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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.  
Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> 1901.

My darling Boy,

As I told you in my letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> that I still had a letter unanswered I come tonight to resume my chat. It is yours of Oct 17<sup>th</sup> that lies open before me & in which you tell me you are enjoying good health. I wonder what kind of dreams will disturb your rest now that you are reposing in the room formerly occupied by [vöm] Paul & his poor old wife. You will find the wide verandah a nice place for a talk or smoke if you indulge in the fragrant

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weed now. You will miss Capt. Boyd for besides knowing so many people from this part of the world, he seems to be a pleasant sort of a companion. It means better for him I suppose, so he will be pleased. It surprises me to hear that the people are prosperous, as reports say they are suffering from hunger & are anything but well treated, which I know is not the case. Pro-Boer Canadians find that an excuse for sympathy you see. I am expecting the photo's every day & will be delighted when they arrive. I suppose they will be my Xmas gift. Tell me the history of the Kruger lions. I have read about them but forget the story now – never dreaming you would be living

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in the place, I did not pay much attention to the true version or the giver's. Some people do not like the country, such as Dr. Walsh & he will, I have no doubt, return to Canada as soon as he can conveniently do so. I remember reading that [Temple] had been cabled for, also that the position had been given to another before he reached there. I certainly, while not very fat, look much better than I did this time last year – people say that awfully sad look has gone out of my eyes. I suppose I am more hopeful that we may meet again soon, my pet – that must account for it. I have been feeling better lately & the treatment I took for the fall proved beneficial. Having no servant I was obliged to stop for a time, but we now have what I believe will turn out to be a nice servant, so I hope to recommence my doctoring. I am so

very anxious to get well for your dear sake & for our wee ones my dear, who still need so much care. I try to take care of myself, my pet. I trust the Xmas box will arrive in good condition. You know you told me a while ago to address to Johannesburg, but being aware that you are in Pretoria I have taken upon myself to address you there, until you move again. I was more than charmed yesterday, Monday when

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preparing to go to church, (as I am attending a retreat at the Gesu) to have our boy come up with three of your dear letters in his hand & calling out "letters from dear old Pop, Mamma!" – They were totally unexpected but none the less welcome for that, I assure you. Your first of that series is dated the 19<sup>th</sup> & is in answer to mine from Moonstone dated 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. but that must be a mistake – you must mean 9<sup>th</sup> as I came home to Montreal on the 16<sup>th</sup> of that month. Any way dear, it is a letter & reached you all O.K. Yes, I was a gadabout but enjoyed it & so did the little ones, I assure you, none better than our Torla. I have not heard from Viv or Joep since we left Ottawa.

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They only stayed with Uncle John one day but evidently spent more time in Toronto, as the enclosed letter from James H. will tell you. Mrs. Walker rather amused me, as she seemed to think I might be some kind of an imposter, although with Mrs. Moon – there could not be two Mrs. Steele's, but when I informed her, the other Mrs. S. was "my husband's nephew's wife" she seemed to waken up to the fact that I was your wife. How lovely of you to say that I "am the only one who could have held Sam Steele's affections for more than a week" – it is as sweet to me now, as it was in the dear old bygone days when you poured all such sweet sayings into my very willing ear & brought many a warm blush to my cheeks & caused many

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a heart beat to throb more quickly at the thought of really & truly being in possession of your deep love. I can only hope that all my charms will not have faded ere we have the happiness of meeting again, my darling. I know Mrs. Moon received some of your letters for she wrote & told me how pleased she was to get them. The procession here was not much as you know ere this. How very favored you are, my dear riding in [vöm] Paul's phaeton & so you found it comfortable – so much the better, my dear, but I cannot understand how you happen to have that residence. Have heard

nothing of Mr. Fred. White since, but suppose he is well. I am pleased with the compliment [kind] "Strathcona's Horse" by Col. Chater, but not in the least surprised, as I always was fully aware that the success was due to you. I hope the day will come when you will have the opportunity of letting the gentleman in question know that you had a hand in their getting the D.S.O. for why not get the credit due you? I shall of course, say nothing about it but I hope the time will come, when you can do so. I know how fond you are of vegetables & am not surprised at your having a garden – you always manage to have one no matter where fate may place you & right you are too. I hope your man that was

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sniped on the 18<sup>th</sup> did not die. You know, my dear I am ready to live anywhere, wherever you may be – if we have luck we may be able to live here, but if you have to remain away five years or so, it will be very hard luck to be apart all that time. Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> is now open & I will attend to it as you wish as soon as funds you mention are at hand. I shall write Mr. Percy Belcher as well. I would have done so before only you told Auguste you would get John Gellespie to see to it & I did not want to meddle & make a mess of affairs. Your next is that of the 21<sup>st</sup> & relates to the records of "Strathcona's Horse" which I have not

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yet received. I wrote Moir in July also Col. Macdonald, but no more from them so far. The latter promised faithfully to see to the matter but has not done so. I have written a few words to Jarvis who is now at White Horse, his sister says – not wishing to let Xmas pass without a few words & send him a copy of the photo Notman took of our three little ones as a Xmas box. I have not seen Mrs. Hope since the eve of my departure for Halifax last March, but telephoned her this evening for her brother's address. She asked me to go & dine, or go for a drive, but I declined as I have too much to attend to just now. Mrs. Jarvis was with her all summer in St. Andrews, but is I suppose in

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Toronto now. There is not much news. Louise left tonight to remain a week in the hospital – she seems to like her choice of a way of earning her bread. She gets on well with Tillie & Regie, so all will be well, I suppose. Alice will not come for Xmas after all, fearing the change too much for the dear baby. He has quite recovered & is improving daily, Fred writes. Gertie, Richard & theirs are quite well, as well as Auguste & his family. Frank has

not written just lately but I owe him a letter. I have so many to pen that I find it difficult to keep up with them. I have sewing you see too, which invariably takes time to do it well.

Cameron & Keenan (who is here just now as House S. at the Victoria replacing the one in charge who is ill) are to get their D.S.O.s tomorrow evening – the clasps are here also, so no doubt yours will be forwarded to you down there. Well, my darling, as you hate long letters you must often wish me in Jericho when you see mine arrive. As the hour is getting late I will say au-revoir & kiss you a sweet, fond goodnight. Heaven bless & protect you, my dear one. The little ones join in many sweet kisses & fond love. Again wishing you a bright, prosperous, successful year, believe me as ever your own true, devoted warmhearted little wifie

Maye.

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