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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.
July 30th /01.

My own darling,

Your three letters dated 8th 9th & 10th mailed at Las Palmas reached me yesterday & it is needless for me to say how very eagerly they were perused & how each & every one wanted to hear the news. I am glad that until then your trip had proved a pleasant one & hope the rest of the journey was as nice. I followed your movements daily in imagination, & felt that on the 27th you had reached your destination.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

that feeling was confirmed about four p.m. yesterday when the Adj. Gen. sent me your cable from Capetown. Of course, I expected it & was delighted to know you were safe & sound on terra firma once more, although exposed to many more dangers from now on I fear, but I must not give way to such thoughts, much less transmit them to paper, after my promise. Having no duties, yourself & Capt. Boyd would enjoy the trip far more & derive more benefit from it. Canada has certainly come very much to the front during the past eighteen

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

months & is far better known & its people far more admired than they ever were before, thanks to the sending out of the contingents. Capt. Boyd's singing must help him while away many a lonely moment & entertain his fellow passengers as well. He sings as if he enjoyed it himself also. It is too bad there were no Canadian girls on board for the Canadian boys could hang around them, eh, dear? Yes, it is nice to hear the Steels so nicely spoken of dear, & cannot fail to please you. "Strathcona's Horse" will have made yourself & Lord Strathcona famous, my darling. I am glad there is no more of it, especially if you were not to be connected with it – better far that it should [die] than have any one else in command!!.. Your last is the one I now take up & you were almost in sight of Las Palmas when you penned it.

The little ones, so far are very well & will I trust, keep so – the weather this month has been fairly cool & the nights not too [sic] warm to sleep well. I have, as you see not gone away yet & I will see how things turn out before I make up my mind to go west. Mr. Oliver

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

whom I told you was so ill in my last, has taken a turn for the better & will likely recover. Mrs. Moon wrote me a long letter a day or two ago & tells me of Rachel's success & of Jim's bringing her to Buffalo & of the great kindness shown her by the Millers when she went it [sic] to study for her exams & take her lessons – she wants us to go about the 19th of Aug. for a fortnight or so – we will see about it, when I settle about Mrs. Clarke's visit. James Moon passed his high school entrance exams in June & his mother says he is very proud. All the pupils [Edmund] prepared

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

passed successfully too, so he is delighted also. The Millers are still enjoying Buffalo I hear – they will have lots to tell about as they are clever, observant girls & not much is likely to escape their notice. There is not very much news. I am told the reception for the Duke of York is not going to be much after all & if this continues, Australia will surpass Canada by long odds in proving her loyalty. The Canadian boat proved too much for the English one & won an easy victory – the enclosed you will, I know enjoy – I find it very good. Well, my darling, I have had a

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

busy day & it being late I will say good night. God bless you & keep you safe until we meet again is my daily prayer. The little ones send many fond kisses to their dear old Papa whom they so dearly love, in which a lonely little mother joins them - - -

Aug 2nd. I commenced this some days ago & have not found a moment since to continue, however I am just now alone & resume it with much pleasure. This is our little Gertrude's birthday the dear wee mite being just six & a very proud girl she is at being so old!. The day before yesterday, Mamma & all our little ones accompanied me to the "[Arena]" to see "Our Navy", moving pictures here just now. Gertie's two eldest also belonged to the party. The Queen's funeral is also represented as well as one in which King Edward is supposed to be presenting medals but not to "the Strathcona's. As the King & Queen passed they bowed & Dubbie was very indignant that they did not get out of the carriage – one is where a sailor

dances a Hornpipe – that impressed him also & he now steps out in perfect time, joining

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

his arms exactly as the sailor does. We then went over to see Louise & Duffins & were surprised to hear that he had broken his right arm that morning – he was riding his tricycle when two dogs who were fighting threw it, knocking him off – he broke his arm in two places. He is doing nicely, I hear. Thanks so much for the money, \$700.00 which I hear you have cabled me. I got Auguste to telephone, but the Bank has not as yet notified me. I am going down in the morning, will repay them at once, send Hick's a draft & pay Holbrook & Topley's \$10.50 for the photos of Kings Colors. I wrote Mr. Moir, asking

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

him to hurry on his work re regimental records etc & if he does not reply will write Col. Macdonald. I expect to leave some time at the latter part of next week for Mt. Forest. Will be away until about the middle of Sept., if I wish the children to derive any benefit from the trip, & I feel sure a change will do them good in every way. Yesterday, Mamma, ours, Gertie's two eldest & myself went to Carillon – we were up at six, leaving here at seven twenty, laden with baskets to catch the eight a.m train for Lachine. We take the steamer there, being on till six thirty p.m – [running] the Lachine Rapids on the way down. The day was cloudy & too cool to be

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

extremely pleasant, but the youngsters developed a most terrific appetite & in that way, they enjoyed it immensely. It was Gertrude's birthday party. Today would have been far nicer, but our baskets were all ready & we had to go. There was a large crowd, it being a very popular outing, although the weekly excursions are on Wednesday's & Saturday's. Mrs. Wallace, of [Petertons'] A.C. Macdonald's sister (I mean Inspr. of N.W.M.P.) was in this a.m & among other items of news, announced Col. Herchmer's engagement to a young lady but could not tell me her name. There is not much news – things are quiet, although they are endeavoring to make the reception for the Duke a success. I hear all the military are to go to Quebec & the Montreal militia are not pleased as there will be no review or military parade of any kind here in consequence. Your friend, Mr. Halder died suddenly in London – you knew him in the Yukon I believe. He called here, but I was away, last summer I think it was. Well, my dear, I will close as I

want to catch the mail. Heaven bless & protect you, my own darling. The little ones join in much love to their dear old darling Papa & as for me I feel that I cannot send more, as he now has it all. Yours as of old, a devoted true lonely little wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 9]