

2008.1.1.1.1.182

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.–  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

My dear old darling,

Your dear letters of Nov 6<sup>th</sup> are awaiting an answer & having been to Mass with our Torla as usual, I now come to chat with you, my own dear pet. I must confess my darling, that I do not find the paper cutting of the group which you enclose very flattering. I think I shall write & ask the photographer to let me have one. Lord Strathcona looks to my mind, not himself at all.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

Lady S. [guire mieux] & yourself well, I have just shown the picture to the little one's & after looking at it attentively, Gertrude said, "Who is the gentleman in the middle?" when told, she roared laughing at the idea of that being Papa. I would like to get Flora a bicycle but there is no place to store it just now – perhaps later on I may - - - if you can only decide on what we are to do soon. You see as I told you before, if we do not go, I shall have to rent a house & Mamma will come to me. I must confess I much

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

dislike the idea of beginning house keeping again without you – surely I shall not have to do it! I think it will make me very ill, if I am compelled to do so – for goodness sake, try & let me know soon – for I shall have to commence house hunting the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb. & you know, I Have no furniture but a few chairs & a table or two – then my piano & a few dishes.

As you know, Duffins fell off his trycycle [sic] & broke his arm in the summer – he does not feel it now though. I attended to Percy [sic] Belcher's draft – got the \$485.00 at Bank of Montreal, one dollar went for exchange, then went to Bank of British, North America, & got them to wire it up. The amount sent was \$472.80, the \$12.20 going in this way - \$5.20 for telegram & the \$7.00 for exchange, I am writing him today to explain. I wanted to pay the latter amount here, but they seemed to think it better that

it should be deducted from the \$485.00 up there, so that expenses paid,  
Belcher

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

will have \$472.80 – put that down in your books dear, I shall do the same.  
That draft is the first you sent since Sep 6<sup>th</sup> – you said you would send two  
months pay but did not do so, dear. the amounts you mention are exactly  
what I got, only the Bank charges the rate of exchange – otherwise it is all  
correct I believe. I have already given Frank \$375.00 since his departure  
the beginning of Oct. I fancy you did not really know how much it

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

would take to keep him there – it is not quite \$100. per month, still, as I  
must have almost that myself at times, cash soon goes. I thought I would  
be able to save some, but at this rate, I cannot. \$255 & a trifle must go for  
Insurance this month, so when so much must be paid out at once, you  
cannot be surprised. Frank will at least cost us \$1.000 a year – Mamma is  
going to see if he cannot curtail expenses some, when he comes this week  
for Xmas. It may be beneficial for him

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

there, but when one thinks of all that has been spent already, & which goes  
for nothing, it is rather tough. Do not fancy me selfish or stingy, or that I am  
grumbling, only I tell you just how things are – when these amounts are  
paid, my bank account will stand \$358.00 exactly & I have not wasted one  
cent ~~uselessly~~. I went & paid the nuns or sisters yesterday – they  
complimented the children highly & find they are doing well. I told them  
Flora studied very well & how much time she had missed last year owing to  
sickness – she finds Arithmetic difficult & dislikes it more than any of her  
other lessons. The little ones are bothering the very life out of me & I feel  
that I could shake them, so do not wonder at this letter.

Mamma suffered from lumbago for a while, so she has commenced  
massage treatment – it made her quite ill the first time, but she does not  
mind it so much now. I too must take it, but am always so busy I cannot find  
time, but must do so without fail & soon, or account of my side

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

which is not improving – it is due to the muscles being weak & that will  
strengthen them. We had a thaw & all the snow disappeared – it however  
turned colder during the night & snowed a little – today is blowing a perfect  
gale & we will likely have a snowstorm ere long. I see Baden Powell has

sailed for S. Africa & you will likely have seen him before this reaches you. I took Mamma to see "Kyrle Bellew" in "A Gentleman of France" – it was very fine – he is a fine actor & the support very good.

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

The play is splendid & it really gives one much after pleasure & affords thought-food, if I may use such an expression or coin such a term.

There is not very much news. The shops are fine with Xmas goods & I am kept busy thinking of our friends – being Sam's wife, what I give is expected to be of the best as you know. & I do not want to disgrace you in the selection of my gifts. I also want them to be useful as well. I see Capt. or rather Lieut Snider of Portage la prairie

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

goes with Evans as Transport officer – the others are not all given ~~y~~ out yet. My arm has been rather sore, so I trust there is no fear of my getting small pox for some time, as the vaccine was, no doubt, a success.

I sincerely hope tomorrow's mail will bring me my usual letters from you, my dear – you have no idea of all they mean to me & how eagerly I look forward to them. The children are in good health & as they are taking "Scott's Emulsion" are looking rosy – they send much love & many kisses to dear old Papa & wish him a very merry Xmas, but like their poor little mother sincerely hope this will be our last Xmas apart from one another. God bless & protect you, my own dear pet. Write as often as you can. I hope all re money will prove satisfactory & all right.

By the by an old professor who taught Antoine & Frank has lost his position through no fault of his & he & his family are starving. He is a graduate of Kensington School of Science, mining engineer or

[/pg 9]

[pg 10]

or ore assayer – he is very clever Antoine says & he is most anxious to try & get a position as professor or teacher in some school down there. You may know that some Canadians have been given appointments, viz the principle of Fredrickton school & two of his lady teachers & the English Govt. would take more – he Mr. Harland hopes you may be able to do something to help him – he is a perfect gentleman & his daughter is a fine girl they say. he is truly starving & he came to Antoine at college one day with tears

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

rolling down his cheeks & said “I am starving – a beggar! –” he was a professor in a Westmount school & is somewhat old – if you can do anything to help him, I feel sure all his references would be satisfactory. Well, my dear old pet, I will leave you, ere you grow weary. Again God bless you. With as many sweet kisses as you can very well take, a loving embrace & tender au revoir, believe me, as ever,  
Your own true, warmhearted  
devoted wifie

Maye.

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

Mr. Harland has –

Honors. Medallist for Raising, Dressing & Preparing ores –

City of London Guild. Special certificate for mining & Geology.

Kensington school of Science. These should help him in getting something – try & do what you can for him.

[/pg 12]