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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.
July 14th 01.

My own darling,

Your longest letter written from 1st Avenue hotel is evidently the one you wrote on the 29th & which you forgot to date, a very unusual thing for you to do. You must forgive my complaining & for making you so unhappy by my grumbling & regrets at being left in this way. I do not wish to unman you & will try never to do so again, please God. It will be hard not to be able to tell my griefs, my trials

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

my troubles, to any one, for I cannot tell them here. It will make me a different woman, for griefs borne in silence end by affecting one's health very much. but that is nothing – I will try hard to do as I say & if I never say, "I miss you, I am lonely" or anything like that, you will know the reason why. You must be pleased at having met Dr. Sam. Steele & all his family & your other nephews. It will be nice for you to look back on when you are busy in S. Africa & have a moment to turn your thoughts homeward. How fortunate you are in being able to see all these

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

interesting castles, [remains] etc – the day may come when I too can behold them & not only have the pleasure of reading about them. By the by as you mention a Mr. Underwood, a Mrs. Roderick Stewart, who used to live in Winnipeg but who now resides here, met me the other day & asked me if you knew a Mr. Underwood who was in the H. B. in Winnipeg once. He is now connected with the [Docks] in Capetown & his wife, her sister, leaves England to go out to him this week. I think he is a Col. Underwood, a military man as well – likely in the militia. Until I meet the family I certainly shall never be able to keep track of the Steele's – there are so many of them, & they have so many connections that I simply find my mind is not profound enough to follow them & keep trace of them. Your next dated the

29th of June, in which you tell me you expected to sail that day. You had not mentioned the date before. You would enjoy the trip on the "Wakool" knowing the Capt. & officers. Judging from press reports things are still pretty bad & the Boers are giving lots of trouble & fighting the S.A.C. in different places. You will have your hands

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

full & find your time fully occupied. as long as you escape, I must not worry. I must not tell you to be careful, or anything like that. I must only live in hope... I am well aware that rent is expensive here & it is not going down – the further west the higher it is. Are the Belcher's anything like those here? – it is too bad, the young girl did not remain longer at school in Toronto – she needs polishing off & a couple of years schooling would improve her greatly, for she seems a rather nice girl. I will have the children photographed as you

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

desire, although they are not looking well as they will after they have been away for a time. I will see about my own, but do not promise – as long as they see the little ones, it will not matter about me. The day is fine but it is very warm – will be a schorcher [sic] I fear. Louise is gone & I must confess the house is much more bearable without her boy. He is a terrible bother, & I was getting desparate [sic] I must confess. He must inherit some of his amiable father's nice qualities, I suppose. Dr. [Hansford] is giving her a share in the profits of the hospital as well as a

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

monthly salary of \$20.00 which will dress herself & her boy. She says so far she likes it & will be comfortable when settled. She will feel more independent I presume, & hope her husband will not come & bother her. I have no doubt he would, if he thought she would put a roof over his head or give him a meal, but I fancy he would get a fairly hot reception if he tried it. His mother never helps her in any way either – what a terrible match she made!. I received the letters enclosed in a large envelope & sent by your Secretary, mine, two of them included – it seems funny to have my letters returned to me so soon!. Antoine accompanied Richard to Vaudreuil for the Sunday, leaving yesterday morning. Gertie is still en route, poor girl! – It is kind of troublesome too, as Mamma is compelled to go up there & sleep every night, while her two eldest come here. the result is, that they are here the whole time & the house is filled with youngsters all day long & as I get

the benefit of all their quarrels etc, my head aches awfully at times & I wish I was miles away from it all. The verandah is near my

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

my room & they are there as a rule. I called on the Brierley's the other evening, Mamma & the children coming too. They were much disappointed at not seeing you when you were here, but I made things right & will call soon again. Ella & her two boys are spending the summer in St. Thomas with Mrs. Gossage so Alice is not going up, as the house is too small for so many. Alice has two girls, the baby four months old now & a fat, chubby child whom her mother says is like the Steele's. They are not as pretty babyies as ours were

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

although I do say it myself. Bob & his family are gone to Willard, near Portland for two months – they go there every year. Mary McGillis (Lady Roberts) has had typhoid fever – she is Convalescent now, having had it most of the winter they say, without the family being aware of it. There is not much news. I have had a sewing girl in, so have almost completed my summer sewing. Well, my darling, good bye. God bless & protect you. Take care of yourself – all join in love, Mamma especially desires to be mentioned. With many sweet kisses from the little ones, ever your affectionate wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 8]