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Marie Steele to Sam Steele
5 sheets

[pg 1]

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

My own darling boy,

Yours of the 13th reached me yesterday & of course was speedily perused & enjoyed, receiving the usual warm welcome, my darling. "Your enormous muscles must be stretched at the [developer]" ere you commence a letter to me, eh! dear?

Our dear children are well, thank God. Torla has been at the convent for a little concert given by her class this p.m. & a [party] after - it is now almost nine & she has not yet returned. She was to dance an Irish jig for them in honour of the day, but I cannot tell you how the affair came off until she comes in. Gertrude & Harwood are both reading.

Well, Torla has come in simply delighted at the success that crowned her efforts & the compliments paid her about her dancing. She had a fine time & is at peace with all the world, I am happy to say.

I attended a meeting of a new society formed here & which they requested me to join "The children's

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

aid society". They put me on the committee - it is undenominational & Father Jan & M^r. Valiquette & myself represent the Catholic's [*sic*]. It was very nice. M^{rs}. Jamisson (Mayoress) M^{rs}. Burns, Deaconess [Lampart], Ensign Coombs, & Burch (S. Army) M^{rs}. Cushing represent the other churches as well as M^r. W^m Pearce, D^r. Scott (schools) R^{ev}. M^r. Kirby & another minister, M^r. John [Niblock] (Pres) & one or two others - it was a very representative gathering & I was proud of the honour conferred upon me. Even if I am not here for very long it enables me to meet these people. Needless to tell you there will be plenty to do, but it is fairly well organized now & with such men on the committee it cannot but do a world of good.

The box containing belts & ties came safely yesterday & we are charmed with them - it is too bad the silk belt is only 20 in. as both Torla & myself are not such sylph's as we need to be! I could have worn that once, but alas! that day is passed. They could have made it as large as possible by using the silk on the length instead of the width & it makes no difference

in the look of it.

The letter you received from Murray is most encouraging & I am sure pleased you very much. I return it, as you desire - soon if there is

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

no money in it, the book would be most valuable to Canadians, containing so many historical facts - it would also be a great incentive to boys to read such records & spur them on to do likewise.

Very nice of you, my dear to give me a little credit for any good I may have done. If I have not always succeeded it has not been through lack of affection but judgement.

If once written, the manuscript could be improved upon by yourself, I will willingly help, if I am near.

I introduced myself to M^r. [Niblock] & M^r. Kirby, the former was delighted to meet me - asked about you, - of course, both did.

M^{rs}. Evans may prove most agreeable, my dear - you get on well with the fair sex you know.

You will have your time well taken up on the 24th at "the Old Timers" banquet. Be sure & send me "the free Press" about it, as I like reading all about these things. I shall see if I have any papers - if we move will be my chance, as we can open the boxes.

Torla got the letter about Jerry & will omit nothing in her book.

M^{rs}. Cross remained in Montreal having had or is to have an operation & M^r. Cross brought the two children

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

children home - they have since developed scarlet fever. M^{rs}. Macleod is there with two nurses.

I told you measles were epidemic in Lethbridge. Poor Norman Macleod lost a fine girl of thirteen it seems - complications set in. There were once seven hundred (700) cases, but I cannot say if there were many deaths.

There is a dance tonight in Sherman's rink. the [sic] Irish give it in place of the banquet.

Yours of the 14th is now open before me. I wrote you on Monday night & in case I have to go out tomorrow evening, I thought I would inflict you tonight.

Miss Urqhart keeps house for her uncle, Frank Hunter I believe.

Yes, Minnie Pringle, youngest daughter of Judge Pringle of Cornwall is M^{rs}. Aylmer. I fancy her husband may be a nephew of Lord Aylmer. She is

the one who lived in Peterbro [sic] & has two daughters, twins, who were known as the heavenly twins I believe. They lived in Coteau for a long time & one of them is engaged to be married. She was Maude Allan's intimate friend (M^{rs}. Kennedy) & they were married within a few weeks of each other, M^{rs}. Aylmer first, Maude being her bridesmaid. The Aylmer's [sic] lived in Montreal for a time as well - think they were married about ^{Aug or} Sept./84. Kenny Kennedy was born some nine months after the marriage, was she not, so you can tell from that. I know she was a baby when

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

the rebellion broke out. M^{rs}. Aylmer is a sister of Bob Pringle's who used to be in the west, if I mistake not.

There is not much news. I am kept fairly busy as usual - go to D^r Smith who sprays my throat daily to try & cure it that I may be able to sing.

M^{rs}. Howe is having a few friends in tomorrow evening, just six or seven, so we will be there - go out very seldom, I assure you.

Well, dear I shall say good night & pleasant dreams - had a letter from Frank who hopes to have Esther home about the 22nd - she is much better.

All join in fondest love & many sweet kisses from all. God bless & keep you dear, until we meet again. Very many warm hugs & embraces from

Your own loving, lonely little wife,
Maye.

[/pg 5]