

Ellen Hutchins to Dawson Turner: 17th September 1810

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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] elega[ns]* 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.

Confervæ that I have not seen

genuflexa	dichotoma
pennatula	vesicata
fracta	rivularis
glomerata	fasciata
aegagropila	lineata
aeruginosa	nummuloides
barbata	crispa
villosa	teniæformis
torulosa	striatula
Borrerii	Biddulphiana
Turnerii	obliquata
Hookeri which I did not find	carnea
fusca	fenestralis
nigrescens	nivea
urceolata	lactea
fibrata	typhloderma
denudata	sanguinea
badia	pallida
fibxxxxx - which I am by	arachnoidea
mistake said to have found	rubiginosa
	purpurea
	olivacea

Brownii
multicapsularis
pulveria
aculeata
orthotrichi
exigua
nigrescens