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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste. Famille St.
Montreal, June 30th

My own darling Sam,

Your dear letter written on the "S.S. [Australusian]" on the 15th reached me by the 11 a.m. mail yesterday & needless to say how very welcome it was & how often I have perused it since it came. Yes, my darling these partings are a very great trial to both of us, for although we have a few words at times when together, which proves we are but human

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still our love is such that we cannot but feel these separations very keenly. I know I do & at times feel as if I would willingly give up entirely, when the thought of the three precious beings confided to my care brings me to reason once more & I endeavor to take up my trials & burdens with courage again. I will take care of myself & little ones as well as possible but I cannot promise not to grieve – when I feel as if half myself was thousands of miles away & a great deep, bleeding wound

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separates my heart from the rest of my being, one cannot believe all is happiness!!... Had I only known in time I would have written a longer letter at to Rimouski, but did you get the parcel of underwear for I would not like it to be lost. I am delighted to know you had a nice lot of passengers on board & as your room-mate is so very nice & such a gentleman & a friend as well, you had some pleasant hours I feel sure. What do you think of American girls & do they compare favorably with our Canadiennes? We have been having intense heat, some of the hottest June days for thirty years or more. Yesterday & the before it registered 98 in the shade. I brought my boy to the barber's yesterday & had his dear old curls cut off. He was delighted & says "he is a man, now" – this morning he looked in the glass & said "I am Mr. Steele & look like him" – it is very becoming & much cooler; poor pet, I hated to see the scissors in his dear soft, fair hair, but he

is more comfortable & looks very sweet & manly. Flora & Gertrude are well & looking forward to going west. I wrote Mrs. Clarke a fortnight ago, but have had no answer, so of course until she

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renews her invitation would not think of going. Essie wrote me Sunday last – Grace left for Buffalo on Wednesday & she leaves tomorrow. They are also to spend some time in Toronto & [Majara], so as they are to be a month in Buffalo, I hardly think we will visit them this summer. You know, dear, I would not have them hurry home on my account for anything: poor girls, they do not get away much & a change will do them good. Rev. Mr. Grant was at Jane's the night she had the reception – you remember him, no doubt. I will go for the miners licences on Tuesday.

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the enclosed came last week from Mr. Belcher, but expecting a letter from you I delayed sending it: I enclose a copy of costs keeping original in case it might be lost. I will try & send something to him when you advise me. I also enclose copy of a statement given me by Mr. Cowdry – he came to see me on Saturday night last, the 22nd, asked to come next afternoon. I hoped he would come early & would have asked him to tea, but he came after six just as we were almost finished & said he would not disturb me & return. He intended going to Ottawa & must have done so, as I

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have not seen him since. I am sorry as I have not had all the talk I wished to have. He advised me strongly not to consent to pay the \$500.00 Alec asks for until everything is settled. I do not see that you have made very much by your transaction, do you? He (Mr. Cowdry) does not think Alec had much to do & thinks his demands high – also that the interest on the \$112.39 cts. which he says he put in more than you, very exorbitant – he said he would tell him I preferred waiting until the close of the whole affair, before I settled up. Alec says there is about \$1200.00 worth of cattle yet to be sold, but he seems to be rather incredulous about that – “if there is.....then Col. Steele may make a little out of the whole business” – he also asked me if Alec gave you a statement? I said not to my knowledge – he had trouble to get the statement I enclose from Alec, himself & finds him a strange business man. There is no use going into any more transactions of this kind, dear, until you are certain you can be on the spot to look after things your own self. Rachel [Mann] went to Toronto

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on Friday for her musical examinations – I hope she will succeed. I will be most careful re smallpox, I assure you. I hope you were able to run down to Wales as you intended & forward Dr. [Sam.] all you expected. The “Numidian” came into port this week & on Thursday p.m. Mamma & myself went to see Capt. Main. I brought him the [volume] of the Encyclopaedia & one of your large pictures – the book did not belong to him, but he said he would find the owner – as for the picture he was simply delighted. I never saw a man so pleased to get the photo of another, as he was. & indeed! he has the greatest ad-

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miration for you & seems really fond of you, my dear. We had a very pleasant visit & he walked up to Notre Dame St. with us – it was afterwards that he was shot at, or the evening previous, but he said nothing about it, if before. Andrew Allan died Thursday evening & Alec Allen died suddenly in [Rorckville] on Friday p.m. Sir Thomas Galt is also dead – he is to be buried on Monday – the heat has, I fear been trying to old people. Jim Clarke will feel badly about it. I had a sewing girl all week & am sorry she cannot come back until next week, as I have not finished & if I am going am

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anxious to be able to leave as soon as the invitation comes. I will hurry – Flora & Duffins are quarreling all the time & I cannot stand it. I cannot always blame the latter, for she is very hard to manage – write her a few lines of advice – being older, she is the one most blamed at times & really they are all taking a dislike to her. I tell her, scold her & do all I can, but she will not heed & truly she makes her own life very unpleasant. she is pert & saucy too, & now that the vacation has commenced, I have a harder task than ever. The others are no trouble at all, but she is, I assure you. Gertie is still about, but is anxious to have it over. Alice has a fine, healthy boy she says – she feels fairly well & went to her own rooms on the 23rd – having been in hospital, you know. I called at the Hebden’s but think they have gone to the seaside as I could not get in. Well, my darling I have written a long, newsy letter. All are well & join in love. Antoine has gone to Terrebonne with Auguste who got your letter. Frank to Vaudreuil. Richard & his children are also there, but Frank did not go with them. God bless you dear, write soon again.

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I see Richardson, V.C. is married to a Winnipeg girl this week. I hope you received the different letters I wrote & enclosures. So far, Mr. White has sent me nothing – I paid life insurance etc, for some time so feel at peace. Capt. A.C. Macdonald, N.W.M.P. came to see me twice this week – he poured all his grievances into my ears & he is very bitter against the old Corps. Does not wish to return, if he could only get out with you. He asked me if you had received a letter from him written from Madeira. I said I thought so & you had replied at

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once – he never got it & feels terribly bitter that all the time of his illness in S. Africa & while recuperating in Madeira none of his old comrades in the N.W.M.P. ever wrote him a line, sympathizing with him or congratulating him on his D.S.O. he says he wrote you when you got your distinction's. I called on his wife & as Perry wants them to occupy the quarters vacated by the Wroughton's, too small for any one with children, she is determined she will not go up, until suitable premises are found. If you by any chance cabled me I have never got it. Auguste went down & registered "[Kima]" in both offices, since you left.

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You will be disgusted with this long letter & wish they were shorter & more numerous, but when I commence to write, I could go on forever. Heaven bless & keep you safe from harm, my darling. The war news is such that I am anxious & hope they will have come to some terms before you get there. Give me your next address & write often please. Your letters are the brightest spot in my existence now that you are so very far away. With ever so much love & kisses from the little ones, & many fond embraces from myself & sweet kisses as well, believe me

Your own true, devoted, warmhearted

loving wifie,

Maye.

I should perhaps not have written on both sides of the inclosed [sic] statements but hope you will be able to understand – will know better next time –

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