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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St.
June 22nd

My own darling Sam,

Once more I come to write you & answer more of your dear letters received during the past week. I have written both Meanea & Hutchings of Calgary re a saddle, bit & bridle for Torla. The former is peculiar & seems to be afraid that he will not be paid. I told him I would be responsible & pay the draft of your order, but that did not seem sufficient. I have written again & hope things will be satisfactory. He said "he had" no doubt the

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Col. is all right, however, should anything occur to prevent their delivery, after they leave this country, it would cost one half what they are worth or more to recover them, and besides, I have not a dollar in advance. Please let me have a more definite reply regarding the above etc. I told him I did not know any money was necessary in advance as you had written directly to him. Are you sure the articles will be all first class & exactly what you want? if not, you will have to keep them anyway, as they are not C.O.D. you see. He said they would be "something nice".

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I wrote Hutchings yesterday & will soon have an answer, at least in ten days or so. Duty on the American ones will amount to a good deal I suppose. My saddle has been put away since I left the west, so presume it is all right. I expect Capt. Main into port today or tomorrow & will go down & see him at once. I believe there is no direct steamer going to Capetown, or it is very indefinite. I am inquiring all the time, but do not get much encouragement from those who know anything of them. The other officers' wives must have been ready & expected to go since Mrs. Porter could get there so soon, while I never thought I would go - hence the delay - do not forget to tell me about the dog

cart or buggy - am I to purchase it here & which is most suitable for the country, which I know nothing of, as you are aware.

I now take up your letter of May 17th in which you acknowledge mine of April 9th & 13th. As I said before, you want to be sure the order books (originals) are not kept by the Bank of Montreal & really go to Lord S. - otherwise, they are part & parcel

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of your own life which you will never have again. Elmes' letter will explain a good deal. I fancy & you may be able to help him. Just think that fool of a young Elmes Clarry's son is engaged to be married - he is accountant in a bank in Portage La prairie & instead of helping his family he becomes engaged. Clarry has not had a day's work since last July, a year & everything falls on Elmes, his brother, Katie, Clarry, Mrs. & Miss Morris & the three girls, [soon] for Elmes to care for & not one his very own. I think

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it a perfect shame & I feel that young Elmes should get a spanking - he is a heartless lad & a girl is crazy to marry one of his age. He evidently had not a taste of the misery they have gone through, or would not be so eager to marry & plunge others into trouble - he should share expenses with his Uncle Elmes - it is no wonder the latter drinks at times - it must be very discouraging to work hard all the time & never have a cent to put aside for a rainy day in one's old age. I have looked over Catalogue of A & N stores & find things very expensive.

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They may be better than we get here but some of our furniture houses are shipping to Eng. What I want to know is what we require & what we can do without for some months. There would be no use bringing out what must be left in warehouses until barracks are built. I paid the Federal Life the \$221.68 out of the money sent last & as I [owed] Taylor \$148.00 on Hick's draft I have \$379.56 left. I will have to pay saddle & etc from Cheyenne, will be \$100.00 or thereabouts for yours, then Flora's will be extra, then Great West \$33.45 & \$60.00 to Uncle John on the 1st of July almost \$200.00 you see. The balance I [must then owe] my mother so there I am. I do my very best, but these big accounts make a terrible hole in the money you send. The bills are always big ones & as I said, I can account for

every cent I spend. You will understand these items must be paid & up to date too, as you know the result. If I buy furniture here I must pay part of it you know. Then I must get clothes for children & self & passage etc. Really I do not see how I am to manage - don't fancy I do not want to go.

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I am crazy to get away, but there the matter stands in black & white. Do not say "you must come my dear, or we shall never meet". I am, as I said, crazy to go & if I am not on the way down, it is through no fault of mine, I assure you & you know it. I want no excuse for a [divorce]. I should be like the [illegible] then & [strand]!! the little ones with me. I will try the remedy you send - it may be very good. The little girlies have their distribution of prizes tomorrow. I am having Dubbie's eyes attended to - he must wear glasses & if not better in a month

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or so, when Dr. [Byers] returns from his holidays, will have to undergo a slight operation. I hate to think of it, poor little chap!

What Miss Johnston said at Regina that "you were an awful flirt" - I do not remember. Your last of May 18th is now in my hands. I would not bring out a servant from here & think I can train the colored ones quite well. I fear white girls would soon become quite black with so many men around & would not run the risk of bringing out any. You see marriage breaks all contracts, then I would be in the lurch.

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I will buy table linen & all here, but it will take time to get enough cash ahead to enable me to go & I do not want to run you into debt for ever so long. I wrote Lady Boyd & Mrs. James Bell last week. I delayed writing the former, not through lack of sympathy but diffidence, but finally plucked up enough courage to do so. The weather is fairly bright, but very chilly for June - it poured all day yesterday & seemed more like autumn than the longest day of the year. It seems as if our season's were changing & here we are still wearing warm clothes. Frank went to Vaudreuil on Friday to spend a few days with Gertie - comes home tomorrow. If rain does not cease, all the garden stuff will rot in the ground - so living will be expensive next winter, as the late frost spoiled so much in May. Mr. Baker, F. White's brother-in-law has been very ill with appendicitis I believe - he is now on the mend. I am

having my own eyes attended to also. so hope you will not find too great a change in me when we meet. I am trying my best to restore the few charms I once had, destroyed by the anxiety & worry, which have been mine, since we parted.

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I trust however my dear old Sam will not be too hard to please & make allowances for time's ravages also. I anxiously await your letters tomorrow, as Capt. Main has no doubt, letters for me on his steamer. God bless you dear. The little ones send all sorts of loving messages & are as eager as myself to be clasped in your dear arms once more. They talk all day long of the wonderful things they are gong to do when down with you & their plans are very funny.

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The Millers wrote this week & all were well - Mrs. Moon ditto. Well my darling, this long epistle will weary you, so au revoir. Heaven bless & preserve you, my darling. Mamma joins us all in love & the little ones send many sweet kisses. With many warm, affectionate embraces, believe in the deep love felt for you by

Your own true hearted, devoted, lonely
wifie: Maye

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When Hick's draft came had \$46.90 in bank - \$46.90 draft [195.33]
[borrowed] (Taylor) 148.43 on June 16th

draft for £ 60		<u>291.33</u>
	balance	142.90
	drew	<u>25.00</u>
		<u>117.90</u>
draft June 18th	£100	<u>486.66</u>
		604.56
Federal Life		<u>225.00</u>
balance		377.36

My bank book stands this way. Paid [illegible] \$16.00 for children out of \$25.00

Maye