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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Dec 1st 1901.

My dear old boy,

I can scarcely realize that time is really & truly passing so quickly & that Dec. is already here – once Xmas comes, the winter seems to pass much more speedily & May will be here before we know it. What has it in store for me, I wonder! – let us put this subject away for the moment as it will keep me dreaming for some time if I stop to ponder over it. Having answered all

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your last letters, I have only to give you the little news there is. I made a retreat this week at the Gėsu, preached by Father [Turgeon] & how I did pray for those who are dear to me! needless to say who had the biggest ~~the~~ place in my thoughts eh! dear? Yes, indeed I prayed most heartily for you, my darling & I trust that all the blessings of Heaven will be showered upon you during the coming year. I had a nice letter from Capt. Main written from St. John – he evidently has never

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received my note asking him here, but he had taken back his old steamer “Numidian” & did not come this far. He very kindly says he will be happy to take charge of us if we go over in the spring & writes in a happy strain – had heard from you, etc. Who are the [Lewis]’s friends of yours in Cape Town I suppose. Are the Garlick’s there now? I have watched the papers attentively since you were in London & have never seen their names as passengers on the steamers coming over. You see, I wished to call, they were so very kind to you, my dear. I had a letter from Elmes – he says three Drs. are attending him now & that they say he will be well when they have finished with him – he is very eager to go to S.A. again & so are Mackie, Ketchen & many of the privates of “S.’s H.” I do not fancy the second named has much chance, if inquiries are made. They sail in Jan & Ottawa will be very lively until that time, I have, no doubt. Sam. Hughes is

anxious to take command, as the slip of paper I sent with others, will have told you.

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Evans is being praised in the press. I did not know he was an Ottawite until a few days ago. Mrs. James Ross wrote a friendly little note yesterday morning asking Mamma & myself in for tea yesterday p.m, but the man went off without it in the a.m. She sent it about three with the sleigh, but I had gone out & so of course, knew nothing of it. Her son Jack, is engaged to a Miss Mathews of Toronto. she is, I believe visiting her at present. She expected two or three in to tea she said – very kind of her, when she has so many who are crazy

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to be invited & made of, to think of me! Gertrude is writing you – I trust you will be able to make it out – it is all her own work – her cold seems better, but I kept her in bed yesterday, although she was like the proverbial bird on the branch, hopping in & out all the time – she seems to cough more at night, especially when she first retires to rest. Flora enjoys fine health & is robust – her limbs are growing fine & plump, much bigger than mine, I can tell you – her birthday is on the 7th & we may have a few of her little friends in.

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My present will be a serviceable one, a music case in tan leather, something she needs & can keep – just think, she will be ten years old, dear, a great big girl for her age too. Too big for boys – books she loves & can never have enough of – she has quite a nice little library for a child, as I buy her fairy tales as a rule: she studies well I must confess. So does Gertrude although she is so tiny.

Alice is not coming for Xmas. I do not know where we will be when the next one comes, but I sincerely hope we will be invited any way. Louise is spending the week at the hospital, so you can fancy the fine time we are having with her charming boy, endeavoring to keep peace – it is as bad as the war, any day. You will be glad to hear we have a nice little girl-maid, & I only hope she will remain. She seems to like the place that is a comfort & is far ahead of any we have had since I came to live with my mother. Mrs. Busted (Col) gives a reception tomorrow – she

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included me & of course, I go. must dress up in my very best clothes & put in an appearance. I believe I will be re-vaccinated tomorrow. It was done in the summer but did not take. Small-pox is spreading quickly all over the province, although of a mild type. They are trying hard to stop it, but people from other counties travel on the trains from place to place just when it is commencing & bring it around in that way. They also come right into the City, go to the

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health office to find out what is the matter – you can imagine, how furious the health officers are! – The furnace went out last night & my fingers are cold – it is heating at present, but I have not warmed up yet, so you must forgive the penmanship of this letter, my darling. I rise early as a rule, never later than seven; particularly of a Sunday morning, but somehow sometimes it is impossible for me to get to church.

The Miller's were well when last heard from – so were all the folks in the west – Mabel is about to distinguish

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herself once more – in April I believe. I am sorry for her poor soul – she will find it hard on a ranch, where there are so few about her. I only hope she will go to the end now that it has gone this far – she has been unfortunate several times. John is daft about children, so he must be charmed.

Shackell's engagement was broken off about six weeks or so before the wedding last April, you remember. she was a Miss Boyer, a nice girl & felt it keenly. I think she was lucky. I do not think much of him.

Well, my darling, I will say good bye – enough of this – you will be tired reading this letter. All join in fondest love to dear old Papa & very many kisses. With the heartfelt prayer that God will bless & protect you, all during the new Year about to dawn, that we may be reunited ere it is many moons old, believe me,

Your own true, warmhearted, devoted
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Maye.

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