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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.
Calgary, Aug. 31st

My own darling,

Yours of Aug 27th & 28th lie open before me, the first being brought to me yesterday afternoon by Capt. Mackie, the other by the postman this a.m, as a breakfast relish. Well, dear the other khaki will have reached you ere this & found to be "just what you wanted" as all the brides say. The Diary is also en route as well as the Album of Strathcona views which I hope Mr. Miller will take great care of, as you know we could never get any more if anything happens this one, so I trust you will impress that very forcibly in his mind & what a treasure he is entrusted with!

I do hope our Torla reaches her destination safely! I cannot say how anxious I am, as our papers tonight do not tend to reassure one. They mention an open switch near Jacques Cartier just outside Montreal - it is scandalous that the strikers [sic] or sympathizers should punish innocent people for something they cannot be blamed for. You must have seen Miss Bliss at Mrs. Costigan's this winter for she was here for a fortnight or more.

I am sure wires will be pulled by several who wish to get the Command - however, time will tell who

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tell who wins the day. I am quite content to remain where I am for as I said before, I like the climate & many of the people.

It is indeed very nice of Mrs. Costigan to say nice things about me & hope I deserve them - she is a fine woman & one whom I greatly admire & am very fond of.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs. Costigan had a small tea - Tilsey, Min & myself, Charlie [Gigot] coming with us, Mrs. & Miss Harris, Mrs. Knight (wife of Supt. Knight, R.N.W.M.P.), another of Mrs. H's daughters), Mrs. Anderson, Miss [Mickleston] & Miss Rouleau - we enjoyed it, although the day was similiar [sic] to yours in Winnipeg,

torrents of rain, then sunshine in between - it cleared when we were returning after six & continued fine: although cloudy today, it got warm & bright about 4.30 p.m. after we were dressed in fairly warm gowns to go to Mrs. Harris' for tea. She had Mrs. Turner-[Bone], Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Macdonald (Dr.) Mrs. & Miss Thomasson, Mrs. March, Mrs. Woods & a Miss Brinn, besides we, [us] & Co. The latter young lady thinks an awful lot of herself, her only sister being Mrs. Woods in Edmonton, wife of the Dep. att'y gen'l - she has an awful accent, is very coarse & slangy & a voice which is one of the commonest I ever listened too. Tilsey had never seen her.

Yes, Capt. Mackie is kindness itself in every way. he looks well, but is lonely for his own dear dearie oh!

All were asking if it was true that you might have to stay in Winnipeg, but I said "that I had not heard a word concerning the matter - you had gone for the three months

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of Col. Evan's sick leave but that his death having come so suddenly, the Govt. would likely appoint some one else very soon, in which case you would return at once."

Charlie Gigot came to his aunt Min for advice I believe & he was going to try & settle the question last night. He cannot be very smitten when he has to ask outsiders what to do!

Yours of the 28th to you "dearest old pet" the first time I verily believe that you ever called me that. 10.30. Mrs. Talbot, our neighbour has just gone, having spent the evening with us & as it is so late, I think I had better end for tonight. God bless you & pleasant dreams.

Tuesday - 8.30 am.

Being down early, the children having breakfasted & while awaiting Min & Tilsey I will continue this letter to you, so that it may leave by the noon train. Your nice interesting billet-dome of the 29th mailed the 30th has this very moment been perused by me, my darling & much appreciated.

Mrs. Evans will I suppose live with her parents again - she is young, is she not? I hardly fancy the Govt. will let religion interfere with the succession they have in view & will choose the best man - at least, that is what they are likely to do! The photo of yourself for Strathcona's book would be like the large one. I have

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one, but they spoil them so, that I dislike lending, it being the sole one left.

Your news of Sergt. Maj. Keane made me feel very bad. Harwood was speaking of him yesterday & so affectionately saying "I must write him a letter", that I could not bring myself to telling him the sad news.

What a state of affairs in the Transvää! how will Burns-Begg succeed as Chief of Police, when he probably knows nothing whatever about anything in connection with the post? I am so grieved you have a cold in your head & hope it will soon be well again. Nice to have Torla so much admired! she can be a perfect little lady when she likes & looks it too. Did she go to Mrs. Macdonell's "at Home"?

We have had no hot weather for the past fortnight & would like some. So far, not a word about the Furnace fixing from Mr. Johnston or anyone else. it must not be left too long.

The bills are commencing to come in - what shall I do with them? I have tried to keep down expenses, but our present servants are such poor cooks that they cannot make a cake, pudding or pie of any kind that would be eatable & I have so many other things to do that it is difficult for me to attend to these matters every day.

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I fear this is much too long a letter, but I will end here continuing this evening, if I can possibly do so & no one comes in to see us. God bless you, my own darling - all join in much love to you - write soon to

Your own devoted, affectionate little wifie

Maye

Wrote Mrs. J.A. Macdonald Field, on Sunday & declined their very kind invitation for the present, with regret.

The latter part of this letter is somewhat muddled owing to talking, but will write a better one tonight.

M.

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