

2008.1.1.1.1.329

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary, Jan. 10th

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 4th reached me on the 8th, delayed owing to the cold & storms - yours of the 6th has this very moment come, the train which left Winnipeg on the 7th reaching here last night at 6 p.m. or 18 o'clock I suppose I should say.

We have been having awfully cold weather & today there is a strong north wind blowing - it is very trying, especially as coal has gone up in price & we have a famine after all. I shall have to try & buy some Galt coal from Reilly tomorrow & pay cash. Toole, Peet & Co. cannot fill orders from them on 5th until the 15th or later - a nice state of affairs, is it not? I am told they have briquettes & they will not bring in any Galt until they get rid of these - as they are more expensive & being composed of tar, pitch, etc, burn out the ranges & stoves quickly, people will not purchase. Mrs. Costigan told me yesterday there were rumours that the Council was going to or should take hold of the matter.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

You see that old goose Draper ordered coal when you were here in Oct. the day you left & as they had not the Banff hard they sent small stove coal. I do not want to bother you about it, so ordered some of the former to burn with it, but we have got to it once more & I must get more Banff as there is no heat in what we have. I would not mention this, only I do not wish you to think we are being extravagant, but it is much colder than at any time last winter. Of course I did not know they had not sent the kind we ordered, or at least should have had until long after, for they phoned from [Lott's] that they told the man at the time they were out of what we wanted. Pray forgive this long explanation, but it is necessary. A poor Polish woman has just been here begging for 5 cts. to buy coal, saying she has two little babies & no fire - she seems respectable &

when I gave her 25 cts. she kissed my hands, & blessed me, poor soul! I tell you what dear, it made me weep & affected the children too, - will I hope make them realize all that they have to be thankful for! - a thing they are very apt to forget!

I am so pleased your cold is better & trust you will take care of yourself, my darling. That plaster is a splendid remedy & is so beneficial to you - the good care you got helped of course, in

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

in curing you. So nice of Mrs. Macdonell to be so attentive. The little increase will help us no doubt, & I am always thankful for small favours.

Torla got your letter & has, I suppose replied ere this. I have not yet been to the convent, but owing to the extreme cold, there are few pupils going to any of the schools.

Am so glad you were at the dinner given by the Gen'l & enjoyed it. Devine must be a cad! - it was nice to have the rector of "All Saints".

It is such a pleasure to me to know your old friends look you up & talk over old times - there are none like those whose friendship can stand the test of time & absence!! one meets none of these here, as a rule. All you say is safe with me & I shall not even allude to it here - it is strange how proficient some men become in the way of wrong-doing.

Poor Mr. Hall died on the 8th as you know - passed away very quietly. On Wednesday afternoon we had tea at the Talbot's & Taylor's as I told you in my last. Thursday we were invited to Mrs. Basil Hamilton's, but, owing to the extreme cold we did not go. Friday we were in all day. Saturday morning I had to go up town - in the afternoon, went with Mrs. Talbot to tea at Mrs. Sanford Davis'.

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

Minnie having a cold would not venture - it was pleasant & as there were none of the stiffs there, we enjoyed it. I had a long letter from Mrs. Mackie which I shall answer the p.m. They had a cold, disagreeable trip up & it was 43 degrees below when she wrote, but their room at the Cecil was comfortable. Tillie, Regie's wife, called on her at once, so did Col. Belcher, so she was pleased. The eldest [Nonie] & Addie were leaving for Estevan that night. [Nonie] is much better & her sister still remains with her until she is perfectly strong.

I have given you all the news, I think - we have seen no one in the house since the Mackie's left & miss them coming in & out, I assure you. I trust we shall have a change soon, as poor people will freeze to death. I enclose clipping from last night's paper which may interest you. All are well & join in much love to you, my own darling. I do miss you so much & hope things will soon be decided - one loses so much of life's happiness when we are parted for so long. Have not heard from mother for some time. God bless you, my own. Write often to

Your own lonely, affec'ate, devoted, little wifie

Maye.

[/pg 4]