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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
July 7th / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear little letter of the 27th [illegible] delighted me on Friday last & received a very warm welcome, I assure you. To say it was not expected I never would, for I look forward too eagerly for the dear little messages of love they convey. If my pet failed in his allegiance & was not “tender & [trew]”, what would become of his own little girl then? I am pleased to know the desertions were not in any way found to be owing to neglect of your duty or injustice, & the Asst. Comr. convinced that such is the case. Things like that, though very annoying at the time are not without doing some good, especially where no fault can be found with you & tend to prove how worthy of confidence the O. C. is. I may be a “Job’s comforter” my pet, but it is very true anyway. I trust that although the roses are now but faded flowers that their memory will last for a awhile –

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were you only nearer you might get many peace-offerings which would not be one half as sweet & which last but a moment too! The Mr. [Tweed] you mention, used to live in Cornwall & I often saw him there. He was, if my memory is faithful somewhat of a flirt & particularly admired married ladies. Lex ment spoke of him several times last summer. The six months have almost if not quite elapsed & another six months of waiting is before us. They will soon pass however as we both will be even busier than we have been. the two summer months just fly with us. When will we be a year engaged? is it not only on the 25th of October that I became yours &

consented to listen to your vows of affection? Why then you will soon be coming, if the beginning of Dec gives me happiness of seeing you once more. I once fancied a year very long but when one reaches the twenties, time soon glides by & finds many duties unperformed. The Masons must find it strange you could not have sufficient leisure to attend either the banquet or lecture.

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They may blame me & attribute it to my influence somehow or other. Is Mr. Davis one of them that has your interests so much at heart? Your brother was prepared to show fight & I am charmed to know I have one champion so nearly related to you. I was not told how he received the news himself & whether he thought your choice should have rested on one of your own persuasion. I know many think it better when it is so, but we, being persons of sense & determination, having fully understood & settled the matter, do not think it necessary to harp on the same subject often - especially as I have every thing just the way I desire everything should be. You were not deprived of any letter through fault of mine, so I hope they reached you every Thursday & Saturday as usual: rather than miss a mail I actually confided that of the 30th to Mr. D.'s care to post, as my brother-in-law was not going to the city on the 1st & the mail leaves here at night only which is a very disagreeable arrangement causing us to lose a day every time. When you were out, you found the letters awaiting your perusal on your return, did you not, my darling, so now I thought & think of you all the time, my own poor old pet. If Mrs. Neale can lead the fashion & be first in Maple Creek she will be happy. she seems to have so little aim in life & her sole pleasure depends upon popularity. Mrs. Mac has also found them out. I told her so but she would not believe. she is a far better woman than I am & always is charitable enough to trust people, never stopping to question the motives which cause them to act as they do. I amuse myself studying their actions & usually discover their selfishness & when I do, cannot pretend what I do not feel. Mrs. Mac has not told me any of their doings, merely said "she had been bitten by them". I know & feel honestly that Mrs. Neale

did not care for me – was nice to me, because she did not think it was policy to be otherwise & was in fact, afraid

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of such an independent young lady – I spoke my mind before her several times & she saw nothing daunted me. Did you find time to go to Pincher Creek on the 1st? I hope so, & that you enjoyed it. you have so little pleasure in your very busy life. I will be glad when I am near you my pet, as I will prove as nice a companion as possible & trust to help you bear the many worries which constantly trouble you, my darling boy. Mrs. K. did not enjoy her saddle long & the fine habit all the way from Morgan's! it was must grieve her to give it up. I fancied she was very fond of it, though not quite as proficient in the art as your little girl was - at least, judging by the only time I had the pleasure of viewing her on a pony, far too small for a person of her height. Lex has put Mrs. Mac off about the saddle many times – once in my presence they came to high words & tears were shed – it was the day before we went to the Mts.

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& after which I told you I should not ride any more, if you could not find another pony but the black one I had ridden a few times, which had been told off for Mrs. Mac's own use. You recall the circumstance, do you not? Well, I was made to feel it & felt very much hurt over what they both said about it. That was why I decided not to ride when away & to ride with my own pet only. by degrees you will become acquainted with all my secrets, my darling, will you not? I gave you several hints about it the morning we left for our expedition which you seemed to seize pretty well. Lex seems nervous when she rides & cannot afford to buy her one. That, I believe is the true reason, though he will not say so. If perchance you should get me one before I go back with you, say nothing of it, as if Miss H. desires to go riding, it will be borrowed & I know how careless Lex is of such things. That is very selfish of me, is it not, but I wish to be the first to use it – it is one of

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yours gifts which I shall always treasure. had others been as selfish, I should never have had the pleasure of riding by your side, still you must forgive my whim & let me be the first to sit in it. Mrs. Mac likes the pastime & it would be often in requisition to while away the hours, during Miss H.'s visit. I never was ashamed to ride near your house, but what would the horse have been without his rider? You were the magnet & although I did seem very insignificant, still could not resist the attraction, being more deeply drawn into the net every canter we took. When Mrs. Mac's guest arrives she will draw all the young men & the barracks will become quite gay, far more so than they were last summer. I had no idea Mrs. P. had been engaged to Dennis! I heard he & Eliza had found out they had hearts, for Mrs. N. herself told me he was always in the kitchen – at least I do not think I am mistaken in the name. I suppose Mrs. P. will be trying to make a match between her sister & Mrs. P.'s brother – well, if he is not better looking than his brother & she than her sister, they must be a lovely quartette. it is very selfish of them to monopolize the tennis court as they do & the other members are very good to stand it. Has the Majah subsided altogether that you require another member of the fair sex to stir you up? are her many charms on the wane? She seemed decided to take a certain standing in the barracks & did not look as if she would step aside for any one. She is big enough to be seen, anyway, that is sure. When I am happy, my own pet knows it. when sorrowful, he knows it too, especially if he is, in a measure the cause of it. I could not help showing you the true state of my heart when I wrote you that sad letter, but it has faded & all is bright once more, between us. If I did not tell you truly how things you say please or pain me, I should consider I was not acting candidly so you must not be surprised, my own pet. I must now terminate this, as I am going out this evening & they will not go without me, hard as I have fought

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against it. My own true love, do not imagine for one second such little misunderstandings as we have had could ever shake my love & cause me

to have less faith in you or doubt you in any way. My love is too deep for that & is too wholly yours for such an ending to my happy dream. When the day comes that you can fully realize the amount of affection you have won, that day will be one of the happiest in the life of one who with all her faults still loves to sign herself

Your own true, warm-
hearted, loving
little Girl.

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