

2008.1.1.1.1.93

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Friday
April 4
1890
Oakleigh,
St. Joseph Street.

My own dear Husband,

You cannot imagine what pleasure your short letter has given me & my heart just now beats as wildly as it did in days gone by, when the receipt of a sweet message from you was my greatest joy! – You know it is the first time you pen me any lines beginning with the name so very dear to me, so you must not wonder at my happiness. I miss you more than words can tell

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but Frida & Elmes are so charming, that they seem to do all in their power to make the separation less painful. I am more than pleased to learn that your brother likes my looks & would have been delighted to meet him for you know, pet, his kindness to my darling when he was younger, I shall never forget & my heart is very warm in feeling towards him. I am sorry you did not reach your destination Wednesday evening. several times while Elmes, Frida & I were conversing around the grate fire in the billiard room your name was mentioned, & ere we retired Elmes said you no doubt were having

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a long chat with Uncle John while all the time you were alone in Orillia. I heard your tapping at the window, but thought you had returned to our old room, so never fancied it was my pet or meant for me. So you miss me, dear? Well I do also, but it seems needless for me to mention that, for I never can have too much of your company, my darling. I missed the card case when looking over my trunk, but will not require it until you return. I hope you will continue feeling well & hope your dear old brother thinks I am

taking good care of you, pet. Mrs. H. gave me a cordial welcome & made me feel so much at home immediately, though my heart was very sore at our first long parting. Yesterday morning I practiced for about two hours & entertained the boys after their return from school – in the afternoon we drove out & Frida attended to some shopping. we then went to Mrs. [Hebdens] but she was out & Mrs. Henderson not up – she has not been well & we did not like to disturb her. On our return I went to church for about half an hour, then had five o'clock tea. Mrs. [Hebden] came in & invited me to spend Saturday afternoon & sup with them. Mrs. Rae called when we were out. After tea I sang & played again for about two hours & they seemed to enjoy it. Elmes speaks of going to the Opera next week & will I think decide on hearing "Norma". It will be well patronized I have no doubt, particularly being Easter week. It began to rain about

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four yesterday & continued until this morning – it is still cloudy but will soon clear, I believe. I will take good care of myself you may be sure, especially now that I have you, my pet to take care of as well, so do not worry about me. You really do love me, my pet I think, & miss the tantalizing somewhat, while I have become so accustomed to have you near me, that I fancy I see & hear you everywhere. but enjoy your visit my darling, & let no thought of your little girl mar your pleasure in any way. The boys expected you last night & were very much disappointed when they heard

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Uncle Sam would be absent for so long!!... Elmes enjoyed your addressing me as Mrs. Major & I told him how we used to joke about it. I hardly hoped for news, so you can imagine how pleased I am. Write me soon again & often dear. I shall do the same. Mary said she expected to find me in tears. I laughed & Frida said "She is very reasonable indeed, considering it is the first separation & as we have all been there, know from experience what it is!" – Well, my own pet, my letter is like my tongue very long I fear, so I will say bye-bye. Give my warm love to Uncle John & with many sweet kisses to your own dear

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self, whom I long to see once more, believe me,
Your own warm-hearted,
loving little Wife.

I open my letter at Frida's request – she wishes to give a dinner for us on

Thursday next, the 10th & wants you to return for then if you can possibly manage it – she will be very much disappointed if you are not there & let you know so far ahead in order that you may make your arrangements accordingly. I hope your answer will [be] favorable & Elmes will I know be delighted to have you here for some days with your own.

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