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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary. Sept. 6th

My own darling,

Your short note of the 2nd re Ontario land grant is the first I have to acknowledge this p.m. I hope since you have decided to sell it, that you will get a fair price & not find out, after some one else has possession of the place, that it is worth far more as so very often happens. [See] Minnie's homestead - the bank gave her \$7.00 per acre, Mr. Douglas gets \$35.00 or more, from the Govt. for part of it. I shall sign the power of att'y when it comes, as you wish me to do so.

Now, I turn to your long one of the 3rd in which you tell me all about your interview with Mr. Bell & the results. How very disagreeable it is to be compelled to be continually on the alert to contradict stories circulated by people whose sole aim is to try & get what they are unfit to hold! Mr. Bell did the right thing in coming straight to you & learning the true state of affairs - in that case he could meet his political friends armed to the teeth & know well what he was talking of & could but help you as he seems eager to do. I am much pleased that you have written Gen'l Mac. & the Min. offering to do useful work in a "higher command".

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There is no use letting the grass grow under you feet at such a time - the others do not wait till it is ripe, why should you? My news re Capt. Burnham will surprise you, but it shows how busy people are with your business, & how much more they know than you do yourself. I cannot imagine how the news was circulated, but it has certainly gone the round of the town & every one is on the qui vive.

The Pennefathers were, I am sure pleased to see you after so many years & gave you much news - some of it you knew before, so you were not misinformed when told of the forced marriage when we were in Africa!

[How] all details concerning the Herchmer affair come out by degrees - it was a mean thing, which after all did not benefit any one very much. I will put the receipted mess bill with the others, so that you can get them on your return.

Your next of the 3rd was more that a surprise "my darling old pet. my sweet little Maye" do you mean all that, after all these years of life with me? with all my faults & failings? If so, how thankful I am - God has indeed been good to me!

Mr. Woods, dep. atty Genl. is a brother of the editor of the Herald here - you know we met them both the night we were last at Dr. Macdonald's when Torla was with us: those here are rather nice, but Miss Brown is decidedly common & so slangy.

I shall now proceed & give you any little news which may interest you - we have been out to a small tea

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at Miss Lee's since I wrote last. I mean Mrs. Mackie's friend - we were alone, Tilsey, Minnie & myself. Tilsey played, I sang, Miss Lee played the violin - it was pleasant. You would die to hear Minnie telling Miss L "~~about~~" how lovely she is & of all the [beaus] she has & no wonder, with such roses in her cheeks. I cannot stand such nonsense - too bad I am not built that way, for I should have many more friends, no doubt.

We spent Friday morning at Mrs. Lilly's - just ourselves Saturday afternoon, Tilsey & I went up town - ordered photo's then went over to D.J. Young's to hear the gramophone - it was simply delightful - Tetrazinni [sic], Caruso & such artists - it is truly a wonderful invention & what pleasure it gives so many millions of people who would never have an opportunity of listening to such grand voices but for Edison! Tilsey enjoyed my treat immensely & it cost nothing.

George H. Johnston stopped in just at the gate on Friday, spoke of Mr. Helen's sudden end, then said Freddie Lowes is in the Holy Cross suffering from typhoid - he seemed very blue over these things - he was, of course very intimate with Mr. Helen who did all his business for him.

No word has come about Mr. Richards so people are commencing to hope he is better.

Mr. Vibert came last evening & Minnie & her brother Phil went for a walk together. Just before they came in, his two boys arrived to see Mrs. Macdonell of course. They did not remain long.

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Minnie & I went to church & afterwards I went over & paid my pew rent to Father Jan.

Mrs. Talbot of 17th Ave. (of Bermuda) called for Tilsey & they went to the Presbyterian church together - very nice, especially as Mrs. T. is English church. Tilsey found Mr. Wrigley a splendid organist. Tonight Minnie Miss Mr. Vibert to call on Miss Lee - she will be in her element, trying to make a match & praising one up to the other - it keeps her busy & gives her much pleasure. Tilsey speaks of leaving next Saturday. I hope to keep her some days longer - she is very nice & it has done her good, but she does not like leaving Antoine alone too long, as he has to cook his meals when he gets home from office & that is rather hard.

Gertrude & Harwood are just in from Sunday school - the former was radiant, having her catechism prize from Father Jan, a nice, interesting book. Things are going all right at school & both are much pleased so far.

It is simply a perfect day - warm & no wind - glorious! Capt. Mackie usually comes once a day with mail, but have not seen him today as yet - do you ever hear of cousin Henry Steel, strange he does not write. Well, my darling, I must not bore you with too long a letter so will say good bye for today. All join in fondest love & kisses. With the hope of hearing from you soon,

Believe me, as ever,

Your own, true, devoted little wifie,

Maye

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I see by last nights paper that Buzz is home - enclose clipping. A 'phone from the telegraph office came Thursday night, asking for your address, as there was a telegram from Kamloops from a Mr. Patullo asking you to meet him at the train here on Friday. I gave you address & suppose it is W. Patello from Dawson who wanted to see you - has he done so?

M.

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