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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil
March 10th / 89.

My own Darling Sam,

Your dear short letter of the 26th reached me on Thursday last & gave me endless pleasure, intermingled with a little pain, as I saw from yours that what I had told you of the Comr. hurt you. I regretted before having mentioned it to you, still I thought it would be well to warn you, one hardly ever being certain of sincere friends – certainly he acts as if he had unlimited confidence in you my pet, & recognizes your ability & faithful performance of all your duties. When I hear anything unfavorable of you, it rises my ire & of course woman like, I tell you; just as I wish you to do to me when anything disparaging to your little girl reaches your ears. You must have enjoyed your dinner at Mr. Campbell's as much as Mrs. K.'s society & where gentlemen only are concerned, I beleive [sic] she can be very amiable, fond as she is of their company. Ah! You fraud, I think

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the "Baronet's daughter" has a charm for you too, & I trust you enjoyed the ball on the 4th sufficiently to make up for the one you missed when you suffered so much from a toothache. If the lady Mr. W. was so anxious to meet graced the dance by her majestic presence, I hope he made a complete conquest of her large heart & that she has any amount of gold, to make up for whatever beauty she may lack. So you like the sweet words which will now & then persist in being written & give me no peace until they

are down in black & white. I feel so much love for you, my darling, that it eases my heart to tell sometimes. did I not do so, I think it would burst, filled as it is with love for my own dear pet, so far from me. So many letters from me must overwhelm you. I must not write too often, as reading so much, will wear you away to a mere shadow of your former self. Do not ask me what I might have done the morning we left for the Mts. – it will keep & I will tell you later: all I will say now, is that my heart was very, very sore & that I could not seek for th~~e~~ consolation in the

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place I loved best & fancied I might find it. Perhaps you will relish very much having some one to care for & depending on you for all. I hope so & will try & make the task as pleasant & easy as possible. I am anxious to see how well you will perform your duty!!..I write of the domestic arrangements because I cannot wait until you come & we return to have all attended to, & I know full well, you understand your little girl well enough, to know the motives which prompt me to write as I do. Men who break hearts are thought a great deal of by women who have no hearts to break or win – a true woman despises a flirt or a man whose aim seems to be to disturb domestic felicity. Papa received the blue book in due time & appreciated your report very much. We had seen the paragraph in the Comr.'s report before you mentioned it. Of course, I did not read your report once it having very little of interest to me! Mr. Drayner, who is at present in Quebec wrote Louise the other day that the beautiful Freddy was coming down towards the end of the month with Mr. Royal. he requested permission to bring him out for a day or so. I must say I do not care to receive him. he seems a hateful imp & after the way he acted towards Lex, my desire to meet him, is less than ever. Papa came in from the post office on Friday & handed me yours of the 27th saying “a long letter from Macleod” – as soon as I caught sight of the two stamps, my heart gave a great bound, being sure of the pleasure of perusing a six sheet letter – but alas! three sheets was all my

darling had written. however, they were eagerly read, I blush to say how often & gave me infinite delight, my pet. The old fashioned names are very sweet coming from you, & until we can find something nicer, I will be quite content with them; they are sufficient, since they express how dear I am to my pet!. I am sure you must have missed Lex & Mrs. Mac. I know what separation is – the trip to the Mts. taught me that – then the days you were off in Stand-off proved that I never should be happy again, if the pleasure of meeting you in the distant future & loving you were deprived me. You did return the Majah's look a little

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defiantly the day she called & led me to believe you seemed proud to be able to do it. You see, pet, my eyes cannot flash as brown or black ones can, that is the reason the expression is so different – but love can be reflected & brighten them. for they say “the eye is the mirror of the Soul” & will reveal *bon gré mal gré*, the state of the affections. it is no wonder then, that mine can give you such sweet looks as you say, if love is what they make known to my pet. If you sometimes saw them now, when your portrait is all I have before me!!! I certainly prefer ducks to geese, so do you though you will not own up to it. As we both will strive to be worthy of one another, we could not win a better prize. I am amply rewarded!!. Your heart is high enough for me to reach & since I have found such a warm resting place, am quite content to remain there provided I always meet with the same affection & trust, which have been mine so far. So you will remain until January 1, but I want you to tell me as soon as you can, what month you desire to come & carry me away – as I wish to be ready, so that you may not have to

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put off, the sooner I know the better – one has to dress according to the

season, you know my pet, that is why I wish to be sure when you can come for me. of course, if you prefer waiting until January, & to come for me just before your leave expires, it will suit me as well & will, possibly, be the same with you; so do not be backward in letting me know ~~the~~ your pleasure. The trip with the Ogre or Evil king does not frighten me, knowing his dear kind heart of old. Were it otherwise, I might be a wee bit reluctant!!... I believe Lex told you we called you two “The pets” – if not, I told on myself – however, it does not matter very much as I have called you, my own darling pet, pretty often since our correspondence first commenced. You can teach me forever if you have patience enough to do it, as I will always have something to learn from you, & the pupil will be as apt as in the old days I trust, though the bond will be strengthened by then, with chains that death alone can sever. My little niece made a very bold dash for the ink bottle & caused that very ugly blot on this paper, which I hope you will excuse. She is just tall enough now to grasp everything she can put her dear little

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little fingers on. You will be fully in my confidence later on, when you hear all the trials your little girl has met with & I know the ready sympathy I will receive from my darling. Mrs. Mac has found out several times that she judged me very wrongly when influenced by persons whom she had the utmost confidence in, & whom I found very insincere & would stop at nothing to attain their own aims - luckily I am of a forgiving nature, [to] seemingly forget, otherwise all might not run so smoothly. Lex thinks well of me, I know, & with reason, as I have proved to him, that I was not to be trifled with & was a sincere friend. You know by one of my last letters that Miss Hubert says it was one of your nephews she met. I knew my letter of the 21st would be a surprised – that was why I sent it through Mrs. Mac & commenced it so coolly, to what I usually do, fearing it might perchance open indiscreetly. My going so far makes Mamma sad – the other day I

laughingly said “would you like me to give the Major up, Mamma?” I wish you had seen her face! “Not for the world would I wish such a thing” she replied. You see being the eldest, I have been with her longest & more of a companion than my sisters, there being three years difference between Mrs. Hubert & myself. Louise will live much nearer home, as she will reside in Montreal, as well as Mr. H. You can well understand the feeling which makes me sad – we are a large family & have been, all things considered a happy one. the boys, that is, four of them are younger than the girls; they are growing up, & being nice boys, we love them very dearly. My going so far, will be the first in the old home, as Mrs. Hubert has been with us a great deal since she married. But for all that, the home ~~his~~ I willingly sever to share your company & love – the affection I bear you seems to make it easier for me to leave them all & I will do it, rather than part with you, my own darling. & once more, I tell you, you are the only man I would ever go so far with – if that is not proof of my deep love, I can do nothing more. Mrs. Pritchard must have been annoyed at the minstrels. I would have been, still her old name could warrant any amount of play being indulged in. I fear, my pet is quite accustomed to compliments, though you pretend I only give them – what I say is truth, not compliments & as such, must be believed. Mrs. Neale will no

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doubt remain in Lethbridge for good. she will not be able to make up her mind to go so far, even if her health permitted. he will be very lonely, I am sure, as he loves her dearly. Were you to be ordered to the other end of the world & I, your wife, you should not go one step without me: if you were to be happy, I should envy you, with distance between us – if miserable, well, I should never be that with you to share the exile. so go I would. I hope we shall remain long in Macleod, once settled there – the people are nice enough & I know the place, so will not feel such a stranger!! How did Lex & Capt. N. arrange things? I think Mrs. Neale was very mean not to give even

one flower to Mrs. Mac before she left M. I hope Mrs. N. is improving in health since she has changed her place of residence. I am glad you are in the house, as Mrs. Mac will feel she has some friend near. You must tell me how you have everything fixed, I take pleasure in all your doings my love. The last sentence in the gospel of Sunday last was "Where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also". Woman

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like one thought caused my heart to traverse the many, many miles between us, & I was with you & imagined how true it is. My whole heart my mind are forever with my darling – I see you everywhere & fancy as the hours fly by, I can follow you, in all your duties. I see you cross the square as you had to do when I was near, ever so many times a day – often, I was in the window, hidden from you, but where I could see my pet whenever he came into sight of my loving, watchful eyes. What do you find to occupy you on the long Sunday afternoons, having no little girl to come see? I do miss you so much sometimes & would give a great deal for one glance from your dear, kind eyes. I never counted the days as I now do, never & never longed to meet anyone as I do you. The time is passing surely & once the summer comes, will I am positive, pass but too quickly for you. I cannot keep my hand steady today – it is shaking so that I can scarcely write, but hope you will be able to understand this all right. I hope you are well my own pet & take good care of yourself for my sake. You say

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"you send me sweet kisses if I think you capable of giving such". Why, pet I never tasted any sweeter as far as I am concerned – of course, I speak for myself only – those I send are as sweet as I can possibly make them, though that may not be saying much. Well, my own dear pet, I will say bye-bye. Trusting to hear from you soon, with fondest love & ever so many

of the sweets, in fact, enough to satisfy you, I remain Ever,

Your own dear

little Girl.

I am almost ashamed to send this letter – that baby has come so often that she has made my letter quite untidy looking, there being so many blots all owing to the little pet. I hope you forgive me for them – will do better next time.

Maye.

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