

2008.1.1.1.1.95

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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Oakleigh, St. Joseph St.
Tuesday, Apr. 8th

My own darling husband,

The mail unexpectedly brought me two letters from my own dear pet, & has therefore lightened my heart for the day, knowing you think of me when you find leisure to pen me a few lines daily. My own dear boy, how I miss you & long to see you once more – sometimes I feel as if you were still in the west & our marriage a thing of the future, instead of the past, & I shall welcome your return as warmly if not more so than I did on the 9th of January, when you arrived in Montreal & first pressed your little girl's hand after a years parting!!... I wrote you a long letter yesterday which will I trust prove welcome,

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particularly if the day is as dreary with you as with us, it being cold, windy & raining. No! dear I have seen nothing of Jim Clarke since your departure. Mr. Rae invited him to supper Sunday evening, but he had a previous engagement & was thus deprived of the pleasure of seeing me. I hope your cold is better my pet, - pray take care of yourself for my sake dear, & I am sure you require me near to give you a good rubbing when troubled with a pain & it would certainly get well. Do you mean you will return only ten days from Sunday last, spinning out your visit to a fortnight, or remain there ten days altogether? You know dear you must not leave me too long here without you, for I know Elmes wishes to have you for some days as well & as your leave is up by the 2nd we cannot loiter too long, as

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I shall have a great deal to attend to ere we depart. If we remain in Ottawa for a couple of days, that will also retard our reaching home as soon as we should, however you know best dear. The photos have not yet come though I expect them daily & will send them up as you desire. I have written Mrs. Mac as you know ere this & trust you are delighted to learn I have

done my duty so well. As you are so far [frae] me I endeavor to do what I think would please you were you near, so you see though your little girl sometimes fears she may have made a mistake, her heart is as warm & as full of love as of old for her own husband & sweetheart in one – in fact, it is owing to that deep affection that doubts assail her & almost break her heart when deprived of your presence & kind words for some hours – her heart is tender & true. she is proud & sensitive as well, so you cannot wonder at her.. God bless my own dear husband, is one of my most heartfelt prayers since we were united & time will but make my petition more fervent. I was anxious about the letters I forwarded fearing they might hasten your return – from what you say I am led to believe Major Cotton replaced you after all & not Supr. Gagnon. I would have gone out today to see about carpets but it is pouring so I dare not venture out – besides, it will be better for us to go together I think, as Frida would hardly find it pleasant to go with me on such an errand. We intended looking at Piano's [sic] on Thursday & Friday but the weather prevented our doing so & puts an end to our plans for today as well. Mr. Rae told me that piano company was in liquidation & should sell cheaply. It is far from town & I do not know the geography of the city sufficiently well to risk

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going out alone. Fred is so nice, accompanying me everywhere & is a dear little boy. I told him he was my beau during Uncle Sam's absence & he was greatly amused. I enjoyed my lunch & drive with Minnie H. very much. Elmes had to go to the Vestry meeting so Frida & I spent a quiet evening. Eugenie Hubert is to be married next Tuesday & I suppose we will have to send a little something – will you be back by then, my pet, for I would prefer your being with me if possible, then I would not have to break on the Easter card you see, another great consideration, is it not? I will now cease for today, as if I continue favoring you with such budgets you will get no rest whatever during our separation & I really should be merciful... Heaven bless my own dear husband & send him safely back to me – with very many sweet kisses to my own dear boy, I gracefully withdraw...

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Wednesday. I come this morning to continue this commenced yesterday & kept back until today in order that I might add a few words & not inflict you with a letter every day during your absence. Yesterday afternoon Mrs. [Baius] who is to be one of the guests at dinner tomorrow evening called on me – she is very nice. Mrs. Fraser & her youngest daughter also came &

invited me to spend Friday there. It cleared up a little & ceased raining towards evening thus making our theatre going more pleasant. We had Dr. & Mrs. Walker with us, great friends of Elmes & Frida's – they are an agreeable couple I assure you, especially the Dr. – she is very deaf, but is a dainty little creature. We were very much disappointed in the Opera & the voices were really not even the average kind we expected. [Summer] Abbott has failed very much since last I heard her & spoils the simple well known airs, by introducing trills

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& runs to show off a thin voice with very little music left in it now – her dresses were the best part of the performance. All the rest were on a par & when one hears such songs as “The Heart [illegible] down” & “Then you'll remember me” sung as the Col. & others of my own family can sing them, the way in which these operatic companies render them is very tame indeed! – Today is another dreadful day & the rain ceases not – we are asked to the Walker's to spend the evening & will I suppose go, for it is not very far from here. I have taken a slight cold but would be quite at a loss to say how, when or where – it will soon go however, so it does not worry me. I wore a high necked dress last night so do not fancy it is that & I am taking good care of myself too, so be at rest with regard to my health. I heard from Mamma last week, going down to the Queen's on Saturday for any letter that might have come. They were all well & she intended going to see the boys Easter Monday & attend their concert. the farmer, William left on the 1st amid tears & lamentations but Papa would not take him back on any consideration. Alice returned home only on the Thursday & Mamma was thus alone for some days after our departure. I am sorry, as they must have found the house extremely quiet with every one of us away. Well, my own dear pet, I must now say bye-bye. Your time is precious & you want all your spare moments for dear old Uncle John if I may call him so – give him my fond love please, & has he not a photo to spare in order that I may see his kind, old face? With very many sweet kisses to you, my own one, hoping to see you at no very distant day, & with a heart filled to the brim with

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warm, true love, believe me

Your own affectionate wee

Wife.

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