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Marie Steele to Sam Steele
6 sheets

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1513, 1st St W.
Calgary, Apr 13th

My own darling boy,

I wrote you a few times this morning in answer to your remarks about a house, so this evening I come to acknowledge them all & try to interest you for a little while. I had one letter only written on the [9]th & you say you wrote two. The rest came as stated before. Yours of the 10th only left Winnipeg on the 13th coming this a.m, while yours of the 11th arrived yesterday & I know the dates you wrote them on were quite correct.

I shall acknowledge them as written, so commence with the 10th. You have sent me two copies of the Portage lecture, the last revised. You know dear it will take some weeks to pack, so you can have all the time necessary to look up a suitable house. I do not mind spending the summer here, dear, if it is more convenient for you & if you think it would be easier to find a nest.

The trip you intend taking for the remount depots on stations will be a nice one with good weather & prove enjoyable in that case.

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It will also do you good, I am sure. Is not George Anderton of Macleod dead, my dear? some [*sic*] one no doubt has his studio, but a newcomer might not value such a thing as an Indian collection.

I think you had rather a nice time on Easter Sunday & relished your two meals in such good company.

So the ladies want you to say a few words on old times in the west! - how lovely of them to be sure. I told that to M^{rs}. Macdonald a short while ago when she called me up over the phone & she said with regret in her voice "oh! I wonder if he would have done that for our club". When will he be coming up?" I replied that I did not know.

I now take up yours of the 11th in which you tell me of the pleasant time & tasty dinner. Surely you never for a moment thought you were ignorant! books [*sic*] help one very considerably & elocution ones particularly. This is a short letter, so take up your first of the 13th. I am indeed simply delighted that Gen^l. Lake wishes your remarks re the R. R.

expedition printed in the Militia gazette - keep at it, you will get there in time, my darling. You may well feel pleased at the compliment for this will spread it far & wide among military people.

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You are right to send the Portage lecture to Sir [F]. W. B. No! dear [sic] you did not send the Canadian Club speech made in Winnipeg to me, although you said you would.

A nice souvenir the group of officers will be!. [sic] You are indeed getting to be quite a ladies man & by the time I reach the 'peg will be able to introduce me to many of them.

Was that day one of M^{rs}. Macdonald's ordinary reception days or something special? I think I we shall like the change, as the people down there see more friendly - happiness & contentment go a great way towards making a person feel nice, my dear. I could sing once, but am not much of a hand at it now, I fear. I am pleased poor M^{rs}. Henderson is doing well with her painting - she is plucky & energetic - the favorable criticism of her husband's book may prove of great benefit to her financially, poor thing. I shall return the Portage paper, after I have let some people see it. Your next is dated 13th Sept 1909, but as you must have been wool gathering for a few moments, I know it was april [sic] you meant! I wrote re the house this morning & a few lines earlier in this letter.

M^{rs}. Macdonald was saying that the

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outsiders who came in for the horse show were disgusted with M^{rs}. Van Wart - instead of getting out of her trap & walking up to her box like all the other ladies the carriage drove to the door of the box & she tripped out. I was told by Miss Ryall the other night that Van Wart was so furious that his pair did not get first prize that he threatened to take horses, money & all out of the show - the result was that M^{rs}. Van got the prize for high steppers much to the disgust of others who deserved it - she cannot drive & her horse would not move, but they had to be conciliated. Very many people missed the show, as it was Holy week.

If the camp does not take place here for a year or two it may do them good & waken people up a bit to their many deficiencies. I see Lord K. of K. is passing through en route home. I wonder who will run the affair if he steps off here - they need officials who know something if they wish to induce travellers to view the city. The experience of Lord & Lady Grey has been sufficient to make all the notable people who pass give Calgary a

wide berth.

His Lordship Bishop Légal & Father Lacombe paid us a call this evening - both felt very keenly the murder of the Dep. Warder Stedman in Edmonton, as they were well acquainted with him - he is a brother of Stedman's

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in Macleod & was a fine man in every way. The Bishop desired to be remembered & spoke so often of you - he is anxious to see you - ditto poor Father Lacombe. The children came in as they were very specially desired by the Bishop & they talked, not the least bit shy, I assure you.

I had a nice letter from M^{rs}. Mackie yesterday & last night I answered Cap^t. Mackie's charming letter of the 2nd writing or rather afflicting him with sixteen long pages of gossip, etc. He is not likely to write again as he will dread the sight of my epistles. There is not much news, as we have not seen any one for a long time.

The Perie-Walsh wedding came off yesterday - it was rather a quiet ceremony, there being only about thirty invited guests & young folks at that. I did not go, you may be sure.

Well, my darling I must not make you wish me in a warm clime, so I think I had better say good-night. God bless & keep you until we meet again. All are well & join in much love to you, my dearest.

I saw M^{rs}. Costello when coming out of church one night. "Is the Col. Home yet?" oh! [sic] no, still in Winnipeg. "and [sic] you're without a man all this time". Certainly. "and [sic] you can't go get another?" no [sic], I am

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perfectly satisfied with the one I have & do not want another. "oh! [sic] my! [sic] It's too bad any way". are [sic] they not strange people? She truly felt awfully sorry at all the pleasure I am deprived of, I feel sure.

Again good night, pleasant dreams & God be with you. Very many sweet kisses & warm embraces from

Your ever devoted, lonely little wifie.

Maye.

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