

2008.1.1.1.1.266

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

162 Hutchison St.
July 25th

My darling,

Your short letter dated July 20th enclosing one from Tilsey came yesterday afternoon & had the usual warm welcome. Like yourself I have not very much news, still I feel as if my day is incomplete if I do not pen you a few lines. You can judge Perry well knowing him as you do & how very little satisfaction it affords a person to meet one whom you know is so insincere. You must have

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

a great deal of correspondence to attend to with no staff or clerk of any kind - it is surely time they thought of doing something in that line for you as head [ges.], is it not?

How on earth is it that London favoured you with a letter? Where has he been playing Colleen Baun? I thought he had a good thing with the Burke's & would stay with it. "The [Shaughraun]" turned his head I fancy, as these amateur enterprises very often do. He is still in S.A. I suppose - if he comes this way, he will open

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

his eyes at the difference in the prosperity of the country, will he not?

I hope you are completely restored to your usual good health - I would not worry so much were I near to see for myself, you know, dear. You would not care to have me bring Gertrude up, would you? You can advise me in many ways, my darling on that question. I think of the expense you know, but of course you thoroughly understand, I would not think of sacrificing them in any way on that account - would curtail in some other direction, you may be sure. Indeed! if the cash were handy, they are selling furniture suitable for summer houses at Morgan's 50% per cent off today & Friday - it is very nice & would I think suit us very well. I do not care for heavy stuff & do not want to

get expensive things, to be compelled to give them away one may say, in a few years, as we have had to do.

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

It is certain that people who live in cities where education is such that their children can attend schools as day pupils, have a great advantage over those who are compelled to board them in the institutions - the same advantages can be had for \$50.00 per annum, as costs \$250.00 for boarders - a big difference, is it not? I am sorry the house is small, for the rent is very high - is it not larger than our

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

Skinner Court mansion? there too most of the room was outside. Last night we all went to the 15th Light Horse Band Concert - it had poured during the p.m. but cleared up & enabled us to get there nicely. Frank took Mrs. and Miss Mare. Mother came with myself & children. It was a great success. Victoria Rink was very well filled & they were much applauded & they were pleased with their reception. It rained heavily & we had much thunder & lightning during the evening. After the performance, Frank went up

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

& told Col. Walker I was there. They came down together & we had a chat, he telling me that he had been with you until midnight on Saturday last. As the storm still kept on, he went for Capt. Bagley & brought him to me. We conversed for at least twenty minutes & Harwood was tickled to death at being introduced to them as well as the others. Col. Walker told me that if I did not go up until about the 12th of Sept, he would be delighted to look after me en route. I replied "that arriving with the band, after their successful tour, I should be sure of sharing in the ovation that awaited them." I forgot to mention that our Capt. J.R. McDonnell was with us, so we made quite a party. The rain lessened & we hurried home as fast as electric trains could bring us, none the worse. Your nice, long letter of the 21st, Sunday has this very moment come & I have already perused it twice with pleasure. I think I shall decide on St Urbains for this year - then they can go to the Villa later on as

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

I mentioned in one of my previous letters. I told you of the cost of everything before & that was one reason why I seemed so

undecided. I know they teach French at St. Urbain's just as they do at the Villa - the children knowing the Superior & some of the other teachers will not feel the separation so keenly. I am convinced they will not mind it so much later on. The sisters Gertrude & Marie have their own families to look after, but I feel sure the former will do all she can & come in & see them now & then. I am also sure that the girls at the Villa

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

very seldom get out. I mean to see any one in the city - they go walking sometimes of course, but do not come to call on relatives unless one goes for & brings them back - quite right but ours would find it very hard the first year. Being near Grandma, they may be allowed to come & see her of a Sunday for an hour or so. I have written everything that I think on the subject, my dear. The cost worried me when I figured it all out, as I mentioned before - that has to be thought of you know. So far no more from Ottawa but the pension

[pg /8]

[pg 9]

money, referred to in several letters, of which Shaw got \$25.00 & insurance \$33.35. Gus says he does not like to write Ottawa about it. I am doing as I please about the education question, only you must be consulted on the [fund] matter my darling - needless to say, if there were good schools near, I should like them always near me, as life is so short. I am sure that the money will not be here to enable you to have the amount for the rent by Aug 1st - I do not know what to do about it. This delay handicaps me also - as you can well imagine. I shall have to pay a quarter in advance for the girlyies ere I leave them, & have to fix up their wardrobes as well; [sic] because you know, black is the uniform & I have a dislike to dressing them in that sombre hue; children look so different in colours. I hope Capt. Mackie will remain - you certainly need some one to help you. Capt. Bagley told me how delighted every one is to have you back in Calgary etc. I do not like to part with my piano now; there is still \$100.00 due on it.

[pg /9]

[pg 10]

See all the expense one would have had & nothing to show for it - should ~~she~~ Minnie perchance marry, she would bring her's [sic] of course & if I sold mine now for a very small sum, I should be without one: pianos are cheaper than they used to be & second hand ones

bring nothing. If the Gov't does not build for us, it might perhaps be a good idea to build ourselves on the instalment plan & when the house is paid, it is ours & one has something in return for money paid in rent. \$900.00 is what it is now & Sam

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

another hundred would give us some return, would it not? Mrs. Mare's father, Sir Edward Dalton Shea is K. Bach (1902) Pres. New L. Council according to Burkes. I do not suppose they are any better than ourselves, but titles always take, my dear. I think Miss Mare is nice - she is somewhat shy & timid, but is very fresh & young - pretty hair, eyes & complexion & I feel sure you would like her - she is not like me, my pet, so would not suit you, but is really a nice young girl. You say such lovely things to me, I am apt to get very conceited.

So you went to the golf links! did you try to play? Is anyone

[/pg 11]

[pg 12]

attentive to Miss [O'Gara] - she has been there for some time now, having kept house during Mrs. McHugh's absence. I know you are a favourite with both sexes & very justly so, dear. Yes, I think some would not mind flirting with you in the least - a number of women live for very little else you know. It is nice that the Whitehairs are pleased with the country & its prospects better so, eh, dear? I had a charming letter from Essie at the same time as yours came. She writes in good spirits & is working hard at a new book - says the house has been & is filled with guests, so they are having a gay time. I will write her soon, says "Dr. McCullough says Harwood is a very wise & wonderful boy". They are in good health & tells me she corresponds regularly with you, so you are au fait of all the news. There are a great many "says" in the last sentence, but I was disturbed & repeated without noticing it. My dear, you will be weary of this long letter, so I will now close. All join in fondest love to you, my dearie. God bless you, my own darling-

Ever your devoted, warm hearted little wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 12]