

2008.1.1.1.1.7

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
Jan 16th / 89.

My own dear Boy,

Your dear letter of the 6th was handed me yesterday & read with the greatest pleasure. how disappointed you must have been at not getting the mail from the east on the 5th & I was also on hearing of its non-arrival as I hoped the card I sent would reach you on your birthday & at least prove to you that I thought of you, my own pet. I hope you have it now as well as a "Star" which I also mailed on the 27th of Dec to let you know that Papa had received your letter, in case that I should not have time to write before the 1st. I thought it the best thing to do, having mentioned in the one of the previous day, that I hoped you will acknowledge Papa's letter. I am sure you enjoyed your last visit to Lethbridge exceedingly & am glad to know you missed your last travelling companion a wee bit. Mrs. Holt must have been pleased to see you, as you & she are

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such friends! It is certainly very kind of Mr. Player to speak of me so nicely! I fear you have over-rated me in the far west – I am no prize in the money market I assure you but you knew that before. The only value I have is a little home-value which I trust to be able to prove to your entire satisfaction someday. That is the place where I shine most & that I love best, particularly if I have what is dearest to me always near. No! I shall never regret my choice I believe – if I do? the greatest satisfaction I will have will

be “since I chose one who was so much thought of by every one who was considered all that was good, noble & generous & he has turned out to be not [dress] what must the others be?” Will not that be a consolation to my wounded heart? I never can thank the people I met sufficiently for the high opinion they formed of me. I only hope once established in their midst, they will not change for I would regret it very much. Mrs. Mac___ must have been displeased for she likes you to make a great deal of her very naturally – but all the nice or ugly things she might say

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of you now would make no difference to Maye – her whole heart & love are yours never to be taken away from their haven of rest & hope. That is the kind of a girl I am. If it makes you sad, you must not talk of me, my pet. one of the greatest pleasures I have is mentioning you when I can. I always find a willing listener & love to speak of you & think of you. Tell me of your love – it but increases mine & does not make a fool of you. love never hurt any one, no matter how unworthy the object may be. I wish you did not miss me so much sometimes, then again my heart rejoices at the thought of the great affection you have for me, since you would wish me ever near you. Your happiness will only be g more when you do possess me for ever & for ages & I pray your love may never diminish. indifference may be a good weapon in a woman’s hand when she is near. it certainly would fail in a man’s case if he were distant – with me at any rate, for I crave love & did I not meet with it..... some men consider it a mistake to show too much affection to their ~~wife~~ wives but I think they never can do enough for them. let the love to win be on our side, it is one of the very few privilages [sic] we have & you should not envy us for it – rest assured, that the more you show your love, the more fuel it adds to the fire burning within my breast for you & I am woman enough to be pleased that you are what you think weak to such a degree that you are not ashamed to own your love. I think you may safely say I have a [sore] spot for you. for if I did not, I should never

commit to this frail sheet of paper, all the sweet things I should perhaps keep for my own thoughts alone. I am cautious, but, the feeling I have for you, plays havoc with my pen & will run away with my secrets to whisper them into I think a willing ear. So you see others say you hated women? did I not judge you well when first I saw you? I am proud of the conquest I made of the man with such an indifferent heart. I must have touched some tender chord or been in possession of the key to open the lock that had proved obdurate for so long! – Well, my pet, let me come ~~com~~ back to this world of reality & answer your very important question about the furnishing of your bachelor quarters. do you wish to have it fixed for the Governor's visit? if so, then of course, furnish it before you come for me. if not, then I think it best to wait until we have done with the attentions of a chaperon & buy what we require together as I believe you would get far better bargains either in Toronto

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or Montreal than in Winnipeg. You see a woman is a better shopper than a man but the two together work wonders. We need so many superfluous things you never would dream of! Mrs. Mac will receive us for a few days during which time we can have carpets put down & enough done to enable us to go into our own little nest in a very short while – it will keep me busy too – a great consideration & give me such pleasure! however, do as you think best, I have given my opinion. I find everything expensive in Winnipeg judging from what Mrs. Mac told me – but perhaps the express on goods from Montreal amounts to the difference in the price. however the choice is greater in Montreal or Toronto so knowing what I think, you will be able to decide. Your good news about your health pleased me so much. I was commencing to fear that you might leave me after I had learned to love you even better & the thought caused many a heart-ache: however, my fears have vanished. I found you smoked too much, but then as women so often find fault with the harmless pleasures a man has, I did not like to say

anything, hoping

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that my society would in the future make up for the pipe sometimes. before I lay aside yours of the 6th I must say that when I opened it & saw only “my dearest Maye”, I turned cold & said to myself, “is he already regretting the endearing terms he has used”? The more I pondered, the more I felt it, but your kind letter of the 8th which came today & commenced in a more affectionate way, convinced me that the love was still there. how little it takes sometimes! anyway, it has had a very good effect. if I felt your seeming indifference once, what must you have experienced at sight of my headings? Not that I loved you less, my pet, but do you know I blush when I even think of you as Sam? I cannot help it & I never could bring myself to write it. however I will do so now, as you fancy I do not like your Christian name. forgive me for the timidity there still lingers where you are concerned: it is an attribute of my girlhood which will soon have passed from me! I do not wonder you keep my letters for the last. Your dinner would be entirely spoilt if you read them first, as they are always so long. You are a good letter writer & a regular correspondent – if you

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were otherwise, I should be also, so write when you can, like a darling. I know that being surrounded as I am, you think I miss you less – in a measure, I may. but the void is very great with you so far from me. I have not heard from Mr. Steele as yet but trust that little ring that meant so much to both, is now on its way to me. You are going to spoil me altogether & will find me very difficult to break in to suit your hand, if you go on giving me gifts. Brace up, my pet, half the month is over now, & if you intend coming in Sept. or Oct. the time will be here before you can realize it – then will come, regret? You must let me know if you have made different

arrangements in order that I may be ready to receive you. if the Governor goes, you cannot possibly come down before his visit, that I am not ignorant of. But suppose he does not! ah! that changes the aspect of things & upsets my little plans for, I will not be selfish enough to keep you pining for a long time, when so little would content & make you happy. You are decided in your quiet way not to wait two years, that I can see full well. The task of wading through your letters is so great, that the last pleasure of the day is reading the one that has come by the last mail. When the day is not kind I fall back on previous missives & console myself with hoping for the morrow. I remember quite well all you said going to Dunmore & did I not tell you when parting, that I felt my love had increased, & instead of consoling me for leaving you, that trip made me feel the separation far more!! You did right about the Piano. You can get a better one when we are together, if you still intend to spoil me. I did not hear all the nice things I alluded to – my father & family did which is far better & the good things said concerning my own pet, multiply every day to my great delight. Your photo & note also came today to my glad on the long hours & all were pleased to have some idea of what you look like. The photo is not very like you, still it's my pet all the same – so I love it dearly. My last may surprise you, as you will see that a short visit from you would please me – still it is not kind of me to even have expressed the desire to look upon your dear face, as you are so very far from me & I know how difficult it is for you to leave, even if but for a day or two. do not pay any attention to that part of my

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letter; it was but a cry from a very loving heart, which must learn to be more reasonable. I hope Mrs. Mac is quite well as well as Lex – being kept very busy suits him so he must be happy as the day is long. I wrote her about ten days ago. I received a nice long letter from Grandmamma yesterday congratulating me & wishing me all happiness – she was quite well but is lonely surrounded by strangers – she is like the rest of us, fond of home.

The weather has become ~~er~~ cold & we have enough snow to make driving very agreeable. The Carnival promises to be a great success now that frost keeps steady hold of the [river]. I do not think of going to it, unless something unforeseen happens. Fancy Ash Wednesday on the 6th of March, Easter on the 21st of April – I had no idea it was so late when in Macleod & you proposed things for February. Well, my own pet, I have devoted such a long time to you, that I think I must give up & say au-revoir. God bless my darling. Write soon again. With very many sweet kisses for a heart filled to the brim with the deepest

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love for you, beleive [sic] me, my own dear Boy, Ever

Your

own loving Maye.

Remember me kindly to all who ask for me, please.