

Dawson Turner to Ellen Hutchins: 13th September 1810

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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 time 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 18 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 *Jungermanniae* 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 neighbourhood 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[?] September 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.