

Letters: Ellen Hutchins and Dawson Turner - 1808

The original letters are held by the Wren Library of Trinity College Cambridge (seventy letters from Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner between 1807 and 1814) and the Library and Archives of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London (fifty letters from Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins).

This is the second year of the correspondence. There are six letters from Ellen in 1808 and there are seven letters from Dawson Turner.

The preparation of transcriptions of the correspondence is a project of the Ellen Hutchins Festival, Bantry, Ireland. The 1808 letters were completed in 2024 by Madeline Hutchins, Co-Director of the Festival, researcher on Ellen, and her great-great-grandniece. The Festival acknowledges the huge contribution made by Professor Michael Mitchell of NUI, Galway in transcribing forty letters in his publication for Glasnevin in 1999 - *Early Observations on the Flora of Southwest Ireland: selected letters of Ellen Hutchins and Dawson Turner 1807 - 1814*.

Work on seven years of the correspondence has now been completed - 1807, 1808, 1809, 1811, 1812, 1813 and 1814 with the transcriptions shared on the website - www.ellenhutchins.com Transcriptions of the remaining year - 1810 - is expected to be completed by the beginning of February 2025.

The Festival thanks the Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge and the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London for permission to use the transcriptions/letters. Permission to use this material elsewhere needs to be sought from the Ellen Hutchins Festival - email: ellenhutchins200@icloud.com / Trinity College Cambridge / Kew.

Letter 1

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 9th January 1808

Madam the letter which I had the honour of receiving from you a fortnight ago gave me very great pleasure, & I beg of you to accept my thanks for the interesting information it contained, & to be convinced that your correspondence is at all times gratifying to me. I only regret the distance between us which makes the convenience of any small parcels a matter of so much difficulty & trouble. A few years ago I used to be able to get anything franked by means of General Vallancey, but I have now lost all knowledge of the Secretaries at the Castle, & I regret it the more, as, were I acquainted with them, the intercourse between us would be at all times ready & secure. Before this letter reaches you I am in hopes that you will have received a little packet which my friend, Captain Mangin undertook to forward to you. It contained only two or three Fuci, & a few Sertulariae, which, as you mention that you have not long attended to the Genus & are not in reach of assistance, I thought you might like to have named, as, though common, they

may serve for stepping stones upon which you may advance in your knowledge of the tribe. These things were contained in a copy of my *Muscologia Hibernica*, of which I beg you will do me the favour to accept. Though written in Latin you may still find it of some use, even if you do not read this language, which, as far as Botany is concerned, is not difficult, & as it is designed to illustrate some of the plants of your own country, & is no longer to be purchased, I had a particular pleasure in sending it to a lady to whom the Botany of Ireland is likely to be so much indebted. My particular friend, Mr Hooker, who is at this moment sitting by me & working at a monograph of the genus, *Jungermannia*, has desired me to interest myself with you to send me for him specimens of *julacea*, *quinquedentata*, & *curvifolia*, if you find them in your neighbourhood, & particularly if you find them with fruit. He is about to give figures of all the known species of this elegant tribe, & you may judge how well he will do them, if you have seen any of the Nos already published of my *Historia Fucorum* for which he has done nearly the whole of the drawings. I wish I could recommend to you any English work upon the Lichens: *Withering's* is as bad as bad can be; & I am sorry to say that of this beautiful, & to me, most interesting tribe no good account is yet published. As far as I can assist you by sending you specimens & naming what you may find I will do it with the greatest pleasure. Had I time, there is nothing I should like better than to write a *Lichenographia Britannica* upon the plan of my *Synopsis of Fuci*, but I am too deeply involved in business to dare to think seriously of such an undertaking at present. The parcel of sea plants that you have been so kind as to send me by Mr Mackay has not yet found its way to Yarmouth, nor have I once heard from him since my return from Scotland. I doubt that in my last letter I did not explain myself sufficiently clearly about the *Fucus* respecting which I wished for information to enable me to publish it. Your answer alludes to a plant like *Hypoglossum*, of which I believe I have hitherto seen but one very imperfect specimen, indeed too imperfect to say anything of. – That about which I meant to inquire, was sent me by Mr Mackay from you some time ago marked No 5; it resembles in its dried state *E membranaceus* more than any other species, but is a most curious plant, being contracted, as it proliferates, near the apices, where the midrib seems to terminate. If you understand what I allude to, & can furnish me with any particulars of its appearance when recent I shall be much obliged to you. I shall avail myself of the liberty you allow me to mention you as the person who found it, & shall also quote you for the different plants in Dr Scott's collection which come from Bantry Bay.

The *Ulva* which you sent me was described & figured by me many years ago under the name of *U multifida* – your specimen has no No to it, but you have remarked upon it that it was very brittle & crackling when fresh. It has been only once or twice found here, & I believe never anywhere else, excepting a single specimen in Devonshire by Mrs Griffiths: if, therefore, you should meet with it in plenty I should be thankful for a few specimens: I will also beg one or two of *F Wigghi* which has not been seen here for several years, & of *Palmetta* when you get it in abundance. If you know the fructification of this latter I should be much obliged to you to send it in a letter, for I mean to publish it in a very early No. – Pray tell me of what colour *F ligulatus* is when growing & if you have ever seen any fruit. The list of flowering plants contained in your letter is indeed an admirable one, & such as very few Botanists can boast. I will next summer beg the varieties of *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Saxafraga Geum*, the variety of *Blechnum Spicant*, *Euphorbia hyberna* & *Arbutus unedo* – these two last you say are very common, & therefore, if it be not too much to ask, I would beg of you a good stock of both, that I may not only supply myself, but be through your kindness liberal to my brother botanists of this country. The other plants you mention are very rare, but I have opportunities of getting them from Devonshire & Sussex without troubling you. I shall be very happy to hear from you when you have leisure & beg you to accept the assurance of the

respect & esteem with which I am Madam Your much obliged servant

Yarmouth 9th January 1808

Dawson Turner

I had almost forgotten to mention that the Conferva contained in your letter is one which I have had for some time under the Manuscript name of *C cryptarum*, but I believe it is not yet described. The *Jungermannia* Mr Hooker & I found abundantly in Scotland, & suppose to be the real *cochearifomis*: perhaps you will have the goodness to send what you have called by that name.

Letter 2

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 1st February 1808

I have received your kind letter which has given me much pleasure & much to thank you for. I am greatly obliged by your kind attention in sending me your book on Mosses. I have not yet got it, but I dare say it will come very safe. From my ignorance of the language in which this is written I fear I shall not be able to understand much of it. I should be very glad that any Mosses I can get here could interest you. We have *Bryum sessile* growing on rocks at the mouth of a river that falls into the sea just below this house & I met with a little of *Bryum laterale* in fruit on a mountain in August. For the *Sertulariae* I am also much obliged. I have met with some since I last wrote to you. If you should want *J. pluma* I can send beautiful specimens. I have some others, but I am not sure of their names & a beautiful little corallina I am told is *cristata*. I entirely mistook the plant you wish to publish. It seemed to me an *Ulva* (but most probably I am mistaken) & as such I sent it in the parcel marked No 1. When fresh it is perfectly round & has no appearance of midrib. After a few minutes passing it becomes quite flat & shows the thread that runs through it. It is when recent both to the eye & to the touch very sticky & gelatinous & yet it does not adhere to paper like other gelatinous plants as its substance is thin & watery, the skin which is extremely thin, seems to be the colour'd part of the plant & within it the seeds are scattered, in decay pieces fall off & leave the thread bare. If you should wish to see it in that state, I have a specimen that I can send. The colour preserves well in drying. Young plants are of a dark purplish red, have no appearance even after drying of the mid-rib, & adhered better to paper than the full grown ones, which are of a fine red colour. It is truly fastigate in its manner of growth, is a rare plant & seems of quick growth & short duration, to be found only for a little time in October. I have met with it thrown up in two places here, at Eagle Point & below Blue Hill, as far as I have yet had experience it has appear'd each year exactly at the same time. I enclose some little spares, one a young plant, the others older, that show the fruit & root. I enclose you all I have met with of *F. Palinella* / palmetto in fruit. I found it growing pretty plentifully on a little island called Chapel Island. Its colour when recent is as bright as that of *Fucus asparagoides*. A specimen dried without spreading would expand again in water & show the colour. I can send one in this state if you should wish it. *F. ligularis* is when growing of a very dark brown olive colour & very glossy.

Both it & *Fucus viridis* have what appeared to me a very strange quality, that of causing other sea plants to decay. I lost a large box full of very fine specimens by them. Whenever they touched other plants they were in 3 or 4 hours quite destroyed particularly *Fucus ovalis*, *kaliformis* and *clavellus*. A beautiful green Conferva that preserves well in drying was changed to a dirty white. They are themselves unhurt. I have not seen the fructifications of *F. ligularis* but shall carefully watch for it during the next summer – I think

I have been fortunate in finding specimens of *Ulva multifida*. I have met with about 20 of different ages from April to October. — I hope you have before this time received the parcel of sea plants. Mr Mackay assures me of its safety & says that he can now forward any things I may have to send to you by Government dispatches & that they will certainly reach you safely. Do you want specimens of the following Fuci? *Esculentus*, *articulatus*, *opuntia*, *amphibia*, varieties of ciliates, *membranifolius*, *palmatus* we have an immense quantity, *tamariscifolius* I think, *fibrosus* not common, 5th & 8th vars of *vesiculosus*, *asculentus*, *tomentosus*, & *flagelliformis*, we have *Ulva defracta* & *ligulatua*, — should you like to get seeds of *Arbutus unedo* or any of the plants I mentioned you shall have as many specimens as you please of those you wish for. The *arbutus* does not blossom until October & November it is just now out of flower. I shall send you the *Jungermanniae* for Mr Hooker. I have not seen any of those he wishes for in fruit but I am likely to find *julacea* & *quinquedentata* in that state. I enclose 2 or 3 species & I should like to know if you wish me to enclose you separated plants of those Mr H wants or delay & send them as they grow in thick tufts. I have many other kinds such as *multifida*, *reptans*, *sphaerocephala* etc but I believe they are common.— I am much obliged for the assistance you are so good as to offer me in lichens. The difficulty it must be to you to send specimens to such a distance will account me of giving you so very much trouble. I can get some help from Dublin & if I can learn that any things I may meet with are rare I shall not neglect to send them to you. It would be a delightful thing to hope for a work on lichens by you. I have sent for the numbers of your *Historia Fucorum* & wait for them with as much impatience as you can imagine. If there is anything I can do for you here you will do me the pleasure to let me know. I have a variety of *Polypodium filiforme* with the lobes deeply serrated almost to the midrib. *Saxifraga fœliæ* grows plentifully on a mountain near this place with *S. ambrosia* which is one of our most common plants, very ornamental on rocks by the sea where it grows most luxuriantly.

I beg leave to assure you of the respect with which I remain your much obliged servant.

E Hutchins

Ballylickey February 1st 1808

Letter 3

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 2nd March 1808

At top of letter – specimen and note:

F cristatus var. B
Hist Fuc
From the Red Sea

Madam

I have at length through the kindness of your Chancellor of the Exchequer received the parcel that you had the goodness to give to Mr Mackay for me many months ago, & I feel myself extremely indebted to you for it. I had considered my Herbarium unrivalled in point of beauty of specimens but I must frankly own that these surpass me, nor did I ever see any so exquisitely preserved before. I shall reserve the other side of this sheet for my opinion of the Fuci & *Ulva* among which you will observe that there is more than one species new to Britain. To examine the *Confervae* properly would require more time than I am at present master of, so I shall therefore leave them to be the subject of my next letter.

The adding of *F cristatus* to the British Catalogue particularly delighted me. This beautiful plant was unfortunately published in *Historia Fucorum* three months ago from imperfect specimens but with your leave I will send one of yours to Mr Sowerby to be engraved for English Botany where Dr Smith will be happy at such an accession. The morsel at the top of this letter, I thought that you would be glad to see, not only as a more beautiful variety of the plant than yours, but being in fructification, nor has it any of the jointed appearance observable on your specimens. I would fain think them distinct species. I was particularly pleased with the specimens of *F palmetta* in fruit contained in your last letter as satisfying me that I had not been mistaken in what I took for old capsules of this species in my Synopsis. The specimens found by Miss Hill belonged to a different variety & had much larger & more prominent fructification. Of the three *Jungermanniae* you enclosed No 1 is *Jung pumila* of Withering a very rare plant indeed. No 2 is *Jung purpurea* of English Botany which Mr Hooker believes to be nothing more than *Jungermannia nemorosa*, becoming purple in mountainous situations & the loose one without a No is *Jung trichomanes* of Dickson. *Sertularia pluma* is certainly an uncommon as well as a beautiful species but my friends in Devonshire have supplied me both with this & *Corallina cristata* so that I need not trouble you for either. I will thank you for a morsel of *Bryum sessile*, merely that I may see what you call so, for I do not exactly know to what species of *Orthotrichum* Withering gave this name. I think that when you examine the mosses more, you will be much pleased with the genera into which they have been lately divided as the arrangement is highly beautiful & simple. I am never tired of examining these plants under the microscope they furnish to my mind the most wonderful proofs possible of the power of the Deity, & to facilitate my study of them I have in my own copy of *Muscologia Hibernica* a leaf of each drawn magnified by the side of each description. Of the Fuci you are so good as to mention I should be glad to see any, as I like to know how they differ in different plants. A perfect specimen of *F esculentus* not too large I much want to figure & I should also be glad of your *F ciliatus*, *palmetta*, *membranifolius*, & of *F tomentosus*. You are very kind to take so much trouble on my account, but I hope that you will mention what there is in this part of the kingdom that you would like to receive in return & pray oblige me in your next letter with a complete list of the Fuci numerated in my Synopsis that you wish to have, varieties as well as species. I had a great deal more to say but must conclude, to leave room for observations upon your parcel. Pray favour me with a letter as soon as you have leisure, & accept the assurance of the esteem & respect of

Madam, your much obliged & very faithful
Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 2nd March 1808

Fuci

F coronopifolius much larger than ever I saw it before – pray what are its months of fructification & have you seen only one kind of capsules?

Varieties of *F lacinatus* – different from any I have seen before.

F subfuscus with singular fruit – a similar fructification is figured in Hist. Fuc.

F clavellousus – larger than ours – this, I am sorry to say, is wretchedly figured in Hist. Fuc.

F viridis I had noticed the propensity this plant has of destroying others.

No 1 – I shall publish this as distinct from F lacinatus, though I cannot find any specific characters – it is the most beautiful plant I think of calling it F Ulvoides – if you approve it.

2. Too imperfect to say much too – may it by any possibility be the beginning of E clavellosus?

3. This I consider a very remarkable appearance of F subfuscus.

4. What monsters these are! I see however nothing to separate them from F hypoglossum.

5. Seems a fragment of some thing new.

6. F cristatus var γ Hist Fuc.

7. F tamariscifolius

Ulva

The small specimens are

No 1 U furcellata described by me in the same place as U multifida, but surely the large broad ones are different, besides their size, the obtuse ends, proliferous mode of growth, & they have the tubercles of a Fucus. I had meant to figure this plant in the September No of Hist. Fuc. under the name of F decipiens – Pray favour me with your opinion if the two may not by any possibility be distinct.

No 2 I can make nothing of this, for it will not rise from paper to be examined, excuse me recommending to you for these gelatinous Ulva & other delicate Confervae to put morsels upon glass, by which means they may at any future time be examined under your microscope.

3. A new Ulva found also by Mr Borrer last year in Sussex.

4. This also seems to me quite new & different from any of the varieties of that Proteus U compressa.

5. U multifida

6. I received this some years since from Scotland, & consider it new; but it is own brother to U rubens.

There is also a large green tubular Ulva without a name or a No in your parcel which I do not know.

I will not trouble you to send me any seeds of your Arbutus as we have it in our gardens, but for a supply of specimens next October I shall be very grateful.

Letter 4

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 14th March 1808

Notes at the top of page one where specimens were pinned. Ellen's notes and also William Jackson Hooker's answers, comments and questions (WJH in italics).

No 2 Grew on a stone

quite new to me should be glad of more.

W J H (Hooker)

No 4 is this J multiflora?

J bicuspidata

J multifl of Dicks in the same.

No 5 grew in a wood

J pauciflora of Dicks.

No 6 near to root of an old tree

J pauciflora in a state likely to bear fruits. I much want specimens in fr.

No 7 by a mountain rivulet in a shady place

No 7 is quite new and very beautiful species of the tribe of J platyphylla there is young fr upon it. If found lately it is most likely now in perfection. Pray write for plenty of it. J Hutchinsii if you like.

No 8 grew creeping on the top of a tuft of Dicranum glaucum.

A common species but not described. – Dickson calls it J fissa but it is not it. I should be glad of it with capsules. It bears calyces with us, but no fruit.

No 9 a small variety of J viticulosa I believe.

A variety of J spinulosa I think. Should be glad of more of it; particularly in fruit.

[And there is a drawing in pen by Ellen on the sheet.]

Your very interesting letter found me busy preserving mosses, at which I have been employed almost night & day since I got your book. I must again thank you for it & all the pleasure it has given me. I am quite delighted with the new arrangement. What a variety of new reflections the examination of objects so minute, so various, & so beautifully formed brings to one's mind. I am greatly delighted to find that you have got the parcel of plants safe & that so many of them were interesting to you. Had they been lost I never should have had much hope in sending things again. I am much delighted for the var. of

F. cristatus you sent me. It has satisfied me that what I thought the beginning of young fructifications were really so. They are too young to appear after drying but were similarly placed with those on your specimens. Mine was found on the 18 September & I suppose the fruit ripens in winter but as the rock where it grows is at some distance in a very exposed place & very difficult to land on except in the calmest weather I have not been able to go to it. I shall however attempt it the very first fine weather & hope to find the plant in fruit. The jointed appearance is very striking when the plant is fresh, the joints are somewhat crescent shaped, a flat plant with that appearance seemed to me very curious. I send a fragment or two that was never pressed. The colour is very fine, pinky red, pale but bright. I wish I could send you a plant in any way that would satisfy you whether it be a distinct species or not as you seem to have some doubt. If I could get any liquor to preserve plants in, it would be of great use. I tried Brandy, the colour was spoiled, but the form preserved.

We have plenty of those large plants of *F. coronopifolius* do you wish to get more of them? It is in fruit from the middle of August to November. I have seen but one sort of capsule – Of No 1 the tubercles are more prominent & pointed than in any I have seen of *F. lacinatus*. I am sure the name you intend is a very appropriate one, pray give to every thing I may find what name you please. I have not the least knowledge of what would be right. No 2 is I believe not *F. clavellosus* young, it has a different appearance & is to be found later in the season than the latter. I shall soon be able to get specimens by which you may judge with certainty – of No 4 I have not fine specimens. Those I sent you were sadly preserved. I thought the reticulations of the fronds in some I examined were not quite like *F. hypoglossum* but I believe it is only a monstrous var. Our *F. hypoglossum* seems smaller than the plant you sent me. – Of No 5 I got only the fragment I sent you, it's not like that of *F. loreus* struck me as singular – In the specimens of *F. Tamariscifolius* I sent you the branches do not grow from knots, but I enclose a little bit of a plant that does grow so & that has when underwater the colour you describe but loses it the moment it is taken up. No 7 has after being thrown in for I never saw it growing fine shades of purple & green like *F. crispus* – Our *F. tomentosus* is double the size of what you describe both in length & thickness. Do you really think it a vegetable? I always feel when I touch it, as if I was giving pain to something that had feeling. When I have a specimen laid out, it will sometimes roll on the paper & close again, or when I separate two branches, they will close again. When kept for an hour or so, it has a most disagreeable smell. We have it in immense quantity. We have a compressed variety of *F. articulatus* varying somewhat in the shape of its joints. Our *F. Wiggii* is longer than you describe. I have a plant 9 inches long. I enclose you a variety of *F. cornea* I have others to send. Now to the *Ulva* I must send you what specimens I have of No 1 & I still think you will find the large & small only varieties. I think I have connecting specimens, but you will see. I have now by me a plant of the small variety, a very young one too preserved in Brandy that shows to the naked eye a faint midrib running all through it, the Brandy seems to have extracted the juice of the plant I/ & left the skin whole. The same plant when recent did not have the least appearance of mid rib, & some others found with it the same day, do not show it dried – I shall put No 2 on glass for you, thank you for mentioning that mode of preserving for future examination. No 4 is plenty in summer. I thought it seemed distinct from *U. compressa*. No 6 is beautiful when fresh like transparent jelly with purple dust scattered over it. Is the bit I enclose the same of/as [the] one without name or number? – I have *Ulva purpurascens* & a large dirty looking brown *Ulva* as thick as my little finger much & irregularly branched that Mr Mackay thought a variety of *U. Rubens*. I have *U. elminthoides* too, & one or two more I did not send you but you shall have them in the next parcel. I think I shall have a good number to send you by the first of May.

The beautiful Sertulariae you sent me are of great use. I enclose you a small species & Tubularia. Have you got polyzonias, loricata, lendigera & cornuta? I have some more morsels that I do not know the names of, & large orange coloured lumps of Millepora pumicosa – I enclose some Jungermanniae. I think I have found the fructification of J spherocephala. Withering does not describe it. I think you may be glad to see it. It appears to me to grow in a most extraordinary manner. The bottom of the involucre goes into the earth & it is fastened only at the edge to the last years leafy shoot of the plant. What I thought was Bryum sessile is Grimmia rivularis. We have plenty of G maritima. I enclose a little Dicranum that grows in turf bogs. Dicranum majus is one of our very commonest mosses. I hope to be soon able to tell you more about our mosses & when I learn more, I shall be very glad to save for you any that you may wish to have. I should be very glad to get a specimen of any species of Splachnum as I have never seen one. – I have not in this letter left room to ask for the specimens of sea plants, you are so good as to offer, but in my next I shall trouble you though indeed, I think you have sent so many I shall not have many more to ask for – I am with much respect your obliged servant E Hutchins. March 14th 1808

I shall get you xx possible good specimens of E. esculentus – the beginning of next month will be a good time to get them.

Letter 5

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 15th April 1808

I have lately been so successful in finding sea plants that I can no longer resist the inclination I feel to trouble you with another letter and to send you a little of what I have met with in the hope that they may be interesting to you and that you will excuse the liberty I take. I have been disappointed in my expectation of finding Fucus cristatus in fruit. I went to the rock where I found it, but the winter storms to which it is greatly exposed have completely destroyed the plant for this season & have hardly left any appearance of it. I have got another plant which is less rare & seems to me a variety of it. Perhaps you may find some distinctions that I do not see. It is when recent less compressed & much finer in all its parts, has very much a jointed appearance so much that it is difficult even with a common magnifying glass to know that it is not a conferva. However a microscope shows directly that it is not really jointed but that the appearance of joints is caused by the reticulations of the surface of the frond being closer & smaller at certain distances than in the intermediate parts. I have not found any fruit in a vast many plants I examined. It is not easy to get a good specimen, it is so much injured by nests of little worms. I enclose one marked No 9, & another little plant No 10 that I am not certain about & should be glad to know if it is Fucus amphibius. It is not rare in pools along the shore. No 11 is not very common & seems distinct from young plants of any of the larger Fuci – The plant I enclose as an Ulva marked No 7 is not rare & grows to a much larger size than this specimen. The little thing marked No 8 is I believe, an Ulva though it has much the appearance of a Conferva when recent. I have some of it on glass & some on paper to send & have also very fine specimens of what I sent before marked No 2. We have in summer many varieties of Ulva dichotoma. I have got some specimens of Fucus esculentus but none to please me very much. I believe they are as good as can be got. I selected them from hundreds of plants but it is hardly possible to get a whole one & the small plants have not got the appendages at the base – Of Fucus tomentosus I have very fine specimens one 15

inches long. Some plants are greatly compressed & near half an inch broad. Those large compressed plants do not roll on the paper as I mentioned to you. It is only the small round ones that do so. I have not seen any appearance of decay in this plant nor is it after any storm thrown onshore. I have a plant that I was surprised to hear was published as a Conferva in English botany under the name of C verrucosa. Do you want any of it? Have you met with E canaliculatus in an inflated state? It is so common a plant in this country that the shore is as yellow with it in summer as the land is with Furze. We have F mamillosus, plicatus & rotundas but they are not very common. We have one or two varieties of F confervoides great plenty of F digitatus both varieties of bulbosus. I have a good small specimen of the last if you should want it –

Conferva flocculosa grows here in the sea on small Fuci & Confervae, it has when recent a rich brown colour, but changes in drying to green. Yesterday I found Conferva aerea for the first time. I have some others whose names I do not know. I should like to know if you wish for more specimens of any of the plants I have sent you. I shall probably meet with most of them during the summer & I should be sorry to throw away specimens of any things that could give pleasure to persons interested in them –

I have got plenty of Dicranum osmundioides; in what I have met with, the leaves terminate in a sharp point –

I beg you to accept the assurance of the respect with which I am
your most obliged servant

E. Hutchins

Ballylickey
April 15th 1808

Letter 6

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 19th April 1808

Text at top of letter:

The enclosed moss is Splachnum ampullaceum a most beautiful plant of which I will send fine specimens by Mr Mackay. Can I ever be useful in procuring any books for you on any subject, or in giving an opinion, which I will always do to the best of my abilities.

Madam

You will, I am apprehensive, think that I have been sadly negligent having this long delayed to thank you for your last letter & to give my opinion upon its contents, as well as upon the Confervae which you were so kind as to forward to me sometime ago. I could most easily fill this sheet of paper with my excuses, & that without having recourse like Tasso or Voltaire to fiction to aid the truth, but as such would be but sorry amends, I shall on the other hand trust to your goodness to excuse a neglect that has been most involuntary on my part, & shall at once state my sentiments, such as they are, though they are very unsatisfactory to me, & I fear likely to prove still more so to you. The little moss contained in your letter is Dicranum cerviculatum in the description of which in Misc. Hib. there is an error, that the leaves are described nerveless.

Of the Jungermanniae Mr Hooker says

No 2 is quite new to him

4. is Jung multiflora as you suppose (J bicuspidata is the same)
 5. Jung pauciflora & No 6 same in a state likely to bear fruit, which he much wants.
 7. Is a new & most beautiful species of the tribe of J playtyphylla; there is young fruit upon it so that it may probably be now in perfection. (I beg your permission to name this Jung Hutchinsiae.)
 8. A common species, but not yet described. Dickson has confirmed it as J fissa.
 9. Mr Hooker thinks is a variety of J spinulosa.
 1. Jung spherocephala – as you say. (It is also J trichonnaus of Dickson.)
 No 3. Jung trichophylla, in fruit, very rare indeed –
 Of these Jungermanniae Mr H begs for a supply (if you can procure it without trouble) of No 2, 3, 6, 9 & particularly as much of No 7 as you can spare or procure - & he also wishes for No 8, if in fruit – He will be very happy to send you any British species that you want.
 The Sertularia that you sent me on blank / black paper is altogether new to me – the other which was loose in your letter is Sertularia dichotoma but in my opinion is not distinct from Tubularia ramosa; I suspect that Ellis' Tubularia muscoides is also only Sert volubilis in an imperfect state. The specimens of F subfuscus contained in your letter is, as you justly observe, a very curious one, & your account of its progress is very interesting to me, as it is precisely similar to what I have observed of Conf elongata, one of its nearest affinities, upon our own coast. The Fucus, that you enclosed a bit of, originating from knots in the stem is F mucronatus, & I shall be very thankful for perfect specimens of it, as all mine are fragments unfit to draw. It requires to be watched in different stages, for Proteus himself was not more variable. The loose Ulva in your letter is only U compressa, & certainly different from that which was in your parcel without name or number. The other Fucus in your letter cannot be F edulis, as Mr Mackay supposes, nor do I think that it is F laciniatus, though there are two specimens so named in Dr Scott's Herbarium which I suppose to be the same but which are without fruit. I should rather apprehend that, when found perfect, it will prove new. I shall look anxiously for the parcel that you are so good as to promise me next month; Mr Mackay will have the kindness to forward it via Mr. Foster & as I shall soon have occasion to send him some cuttings of Willows, by the same conveyance I will slip in a few mosses etc for you. You can scarcely conceive how pleased I am at you having directed your attentions to & being delighted with, this tribe. Can any thing be more wonderful or are the traces of the hand of the Deity anywhere more visible? I shall never forget the emotions I felt on the first day that I examined & determined to study mosses. Pray do not scruple to make me as useful as it is in my power to be to you, & write to me as often as you have any doubts to solve or anything to communicate. You do not know how much pleasure your letters give me, & when I tell you that I live here the only resident partner of a large banking establishment, that I have no small botanical correspondence, & have also on my hands a great part of the education of my little girls, you will scarcely think me unreasonable if I entreat of you not to be too scrupulous in exacting an answer to every letter before you oblige me with a second. Now then for the Confervae, about which genus I must premise that we are all at present in the dark, knowing no more than just what Roth & Dillwyn have published.

No 1 may not this be a variety of C diffusa

*2. New species – near sister to C stricta

3. C tetrica as you say.

No 4. C stricta

*5. *6. *7. Beautiful new species. I never saw one of them before.

*8. This too, I think new, but it is, like No 2 very near C stricta

9. We have found this at Yarmouth, but I know no name for it.

10. Var. of C Stricta, I think

*@11. This will not come off the paper so as to be well examined.

*@12. Conf Turneri Eng. Bot. I never saw it half so fine.
 *13. Most beautiful new species
 *@14. & *@15. These also seem new, but are near C littoralis
 16. Conf tomentosa *@17. Conf parasitica
 *@18. I think may be a var. of C glomerata & *@19. Of C sericea
 20. C multifida Eng. Bot.
 *21. One of the most beautiful plants I ever saw, either this or No 5 or No 7 must be called C Hutchinsiae – choose which you please. I ask this favour at your hands & hope you will not deny me.
 *@22. I think a var of C arbuscula *@23. Certainly new. There is another very fine Conferva that you call *@ C fruticulosa, a name I am unacquainted with nor do I know where the plant is described. After all, what I have written about these plants is so unsatisfactory that I would destroy my letter if I thought that any further examination would enable me to say anything better. Even this, however, is the most unequivocal evidence to prove how interesting the contents of your parcel are. I have taken the liberty of prefixing asterisks to those I particularly wish for more of, but I beg you will neither take any trouble nor rob your own collection for the purpose. Indeed anything from your shores will always be acceptable to me as I have many hungry mouths constantly gaping around me. It is for these & not for myself that I am a beggar. Fucus tomentosus has caused the same doubts in me as in you & I shall be very glad of any light upon the subject. Sert loricata I have not, the others that you are so good as to offer, I do not want. Of F coronopifolius I will beg a further supply at a future time. I have barely left room to repeat once more the assurance of the respect & esteem with which I really am Madam your very faithful & much obliged servant D T

Yarmouth 19th April 1808

Letter 7

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 28th April 1808

Madam

I really feel so much pleasure in your correspondence & am so interested in the zeal & success with which you prosecute the study of our favourite science that I cannot deny myself the gratification of immediately replying to the letter I have just received from you, though a number of other things about which I ought to be engaged will necessarily distract my attention while writing. I hope that a letter which I sent you on the 19th of this month has by this time nearly found its way to Bantry. It was followed only two days afterwards by a parcel of mosses which were forwarded by the Government dispatches to Dr Scott with a particular request that he would lose no time in conveying them to you. From the very bad state of his health at present I am apprehensive that he may not attend strictly to my wishes & therefore, if they have not arrived before this letter, I could wish you to send Mr Mackay directions about them; although they are not numerous, I am anxious to have them in your hands, as I am sure you will find them of considerable service as stepping stones, by the aid of which you may walk onwards in the prosecution of this delightful tribe, & particularly as enabling you to form a more clear & comprehensive idea of the Genera than can be afforded by the species confined to any particular spot. If it be possible, but I doubt it will not, I will take an opportunity of sending you some more

before I go to London next month. I go about the 24th to attend the Linnean Anniversary & if I can be in any wise useful to you during my stay there, which will not exceed 10 days, you do not know how happy you would make me by employing me. When I return, I should like, if it be practicable, to ramble about for a month in the summer, & I should in such case be attracted to Dublin for the weak health of my friend, Dr Scott, for whom I entertain the greatest regard, makes me fearful that, if I lose this opportunity of seeing him, Death may deprive me of any future one. I mention this as in such case there would be easy means of my sending anything to you, or receiving from you, during the few days I spend in your Island, the inhabitants of which (I must tell you) I found, when among them before, by far the most engaging & pleasant of any I ever met with. – I have scribbled thus far, as already half to fill my sheet, without once noticing the contents of your letter, or even thanking you for them. *Fucus capillaris* is undoubtedly right, & is an excellent acquisition. I trust you will find more of it, & find it in good fruit & if you do, I shall be obliged to you to lay out a small piece on glass, as the extreme tenderness of its texture prevents the taking of it off paper to examine. If you have yet procured the late Nos of my *Historia Fucorum* you will have seen an engraving made from a dry specimen not unlike yours, though not equally good. How vexed does your correspondence make me that I had the folly to set about such a work as this till I had procured more materials, or even that I had the vanity ever to undertake it at all. I am got so far as to feel my own ignorance completely, & to recognise the truth of Pope's wonderful comparison: I no longer "seem to tread the sky", but see more clearly the "Alps rise on Alps", with summits that mortal man will never reach. Most seriously speaking, I know little or nothing of the contents of your letter. No 7 strikes me as being the same as No 23 of the *Confervae* in your parcel. – No 8 is *Ulva plantagenea* of Roth, a plant we occasionally find on this coast, but never so good as your specimens. – No 9 I should still call *F cristatus*, indeed it comes more near to my variety Y than the fine specimens you sent before, as you will judge from the morsel I now enclose. Of this & of No 10 I should be obliged to you for a supply at some future time. The latter is different from anything I know, & very m[~~text missing~~] from *F* amphibious, of which I shall put a fragment into this letter just to show you what it is, & I will take an early opportunity of sending fine specimens. By the way let me remind you that you have not yet told me what *Fuci* you want, & pray point out any of the flowering plants of this part of Britain that you would like to have. I need trouble you for *Conferva verrucosa*, farther than that I should be glad to see a single specimen from your coast. My idea of this plant has always been that it must one day form a new Genus, together with *Conf villosa*, & *fluviatilis*, & *F pedunculatus*, *viridis*, & perhaps *aculeatus* & *ligulatus*. I need not say that the present genera of marine plants are worth nothing, & the whole system must be altered from beginning to end, as soon as we get some idea of the fruit. I had almost forgotten to notice your No 11, which appears to be different from anything I am acquainted with. In form & colour it exactly resembles *F Phyllitis*, but the texture seems unlike, and the dots on the frond producing little tufts of fibres are what I never saw any traces of that plant. Perhaps, if you will trouble yourself to gather more of it, we may trace them to each other. *F canaliculatus* I never met with in an inflated state. For good small specimens of *F bulbosus* or *F digitatus*, such as may be drawn, I should be obliged to you. You are so good as to ask me if I want more of different things – Do not, I pray, make me more unreasonable than I naturally am – I never yet was to any person so inveterate a beggar as I am to you. I should long since have ceased to beg, built that I am sure your kindness has a pleasure in being useful to others through my medium. My specimens of *Dicranum osmundioides* have all blunt leaves, though in some there is a very short apiculus, formed by the nerve going beyond the membrane. It is a moss I never found but once, & then sparingly near the foot of Snowdon: in this horrible sandy flat we have no mosses nor lichens. Pray accept the assurance of the esteem & respect of Madam Your much obliged &

very faithful Servant
Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 28th April 1808

Letter 8

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 27th July 1808

With specimens pinned onto it. Notes written by Ellen and possibly some by another hand.

Hypnum No 1

H No 2

H revolvens

Bryum No 1

H Swartzii

F cristatus with fruit I think

No 17

No 18

This grows on a decayed root of a tree by a mountain lake.

July 27th 1808

Sir

I should have troubled you with a letter before this time but that I have been expecting to hear of your coming to Ireland. I now feel so impatient to tell you what I have met with that I take the chance for my letter finding you at Yarmouth. I had great pleasure in finding *Fucus tomentosus* with fruit. I enclose a fragment to show you how beautiful it is in that state. I have got some laid out on glass that will I hope enable you to see its manner of growth & I started little capsules but fearing that drying may alter its appearance I have attempted to draw it as it appear'd when recent. Magnified the plant may very easily be distinguish'd when in fruit by being cover'd with pallicid filaments. May not those filaments in this & other plants be in some way connected with the fructifications? In the little plant I sent as a *Fucus* mark'd No 10 the plants with fruit only have them. Perhaps No 10 is *Fucus fruticosus*. I think it has two sacks of fruit & I also think that I have found one sack of fruit in the last variety I sent of *F cristatus*. I enclose a bit of it. Perhaps both the varieties I sent are distinct from your *E cristatus*. I think the beautiful little plant I sent among the *Confervae* numbered No 17, & that you named *C parasitica* is also a variation of *F cristatus*. I was yesterday so fortunate as to find it growing & have preserved a good store of beautiful specimens. In its mode of growth, fibrous, roots and colour, it resembles the first ones I sent you of *F cristatus*. When fresh it had a fine dark red colour like that of dark coloured plants of *Conferva coccinea*. It changes to brown & gives the water a chocolate tinge like both varieties of *F cristatus*. I think I have found it with fruit. The seeds seem contained in the substance of some of those little spine like branches, there were

also a few small tubercles placed exactly in the leading part of some of the small branches. The morsel enclosed seems to have a tubercle & the other sort of fruit too. I have lately been highly delighted with examining the Ulva I sent you marked W. U rubens, elminthoides, verticillata & the dark brown one I sent as a variety of U rubens I believe. Do not you think they are according to the present arrangement rather Conferva than Ulva. They seem in their manner of growth & fructification as well, as I can see very nearly allied to C gelatinosa. They seem to me very distinct species. Their beautiful bundles of jointed filaments seem differently formed in each. I should like to know if you think I have been correct in what I have believed. It is impossible to express the pleasure & admiration I have felt at examining the beautiful formation of this nearly allied tribe of Ulva. I had them all by me fresh & could hardly force myself to quit them. The little fragment of an Ulva that I enclose I found lately. The plant grows to a foot & a half long & is extremely light & elegant. I have not seen any fruit. Its colour does not change in drying. I have been so fortunate as to find abundance of F capillaris very fine. I have many specimens for you & some on glass. Of many of the Confervae that you wished for more of, I have got fine specimens some [text missing] much better than those last [text missing] & others not quite as good. I had [text missing] C Arbuscula with two sorts of fruit on distinct plants, one rounded capsules, the other long parts with seeds placed in rows very beautiful when magnified. It was only a few days after I wrote to you last that I got any of the No's of Historium Fuci. You may easily judge how delighted I have been with it. I enclose some mosses. I hope specimen No 1 may be something new. I found it at the bottom of an old lime kiln cover'd with nettles & brambles. No 2 grew in a marshy place. I have got H revolvens in fruit & a little of the small variety of H Swartzii. H dubium grows plentifully in a field here with the little Bryum enclosed. Pterogonium gracile grows near me but without fruit. Mr Mackay who first found it in Ireland sent me a specimen by which I know the plant I found. I have found Dicranum ellipticum in small quantity on a neighbouring mountain. My specimens have the seeds very perfect. I enclose two small species of Jungermanniae that I found since I wrote last. Pray I trouble you to tell me if Mr Hooker has yet begun his publication on this delightful tribe – I hope you have long since received the last parcel I sent you. Mr Mackay sent it off some time ago. – I beg you will do me the pleasure to tell me if you wish for specimens of any thing I have sent you or that I now mention & believe me your much obliged servant etc E Hutchins July 27th 1808

Letter 9

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 2nd September 1808

There is a line of text at the very top of page one -

Can you favour me with 2 or 3 fine specimens of F alatus fit to draw.

Madam

Yarmouth 2nd September 1808

I am sincerely sorry for the apparent neglect that I have lately shown you, & the more so at this particular time when, besides your letters, I am indebted to you for one of the most interesting parcels that I have ever received. You will however, I am satisfied, have done me the justice to believe that no common cause could have induced me so long to interrupt a correspondence from which I derive the greatest pleasure as well as instruction, & will, I think, hold me excused, when you know that, even since my return

from London in May, I have been far from well in body, & much harassed in mind both by untoward events in business, & by the illness of my two youngest children, who still continue in a precarious state. Thus situated, I have had little heart for any of my favourite pursuits, to which, now things look more pleasant, I am returning with fresh delight, & I most gladly make the writing to you the first symptom of my feeling like myself again. The same circumstances, that interrupted the course of my pursuits, necessarily obliged me to abandon my projected tour to Ireland; within the compass of which I had included a visit to Killarney, & I was not without hopes that my friend, Admiral Russell, who commands upon this station, & is himself a native of the vicinity of Cork, might have accompanied me. I might then possibly have had the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with you, but I would much rather have such a pleasure in England. If anything should bring you to this side of the channel, & you would allow Mrs Turner to be favoured with your company here. She would have as much pleasure as myself in repaying to a native of Ireland a portion of the hospitality, for which you are so famous, & for which we know that fame only does you justice, & she would have an additional pleasure in making the acquaintance of a woman with a mind formed & cultivated like yours; she was herself as ardent a botanist as you, & is now no less fond of it, though the care of a family has given a different turn to her thoughts. In the muddle in which all my study now is, I really do not know which of your letters I have to answer, & I shall therefore confine myself to the last, trusting that, if I neglect any former one, you will have the goodness to excuse me, & will repeat any question that you wish to have answered. In this the numbered plants are Bryum No 1. B carneum – Hypnum No 1. H Swartzii – No 2 H fluitans, a most variable moss. – the Jungermanniae I will have till Mr Hooker returns. He is now travelling with Mr Borrer in the Orkney Islands, after having been completely through the Western Highlands of Scotland, & visited some of the Hebrides. I hope for a great many treasures on their return, & shall be very glad to divide them with you. Your delight at finding *F tomentosus* in fruit could not possibly be a whit greater than mine at seeing it, & I am much obliged to you for your beautiful sketch, without which I could not have understood it properly. I would fain hope that you would not think it too great a liberty in me to beg that, when you have leisure, you should trouble yourself to make me a drawing of the whole plant for my Hist. Fuc. – I really would not ask such a thing, but that the plant will not recover after it has once been dried, nor would I now press it, if it be in any wise disagreeable to you, or if it be inconvenient to spare the time. The *Ulva* enclosed in your letter (No 10) is, I think, but am not sure, the same plant as has been called *Conferva paniculacea*, which has always been regarded as one of the most doubtful plants possible – I found it last year in the Hebrides, & had purposed describing it as a new *Fucus*. With regard to your parcel, you must excuse my noticing anything in this letter but the Mosses & *Sertularia*, of which you will find my opinion upon the other side. About the marine plants I shall take an early opportunity of writing to you, & shall leave the *Jungermanniae* till Mr Hooker's return, as he is far better acquainted with them than I am.

Hypnum lutescens *Hypnum rutabulum*

H Thuringicum ? *H loreum*

Sphagnum squarrosum ? – a mixture of *S latifolium* & *S capillifolium*

Orthotrichum nudum ? – a mixture of *O diaphanous* &, I think, *O affine*, but in a very young state – *O nudum* is to me a very doubtful species.

Dicranum flexuosum variety *elongatum* ? – like mine, but not quite so long.

Dicranum flagellare ? – Right

Dicranum subulatum ? – Not so, nor exactly like any thing I know. I found it last year on the Scottish mountains. It is nearest *D Scottianum*.

No 1 – *Orthotrichum anomalum*

2. – *Grimmia acuta*

3. *H uncinatum* ? – *H molluscum*.
4. *Buxbaumia foliosa* ? right
5. – variety of *Dicranum flagellare*.
6. – *Lycopodium selaginoides*.

Sertularia No 1 – this is new to me, but, from the description of Sert. Setacea, I should think it may belong to that species. –

No 2 Sert geniculata – but not exactly like my specimens.

3. – Sert pumila – very fine – No 4 nothing that I know, nor can I find a description near it. – No 5 must, I suppose, be a remarkably fine specimen of *Millepora tubulosa*, which is here always found very small. – I should be obliged to you if you can spare me a specimen of *Dicranum ellipticum* with the veil. Mr Hooker has not yet begun to publish the *Jungermannia*; nor is it likely that he will set about it until next Spring, & then, I dare say, only a Synopsis of the British species, like my Synopsis of the Fuci. His great work will be a work of time. How I wish you were now here to see his drawings which are left with me, & are exquisite. – your ideas are quite correct as to the *Ulva* like *rubens* constituting a separate genus, together with *Conf gelatinosa*. They are now very generally made so, under the name of *Rivularia*, & some Fuci must also apparently go with them, as F Wiggihii. There was a pleasant book published two or three years ago on this subject, by Vaucher, entitled Histoire des Confervae d'eau douce, which, if you have not got it, & it can be picked up in London, I should be very glad to procure it for you. The difficulty is to get these things to you. I am happy to say I can supply most, if not all, the British Fuci mentioned in your letter, & you may soon expect them through Dublin Castle, but I want also to send you a parcel so large that I dare not attempt to frank it – what must I do? It is very hard that communication should be so difficult even in the same kingdom, merely on account of the intervention of a little salt water. You will excuse my saying that, however I am gratified by your opinion of my Hist Fuc, I want from you something different respecting it; that you would point out the errors you see, & suggest any additions that strike you. I mean to give as full a list as I can of additions & emendations at the close, & I am fully sensible how much there is to blame, though I am not insensible to the beauty of many of the engravings – *F clavellus* is miserable! I beg of you to favour me with your letters as often as you can, & to accept the assurance of the unbounded esteem & respect of dear Madam your greatly obliged & very faithful Dawson Turner

Letter 10

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 8th October 1808

Dear Sir

I should have answered your kind & highly interesting letter sooner but that I have been in a state somewhat similar to that you describe. The ill health of my friends & my own during almost the whole of the summer has withdrawn most of my attention from every thing that could concern or delight me – Collecting & examining plants is the greatest amusement of my very retired life & though I have not been able to attend to them so much as I hoped, I have a great many very fine specimens preserved to send you. I hope I shall have the pleasure to learn by your next letter that your health & that of your children is restored. I have suffered & have every day so much cause to suffer for the ill health of those who are most dear to me that I know pretty well how to feel for those who are similarly circumstanced. I have much reason to thank you & Mrs Turner for the desire

you are so kind as to express of seeing me in England. To become personally acquainted with you & her would be a high gratification indeed. My mother's age & the state of health of one of my brothers who has by a paralytic complaint lost the use of his limbs binds me so strongly to home that I am not likely to quit it. Perhaps you may come to Ireland & if you should visit Killarney I may hope for the pleasure of seeing you here. My mother will be very much pleased to see you & to have it in her power to thank you for all the assistance & information you have given me –

I am very glad you were pleased with seeing the fruit of *Fucus tomentosus*. I shall with great pleasure when I am a little better attempt to draw the whole plant for you. The only objection I could possibly have to doing it is that of not being able for want of practise to execute it well. I have some very fine specimens of the plant preserved to send you. Of the first variety I sent you of *Fucus cristatus* I have got a rich store of beautiful specimens. I think I have found it with fruit similar to that of the other varieties I have sent you & quite unlike that of your *F. cristatus*. You will I should suppose find it a distinct species. I enclose some fragments with fruit. I have examined a large quantity without finding any other appearance of fructification. The root in all the varieties I have met with is fibrous, that of your *F. cristatus* is described otherwise. I enjoy the pleasure you will have in the number & beauty of the specimens I mean to send you. I have been so fortunate as to get a few plants of the large beautifully veined variety of *F. laceratus* that I sent you a single one of in a letter last year & of which I never saw more until I met with a few this season. I have it in fruit & shall be able to send you two specimens. I have got *F. Griffithsii*; mine is of the same colour as *F. plicatus* & quite as short or even shorter than what you sent me. I shall send you some of mine in the next parcel, as soon as I have specimens of *Arbutus* dried. I shall send it to Dublin to be forwarded to you. Last June I met with a few plants of *Serapias grandiflora*. I believe it had not been found in Ireland before. It is very rare [illegible] where it grows here, how very beautiful it is – I have also found *Vicia sylvatica* which is a rare plant in this part of the country – I am greatly obliged by your kind offer of procuring for me *L'histoire des conferves d'eau douce* & for mentioning it to me. I shall try to get it without giving you so much trouble particularly as the difficulty of sending anything over to Ireland is so great. I am so fortunate as to have good specimens of *F. alatus*. Did I send you or do you wish to have some from me? I am highly pleased that you got the parcel I last sent safe & that you like it so well. If it contained anything that you wish to get more of pray tell me before I send the things I have now by me. I could find more to say but that I have already written more than my head is well able to bear. I began this letter a week past but have been so ill that I could not finish it until this day –

I beg you & Mrs Turner to be assured of the esteem
& respect of your truly obliged
E Hutchins

Ballylickey
October 8th 1808

I shall put up specimens of *Dicranum ellipticum* in the next parcel & if you should wish for more of any of the *Jungermanniae* pray tell me. I hope your Highland travellers had more favourable weather than we have had here –

Letter 11

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 13th November 1808

Yarmouth 13th Nov 1808

Dear Madam

I am sincerely sorry to hear that you have been indisposed, & sincerely vexed with myself that, knowing such to be the case, I could all this time have delayed writing to you at a time when my letter might possibly have afforded you some amusement, &, by diverting your thoughts, proved a momentary relief. To be assured that the health of yourself & your friends is restored will indeed give me great pleasure, & it is a matter in which I feel myself not a little interested as, till this is the case, I cannot hope to enjoy that frequent intercourse with you from which I have derived so much gratification. I cannot afford the loss or any more correspondents whom I esteem & value, for I have no inclination to seek for new ones, & this year has deprived me of two of those who were the most dear to me; First Dr Scott, & then Dr Mohr of Kiel, whose death I last night received an account of, & in whom cryptogamic Botany has lost her most zealous, most profound, & most useful student, & I one of my best friends, though we were known to each other only by our letters. You will excuse, my dear Madam, my dwelling upon this subject at a time when my heart is full of it, & when, feeling the vacuum occasioned by those who are lost, I am naturally more inclined to cling to such as remain. Mr Hooker & I have just been gratified in the highest degree by looking over & dividing the rich parcel that you sent to me in the spring. The *Jungermannia* he takes with him to Norwich, & as soon as he has had time to examine them I will not fail to acquaint you with his opinion respecting them. For the present, however he will necessarily be engaged with the treasures he has brought home from the Orkneys, where two so active young men as himself & Mr Borrer could not fail to get a rich harvest, though upon the whole they are disappointed that they could not get more. They have been so kind as to share their collection with me, so that I am now no less able than willing to make great additions to yours, & I therefore beg of you to tell me by what means I can get anything to you. I occasionally, though but seldom, hear of ships sailing from Yarmouth to Dublin or Cork; &, suppose a parcel could be got safely to either of those cities, what direction should it bear to be tolerably secure of reaching Ballylickey? It is not a little hard that the communication with Stockholm is less difficult than with a portion of our own country. Mr Hooker has brought home with him a single morsel of *F. Mackaii* with fruit exactly similar to that of *F. canaliculatus*, & another single morsel of *F. cristatus* var. B with such capsules as I have figured. Of this latter I will either send you a drawing or the specimen itself for your inspection. Fruit of yours, which is certainly very different, is at this moment under my microscope, & I can scarcely doubt of the two parts being distinct species, but I am willing to proceed with the greatest caution, & as you know that most *Fuci* like *cristatus* bear a two fold fructification I would fain not decide till you have had an opportunity of thoroughly investigating the matter. I shall be obliged to you for a single specimen of your *F. dasphyllis* to compare with ours; but I beg again & again that, neither in sending me this or anything else, nor even in writing to me, you will put yourself to a moment's uneasiness. I would willingly deal fairly with my friends, &, as I claim the privilege of being an irregular correspondent upon the score of business, I will in my turn concede the same, & most gladly continue writing to you, if my letters can be productive of any amusement, without looking [text missing]. Mr Dillwyn has just sent me the materials for another fasciculus of his *Confervae*, but he proceeds so slowly & reluctantly that I have little hopes of ever seeing this work brought to a conclusion such as may be honourable to him or useful to science. Mr Hooker found *Conferva Arbuscula* abundantly in the Orkneys, & with it *F. laceratus* & *F. punctuatus*, which

he regards as mere varieties. His specimens, however, of all his marine plants were nearly destroyed, so he has none now to confirm this opinion. What do you think of it? *Serapias grandiflora* & *Vicia sylvatica* are indeed two beautiful plants to add to the Flora of your neighbourhood. I have seen them both growing with as much delight as you can have done. I can send you almost any of the *Serapias* that you may want, though one only, *S. longifolia*, is a native of this neighbourhood. You are so good to ask after the health of myself & my children. We are all, thank God, quite well. -

Accept, my dear Madam, the assurance of the esteem of

Your very much obliged

Dawson Turner

I had almost closed this letter without thanking you for your obliging invitation to Ballylickey, & assuring you how happy I should be to avail myself of it. I see, however, I am sorry to say, but little prospect of such a gratification, & I still hope that, improbable as your coming to England may appear, it is more likely than that I shall again see Ireland. Had poor Scott but lived!

Letter 12

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 2nd December 1808

[Crosshatched]

Dear Sir, Your most interesting letter found me employed finishing the drawing you wished for of *Fucus tomentosus*. I have sent it with drawings of some *Confervae*. You must not expect very much from me for alas my trembling hand has not "the ease which marks security to please". These are the very first that I have attempted & I should hardly have brought myself to send them to you but that I thought even such drawings as mine done from the recent plants may be of some use to you.

I have sent Mr Mackay a good parcel for you containing some marine plants that I have preserved during the summer. There are some large ones of *F. capillaris*, one a great beauty & many there are very fine specimens, together with the flowering plants you wished for. I shall try to draw *F. capillaris* for you next summer. I got a great many plants of it last season full of fruit. When put in fresh water, the whole plant seems to burst into pieces & the water appeared full of seeds. Of *F. cristatus* I have sent you many specimens. I have most attentively sought for all their sort of fruit than that I sent you but without success. Of the largest variety, I have examined I suppose an hundred plants of the next many hundreds for it is very abundant & I had opportunity of getting it during the whole season, and of the little beauty I found a great many plants in one spot. I wish I could discover any thing relating to it interesting to you. I have sent plants of *Fucus* No 10 which I believe is *F. fruticulosus* with fruit different from that described in your synopsis. I got a single plant with capsules and have examined an immense number, it is common here all way on rocks when young the ends of the branches curl in its colour is pale olive - I have sent some fine plants of varieties of *F. laceratus*. I should have told you what has been in my mind relating to this plant when I wrote last but that I was so ill. I think with Mr Hooker that punctatus is a variety what appears to me is that each variety of *F. laceratus* has two heads of fruit on distinct plants, one capsules the other scattered seeds. I believe punctatus & ulvoides are of one variety. I now send plants agreeing exactly with the small spotted variety I sent you that have capsules alone. There are also in the parcel, two plants of the very large veined variety one with capsules, and one with scattered seeds. The

capsules of this, have a curiously fringed appearance on the outside when magnified. The common appearance of the plant seems to me to have capsules on some plants & scattered seeds on others. What I have seen does not agree with what you describe, so that I am probably wrong. Though in a great many plants that I have examined, I have constantly observed what I mention. Your account of fructifications does not agree with what I say, for you have seen capsules as well as scattered seeds. I have met with your hooked variety –

Do not you think that the inflation of marine plants is caused by fresh water? I find here that the plants are inflated only near the mouths of rivers and brooks. The plants I have sent as *Conferva arbuscula* seem the same of No 22 & as you thought it a variety of *arbuscula* in fruit in the end of January that/but I have given all I had in that state away, but I am sure the fruit was different from this. *Arbuscula* is perennial & I believe but all not quite since that this is unusual, it is to be found in fruit in July. Dillwyn's representation of *arbuscula* is not good as it was taken from a dried plant. A great many *Confervae* seem to have two kinds of fruit. In *C. coccinea* this is very common & if you have not seen it with capsules which if I were to judge by its abundance here is hardly possible. I can send you specimens or a drawing, or both. Most of the blackish purple fruits seem to have large single sacks in the ends of the branches one in each joint. But *Fucus dasyphyllus* is not exactly like your plate. It is much stronger & the ramuli more obtuse. It agrees well with the description. I don't think the plate of *kaliformis* the natural size very characteristic. Here the two kinds of fruit are on distinct plants. –

I enclose a little *Bryum*. What is it? & a very minute *sertularia*. I forgot to put them in the parcel. I was truly glad to find that you were so pleased with the parcel I sent in the Spring. I shall at all times be very glad to send you any thing I can find worth your acceptance. I shall never omit writing when I have any thing worth mentioning. I should feel myself very troublesome if you thought it necessary to answer me regularly. A letter from you will be at any time hugely valuable to me. I hope you will never think of writing until it quite convenient to spare the time. I am much obliged by your kind intention of sending me some specimens. Every thing directed to the care of Samuel Hutchins Esq, 26 North Cumberland Street, Dublin, or to Mr Robert Mitchell, 20 Grand Parade, Cork, I shall get safe. I fear it will be very troublesome to you to get any thing sent to Ireland. On second thoughts, I believe it would be safer to send any thing to Mr Mackay than to my brother who may be absent –

I have sent you *Fucus alatus* with one sort of fruit but I have given away all I had with capsules. I can save some for you after Christmas when it will be in fruit – Mr Mackay has sent me many specimens of mosses, a lichen named *Borrerii*, of which there are great quantities on apple trees here. I have found *Bryum conoideum* here in a damp part of the orchard on an old tree –

Among the lichens I have not yet been able to make much progress, probably I shall some time hence be able to do more. I may find some rarities. I am better than when I wrote last & I think better than I generally am in winter. I have had so much ill health that I think myself well when I am able to amuse myself in any way. –

I have lately got some more of the late numbers of *Hist. Fuc.* My friends say I am quite mad about them. I am not I think exactly what they say but if my head was distilled accordingly to the spectators plan it may be found to contain a few plants. Believe me Dear Sir your very faithful & truly obliged –

E Hutchins

December 2nd 1808

Since I sent you the parcel, I have found a specimen of *Fucus punctatus* that I wanted to send you and thought I had sent. It is a very young one found early in April with the spots only just appearing, and near the roots like *F. laceratus*. If you wish much to see it, I can enclose it in a letter.

I always find this plant in one spot only & in the same place Ulvoides. It is impossible to distinguish one from the other when recent except by the fruit. They are equally thin the same colour red with shades of yellow brown. I have a specimen without fruit I cannot tell which it belongs to. Some seasons I see very little of either. One year after a storm in June I got a great deal of both, but I never find one without the other.

I hope Mr Mackay will be able to send you the parcel very soon. I feel very anxious that you should have it. Some of the plants you wished for I could not get but I hope I shall be able to get them next summer. I have been either so anxious about others or so ill myself all last summer that I did hardly any thing. – is the little *Fucus* I sent you in the last parcel like *phyllitis* only a variety of that plant? Here it always grows on rocks.

[note on back of letter when folded to send]
Open carefully

Letter 13

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 6th December 1808

My dear Madam

I trust you have long before now received the letter that I wrote you early last month; your not having answered which is a thing I am far from complaining of, tho' the hearing from you, if only a few lines, would be a very great satisfaction to me, as I should at least be acquainted with the state of your health, in which you may believe me that I feel no common interest. I heartily wish that you may derive any amusement from what I am now writing; & I hope you will do so, as my friend, Mr Hooker, is employing himself in putting up for you a few of the mosses that he brought with him from Scotland, some of which will in all probability be new to you. He has also examined the *Jungermanniae* that you were so good as to send us, & you will find his opinion on the other side of this sheet. In this beautiful genus he has already made such a progress that I am in great hopes of seeing him very soon set seriously about preparing for the press, & I am not sorry that he has determined upon publishing the British species before he meddles with the foreign ones. He & I have been this evening meditating a treatise for the Linnean Society upon the genus *Andraea*, which is very imperfectly indeed understood among Botanists. The male flowers are at present undescribed, & what Hedwig & all other xxxx xxxx [text very faded and difficult to decipher] called the peristomium is undoubtedly the true capsule, & their capsule is only an apophysis. There are also four very distinct species, as you will see by the contents of this letter, tho' two only have yet been described. Since I had last the pleasure of writing to you, a new volume of the Linnean Transactions has appeared, containing a considerable variety of interesting matter. The things most in my way are 2

papers on mosses, the one [wax over text] Dr Smith, describing his genus *Hookera*; the other, by Mr Hooker, with descriptions [paper and text missing] of new mosses from the East Indies. Of both these papers & of my own describing 8 new British Lichens I have no doubt of getting you copies, & I shall be very glad to send them to you. My London friends write me word that Botany, as well as literature in general, is in a very flourishing state among them. Nothing however, seems to attract so much expectation as the travels of your countryman, Lord Valentia, which are expected early in the spring. His Lordship showed me last May a sheet of the work, which was written in a very pleasant unaffected style, & some of the plates, which will be beautiful. To tell you of Walter Scott's *Marmion*, or to offer to send it to you after it has been thus long published, would, I fear, be idle; probably however, you have not seen a little book that has of late been very much read & admired in this part of the world; Mrs Grant's letters from the mountains, & if you have not, I should be very glad to be instrumental in making you acquainted with them. I could send them in a Frank by means of my excellent friend, Captain Mangin, who will forward this, & thro' whom you might at any time convey any small parcels to me, directing it to him in Mountjoy Square, under cover to Mr Taylor at the Castle. The Government Messenger between England & Ireland may then be made to answer one good purpose at least. When poor Scott was alive your Chancellor of the Exchequer was very useful to us. Our British Zoologists are delighted beyond measure at a recent addition to their Fauna. The great sea snake, described by Pontoppidan & mentioned by some travellers, but not believed by Naturalists at first, has lately been thrown on one of the shores [blank bit] Islands. The monster was about 60 feet long, with a head like a seal, much smaller than its [paper missing] the girth of which was about the size of a small pony's. The [paper missing] two spiracles, a mane composed of hairs like what fishermen use & call Indian grass, & four paws each about 5 ft long. I must leave off, or I shall not have room to tell you of the *Jungermanniae*. When you feel yourself sufficiently in health & spirits it will give me great pleasure to hear from you: in the meantime, & ever, I beg you to be assured of the respect & esteem of Dear Madam, your very faithful & obliged Dawson Turner
Yarmouth 6th December 1808

*No 9 singular variety of *Jung spinulosa*

11. Marked "*Jung dilatata* - variety?" Is *J complanata*.

12. *Jung scalaris* Roth, the same as *J crenulata* in English Botany.

14. Marked "*Jung multiflora*?" Is *J bispinulata* I believe Dickson's *multiflora* is not at all different.

*15. Marked "seems distinct from No 12" I believe is only a smaller variety of No 12.

*16. *Jung minutissima* of English Botany growing on *Hypnum alopecurum*.

One without a No marked "*Jung curvifolia*" is an undescribed species common in Scotland, but the fructification is unknown at present. Another without any No marked "*Jung julacea*" is a very singular and beautiful variety of *J reptans* - I have put asterisks to those species of which Mr Hooker would be glad of more, should you meet with it. - If you would at any time trouble yourself to pick up and save for me any shells you meet with on your coast I shall be much obliged to you, but I have none here to offer in return.

Madeline Hutchins
November 2024