

2008.1.1.1.1.43

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
May 26<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

I fear my letter will prove a very uninteresting one, as I have answered my pet's two last & have nothing much to speak of tonight. still, a few words will, I know prove welcome & the knowledge of that fact alone is a great inducement to have my usual confab with my darling. I have just returned from church after again lending my voice to assist the young ladies' choir in the services of the month of Mary. I sang a very high & difficult solo, succeeding beyond my expectations. we practiced a long time last evening & quite a while this afternoon causing me fatigue, which actually made me feel ill before going to prayers this evening. it has been very cold for the past week & the sudden change was more than good for me. like most of my sex I may rush the season sometimes,

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& take off too much warm clothing at once. however, I generally am very prudent so must not mind this time. We have been very busy all this week but that is an old story with us for our home has always been like a bee-hive where no drones are allowed to exist!! I hope the "lilies of the valley" were not as faded as my poor heliotrope blossom & that a few drops of water, restored their freshness & perfume somewhat – I trust their meaning is true, & that your "return of happiness" may be as lasting as all my warm love could desire it & that will be eternal. We had a quantity of them this year, but as the season was early they have ceased blooming & the tulips & lilacs are fading as well. I am so very fond of flowers & intend

bringing a few slips up when I return, provided my darling does not object & find them in the way. they have always given me great pleasure & I have tended them tenderly for a long time & they make a house look pretty & homelike. Mrs. Mac's are by this now very large no doubt as she

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has sufficient leisure to care for them. Baby is in & out of the room all the time & will persist in questioning me. her mother goes to Montreal for a few days, leaving in the morning. I hope the poor little pet will not miss her too much. she loves to be outside & spends her days on the gallery, listening to the birds. Mr. Drayner has been with us for some days. he wishes to find a boarding house for a month or more. Vaudreuil agrees with him & he is happy here, as well as Louise when she has him near. he is most devoted & seems to be improving a wee bit – in my estimation, I mean. [Our] large hotel opened on the 24<sup>th</sup> – they expect a large number of guests & are looking forward to a gay season. You cannot imagine what a pretty spot it is, near the river shore & in sight of all the islands, which make the place so lovely. You would enjoy some pleasant hours were you here, but I hope in a few years you will be able to come down in the summer if but for a short time. We have not seen Grandmamma as yet – she has been very much occupied with the furniture she intends bringing up to Mrs. Mac. She will have as nice a house by then as any one could wish for, as it is all good & the fancy things as well. She must be going to turn her dining room into a bedroom for Grandmamma if that friend from Montana accepts her invitation, as it is too small upstairs for three bedrooms. Grandmamma has given us each a souvenir – mine is silver, as I believe I will go into housekeeping “some day” with somebody I dearly love just now. a cruet stand & pickle stand – they are nice & as I have seen them from childhood will be treasured very much. I tell you of them, as they will interest my darling. I sent “The Ladies’ Gallery” on Friday & hope you will enjoy perusing it. I liked it, as it is not written in the usual style. I have some others I will also send if you really care for light reading & do not wade through them just to please me. I will keep a lot in reserve for the days or

evenings you may be tired conversing with your own little girl & relish a book to break the monotony of married life! I have some very good ones that will suit even my serious

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old pet, my forlorn fellow!!.... I saw by the papers that some of the M. Police have got into trouble in Prince Albert, for indulging in Superintendent Perry's liquor during his absence. What a craving some men have for the poison & how it charms them!! I dislike it more than ever – that is saying a great deal!!.... Has Mrs. Mathews arrived in Macleod & what is she like? I am curious to know about every one you will say, but it is very natural as I am to be one of you so very soon. When Miss Hollingshead comes, all the officers will be borrowing or renting saddles to take her out riding. if so, I only desire she may have as pleasant a time as I. I can wish her nothing better! & meet the darling of her heart when inhaling the pure air of your adopted country. she will I am positive be very much admired: being English, will feel at home in the saddle & be happy too. You would be amused at the small ideas some women have. last year they would not have me in the choir at all. the organist is my old friend or admirer [better] at present. he of

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course gives me a prominent part & the ladies who were first last year have suddenly lost their voices & cannot sing just now. I find it so stupid of them & cannot help laughing. it does not put me out in the least & I grin as if I never noticed it. They might have the good sense to hide their discomfiture, as I will not stand in their light & will be far away this time next year, if all goes well. Women are small at times & trivial things annoy them more than serious ones. Lex is by now well on his way, if he left a week ago as you said was his intention. his stay will be short, though it may seem long to both Mrs. Mac & your dear self minus your mutual friend. Mamma sends love to Mrs. Mac & I reserve a wee share of it for you, my darling boy, as you will be her's [sic] some day in the future. I hope you will like her as I

love her dearly & hate so to leave her as well as my dear Papa, who [is] not as young as I should like him to be & the Harwoods as a rule, die young. You can perhaps imagine all I give up for your dear sake, my own dear pet..... Heaven bless my darling & give us many long happy years together..... You will not mind my leaving you now, pet, as I may weary you if I go on in this strain for

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too long. with warmest, deepest love & a sweet kiss I will say "Good night". I hope you are well. Write soon to the one who loves you so truly & fondly, Your own dear warm hearted little Girl.

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