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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

June 8 / 1901 –

My darling, God bless you dear & bring you home safe to me. I have been fixing up your clothes & feel as if your visit had been only a dream. Be sure & do not stay away longer than you promised. I had forgotten a sett [sic] of underwear so send

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

it on by mail. In haste with ever so much love & many kisses from the little ones & myself, ever

Your loving wifie.

Saturday, June 7th

4 p.m.

[/pg 2]

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.
Montreal, June 11th –

My own darling Sam,

You may be on the lookout for a letter from me, dear so I seize the first leisure moment I have to pen you a few lines. To say that I miss you terribly is to speak mildly & your visit seems almost like a dream to me now. Oh! dear but these partings are heart-breaking & how little charm life has for one, when the one you love best in the world is always so far from you!. After my return on Saturday I spent my time packing up the clothes you left behind & the more I packed the more firmly I resolved that this is the last time I am going to allow you to leave me – no matter where you go, I will follow no matter how great the risk may be.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

This is not living, it is only existing without you – the children feel it keenly too & talk of you incessantly. Baby said all day long, “Papa is coming back

when the gas is lit". Gertrude with tears flowing from her eyes said "Dubbie, the gas will be lit lots of times, before Papa comes back"! I went to the Branch Bank of Montreal, on St. Catherine St. yesterday & deposited the Ryerson check asking them to tranfer [sic] to the "Standard Bank, Capetown". They gave me a receipt for it. I also mailed you a letter from War Office & one from Dr. Borden today, in c/o H.C. for Canada which will, I hope reach you safely. Did you get the sett [sic] of silk underwear mailed Saturday p.m. & which they said would reach you at Rimouski? I cannot understand how I forgot it when packing your trunks. I hope you enjoyed the two ~~boxes~~ pounds of chocolate which I put in the steamer trunk as a surprise

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

knowing it is the only kind of sweet you care for, dear. I sincerely hope you will have a pleasant trip over & be sure & write when you have a moment to do so. Your letters are such a comfort, in my very many hours of loneliness which hang like a dark cloud, over me all during your absence! I do not complain & make others miserable with my trials, consequently feel & suffer all the more deeply, my darling. Be sure & do not remain longer away than necessary. Mamma, Auguste & Marie spent Sunday at Auntie Angelique's & saw Uncle Henry & Auntie [Jos] – all were much disappointed that you had been unable to go up before your departure. Heaven bless you & guard you during your long absence. Take good care of yourself, my pet. Flora is well & sends many sweet messages to her

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

darling Papa, as well as the other poor pets. All join in fond love.

Yours as ever, far as near,

Maye.

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[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.
June 12th 01.

My dear old Boy,

The enclosed came this a.m, but the envelope was small & had been readdressed so often that I could not send it to you without changing the envelope; that is my reason for opening it. We seem to be commencing to get our summer weather, although we have had a great deal of rain since

you left. You did not write from Rimouski: at I tried to persuade myself that you probably would but see that I was mistaken. Mr. Cowdry writes that he will be here in a week or so & will explain all re cattle. There is not much news: I have been very busy since your departure & hope to get through so as to be able to go to Mr. Forest in July. The children have

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

grown so much that their wardrobe's need attention. All are well & send their love. Be sure & write as often as possible to keep my spirits up, I am so very lonely without you, dear. With many sweet kisses from our dear little ones, believe me, as ever

Your own devoted loving,

wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 2]