Hugh Davies to Thomas Pennant, 1775

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Snafield the highest hill in the Island, is of the form of a truncated cone, covered with verdure, not a rock upon it – find upon it 3 species of Lycopodium –[1] Viz. clavatum – alpinum & Selago, which are found only on hills of considerable height, –on a hill to the N: E. find Ophris cordata,[2] festuca vivipara,[3] and Vaccinium vitis Idæa.[4]

Near Ramsey Buccinum[5] N. 3 *Lister*. tab. 3. in plenty the fishermen use them in codfishing ^a considerable article near the point of Ayr –six or eight men to a boat; each earning 2. or 3 shillings a day.

Black water river[6] affords the Mya margaritifera[7] Sison verticillatum[8] a plant I think not found in England [illegible] plentifully in meadow grounds – Œnanthe pinpinelloides an uncommon vegetable near Castle town at scarlad, ^Fucus esculentus[9] found here where there is a quarry of black marble, considerable quantity exported to Scotland & Ireland – tombstones chimney pieces &c–

Stares breed in the walls of houses| and assemble in flocks as soon as they are able to fly ———

Trout in almost every river & Salmon in the larger ones.
Haddock on the northern coast in February & March ———
N:B. on the Anglesea coast in May, June &c –

British ~~p~~Post on Barowl a few stones on end surrounded by a fosse almost fill'd up with vegetable earth.
Scallops Ostrea maxima[10] *Linn.* taken near Manshold head from Christmas to May and sold at 3 pence per dozen.
Oyster beds near Laxey only – sold at two shillings per hundred. Salmon taken on the coast of Duglas –seldom sooner than July – generally sold from two pence to 3 pence a pound –
[illegible]rings taken from July to October.
Not a Wear in the Island as I am informed.
Number of Capital Exported about 1000–1100 –
Weight per quarter Cow-beef – 90 – 100 – Ox – 150–200.
Indigenous ^[illegible] sheep small 7–9, pounds per quarter.

Number of Puffins taken annually about 6–7000.
Green plover *Br. Zool.* p. 379.[11] breeds upon the hills snafield & Barowl. –

~~[illegible]~~Kirk Braddan Cemetery remarkably full of graves – A cross five feet high curiously ornamented on three sides on the [illegible] a runic inscription, ——— Another Six feet high, the to[illegible] circular three feet three inches in diameter and decorated ^with f[illegible] of animals &c– on the East end of the church a rude Crucifix ——— A Rookery near this Church –

Marginalia

Endorsement in Thomas Pennant's hand: By M^{r} Hugh Davies 1775

Editorial Notes

[1] See *OED* s.v. lycopodium.

[2] 'Ophrys', a Linnaean genus of spurless orchids. *OED*. Lightfoot gives to the 'Ophrys cordata', a mountain variety of the Twayblade, the English name of 'Little Twayblade'. Lightfoot, *Flora Scotica*, I, p. 524.

[3] See *OED* s.v. nardus.

[4] See *OED* s.v. red bilberry.

[5] A genus of gasteropod Molluscs. *OED*.

[6] This may be an Anglicisation of 'Ballacottier River' on the Isle of Man.

[7] See *OED* s.v. Mya, where it is defined as a genus of bivalve molluscs. A 1797 example names 'The margaritifera; or pearl mya'.

[8] The 'Verticillate Stonewort'. See *OED* s.v. stonewort, quoting J. Hull, *Brit. Flora* I (1799), p. 62.

[9] 'Fucus esculentus', a kind of the brown seaweed known as 'badderlock[s]'. *OED* s.v. badderlocks.

[10] 'Ostrea maxima', a species of the genus 'Ostrea' (oyster) listed in the tenth edition of Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae* (1758).

[11] Pennant notes that the Green Plover, an 'elegant species[,] is often found on our moors and heaths, in the winter time, in small flocks'. *British zoology* (1768), II, pp. 379–380.