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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
Mar 25th, 1902

My own dear boy,

Your five letters of Feb 15th, 17th, 18th, 19th & 21st reached me yesterday & as usual gave me the very greatest pleasure which I can have, as long as you are away from me. In the first you acknowledge mine of 5th 10th & 12th of Jan. -- Mar 26th.

Just think, my darling, that I only succeeded in writing this much last night when I was interrupted & could not find a moment until now to continue. It is eight o'clock & our three little ones are in bed -

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I went to confession this afternoon & intend making my Easter duty tomorrow morning, Holy Thursday. Before praying, I will try & write to you my own darling boy, as I do not wish to disappoint you in your usual second weekly missive. I am indeed pleased that you like my letters, for they at times must seem very dull to you. I am not a very talkative person you see, being so much alone for a time & always thinking so much has made me one of the silent kind. After a time Torla will write a good letter – she is always afraid that what she says may not interest you &

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that makes her somewhat shy, but what she pens she does herself, so you will be able to judge of her progress every time. I am delighted Hilliam is now a lieut. as you know him so well & can trust him – when you have men like that, you can depend on them & are sure they will do the right thing when wanted.

Congratulate him in my name & wish him every success, also your cousin, F. Steel. I would much like to meet him & hope that is a pleasure in store. Who is young Jones? a Canadian? from where? It is indeed a nice thing [that] Maj. Gen. B.P. was kind enough to make these appt.s & I think they speak in your favor, my dear. Try & get young Steel to send me his picture, as I am anxious to have an idea of what he is like. Capt. Hilliard, in the picture is very good looking. I thought him a son of Gen. Hillyard all the time, but evidently am mistaken – the two on the left are Major Scriven & Lt. Currie? is the latter the one standing beside Ogilvy with the cigar in his mouth, behind Scriven? then the one near Boyd is Macdonell you say & the smallest in centre is de Havilland – I am quite curious you see.

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It is a good thing you got rid of Major Wilberforce since he is not true - it must have been very disagreeable to know you could not trust him & that he was injuring you behind your back. [Contau] you got on well with, if I remember well. I sincerely hope you will get on & have your division as you have always had every other, perfection. I was more than surprised to know of Moir's decision, being married such a short time – however, perhaps they did not pull well. We will see how Cameron gets on with Evans - & whether he distinguishes himself

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or not this time. It will be a good thing to let Lord S know some day that his regt. was what it was, owing to your determination & energy. You need not fear for our “[Dubin]” - he is a fine little fellow, clever & bright – has a sweet, loving disposition. Min writes that Alec has had a terrible cold since last August – he was caught in the rain & has coughed very much since – he is so imprudent. I do not know where your Tom Cowdry is. Charlie [Gight] runs the bank in Lee's Creek for Mr. Cowdry. Essie is disgusted with the treatment the teachers received from the Govt. - fancy that out of eight chosen in Eastern Ontario,

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six (6) were from the city of Ottawa, one from Perth & I forget where the other lived – that speaks volumes, does it not? Will the Infantry be able to do your work & look after the country & know enough to keep scouts out when moving about? I hope so – they need some lessons.

Yes, de la Roy seems humane in his treatment of people & the way he behaved to Methuen speaks eloquently & pro-Boers are delighted. Ex-Sergt. Wilson will I suppose be with you some day – they will all try to get there no doubt. I hope the papers copied the denial Auguste gave to the rumour re your resignation – he, I believe sent copies to you. - he wrote to both French & English papers – all evidently had the same idea as to the reason of that coming out to harm you with the War Office. I fancy if there was any chance for Cummings out there, Marie would not hesitate coming out with us; she was so eager to go before. It is just as well that we do not go out now, as I would not care to remain only a month – the cooing doves no doubt, do not care to meet Lord K- is he truly such a woman-hater? he certainly has a sinistré expression. You have a new seal – it is simple but a good one & no one can tamper with yours at present.

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I now take up yours of the 19th – Torla received your letter & even my Dubbie was indignant this time that there was none for him. “Papa is a pretty mean man, Mamma” with a pouting lip “not to answer my letter. I just think” - I promised he would get one soon & expect a repetition of the scene when next

they arrive. I take O'Keefe's malt that seems to agree pretty well with me. I of course am taking massage still & electric treatment from Dr. Macdonell. She finds me better. Thanks so much for your letter of Feb 17th enclosing draft which came safely. I will send a receipt but perhaps that is not necessary

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as you send this yourself. I cannot send Belcher any of this, as Hicks & Sons send their a/c for over £43 [stg] still due, so I must think of them. I sent Belcher \$300.00 out of the last amount you sent me – I told you so in several of mine, so do not be disgusted at my repeating. You are right in your way of treating your men & others – kindness goes a long way & no matter how hardened a man may be he cannot fail to appreciate it. It is a good thing that the Germans have found out their mistake re the lies told of violation of women, etc. They have changed their tune very much lately & their press is not half as bitter

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as ~~the~~ it was a while ago. I saw the "Star" yesterday & told them of your not getting the paper. They are tickled to death at the idea of their paper being in such demand, that they are to get a special permit from P. O. authorities to send it wrapped up, in order that you may receive it. "The Globe" is now being sent too, so you will have any quantity of reading matter. "Military Gazette" also. Beau managed to get Dr. McEachran today. I telephoned ever so many times but could not reach him. He gives names of books & I go out to try & purchase them tomorrow. Sorry to read of Cecil Rhodes' death today – he will be much missed in every way. Saw Mrs. Cole in the street – she is very nice looking & attractive, but cannot imagine what she saw in such an ugly looking man as [illegible]. I wonder if it is really true? Our weather is beautiful – the snow is gone in the principle streets & the sun getting warmer. I heard the first robin today & it did seem so spring like. Well, my darling I must pray tonight & it is getting rather late, so I must leave you. Reserve your last for Sunday. God bless & protect you, my darling – all our little ones send love & many kisses. With a heart brimming over with deep affection that time & distance

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seem but to increase a hundred fold before me,

Your own true, affectionate, warm hearted old wifie,

Maye.

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