

2008.1.1.1.1.68

Marie Harwood to Sam Steele

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Vaudreuil,
Sept. 8th / 89.

My own darling Sam,

Your dear short letter of the 29th came to hand in due time & afforded me unlimited pleasure. knowing the many different attractions on the tapis that week, I feared that you would scarcely find leisure to favor me, my pet, but am happy to see, ~~that~~ though it may be selfish on my part, you were with me in spirit, darling, just as you were in reality at the time of the same event last year: you did well to enjoy it dear, for races are interesting to witness sometimes, especially if the horses are good. of course, some persons sometimes take little interest in the heats, being too much occupied for that!!.. The ball was no doubt a success & the officers who attended must have had a pleasant evening. So you have seen Mrs. Reed & been disappointed! She was quite pretty when she

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came up last year & I somehow fancied she was the style you might admire. she did not appear to be bold-looking at all, on the contrary, gave one the impression of being somewhat retiring, though I must say not courteous in the smallest degree. her mouth is small & her lips as thin as mine are, if I remember well, has a fine figure, being slight & tall, what I so much craved to be, & knows how to ride I heard. That is rather a nice sort of a person to be, do you not think? Mrs. Kennedy must have looked well, but the position suits her style. Mrs. Mac used to find her very pretty, particularly her mouth. I never found she had the slightest claim to beauty, except grace. When I am in Macleod I suppose we shall have the pleasure of receiving a number of persons, connected in some way or other with the Force. Mrs. Mac, I think does not like to be put out by having so many visitors. this is entre nous, you know. I find Mr. Fortescue exceedingly agreeable & would

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very much like to see him. If you were not as happy as last year, happiness is nearer to you now than it was then, that is one thing sure – indeed! time seems to fly. You will be very busy until after the Governor's visit, I know. it was Col. Irvine, who it seems has just returned from the N. West, who told Mrs. Drayner that Mr. Royal would not receive the distinguished party. Louise of course, believes Mrs. D. knows all about it, but I say you have received no official intimation of the change in the plans, so until then, I think he will favor you. When the time comes for you to make ready for your eastern trip, I wonder how you will feel! – will you be happy at the thought of meeting, or dread the step you intend taking in making me your wife, “for better, for worse”? I may be at home very quietly when you write to announce your coming & will await you with a beating heart. I hope there will be a ball next year & my pet be persuaded to go for my sake. You should not deprive them of your company, so many still desire to make eyes at you dear, for say what you wish, you were a great attraction for many of the fair sex & I cannot understand how you did not fall a victim long ago. You must have been caught napping, otherwise you never would have fallen into the trap!. We miss the three boys very much, particularly Antoine. Mamma sheds tears every day over the little bed which has been taken from her room – he used to sleep there now & then when our house was filled with guests, & is very fond of Mamma. it will seem a long year to her, I fear, for after we are married, they will settle down into a hum-drum life until next vacation. St. Laurent is but six or eight miles from Montreal, still it is an out of the way place to get to, I find. Our weather is perfect at present & far warmer than it was in July & the beginning of August. The crows who are preparing to migrate warn us, however that Autumn will soon be here. that means

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a great deal to me!!.....

My letter today will be a short one, for news is scarce & my last was pretty long. I feel that I must write Mrs. mac & must do it, even if compelled to steal a few moments from my pet. Alice has been in the room & talked so much I could hardly think, so must beg you to pardon the mistakes I have made when writing this. Well, my darling, I will say au-revoir. write me soon & write often my own one to the one who loves you dearly. God bless my pet, & with warm love, I remain as of old,

Your own dear

little Girl.

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