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Marie Steele to Sam Steele

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26 Ste Famille St
Jan 19th 1902

My own darling boy,

Again a fortnight has almost elapsed without a letter from you & once more my heart is away down weary with watching for your dear letters day after day & which do not come! Your last are dated Dec 3rd & 4th & answered long ere this as you know. Just a year ago, but the 21st you sailed from Capetown on your long journey home – what a lot has happened since then!

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Your stay among us at times seems to have been almost a dream & at this rate the year will soon pass by! Are we to meet & be together? is the question that arises in my mind, almost a thousand times in the [illegible]? February nears & we must tell our landlord our plans, if the house were only in better condition, we might, to spare ourselves the trouble of moving, be tempted to keep it on for another six months.

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It is rather nice in summer, but we would not care to stay another winter, as it requires too much repairing & the old judge will do nothing as you know. I fancy it is because he is so advanced in years, that he thinks it is not worth his while to fix the house, as others will soon be looking after it. He is hale & healthy however & likely to live for many years yet. Well, we will see what turn things will take where you are & how they will be here. The press gives us hopes of terms of peace being soon arranged through De Kuyper, Premier of Holland, although I must confess I have little faith in newspaper reports. Things are very slow just now. The cheap sales are going on & not knowing where we will be, I feel no inclination to purchase things which may be useless if we remain here, having sufficient already for a place where I do not go out very much. I am busy with some small things for Mabel which will, I fancy suit her. She writes in good spirits & John & herself

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never fail to wish to be remembered to you when she writes. Marie [Gus] lost one of her little nephews this week – the child ate all [kinds] on N. Year's day, got severe indigestion then pneumonia, inflammation of the bowels, meningitis which they succeeded in turning off, then peritonitis finally killed him; he was

three & a half, a fine fellow. There are very few [Masson's], only one small boy in the ex-Lieut. Gov's family now. Naturally they feel it keenly as his father died a year ago last summer.

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Ours are so far keeping well & will I hope continue so. While not fleshy, they are in fine health. I do hope you are well too, my darling. I understand where you now are, anyway! Was not Mr [Dobell's] death very sudden? I see Lord S. I took cold at his funeral, he is old & must take care of himself. I have no news, having received no letters this week from any friends. God bless & keep you until we meet again. All join in fond love & the little ones send many sweet kisses to dear old Papa. Again Heaven bless you is the prayer of your own, true, devoted, lonely little wifie,

Maye

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