

2008.1.1.1.1.64

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
Aug 20<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> came today & was heartily welcomed, you may be sure. I thought absence was the cause of your silence & trust you to receive the usual number of favors this week. Am glad your new team goes so well – it is a satisfaction to drive good horses & I know you must enjoy it. I think it would take a great deal more than my letters to disturb your equanimity, so I need not worry too much over it, my pet – what say you? I never was vain enough to think for one moment that you were my slave & do not credit it even yet, though I firmly believe in your devotion, darling. I was far from even hoping that we might be friends when we went to the Mts. For I fancied you did not care sufficiently about me to miss me a wee bit. The Sunday we returned Mr. Starnes welcomed us & when helping

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me out of the wagon, gave me a warm handclasp & said “you will never know how much we missed you”. Your image flashed across my mind & I trust you had felt my absence – laughingly I retorted “You missed Mr. & Mrs. Mac, I know, having no place to spend an evening” – he looked very sweetly at me & tried to convince me I was really the one they sighed for. You were nowhere in sight & were not visible for over an hour when I accidentally saw you cross the square from the mess to Mr. Z. Wood’s. I felt happier knowing you were near. Mr. Starnes came over with the mail, remained some time, then returned & spent two hours in the evening. You came so late that I never imagined you were coming & acted in that way to prove how little you cared for me. You made a few bold speeches that evening, but you had been given such a reputation for flirting that I was sure you were doing your best to make me another victim. Your brother is very fond of you & it almost seems heartless of me to wish to see you first, when he

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has not seen you for so long a time. he is old too! – your coming is looked forward to I know & am not surprised at it. I hope Wolly's [Woolly's] cure will not be merely temporary & that he will derive great benefit from his sojourn at the Springs. Why should I not use the word gone? When I go with you I shall have gone from home & it can never be the same to me again – even if I do return, my duties will call me elsewhere & my own little home be first in my thoughts, although a halo will surround the dear old home & make it dearer than ever to my warm heart. You might send a small scrap of the paper in the drawing room & your den in order to satisfy my curiosity. I am anxious to know if they will become my style of beauty. Your trousseau will be far ahead of mine I fear, so you must not be too great a swell. Certainly I should like to see your uniform when you are down here – you will be sure to need it, so you had better bring it, do you not think? You will more than likely require it in Ottawa before the day, so it is best to be on the safe side. If Mr. White orders you to recruit immediately after we are married, you will leave me very quietly at home & go on your mission. he must not order you back to Macleod immediately; that I will rebel against, but not otherwise. You will be absent for some time if you have to travel to Halifax & visit Ontario, but you will not mind that, as you will be sure of me by then. Does the Dr. improve on acquaintance? I hope so for your sake. If it was cool during the summer in Mrs. Mac's you could not complain of coolness in the autumn. it used to be rather warm sometimes I remember, though I never, as a rule found the heat too much. The scene must have been very familiar, so it was better for your health to vary the temperature a little. I regret to hear Mrs. Wood had a relapse & hope she is well now. will write her soon again. I think ~~a great deal~~ very little of Dr. K. - the first time I saw him I found him rather good looking but upon more intimate acquaintance

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took a dislike to him which I know is very apt to continue. Mrs. Mac must be expecting her guest & anxiously awaiting her arrival. You must all be on the qui vive to see her. Our boys Beau & Regie are in great demand. A large picnic took place today but none of the others caring to go, they represented the family with the addition of Frankie & enjoyed it very much. Our party on Sunday was quite a success. Every person seemed to go in for a nice time & it was the event of the season, though almost an impromptu affair – we had a very good supper & ample justice was done to it. There were about fifty persons. Louise left for Montreal on Monday & will be absent about ten days. A friend of the boys came this evening to spend

a few days & a friend of mine, who is much more intimate with Mrs. Mac, writes me she should like to visit me. do you not think we must be very charming people, when we cannot be alone for any length of time?

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I hope your first stay among us will be so pleasant, than you will feel anxious to return. I feel so tired that I cannot write any more so will kiss my pet good-night & pleasant dreams.

Aug 21<sup>st</sup>. I was very much disappointed at receiving no letter from my darling today, but will become accustomed to it by degrees & look for one or two only per week. We still have rainy weather – it rained on St. Swithin's day & has done so almost every day since. This weather is very trying to one's patience & temper & you would not feel inclined to think me very angelic if you saw me now & then. Mrs. Drayner intends visiting the N. West next Spring – Mrs. Royal invited her to Regina & she will accept I fancy. She is they say a nice person & is certainly very kind to Louise. Mr. D. has left & will come up on Saturdays only – he made himself very agreeable on Sunday, something new, as he can be the contrary when it so pleases him & very successfully, I assure

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you. Antoine is commencing to lament the end of the holidays & college life seems distasteful to him – poor little fellow! I hate to see him go, for being Mamma's baby she will miss him very much. he is eleven but has been petted somewhat. he almost died of diphtheria when four years old & when he recovered had forgotten how to walk & talk. we had to carry him for weeks just like a tiny baby. Mrs. Mac will find it difficult to place all her furniture but Grandmamma preferred having it stored up there, in preference to giving the surplus to any other member of her family – “poor Min, you see, her house is so bare & she is so fond of company & style”. I am rather anxious to get back my pet, for some things, trifles may be, but the knowledge of them annoys me. Miss Hubert is to marry Mr. [Curillier] in Oct. they have been engaged for some years, but his prospects were not sufficiently good to enable him to keep a wife. such as it is, an old maiden aunt will probably help him, but she is a changeable, crusty old dame, one cannot rely on! – They are a nice family & the girls pretty. Mr. Starnes was engaged very much in love with the second – she is engaged to the only son of the ex-lieutenant governor of Ontario George Macdonell. they have been plighted some time, but his father will not allow him to marry at present & George's prospects are such, that he must obey the stern parent.

Well, my pet, I am very much fatigued so will say au-revoir. I trust you will favor me soon, as your letter's [sic] are dear to me. With very many sweet kisses & fond love, ever

Your own loving

Maye.

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