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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Macleod, May 8<sup>th</sup> 98

My own darling Sam,

Your two letters of the 19<sup>th</sup> & that of the 28<sup>th</sup> came yesterday & were as you know warmly welcomed as your letters always are. The quarters you are in now cannot be very big, if the kitchen is the men's sleeping room; fortunately there is lots of air. I wrote you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> as you know a very important letter which I hope will reach you safely as well as power of Atty. You see darling I must attend to all this business & settle every thing ere I leave Macleod. I was thinking that after Mr. Galbraith takes over "the Empire" I might borrow some money from him (& give him that as security) to pay McFarland his \$1.000 & pay up all the bills we owe here – people are so very apt to think we want to get out of paying, if we leave any debts behind us & I can then go with my head carried as high as I have always carried it & feel, that I will not be abused afterwards. You understand what I mean, do you not dear? Mr. Galbraith could always take his money back whenever the mine is sold or worked & he is such an intimate friend of yours, that he might not refuse. I will decide upon my future plans when I hear in answer to mine of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It must be anything but pleasant to have colds to such an extent as they have up there & hope your Emulsion will cure you. I would be sure to have a

[reverse]

good time in Montreal, I have been very quiet, but could be frisky I suppose if I tried very hard & feel well enough. I have not been very well for a long time & am going to consult Dr. Haultain, although he takes so little interest in his patients. I feel that I cannot go up there, without being certain there is nothing wrong with me. I fear my kidneys are out of order, as I have suffered much ever since you left. all the fatigue I have had has not tended to make me better. It seems Mrs. Cuthbert was seriously ill yesterday & Regie who was attending her sent for Dr. Haultain for a consultation. Meade is drinking all the time & is losing all his practice. Mr. Casey was in command, Deane having gone to Lethbridge. Dr. Haultain refused to go & Mr. Casey & himself had very hot words: he wrote an official letter & said a

train would be ready for nine p.m. still the Dr. would not go. I do not know how this row will end, as he just escaped the last time – he is determined he will not do too much, saying he is not well. Was the photo I sent of Flora one peeping through the curtains? I do not remember, as I have none left. I gave you some that were put in your trunk, did I not? look through it & see. John Gillespie must be fond of you when he would go over the Chilcoot [sic] Pass to see you dear. he must be a fine fellow, from what you say. You are right, the wee girlies are all over the square, looking for flowers & grasshoppers, & are out all day when the wind is not too strong. Gertrude is already getting brown & will soon be like a berry. she is getting fatter & heavier too.

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I am sure you will enjoy the tobacco & weave all kinds of dreams in the curling smoke as it goes up from your pipe my darling, in which I know I shall occupy a very prominent position. I am so pleased they came at such an opportune moment & it proves to you that the magnetism is not all destroyed by distance my darling. As for Capt. Deane, as I told you in my last have not seen him for weeks – he has applied for three months leave & says he is entitled to it. His wife is not well & she must go to the coast with his family & they can stay as long as they like – he is determined he will not bring them up here, even if he has to live here himself. You know about the horses by now, so I very seldom ask for a trap, I assure you. Regie is so busy, he has no leisure to come down so it is very hard to consult him. I shall do all for the best, rest assured of that, dear. Baby is beginning to pick up again – that illness caused by the overdose of Antipyrine pulled him down terribly & he was only a shadow of his former self, poor little man! – It is now eleven & I will have to leave you. Good night, darling, God bless you.

Monday evening. As I have now put the little ones to bed, I can sit down for a time I hope & converse a while with you. This has been a perfect day & the children have reveled in the open air to their hearts' content, even Baby enjoying it with the rest. Mrs. Davidson & her three youngsters came in on Saturday & are staying at the Mess, much to

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[Lake's] disgust. Capt. Deane came back this p.m & I do not know how he likes the invasion, not being particularly fond of little ones. Mr. Casey has received your letter & seems delighted at hearing from you. It is funny to be called "my dartling wife", for you were evidently rather hungry when you wrote before breakfast on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Moore has a good job in

the store at Haneyville, handling freight & I hope he will keep it. Elmes sees him, but I have not since he left us. I am glad you are having a good safe boat built, even if we do not get in it, it will be a comfort to know you have a safe one. It is your health that worries me, to think that you are not yet quite well, after all this time. Canoes are not safe & you must not try them, dear. Inspt. Wilson is aetly acting in a beastly way to Mrs. Wood if all Mrs. Wroughton says is true – no man can do a turn for her, without being under arrest, no one can drive her up town, or go near her quarters – he has also given out that he moves into her house at the end of May, so she has written the Comr. I hear. Mrs. Wilson does not speak to her – it is nice to be treated in that way when one's husband is away, is it not? I send papers which will show you what the press says. Mr. Ogilvie is to be Comr. in Major Walsh's place etc, etc. Mrs. Godson must find the place very nice to go back with her little ones

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for a year – it is very encouraging for me & as she is so plucky, you think no doubt, others can be plucky too!. Surely you have had letters from me since the last one mentioned in yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, viz. mine of Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, for as you know I write usually twice a week. that is, on Tuesdays & Saturdays when the trains comes down. The trains are running to Lethbridge but not regularly yet & leave here about three a.m. Construction trains they are. Have seen or heard nothing of Alec for some time now. I mentioned it in my letters, in fact it was when he sent you power of Atty. He showed it to me, but I could not read it & he said “you might give me or any one you wished, power of Atty with it”. Frank has I believed settled in Montreal. Alice is not pleased as she says he will struggle for years, when if he came West, he might do well in a short time – she has changed her ideas in many ways & sees more openings for young men here than down there & I fully agree with her, it having taken some time to convince her of the fact. They are going to have Golf on Arbor day, the 13<sup>th</sup> & elected Alice an honorary member without her knowledge: she was pleased but has not yet gone to play. There is no news worth mentioning. the Spaniards were

[reverse]

almost annihilated at Manilla [sic] they tell me. It will be a walk over for the U.S. at this rate, although they were not supposed to be prepared for war. No-news from home for quite a long while it seems to me. You know Marie is anxious to come up with me if I go & would come to Montreal as well, I think – she is so fond of the little ones, especially Dubbie. Well, my darling do not forget to answer all my important inquiries, as I am at a loss to know

what to do with every thing & it will cost so much for transport, one way or the other. Be sure & mention what kind of weather we will be likely to have on our way through the Passes, as I must dress myself & little ones in consequence, should we decide on going up. All these things worry me I assure you & you cannot wonder at it, dear. I sincerely hope to hear often & soon from you. Alice joins me in kind regards & the children send warmest love & many sweet kisses. God bless you darling & keep you safe until we meet again. Good-night & happy dreams, my sweetheart.

Your own true, warmhearted, devoted,  
loving wife

Maye.

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