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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, May 20th 98.

My dear Sam,

Yours of the 29th, 30th, 2nd, 3rd & 6th all came in a few hours ago via Lethbridge. You know dear I told you in my last of Mrs. Godson's wire which came late Tuesday p.m & consequently I did not write her, although I wired Wednesday morning. I have written her tonight & asked her if she was going to remain for any length of time. Marie who was so anxious to come up, had a windfall in the shape of a large farm near Spokane left her by an Aunt – she got the news today so that has changed all her plans to my great sorrow. I do not know how I can possibly go up with three little ones to look after. I am so anxious to go to you dear, but the care & trouble the little ones will give seems more than I can undertake alone. You see Dubbie cannot walk a step & requires continual carrying around. Gertrude has become much more independent & Flora is everywhere & cannot take care of herself or Gertrude either. I cannot be all over & I fear some accident may happen if I have no

[reverse]

one to help me. I am anxious to go dear & do not fear privations when we are united, but the journey up with the wee ones makes me heartsick. I feel that no woman was ever placed in so hard a position before!!... If you could only get leave to come down & meet me in Vancouver, all the clouds & trouble would be cleared away & the difficulties vanish like magic from my path. You see dear, the Comr. came on the 15th & your letters only tonight so it is impossible for me to have left about the middle of May as you suggest in yours of the 3rd. I am pleased to know about the cows as I can sell mine & not bother sending one up, but the hens will go anyway. I hear [Anglesworth] & Kerrigan are going up with the horses, but too soon for me, as I must await your power of Atty & see things settled ere I go, as you know. Will I still leave the furniture & piano or bring some up, or as you say purchase in Vancouver? the Comr. said for me to take the piano as you know ere this, being sure it would get through all right. Baby still suffers from cold in the head & chest. I have been doctoring him up since before

you left & cannot get him cured – he is now taking Scott's emulsion. In one of your letters you say to bring up a stove but you do not say if a cook stove or not – whether wood or coal. Be sure & tell me what kind you mean.

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also whether I should go to Oppenheimer or H. B. Co. as you tell me in one to go to the former & in a later one, the latter. You also say "a jergey jersey or two is needed" – does that mean that the weather is cold enough to wear two jerseys one over the other, or that two jerseys will be sufficient to change? –

Saturday. I got this far last night when I read your letters to Elmes. to my dismay I found it was long after midnight so I had to give up writing. We had Mr. Wilmot Haultain & others in during the evening & although it was rather late when I was able to steal away to write, I wrote Mrs. Godson & part of this to you. You see, my darling Mrs. Godson has not the long journey by rail, the change in the early morning hours at Calgary, the lay off at Vancouver & who can I leave those children with when I go to do the shopping? I shall have to go to the Hotel Vancouver I suppose, but cannot bring them around with me. You see dear Mrs. Godson's home was there. if Elmes can come with me I shall be able to see my way clear, & when I take the boat will try & manage all right. You can surely meet me at Skagway, if not nearer here - perhaps, under the circumstances they would allow you sufficient leave to come & meet me at Vancouver – it would not take so very long & then all would be couleur de rose for me.

[reverse]

The Comr. said I might have remained here, there was no question of taking my quarters from me, but I told him there certainly had been, otherwise I would not have troubled myself about it. but the uncertainty of things made me do it. I must write to Sir Wilfred or Sir Henri Joly for him to obtain permission for me to go as I think I told you before – such a lot of ceremony. You were rushed off so quickly that they may not refuse your request to come as far as Vancouver – the Capt. of the City of Seattle would give you a pass I fancy, dear – try it do. Marie not coming has put mountains in my path where before these were only mole-hills. You can understand, my darling, how it is. If any of the men were going up then, it would not be so bad, but alone with all to look after & my three little ones as well!..... I did not see the "Globe" but sent you "A Star". You must keep it dear for me. I enclose several letters – is not the claim being looked after by Mr. Edward the one next the "Empire" owned by Jarvis & yourself? I will ask Mr. Galbraith to attend to the mining Licence at once & the other matter

mentioned in letter of the 3rd as well, so as to leave here with all debts paid. There is no news. Pray try & do what I ask & let me know as soon as possible – am I to take two

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double iron bedsteads? I will leave the bedroom [sett] I now use here, or try & sell it. Do not think me heartless or fainthearted my darling, or that my love for you is less, for God knows such is not the case. I would do anything in the world for you, my love. God bless you dear & Heaven gaurd [sic] you until we meet again –

Your own true, warmhearted loving,

Maye.

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