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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary, Dec. 1st

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 27th with cheque for \$25.00 came yesterday for which accept my hearty thanks. I sent the bill for Gertrude's photo in my Sunday letter - had I known you would send the cheque so soon, I would have kept it. We have had very cold weather too, it being 10 below zero last night - it is not so cold now & there may be a change soon. Hope your new offices are a success, my darling. Poor dear! I fear you find it pretty lonely without your family & I have been thinking that if you have to stay where you are it would be great folly for us to put off going to join you until spring. The expense of running two houses in a way, is too much - you have to heat the house you occupy & that is quite an item, I am sure. If the thing is soon decided, I will pull up & leave here in Feb, or as soon as I can pack up for there is no use in both of us being miserable & unhappy. We can keep the fires going on while we pack you see & it might not be so bad if we hurry the work. We have a slight sprinkling of snow on the lawns, but the streets are perfectly clean.

I do hope you succeeded in getting a badge for the banquet!
The President of St. Andrew's Society

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could surely have told you where they could be procured. Yours of the 28th came this morning by first delivery & after breakfast my first duty was to look for the book you asked for re S.A.C. I found it & as Capt. Mackie came in a short time afterwards, he volunteered to send it, as they had other things to dispatch to you as well & I trust it will have reached you safely ere you receive this.

You met several, old friends at Mr. Bell's & of course, enjoyed it immensely - am so pleased you can spend the long evenings in pleasant company. Very few come in to see me & I write very often & Min is always wielding the pen, as fast as she can write, having so many correspondents.

I got a great surprise on Sunday when I opened the door & saw J.B. Bright standing there. I looked at him & as he had on a racoon overcoat, with the collar up to his ears I could see only a small rim of white & thinking him a priest, said, when he smiled & said "you do not know me". "Father Kavanaugh!" thinking it must be he. "oh! no! J.B. Bright" not possible! but I gave him a warm welcome & he was here over two hours. we talked of everything & every one - he has altered, of course, & not having seen him for over twelve, yes, fourteen years you cannot wonder that I did not recognize him. He has cut off his moustache & is very bald - his eyes are not as flashing as they once were. He is very happy & evidently dotes on his little girl - is getting on well, having over eight hundred (800) men working for him. He was delighted to see us, I think & was sorry you were not here.

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I asked him to stay to supper, but he had to take the 7 p.m. train for the west & could not remain. He told me of poor old McDonald's (Donie's) death on Tuesday last & his burial on Thursday. It seems that on Saturday, the 21st, McDonald who had been drinking, fell in a saloon or some place of the sort & broke his leg - he was brought to the hospital, got the [D.F.'s] & died from the effects on Tuesday - he was 58 years of age & Mr. Bright was I was led to believe, present at the funeral - he seemed to feel very sorry for the poor fellow - drink killed him in the end. J.B. went to Macleod to arrange the selling of his land there, as his brother wishes to give up that part of the country and go to B.C. Minnie was tickled to death at sight of "dear old Jack Bright" I assure you.

I have just had a long talk with Mrs. Macdonald - they are all well. The Dr. came up on Sunday p.m. & vaccinated us all - it looks as if they would all be a success - just as well to get it over before Xmas.

You will not forget to send the cash to Torla as soon as possible - she requires another trunk to bring home her bedding & is most anxious to have everything ready in time. I have left all arrangements to you - is the 19th not rather late to leave in case of any delay from storms etc?

I am sending a list of the Xmas cards I sent & one with other names which you may like to send. The official ones will be so imposing that you very likely will

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prefer sending them to the prominent people you know. These are rather pretty, I find.

I have our invitation to "The Old-Timers' Ball" on the 16th. G. Hope Johnston is Hon. Sec'y - gentlemen's tickets \$4.00 Ladies \$1.00. I suppose we had better put in an appearance - at least we may go, if all is well. Mrs. Lougheed gives a big tea I hear, on Friday - we have not been invited so far & may not be, as the invitations are out.

Mrs. Berkinshaw gives a tea tomorrow & has asked me to serve the ices from 4:30 till 5:15 & I accepted. We are to have a Bazaar in aid of the church on the 10th & two following days. The father, Jan has given Minnie, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Cardell, Mrs. Hutchinson & myself the 5 o'clock tea tables to look after. I have lots of my own work to do, but I suppose I must do something. Well, my darling, there is not very much more news to give you - we go out seldom, trying so hard to get our sewing done. Mrs. Mackie comes every p.m. & works with us - she was saying today "I just told Mac that if you folks went away to Winnipeg, I want to go with the rest of the family - tell that to the Col." 'no! I won't tell the Col. what my wife says - he never tells me what Mrs. Steele says.' "well, never mind, said I, I will tell the Col. what you say." They are like two children sometimes & very amusing. She is getting electric treatment & massage & finds it beneficial.

I had a very long letter from mother on Monday.

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She had not seen much of Denver, but found the climate somewhat like Pretoria & thought she would like it. She writes in good spirits, poor dear mother.

Well, good night my own darling - by the by, the photo's came today & I find them all very bad so do not order any of them. I dislike the black mounting very much, being much too dismal & they are anything but a credit to the studio. Then, the background is an old curtain & all the disreputable parts are very prominent in the pictures - you could never send those to any friends, after those taken in Pretoria, I assure you.

All join in much love to you, my own dear one. Take good care of yourself & as I say, I think we should hurry & move as soon as things are settled, so that we may be together. God bless you & with many sweet kisses, & hugs,

Believe me, as ever,

Your own devoted, lonely, loving little wifie,
Maye.

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