

Little Buster-cups. looks very different today from what she did yesterday & she is not handsome yet - little flat nose & eyes so far apart - I hope she will have her mother's good sense & kindness & judgment & prudence & symmetry of character & her father's taste!

From  
Says "m  
little  
honey sweet  
little  
darling  
beauty -  
Fiona has  
delect  
half an  
hour & more  
the  
baby in  
bed -  
no milk  
for it yet.

Friday Oct. 26. 1860

My dear Mother

I take the first moment of leisure after a comfortable night for Fiona and the baby to tell you the good fortune & bad that we have had - Fiona had only got to the beginning of her suffering when I wrote before - The child was born at half past 4. From that time till half past 11 am. Fiona lay like one dying with faintness, with no strength for the birth of the "after" & dreading to have any assistance - It was not until Mrs. Wheeler came & nursed her up to it that she consented to share her mother's help about it - Mrs Wheeler is a daughter of our good neighbor Mrs. Rice & she is worth her weight in gold - She talked so good to Fiona that she told her "what you say seems to come from Heaven" - Fiona never fainted before.

of her father's milk

When it was over her Mother fainted  
& had to be carried away from the bed:  
For a long time the chances for her  
life seemed so doubtful that <sup>we</sup> were all  
overjoyed when it was over & we feel  
that the danger is now past - Yet she  
is very weak, unable to stir without  
assistance - Her face looks like ~~white~~  
iron - white & glassy, & yesterday she  
looked just like a Corpse. She cannot  
get it out of her mind yet & sleeps  
but little & is feverish - She has been  
in a terribly nervous state & her voice  
& what she said was so unnatural.  
Last night Em. & Elvira (a cousin)  
stayed with her & I tried to sleep  
in another room. I had been awake  
3 nights before kept awake not by  
Ferna <sup>baby</sup> by my own nervousness, & yes-  
terday I was or should have been sick  
if I had not been so excited -

The baby - is all Spooner they say -  
but whether she looks most like  
Ester or I or Father or little Ephraim  
or Grandma or Aunt Margaret I  
certainly cannot tell but she does

The baby weighed 8 1/2 pounds but I can't help thinking they made a mistake  
I guess she weighs about six

look just like every one of them  
& like almost every body else besides  
& makes up faces like Froua - Has  
brown hair & blue eyes & a little  
flat nose rounding down like Esta's  
& mine - Her mouth turns down at the  
corners like Esta's & her cheeks hang  
down with fatness - Her feet & hands  
are extremely pretty & her arm is so cunning  
fat & round - I expect her Aunt Esta  
will take possession of her & drive  
off every body else. She is as good natured  
as she is chubby & slept almost all  
day yesterday except two or three choke-  
ing spells - She was born with a cold  
& once in the midst of Froua's sickness  
she strangled with phlegm & turned  
black in the face & they all ran  
& left me alone with Froua & I didn't  
know but she would die before they  
got back - The baby had to be carried  
down stairs - but fortunately the  
weather was still & mild - Em.  
sat up with Froua last night - the  
baby needed watching & was troubled

with choking spells & a cold in its nose  
which would wake it up & it would cry so  
good naturedly & go off to sleep again - It does  
want to make any trouble at all - It sucks  
its thumbs but its only food has been a little  
molasses water - I have had to watch it  
& cover its arms while writing & to turn  
Frona & fix her easy every two minutes - She  
has very hard pains now & the sweat starts  
on her forehead & then she is easy & thinks she  
shall go to sleep - We have a little open  
fine place & burn wood - it is so pleasant -  
A large pleasant chamber with three windows -  
Frona's bed, a cot bed, & a little crib for the  
baby - Frona has every possible care from  
her mother & Em. Her mother is worth all the  
Drs. in Boston & Em. is so devoted & so good &  
kind - She could not give up the baby to any  
body else last night & I am so thankful <sup>Frona</sup> ~~she~~ is  
here with them. But I wish you could all see  
Frona & the baby - She sends her love to Grandpa  
& Grandma & Aunt Esta - Grandpa Paine says  
he never saw a little baby look so much  
like anybody as this one does like me -

Father Smith is very much pleased - Is it  
too bad he can never see his little grandchild.  
How he will miss Frona who was always round  
him - Poor old man. I wish you could see him  
Mother & you will certainly before long -  
Give our love to all & Cousin Sally  
James & Frona & Maud Spooner.