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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Jan 12th

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 7th & the short note asking for your blue coat reached me yesterday. The coat I sent by express today & paid \$1.10 charges - hope it will arrive in good condition.

Miss Dudley's letter was interesting - strange that I was wondering whether you had remembered her at Christmas by sending a card. There is no date on her's I notice. I hope you are now almost if not quite well & that no more plasters will be needed. So the cards are still coming! Mr. [Cartellaine] sent us all one, but no address that we might return the compliment. The brooch came but I must mail it back as the pin they put in is far too coarse or large for such a valuable piece of jewellery. I am really surprised that they have not done better. I sent it to Birks because being their own make, i thought they would be so particular & do it well. I enclose another brooch as well which needs repairing, as you will see.

What you tell me of Mrs. French is very sad - where is she now? Too bad that men belonging to good old families have no respect for themselves or their relations!

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Can you understand the little sense of honour some men have? The children are charmed with your lovely letters & propose keeping up a flourishing correspondence. We do not go out much, as we do not care to go out alone & are not asked, the latter a very good reason.

We all miss the dear Mackie's very much; the little ones are so fond of them. I wrote her a long, newsy letter on Sunday evening, having favoured you, Pussie Steele, Miss Duncan, & two or three shorter notes. Good work for Sunday afternoon & I am proud of it. The cold has abated a little & the house is more comfortable in consequence. Toole, Peet & Co. sent us some coal this evening, so we can go on for another month

or more. The next we shall want will be Banff hard for the furnace. You must be pleased that your part of the disagreeable work is over, no matter what the result may be. Mother Greene was speaking of him when I went over with Torla yesterday p.m. - said he wrote the most peculiar letters to his daughter, so unfatherly, & he evidently is not paying their expenses, as she said she did not think they could keep them - he is a puzzle to the nuns! The children know all about it & Mother Greene asked me what would be done to him - with my usual discretion I replied "I have no idea of anything - the enquiry is behind closed doors & of course, Col. Steele has not mentioned the matter to me".

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As usual you enjoyed your luncheon with Col. Irvine & will go & spend the weekend with him soon again, I suppose - does he know old Mrs. Draynor is dead?

Gauthier is a peculiar man from what you say & no doubt, a Bliss sympathizer. When I knew him, I was only a youngster of thirteen - he was engaged to Emma Aumond & jilted her - his wife, Miss Letellier is a connection of the late Col. Panet & I met her there when she visited my aunt.

I am sure Mrs. Hugh John is fascinating & entertaining too - you would enjoy a cup of tea in such good company. We have a little snow, but not much.

Minnie & myself have not been out since Wednesday last to any tea together - (I mention all our entertainments when I write), until yesterday, when we went to the meeting of the musical club at Mrs. English's - it was nice & pleasant. You are getting a graphic description of the mishap which befell us last night - it was very fortunate that I took up our dearly loved "Star" for a few moments: otherwise I should have been in my first sleep & we might have been flooded out & the furnace pipes exploded as well - fortunately I thought of calling up Dr. Macdonald & he secured a plumber for me, who took the pipe away & said, the house is badly done, the piping being much exposed to frost.

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I went up town this morning & secured a black skirt - the cheap sales are

going on at the H.B. Co. & the one I bought was a \$19.00 one for \$9.35 cts. cash. Minnie got a lovely coat for \$11.50 which originally cost \$35.00 - she is so nice & slight that it is not hard for her to get a good fit. I tried on several suits which were \$37.00 & more, reduced to \$12.00 for today, but being so stout & short waisted, could get none. I was simply heartbroken & feel sore about it yet, as I do want a bargain when I buy a thing if possible. I do not see why my hips & waist should be so large now when there is no reason for it! Tomorrow afternoon, we are going to have tea at Mrs. (Dr.) Smith's, - a fairly big affair, I believe. My cough still hangs on - I cannot account for it, as I take the medicine regularly, I assure you.

Flora does not care much for the convent however I do hope she will be more satisfied as time goes on. Having so many friends, Margery, Charlotte & others of her age out of school, makes it hard to satisfy her. She had to procure about \$6.50 cts. worth of books as Young's - has not got them all yet, but will have next week. You will be weary of all these home letters, so I suppose I had better end for tonight. All are well and join in much love & kisses. Wright from S.A. called yesterday morning as Harwood tells you. Hoping to receive my usual letter tomorrow.

Your ever loving, devoted, lonely little wifie.

Maye.

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[pg 5]

Harwood's letter is all his own & like him, is it not? He says he will wear his glasses & I wrote Miss [Boneau] requesting her to see that none of the others made fun of him, or called him names & I think she will do so - she has more sense than the sisters, you know. Gertrude wrote her's rather hurriedly - still there is lots of love & good will shown.

Esther's operation is over & successful - it was not serious, still one never know how these things go. Frank wrote me a nice letter on the 3rd, received yesterday. God bless you, my own darling.

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