

2008.1.1.1.1.168

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1901.

My own darling pet,

Your two dear letters dated Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> came as I expected them on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> & as usual were my morning tit-bit; they come in before my breakfast & make me feel happy almost all week, my darling. Needless to mention that they received their customary warm welcome. Before I go any further I must tell you that I got an invitation to Lord Strathcona's reception on Tuesday morning.

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Bob happened to hear that I had none & it seems mentioned it over the phone to the secretary who immediately said it was an oversight & apologized. Well, I went with Auguste, Marie having a bad cold could not accompany us. I wore the new dress I had made to go to Toronto, only touched up a little & very much more becoming. I looked kind of nice I really think. Mamma loaned me Louise's necklet which she has now, having redeemed it some years ago. It was left to Louise by my father's eldest sister, her Godmother & had been given to my

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Aunt, by Grandpapa McGillis' cousin, an English officer who served in India for many years. As Mamma does not want it to go to the pawn shop again, she has possession of it & keeps it – it is very handsome & I hope the day will come when I shall have one of my own. Col. Stevenson was exceedingly polite as well as Col. Prevost. Mr. Caultie, the old gent took me into supper & was kind too. He has a son in the Imperial Light Horse in Africa at present. I had a fairly pleasant time, but my darling, how much I wish you were here to go with. Col. Ibbottson also came up & conversed a short time. I am very military – Col. & Mrs. Cole as well. Sought me out. There was a terrible crush & I did not see a quarter of those I knew who were there. Caultie is a cousin of Lord S. & brother in law of [Mount.]

Stephen. Mrs. Caultie is related to Lord S. I should say. The “Kings Colors” were there & were much admired by all. You can perhaps imagine my feelings when I beheld them! the colors you were ready to risk your life for my dear old darling!!... I cannot say whether Lord Strathcona recognized me or not, but

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I fancy he did. I hope I shall see him when I call. I trust you will have comfortable quarters for all your officers in Pretoria. I see that Ross has been doing good work lately by tonight’s papers. How anxious I am that this horrible war should end. Is Skirving’s brother with you, dear? poor old fellow! I fancy I see him driving the four-in-hand up to the door in Macleod – how long it seems since then, eh, dear? – Kerr is great! he is a good one to have with you & will never be beaten. I was much amused over the adventure & Flora was tickled to death laughing heartily over it.

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It seems a strange thing that the S.A.C. cannot get what they need in the Canteen – there are no other stores in the place I suppose. It is queer that Boyd & Ogilvie are not yet promoted & you did well to write about it. If you failed to do it, they might blame you. The nurses all seem to be very nice & quite eager to take your photo. I trust I shall get them soon, as I am very anxious to see your dear self & get a view of your famous chargers. You will be quite a ladies man before we meet again & fond of a little gossip & cup of tea, my darling.

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They will not think me your daughter when they see the group I send you my pet. I only hope the photo’s will reach you in good condition – the little ones look sweet, don’t you think? I very often bring back to mind the scene you mention, of the departure of the steamer I see you standing there, waving your hand & bowing. I could not see you for very long I fear – my sight was rather blurred.

It seems to me the Boer ladies are quite attractive to the officers & others minus their wives – they are too polite, methinks for the good of those left at home in England & elsewhere. I am glad you feel so well dear. You need all your health & strength for the work you have on hand. You have eyes like a hawk & make good use of them as of old. You see stray couple enjoying a siesta or anything nice that is going on far too well for their comfort I fear, & they will begin to keep their eye on you, if you continue –

youth is apt to seek pleasure, even during war, eh! dear? It must be somewhat aggravating for you though.....

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I had as you know a pleasant time with Stewart & Lizzie – the little ones also. Our visits flew by very speedily I fancied, & we were home again almost before we knew it. I have not been weighed lately, but am looking better I fancy – we are looking forward to having a girl on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – as part of her clothes are here, I hope she will not disappoint us. Mamma seems favorably impressed with her appearance & she is a Gaspé girl & seems very willing.

My health must be better than it was last year – that is my nerves are & I do not get discouraged so

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often, a good sign I fancy. Yes, the President's death was a terrible thing – the murderer met his doom quietly & said nothing. he was almost boyish looking & had not a bad face. The Dane who committed the awful murder of a wee boy of seven years for the sum of seventeen [cents] in Westmount last Saturday night, has a very bad countenance – these crimes are heartbreaking in a civilized centre, are they not?

I bought a lovely black velvet hat & have two of the long white feathers on it – it is beautiful & very becoming to my style of beauty. I also carried your new fan & so many admiring

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glances were directed at me that it must have been remarked. One thing certain is that there were any number of women uglier than myself there, if that is any comfort to you. You will say I am getting vain, but that is really the case. Gertrude has a cold so I have kept her home this week. Dubbie is that way too, but as the cough is softening they are on the mend.

Frank was charmed to get your letter & says he has answered – I do hope he will get on, for it is pretty expensive work. No sight of the regimental records from Mr. Moir so far. Col. Macdowell will have to be written to again, I suppose. My eyes are closing, after last nights [dissipation] so that I shall have to leave you ere you get tired & I grow monotonous. All join in fond love to you my own darling. I hope you are still feeling strong & hearty. & that you will write my usual weekly budget at any rate. With ever so much love, believe me

Your own true, devoted, loving, lonely

little wifie,  
Maye.  
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