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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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1513, 1st St. W.  
Calgary, Nov. 17th

My own darling boy,

As I told you in my letter written yesterday morning, your four letters of the 12th, 13th & 14th came safely & needless to say gave me much pleasure. I went down to see Annie this p.m. & spoke to her telling her ~~for~~ that Bagnall came to see me & we will speak the matter over - she seemed to fairly beam with delight & we may be able to come to some agreement. He has had a fair trial of outside work & people, & will perhaps be even more contented than ever to get back to his old work. Mrs. Macdonald has just been conversing with me over the phone & she says one cannot get good servant girls - they know nothing whatever about cooking & I may do far worse that take them back. Then I do not care to have a stranger come in to fix the furnace & Mr. Clark might not like to refuse, but might not like doing it.

I hope you will enjoy your dinner at the Pennefather's. You seem to enjoy music, particularly since you are in Winnipeg - may be, because it puts you in mind of home. I remember old Mr. Hespeler - what became of the son? The remark made by the B. child when Col. Evans was ill

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[shows] exactly how they spoke before her - also, how careful one should be in not allowing children to hear everything. What dinner took place at the Lt. Gov's, at which Earl Stanhope was present? I never heard of one.

When the Xmas cards come which I ordered, I shall keep a few, then send the rest to you, so that you can send them to whom you please, letting you know whom I favour. Those whom you remember will, no doubt, wonder at the size of the districts you now command (official ones, I mean.)

I cannot find the bill you asked for, but think I remember putting it in the purse you bought when last here. I know positively I saw the

bill in question & believe you will find it in one of your purses. The pocket book is here all right, but nothing in it. I am delighted you have been photographed in all your regalia & trust they will turn out a great success & I merely hope & pray that you will have many more taken, my dear boy. We will be taken together some day, when we can find an artist who can do us justice.

I got the cheque cashed today & paid Draper the \$5.00 borrowed for the chimney sweep & was glad to get rid of that debt.

If the weather was fine, your trip to Stoney Mt. was enjoyable - your chats about old times interesting, I am sure. I do not know if all would start in at Torla or if all would discuss matters together, but

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as you say, it is not easy to "down" Torla.

Has Louise been speaking of your virtues, dear? if so, it is a comfort she recognizes the fact, even if at this late day.

I have not had a letter from Mrs. Fall for a year. I suppose she thinks it is not worth while to keep up corresponding with one so far away. This will be the second only! she has been very good to have had only one, do you not think?

Tomorrow, Mrs. Mitchell, Judge Mitchell [sic] mother, an old lady, receives for the first time. Mrs. Macdonald pours tea & we have promised to call. Mrs. Lee & ~~Mrs. All~~ & Miss Lee also have an "At Home" & they want me to pour tea from 5 to 6 - we shall go there afterwards, taking in the two & a call as well. On Thursday evening, the Lee's give a dinner & are very anxious to have us present. I think I shall go.

Walter R. Johnston is not coming this way, is he? letters have come here for him, but I have readdressed them to Wall St.

Capt. Mackie went to Lethbridge on Monday morning. They came down on Sunday p.m. had supper & spent the evening. Mr. Vibert also came & both Capt. Mackie & ~~himself~~ he were on the train together. Mrs. Mackie came yesterday morning, spent the day with us. The Talbot's asked us over for a game of cards in

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the evening, so we went & had a nice time. Mr. Talbot walked down the short distance with me, Minnie & Mrs. Mackie going with Dr. & Mrs. Smith. Minnie is sleeping with Mrs. M. during her husband's absence. They came down about two, & left at 8:30, after dining here. They return tomorrow morning, so as to accompany me in the

afternoon. Capt. M. expects to return Thursday & will go to Banff & some other places on Friday & Saturday.

There is not much news. Burglars are busy any number of coats being stolen from hotels & private houses - they begin to see the necessity of more police, I fancy & people cannot leave their doors open now, as they did in the old days.

I asked Flora how she would like to remain until June in my last letter! I scarcely doubt her answer, & feel sure, she will be very indignant at the mere mention of such a thing - only six weeks more to Xmas! Just think of it - she will be wild with delight. She will go to the convent here, I suppose.

Well, my dear, it is long after ten & feeling tired & another letter to answer will end this one. All are well & join in much love to you my darling.

Hoping to hear from you tomorrow, I am, as ever

Your own devoted, lonely, loving little wifie,

Maye.

Cheque for Draper \$40.00 came safely - thanks.

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Calgary, Nov. 17th

My own darling boy,

The letter re servants received, as you know. I think it better they should go this month, as the 20th of Dec. is too near Xmas & would be very awkward. I would much like to see Draper's

letter, for I want to see his side of the story. I told you the main part of the business, but not all the details. If I cannot settle with Bagnall, then I shall advertize & do my best. It would be impossible to keep these; they are not efficient & do not like the children to pass through the kitchen or anything & when I have to go out, I like to know the children are all right. The fact of the matter is, they are too old & set in their ways & too old to learn.

The wages are good & we should be able to find some one. Bagnall comes tomorrow night to see me - he said he would take less wages & I shall do my best. I await a reply from you, doing all I can in the meantime.

God bless you, my darling. In haste,  
Your own loving wifie,  
Maye.