

2008.1.1.1.1.295

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary Sept. 4th

My own darling,

Yours of the 31st enclosing cheque for T. Allen & one for Draper came yesterday. I gave Capt. Mackie the cheque for Mr. Allen on the 31st & he told me he found the house closed so sent it registered - to where, I do not remember, but he has very likely written you about the matter. Now, tell me, am I to get him to send the cheque just received to Mr. Allen at once, or wait until the end of the month? Draper's wages are due on the 20th & I will give him his cheque on that date. it is a better plan not to pay in advance.

I cannot quite understand your letter

“ Pay      240.88

Pension 86.90

327.78      overdraft for \$68.00 included in the

\$256.45

Expenses 256.45

71.33 cts. which has to settle the balance & will cause an overdraft I fear”. I do not know what the overdraft is & whether I have to see Mr. Hogg or if Capt. Mackie attends to it. I will send cheque to Mr. Biddell. I enclose several a/cs which are less than formerly, I hope.

Capt. Mackie just called & so far no mail from the 'peg

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

& while, no doubt they are very nice, I have so many things to occupy my time here.

We hope Tilsey will remain a month, but I am not sure, as Tony having to get his own meals (& I fancy, Regie's Tilly is not very much given to hospitality where Antoine is concerned) makes her somewhat anxious to curtail her stay. Minnie is busy writing Charlie Gigot some good advice. Tilsey is writing her Tony & I am favouring

you. It is about eleven a.m. & a perfect day. We are going out to tea this afternoon & to Mrs. Lilly's to spend a quiet evening - not wishing to miss my usual budget, I have put everything else aside to have the pleasure I now enjoy.

I thought I saw you wear the first khaki tunic since we came here - that accounts for my mistake & I really had not time to examine it, as I had only a short interval between your letter & the coming of the Transfer Co. - will know better next time!

The Regimental Affair as you call it is very good & exactly what he wishes for. he is such a queer individual that Pocock!

Is it Col. A.C. Macdonell who goes to the school of musketry in Ottawa? in that case she may remain in Winnipeg.

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

Gertrude's photos are much better than the first, although they do not flatter her.

Where can I get the address of the Wetaskiwin people re butter & eggs? I have not got it.

Your short note enclosing Esther's came on the 2nd & was much enjoyed, as well as her's - she writes bright, newsy letters but being such a clever girl, one expects that! "The Free Press" came yesterday - the sermon certainly was a fine eulogy & for many of those present, not more than they considered Col. Evan's entitled to, no doubt.

You did quite right, as you always do, to write Dan Alec. E. about the conversation with B - re command. They are so eager to twist & distort conversation to suit their own ends & aspirations, that it is best to be first.

You will, of course, accept Mr. Snider's invitation to go for a week end ere you return west: it will do you both good to talk over old times & friends.

We all called on Mrs. Loughheed yesterday who was receiving for the first time in the grand new house: she was amiable & seemed pleased to see us. Then went to Mrs. Bernard's, a dear old lady who asked us with many others to meet Miss Shibley, Dr. Aylon's sisterinlaw [sic] & the new principle [sic] of St. Hilda's, in place of charming Mrs. Gerrie Smith.

Mr. Bernard is a lawyer here & I suppose an old timer.

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

A large number were there, but the guest of honor was conspicuous by her absence & she came after six I hear. Some folks say "she knows no better" but I say nothing, as I have not seen her. Mrs. Bernard shook me cordially by the hand saying "so you are going to leave us?" not at all, said I "yes, you are" "well, then, I know nothing whatever about it," I replied - "then I am the first to tell you - Mrs. Helen had a telegram from her brother, Col. or Major Burnham this morning, just before she took the train for the east, saying he was coming up to Calgary with his wife & children to live, having taken Col. Steele's command or place." Mrs. Helen, adding "in that case I shall return in about six weeks & remain here" - that is all I know about the matter. Every one whom I know expressed regret & said "that every one expects it, but "Col. Steele is a Westerner & Winnipeg is too far east to be west".

Bagnall phoned last night to know if it was true, as it was the talk of the town yesterday. I told him I know nothing about it, so far.

We enjoyed the tea, called at Mrs. Winchell Herron's afterwards - Mrs. Elton & Miss Hughes spent the evening & had a pleasant visit, I think. The day was beautiful yesterday, until noon, then like the day before it blew a gale of wind & dust which blinded one - since I commenced this, the wind has risen & I fear we are

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

for another afternoon of the same - one's skirts blow & cling to one so tightly, that you feel as if you were in tights. not pleasant for a person who is inclined to [en bon point] like myself.

I suppose I shall soon receive a letter from my Torla, poor dear - she will feel very lonely, I fear, particularly after Grandma leaves.

The children are well & full of energy & pluck. Harwood's composition was the best yesterday again & he feels very cocky about it. Takes his bath every morning, goes through his Sandow, just like his Papa, being the man of the house now & is really getting some muscle on his little arms - is he not pleased? you should see his face when we remark about it!

Gertrude went to Communion this morning, poor pet, it being the 1st Friday - one of the Bliss' is in her class, but I do not think she fancies her much.

Well, as I wish to write about the business letter & make it separate, I shall have to end this long one. God bless & keep you dear. We miss you as much as every, but there is no use worrying you by saying so.

All join in much love & many fond kisses. Write soon to  
Your own devoted, lonely little wifie,

Maye

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Sept. 4th

My own darling,

Your dear letter of the 1st reached me yesterday morning by first mail & as usual, had the warm welcome which yours always get.

The "washouts" worried me considerably but I know if anything went wrong that you were near to watch over & protect our little girlie & would do what was right. The men from the west did fairly well in the shooting down east, did they not?

You can be so entertaining when you please & are always so if you have one good listener, who can enjoy a good joke & see through things. Evidently, church going is a task that the holidays relieve one of!. I wish it was the same with me!.

It was charming of Mrs. [Swinford] to send you the beautiful sweet peas & you could enjoy them & think of me, at the same time - ours are delightful as I write, the whole house is scented with their sweet perfume.

I would not care to go to Field without you - what pleasure would it be to me anyway? They are strangers

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

for any of us. He says he sent Mr. Biddell's a/c down this morning, but you will likely return it.

I am not worrying & trying to keep up my spirits & be as charming as possible, just as you want me to be. Mr. Allen is certainly absent from the city: I know his wife is.

Good bye & God bless & keep you safe & well - all join in fondest love & many kisses.

Your own devoted, affectionate little wifie,

Maye

[/pg 7]