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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
May 14th, 1902

My own darling boy,

Your four letters of Apr 8th, 10th & two of the 11th all came to me on Tuesday. I had given up the hope of hearing from you this week, as the usual day has been Monday – however, they were none the less welcome I assure you. Thanks so much for the fifty pound draft as I had only four dollars left as a nest egg in the Bank. On Sunday night a telegram came from Elmes which suprised me.

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It contained only these words “Will draw one hundred tomorrow, E.J. Steele” - Now, what he means I know not, as he never asked for the loan of any money - the fact of the matter is that I cannot lend any money at all, as I have [none] & cannot get ahead if he has got it (& so far I have not heard) it simply means just one hundred dollars is so left out of the cheque for me to live on & pay expenses for a couple of months & your Federal Life premium of \$221 due in June. You see how this loan handicaps me & how impossible it is for people to draw

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on me like that. I hope you did not tell him to do so, for I really cannot make the two ends meet with such demands. The [case] of books I send by Col. Gordon & that you asked for cost \$30.00 & the packing & expressing will come to about four or five more. I cannot imagine what Elmes means! I did not answer, as he does not ask but asserts that he draws the cash & I do not know whether he is still in Vancouver or not. Perhaps it is to go to S. Africa or to England - anyway I am not pleased - Uncle John will have to get another sixty (\$60.00) early in July & I have not got it. Do not think I am grumbling, it is not that, but I have not got it & I cannot pay without funds. The last one you sent arrived on Mar 25th sent in Feb & I give you my word I do not waste a cent. Before I forget I want you to look out for a young man named O'Dell - he has a letter of introduction from me to you which I much regret having given him. He was employed by the Toronto Silver Plate Co. here, when they were to open a store here under the name of “The G. Weeton Co” - I saw him several times in their store & the Manager, Mr. J. [...ssney] of Toronto spoke well of him, his father

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being highly respected & traveller for Wm. Bryce & Co. of that city. Young O'Dell came on Holy Saturday in great distress to ask me for the loan of \$25.00 as he said "interest was due on some shares he had bought & he would lose all if not paid - his father had gone on his spring trip & he knew no one well enough to ask for the "loan". I hemmed quite a while, but as he promised faithfully to return the money on the following Thursday & said the G.W. Co. owed him between seventy & eighty dollars, giving me as security an order on them, I lent it. Of course, he did not return it & left

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for S.A. early in April - the 7th I think. I wrote Mr. [Sessney] about it & he said he would attend to the matter for me. Now, should the young man call on you for any help be sure & do not forget what I have told you my dear. It is the first & last time any one will ever get money in that way from me I assure you. I suppose you will soon have the district as efficient as your old Macleod one & I do hope the books will be of some use on policing the [men], etc. So [Nurse] Carlyn is married! you never told me of the engagement. I wish her health, happiness & prosperity although unknown to her.

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Yes, I remember Mr. Hamilton although I might not recognize him - the world is small & I feel quite elated at the thought of having met one man that you did not know. Fred Farish is anxious to go out, but he seems to be doing pretty well - have not heard from them for some time. Did the man who was accidentally [sic] shot by his comrades die? I fancy I would like Pretoria best too, from all I hear - they say both places are pretty. Rhodes made a remarkable will no doubt & had the empire's interest at heart - he must have been a fine man!

What did you get from Bagley - or what is the name & who is the man? [illegible] M.P. Veteran? Mounted Police, is it? You say I should always have a few hundred dollars in the Bank - well, I explained that before. When Hicks & Sons, Belcher & those write & ask for money, I feel that I must send it, because if I don't, they will fancy me an extravagant woman who wastes what you give me. Then you want me to send two hundred (\$200.00) to Jarvis as soon as possible - you see how hard it is my dear. The pension will I suppose come monthly - your leave will soon be granted - Uncle Henry saw the order in Council

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ready to be signed. You will then be all right for another year. I think Frank is careful - he puts down every five cents he spends.

This is the anniversary of our landing in Macleod in 1900 [1890?] - do you remember sweet Alice, Bon Bolt" - How time flies! twelve years ago.

Mamma & Regie took supper at Gus's tonight - Tillie does not feel well enough & is anxious to get into her own house. Nothing decided yet. Your next of April 10th now awaits an answer. We are suffering from colds & the days are cool for the season. Major [Cautan] is the one whose [sic] [son] is your Godson is he not? he will miss his wife. I feel sorry

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Nurse Richardson is so foolish as to behave as she does. She must know such things leak out & do one much harm if nothing else. It is a good thing she is plump for she can give more for the money I suppose. Is not Nurse R in the S.A.C. but [no], she is with the Canadian Contingent is she not? is she in Pretoria? I thought the nurses regretted your late second in Command for some good reason & the one in particular wished you far away. I'll be [illegible]. Did he enlighten her & tell her [preventitives] - it is useful to know such things, I must confess in cases like that - strange for a

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nurse that she should be so innocent!! Glad to learn that the "Star" goes to you regularly - "The Globe" too I suppose. I always go out a good deal, but not in society - I waltz every day as a rule - I cannot yet say what the "Strathcona Montreal Soldier's Monument" is to be - it is intended as a memorial to Lord Strathcona himself not for his regiment, my dear. The soldiers are those belonging to Montreal corps killed in S.A. but I believe those in "L. S's Horse" will also have their names inscribed - am not too sure. I shall be pleased to get new photo of staff, but be sure & put the names on, so that we may know who they are. I had a letter from [S.T.] Mackie adjutant 4th C.M.R. asking if I had any parcel for you - it is too late as they sail early Saturday & it might not reach him - answered at once wishing him God-speed & saying nice things - hope you will meet somewhere. He said he was trying to get the order books of "L. S Horse" from Mr. Taylor to bring you but do not know if he has succeeded or not. The little ones are well & enjoying life. They send warmest love to dear old Papa. 'God bless' & protect you, my dear and I am so tired cannot keep my eyes open - up early, you see. Write soon - With warmest love

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& very many deep & close hugs, believe me,

Your tender hearted devoted
warm loving wife

Maye

O'Dell is an old private in 'Kitchener's Horse'! & was going to try & rejoin.

Maye

[Send] a long correspondence which appeared in "Gazette." taken from London paper, re the trails & fate of Australian men who murdered & they speak of 'Strathconas' - not very flattering, to say the least.

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