

2008.1.1.1.1.279

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Sept 1st 1907

My own darling pet,

Your long interesting letter from Macleod dated Aug 28th came yesterday afternoon & I was charmed to get it, I assure you. Donnie was, I am sure glad to see & converse with one who has always taken such an interest in him for so many years & to hear of all of us for he cannot fail to be fond of the little ones, who have such a warm spot in their hearts for "dear old Donnie!" I am so pleased to learn from such a reliable person that he has truly not touched drink for some years.

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he must realize the folly of it, - the trouble it brings in its wake & the wreck it makes of even the very best of men. The Casey's will be sorry that the Buchen's have to leave, as they are united & Mrs. B. their only aunt on their father's side. You, I suppose also saw [Murison]! You are acquainted with the Battleford man who will take over the Macleod business for the H.B.Co. no doubt.

How very nice that people receive you with so much delight & evidently look back with pleasure to the time we all dwelt in the old barracks - poor Mr. Casey was sincere & they all were nice. I always liked her, she was so quiet & ladylike. Of course, I have not seen them for a long time & am delighted to know they have not forgotten me. I just read

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what you said of the Casey's to Torla & she said "Papa is a "nippy" one - he is always saying that the ladies are perfect dears" - she looked so bright & laughed so heartily. I am sure some people would be glad to see me again, if we passed through Macleod together some time. Has Barnes many of a family & how are they all - his wife was such a delicate woman. Who did Mackenzie marry? Oh! yes I

remember - a person who was a milliner in the H.B.C. I do not think I ever spoke to her. It is too bad, about Minnie's ranch & all the trouble in connection with it. The loss by the forced sale is heartrending & must give her many a trying hour when she stops to meditate & think over everything. The Irrigation Co. were hard on him & it is no wonder it worried him so much. From the photos I have seen, the house seemed very nice & it must be a hard thing for her to know that notwithstanding all her work she has had to lose all. I have been told of Minnie's deafness & think, as you say she is over sensitive - we will have to mind our "p's & q's" I fancy. The "old timers" are as you say grand! Their hearts are kind & they remember past kindness. I hope Kerrigan will still keep sober & work well - he is not old & can find plenty to keep busy, I am sure.

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Mother is tickled to death at your missing her & indeed! I feel sure she will flit west as soon as Frank is married. She is beginning to realize she will be lonely without us, & I can see she frets & has done so for some time. I have been with her so much for years, you see, my dear. I hope she will take good care of herself during the long winter, as she will feel the cold, I fear.

Tomorrow, Torla begins her studies - I will, as I said before keep her with me until I go. I trust she will be all right, but I know full well there are many tears in reserve, which at times overflow, when she speaks too much of dear Papa!

I have been counting up expenses & I fear you will think me crazy, but you have no idea of what I require to pay up

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everything. I have about half the sum in \$229.00 which is what I have or a few dollars less out of the money which comes in the beginning of this month, your Aug. pay. The enclosed will speak for itself & means \$20.00 over there. Col. Macdonald writes that meals are included in the transport, but says nothing of berths, so that I suppose another \$26.00 will go for that, as I will put two in one bed, on my way up. Indeed! I have many times regretted that I did not leave at once with you; then again, having to leave Torla here at school, I could not leave her on the street with no place to go, until Sept., so there it is! one's heart it is torn in two, with what is is done & should be done! I do think money is the curse of the world - you can get nothing

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without it & can do nothing without it - everyone wants cash at once - bread is going up again & everything is the same. Poor people will freeze & starve is this continues.

Why do you not try & locate Bethune & endeavor to get the \$500.00 from him to invest some years ago - it would be such a help now when we require so much. What about the "Empire" - any news of it lately? I hope my letters will not worry you, my dear, but I must mention these things to you, for I am thinking all the time & do so wish I could avoid troubling you so much - but I am such a helpless being under the circumstances & see no way out of the difficulty - this is as expensive a country now as S.A. a dollar goes no further than 2/6 there. Let me know as soon as possible what to do, for the sooner I get off the better. I cannot send cases until I have cash, as no doubt this car must be paid in advance & that is \$137.00. How I wish I was near you now & the bother ahead of me over. The children are, thank heaven, in good health & send fondest love to dear Papa. The original of the enclosed came yesterday & Bagnall says positively they never gave you an inventory - she is lying, so is the agent, however we will pay £4.00 & get rid of the lot - she is exactly what the neighbor's said of her, I am sure. God bless & keep you until we meet. Love & kisses from the children & sweet embraces from

Your own devoted true hearted little wifie,

Maye

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