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Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,  
June 9<sup>th</sup> / 89.

My own darling pet,

Your dear, nice letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> May reached me on Thursday last my darling Sam & gave me great pleasure coming so soon after that of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Your long silence had made me heart sore & I felt so hurt at it that I wrote a very short missive on Sunday last. Notwithstanding your seeming negligence I would not deprive you of news from me, so that you might not suffer the pain I experienced from continual disappointment! a forgiving woman, your little girl certainly is. Your late return from the hills prevented your writing me for the mail that had brought mine to you, but that certainly was not your fault, so I absolve you freely for that imperfection, provided you promise faithfully to let it occur as seldom as possible. Mr. Hilton & yourself must have a very pleasant time when out together as you both evince a decided love for each other's society. I am sure the water must be very high at this season & trust you are very careful when fording, for though you did neglect me some-

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what, I still love my pet very dearly. I remember the ford we crossed near your old camp as the water was rather deep. My heart gave a slight bound when I reached the centre but you had turned your horse's head & were watching me, so I knew were there any danger I was perfectly safe, as my darling would look to my safe-keeping, or perish with me. Your allusion to it, brings the whole ride vividly to mind. You made a strange remark that day as we left the barracks, for I believe it was the first day after our return from

the Mts. – we were just leaving for our canter when you suggested going by the front gate since “we would have to make our first appearance in public some day, it was as well to do it then”. I wondered what you meant, thought you were giving me a hint, then on second thought were convinced you had spoken without regard to the influence to be drawn from your words. I am sure you would not have cared to have your little girl hear you when going up the steep hill you mention. She might possibly be just as bad as Mrs. Mac in such a case. If you could only imagine what pleasure writing gives me, you would not

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say it is too bad to leave my work to write to you, my own old pet. I am rather incredulous dear, when you confess having enjoyed Mrs. Mac’s talk of her adventures & some of mine. The first time you met with such a treat I recollect full well. My pet’s face was a perfect study – you seemed to think Mrs. Mac was wound up that evening for you must candidly [illegible] she talked far more than I did. My crochet work gave me a nice excuse for remaining a little in the shade, when with downcast eyes I could hear every [word] uttered by the one so dear to me without giving myself away too soon. Lex pitied you so much when he heard of your miserable evening in our company!!.. I had no idea Mr. Cochrane was as old as that; being so fair makes him look younger than he is – he is very nice though. Indeed, my dear, you do not know but what you might have fallen a victim to Miss H.’s many charms, for she is, as I told you very pretty & will be sure to please- very many other are blessed with genuine hearts & minds & you are one sure to appreciate that sort, I know my own darling boy well enough for that by now. Thank Heaven it has been my fate to meet with such “a darling old fellow” & that he has thought me nice enough to desire me for his own! Louise had a hard time with her Willie – he came back the next evening in his full senses & she had it out with him, in Papa’s presence. he was hauled over the coals by the latter & after giving his word of honor to both that he would not take sufficient liquor to affect him, she reconsidered her decision & the result has been making up friends. he has

had a good lesson which will be productive of good results, no matter how the whole affair may eventually end. her trust in him has been very much shaken & in my opinion it will take very little to break it off forever; if the thing were to happen again. she is endowed with a full share of common sense & is not so blinded by the mischievous little [god], that she cannot see his faults. say nothing of this to Mrs. Mac, as I know it would come right back & the gossip be known. Mr. D. found out we had a strong protector in our dear father & he has become quite sombre & very quiet since. Mrs. Mac did say lots of lovely things about my pet in her last, all of which I know to be true & are not news to your own little girl. I studied your character & know the

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many fine qualities you possessed long ere you imagined I ever gave you one thought. Mrs. B. was certainly kind in lending you the saddle which contributed so much to my enjoyment when with you; still, while I shall always feel grateful for that, I could not like her though I tried hard to do so, Mrs. Mac thinking so much of her. I once told Lex “that when he heard I was engaged he could be certain that I loved the man very dearly for I should never marry but for love.” I wonder if it ever crossed his mind? – I fear your chances of surprising your darling are very few, for as the time for your coming approaches I shall be often away from home, & did I not expect you, you might come & find the bird absent – would you like that? on my return my pet would be well acquainted with all the members of my family & the ordeal over. I do not know about your being more affectionate than Lex, but no wife as a rule thinks her husband so. Even if she does, will not tell it to outsiders – at least that is my opinion. You will be owner of the pencil when of me, for I shall be wholly yours by then & all

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I own yours as well. Ah! my pet, what happiness I look forward to when we are united. You are so good & kind that I know what bliss is in store for me, which I hope to enjoy with my own pet for many a long year to come!! I also

see you very often in my mind's eye, riding, driving or in our old reserve, where we spent so many happy hours. It is better for the Comr. to buy the paper for you, for he may have had more experience than Lex in such matters. If I am all in all to you, my own one, do not think I fail to recognize all that it implies & trust you may never change with regard to your own little girl. There is no use denying you require some nice little nurse to look after you for you suffer from colds very often I find. They are not dangerous, still are very unpleasant & a few of my good remedies would cure you in a very short time. I trust you are feeling better & that you may not suffer again from the same cause, until I am at hand to take care of my own darling.

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You should not have remained up so late writing to me my darling, when your head was troubling you & giving you pain – it is but another proof of your love for me, my own one. I am sorry if Lex does not come this far, as I too would like to see & speak to some one who has seen my pet & tell me how he really is. So you have succeeded in obtaining monuments for the men who have died while in the Force. I am pleased, it being another evidence of your good heart. You mentioned the fact once when we were out riding together. Mr. Loring must have convinced you, that love in the end wins the day, though it has taken a long time for him to obtain the consent so eagerly sought for. Mr. L. must also have found that one of the most difficult things in the world is to forget. The mere fact of wish to do so & setting yourself to the task, is sufficient to recall all to mind & the impression becomes more lasting than before. The hold a frail creature can have on a man's heart is very strong & can stand the test of time & make him do almost anything for "love's sweet sake". I never would have consented to go & live on a ranch. I draw the line there for I am too fond of society to reside miles away from any neighbor. Your angel could not stand that test, so I fear she will go down in your estimation a little & be considered more mortal after this. Your lines are very pretty & the second very appropriate – what are they quoted from? By the by, you never sent me the book you promised me about the Rebellion & which contains some

very nice things about my darling boy. I have wished to mention it several times, but waited to see if my pet would think of it himself. The [clip] is also very good. "is marriage a failure?" seems to have been a theme which gave many an occasion of writing. The best answer I saw was in verse & some day will show it to you. Do not worry for fear you may have no opportunity to kiss me, my pet, when you come down. You may have more chances than you expect, & I know you well enough to be certain every occasion will be made the most of. If we did not correspond what pleasure would we have, when such a great distance rolls between us? Why, you would have time to

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time to forget all about me, my own darling pet. If you have learnt nothing new, I have learnt a great deal of my pet, for where I fancied he was endowed with all the good qualities & nice attributes I ascribed to him, now I am certain of it & know I have given my heart to a man worthy a far better wife. My love has increased a hundred-fold since the day I consented to be yours, my own one, but "love begets love" my darling, so you will not be surprised at that. Mrs. Mac has now found out what I always told her is true – there are none like your own! – strangers are very well for a time, but the friendship soon fades, if you cannot be of use to them. she was fond of strangers, & preferred some of her friends to me – she found out the worth of their affection several times, before she would give in, but she own's [sic] up to me now, I can tell you! I knew time would prove it. If you left me for any time as Lex has, would you not find f~~er~~ a moment to write? he must

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be a queer fish, for it takes only a few minutes to drop one a few lines. As you say I may be haughty-looking sometimes, but I can nevermore be that to you my own darling - haughty looks will be kept for strangers now. All are anxious to meet my pet & seem to be sure to like him. My brother seems to be striving hard to become a better fellow you will be pleased to hear. It gave me a great deal of worry as well as to the rest of the family, as his

sight was becoming very weak & he seemed to care very little for the consequences. Papa, Mamma, Gertie & I keep house – they wished me to go, but dear Mamma does not enjoy many such things & next year, after I am gone, will not leave the house so willingly, so I would not go. Well, my own dear pet, we have miserable weather – it has poured all day long & likely to continue all night. Dusk has caught me still with my own pet, as the ups & downs

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of my letter will prove. Not to tire you too much, I will leave you. With very many kisses to my nearest & dearest, sweetest & best, believe me ever

Your

own warm hearted loving

little Girl

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