

2008.1.1.1.1.203

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste Famille St  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1902

My own darling boy,

How are you this morning dear? quite well I trust & feeling rested after a fine sleep. Mamma, Torla & myself have been to church & as usual, the first duty I perform is my letter to you. It is pouring rain & the snow in consequence is fast disappearing – it has been mild for a couple of days as well, so that there is a feeling of spring in the air. The grass, where we see it in patches is getting green, the sparrows are keeping up a

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

perpetual chatter & quarrelling all the time, so winter is surely going much to our delight I assure you as it has been a long one. There is not much news to give you this time. I wrote Mr Jayne this week, having owed him one for some months or since Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. He is very touchy you know, & while I do not care much for him I feel sorry for the poor fellow – he seems to be so bitter & has evidently had anything but a happy life – even his childhood seems to have been so, if one can judge him ~~se~~, from his cynical ways. He professes to have an ardent admiration & friendship for you, my dear & I suppose

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

he is sincere! He is spending the winter in Vancouver & if he knows of the stories which have been spread about you, might help you unravel the mystery of their source, if confided in. Of course, I said nothing. I had a letter from James Henderson which I enclose. It just kills me to hear him call me May & to speak of his wife to me, as “Mrs Henderson” - Is that etiquette? if so, I must be very much out of it. I always call him Mr H-- & answered his at once. Knowing the reason of his letter, which was of course his desire to get the money he has disbursed in your name since Jan for Uncle John, I told him I had sent \$60.00 about the 18<sup>th</sup>, your contribution for six months & said it was at your request. Now, Uncle John has not as yet acknowledged it & I keep wondering why. I much fear he has got an idea in his head again about my not remaining long at his house in the summer, but how can I? Miss [Curry] was about at the time & the place too small for so many. Anyway I have done all in my powers & although, as I said before had written three letters & sent the money mentioned, have had no answers.

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

If he does not write in another week I will pen him a few lines & ask him if the money has reached him. I sent it by express, but the next time will send it to Ross, the private banker, in Coldwater. I do everything for the best & I much fear the old gentleman misunderstands my motives & misjudges me in consequence. I do not care anyway, he will know you, give him something & are not the selfish man some people try to make out. I will have you get your due & I care for no more. I see by last night's "Star" which of course, you will have also, that Sir Wilfred is to introduce the

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

bill respecting pensions for N.W.M.P. officers, so it is pretty sure to be settled this session. It will be such a comfort to have the matter argued & decided on soon – it will help you make up your mind too, I fancy. I await proceedings with the greatest anxiety I can tell you. I met Mrs. James Ross & her sister, Mrs. Orr in [Morgan's] the other day – the former came up to me & introduced Mrs. Orr – Mrs. R. told me she was off to England on the 5<sup>th</sup> so her stays here are very short ones. I may call tomorrow although it is not their day.

I see Mrs. W. Hope gave a tea last week, but not being in the [swim] I was not included. I went to call

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

about three weeks ago – she was just coming out of her house with her boy & was bringing him to a children's party – wanted me to go in & have a cup of tea by myself, but of course I refused – asked me to drive to the place with her, then take the cab home, but I would not be under any obligation – the cars were just at hand – she called a week ago, but not on our day, so we were out. I will return it some time, but it shows you, dear, just how much sincerity there is in society people – one more at her tea would not have made her room too full – were you here, she would rush you but your little wife, is another thing.

Never mind, I will get there all the same & I will not bend my proud head either, I can tell you.

I fancy Buzz would feel hurt if he knew it, as he seems to have genuine feelings of regard & friendship for you & extends it to me, as your wife.

I was at a euchre last Thursday afternoon & enjoyed it but was not in it for the prize – my cards are usually very bad ones, but if unlucky in cards, think of my luck in love!! What are cards compared to that? There were some nice people there – a Mrs [Gualero] who was a Mrs Farriani who knows Minnie Boyd –

[/pg 6]

[pg 7]

she is quite middle-aged & a fine looking woman. They knew her well at home some years ago, but lost sight of her as she went to Brazil – her husband got into some trouble over bringing emigrants down there who died of starvation & disease – they say he was deceived – he died, about three years ago I hear &

she has returned to reside here. I do not know where she became acquainted with Minnie but she was very pressing in her invitation to call upon her & I may go.

Mamma returned from Vaudreuil yesterday glad to get home again – she could never live

[/pg 7]

[pg 8]

in the country again – says she would die of loneliness. Auntie Angelique has had grippe & is in bed – she wants to sell a beautiful silver tray which cost five hundred guineas – would take \$300.00 for it being in need of money – it is a beautiful thing & being old I would like to buy it but would not for the world do so without your consent – I have not enough money now, anyway. One hates to see [an] heirloom going out of the family, still it cannot be helped I suppose. She also has side dishes she wishes to dispose of, all of the finest silver with the [illegible] mark on them. I will see what she wants for them. You like good things, so do I & I dislike imitation or shoddy things, especially when silver is so cheap & one wants to have a nice table, such as I desire to have, when Providence sees fit to let us live together again. One can always dispose of good things & she would sell them cheap. However, I will see & do for the best.

The children are in good health & while not fighting quite as much as last Sunday, are making an awful racket. I do get so tired of so many. Tootsie always comes over & there is such a row. Flora is much more sensible & is studying her lessons – she is much more sedate & studious than Tootsie, who misses school a great deal & is lazy. Gertie will have trouble with her later on.

[/pg 8]

[pg 9]

The folks in Pincher Creek were delighted with their box of presents. Tillie as well as Mabel is to do her duty, Mabel for April, Tillie in July. The name will not die out, eh? I do not know Regie's plans & do not intend to worry over them, as it causes too much talk. They can do as they please – my one aim & ambition is to get with you, my darling, as you know. God bless & protect you, my own dear love, & keep you safe until we meet, which pray Heaven will be soon. The little ones join in much love to my own dear pet, their dear old Papa. I embrace you fondly & strain you tight, tight to my heart burning with deep love for you. As ever, your own true devoted little wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 9]