

Letters: Ellen Hutchins and Dawson Turner - 1810

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).

1810 is the fourth year of the correspondence (1807-1814). There are ten letters from Ellen in 1810 and there are nine letters from Dawson Turner.

The preparation of transcriptions of the correspondence is a project of the Ellen Hutchins Festival, Bantry, Ireland. The 1810 letters were completed in February 2025 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 the whole of the correspondence has now been completed - 1807 to 1814 with the transcriptions shared on the website - www.ellenhutchins.com on the Ellen's Letters page. <https://ellenhutchins.com/ellens-letters/>

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 or Trinity College Cambridge Library or Library and Archives, Kew Gardens.

Letter 1

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 5th January 1810

Jan. 5

[Note written to identify a specimen pinned to the top of the letter]

Jung. No 28 from

Mr. Mackay

How shall I thank you, my dear Sir, for your kind wish to gratify me by writing as soon as my little parcel arrived, & for the pleasure your letter gave me. Its arrival on New Year's day I take as a good omen, & sincerely wish that this & many succeeding years may be productive of peace & health to you & those on whom your happiness depends. That you like the drawings is a great pleasure. Wherever you see any defect pray tell me that I may do better copies for you. I am not myself satisfied with the magnified parts of the *Rivulariæ*, but now that I have a better microscope if I can live till next season, you shall have much better magnified parts & I shall, I hope, be able to make some observations on the fruit which seems to me not of the same nature with that of *Conferva gelatinosa*. Think,

my dear Sir, what a feast it was to have all those plants to examine & compose in one day. The impression it made & the reflections it produced I shall never forget - Surely *rivularia angulosa* has no affinity to those plants of which I sent you the drawings. In the conn[ection?] of its filaments it rather resembles the family of *distorta*, but unlike that tribe they terminate in pointed pellucid hairs - The day or two after I recd. your letter I sent off a parcel containing drawings of nine *Confervæ* not described in *Dillwyns*. If you like to describe them I shall be very much pleased & hope you will add No 13 which has no resemblance to *C. Hookera*. It is not, I believe, sufficiently magnified. The microscope I had when it was done did not magnify so highly as the last drawings of *Confervæ*. The plant named after you in *Dillwyn* I have never seen. I should be glad of a specimen. I now think that what I have been accustomed to call *Turneri* is a different plant from what I sent you, as *Plumula*, with a suspicion of its being *Turneri* in a young state. The latter I have observed in all stages of its growth & find that it constantly produces four ramuli at each joint. *Plumula* as constantly has but two & is beside a more delicate slender plant, the ramuli & joints longer, & is very rare here, *Turneri* very plenty. I cannot tell you how delighted I have been with your Lichens, which I recd. quite safe, with the assistance of *Sprengel* I have made out many genera, but I don't expect to do much until Mr *Borrer's* work is out. When I can have it to make out the species you may be sure if you do not get Lichens from me that it must be my fault, not that of the country. Where there are so many rocks & heaths there must be Lichens. I am half afraid of the xxx ones, they are so numerous. I have put a few specimens in the last parcel. I fear they cannot be of much use to you. When I open'd your paper with *Parmelia diatrypa* I was quite surprised it was an old acquaintance of which you can have many specimens. I had taken it for *physodes* from *Withering's* description. I enclos[e] two *Jungermannia*æ. No 27 I found here full of fruit in October. I think y[ou] will find it distinct from either *par[melia ?]* or *multiflora*, both which it resembles, in its upright, unbranched shoot & terminating fruit. I can send you more & regret that I omitted to put it in the parcel. No 28 Mr. Mackay sent me as *quinquedentata*, but surely it cannot be that. Is it *With[ering's] angulosa*? I hope Mr. Hooker will soon give us the *Jungermannia*æ. What a delightful family they are. I often regret that Mr. *Dillwyn* has so completely concluded the *Confervæ*. Sometimes I think myself very ungrateful to feel dissatisfied when he has taught me all I know of that genera, but it is impossible not to feel regret. I am sorry to hear he is so plagued with law, of all earthly torments one of the worst. I hope you found the mosses in the last parcel interesting. All mosses are very much so, nothing delights me more than the sight of a great rock cover'd with a variety of mosses. In winter the rich shades of green they afford are very beautiful. I have a rock in my little flower garden, the north side of which is freely covered with mosses & ferns. I am sorry Mr. Woods was not as successful as he expected in Botany. I should think a traveller not likely to grow [?] a great deal unless he goes to some distant untried part of the world. Any country requires to be minutely examined & travellers seldom spend time enough at any one place to know what it produces.

Your letter by Capt. Mangin I have not yet recd., but am in daily expectation of it, tho' letters & parcels are often long delayed they in the end are received in safety. I hope my last will not be as long on its journey as the two xxxx former ones.

Of late I have been much amused & occupied with shells, of which we have a better variety than I at first expected. Some I cannot satisfy myself about, & some rare ones I have got among others *Venus triangularis* finer than the figure represents, & being prettily coloured. You shall in some time have the best specimens I can procure of what our own shores produce. I have half blinded myself picking seashells out of sand.

Believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours

E. Hutchins

Ballylickey
January 5th 1810

Letter 2

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 10th January 1810

Jan 10th 1810

Your letter My dear Sir found me a few hours ago, just finishing a drawing of a minute *Conferva* different from any I have hitherto seen. I shall put a little of it into this letter, it grew on *Fucus loreus*. I am anxious to hear from you in what state you wish to have *Fucus aculeatus* drawn, whether in the state it appears at this season destitute of jointed filaments & which is I believe its most common appearance, or as I found it last spring with tufts of filaments. The young plants alone seem furnish'd with them. Perhaps you would like an old plant & a piece with the filaments. As you seem anxious to have it speedily I do not lose a post, & only wait your answer. As soon as I hear from you, I shall do it, & send with it thro Capt. Mangin a drawing of the enclosed *Conferva* & another great beauty No 63 sent on glass in the last parcel, together with some of the mosses you wish for more of. I am very glad you have found *Hypnum* No 2 distinct from subtile [*Amblystegium serpens*]. I have some & am sure I can get more. No 7 I can get more of. No 11[?] must I think be the same that I sent you before for *H. fluviatile* [*A. fluviatile*], for I never found anything like it but in one little spot. Of *Grimmia* No 3 I can send you more & if I have not perfect specimens in the house I can get some where it grows: a very favourite spot by the rocky, woody side of a little waterfall particularly dear to me as the place of [deletion] growth of *Jung. trichophylla* [*Blepharostoma trichophyllum*] one of my new species & many mosses. I have spent many happy hours creeping among its rocks & never quitted it without regret. The troublesome little affairs of this world continually deprive one of the enjoyment of such pleasures. But whither am I wandering. Let me return from the rocks & thank you most warmly for all your kindness & for all the information you give me. I beg you never to think it necessary to apologize for any delay in answering letters, indeed you never I think delay. I should feel very uneasy if I thought you put yourself to inconvenience in writing sooner than you had leisure. I am very sensible of the value of your time, & feel very grateful for the part of it you bestow on me. I am very glad Mr. Hooker is so near the publication of the *Jungermanniae*. I hope he will find the little one I enclosed you in my last letter distinct. Most likely he is already well acquainted with it tho' it is rare here. What a delightful tour he is likely to have in Iceland under such advantages as you describe. The enterprising zealous spirit I suppose him to possess is I think greatly to be admired. Perhaps I value active minds the more from observing that of the very few people I see. Much the greater part seem sadly at a loss to know how to get rid of time. I am ever ready to wish success to travellers & sincerely hope he may escape such adventures as he met with at sea last year. Thank you for the new *Bryum* you sent me. Mr. Eagle's taste in drawing seems rather singular. It seems an odd fancy to paint the capsules of mosses green, so very unnatural surely. The rich variety of colouring in the leaves, stalks & capsules is a great beauty. I know not how to thank you for your wish to gratify me with the sight of Mr. Hooker's drawings which I am sure are very fine & the still higher pleasure of seeing you, a gratification that I cannot at present flatter myself with any hope of enjoying. I feel it impossible to think of moving from those who from ill health & other reasons would be miserable without me. In such circumstances I cannot think of self gratification without its being followed by self reproach. Your Lichens are of great value, many of them I have found here & many more I have not. However I may discover more of them, I am quite a beginner. *Lecidea atrovirens* [*Rhizocarpon geographicum*] is a striking ornament to many of our rocks particularly by the seashore & sometimes on mountains. Before you receive this letter you will I hope get a parcel thro' Capt Mangin containing a few Lichens,

to you not very useful I fear, & drawings of some beautiful little Conferva. I hope to have a few more to send with the drawing of Fucus aculeatus. My dear Sir I have written in such a hurry that I hardly know what I have said. It is time to bid you good night, past 1 Clock & I have yet a letter to write. How I long for the summer mornings when I can have many undisturbed hours before breakfast. At all hours I feel your truly obliged friend

E Hutchins

Janry. 10th 1810 -

Letter 3

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 23rd January 1810

[above the start of the first page]

I have not at all referred in this letter to your last, nor even mentioned the singularly curious little Conferva it contained. As our parcels must be large gather lichens by wholesale.— I wish you would tell me what I could send you that would be acceptable.

I was reading the other day, my dear Madam, in a review, of some nobleman, I forget who, patron of the famous Dr Moore, the author of Zeluco etc, who used to say, "I never see Moore but when he has something to ask of me." Happily for me, you cannot say exactly the same thing of me; but, at the same time, common justice requires me to add, that, if ever I write to you without having something to ask for, the merit is not mine but yours; for assuredly I never write but that I have something to thank you for, & it is only your sending more than I desire or expect that prevents my being as notorious a beggar as Dr Moore. I have now to thank you for two letters & for a parcel, &, had I as much time & room as I have inclination for writing, I could probably amuse you by an account of my engagements & feelings at the moment the first of your letters arrived, & I am sure I could please you by the information that it effectually got the better of one of "the miseries of human life" that I was then smarting under. To take things as well in order as I can, let me tell you of the two Jungermanniae contained in your first letter. No 27 is Jung. byssacca of Roth, a plant we find here, but only barren, & therefore Mr Hooker would be obliged to you for more of it: "No 28, from Mr Mackay", is Jung. barbata of Schmidel, a more common species. The Rivulariae I leave in your hands: you, & only you, must teach us to form our opinions of them, for nobody else has equal opportunities or equal industry & ability. I never saw a marine one in fruit fresh; but, judging from habitat, I was always inclined to think that these & Conferva gelatinous must form the same genus, & that Riv. Angulosa & the other fresh water species must go to them. There is a species very common here, Riv. endivifolia which I can send you, if it do not grow with you, & it recovers better than almost any other. Are the filaments in Riv. angulosa really connected like those of Conf. distorta; I should think they scarcely can be so, & certainly I never saw them so. — The 9 drawings of Confervae please me exceedingly: they appear to me to be all unquestionably new, unless the one on Elms No 62 may possibly belong to C. velutina. I have examined them with the specimens as attentively as I can: at present Mr Hooker has them for the same purpose at Haleworth, & when he has done with them they shall travel into Sussex to be compared by Mr Borrer. Dillwyn is so far off & so much engaged with other matters that I shall not send them to him: besides which, my confidence is stronger in the others. I ought to say that I fear No 56 may possibly belong to the animal kingdom like No.s 31 & 47. I shall with great pleasure follow your wishes in describing them for the

Linn. Trans. But I should have much greater pleasure in sending them to the Society with descriptions by yourself, & I need not say that if you would write a short account of each I will add whatever appears to me necessary. Dr Smith, with whom I spent a day last week, desired me to add that the Linnean Society would feel themselves particularly gratified at the communication being made by yourself. I shall in a few days have occasion to write to the Bishop of Carlisle & I will take that opportunity of franking to you a specimen of the Conferva named after me by Dillwyn, & of Utricularia vulgaris, which you will see to be as different as possible from your plant, the true U. intermedia.

This you must find in flower next year. Its two important characters are that the Utriculi grow distinct from the leaves instead of being mixed with them, & that the plant originates from a bulb, which your specimens do not show. If it be common with you & you can gather me a dozen specimens, even barren, I shall be thankful for them. I have so filled my paper that it is impossible to add my remarks upon the plants of your last parcel, as I had meant to do. These, therefore, must travel with the Utricularia. I cannot enough thank you for your readiness in complying with my wishes about the drawing of F. aculeatus. I wish to have it of the size of my Fuci, & as much as possible of the common appearance of the plant, with a small piece fringed, & some of this magnified: adding also any other peculiarities you may think worth notice. As soon as it is done, pray send it like a letter to Captain Mangin, who to my infinite vexation has just written to me word that Mr Taylor has objected to frank any more parcels for you & me, tho' he will still send our letters (or rather small parcels like letters) under his privilege. Letters I always like best to receive direct by post, but we must use him to convey small specimens or single drawings, & there is, I understand, an office in Dublin that will take our larger parcels & forward them immediately. You must only make your parcels to me bigger & I shall be the more glad of them; but I shall be truly sorry if this plan subjects you to expense; for, as the advantage is all mine, so ought the expense to be too, & I thank God it is not the least object to me. Perhaps you will let some Dublin friend ask where this office is, & how I can by means of it send any thing to you, which I should be very glad to do. You may have my drawings & my books & use as your own my library, which is not contemptible. Have you yet got Dante? Farewell my dear Madam ever yours DT
Yarmouth 23 January 1810.

Letter 4

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 28th January 1810

My dear Madam

In the letter I wrote you five days ago I promised you should soon hear from me through the Bishop of Carlisle, but, instead of this, I am tempted to trouble you with another letter by post, lest I should delay longer than I either intended or wished to do, though this at least I can engage for, that you shall, before many days are over, receive through him the Utricularia & Conferva. The opinion I can give you upon your parcel must be a very unsatisfactory one. I am not at home as I wish to be, among the Lichens, & there are two families, particularly, in this vast tribe, the gelatinous ones & the Baeomycides [Cladoniaceae], that nobody understands as they should do. These, therefore, I recommend to your special care; they are very beautiful & very interesting, & you seem to live in an excellent country for them. Here, too, we have extensive heaths, & I threaten that this winter shall not pass away without my being master of the Baeomycides, but I should

like of all things to have you studying them at the same time as I do, that we may compare our observations together, & I will beg of you to save me, not only specimens of every species & variety, but many & large specimens of each. I will with great pleasure do the same for you here, if you wish it, & as it is of no consequence how big our future parcels may be, large specimens may be sent as well as smaller ones. Now then for your parcel, lest, suffering myself to prose as I always do when writing to you, I should again not leave myself room to write about it.

Spergula saginoides You are certainly right about this. I never saw the plant before, & if you find more, should be thankful for a farther supply.

Lichen unicalis? *Sticta limbata*? – *Usnea plicata* – *Baeomyces subulatus* – *Peltidea horizontalis* – in all these we are agreed.

Peltidea canina? Seems to me the same as mine.

Tortola ruralis? – the plant grows thus, commonly, with us.

Baeomyces cocciferus – not exactly like ours, for your specimens are smaller & the colour less vivid; but I still think them the same. –

Conferva No 64 – I can see nothing in this now it is dry distinct from *C sordida*

Lichens No 19 *Lecidea lurida*

+ 21. This appears to me to be *Parmelia perlata*, but Mr Borrer shakes his head.

+ 22. *Peltidea resupinata* – you will easily find this in fruit, for it bears it plentifully.

+ 23. *Parmelia brunnea* – the same as *L pezizoides* of Withering.

+ 24. *Parmelia lutea*.

+ 25. *Lecidea muscorum* – scarcely different from *Lecidea parasema*.

+ 26. I do not know what this may be – pray send more of it.

+ 27. *Parmelia atra*.

28. Some *Variolaria* I think, in an imperfect state: the black granules on it I suppose to be parasitical.

29. Both the Lichen and the hard clay are pulverized: so that I cannot guess at it.

30. *Endocarpon amphibium*.

+ 31. *Parmelia laevigata* – (not in Withering).

+ 32. *Parmelia lacera* – *L tremelloides* of Withering.

+ 33. *Parmelia sinuata*.

+ 34. *Parmelia flaccida*.

+ 35. Variety of *P farinacea* – as you say. Have you ever seen this species with shields?

+ 36. *Baeomyces alcornis* of Acharius, not of English writers. Pray send more.

+ 37. *Baeomyces epiphyllus* – pray send more.

+ 38. Variety of *Baeomyces gracilis*, I think.

39. Variety of *B rangiferinus* – we have the same here.

+ 40. & 41. I believe both these to be varieties of *B cornutus*.

+ 42. I do not know this – pray send more.

+ 43. Of this I am not sure, but believe it a variety of *B scolecinus*, which is not in Withering.

+ 44. *Isidium corallinum* – I should be glad of a good specimen or two as perfect as can be got; particularly with the margin.

About your *Equisetum* I cannot at all satisfy myself: it is most probably *E limosum*, as you say; but it is not like my specimens at all. Your minute *Conferva* on *F loreus* [text missing] letter, I know nothing in the world about – what a little beauty it is? – By the way; if it is not intruding too much on your goodness, might I ask you to make for my Hist Fuc a drawing of *F loreus*, which I have never been able to find here since the work began: the specimen of course must not be too large for a folding plate at most; & I should be glad of magnified sections to show the internal structure & the fruit which must now be at maturity. I should wish too, if it were practicable, to have a plant or two in their first stages put by the side of the figure. See, my dear Madam, to what trouble the kindness you have

always shown me subjects you. Do, however, believe I am not insensible of your goodness & do rank me always amongst the foremost of

Your obliged & sincere friends
Dawson Turner –

Yarmouth 28 January 1810

Letter 5

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 20th February 1810

My dear Sir

You have I hope by this time received the drawings of *Fucus aculeatus* & some *Confervae* that I sent through Captain Mangin above a week ago. I have deferred answering your letters since I sent the parcel expecting to find something new this springtime. Nor have I been disappointed, for in dredging for shells & plants yesterday I met with a single specimen of a most curious little plant, composed of distinct short filaments enclosed within a colourless wrinkled skin. You shall have a drawing with the next things. Its nearest relative seems to be *C foetida*, which I can hardly think is a *Conferva*. I never could see anything like what Dillwyn's plate represents. You shall have a sketch of it as it appears to me. I can hardly believe that *C paradoxa* is not rather an *Ulva*. I have got a simple freshwater *Conferva* to send unlike anything I have yet seen, & I feel sure that I shall be able to make out in the spring and summer 5 or 6 more that are not in Dillwyn & which I have never yet drawn.

Your being pleased with the 9 *Confervae* I sent adds much to my interest in them. I cannot tell you how much I feel obliged by your offer to assist in completing such descriptions as you wish me to give, but as you would even if I should attempt to write any part of the descriptions, have all the trouble, & as I am sure I could not execute them well, I beg of you to do the whole, at any time you like. I am indeed very sensible of your kindness & of Dr Smith's politeness, but I should feel afraid to attempt describing anything. You know I am good for nothing but gathering up all that I can find for those who know how to observe them with scientific eyes. Mine alas are in every way very short sighted. During the course of next summer I shall attend with all possible diligence to the *Rivulariae* & expect to find more specimens than you have yet had from me. I have seen single specimens of two very large fine ones, if possible I must get more to draw & feature. The only freshwater plant I have ever seen that resembles the marine species in structure is *C gelanitosa*, & even of this I am not sure that the fruit does not somewhat differ. *Rivularia angulosa* is of a very different nature I believe. If my plant be the true *angulosa*, I think the filaments connected somewhat like *C distorta*, & they seem to me somewhat of the same nature, but that they terminate in a different manner. *Riv endivifolia* does not grow here. I should like to get it & if you have plenty to spare of any of the following *Confervae* I should also thank you for specimens at any convenient time, *comoides*, *reticulata*, *glomerata*, *aegagropila*, *villosa*, *Borreri*, *urceolata*, *crispa*, *fracta*, & *dichotoma*. I am very glad you find my *Utricularia* is *media*. If possible you shall have specimens in flower, barren ones you shall certainly get. –

About *Fucus loreus* I cannot please myself. The rocks are covered with young & the few remaining fragments of the old have all discharged their seeds. The end of the summer is I think the season when the plant is in perfection. The first I can get fit to draw shall be

done for you. I have not yet heard about the office in Dublin for conveying parcels to & from England, though I wrote to my brother to make inquiries. When I write next you shall hear all about it.

To the lichens I shall pay particular attention & collect in large quantities for you. I have got *L. papillaria* of Withering. It seems a very curious one, it is I dare say common with you. *Parmelia tenuissima* [*Leptogium tenuissimum*] grows here. I hope Mr Borrer will be soon able to give us an English book to consult. I hope you found the morsels of mosses I sent with the last drawings interesting. Is the morsel under the seal of this letter *Phascum alternifolium*? I can get plenty. In shells I advance, but slowly. I have got some of which I am either doubtful or cannot find descriptions in Montague. When we can hear how to send things by this office in Dublin I shall make up some for Miss Turner. I sometimes get presents of West India shells, would she like to have share? Tell me my dear Sir how I can do any thing for you or any of your family & believe me ever your obliged friend
Ballylickey 20th February 1810 E Hutchins

Letter 6

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 7th April 1810

Apr. 7

My dear Sir

I have been for some time past expecting to hear from you. I now feel apprehensive that you have been ill. My fears will not allow me to wait any longer & I beg a line to say how you are. I really feel quite uneasy & shall not be otherwise until I know that you are well. I have suffered so much by the loss of some friends & the ill health of others that I am ever ready to fear for those that remain, & am often uneasy without much reason. This I sincerely hope may be the case at present & that I shall have the gratification of hearing that you enjoy health & peace.

I hope the parcel I sent you near two months ago containing a drawing of *Fucus aculeatus*, some *Confervæ* & a few specimens of mosses has reached you. I have since found four or five *Confervæ* different from any you have hitherto had from me. Of late I have attended to collecting Lichens & have a great many to send you. The *Bæomyces* are variable & puzzling beyond any thing I have ever seen. How they do vary! & run into each other. You shall have every thing this place produces, with all my doubts & thoughts. The more I find the less I can see. It will give me great pleasure to shew you every thing you have not seen. They will appear less confused to you than to me, who know so little about them. I have found two fruit of *Parmelia caperata* which is very rare, tho' the plant is so common, *P. omphalodes* with fruit in plenty. *P. diatrypa* in great plenty without fruit. I should like to know if you want of those or more of any *Jungermannia* that you have got from me. Of the moss sent in the last parcel as G[] No 8 I can send you plenty. I have also found *Parmelia farinacea* with shields on the upper branches of an old apple tree that was cut down.

The *Confervæ* now begin to cover the rocks very fast, & *Fucus clavellus* is coming in. If there be anything you wish me to know about the drawing of this plant pray let me know in time as it must soon be done while the plant is in perfection & if you can think of any thing else I could do, or save for you pray tell me. I am unwilling to trouble you with a long letter at this time, or to ask many questions. I shall therefore conclude

earnestly requesting a line to say how you are. Believe me, my dear Sir, now & at all times
your faithful & obliged

E. Hutchins

Ballylickey
April 7th 1810

Letter 7

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 18th April 1810

My dear Sir

When I wrote to you a few days ago I did not expect to be able to send you the enclosed quite so soon. I am just returned from a long walk, & have brought home a box full of *Grimmia Daviesii* of which I can supply you with a large quantity. I have also brought in a *Grimmia* that I think must be *crispula*, & the little *Jungermannia* enclosed. I send you another bit of No. 6 & a capsule with the teeth perfect. I hope you will now be able to satisfy yourself as to the genus it belongs to. More of it & better I must get for you. Of *Rivularia angulosa* I send a drawing, I believe a correct one - don't you think it more nearly related to *distorta* than to the *Rivulariæ*? The large variety of *Conf. foetida* shews its formation pretty clearly. I have examined a vast many specimens of this plant & never found the least appearance of joints. It is really branched & seems a pellucid membranous tribe containing oval granules at first attached to each other in rows & afterwards separating as the plant grows older, & escaping out the apices. No. 70 was found on the shell of the large scallop & dredged out of deep water. It seems most nearly related to *C. foetida*. The skin is veined & contains filaments which escape at the apices. When recent it has not the glossy appearance of the dried specimen. I send you but the least morsel. I have only one specimen on glass to send at another time. No. 69 was found on a rock by the sea, & No. 68 in very small quantity in a shady pool. It seems distinct from any thing I met with before. The joints are [of] very unequal lengths. There are hardly two alike in a filament. I am watching a very minute *Conferva* that will probably be new.

I have not time to say more than that I am always your obliged friend.

E. H.

April 18th 1810

Letter 8

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, date uncertain 1810

[date illegible; however, the letter was, from internal evidence, written late in the first half of 1810].

Long a time, my dear Madam, as has elapsed since last I wrote to you, I still feel it would be wrong to offer any apology on the subject; for an apology seems to infer some injury done or slight shewn to the party to whom it is made, whereas in the present case it would be quite the reverse, as I am myself the only sufferer. I am sure of one thing, which is that you believe me incapable of shewing you intentional neglect, I trust I may be equally persuaded of another, that you have believed me sincere in my declarations that your correspondence is one of my greatest amusements & pleasures; & under this confidence I

rest satisfied that you would not believe I would willingly hazard the loss of it, nor will I enter into a detail of the vexatious circumstances that have harrassed me & kept me silent for the last three months, the principal one of which has been a forgery upon our Bank. This, you will I know be glad to hear, has been attended with no unpleasant consequences beyond trouble & anxiety; which have been greatly eased by the two letters I have received from you in the interim, one of them containing drawings & specimens. About a fortnight ago I had an opportunity, by means of a tradesman from this neighbourhood of the name of Chapman, going to settle in Dublin, to send you a small parcel; & I availed myself of it to convey to you Mr Dillwyn's Synopsis of the Confervae, which I recommend to you to have interleaved to write remarks upon, Mr Hooker's paper on foreign mosses published in the last volume of the Linnæan Transactions, & a small pamphlet lately printed by Mr Mathias in memory of a friend of ours who died a few months ago. It is an elegant tribute of friendship, & as such I am sure you will like to see it, tho you do not know the parties. "Forse un di fia", as Tasso says, I may have the pleasure of shewing you the Villa of Blundeston, which is there so much praised. I had not a moment to look out any plants for you, nor even to write a line; but Mr Chapman promises me he will soon point out some means of conveying our parcels backward & forward without trouble, & if he will do so he will do me a great favor. You are likely, I understand, soon to see a botanical friend of mine, Sir Thos Gage, who married Lord Kenmare's daughter, & is just gone to Ireland, to pass some months there. He declares he will at all events make your acquaintance, even if he cannot procure an introduction to you; nor & if Mr Hooker should be disappointed in returning to Iceland, which seems at present problematical, you must not be surprized if one day in the summer you find that he & I are at Bantry waiting your permission to call at Ballylickey. These, however, are mere Chateaux en Espagne, where, by the bye, it does not seem probable that the English will long have Chateaux at all of a more substantial nature. And now, my dear Madam, ¿what have I to thank you for? – I hardly know, it is so much, how & where to begin. In the first place, however, for your mosses, which, tho *Grimmia*, have puzzled & teased me as much as any *Tortula* or *Orthotricha* could have done, & I now speak of them most doubtingly. No 3 I have already told you I could not ascertain, & I am, unluckily, still in the same predicament. – No 4 appears to me to be *Gymnostomum luteolum* [*Anoetangium aestivum*], but I apprehend I must be wrong, as you would know it, if it were so. N^o 5 is *Grimmia controversa* [*Weissia controversa*]. - seems to me the same as No 3. – No 7 is *Grimmia recurvirostra* [*Hymenostylium recurvirostrum*], & No 8 is *Grimmia Dicksoni* [*Dicranoweisia cirrata*].

Your Hypnum, No 9[?] is *H. subtile*, for more of which I should be obliged to you at some future time, & still more so for more of your little moss supposed a *Tortula*, the fruit of which I much long to see, as I suspect it to be a species described by foreign authors, but not known in Britain, own brother to *T. tortuosa* [*Tortella tortuosa*]. This, I think, is all I have to say of Mosses, except that your *Phascum alternifolium* is not so, but is barren shoots of some moss, I think *Dicranum purpureum* [*Ceratodon purpureus*]. The drawing of *Fucus aculeatus* is excellent & I am greatly obliged to you for it. I only delay its publication wishing to get a fresh specimen of *F. pedunculatus* to accompany it, as I think they will illustrate each other. Now for what I know of your Confervae; & sorely little it is. Mr Borrer & Mr Hooker both agree that No 56 must be an animal production, & they are inclined to refer No 59 to *C. vaginata*: the others remain new as far as we know, & as soon as I have any leisure I will try what I can do towards describing them. No 69 is *Rivularia elegans* [*Chaetophora elegans* (Roth) C. Agardh], a plant very common here & certainly of the same Genus as *Riv. angulosa*, even if these must be separated from the marine *Rivularia*, which I believe it will be difficult to do. I can find no uniting of the filaments as in *C. distorta*. Your No 65 is a new species of the same Genus. No 64 is *Conferva alternata* of English Botany, much finer than it has ever been found before, & No 67 I apprehend may

possibly belong to *C. limosa* [?*Oscillatoria limosa* C. Agardh]: of No 66 I know nothing, & should be thankful for more specimens, as well as of any other, except 69. I was very vexed at not sending by Mr Chapman the Confervae you wish for, most of which I have for you. *C. paradoxa* & *C. fotida* are two plants for any light on which I shall be very thankful. The drawing of *F. loreus* may wait to any future time. I should not be able to do anything with it for some months; for you & my other botanical correspondents are by no means the only portion of my engagements that I neglect, but I have also been obliged to leave my *Hist. Fuc.* sadly, & to let two months go by without any No being published in either of them. Lichen papillaria of With. is common here, & is, as you say, really a curious plant; *L. tenuissimus* too we have in plenty, tho' seldom with fruit. I spent 2 days lately with Mr Leach at Halesworth, & was greatly pleased with his extraordinary enthusiasm. He went 400 miles lately to catch a beetle, which I think is the ne plus ultra of Entomological ardor. I almost regret I am not an Entomologist & that I feel the aversion to [sic] do to killing Insects, tho' I think it both right of itself & particularly necessary for the father of a family, particularly if [sic] what Warner says is true that man is of Nature cruel, & that the most natural amusement of children is impaling butterflies & cockchafers. I have hardly left myself room to thank you in the name of my daughter for your kind offer of shells: she has so few, & so few means of collecting, that for any British or foreign she would be much obliged to you. You express yourself indebted to me – How can you so pervert terms! when I not only know but feel all the obligation is on the side of Your ever obliged

D. T. Yarmouth [date illegible; however, the letter was, from internal evidence, written late in the first half of 1810].

Pray write immediately. Capt Mangin has no objection to forwarding any small letter-like parcels. – Is *F. loreus* annual or perennial? in what month does it bear fruit? & do you find the buttons ever swollen into a spherical shape – if you do pray draw me so[?].–

Letter 9

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 25th May 1810 (had been dated 1812)

I have shown myself to you, my dear Madam, in a most foolish & ungrateful light, in neglecting so long to thank you for the exceedingly kind letters I have received from you & especially for those truly friendly fears & enquiries after [our] health, which have produced upon my mind an effect that I hope will never be effaced. I have been perfectly well in body, I am happy to say, never better, but far from so in mind; Mrs Turner having for the last 6 weeks been in the same alarming & debilitating state in which she was at the beginning of her pregnancy, till a few days ago she was safely brought to bed of a daughter, which, though born two months before its time, promises to live, & my wife is also better than I could either have expected or hoped. There, at the age of 34, I find myself father of 6 girls, it having pleased the Almighty to take from me 3 boys, 2 of them at so early an age that I could scarcely regret their loss, the third after he had lived long enough to show the signs of all I could have wished for in ability or disposition. I do not, however, mean to murmur: nothing is farther from my disposition or my principles, & on the contrary I thank my God most sincerely & most fervently for what he has left me: no man has more reason to feel gratitude & I would fain believe that no man does feel more. It is your own kindness, my dear Madam, & the interest you take in all that concerns me,

that induces me to take the liberty of thus troubling you with details of myself & my family. In truth I have little else to fill my sheet with; for, while my mind is ill at ease, I can apply to nothing, & among the evil consequences resulting from my late inactivity I find that all my letters are become contorted & confused, so that I really do not know what I have to thank you for, or what I have to answer. To one thing alone I am sure I have not replied, which is your letter sent me 18 April through Captain Mangin. The drawings of *Conf. foetida* in this are all I could possibly wish to illustrate that most extraordinary vegetable; but it involves the necessity of your doing as much for me with respect to *C. paradoxa*. *Grimmia* No 9 is certainly *G. crispula*: about No 6 I am quite unable to satisfy myself: *Hypnum* No 18, I think with you, must be referred to *H. filicinum* of which it is an extraordinary variety. *Rivularia angulosa* I will watch attentively when it comes up here; but it has not yet made its appearance. *Conf.* No 68 & 69 I have examined attentively & can refer to none I know; but what a most extraordinary thing is No 70! How like *C. foetida*! & yet, apparently, very distinct. I am exceedingly pleased at this addition to our list of *Confervae*. There were a *Jungermannia* or two also enclosed in your letter, which Mr Hooker took away with him, & as he is now in London, I have no opportunity of learning what they are: but I recollect he said they were pretty varieties of species he was already acquainted with, & that he wished for more of them. His work on this genus is not yet with parts; having been delayed on account of the time he has given to his Iceland Tour, which he has begun to print, & will finish in about 6 weeks. It will be only given away; but you shall have it as soon as it is out. I don't want to trouble you for either *Parmelia caperata*, or *omphalodes*, or *diatrypa*, unless you can find the latter abundantly in fruit I have gathered it sparingly so in Scotland, whence I hope to receive this summer a good store of lichens, Mr Borrer intending to pass some months there. I expect every day to hear of his being married & set off with his bride. *Rosa tomentosa*, that you are so good as to offer me, I need not trouble you. [] *spinosissima* abounds with us, & you shall be sure to receive it this summer. Walter Scott has just published a new Poem, called *Lady of the Lake*, which will, if I am not mistaken, rank higher than either his *Lay of the Last Minstrel* or *Marmion* (pray have you both these?) – it abounds in the most beautiful descriptions & pathetic passages & though the verse is regular, of the same metre as the introductions to *Marmion*, [yet] the story is so winning, & the whole so varied by songs, that nothing like tedium can be felt in reading it. I wish it was published in any size but Quarto, that I might send it you at once & have the satisfaction of knowing that you should have the pleasure it has given me. I am prevented by Mrs Turner's health from going this month to London, so that I see nothing of what is passing in the literary world, except as far as my own library affords me; & I hear nothing, all my friends having forsaken me, being tired of writing letters that are never answered. I do not wonder at it, nor can I complain, although I never stood in more need of the pleasure & relief their letters afford me. One merit at least (a sorry one it is) I will claim to you, which is that this is the first letter I have written. The prospect, however is, thank God, now bright before me, & you must therefore prepare for as loquacious a correspondent as can be, in my dear Madam, Your much obliged friend

Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 25 May 1810

Note on it:

Is 9 pence on this letter. J Clarke

Letter 10

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 12th July

Yarmouth 12th July 1810

I feel, my dear Madam, most sincerely for the painful situation in which you are at present placed on account of Mrs Hutchins' health, & should be most sorry to do anything that might tend in the slightest degree to withdraw you from those attentions that she requires & that your filial affection induces you to bestow upon her. Do not therefore think for a moment that I write for the purpose of recalling you to your favorite pursuit: & I am very far from having such a wish or such an intention; but I have often found by experience that the remembrance of distant friends is most pleasing in the hour of distress, when of all wretched ideas that of being insulated is the most wretched, & therefore, tho' I can scarcely flatter myself with the hope that you will admit me into the number of your friends, yet, as I feel for you a degree of esteem & regard more than I either care to express or am able to do, I trust that a letter from me occasionally may not be unwelcome to you, & if it is not, I shall continue troubling you from time to time with one. My expectations of seeing Ireland this summer are at an end. Here I am, & here I am likely to be, I fear to the end of the chapter. And yet I hope not, for it is only the prospect of being one day released from the life of drudgery & anxiety I now lead, that makes me support it with patience & even with pleasure. Instead of leaving home, my house is likely to be full of company, among whom the only botanical visitors I expect are Mr & Mrs Borrer & Mr Brown, except indeed Mr Hooker who lives so near me that he is continually with me. From Mr Borrer I have just had a letter dated from the heart of Scotland, where he & his bride are enjoying themselves prodigiously; she from never having seen a hill in her life before, & he from a reflection of the pleasure she experiences, added to the satisfaction of informing her mind, & imprinting scenes more strongly upon his own. I wish I may one day have an opportunity of introducing him to you. I am sure you will like him: he is so thoroughly good a man, & what is extraordinary, his goodness is added to such strong abilities & to such cultivation of mind. An education early neglected & a natural love for retirement have brought upon him a shyness that makes him awkward, & prevents his being duly appreciated except by those who know him. Mr Brown is going to Dublin almost immediately, & will remain there 2 or 3 weeks, after which, on his return to Town, he will pass some time with me. Should you have an opportunity of sending me any parcel by him, Mr Mackay will know where to find him; but, pray, give yourself no trouble on the account; for I would rather receive nothing from you till your mind is again completely at rest, & we shall not again have a difficulty in conveying our packages to & from each other; as anything too large for Capt Mangin's frank may be sent, either to Mr John Chapman, at Mess Warren Chapman & Co's, No 36 Anglesea Street, Dublin, or to Elliott's parcel office, Abbey Street, Dublin. I understand I may very soon expect from Sir Thomas Gage a large box of Killarney Lichens; but I have no great expectations from the Baronet, & at all events nothing he sends will at all subtract from the pleasure that what you may have collected will afford me.

The only one Botanical novelty I have heard of late has been the discovery of *E filicinus* [*Grateloupia filicina*] on the Coast of Cornwall: it was found by Mr Rashleigh, who sent me three specimens, the best of which I will inclose in this letter. It comes very near some varieties of *F. corneus* [*Gelidium* spp.]. I had overlooked, or rather forgotten, what you told me about Capt Mangin's leaving Dublin, & consequently being unable at present to forward anything to or from us. Mackay would have no difficulty in getting General Vallancey, to whom I am known, to send small parcels of drawings, should you have the means of forwarding them to him at Dublin. The Lady of the Lake is already out of print, &

I fear you have not got it. I wish I could contrive to have my copy conveyed to you. This I will assuredly do thro' Mr Chapman, should my fears of your inability to procure it prove well founded.

¿Did I tell you in my last letter that Mr Hooker is going to Ceylon? - His restless mind will not suffer him to be at peace, tho' he is surrounded at home by all the comforts that affluence, refined society, & the attachment of his friends can afford.

He goes out under the protection of Sir Joseph Banks to explore the Natural History of the Island, intending to stay there two years, & then, if possible, to cross into Persia, or into South America. His strong health, temperance, & compliant disposition make him well qualified for the task, but I nevertheless wish heartily he could remain at home, much as I may expect from him, if he returns home in safety.

When you have an hour from your more important employments to bestow on one so distant I shall be truly happy to hear from you, & I shall be much obliged to you to mention the state of Mrs Hutchins' health, about which on your account I cannot but feel great interest. Mrs Turner joins in best respects & every kind wish to you with my dear Madam Your ever ff[?]

[Dawson Turner]

Perhaps it will be safest to send all your parcels by Elliot's office – they will come secure & expense is no object to me. Only direct them to be forwarded from London by the Yarmouth Mail from the White Horse Fetter Lane – send double or 3ble letters without hesitation by post, never stop a day for a frank.

Letter 11

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 24th July 1810

My dear Sir

Your last letter has given me so much pleasure that I really know not how to thank you for it or how to express the warm & sincere gratitude I feel for your friendship and kindness in offering me letters so interesting as yours at a time when domestic troubles lean so heavily upon me, when my mind is constantly in a state of anxiety & my spirits depressed by the sufferings of those I love best. I wish you to believe me capable of feeling the full value of the friend who wishes to relieve me. It is no small gratification to my mind that you think of me sometimes, you who seem to have so many valuable & interesting persons to occupy your attention. I am much, very much obliged by your wish to send me the Lady of Lake [sic], which I was so fortunate as to get in Dublin when there was hardly a copy left. I have read it with more pleasure than I can describe. I like it a great deal better than either Marmion or the Lay of the last Minstrel, it seems to me better kept up. All this, the description of the wild country & fine[?] Lake is very delightful & the sentiments & feelings of such characters as are painted[?] very natural & beautiful. I read it over & over with new pleasure. With what ease & spirit it is supported. Having little leisure during the day for reading I sat up the night after the book came & never perceived how the time glided away until daylight appeared.

In Botany I have not been able to do much since I wrote last. I can't go out to look for anything now[?]. I have got six or eight Conferva that you have not yet had from me. I think I shall have them ready to send you with some Lichens & a few other things in about a week or 10 days. I have met with the fruit of the Lichen I sent you as Parmelia perlata, but

you were doubtful of my plant being that species, the fruit is very rare. I hope you may get fine Lichens from Sir T. Gage, he is in a very favourable situation. I think the Limestone rocks must be productive. I have been so badly able to collect that I cannot hope that what I have can be valuable. Of *Fucus reniformis* I have great specimens to send you, a foot long & very broad. The *Rivularia* I am determined to attend to next month & send you sketches more highly magnified than those you got last year. I wish I had all the known species of this most beautiful family fresh to draw. I cannot see the connection between *el[egans]*, *angul[osa]* & the marine species with [text missing] *Conf. gelatinosa* seems to agree. *Riv. end[ivifolia]* I have not & should thank you very much for it. Of the pretty little *Conf. No 65* I enclose you a better sketch than the one sent some time ago. I found the plant much larger & finer, the former drawing was done in winter. Thank you for the specimen of *Fucus filicinus*, what a pretty little plant. I am highly pleased at being now able to send parcels with ease & security. I gathered *Utricularia media* yesterday but no flowers. I know of it but in one spot & never could find it in flower. For a specimen of *vulgaris* I should thank you. You told me you would send a specimen of this plant & one of *Conferva Turnerii* [*Spermothamnion repens*] thro' the Bishop of Carlisle, I fear they have been lost. I should also thank you for a specimen of *Pinguicula vulgaris* to compare with our plant. Mr. Drummond the Cork Botanic Gardener was here a day or two ago & he thinks our *Pinguicula* a distinct species. The figure of Eng. Botany does not represent our plant which is extremely beautiful & very plenty. Mr. Drummond has pointed out to me the following distinctions: the whole plant much larger than *vulgaris*, inside of the flower white with strong dark purple lines, segments of the Calyx rounded and of a dark purple colour nearly black, nectary very long bifid, leaves veined. I feel very anxious to know what you think of this plant. If I could find it in flower I would draw it but it is past flowering. I hope it is a new species. It is a most beautiful plant & great ornament to marshy places in spring. All the differences Mr. Drummond pointed out agreed with those I had myself observed between our plant & the figure of English Botany which I thought very incorrect. I am so warm on the subject of this plant that I am tempted to enclose you a specimen of our plant. *P. Lusitanica* I have, it grows abundantly here. I hope Mr Hooker will publish the *Jungermannia* before he leaves England. I greatly admire his busy temper & love for travelling, the more since his Iceland expedition. I think he who can brave danger after having felt it must have strength & superiority of mind, such a mind as to make his friends regret the loss of his society. –

I hope My dear Sir you will not at all times be confined so much to Yarmouth & that at some time you will visit Ireland. I should very unwillingly part the hope of seeing you – You are so kind as to enquire for my Mothers health. It is rather better than when I wrote last but still in such a state as to leave me no other prospect than that of endeavouring to soften the miseries of lingering declining years & of seeing her in a painful state of suffering for the rest of her life. –

With every kind wish for your & Mrs. Turners happiness. Your very sincere friend
E. Hutchins

July 24th 1810

Can you give me a specimen of *Conferva fusco-purpurea* [*Bangia atropurpurea*]. I found *Atro purpurea* [*B. atropurpurea*] very fine this summer, growing on the same rock with *C. Youngana* [*Urospora penicilliformis*]. I have never seen *fusco-purpurea* but I strongly suspect that it is not distinct from *Atro-purpurea*. I should like to see a morsel of *Conf. paradoxa*. Our plant is so unlike any *Conferva* that I can hardly think it the same of the English plant. I have a drawing of ours to send you.

Letter 12

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 26th July 1810

My dear Madam

After closing my letter to you yesterday, I was quite concerned to find from Mr Hooker that I had omitted to tell you the names of the *Jungermannia*e you had last sent or to give you his opinions about them. Indeed they had been in his hands ever since they came; so that I am sorry to say they having been out of my sight, they had been also out of my mind. I enclose you a little etching done last week by my wife: it will I fear have no merit in your eyes except that of showing that we always think of you & are pleased to send what may amuse you even for a moment. I regret to say I have not time for a word more, except to add you may address any plants for me to

The Lord Gosford
Gosford Castle
Armagh

I wish I had anything to send through him to you. –

Yours ever my dear Madam

DT

Tell me, I beg of you, all about yourself.

Yarmouth 26 July 1810

[No postmarks, much cleaner than other sheets

In pencil: '+ enclosure' and that is a note about *Jungermannia*e from W J Hooker]

Letter 13

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 9th August 1810

[A sheet and a half sheet]

It happened by a singular coincidence, my dear Madam, that just at the time when I had the pleasure of receiving your last most interesting letter, I also got the July no. of *English Botany*, in which I found the very *Pinguicula* you had the goodness to send me figured as a new species, under the name of *P. grandiflora*. It had been described a few years ago by de Candolle in the *Flora Francaise*, & really seems to have full right to be considered a good species, tho' its claim to such a title as distinct from *P. vulgaris* seems to be much more on relative than on positive characters. This latter plant does not grow near Yarmouth, & is now everywhere, I fear, out of flower, so that I must beg of you to be for the present satisfied with a very bad specimen, the only one in my possession which is indeed considerably worse by having been pasted on paper. There is a manifest difference in the size of the two plants, & the flowers of *P. vulgaris* have never, as far as I have seen, the streaked interior of the other: the bifid nectary would indeed be an excellent mark, if it were only constant, but this, I fear, from your specimens it is not. Neither de Candolle nor Vahl, the latter of whom is an excellent observer, mentions anything of it. In a future season I shall beg the favour of you to send me more specimens of *P. grandiflora*, if you have an opportunity of gathering them without too much trouble, & I will promise you any quantity you please of the more common species, to enable you to compare them in all states. It is a sad pity that they change so much in drying. I would like prodigiously to see

P. lusitanica in a fresh state, when it must be a singularly elegant & interesting little plant. With the Utricularia vulgaris I am situated exactly the same as with the Pinguicula, except the time of gathering it is now come, & in the course either of this afternoon or tomorrow Mr Hooker & myself will walk & get you a good stock. Do you want the pretty little Malaxis paludosa ? - I have just heard of a tolerably abundant habitat of it near Yarmouth, & I mean to visit it at the same time as the Utricularia. I must, however, once more repeat the request I have so often made you, that you could send me from the Flora Britannica a complete list of all the plants of which you have not specimens. I have hoards of duplicates, now fast becoming the prey of all manner of insects, through either indolence or a multiplicity of occupation on my part, & if you will not oblige me by letting me know which among them would be acceptable to you, you will put me to the trouble of sending them all, & yourself to the plague & expense of receiving them. Talking of expense reminds me of poor Hooker, who on leaving Iceland accepted a civil offer from the Bishop to have a few plants gathered for him, & they are now come (few indeed in number & most worthless in quality!) but charged to him at no less than £20. —, such being said to be the expense incurred by the Botanist in his wanderings after them. The man's Journal is really a curiosity, & I wish I could send it to you: he prides himself vastly in it for having added Ophrys ovata, Polypodium vulgare, & Achillea millefolium to the Flora of Iceland, & the regularity with which he details occurrences reminded me of the Bill of a Welsh or Norfolk Lawyer, thus his first day's work consists in receiving the letters of the most venerable Bishop, requiring his excursions: the 2nd, 3rd & 4th in making preparations etc etc etc — It at least proves that, much as those poor wretches may be behind us in civilisation, they are not our inferiors in the art of making charges. I wish Mr Hooker could have returned there again; for I do not half like his exposing himself to the various dangers of the torrid zone. I bought the other day, my dear Madam, a new edition of Aristo, in which that most delightful, but licentious, part is stripped of every passage that could offend the chastest ears, & in buying it I had principally in my mind the hope that you might not have seen it, & could not refuse to accept it. Tell me so, & you will give me exceeding pleasure. Your new drawing of your beautiful little conferva No 65 is admirable — ? What are we to do with this plant? — It cannot, I think, but be a conferva, & yet its mode of growth seems to be just the same as that of Rivularia angulosa — ? Am I right? perhaps, after all, nature, who laughs at our puny efforts to make genera & build systems, has made no difference whatever between Rivularia & Conferva, & as for Fucus, I find, to my infinite vexation, that the nearer I draw to the conclusion of my work the farther I am from being able in any view to satisfy myself as to the arrangement of this heterogeneous mass. I thought, when I began, that the external snobs were already past, but I am now literally worn out, & find, after all the growing labour of the lengthening way, that "hills still peep o'er hills, & alps on alps arrive". I am at this moment more satisfied that I can tell you: I have just met with the Bishop of Norwich & begged this frank, & I have mislaid to my exceeding mystification a letter of yours, telling me what Confervae you wished to have. What most vexes me is that the Bishop is now leaving Yarmouth & that I have no time before the post goes to look for your last letter. Pray send me a complete list of all that are deficient to your collection of those mentioned by Dillwyn, & pardon my present negligence, under the promise that I will not do so again. I enclose you C. reticulata, which I recollect you once asked me for, a miserable morsel of C. paradoxa, C. comata, which I doubt you will be puzzled to make distinct from C. fatida, & C. fuscopurpurea, which I believe you will find different from C. atropurpurea. I heartily wish I could remember what else it was you desired me to send, or any mosses I should include you, & have reason so to do, at the way for our sending parcels to each other being open, were you more happily situated than you now are. Believe me, my dear Madam, I enter so much into all that concerns you that it is not an idle curiosity that leads me to beg you would continue from time to time acquainting me with the state of Mrs Hutchins' health; & much as I prize your letters, never write to me except

when your mind is free from anxiety or when you think that such anxiety may find relief in being disclosed to one who really esteems & values you. You will share in my regrets that I am likely to be disappointed in the expectation of seeing Mr Borrer on his way from Scotland. His wife, who never before was 20 miles from her own door, has found that climbing mountains & alpine fare are to such a person most pleasing in the prospect or retrospect, & she can no longer be comfortable away from her relations, towards whom they are hurrying as fast as they can without meaning to stop in Norfolk. I love Borrer so much, & so thoroughly enjoy his Society, that I am quite fretted at disappointment. You please me very much by joining my opinion of the Lady of the Lake. Is not the rowers' song truly alpine? – is not the Coronach beautiful? & all about the Coronach still more so? Is not the whole gathering & prophecy magnificently terrific? – do you not admire section 5 of Canto 3? – can anything be more beautiful than the simile in p.155? not but I think there are detached passages in the Lay of the Last Minstrel (particularly the opening of books) more impressive than any in the Lady of the Lake, but this latter is so sweet so uniformly delightful, just like Loch Catherine itself, when it is either quite calm or merely ruffled by what Rousseau calls the “frémissement argenté des flots” – Farewell, my dear Madam, what a task I have imposed on your good nature in setting you to read all this long letter! But I will not say a word on the subject lest I should be punished, as I should deserve it be, by either similar apologies on your part or by your curtailing your letters, which would indeed be a punishment, except when I see reason to fear that the reading of them ill suits with your tone of mind or interrupts more serious cares. That the blessings of heaven may be upon yourself & all that belongs to you & is, I assure you, my dear Madam, the earnest wish of
Your very much obliged friend
Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 9th August 1810

Letter 14

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 13th September 1810

My dear Madam

I have just heard that I may have a letter franked to you tomorrow, & I most gladly set myself about writing, because I wish much to convey to you the few plants I now inclose, but still more to draw from you, if possible, a few words by way of reply; since your unusually long silence has made me feel great anxiety, lest either yourself or some of your family should have been seriously indisposed. I should have written to you sooner upon the subject, had I not been apprehensive lest my letter should arrive at an unseasonable moment, & at the same [sic] willing to hope that every post might remove a suspense that could not but be painful to me. Even now I would fain hope that my fears are unfounded, & that you, like me, have been for the last two months engaged with your house continually full of friends. I would give a great deal to have been myself at Ballylickey, & not less to have had the pleasure of your society here; for I am sure that you would have met with some persons that you would not have been sorry to meet. Mr Mathias, the editor of so many elegant Italian works, & the supposed author of the Pursuits of Literature, & Mr Walpole, who published formerly the fragments of the Greek Comedians, & latterly a work on Herculaneum, & who has lived greatly in Greece & Asia Minor, have been with me. Dr Smith & Mr Hooker are now here. Mr Brown I expect daily; but Mr Borrer

has given me the slip, & returned straight from Scotland to Sussex on account of the indisposition of his wife. He still, however, promises to come before Christmas. In such society I have enjoyed myself as much as it is possible for a man so much engaged by business, as I am, to do; but I am sorry to say that society is with me sadly inimical to Botany, in which I have consequently done nothing. The overlooking of Mr Hooker's tour, which is now printed to the 200th page, & the reading of Don Quixote with my eldest little girl have been my only mental exertions. The last has amused me so much that I am tempted to agree with those who consider the pleasure arising from it as an adequate reward for the trouble of learning Spanish. Dr Smith asked me for your new *Anictangium* (like *A. ciliatum* [*Hedwigia ciliata*]) to figure in English Botany & I gave it to him, & at the same time lent him your drawing of *Ulva verticillata* for the same purpose which I hope you will not disapprove. The supply of cryptogamic plants for that work begins to grow very scanty. They want Hooker's *Jungermannia* which he is scarcely inclined to give before he has published them himself, & when he will do so is at present most[?] uncertain, for I think I told you he can [illegible] printer to undertake it, & I cannot advise [him] to do it at his own expense. I wish he would let me do it at mine. It ought at all events [illegible] printed before he goes to Ceylon. Dr Smith has brought here to show me, a very singular, & apparently new, species of *Ophrys* sent from your neighborhood by a Mr Hincks of Cork. If you know it, & have a spare specimen, I should be obliged to you for it, as I should at your leisure for your *Pinguicula*, of which I have given away the whole of what you were so good as to furnish me with. Allow me to remind you of the drawing of *Fucus loreus*, when the proper season comes; provided you at that time enjoy the health of both body & mind, that you may do which is the very earnest & sincere wish of

my dear Madam Your obliged friend
Dawson Turner

Yarmouth 13[?] Sepr 1810.

I am happy to have found your letter in which you mention the *Confervae* you wish to have, the whole of which I inclose excepting *C aegagropila*, which I have not a morsel of, & *C. villosa*, my only specimens of which are as big as a folio volume.

Letter 15

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 17th September 1810

I feel, My dear Sir, that tho' your last kind letter ought to have been much sooner answered, you do not attribute my silence to any intentional inattention. I have every day wished to write to you, but could not find a leisure hour, having in addition to many other occupations the care of my brothers little children while he & their Mother are from home. One of them has been so ill as to cause me much fatigue & anxiety, while she was in danger I could not attend to any thing else, but now I hope to enjoy a little mo[re] leisure. All that I had time to do was to make up a parcel for you which I have sent to Mr Mackay to forward by the parcels office & which I feel particularly interested anxious should reach you in safety. I hope you have it by this time. The Lichens I fear are of no great value. I have sent only small specimens of most of them as I did not have what would be useful. Should you wish for more of any of them you will let me know. I am sure I should get many more if I could go out oftener to collect & if I had an English book to consult. I hope Mr Borrer will publish before long. Sir T Gage has been in the country, he seems particularly

zealous in collecting Lichens & has found many at Killarney that he supposes new, he has sent me a good many species. I suppose you have seen what he has met with before this time. He is in a very favourable situation for these interesting tribe. I do not feel so much afraid as I used to do. I thought I never should be able to see my way thro' the immense variety. I now think if I had leisure I should be able to distinguish all the species in my neighbourhood. Let me now, My dear Sir, thank you most warmly for your long & interesting letter & for the specimens it contained, you were very good to write so much. I feel the value of such a letter & your kindness in this & many other instances. Of *Pinguicula grandiflora* you shall have a large supply next spring, it is extremely common here. I will draw it for you, you can have no idea of its beauty from a dried specimen, of the beautiful shades & streaks in the flower. *P. Lusitania* is a very elegant little plant, I wish you could have it fresh from me, I am so fond of it that I keep it in the house flowering in the Danish manner in a glass of water. It grows on our bogs. *Malaxis paludosa* I should like to have. When I have a little leisure I will ask you for the flowering plants you are so good as to offer. Your specimens of *Conf. fusco-purpurea* has strengthened my suspicion that it is not distinct from *atro-purpurea*, the dried specimens of each agree. Mine when fresh had the appearance of *fusco-purpurea* figured by [Joseph Philippe Francois] Dileuze. What I sent last was very fine. It grew with *C[onferva] Youngana* I can hardly think No 65 of the same nature as *Riv[ularia] angulosa*, which still seems to me more near to *Distorta* but differs in the fine pallucid terminations of the filaments. I have lately found *Riv[ularia] angulosa* in the sea. I have sketched the fine marine species, if I had not been so hurried you should have had them by this time. I have no doubt that you will be delighted with them. I have at length satisfied myself pretty well as to their mode of growth & the differences between them, but I cannot see any connection between them & the fresh water species *Conferva gelatinosa* excepted is not *Riv[ularia] elegans* the same structure as *Conferva mutabilis* & *lubrica* I should like to get *R[ivularia] endivafolia* which does not grow here. I have plenty of *R[ivularia] tuberiformis*. What a very curious plant it is. Have you seen it fresh? Your *C[onferva] paradoxa* is I believe the same plant as ours but a much finer & more delicate variety. I cannot find that *C[onferva] comata* is as you suspect the same as *fætida*. How I should like to find *C[onferva] annulina* I hope you will like the drawings in the last parcel, I long to hear that you have got it safe. I feel greatly obliged for your kind wish of sending me *Ariosto*. I really do not want it, even if I did I could not think of you having the trouble of sending from such a distance what is to be had in Dublin. I trouble you with the list of all the *Confervæ* I have not seen, should you have spare specimens of any of them I shall be very glad to take some, but unless you can well spare I beg you will not send. I cannot bear to deprive you of half of your only specimens which you sometimes send me. You are so good as to ask for my Mother, if there be any alteration in her state of health it is rather for the better, but alas so little can reasonably be expected for her that I don't foresee high hopes. On *The Lady of the Lake* I am afraid to begin, I should take another sheet to attempt to describe all my admiration for its beauties. The parts you pointed out I had dwelt on with peculiar pleasure & felt highly gratified when I learned your opinion. I hope soon to hear that you & Mrs Turner are well & happy, long may you enjoy every comfort this world affords to its best inhabitants for such I believe you to be.

Yours very sincerely

E H

I do feel vexed that you have been disappointed in your hopes of seeing Mr & Mrs Borrer on their return from their mountains. You have interested me about him, I think it must be curious to hear Mrs Borrer's account of what she saw & felt at the sight of what was so entirely new to her. I have often thought when at the top of a mountain from which nothing but mountains could be seen that I should like to have a person who had never seen a hill alight down beside me, to feel the full effect of a mountain scene. One should

take a flight blindfolded but, in our dull way of moving, we ascend by degrees & never know how we should feel, unprepared for a great view. I am called to breakfast & have just got a letter from Mr Mackay saying that he sent the parcel by a Mr Terrier who will forward it to you in a week.

[cover with address]

Sep[tember] 17. 1810.

BANTRY

164

with desiderata Confervæ

Dawson Turner Esq[ui]re
Yarmouth

Have not seen	Confervæ [___?]	
genuflexa [?]	Conf[ervæ] distinctions [?]	
___ [?]	" vesicata	
fracta	" rivularis	
Glomerata	" fasciata	
Ægagropila	" lineata	
Æruginosa	" Nummuloides	
barbata	" crispa	
villosa	" teniæformis	
torulosa	" striatula	
Borisii	" Biddulphiana	
Turnerii	" obliquata	
Hookeri - which I did not find	"	carnea
fusco	" fenestrialis	
xxxxxxx[?]	" nivea	
urceolata	" lactea	
fibrata	" typhloderma	
denudata	" sanguinea	
xxxxxx	" pallida	
fibxxxxx - I am by mistake said to have found.		"
berac_____ [?]	"	
	" purpurea	
	" olivacea	
	" Brodiaei [?]	
	" Multicapsularis [?]	
	" protensa [?]	
	" becleata [?]	
	" bithotridri [?]	
	" exigua	
	" nigrescens	

Letter 16

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 22nd September 1810

I had the pen in my hand to write to you, my dear Sir, when your letter came in. I had spent the morning sketching the enclosed & feeling anxious that you should see those more highly magnified parts of the plants I call Rivulariae. determined to send them to you without delay. I hope you will be pleased with them & think them correct of those plants I sent you last year drawings of the natural size & parts not sufficiently magnified to give a clear idea of the mode of growth. Of what I now send added to the former will I hope give you a good view. I do not think the drawings I sent of *Ulva rubens* & *Riv vermiculata* were good and you shall soon have better. With *Rivularia tuberiformis*, if you should want it. You will observe that the plant sent as *Ulva* No 12 differs from *U rubens* in being composed of a tubular skin from the surface of which appear simple jointed filaments, bearing capsules. No 6 is formed of a number of pellucid colourless tubes curving lengthways through the stem & branches, & throwing out alternate bundles of branched jointed filaments. I have not been able to find capsules, though I have examined a great number of plants but have met with an appearance similar to the fruit of *Conf gelatinosa* which appears to me no more than a collection of young filaments the same I have found in *Ulva elminthoides* which seems formed of branched filaments closely entangled in the middle, becoming thicker & coloured towards the apices. The plants sent as *Ulva verticillata* bear capsules plentifully as well as *U rubens* & *Riv vermiculata*. I very much doubt that the supposed fruit of *Conf gelatinosa* is more than a collection of young shoots. How well it agrees in habit & structure with those beautiful marine plants. I have been greatly vexed at not being able to get a single morsel of *Fucus capillaris* to magnify. It being of the same nature. I have been highly pleased by the discovery of the fruit of *Conf sordida* which is what I have long expected to find it, the same as that of *Conf alternata*. Do you still think No 64 only a variety of *alternata*? I hardly think it can be so. It is so much coarser, its colour bright green & has not the alternately dark and pellucid joints so remarkable in *alternata*. I lately met with more of the new anictangium the last day I was out & with more fruit than before. You shall have some with the next things. You were quite at liberty to do what you pleased with it or anything I have met with. Let me now thank you for your kind concern about me. My last letter will explain the cause of my silence. Since the day I wrote, I have been ill with a bilious attack less severe than usual but enough to prevent me doing any thing until this day. I am truly glad to find you have had the enjoyment of such society as you describe & truly gratified for your kind wish that I should share such pleasure. That of seeing you would have been the highest gratification to me. I feel pleased, though I am sensible that you feel disappointment when you say you wished to be here. You imagine me greatly superior to what I really am, & whenever we do meet, you will be disappointed. I warn you truly of what you have to expect, a friend who will rejoice to see you with the mind & manners of a very retired inhabitant of the mountains, who has seen very few people. I who through having had bad health & many domestic anxieties am more serious than most young people. Now for the country, it's poor soil, mountainous & shales to the shore. There are many pretty peaceful looking spots. Few more so than the little place we inhabit. The view from our door is very soft & pleasing, particularly at evening, when the sun retiring behind a beautiful mountain, Sugarloaf, just guilds the high grounds & leaves the little cove before us in deep, soft shade, or when the moon shines brightly upon it. I often think of the strong & melancholy contrast between this peaceful, happy looking scene & the restless minds of its inhabitants. I intend to draw *Fucus loreus* next spring tide & when it is done will send it. Tell me of anything I can get or do for you. The *Ophrys* you mentioned I have not seen. I

have never met with any but ovata. The Pinguicula you shall have abundantly in spring. The specimens I have are not the very best, & on that account, I don't send them. It abounds in this place. Pray send me a specimen of Ophrys ovata for perhaps I have mistaken yet I hardly think I have. I gave specimens of mine to Mr Drummond when he was here. He seemed glad to get them & if the species you speak of was sent by Mr Hincks from this part of the country, it may be mine. I would enclose a specimen, but that I don't wish to put it in with the enclosure in this letter. I am glad Mr Hooker is about to publish his Iceland tour & I hope to he will publish the Jungermanniae before he leaves England. It will be very mortifying if he does not after having prepared for it. I am slowly collecting Lichens I can but creep & have a few more to send you. I have planned two or three little expeditions to the mountains for next week. Sir Thomas Gage sends me Lichens from Killarney, which must be a fine situation for them, the rocks being limestone. I am greatly obliged to you for the specimens of Confervae. I shall be busy examining them tomorrow. I am particularly glad to get Riv argolosa to compare with ours, which I have lately found in a fine state on sea rocks, covering large patches & some what like the beginning of Riv tuberiformis. I am curious to hear of the last parcel I sent you.

It is full time both for you & me that I should cease to write. The clock has struck one & all the house are asleep except your obliged and faithful friend E Hutchins, September 22, 1810

I put in a specimen of the Ophrys I found here, if that sent to Dr Smith be the same, it was found by me here, and I believe by no other person. It grows in our lawn and one of our fields. I have not seen it elsewhere. I thought it ovata. It has a strong smell when fresh. If it is what you want I can draw it next spring.

Letter 17

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins, 17th October 1810

A letter to Miss Hutchins written not in answer to either of hers nor even noticing these, but merely with the intention to get another from her if possible!

Yarmouth 17th October 1810
The day before my thirty fifth birthday

I do not know, my dear Madam, how to thank you sufficiently for the two most kind & interesting letters & for the rich parcel that I have received since last I had the pleasure of writing to you; but this I do know to my cost, that, as he who thanks quickly thanks twice, so, by a parity of reason, he who is slow about it does not do it more than half, & I stand self convicted of coming under this latter description. I write, indeed, even now for no other purpose than to express my thanks; for tho' I know you will be surprised to hear it & with reason, it is nevertheless most true that since I received your parcel I have been enabled to do no more than admire its contents, without having had the opportunity of examining anything besides the lichens & half a dozen of the Confervae, so fully have I been taken up & am likely still to be for three weeks to come. Upon the lichens I do not say a word; for I sent them almost as soon as they arrived, above a fortnight ago, to Mr Borrer, requesting he would return them as soon as he could & let me know how far his opinion coincides with mine, till I hear which I shall be silent, and I should otherwise

probably have to fill my next letter in contradicting the contents of my present one. I wonder much he has not already complied with my request, & I fear I must conclude from his not having done it, that the illness still continues on the part of Mrs Borrer, which caused him to abridge his stay in Scotland. Your drawings I trust I have always admired & prized as I ought to do, but those you have last sent me appear so infinitely to excel all I had received from you before, that I cannot but doubt whether I valued the others as I should have done. Of Conferva paradoxa I had before no idea. It seems to be evidently related in structure to the small varieties (if varieties they be) of Ulva compressa & to be one of the most extraordinary plants possible. Assuredly, as you say, it has no right to a place among the Conferva, unless we join Dr Roth, & perhaps we cannot do better, in referring every thing that is tubular to that genera. The little Ulva, No 13, is no less wonderful in my eyes, & here as in a thousand other instances, Nature sets at defiance all our puny attempts at arrangement, showing us most clearly that it is possible for a jointed & unjointed structure to exist, not only in the same species, but in the same individual. Whether Ulva or Conferva it is unquestionably new & must & ought to be described as such. Mr Brown has been of late continually urging me to put together & publish my ideas upon the subject of the genera of submerged algae without delay, but I cannot help wishing to put it off as long as I can, in the full persuasion of my own inability to do it satisfactorily, & indeed being a great sceptic how far such [?] processes as we call genera have existence in nature. Is this a subject to which you have ever turned your attention? If you have, you will in the highest degree oblige & serve me by a communication of your ideas. Tell me how to distribute the British species, & I shall have such a foundation as I can easily build my system upon. I am writing as you must have perceived, without referring to your parcel; for indeed I have even now so much to do that I scarcely know how to write at all, tho' in constraining myself to be silent to you I really deprive myself of one of the greatest pleasures of my life. I cannot tell you with how much delight I always receive your letters, nor how anxiously I look for the time when I may see you in Yarmouth. Sir Thomas Gage has, if possible, still more wetted the desire I feel to be personally acquainted with you. He says in a letter that I have this moment before me from him; "I have had the good fortune to make acquaintance with Miss Hutchins: her science is only equalled by her liberality." – what every body says, you know, my dear Madam, must be true; with this trite remark & with the prayer that you may have many years to increase your science & to exercise your liberality ends this sad scrawl of your ever most truly D.T.

I heard the other day 3 charades, written by a man of note, which as they entertained me I venture to send you to amuse for half an hour in a winter's evening your friends at Bantry.

My first, tho' your house, nay your life it defends,
 You ungratefully name as the wretch you despise:
 My second, I speak it with grief, comprehends
 All the great & the good, & the learn'd, & the wise:
 Of my whole I have little or nothing to say
 Except that it tells the departure of day.

--

[In a box in the right hand corner]

Can you read this French puzzle?

[See photo]

[at top of the address page]

My first & my second resemble each other,
And my first calls for ever my second his brother:
To catch either would be difficult, they're both on the watch;
But to catch both together would be a bad catch.

--

My first leads to triumph & fame;
My second to joy or vexation;
My third tho' it has but a name,
when it pleases, can lead the whole nation;

My whole has a lead too; but hark
My charade is already too clear,
It put the whole court to a blush,
When his Majesty made it appear /a peer

How a pun is shrift to write

Letter 18

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 9th November 1810

[more work needed on names in this letter]

Your letter, my dear Sir, should not have lain so long unanswered had I been well enough to write. The day after it came I went to see a small Whale that was killed in the bay at some distance from me & got a wetting & severe cold, this with other things has prevented my writing. I was greatly delighted to hear from you as I always am. Pray do not apologize for a short letter when it is inconvenient to spare time for a longer. A line from you is a great gratification to me, it brings the best news that you are well. The Bay has been all summer full of Whales, they came in after Herrings & sprats. One was driven by a storm into a shallow place & killed by the country people. I find that it is Balæna Boops. I got fine specimens of Lepas Balænaris on its fins & was greatly pleased to see this ugly creature, it gave some idea of the nature of these immense creatures, tho' it was only 32 feet long, the mouth 8 [? / 4] feet long & the tail 10 ft. across. I was very near many of them alive in summer but had no idea of their shape from what I could see in the water. It was amusing to see them swim about in all directions spouting water. The people here do not remember to have seen them up the Bay until this last year but at the mouth of the Bay they are frequently seen.

You ask me if I have ever thought on the arrangement of the submersed Algæ. I used to amuse myself with conjecturing what your future arrangement may be, but found it a subject greatly beyond my power of seeing into & that one day's experience generally contradicted that of the former. My views must be very confused & my opinion of little value, yet as you ask me I venture to tell you what I have thought, supposing that even the conjectures of a person who is out of the way of being prejudiced by other people's opinions may interest you & that if I have chanced to see any part of your system it would give you pleasure. I imagine that you will unite in one genus all the Fuci that bear imbedded tubercles, with pores on the surface, whether placed in receptacles or in the

frond, as Fucus natans, vesiculosus, loreus, [____?] in another genus those that bear capsules [sepili ?] on their frond or in cilia attached to it as purpurascens, confervoides, gigantinas, Coronopifolius, [Iboluae ?], membranifolius, Brodiaei, palmella, crispus, mamellosus, scillatus. Is not the fruit of Fucus rotundus Griffithsia & perhaps plicatus of the same nature? Fucus lumbricalis seems to stand alone as well as F[ucus] rubens. Will you form a genus of those with seeds on the surface of the frond, as F[ucus] bulbosus sacharinus & palmaris? What can be done with F[ucus] edulis? Its fruit seems to be tubercles placed between the two skins of which the frond is composed. The seeds seem [to be] disp[er]sed within the frond. Perhaps [the] same is the case with Ulva ligulata multifida & some other ulvæ. I don't know the fruit of F[ucus] filum. F[ucus] flagelliformis is certainly of the same nature as Riv[ularia] virmiculata. I have s[ee]n the fruit & believe that what you have figured as seeds are really capsules. Those plants of which I have sent you drawings as Rivulariæ seem to form with Conf[erva] gelatinosa & Riv[ularia] endifolia [?] a very natural assemblage but how can F[ucus] tomentosus & Bursa be separated from them unless the jointed structure be taken into consideration. The form & situation of the capsules is precisely [similar?] tho' [____] bossus [?] & Bursa are much longer plants & of longer st[em]ations [?]. The Fuca with two kinds of fruit you will I suppose place in the genera [l] one with capsules & single seeds scattered in the frond as [?] Kaliformis articulatus clavellus dasyphyllus ovalis [longissimus ?] obtus pusillus [?] pinnatifidus Laceratus [las] lacimatus [?] reniformis bifidus perhaps (I have not [sent?] sample seeds) sanguineus sinuosus [____] tea [?]. Hypoglossum & ruscifolius perhaps F[ucus] punctatus [?] & Ulvoideæ which are I believe the same species with the two kinds of fruit are ought to be still kept separate from Laceratus [?] With which I believe you were disposed to unite them indeed the variations of laceratus are most puzzling. Of the other Fuci with two kinds ^{^ of} fruit capsules & lanceolate pods will [?] you so [?] form a genus containing dentatus pinastroides perhaps Lycopodioides subfuscus Conf[erva] elongata F[ucus] fruticulosus amphibius coccineus cristatus Conf[erva] coccineus [?] & [____] ula [?] & perhaps the Conferva with veined joints may be associated with this family the only distinction I can see is that in the latter the simple seeds are in the en[d] of the brachia [?] & not in Ulva & lansetati [?] capsules. I believe I have not seen single seeds in Conf[erva] Byssoides. I believe that Conf[erva] rosea N°. 13 Conf[erva] Turnerii of Eng. Bot. which is I believe distinct from plumula have two sorts of fruit capsules & single seeds of large size in a globular gelatinous mass without any internal covering either placed as in Rosea & N° 13 in opposite pairs on the [____?], or at the ends of the shoots among the filaments as in Turnerii & plumula. Those must I suppose be separated from the Conferva with distinct capsules only. Will you separate Conf[erva] rubra ciliata & diaphana ? They appear to form a very natural family. Conf[erva] corallina does not seem to me to unite well with C[onferva] setacea F[ucus] filamentosus [?] & those other plants with fruit seeds surrounded by filaments without any capsule. The fruit of Conf[erva] verticulata is really like that of [Spongiosa ?] with particular capsules on surface filaments placed in a circle round the [____] surrounded by an outer [____] of branched filaments. Will not all the confervæ & some Ulvæ which have internal granules & no capsules form a very noticeable [?] family it would include all the green [?] Marine Confervæ which are a very puzzling tribe many of Dillwyn's species are I believe only varieties C[onfervæ] flaccida & fucida & many fresh water species distorta & its affinities [?] seem another very natural family, in which Riv[ularia] angulosa surely belongs. I enclose a little sketch of this plant with the seeds escaping at the lower end of the filament I saw many seeds that had got quite clear of their [____] covering Riv[ularia] elegans seems a Conf[erva] with internal [g____?] very near to C[onferva] lubrica I lately met with it [____] or more [?] & it would puzzle you in this [state?] to distinguish it from C[onferva] lubrica the only difference seemed the filaments spreading from a centre [____] some [lengthened out?] so as to lose their round appearance to the naked eye in the same [____] all the C[onfervæ] it

produces were of great size. C[onferva] pectinalis a foot lo[ng] [____] gives no idea of its strange mode of [____]

I feel half ashamed to send you this long letter, which can I am satisfied [____] be of no use to you. I have not left room to say a word in answer to your last letter which I received the night before last. I will soon write again about Lichens. I have a few to send with some drawings. F[ucus] loreus will be very soon finished, the magnified parts are done & it only wants a little shading. I hope you will like it. C[onferva] flaccida you shall have immediately & F[ucus] reniformis when I get it fresh. Pray tell me of any thing else I can do. Your letters are alway[s] missent to Bawtry, & no other English [letters] that I get go there. It delays yours.

Pray write Bantry Ireland very large & perhaps they will come right. believe me ever most faithfully

Yours

E Hutchins

Ballylickey

Nov 9th 1810

[cover with address]

{ C }

{12 NOV ____}

{1810} [stamp in reverse]

BANTRY

164

Dawson Turner Esq[ui]^{re}

Yarmouth

[added by another hand: list of names of botanists mentioned in these letters]

[Ellen] Hutchins.

[James] Dalton.

[Mrs] Griffiths.

[William] Rashleigh.

[William] Borrer.

[Lewis Weston] Dillwyn.

Letter 19

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner, 29th December 1810

Dec. 29

My dear Sir,

I have been so ill since I wrote last to you that I feel very anxious to know how all those I am interested for are passing the winter & hope to hear that you & yours enjoy health & happiness. I am now so much better, tho' I have not been out for more than two months until this day, that I expect soon to be busy, and to send you a few drawings &

some specimens of Lichens which I wish you to have soon. I have gathered many species since I sent you the last parcel, among them *Parmelia speciosa* without fruit & *Lecidea lucida* with fruit. Some species of *Baeomyces* that I did not send you before, this genus is very puzzling. I think you desire me to collect large quantities but you do not say which you want. Don't you think N° 54 may be distinct from *Lecidea icmadophila* [*Icmadophila ericetorum*]? The fruit is constantly sessile & flat, the crust seems I think rather more inclined to be leafy. Is not *L. icmadophila* the same as *Baemyces Roseus*. N° 57 that you say Mr. Borrer thinks a variety of *Parmelia atra* but that you think doubtful will I believe be found a very distinct species. I have been observing it for three years past & have seen any change in its appearance. Its very thin smooth pale yellow crust seems to distinguish it strongly. It grows on the seashore where *atra* is very plenty, its beautiful soft pale yellow color which fades after being kept in the house, catches the eye. N°. 70 which is you say new to you is not rare about here, you shall have as much as you wish for. *Parmelia citrina* [*Caloplaca citrina*] is not very rare here on walls. N°. 77 is the crust of a very curious species of which Sir T. Gage found the fruit. It is very plenty here in a barren state & I once got a very imperfect morsel with fruit. N°. 28 is I am pretty sure distinct from *Isidium corallinum*, the crust is quite different & the papillae are as far as I have seen constantly brown [*Pertusaria pseudocorallina*] –

The filaments of *Conferva* N° 74 are much finer than what I have taken for *C. rivularis* [*Rhizoclonium* sp.]. They are also much more entangled & constantly curled, so matted & fine that to the naked eye there appear no distinct filaments. This is not the case with what I took for *rivularis*, Mr. Dillwyn said mine was right. [text missing] it is entangled & waves along with [the] stream, it is not curled & matted into a close mass. Those simple freshwater species are extremely perplexing. I don't know if N°. 71 can be *muralis* [*Symploca muralis* Kützinger], it grew on rocks in a rapid river under water. There is no place at all near it where *muralis* is likely to grow. –

I find plenty of *Urceolaria Acharii* [*Hymenellia lacustris*] near waterfalls, & on rocks in rivers, do you want specimens? I have not seen the spotted variety of *Hieracium murorum* [*Hieracium* sp.] but I think the plant I sent you very different from the common appearance which grows sparingly in this country. Do you wish me to get you more specimens next summer of this or anything else. The Whales have all left the Bay. You shall have a fine specimen of *Balanus Balænaris* taken from the fin of the one killed here & a piece of his skin if you like, it was when taken off more smooth than my own. I hope to hear soon that you & Mrs. Turner are very well. On this subject I feel quite anxious, so many suffer in winter. May the approaching new year be one of as much happiness as this world can afford.

Believe me at all times your sincere
obliged friend

E. Hutchins

Ballylickey Decr. 29th 1810