

2008.1.1.1.1.113

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

Macleod, June 12th 98.

My dear old Boy,

I have your dear letters of the 17th 19th 25th & 27th here before me at the present moment & will answer them one after the other. My heart went down when I read in your first that you hoped I was becoming reconciled to our separation for I judge from that that you did not expect me to go up to you, my dear. Now, my darling I have been praised on all sides for my wise decision in wishing to be near you & our little ones united to you again, still one word from you, dear will change my mind & if you will tell me, "Go East, it is my wish" I shall certainly do so – it is not too late. if you desire it, write Major Perry who will wire me as I will know your decision more speedily in that way. I cannot write you in what way Spicer is not to be trusted. he is dangerous in many ways & does not keep his tongue quiet, not being careful in his remarks. Besides he seems to imagine himself an Adonis & ~~irrestib~~ irresistible in every way. However I very seldom see him. I hear entre nous several of the Sergts. are in his bad graces, Morris, Pattison & one or two others. the

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

former is under arrest & comes up before the O.C. whose mind is somewhat poisoned. I cannot say what the charge is, but I believe there is no truth in whatever it may be. Another thing is, that Spicer was the man who wrote what was going on here to Regina, & not Martin as was believed. Of course, dear, as I said in one of my previous letters if you are going to be away most of the time & that I shall be alone with my little ones, far better for me to remain here or I should say go East. Uncle Henry wrote me such a nice letter, which I would send only I am not near to translate it for you – he speaks of you in the highest terms & wishes you all success. He also praises me for joining you saying "life is too short & uncertain for husband & wife to live apart for years". It is a very hard thing for me to decide & "be positive that it is all for the best". I do not know the country, climate, the food we have or anything, so judge how very hard my position

is. I think we could live more economically together than apart & retrieve our shattered finances, but, as I said dear, it is not yet too late – one word from you will do it. Regie has his appointment, so Uncle says &

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

the official notice en route. \$60 for six months, rations, & house etc – what is he to do after that? I really do not think he will accept. he is doing well in Pincher Creek – he has been here since Friday evening & will leave tomorrow or Tuesday. If he does not go, he intends buying or building & Mamma will likely come & spend the summer with him, Alice remaining also. Now I take up yours of the 19th which found us in fairly good health. I am glad you like the book I sent by Mr. Jephson. I have seen letters in the press in which the police are highly praised by every one & particularly nice things about you. Your letter contains news but none that I can write much about. Yours of the 25th speaks of the power of Atty which I have acknowledged long ere this. I went to see Mr. McKenzie but he is absent in Lethbridge, likely to return tomorrow, so I will go again. He received your letter, but have not seen him yet. The two hundred I acknowledge also at once. I commenced negotiations for withdrawing money from “Loan & Savings” but could not complete the business – I looked for Certificate but cannot find it. Denham McLean said it would be all right. The police distinguish themselves everywhere – they must have been pleased at winning [illegible] of war & etc at sports. Do not worry about things – they will, I hope

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

right themselves soon. If I go to you, I will leave somewhere about the beginning of the 2nd week of July. I see the trails are in very bad condition, Mrs. Wood having put off her trip for that reason. I have written Major Perry asking for dates of departure of steamers “City of Seattle” & “Islander” as you desire me to go by them. Mr. Haney is I hear, in trouble over the verdict of the Comr. of the C.N.R. Judge Dugas & companions. I told you what Alec said re sale of stock, in fact, sent his letter to you. Mr. Sanders wrote his wife that parties were looking at the mine “Empire” I think & found it a splendid property. You evidently enjoyed your lunch with Mr. Lyon very much indeed if you could scarcely walk home after † eating so heartily. Capt. [Rand] will be a great swell with his nice large house. I sent you papers & marked several paragraphs including that of Mr. White’s son’s death, feeling sure you would write him. I also mentioned it in a letter written the same day which must have been lost. Mr. Jarvis must be lonely

if he is perfectly alone & will have lots of time for reflection & dreams of by-gone days. He wrote Elmes some time ago & seemed in fairly good spirits. I had a few ladies in to a small tea on Thursday. Mrs. Wroughton, Sanders, Casey

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

Davidson, (Costigan invited but did not come as well as Mrs. Haultain who has measles, Mrs. Barnes whose boy was ill, failed me also) Ives, Mrs. & Miss Whitney, Clare & Mrs. George [Mansell] who happened to be in Barracks & Mrs. Morden who was expected but did not come in time. Mrs. Costigan thought it was a meeting to arrange an entertainment for Father Labret & as she does not seem to care particularly for the Catholics, (they are not stylish enough?) she regretted she was indisposed – she got badly left, when today, after church she heard it was a tea to meet some ladies she seemed rather put out. Father Labret asked me to get up something before I go & the poor old man I could not refuse him. Mrs. Costigan is thick with the C. of S. people – they move to Ottawa at the end of the month, he going too I believe. Your letter of June 1st received yesterday but yours of the 31st or previous dates not received yet – presume it will come tomorrow. In your letters you always spoke of the clothes from England being wanted for next spring – of course, as our spring was over I thought you meant for / 99 so have not ordered them yet, but will do so per this mail. I am awfully sorry dear, but you will forgive me, I hope. You have several suits of civilian clothes here which I will bring or send up, still will order a new suit if

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

you wish it. Also will buy [atomizer] if one is not already sent & Klondyke sleeping bag as well. I wrote asking about what I should do re carpets etc piano & all sometime ago, also about kind of stove you wished me to bring, but so far have no answer. Good night – it is late & I feel very tired. God bless you my darling & keep you safely until we meet again.

Tuesday. June 14th. I have waited for letters but none came by Mondays mail so I will have to close this. My poor boy has German measles now or scarletina [sic]. Marie got them some three weeks ago, got better & I hoped all would escape, but yesterday when he awakened he was covered with them. It does aggravate [sic] me when I have so much to do & he so restless he is scarcely out of my arms. Marie goes about so much now, that she I think brought them again after a few visits down town. Regie will remain here I feel sure. The other little ones so far are well enough. God bless you dear. Alice joins in fond love & the little ones kiss their own dear

Papa. With sweet kisses from me, hoping to hear soon again, believe me
Your ever affectionate & true
wifie
Maye.
[/pg 6]