just dinner time & there are friends coming in to spend the evening. Pray forgive this terrible letter & write soon again.

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by the by, my cousin Elzear Taschereau has tried hard to get a situation in the Government but he is too well known & cannot succeed – is he not very silly to have carried on as he has done? The weather still continues pleasant though, it has rained so much today. All are anxious to see my pet, but as the days fly by no none are is more anxious to meet you & longs for you more than words can tell, than

Your own dear, loving warm-hearted little Girl.

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