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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille
July 6th

My darling Sam,

Although I have had no letters & am not likely to have any for some time, still today being Thursday I feel I must pen you a few lines to let you know we are all well.

The two little girlies are in Vaudreuil having a fine time no doubt at Aunt Gertie's.

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

Dubbe is here with Mamma & myself everyone else being away. The poor little chap amuses himself fairly well. We are going to dine with Regie today, the first time I have favored them with a visit. I have been too busy to call & it is a run of twenty minutes or so in the cars, but I cannot even spare that. Miss White is coming to commence

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

my sewing tomorrow. I have a great deal to do & trust we will get on quickly. I fear you may not be pleased at our delay but as I told you, I really cannot help it. I wish you could see the great pleasure with which my mother speaks of the trip - she is simply delighted at the prospect of seeing a new part of the world & is preparing with the keenest zest for her new experiences. I wrote Mrs. Hilliam this week explaining things & told her not to hesitate going, if she did not wish to wait & found the time too long. You see she is alone & has only her own self to prepare which makes a considerable difference, I assure you. I wrote Lord Strathcona as I told you in my last asking him to please inquire

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

if the War Office would make any concessions whatever in our favor - by giving us an indulgence passage on a transport or anything. I want to be thoroughly prepared for all emergencies & not be taken unawares at the last moment. You see Mr. Clancy of the Allan line

desires to know, on account of the shipping of the furniture. He is going to arrange all connected

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

with it so that I will have no trouble with it at all. Will have it shipped through direct to Capetown [sic]- it will be a great help & that is why he wished to know how the War Office will act on the subject, ere he ships it in Sept. It goes by bulk on the Allan line not by weight which makes a difference. I am bothered re piano - I feel sure I could not get a hundred dollars here for mine, there are so many

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

of all kinds on the market. Had I only known sooner, I might have prepared, but I had not the faintest idea that we would ever go, from all you wrote; that is the reason I am delayed so long. All the time Regie & his family were here it was impossible to do anything - the house was full & topsy-turvy all the time. Frank has gone with friends to Lake Nominique in the Laurentians for some ten days or so. There is not much news, things being very quiet. We are at last having pleasant weather & have been two or three days without rain - you could imagine how much we enjoy it. Well, my own dear pet, I will not weary you with any more. I enclose one of Flora's - she writes regularly, but I must confess I have not always sent them, she seems to get nervous when writing you, as hers to me are always much better written. All

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

would join in much love & many kisses to dear Papa, were they near I know. I have given up the massage treatment as I have not the leisure necessary to go on with it & the Dr. thought it better to rest. Dubbie has his glasses & he has to wear them all the time until Dr. Byers returns from his vacation - he will then be able to say if he requires an operation.

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

I hope it will not be necessary, he is very brave though about it & would not, I believe make very much fuss - I mean our boy of course! he is going around the room just now humming & saying "he will play Indian & be very stylish"! - do not know where style comes in. God bless you my darling & keep you safe until we meet again. A big kiss

from Dubbie & his mamma who loves you dearly & is your own true,
devoted

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

affectionate, lonely little
wifie

Maye.

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[pg 10]

I must explain my reasons for writing to Lord Strathcona. When he was here last [time] he told me if ever I needed his assistance in any way not to hesitate to write to him directly & not to the Colonial Office, giving his card & house address on it at the same time. This is why I did so & hope he will not delay his reply; I feel

[/pg 10]

[pg 11]

sure he will do all he can to help me.

Yours as ever

Maye

A big kiss from your little boy who is so glad he is going to Africa to see Papa & I hope you will have effelants, lions, & tigers & get a musical box to make them dance & a [bicycle] & a [stab?].

Dubbie xx