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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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162 Hutchison St.
Aug 25th, 10 p.m.

My own darling Boy,

Yours of the 19th as well as the two written on August 20th all came to me on my return from Frank's yesterday morning, where I had gone & endured a short martyrdom having some teeth attended to! Strange how you meet so many people whom you know everywhere. It is a good thing Lilsey is so musical - she will fall back on music many times when lonely & homesick - the novelty has worn off & she realizes now how much she has left behind. It is a very good idea getting eggs & butter as you suggest,

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as being Autumn, I suppose it is advisable to wait until spring, to lay on a stock of foods, as they will be an expense in winter. I think 50 doz eggs at 15 cents \$7.55 & 60 lbs butter at 15 cents \$9 = \$16.55 would be a great help to us my dear - you can perhaps order them if you will. They are expensive here, butter being nothing less than 24 cents. I am trying hard to get ready. I have telephoned ever so many times in order to find out the cost of a freight car to Calgary & can get no answer. Gus was to try too, but have had no answer as yet. You see dear I must find out to see how I stand. The fixing of the piano cost \$45.00 then there will be storage on it. I have storage to pay in furs & the

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renovating of your fur coat & mine (raccoon) which each will cost \$10.00 - in all amount to \$55.00 or more. storage on books of yours which were left during my absence in S.A. in Fraser Bros. Then all the storage & expenses on the cases sent last Autumn - your Torla must be attended to also & two months [board] & tuition etc paid ere I go - grocer, electric light, gas, & such things, so you see that with the dress makers, buying warm clothing necessary for Torla & the

many needs which must be attended to, because she is going boarder & I shall be so far, are [not] trifles, I assure you. If the car is very high, I often wonder how I shall manage everything, for I suppose I shall have to pay pullman berths etc. Indeed! dear, it seems a very mountain to face by myself. You must understand I am not complaining, it is only to give you an idea of all I have to do. Things being here, there & everywhere makes it all the harder to get them together. I do hope to get the cases & trunks off by the end of this week, if not on Thursday, but as I say, it is a lot to do - every one has business of their own to see too [sic] & I do hope we will be settled for some years. If we have to go to Med. Hat, I would rather go now than have to pull up in a year, wouldn't you? I note what you say re Bagnall- I suppose he has

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he has your letter, but has said nothing of it so far: he keeps up a correspondence with Bingham & no doubt gets information re prices from him - however, he seems quite satisfied so I suppose it will be all right.

I now take up your very long one of the 20th to answer - it was delightful reading & most interesting. It was very strange your happening to met Mr. Carstairs & over hearing the conversation he had with Mr. Boyd. I shall mention it to Gus & he can do what he likes about writing, but suppose he will do so. Am so pleased you have a good clerk & trust he will remain a long time, as changing when you have become accustomed to a man, is not very agreeable.

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I think Bagnall would find that others might not treat him with the same consideration as we do & should be perfectly satisfied - if after a year, he thinks he can better himself, why let him try! - I did not intend to board Gertrude it is soon more expensive than St. Urban's my dear - we must try & find a corner for her. If the house is so small, we cannot have visitors to sleep, dear. Very few have had us, & they cannot be expected to do so, if their houses will not allow them to ~~do~~ ~~so~~ to put extra ones up & you & I understand that perfectly well. We will see how the matter can be settled when I get there.

As I said I sincerely hope they will soon decide on the place

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best suited to headqrs, as I do not want to move again, in a hurry - it is too much bother & worry. I wrote Minnie a long letter last Sunday, after writing you - I missed two days I fear, but really could not help it. I am rushed from morning until night, not having a spare moment, my dear. I know you will forgive me for it, being well aware, that I am most anxious to get to you as soon as possible.

You are a fair insight, my dear & Carstairs must be a big man for 265 is rather above the average, is it not? As they have built, I hope Reggie & Tilly will remain where they are, particularly if he is doing well - so glad Tilly was nice, for I do not think she cares much for me. Louise & now Gertie were her favourites & she had no more for one in the old days. Reggie has never been the same, since I wrote the famous letter which broke off the engagement with Antonia - there is a feeling which cannot be said to be friendly - a coolness - a barrier in fact, which no one else may notice, but which is quite visible to me. He showed it so much when he came

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down at the time, & although in a few days one may say, he was engaged to Tilly, still it hurt me so much, that I can never forget it. I am sure Lilsey must find it lonely, being in a small room, when Antoine is at his office - she will fret & cannot help it. I am glad you persuaded her to go out & take exercise & will feel much benefit therefore, for she was on the go, all the time at home - she must miss her bicycle too. It is like a dirty French trick to endeavor to do the boys out of their business & freeze them out - I wish they had an English person or two! Mother was willing, I fancy to put money in it, but they told her, they were not going to put

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any shares on the market so she held her peace & kept her money for something else. What would they do in the Mil? as Dr. I suppose for Reg & what could Antoine be? I hope the latter has not married without good prospects ahead, for it is not fair to bring a girl to misery I think. I have strange notions of chivalry & think it wrong for young men to enter the matrimonial state without a [sum] in reserve - living from hand to mouth is very uncertain & often the cause of trouble. They do not weigh the pro's [sic] and con's [sic] sufficiently, I find. We saw Mr. Parent again after church, walking as far as his house - he invited

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Harwood to breakfast with him & then came for Torla to bring them round the mountain & to the Cemetery to see his dear wife's grave - "Ah! Mrs Steele, said he, it is terrible to lose your father, mother & children, but there is no grief compared to losing your dear wife & being left alone!" he has no children or any one now. He seems very fond of the youngsters. We had a delightful two hours with Capt. Main on Friday evening - he is the picture of health & as charming & sincere as ever. Mother & self entertained him - he saw Harwood on the street & recognized him, after five years. Harwood made the enclosed while he was here & he says the boy has great talent for drawing - he does not copy anything, that is one thing & his ideas of distance, etc are very good. Torla & Grandma had a nice time on Thursday at the Walts'. I worked all day in order to go up to my darling sooner. The enclosed from Maggie came yesterday, but I took off the envelope to enclose it in this one, as well as Torla's. All are well & send fondest love to "one & all", I was going to say, but it will do, as you are "one & all" to me, my own darling - God bless you - if I fail in my daily letter, forgive me - it is due to being so busy. With fond embraces & many sweet

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kisses from

Your own true devoted [affectionate] little wifie,
Maye.

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