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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Sept. 28th

My own darling boy,

All your nice letters of the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, & 25th came to me on Saturday & today, receiving the usual warm welcome. I did not write yesterday as I thought you would be leaving as you intended last night, but when I saw by the papers that Lord Milner was due in Winnipeg on Sunday morning & that he was to be banquetted tonight, I fervently hoped you would not miss the opportunity of seeing him again, as I was sure you will miss him on his return journey, so you can well imagine how pleased I was to get yours this morning saying you would remain. Your first letter enclosed the cheques for Burns, Draper, Freeze & Farmers meat market, which I have attended to & have had receipted - also - trust you perused mother's letter, but you say nothing whatever about it.

Your next of same date acknowledges "Eyeopener" & etc.. The article caused a lot of commotion & talk & it is said to be an election dodge by those concerned, but there is truth in it anyway. Minnie says she could not hold on to the land, that is could not live on it without a man in the house & that she had to sell - she is however much disgusted over the money Douglas made out of it. If the

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Union Bank not been in such a hurry, she might have made the deal later on - of course, they say no!

We shall indeed be delighted to get you home & only wish it was for good - you are lonely, so are we. I sent your letter to Mr. Allan. He spoke to G. Hope & a plumber came on Friday a.m. (after chasing G. Hope about for days, Capt. Mackie [worrying] Mr. Allan for me & the latter, G.H.) cleaned the furnace & took away a grate, saying he would return in the p.m. & that is the last we have seen of him. It has been awfully cold & we suffered misery this week, with only the fire in your library. Yesterday when Capt. & Mrs. Mackie came up, he was determined to call on Mr. Allan once more. He

phoned me a short time ago & says Mr. Allan tried all day to get our will' o the wisp. Capt. Mackie suggest that if he is not on hand tomorrow, that I should have it done & charge him or take it out of the rent. I could not quite understand whether he (Mr. Allan) has taken over the house or not. The pipe (hot water) is leaking again in the bathroom & a new one is required - that also must be attended to without fail. We have had cold weather, our usual storm & the house has been very uncomfortable, having so little heat.

Yes, I will get a copy of the Herald, Sept. 11 & send it on. Mr. Hall went east, but many say he will never remain - his heart is affected, you see.

Your next is dated the 23rd - you tell me of the way

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you intend inspecting. The gardener's a/c is enclosed. He never put in an hour's work since you left & has not been here since Draper came. I will see Bagnall if possible & find out from him if any money is due him. I too think he was paid. Perhaps you may need card for opening of new cathedral so I enclose it, as it must be presented at the door.

Mr. Malan's letter speaks for itself. It shows you & me how very little Capt. Trew & the others do for a person when they are out of the way, does it not?

Yours of the 24th in answer to mine of the 21st is next in the list. That day we were invited to a large reception given by Mrs. [Darkes], but owing to snow outside & a very cold house, we could really not pluck up sufficient courage to leave the fire & go upstairs & dress, so missed it. It was a crush of course, a success took place in the new apartment block, The Marlborough.

Poor dear! so Juanita made you feel lonely, eh! dear? never mind, we will have to favour you when here. By all means, go out every time you can, for you must not sit alone. Mrs. Waugh has been very ill, Mrs. Mackie says & ~~still~~ still is - too bad! I do not know what ails her. Mrs. Mackie told me she phoned you several times, but you were always out - she left a message for you to call her up, but you evidently never got it.

Do not say I feel better for your absence - on the contrary, I miss you too much to look as well as when you

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are near. Have not seen anyone since last Sunday week - I mean in the evening.

You are wrong dear about the silly people who are jealous of me - it is not that I am the person & not you - it is only a few small minded women who think that because you are a C.B. M.V.O. that I would give myself airs, I suppose & aim to lead & be first in everything. They do not know me. I did think it strange that none of the society leaders gave anything whatever for me when they entertained every Tom, Dick & Harry that came, but, I attributed it to my being a Catholic - & not as bright mentally, as some of them & not such a talker as most of them. Jealousy was the very last motive I thought of. Mrs. (Dr.) Macdonald & Mrs. Basil Hamilton are the only people, besides Mrs. McHugh who have done anything especially for us, dear. When I told Mrs. Macdonald that, she fairly gasped - she was horrified, in fact.

Judge Winter meant "that if you wanted to go to Winnipeg you could get the position" - he seems rather nice, but she is a kind of a crank.

Mr. Daly is courageous to run against such a man! he will resort to anything to win, I fancy & is surrounded by a bad lot, [McGugan], Burrows, etc.

Did you enjoy the joke of the chinaman in the "eye opener"? I did - "me [plant on] cabbage, up come cabbage," see.

Dr. Good used to be in the Yukon, I believe

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You do say such lovely things, my darling - "your sweet, dignified, high bred self" - what could be nicer?

In your next you tell me of the postponement of the trip - you are right to fix up the Highland Regt. when they are in the [humours] of entering into it, then you must be present at the gymkhana. You can tell us all about everything when you come up - the Banquet which is now in full swing, etc.

On Saturday, Mrs. Macdonald had a tea for her sister Miss McLeod, who leaves on tonights train for The Island. There were about fifteen present - Mrs. [Turner Bone], Mrs. Sanson, Mrs. Mason, [Mrs. Mapsern], [Hawknis], Davidson, Harris & two daughters, [Darkes], Leys & ourselves. The three first left early, & we were glad as they are a damper on the others as a rule - they are among those who are not very polite to me. Yesterday afternoon, Capt. & Mrs. Mackie, Miss Lee, Mrs. Macdonald & Miss McLeod called & we had

a jolly time around the fireside. We found Mrs. Mackie looking well & O! was he not pleased to see her? he was beaming all over his face.

We went calling on Miss McLeod this afternoon but they were out. it has got warmer & we enjoyed our walk. Our flowers are a thing of the past, the frost on Friday being too much for them - too bad! we shall miss them very much.

You will be appalled at this long letter, but do not thrust me aside without reading - if too tired to peruse me at once, put me away for a little while, then begin again with renewed courage.

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Flora writes me in good spirits, but is still anxious to come home at Xmas. There is not much news to tell you. Things are fairly quiet, but politicians seem lively enough. We do not hear much, except what is in the papers, of course. All are well & send fond love to dear Papa whom all are anxious to see & welcome home once more.

God bless you, my own dear love - how I shall hug you when you return to us - we miss you so much dear. I have written Mr. Walter Johnston twice but have heard nothing whatever from him since his stay in Winnipeg - have you?

With oceans of deep affection, hoping you are enjoying yourself at the banquet.

Believe me, as ever,

Your own devoted, loving little wifie

Maye.

I forgot to tell you Mr. [Levers] has lost his position, through drink I have been told & that they go to a fruit ranch near New Westminster [sic] in a week.

I have not yet ordered eggs & butter for winter ?, not knowing address of people in Wetaskawin [sic] - asked you before, but you have evidently overlooked the matter.

M

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