

Cape Town, 10 Sept. 1863

My Dearest ~~Mother~~ Lou,

Though Gemmie cannot write this time, she is yet very well considering, and the baby seems strong and healthy. She was born on <sup>Tuesday</sup> the 8th inst. between 6 and 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. m. Gemmie had even the previous day been able to take a walk, and felt so well in the night from Monday to Tuesday that we did not feel even uneasy on account of the nurse's not coming, who since Saturday night had slept in the house, though during the day we had allowed her to go home. Poor thing, - a very bad inflamed eye, just breaking had kept her at home, - a very strong South Easter making her going out dangerous. In the morning of Tuesday, however, <sup>Gemmie</sup> she felt not well, and we sent at once Mary to fetch Mrs. Mason. Still Gemmie was able to be about and do a few little things (of course up stairs) but I soon went for the doctor, whom after some search I found at last and who came about eleven. He found things going on very regularly, and promised to call again in the

afternoon, if not wanted earlier.  
Between 3 and 4 I had to go for  
him again, and with the help of  
a Cab, which I happily soon caught,  
I brought him very quickly. He  
had then to wait still some time  
till his <sup>actual</sup> help was required. How  
I wished all this painful suffer-  
ing could have been spared our  
Dearest Gemma. You do not  
know though you may guess how  
I felt for her. She says the Doctor  
was evidently very skilful  
and careful, and she feels very  
grateful for his help and  
assistance. But if you could  
see Gemma's quiet happiness  
and her mother's pride of our  
darling Edith, it is really  
something to be glad of.  
Of course to day, as I hear usually  
on the third day, she is somewhat  
weak, but otherwise very well,  
I believe. And the Doctor says  
they are both going on very nicely.

He came back on Tuesday an hour and  
a half after he had left her after  
baby's birth, to look at them again,  
and comes now every morning. Mrs.  
Marion the nurse, is everything that  
could be desired, - she seems very  
sensible, kind, careful, clean and  
attentive, and we can have the very  
best trust in her management. Gemma  
says that she seems to understand  
so excellently to manage babies.  
So there seems to be so many  
things to be thankful for. We here  
down stairs go on excellently. Nellie  
is an excellent M. Q., and Bella  
is so very nice and quiet, and  
helpful. Only I am some times  
a very naughty teazer. But I am  
afraid they have got to like my  
teazing. Bella says she thinks  
it so curious that I should be a  
Papa. When I however called Edith  
my eldest daughter, - she strenuously  
objected, and declared that she  
was my youngest daughter, and  
that Nellie was my eldest daughter.  
On the other hand Bella is quite  
proud of being a little Aunt. But  
now you want to know something of  
Baby

Baby. They declare that she is very much  
like me; - so you will believe that  
she is no beauty. I do not know, how  
it is, the first night she looked  
much prettier than now, the features  
of her face being much more decided  
and less wrinkled. She has very pretty  
ears, and dark blue eyes which she can  
open pretty widely. She has evidently  
all her senses well developed. Her head  
is covered with hair, which is on  
the back of the head quite thick.  
We intend to send you a look by  
the Mail Steamer. She is rather  
stout, or as the nurse says, fat. Such  
nice <sup>white</sup> hands. She seems very intelligent,  
if one may use such a term of a  
baby. - We have decided to call her  
Edith Charlotte. Fancy the little  
thing being just 36 years and a half  
younger than I. It being my half  
yearly birthday. Today we heard  
of you all through N. Mile; - I am  
glad the news seemed good. I trust  
you did not let too much exert your  
self for poor N. Mile. I am glad he  
was to go to Verulam. I trust Ting  
can be provided for; and if you pos-  
sibly could by getting some money from

from Mr. Shuter for her, - perhaps staying  
with you three would be almost the  
best, if you are careful not to let it  
be a <sup>small</sup> burden to you more than you  
can bear. Mrs. Fynn's offer ~~of course~~  
is very kindly meant, but of course  
quite unacceptable, even if she  
could well afford it, or if one  
could give her sufficient notice to  
make it an expense to her. Of course  
the nature of her establishment  
would render it inadmissible.  
I express myself wrongly perhaps,  
at all events awkwardly, - but  
perhaps you will guess what I  
mean. I would not have said  
anything about it if not of the  
nature of <sup>patronage</sup> two letters to you, had  
referred to the subject. I think  
Mr. Brickhill is <sup>very</sup> wise in thinking  
such a situation would not at  
all do for one so young as Willie.  
We are looking out for the Natal  
Mail Steamer, which may arrive  
now any hour. - The English  
Mail arrived on the 17th inst.,  
but we could not get our letters before  
the

the following morning. Jennie had  
come from Uncle Marmaduke,  
Aunt Elizabeth Lloyd, Mrs Moore  
with her photograph, and a very nice  
one from Mrs. Fisher. We had also  
letters from my mother, my  
sister Hedwig and my brother  
Theodor. His wedding was to  
take place at Potsdam on  
the 29th August. ~~Most of~~  
They seemed all well. at  
least tolerably. I had of course  
letters from the Bishop of Natal,  
who sends his very kind  
regards to you. He was just  
in North Wales, intended at  
the end of August to go to  
Holland and Germany.  
He was in the best spirits.  
Of course he takes no notice  
of the Bishop of Capetown's ab-  
surd proceedings, which can  
not touch him in the least.  
The Natal Clergy so will have  
to learn what fools they have

my mother  
sends her  
love to you all

made of themselves. It is as much  
as certain that the Bishop of Natal  
can return unmolested to his  
Diocese. I have seen letters  
from half a dozen clergymen  
of distinction who address the  
Bishop in most sat. to factious  
terms. - I forgot to tell you that  
Jennie had also a letter from  
Auntie enclosing one of Mrs.  
Stanger's to Miss Mary Lear.  
Mr. Pauling has not yet sent  
for Bella, - something must  
have prevented her. Of course  
she knows not yet the arrival  
of our little Edith, which event  
will be proclaimed to the world  
only in Saturday's paper. If  
you like to ask Mr. Robinson  
to announce it to the Natal  
friends in his paper, - of course  
you will do so. - Jane sends her  
best love to you all, she feels  
much better & stronger this after-  
noon. Baby sleeps much. You do  
not know what a proud and  
happy father she makes me.  
But I must close, as Bella  
wants

wants to take this letter  
to the Post Office, - With  
best love to you all, you Loui,  
Fanny & Julia, and also  
Fanny and Susy, as little Aunt,  
and Uncles Willie & Charles  
&c &c. - With kindest regards  
to the Lundersons.

Yours most affectionately

W. Helmer

I cannot write to Fanny  
& Julia separately, but you  
will tell them all.

P.S. 11 September

Wednesday 9 a.m. All is  
well this morning. Gemma  
better and stronger. We received  
your ~~letter~~ letters per Nor-  
man yesterday afternoon.  
We shall answer them  
per mail. In great haste