

2008.1.1.1.1.35

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

Vaudreuil
April 28th / 89.

My own darling Sam,

You know not how anxious I have been to write, as my last was penned under difficulties, owing to two little cousins who would be nice to "Auntie Maye" as they call me. I remained in Montreal longer than I intended, as it poured incessantly for three days: it brightened up Saturday a little, but is making up for it today, as if it had not rained at all. Needless to say it has done good & the country looks well, but we have had enough of it at present. My own pet I went to hear "Erminie" on Thursday & enjoyed it very much. Mr. Cowie gave me an exquisite bunch of roses, which of course, made me look quite charming. he was very nice & made my heart feel glad & proud at all the pleasant things he had heard of my pet. he congratulated me very sincerely on the man I had consented to make happy & said "as we were both so worthy of each other, our life should be a happy one" – In one part of the opera, soldiers come on the stage & drill as the Capt. who by the way, was a very pretty girl, gave the different commands, I felt my face warm. as he said "Forward – march" his voice was so like yours, the day

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

of the review of "D" division, that my face crimsoned. Mr. Cowie noticed it & asked the reason, never giving me a second's rest till I told him. the whole of that afternoon was before me. my supposed haughty manner, your "I do not care" look as you seemed to me, all flashed through my mind & I, though far from you, was very near in spirit, pet. Owing to the rain I did not

go out at all on Friday. While shopping on Saturday I met Mr. C. & he insisted upon my lunching with him & then walked to the station with me. He intends spending the summer here, as it will be the last one for we know not how long, when our family will be together: he is Papa's intimate friend, & they spent the day on Tuesday together, going out to some exhibition of horses, to the Park & several other places. I was praising up my pet & hoped he would like him. "Well, Maye, if one can believe what every one says he must be a particularly fine fellow." Of course, I endorsed all that was said & felt pleased. I expected to find my usual third letter a week awaiting my perusal, but was disappointed. Yours of the 16th was forwarded to Montreal & gave me infinite pleasure, as you can imagine. I trust my darling will always think me "the dearest & sweetest little girl" even after we will have been many a long day together & that his love, now so ardent, will ever find me worthy of all his true affection! –

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

Heaven bless you, my pet, for your sweet words which to me are so dear. Were you not so much to me & I to you, my letters would not be looked for & the pleasure of writing would be sadly lessened; but the amount of feeling which unites us is such, that it is, next to ~~your~~ reading your dear letters, writing in answer, which is my greatest enjoyment. The Cottons had a nice visit no doubt, & the bride must be a warm admirer of Mrs. K.'s, after being a guest of hers some days. It is too bad to deprive the married ladies of the Force of their most gallant & charming officer, but I am too selfish to give you up, unless at your own earnest desire, wishing to have more of the delights of your society having tasted them sufficiently to long for more & anticipating happiness. You know well, pet, all your friends I will be nice to, & very often the rough diamonds are the truest. The qualities of the heart & mind are there, even if not polished by a good education & they are the most sincere, not being familiar with all the deceit one meets with in a society man. Your Kootenay friend will be welcome, whenever he comes & right well my darling knows it. Do not fancy for one moment I should not care to have the saddle sent down – it is not that, for I would dearly love to

see it – it is owing to my being such a matter-of-fact little girl, no doubt. You understand me, I hope & feel you do. besides, you are the one I wish to go with, so you must not scold me, if I reserve the pleasure for the time when you are near. Were I in the city, saddle horses are easily found, but in the country it is different. So you think “the time is drawing near” – well so it is, surely & rather quickly too. Mr. Cowie was teasing me & would not be surprised if I sent “my Major a telegram to come immediately, November was too far away”. I told him that was not my style. You must not praise me too much to your family & sister, for they will be very much disappointed when they meet the country lassie who has woven such a web around your great warm heart. God bless you, my own one, for all your love & may it bring you happiness is my heartfelt prayer, my darling!. We will have time to meet Mrs. Henderson, unless your leave is not of the length you thought of attaining. come a week later if that will give you more time after – that is not a [hit brick?], is it, my pet? – You wish me to dispense with a chaperon, by saying “your sister will do” – but you forget, she is in Toronto & we will not see her till we visit that city. What then? solve the problem, if you can. It is my wish that your marriage would make you better off than before, & I will endeavor to do all possible to prove it was not a mistake. My letter written on the 19th may have surprised you, but my blood was very hot & as there is a little Scotch in it, you can perhaps imagine

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

how I felt when I wrote it. I may have been wrong, but as you are so dear to me, I said just what was in my mind. You are not to blame in any way, & trust you believe I was provoked at the time by things well meant, but which would have been better left unsaid. The trunks will not be troublesome once on the train, it will be the little girl then – my mind is made up & not likely to change about going with you – it is for your sake I want a chaperon, to keep you company, my pet. You will soon weary of ten dozen kisses per day & the pleasure would soon be a task were you put to the test. I firmly believe you are not so fond of sweets as you would wish me to imagine & think you must pretend, if only for a month or so. I might not

think the number too large, but you would lack the patience to sip the honey & would give up in a short time. Now you know, my pet, when you spoke of furniture & asked my idea on the subject, I told you exactly what I thought – as we are not silly children, too much occupied with love to think of anything else, I had several thoughts of economy while depriving ourselves of nothing so ventured to tell you in a round about way. I know not why some fancy I shall expect a perfect palace & wish to have everything as soon as married. I know the country I am to reside in, know the salary of my

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

future husband & have a good notion of the cost of every thing. I cannot say whether people imagine my head will be turned with the duties I am to undertake, or whether I shall be filled with pride at being your wife & desire to live beyond your means, or what it is, but certainly I need not be told not to be too extravagant at first. I shall say no more on the subject & would not even have said as much, did I not know you to be discretion itself & that you will not, by either look or deed, let persons see you know it. Of course, you may imagine how hurt I was & sometimes I may be hot-headed, but I give credit to persons for having sound sense when they have not proved they lacked it. As you said several times you would fix up a little, then said you would not, I ventured to say what I thought. You are not the kind to deprive yourself of anything when you require it & knowing it, I spoke. If you like to furnish all before, it will be nice I know & give me great pleasure, my darling, as it will be but another proof of your love. I know not whether you mean it when you say I “am the most sensible young lady you have ever heard of or met,” or if you had a sarcastic curl on your dear lips when you wrote it but, not

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

having perhaps been as intimate with any one before, you had not the opportunity of judging them. There are many like me, my pet; if you had met, you should have admired them as much. You know right well, love is

all for me & if I had not loved you, I never should have said yes – it is everything of consequence & I trust you are not commencing to doubt me. it would break my heart, to have you do so, when I have done nothing to deserve it. I have been faithful to you in thoughts & words, & love you far more dearly than I did the day I consented to be your own. Were you near, perhaps you would be surprised at the tears you would be called upon to kiss away, that even the thought of your doubting me has caused to flow: my own darling, vanish the cruel doubt which somehow or other I feel was in your mind when you wrote the paragraph “if love is of any consequence” ect [sic] - - - !!! You understand my motive, do you ~~know~~ not? You know your little girl better than many others, who fancy they do. I am what I have been to you. I did not put on for your sake & was natural. Forgive me for writing so much on that subject; if I could but see you, five minutes conversation would set everything right. Louise is better now, though her cough was very obstinate. It would have taken but one look into your eyes to make the saddle as good a place as the reserve; knowing it, I could not stand the temptation, so kept mine steadily turned in the opposite direction & even after being asked to give you one glance, did not dare trust myself. You did not fail in the attack as you know, only the fortress resisted a little longer. My trip West certainly did me good, every one finds me looking so well. I wonder what you would have thought of me had you seen me when but a few months old! This is such a strange world!!.. I trust you will never find me cross. I do not lose my temper or get impatient at home, why should I when with the one who is so dear to my heart? I feel sure that you will be kind & good to me, my darling. Keep my letters – I keep yours & find many a moment of pleasure in reading them over & when we have nothing better to do, can read one after the other, like the chapters of a book. I hope you like the one I sent you. it is a novel of the day & may be too light to suit you, but it will help pass the time, if it should happen to hang heavily in your hands. Your fond expressions of affection towards the end of your letter console me for the fears I entertained

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

when perusing the middle portion & make me so happy. I am not angry at your words, though I told you before, your soul could not be mine. Your heart & mind I desire & the soul I will help you to save. I know I have folded myself around your heart & you can say the same of yourself, my darling. Your clasp is firm – my heart & love are true to the one whom I so dearly love & will to the end. When you know me better, you will be certain of my truth & constancy & if ever you did doubt, regret it. I could not write on Easter Sunday, as my two brothers & Mr. Drayner were here – that I told before. Easter Monday, they were here also, & going to Montreal on Tuesday, I could not do so either. Mr. Freddie D. spoke very highly to Alice of you. Knew you well, having lived with you for some time & said many nice things. Charlie [Cristine] said he knew you well too & joined the general voice in sounding your praise. You never can imagine how it pleases me, my own darling, & to have every one anxious to meet such a nice fellow as my pet. it, if anything causes my heart to throb faster & makes me wish to see you, long before I will have the pleasure.

Grandmamma will be here some time in May

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

so Lex will leave about the 15th no doubt, since he is to meet her. It is well she is not here at present, as the rain would be very disagreeable – it is pouring steadily still & there seems to be no break in the clouds. Papa & Richard, my brother in law went to see our college boys & attended an entertainment given by Auguste's class. he acted among the number & they were charmed with the music & all. it is a good institution & Papa is very much pleased with our boys, as they head their classes. They speak of forming a choir for May, but it might fall through as the Easter one for female & male voices did. The latter sang a very nice mass & succeeded better than we fancied they would. The brass band is also very good. The hotel is to open on the 1st of May & will be well patronized this season. They are building several new houses at the station & all looks very pretty. If you could see it at its best!! – Please give the enclosed to Mrs. Mac. I hope she is well & that she will go out, now that Lent is over. I got over it

very well, better than ever before as it used to fatigue me a good deal, but, I must be stronger this year: the riding did it. My letter must now draw to an end, as it is quite long enough. God bless you, my own darling Boy,

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

write soon again. You missed a mail this week but as you may be busy I forgive you. With many sweet kisses, believe me, with all the love I could possibly give to man all yours, ever

Your

own dear Sweet

little Girl.

[/pg 9]