

## Ellen Hutchins: letter to her brother Samuel, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1807

Transcription of the letter, part of the Hutchins Family Collection and held in the Ellen Hutchins Archives Cabinet. Released on [www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com) on 17th August 2024 to coincide with an exhibition in Bantry Library during the 2024 Ellen Hutchins Festival.

My dear Sam,

Tom has sent £80 for you in cash. Let him know when you have received it. You never gave any accurate description about the nightshirts you wish for. Write exactly what you wish to have done about them and Tom will have it done. What number do you want? You must describe the size as well as you are able and the quality of the linen. – Tom desires you to tell Manny [Emanuel] that there is no chance at present of doing any thing with Thinn in the business I mentioned in my last. He is not now disposed to sell.

I wish that you may be as successful in Law as I have been in botany. I have made some discoveries in sea plants of some kinds entirely new, others new to Britain but known to botanists of other countries, and I have also found many rare, curious and beautiful plants.

Now I want to ask you to give me a little assistance. Will you call on Mr Sowerby, No 2 Mead Place, Lambeth and enquire whether "Dillwyn's British Confervae" is to be had, how many numbers of it there are published, and the price of each number. Let me know as soon as you can what you have learned about this work. I can get it sent from Cork as soon as I know whence it is to be had. Mr Dillwyn is describing and giving plates of Confervae, a beautiful genus of sea and fresh water plants. His work will contain some of the plants I have found here which have been sent to him from Dublin. My name will not be mentioned as the finder. I have desired that it should not.

I enclose you a specimen of one of them. A very elegant little plant. Most of the others I have got are too large to put in a letter. I have a very fine collection of marine plants and have sent Doctor Stokes a vast many specimens – I should learn a great deal of botany if I had good assistance but all the fine works on that subject are very expensive.

My Mother is tolerably well, tho she is often ill of late. Tom is the same way – I am but middling. I am very subject to a troublesome complaint in my stomach but tho I am some times very ill with it, I am generally pretty strong and able to walk a great deal. They are all well at Ardnagashall. I suppose Arthur has informed Manny of the attempt made by one of the Sullivans in Bearhaven to murder Tim Houlihan. Houlihan very fortunately escaped and Sullivan was wounded in the face by a shot from Houlihan or his son. The Taylors are very well. Tom is to be in the country in May and will I believe soon go to Edinburgh. Mr and Mrs Puxley called here today, but could not stay, as they were going from Bearhaven to Cork. I never saw either of them before. She seems a giddy little woman. Mr Sim White is going or gone to his new house at Glengarriff. He has built a large house and is furnishing it very expensively. He wife is an extravagant vain woman. This is no news to you, but it may be some to Manny. Lord and Lady Bantry live very retired and are scarcely spoken of in the country [district]. The Whites now take every opportunity of saying civil things of this family. Arthur and Sim White speak sometimes.

My mother desires her love to you and hopes you will soon write.

My dear Sam I am affectionately yours

E Hutchins