

CHAPTER X.

CHRONOLOGY OF MONTSERRAT FROM A. D. 1629
TO A. D. 1810.

AUTHORITIES.

Parliamentary Documents,
Colonial Reports,
African Institution Reports.

Du Tertre, Raynal,
Labat, Edwards,
Coke, and Southey.

MONTSERRAT was discovered by Columbus about the same time as the island of St. Kitts. The first attempt to colonize it was made in 1629.

1629. M. D. Enambuc, with some French followers, arrives at Montserrat from St. Kitts; stays three months and then returns to St. Kitts.

1632. Sir T. Warner sends a party of Irish and Roman Catholics from St. Kitts, to plant a colony in this island.

1667. Montserrat attacked and taken by the French under M. Barre; English property burnt and plundered; Governor and 200 English made prisoners of war.

M. Praille is left Governor with 80 men, and 500 Irish with their families, who take oaths of allegiance to the French.

July 21, By the treaty of peace, Montserrat is restored to the English.

1672. Population as follows:—men able to bear arms 1175, negroes 523.
1707. Population 1545 whites, 3570 slaves.
1712. Montserrat invaded by a French force; suffers greatly from the depredation of the troops.
1720. Population 1688 whites, 3772 slaves.
1724. Population 1000 whites, 350 militia, 4400 negroes.
1725. Negroes imported in the last four years 1776.
1729. Population 1545 whites, 5616 negroes.
1736. Montserrat contains one battery of seven guns.
1737. Great damage done by a hurricane; many mills, houses, and plantations destroyed.
1747. Another severe hurricane.
1756. Population 1430 whites, 8853 negroes.
1766. Tremendous hurricane; half the town destroyed, and 200 persons reduced to distress by the torrents from the mountains.
1768. Dangerous conspiracy among the negroes, for murdering the whites, discovered by a woman; several of the conspirators are executed; three suffer the rack.
1770. This year the exports to Great Britain were valued at £89,907, to North America £12,633.
1772. A dreadful hurricane, left scarcely a house standing in the island.
1774. Population 1300 whites, 10,000 negroes.
1782. Montserrat taken by the French.
1783. By treaty of peace signed at Versailles, Montserrat is restored to Great Britain.

1787. Population 1300 whites, 260 free colored people, 10,000 slaves.
1788. In Montserrat 6000 acres of land were planted for sugar, 2000 for cotton, 2000 for ground provisions, 2000 for pasturage; 8310 slaves on the island, one-third of whom work on the land, the other two-thirds are old men and women, tradesmen or children. Average crops 2737 hhds. of sugar, 1107 puncheons of rum, 275 bales of cotton.
1789. Montserrat exports 3150 hhds. of sugar.
1798. Value of slaves in Montserrat this year £400,000.
1799. Montserrat exported 2595 hhds. of sugar.
1805. Montserrat exported 2000 hhds. of sugar.
Population 1000 whites, 250 colored people, 9500 slaves.
1810. Population 1300 whites, 9000 negroes.

CHAPTER XI.

CHRONOLOGY OF NEVIS, FROM A. D. 1603 TO
A. D. 1812.

AUTHORITIES.

Returns of the Methodist Society,	Edwards,
Colonial Reports,	Coke,
Parliamentary Papers,	and
French Historians,	Southey.

NEVIS, which is close to Montserrat and St. Kitts, was discovered by Columbus about the same time with those islands. Its Chronology begins from 1603.

1603. June 17, Captain B. Gilbert, in a bark of 50 tons, anchored at Nevis and remained till the 3d of July, cutting *lignum vitæ*.

1607. Captain C. Newport, with a few ships, touched here and remained six days.

1628. A small colony is sent from St. Kitts to Nevis by Sir Thomas Warner.

1640. By this year the population of Nevis amounted to 5000 whites and 12,000 blacks.

1652. Sir G. Ascue arrives at Nevis on the part of the Protector; people submit without opposition to the authority of Cromwell.

1666. Eleven English families are sent to Nevis by M. St. Laurent, the Governor of St. Kitts, on the taking of that island from the English.

1667. June 5th, English fleet collect at Nevis, for the attack on St. Kitts. The troops embarked amount to 8000 men.
1672. Population of Nevis as follows :—men able to bear arms 1411, negroes, 1739.
1689. Half the inhabitants swept away by a dreadful mortality ; many English sent here from St. Kitts.
1690. June, English fleet arrive and they sail to attack St. Kitts.
1706. French attack Nevis and force the inhabitants to capitulate ; French carry off the island between 3 and 4000 slaves ; British parliament vote £103,000 for the sufferers.
1707. Population of Nevis 1104 whites, 3676 slaves ; inhabitants nearly ruined by a dreadful hurricane.
1720. Population 2358 whites, 5689 negroes.
1724. Population 1100 whites, 300 militia, 6000 negroes.
1725. Negroes imported in the last four years 1267.
1729. Population 1296 whites, 5646 negroes.
1736. Nevis contains one fort with nineteen guns.
1737. A severe hurricane.
1756. Population 1058 whites, 8380 negroes.
1760. Nevis very sickly ; conspiracy discovered among the negroes for murdering the whites.
1765. The inhabitants, assisted by their neighbours from St. Kitts, burn all the stamped papers in opposition to the stamp act.

1770. This year the exports to Great Britain were valued at £43,827, to North America £14,055.

1772. A dreadful hurricane, left scarcely a house standing in the island.

1774. Population 1000 whites, 10,000 negroes.

1782. Nevis taken by the French.

1783. By a treaty of peace signed at Versailles on the 28th of January, Nevis is restored to Great Britain.

1787. Import of slaves in a medium of four years 544.

Population 1514 whites, 140 free colored people, 8420 slaves.

1788. Nevis said to contain 24,640 acres, 6000 capable of culture, 4000 slaves employed in cultivating sugar, 1000 in menial offices, 500 in fishing, trade, &c., and 2800 unfit for labor from infancy, age, or infirmity.

1789. Nevis exports 4000 hhds. of sugar.

1790. Methodists procure a chapel.

1793. Society of Methodists amount to 400.

1796. Mob attack the Methodist chapel and set it on fire; fire extinguished and congregation dispersed; magistrates afford their protection.

1798. Value of slaves in Nevis this year £336,800.

1799. Methodist Society amount to 700 members; Nevis exported 3850 hhds. of sugar.

1801. Society of Methodists have 883 members.

1802. Number of Methodists 908.

1803. Number of Methodists 1211.

Import of slaves in a medium of two years 228.

1805. Nevis exports 2400 hhds. of sugar.

Population 1300 whites, 150 colored people,
8000 slaves.

1812. The explosion of the Souffrière Mountain at
St. Vincent was heard at Nevis as loud as heavy
cannon, and the atmosphere was darkened with
ashes.

CHAPTER XII.

CHRONOLOGY OF TOBAGO, FROM A. D. 1596
TO A. D. 1812.

AUTHORITIES.

Parliamentary Documents,
French Historians,
Colonial Returns,

Edwards,
Coke, and
Southey.

By whom, or when Tobago was first discovered has always been unknown, and remains so to this day. No attempt was made to colonize it till 1625, but in the year

1596. Captain Laurence Keymys touched at Tobago, on his way to England, in the ship *Darling*.

1625. An attempt is made this year from Barbados to begin a settlement at Tobago; attempt unsuccessful.

1628. William, Earl of Pembroke, obtains a grant of Tobago from Charles I.; no settlement made in consequence.

1642. A Dutch colony arrives from Flushing; settlement began on the island; colony flourishes; island is attacked and laid waste by the Spaniards from Trinidad, and the Charaibs from St. Vincent; after this Tobago is left desert for several years.

1654. Messrs. A. and C. Lampsius, of Flushing, sent

- an expedition to colonize Tobago, and dispossess the Courlanders, then in possession of it; the Dutch cannot conquer the island, but live in it and acknowledge the authority of the Duke of Courland.
1658. Duke of Courland being taken by Charles Gustavus of Sweden, the Dutch in Tobago attack the Courlanders who surrender their garrison.
1666. Tobago is attacked and taken from the Dutch by an expedition of private individuals; the Dutch Governor and his garrison are made prisoners of war.
1673. Tobago again taken from the Dutch by Sir T. Brydges; 400 prisoners and as many negroes brought away.
1677. Tobago again taken from the Dutch under Heer Binkes, by the French under M. D'Estrees; 300 prisoners taken and sent to France; every fort and house destroyed and the island deserted.
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1748. Tobago declared a neutral island by the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.
1749. After many delays and subterfuges the few French colonists who, it appears, had settled in Tobago, sign an agreement to evacuate that island.
1757. The ship Stirling Castle touched here, and Mr. Thompson, a midshipman, landing, finds an old French hermit who had been living alone for twenty-one years.
1762. Tobago taken by the English.
1763. By the treaty of peace of February 10, Tobago remained in full right to Great Britain.

1763. General R. Melville is appointed Governor.
1764. Proclamation issued for sale of the crown lands.
1766. W. Hill, Esq. appointed Lieutenant-Governor, vice Alex. Brown, Esq. deceased.
1768. A human skeleton dug up on Somerville's plantation, with gold-bracelets on the arms, supposed to have been buried there before Tobago was known to Europeans.
1770. W. Stewart, Esq. appointed Lieutenant-Governor.
 October 18th, W. Young, Esq. appointed Lieutenant-Governor, vice Stewart, removed to Dominica.
- This year the exports to Great Britain were valued at £451,650, to America £51,061, to the other islands £671.
1771. Sir W. Leyburne appointed Governor.
1774. The four and a-half per cent. duties abolished in this island.
1776. Lord Macartney appointed Governor.
 A white man hung for the murder of a slave.
 Population 2397 whites, 1050 free negroes, 10,752 slaves; value of exports £20,000.
1781. Tobago taken by the French.
1783. By art. 7 of the treaty of peace signed at Versailles on January 28, Tobago is ceded by right to France.
1787. Import of slaves in a medium of 4 years 1400.
 Population 1397 whites, 1050 free colored people, 10,539 slaves.

1789. Tobago exports 5800 hhds. of sugar.
1790. French soldiers mutiny and set the town on fire; town entirely consumed.
- A terrible hurricane blows down nearly all the buildings in the island; 20 vessels driven on shore and lost.
1793. Tobago captured, after a slight resistance, by the British troops under Major General Cuyler.
- G. P. Rickets, Esq. appointed Governor.
1797. April 18, Stephen de Lancy, Esq. appointed Governor.
1799. Tobago exported 8800 hhds. of sugar.
1802. By the treaty of Amiens Great Britain cedes the Island of Tobago to France.
1803. War declared; Tobago taken by the English under Commodore Hood and General Grinfield.
- Import of slaves in a medium of 2 years 172.
1805. Tobago exports 15,327 hhds. of sugar.
- Population 900 whites, 700 colored people, 14,883 slaves.
1812. The noise of the eruption of the Souffrière mountain in St. Vincent is so loud as to be mistaken for the cannon of an enemy, and the militia are turned out in consequence.

CHAPTER XIII.

CHRONOLOGY OF ST. LUCIA, FROM A. D. 1596
TO A. D. 1803.

AUTHORITIES.

Public Papers,	Raynal, Edwards, Southey,
Colonial Returns,	Labat, Du Tertre, and Coke.

THE island of St. Lucia was discovered by Christopher Columbus, but in which of his voyages is not precisely known. It remained totally uninhabited by Europeans till the year 1639. Its chronology commences from 1596.

1596. Captain Laurence Keymys, of the ship *Darling*, touched at St. Lucia on his way to England.

1605. The ship *Oliph Blossom*, in her way from Barbados to England, left 67 men at St. Lucia, where they lived in peace for six weeks, after which they were attacked by savages, and obliged to leave the island.

1639. Lord Willoughby arrives with an armament and a party of English to colonize St. Lucia; he assembles 600 natives, and obtains from them a surrender of the island.

1640. After 18 months of peace the Charaibs of

St. Lucia, Martinique, and St. Vincent attacked the English in St. Lucia, and laid all waste with fire and sword; only a few escaped to Montserrat.

1650. Since 1640 St. Lucia had been inhabited by Charaibs only.

In this year M. du Parquet sent M. Rousselan with 40 French to colonize it; a fort is built.

1654. M. Rousselan dies; is succeeded by La Riviere; La Riviere is killed by the Charaibs, and succeeded by M. Haquet.

1656. M. Haquet is enticed from his fort and killed by the Charaibs, and is succeeded by Mr. Breton, who is forced by the garrison to fly.

The garrison, after stripping the fort, leave the island in an English ship; Du Parquet sends a reinforcement of 38 men with Le Sieur de Coutis, as Governor; De Coutis is superseded by M. D'Aygrement.

1660. D'Aygrement is killed by the Charaibs, and is succeeded by M. Le Lande; Le Lande dies, and is succeeded by M. Bonnard.

1664. The English purchase St. Lucia from the Charaibs; Mr. Thomas Warner arrives with 1400 men to take possession; French under M. Bonnard surrender, and are sent to Martinique; Mr. Cook is left Governor.

Six hundred of the new settlers are carried off by a sickness.

1666. Mr. Cook, the Governor, sets fire to the fort

and abandons the island ; of his 1500 followers, all but 89 had been destroyed by sickness, or the Charaibs.

1672. Lord Willoughby appointed Governor of this, in common with some other islands.

1713. By the peace of Utrecht, St. Lucia is viewed as neutral.

1718. The Regent of France makes a grant of the island to Marshal D'Estres, who sends out colonists to settle ; British Court objects to this, and the grant is recalled in consequence.

1722. St. Lucia granted by letters patent to the Duke of Montague ; French King protests against the grant ; Captain Uring is appointed Deputy-governor, and arrives at St. Lucia with a party of colonists on the 15th December ; Captain Uring lands with his party and stores ; 3000 French arrive and force Captain Uring to capitulate ; by the terms agreed upon, French and English both quit, and the island remains neutral.

1730. St. Lucia again declared neutral by French and English sovereigns.

1731. A French man of war takes nine or ten British ships at St. Lucia, on pretence of that island belonging to France.

1748. St. Lucia declared a neutral island by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

1762. St. Lucia (on which the French had settled, notwithstanding their agreement to consider it as neutral) is taken by the English.

1763. By the treaty of peace, of the 10th of February, St. Lucia is ceded to France.

Eight hundred men sent over to colonize the island from France; they die and are replaced by settlers from the other islands.

1769. Population amounts to 12,794 persons.

1772. Total population 15,476 persons.

1776. Population 2397 whites, 1050 free negroes, and 10,752 slaves; value of exports £20,000.

1778. The island is attacked and taken by a British expedition under Admiral Barrington and Major-General Grant; the inhabitants are allowed favorable terms of capitulation.

1780. Dreadful hurricane; only two houses left standing in the town; barracks, &c. blown down, and ships driven to sea.

1783. Some American Royalists from Charlestown arrive in the *Narcissus*.

By article 7 of the treaty of peace signed at Versailles on the 28th of January, St. Lucia is restored to France.

1794. St. Lucia is taken by the British troops under General Grey and Sir J. Jervis.

1801. May 16, Brigadier General Prevost appointed Governor.

1802. By the treaty of Amiens Great Britain cedes the island of St. Lucia to France.

1803. War declared; St. Lucia taken by the English under Commodore Hood and General Grinfield.

CHAPTER XIV.

HURRICANES.

AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT, DERIVED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND PRIVATE LETTERS, OF THE DREADFUL HURRICANE IN BARBADOS, IN THE YEAR 1831.

HAVING completed my chronology of the different islands to as late a period as I have been able to obtain the requisite information, I now proceed to lay before my readers an account of one of the most awful visitations of Providence that can befall any country—A *Hurricane*,—particulars of which have been just received from Barbados, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia; commencing with

BARBADOS,

The following despatches from which place have been received by the Right Hon. Viscount Goderich.

MY LORD,

Barbados, August 13.

No duty has ever devolved upon me of so heart-rending a nature as the one which it becomes now my melancholy task to perform.

I have to acquaint your Lordship that, on the morning of the 11th instant, this flourishing and happy colony was visited by one of the most dreadful hurricanes ever experienced in the West Indies.

On the evening of the 10th, the sun set on a landscape of the greatest beauty and fertility, and rose on the following morning over an utter desolation and a waste. The prospect at the break of day on the 11th instant, was that of January in Europe,—every tree, if not entirely rooted up, was deprived of its foliage and of many of its branches; every house within my view was levelled with the ground, or materially damaged; and every hour brought intelligence of the most lamentable accidents and of very many shocking deaths.

The evening of the 10th instant, was not remarkable for any peculiarity of appearance that I could observe, and every one in my family went to bed without the least suspicion that any atmospherical changes were likely to disturb their rest. Soon after, however, it began to rain, accompanied with flashes of lightning and high wind; it appeared to me from the north and east; towards midnight the wind increased, and was more to the westward and south west, the rain fell in torrents, and the lightning was vivid in the extreme: at one o'clock, or thereabouts, it was first suspected by me, from its extreme violence, to be a hurricane, and not long after some of my servants came running into the house, saying that the roof of the kitchen had fallen in. Several poor people in the neighbourhood also took refuge in Government-house, their wooden houses having been blown down.

From about two o'clock until the day broke, it is impossible to convey to your Lordship's mind any idea of the violence of the storm; no language of mine is

adequate to express sufficiently its horrors. The noise of the wind through the apertures formed by it, the peals of thunder, and the rapidly repeated flashes of lightning (more like sheets of fire), and the impenetrable darkness which succeeded them, the crash of walls, roofs, and beams, were all mixed in appalling confusion, and the whole house shook to its very foundation; whether this last effect was produced by the force of the wind, or by an earthquake, supposed by many to have accompanied the storm, I am unable to decide; but the rents and fissures which are visible in the massive walls of this building would lead one to suppose the latter cause only could have produced them.

About this time, two o'clock, finding that Government-house, which had been but recently repaired, was giving way, the officers of my staff, myself, and servants, together with some unfortunate persons who had escaped from the neighbouring huts took refuge in the cellar, where we remained in perfect safety, thank God, until the day dawned; had we continued in the rooms above stairs, or indeed in any other part of the house, there is little doubt our lives must have been sacrificed, from the ruinous appearance presented in the morning.

The tempest did not entirely cease, nor the atmosphere clear up, till about nine o'clock in the morning of the 11th, and then it was we became more sensible of the calamities and heart-breaking consequences of this most awful scourge. Whole families were buried in its ruins. Fortunately some of the churches were

found less injured than any other buildings (although many are destroyed), and they were instantly thrown open for the reception of the wounded and maimed. Medical aid was procured with all the haste which the encumbered state of the streets and roads would permit, for many trees and houses had fallen across the public ways, and much obstructed our intercourse.

Under these most distressing and appalling circumstances, it is wonderful with what equanimity and fortitude every one seems to bear his loss, and this affords some little consolation to my mind. But I cannot hide from my view the awful prospects of want and destitution, accompanied, as it may be, with pestilence, which must naturally result from such a general and wide spread calamity.

No estimate of damage done, or loss sustained, can be at present formed, with any degree of accuracy, or even surmised; suffice it to say that there is no exaggeration in the picture I have drawn, and that as soon as any correct opinion can be formed on the subject, your Lordship shall be duly apprised of it.

I must not omit to add that the barracks and hospitals at St. Ann's are in a state of complete dilapidation and ruin; and I have been under the necessity of ordering the troops under canvass. No deaths have occurred amongst the officers, with the exception of one gentleman of the Commissariat Department, a Mr. Flanner, who was entombed with three of his children, a female relative, and two servants, in the ruins of his house. The number of soldiers killed, however, of the corps composing the garrison, viz.,

the Royal Artillery, the 35th and 36th regiments, amount, by this day's return, to thirty-six ; and very many accidents of a serious nature have also been sustained by the troops.

I have called a meeting of the legislature for Monday, the 15th instant, the earliest moment which I could hope to collect them together. In the mean time the most wealthy and influential inhabitants are making every effort to relieve the poor, houseless, and destitute. The sacred work of charity has begun, and will be encouraged and assisted by every means in my power ; and under circumstances of such grievous and awful calamity, I look forward with hope and confidence to the sympathies of the mother country.

I will not conclude this despatch without giving your lordship the assurance, that my determination is, as well as those who surround me, to meet our accumulated evils with resolution and fortitude, and to exert our best efforts to assuage and mitigate to the utmost of our abilities every distress which may present itself. The task may be arduous, but it will be continued with unshrinking perseverance so long as it may please Almighty Providence to afford us health and strength to do so.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES LYON.

P. S. It has escaped me to mention that the few

ships in Carlisle-bay were driven high on the strand, but fortunately no lives lost. How far this hurricane may have extended I have hitherto had no means of ascertaining.

(Signed)

J. L.

MY LORD, Government-house, Barbados, Aug. 30.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of a temporary act, which was passed by the legislature of this island at their last meeting, and which act, under the exigencies of the moment, I trust will meet with your Lordship's approbation; its duration, it will be noticed by your Lordship, does not extend beyond a period of thirty days.

The commissions mentioned in the act, for clearing the streets, &c. &c., have been in operation for the last fortnight, and it gives me great satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that they have been attended with the most beneficial effects.

Free intercourse is again restored; and the slaves, who were much inclined to be idle, and in some instances refractory, have resumed work, and are perfectly obedient to their masters. A very favourable reaction has taken place in all quarters, and much activity prevails in roofing in houses, and restoring ruins to habitable form. A committee of philanthropic gentlemen, with the Lord Bishop of the diocess as their chairman, are making every effort to relieve the distresses of the poor and destitute;

and the wounded and maimed in St. Michael's Church continue to receive every attention required from the medical gentlemen of the island. With a liberality and good feeling which reflects the highest honour upon the neighbouring colonies who have escaped this most direful visitation, they are daily forwarding, in aid of our charities, provisions, materials, and money.

The particulars of these munificent acts of charity I shall make known to your Lordship in a future letter: meantime may acquaint you, that with the advice of the Council I have directed the officers of his Majesty's customs to admit free of colonial duty all provisions, &c. which are *bonâ fide* for the use of the poor.

Your Lordship will learn with much satisfaction, that our supply of provisions is such as to remove all fears of want; the weather has been particularly favourable to the ground crops, and the quantity of flour in the island is equal to four months' consumption at the least; the report of our treasury, I regret to say, is not so favourable; I find from the treasurer that a balance of £750 only remains in the public treasury; but the taxes for the year are still outstanding, with the exception of £50, which are included in the above balance.

A committee has been appointed in each parish, consisting of the resident members of council, the representatives, the rector, churchwarden, and two vestrymen, to take an account of the deaths, white, black, and coloured, bond and free, and for ascertain-

ing the losses, by the killing of slaves and destruction of property, of every description ; and as soon as the result of their labours is made known to me I shall lose no time in transmitting them to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES LYON.

MY LORD, Government-house, Barbados, Sept. 2.

It is with feelings overflowing with gratitude that I proceed to give your Lordship an outline of the bountiful and munificent assistance afforded to this devastated island by the sister colonies ; these acts of charity have been doubly enhanced by the solicitous haste and promptitude with which they have been furnished.

On the 13th ultimo I considered it my duty to make known, as widely as possible, our calamitous circumstances to the neighbouring islands and colonies ; and no sooner had the distressing intelligence reached the colonies of Demerara, Grenada, Antigua, Dominica, and Trinidad, than the benevolent inhabitants of each set about preparing supplies, both of provisions and money, for the relief of our destitute sufferers.

All classes and all colours vied with each other in their haste to contribute their mite towards relieving the wants of the poor and houseless ; and it is with feelings of pride and satisfaction that I state to your Lordship, that the troops stationed in the different

islands have emulated the bright example of the inhabitants; even in this island, where their privations have been great, one day's pay has been subscribed by all ranks; and the 86th regiment, stationed in Antigua, has contributed no less than three days' pay.

By these generous and timely efforts they will have the satisfaction of knowing, that they have alleviated the sorrows of many a widow, and appeased the hunger of many an orphan child; and what reward can be higher I know not.

The colony of Demerara has forwarded in provisions and money to the amount of ..	<i>Dollars.</i> } .. 7,000
Antigua, private subscriptions, &c.	3,000
Grenada, House of Assembly voted 1,000 <i>l.</i> currency, and private subscriptions 1,000 <i>l.</i> }	} 4,000
Dominica, private subscriptions.	1,500
Trinidad, Council voted 1,000 <i>l.</i> sterling	4,800
The Illustrious Cabildo	1,000
Private subscriptions	4,200
	<hr/> Dollars, 25,500

At the head of these subscription lists I observe the name of Sir J. Campbell for 200*l.* currency; Sir Patrick Ross 120*l.*; Sir Charles Smith 100*l.*; and Mr. President Lochhart 25*l.*

I may inform your Lordship that the subscriptions are still going on, and considerable sums may yet be added to the above amount.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES LYON.

COPY OF A CIRCULAR LETTER ADDRESSED BY HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JAMES LYON, GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS, TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE NEIGHBOURING COLONIES.

SIR. Government-house, Barbados, Aug. 13, 1831.

I HAVE the melancholy intelligence to communicate to your Excellency, that on the morning of the 11th inst. we had the misfortune to be visited by one of the most awful and violent hurricanes ever experienced in this island.

The loss of life and dreadful accidents are numerous, and the damage done to property is immense, although no correct estimate can be at present formed.

May I request that your Excellency will make known our situation to your community, and communicate, if possible, by the first ship (if any are at present in your port) to England, the intelligence, that our situation and wants may be supplied with as much celerity as circumstances will permit.

It will be obvious, that as nearly every house in the island is levelled, or materially injured, lumber will be much required, and provisions of every kind.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed)

JAS. LYON.

BARBADOS.—A PROCLAMATION.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JAMES LYON, K. C. B. AND
G. C. H. GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THIS
ISLAND, ETC.

J. LYON,

WHEREAS, it having pleased Almighty God to afflict this colony with a most awful and destructive hurricane, which has destroyed all the dwellings and plantations of the inhabitants of the island; and whereas it is apprehended that some evil disposed persons may attempt to plunder the distressed inhabitants of the few articles and provisions which they have preserved; I do, therefore, hereby order and command all magistrates and constables to exert themselves, to the utmost of their power, in preserving, on this melancholy occasion, the peace and tranquillity of the island, and to prevent, as far as in them lies, the depredation and plunder by such evil disposed persons; and I do require all his majesty's liege subjects to be assisting to the magistrates and constables in the execution of their duty herein. And should the civil authorities be found insufficient to uphold the laws, I do hereby require all commanding officers of the several regiments of militia of this island to exercise the power granted to them by the 31st clause of the Militia Act of this island, by appointing or commanding any sufficient part of their respective regiments as may be needful, to assemble for the purpose of preventing disturbance, and preserving the general peace.

And whereas it has been represented to me that the principal merchants of Bridgetown have not enhanced the prices of the necessary articles of life; now I do hereby strongly recommend, that so laudable and benevolent an example may be generally observed; and I trust and expect that no advantage will be taken by mechanics and other tradesmen in the present lamentable state of the colony; and I do call on and command all the inhabitants of the island, white, free, coloured, and slaves, to demean themselves with propriety, order, and decorum; and whatsoever person or persons shall be detected in committing any robberies, or receiving any stolen goods, shall be prosecuted to the utmost rigor of the law.

Given under my hand and seal of arms, at the Town-hall, this 15th day of August, 1831, and in the second year of his majesty's reign.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF BARBADOS
TO THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT GODERICH.

Barbados, August 16.

My house is all in ruins, save one room, which I had added to the old building; in this room and the two passages around it all my family are assembled: every other part has either fallen, or is wholly unroofed.

I am thankful to say that the lives of myself and wife and family were all preserved, though in most imminent danger.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PUBLIC PAPERS IN BARBADOS.

From the Barbados Mercury, August 16.

IN Bridgetown there is scarcely a house which has escaped injury; hundreds have been razed to the ground, and many of their inhabitants buried under the ruins; others unroofed and partially thrown down, so as to be completely untenable. Trees of immense size and strength either uplifted by the roots or bereft of their branches. All the vessels in Carlisle Bay were driven from their moorings and thrown on shore. At the out ports, in Speight's, the Hole, and Oistin's Towns, every house has been either thrown down or rendered untenable; many of their inhabitants sharing the fate of the numberless victims who have been crushed to death. In the country, the whole face of nature is completely changed: on the plantations, without almost a single exception, the buildings, mills, and negrohouses are destroyed, and many of them have suffered materially in slaves and cattle. The provisions which had been housed, as well as the standing corn and canes in the fields, have been so completely destroyed, as scarcely to leave a vestige behind; and to add to the heart-rending and distressing picture, at this moment many of the estates are without a single article of food of any kind. Many of the most opulent and respectable families, as well as those of the middling and poorer classes, by the melancholy catastrophe have been thus driven out destitute of a covering; many who,

but the day before, were surrounded by their families and their comforts, have not where to lay their heads. Up to this moment the number of killed has not been ascertained, nor all the unfortunate creatures who have been inhumed in their fallen dwellings taken from beneath them. The interval of the time between Thursday morning and the present has been employed by the living in burying the dead.

Amidst numberless other distressing cases of this kind, it is our painful duty to notice the melancholy fate of Deputy-Assistant-Commissary General Flanner, who, with his wife, three children, his niece, and two servants, were all buried under the ruins of their own dwelling on Wednesday night, and from which they were not taken until the following morning, the unhappy wife and two of the children only having survived. At Saint Ann's, many of his majesty's troops have been killed, and upwards of one hundred wounded, by the falling of the barracks. The seat of government, the custom house, the girls' central school, (the boys' school only partially damaged,) and, in fact, most of the public buildings of the island lie in masses of ruin. Several of Speight's boats returning to leeward, from this, were upset on their way, and almost every soul on board of them perished ; amongst whom, we sincerely regret to state, were our fellow-labourer, the joint proprietor of this paper, Mr. J. W. Wooding, and his brother, Mr. Thomas Wooding, who perished, with fifteen others belonging to the same boat, on the fatal night of Wednesday. The Edward Wason, Caroline, and Demerara packet have also been driven

on shore. The schooner Endeavour, Capt. Mann, escaped getting on shore by putting out to sea about ten o'clock, and encountered the storm, but was very seriously injured in masts and rigging. The loss of seamen, we are happy to say, was comparatively very small, but the troops of the garrison suffered very materially. Of the 35th regiment, seven privates and the sergeant-major were killed: of the 36th it is not possible to calculate accurately, as a number of the privates are at this time missing, who, in addition to those discovered as yet, it is supposed are buried under the ruins of the fallen barracks.

From the country also the accounts which momentarily reach us are of the most afflicting nature. Whole families, consisting, in some places, of six, some eight, and some ten, have been, at one fell stroke, swept from the book of life, and consigned to a premature grave. In hundreds of cases the husband has become a widower, the wife a widow, and the child fatherless.

Extensive and fatal as the calamity has been, it is incalculable what further devastation and ruin must have ensued to the town, had the pier been less faithfully and substantially built. This structure, with the recently repaired wharfs, has in fact, by resisting not only the conflict with the winds and sea, but also that of an overwhelming and continued rush of water from the country, preserved the foundations of our buildings, and the very site on which the commercial part of the town stands. The injury to the pier itself is very trifling, and confined entirely to the head, where a few stones only have been dislodged.

A private letter dated Antigua, August 20, estimates the loss of lives at 3,000, amongst whom were forty soldiers. Fourteen merchant ships were driven on shore, some of which were expected to become total wrecks. Scarcely a house was left without having suffered most severely, and the majority were totally destroyed. The Government-house was much injured, and the Governor took refuge in the cellars. The Custom-house was blown down, and all the churches and chapels on the island were more or less injured. The effects of the hurricane, which is described as being only equalled by the one of 1783, were also felt at St. Vincent's, Dominica, and at Guadaloupe.

The following is an extract from a letter from Mr. Bennet, Secretary at Lloyds :

Antigua, August 20, two p. m.

Just as the Lady Turner was preparing to get under weigh, the Duke of York army vessel arrived from Barbados with despatches, bringing the distressing account of one of the most devastating hurricanes that had ever been experienced in the West Indies, having visited that island on the 11th instant. Not a house uninjured, and the most part levelled with the ground. The loss of lives is calculated at 3000, which is to be hoped may be exaggerated.—The following vessels were driven on shore, and remained when the Duke of York left:—The barques Irlam and Arethusa; brigs Exchange, Quebec, Decagon, Mary Kezia, Alliance, Antoinette, Alliance, Horatio Nelson, and

Eliza ; brigantine Samuel Hinds ; mail-boats Montague and Barbados ; and schooners Asp and Perseverance. The Heroine escaped with only loss of rigging ; the schooner James lost masts.—It is said that St. Vincent's has suffered equally with Barbados.—On the 11th, the weather there wore every appearance of a hurricane, and it was generally remarked on that day, that if we escaped, some other island must have suffered.

Extract of a Letter from Barbados, received via Antigua.

August 16.

WITH the exception of the two mail-boats and a schooner, all the other vessels which were driven on shore during the hurricane are total wrecks.

From the Barbados Globe, August 15.

THROUGH the merciful forbearance of an all-powerful Deity, we are enabled to resume the publication of our paper by issuing a half sheet to-day. That we printed none on Thursday, is owing to the awful calamity which, on the morning of that day, laid the whole country in a confused mass of ruins. Our life having been spared, and our office but partially damaged, the duty of telling the tale of affliction, however harrowing to our feelings, must be performed ; but to convey to the distant reader a correct idea of the scene of devastation before us is a task impossible to be accomplished. Wherever we turn our eye, the desolation and misery presented to the view bid de-

fiance to the power of language to portray them in adequate terms. Barbados was never in such a condition since the year 1783. The hurricane of that time might have exceeded in duration, but not in violence, the one of Thursday last: the damage suffered is perhaps equal in extent—the number of lives lost is at present incalculable.

The appearance of Wednesday evening was indicative of unsettled weather, and many persons prognosticated that there would be a gale before the morning; but few anticipated a visitation so dreadful. The wind was at times rather high, and about ten o'clock there was a shower of rain, which was succeeded by a calm. After this a dense mass of clouds gathered over the horizon, and remained for some time suspended in gloom. At twelve, they burst in a severe squall, which was followed by a heavy rain. At this period there was a smart breeze from N. E. and the wind began to increase. In two hours it blew a tremendous gale, but moderated for a short time, when it suddenly became more violent, and was a perfect hurricane at three o'clock. Now the work of destruction commenced. From this hour until five it raged with unparalleled violence, whilst the lightning would at intervals cast a momentary but horrid glare on the mangled objects around. The houses were either levelled with the earth or unroofed; the largest trees torn from their roots, or broken as reeds. Numerous individuals were buried under the ruins, or exposed without a shelter to the pelting of the storm, and threatened with instant death at each suc-

cessive blast that hurled the shattered fragments in every direction. The majestic cocoa-nut tree would be tossed to and fro as a withe, then snapped off with an appalling crash, or driven from the earth with terrific force. The wind had now veered to E., back to N., and to N. W.; again it shifted, and blew fiercely from E., veered to S. E., and about six o'clock burst from S. W. with renewed violence, accompanied by torrents of rain. Once more the hurricane raged, but there was little standing to encounter its fury. For two hours the wind and rain continued thus; and it is easier to conceive than to describe the suffering of those unfortunate beings who were all this time destitute of even the slightest shelter to screen them from the contending elements. The bodily and mental torture of those who were in health must have been excruciating; but what must that have been of delicate females who had been lingering on a bed of sickness—and many of these there were—some in the open fields, separated from their relatives and friends, and in a state of nudity? Helpless infants, too, were in like manner torn from the arms of their distracted parents.

When the light of day dawned through the dreadful gloom of the subsiding tempest, the devastation of the country exhibited a heart-rending picture. The dreadful howling of the winds, and the crashing of the falling ruins having ceased, the shrieks of the affrighted, and the groans of the wounded and dying broke in mournful sounds and pitiable accents on the ears of the less unfortunate survivors. Those who

had sufficient strength remaining, commenced a sorrowful search for the respective members of their families, some of whose lifeless bodies were disinterred from the ruins to be transferred to another grave, whilst mangled forms of others were dragged forth, frightful from their bruises, and making the hearts of their sympathising relatives bleed with anguish. The fields which the day before presented so luxurious an appearance were completely changed into a desert; neither canes, corn, nor provisions, with a few inconsiderable exceptions, having been left in the ground. The houses as well as windmills were thrown down, parts of them conveyed to an astonishing distance, and costly furniture destroyed or materially injured. Oistins', Hole-town, Speight's-town, and Bridgetown, have all suffered equally, there not being a single house in the island standing uninjured. A few, certainly, are only partially damaged, but many which at first sight appear to have escaped, are found, on closer examination, to be in a condition that would be imminently dangerous either in heavy rains or strong winds. The barracks and hospital at St. Ann's have suffered in common with other buildings, and we understand more than forty of his majesty's troops lost their lives, besides many women and children; the number of wounded is immense.

On a future occasion we may give a detailed account of the numerous deaths that have occurred, and of the almost innumerable dangerous wounds inflicted; but as we cannot do so at present with any degree of accuracy, we abstain from inserting those that have

come to our knowledge. The scenes of horror in the churches baffle all description. There the dead and dying have been borne from different places; there the bruised have been taken for surgical assistance. The bodies of all the killed, however, have not yet been recovered from the heaps of stone under which they were crushed; and as putrefaction has already taken place, we are threatened with the additional calamity of a deadly pestilence. God, in his infinite goodness, avert further horrors from our devoted isle! Threatened as we are with famine and disease, we can only rely on his bountiful providence to outstretch his heavenly arm for our timely rescue. Without a plentiful supply of articles of food, the inhabitants will perish of hunger,—without the Divine interposition, their dire fate must be consummated by contagion from the effluvium arising from the putrid carcasses of men and beasts which lie on the face of the earth!

The churches and chapels throughout the island have suffered each to a greater or less extent. The sacred edifice in St. James's was injured less than any other. The Cathedral and St. Mary's were deprived of the greater part of their roofs, the organ of the latter was blown to atoms; St. Paul's and St. Matthew's were nearly totally destroyed. Government House was unroofed, and otherwise injured, and his excellency the governor obliged to take refuge in the cellar. King's House, the Girls' School, and the common Gaol, were seriously damaged: the Boys' School was partially injured, and the Custom

House was blown down. But to particularise would be a preposterous attempt, when every house, and all parts of the island, have, in some respect or other, shared in the general destruction.

We must now close this melancholy chapter, to enter upon another hardly less distressing, as it will contain an account of the great damage sustained by the hurricane in ST. VINCENT.

CHAPTER XV.

HURRICANES.

AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT, DERIVED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND PRIVATE LETTERS, OF THE DREADFUL HURRICANE IN ST. VINCENT.

Copies of the Despatches received by the Right Honourable Viscount Goderich.

MY LORD, Government-house, St. Vincent, Aug. 12, 1831. It is my painful duty to report to your lordship the devastation and desolation occasioned by the most violent hurricane with which this island was ever visited, and in doing so, I beg your lordship may make due allowance for the imperfect detail which hurry of the moment, under such painful circumstances, must occasion.

At an early hour yesterday morning the storm commenced from the northward, but was not much felt by the principal town and shipping until about half-past eight, when its violent effects were destructive in the extreme. Every vessel at the anchorage with the exception of one, was cast on shore, and I much fear very few are likely to be saved.

It may be said, with few exceptions, that every plantation within this government has sustained damage more or less, by the total destruction of their

crops and provisions, of buildings, of works, and negro houses, and in one of the towns three houses only remain. The public buildings, barracks, and officers' quarters have suffered in like proportion, and I regret to add, reports from the various quarters of the government confirm my most painful apprehensions of the loss of life as well as property.

It will be obvious to your lordship, that the effects of this awful dispensation of providence must press very heavily on all classes of the community, and unless a timely and abundant supply of the products of America and Great Britain reach us, positive famine and ruin will be the inevitable consequence of this melancholy visitation.

I have written this despatch to be in readiness for the first opportunity to England which may offer, and shall keep your lordship apprized of all measures which may be resorted to, for the alleviation of the prevailing distress. I am, &c.

(Signed) G. F. HILL.

MY LORD, St. Vincent, Aug. 27, 1831.

I HAD the honor of addressing an official letter to your lordship on the 12th of this month, and another, marked private, giving some account of the hurricane of the 11th instant, and its consequences.

These letters I sent to Grenada, to be despatched by a merchant ship, named *The Lord Goderich*, which was to sail from thence on Saturday, the 20th, for

London, and I now enclose duplicates of those letters per mail.

Pursuant to the anticipation in my private letter, I issued a proclamation on Thursday, the 18th instant, to admit flour and lumber duty free, at this port, for the remainder of the year 1831, which measure it is my duty to endeavour to justify.

I had been strongly urged to adopt one more extensive in its operation than this, but I did not feel justified in taking any step to have effect beyond the existing exigency, or providing against a want of food and materials for repairing dilapidated buildings and sugar works, and not even this without sufficient proof that an extraordinary step was indispensable.

Accordingly, I had every part of the island visited, and due inquiry made into the extent of damage sustained on the negro provision grounds, and in the houses, huts, buildings, and sugar establishments.

In addition, the privy council sat from Saturday, the 13th, to Wednesday, the 17th, and took evidence on the subject from gentlemen of the first respectability.

They also ascertained the quantity of provisions and materials for the repairs in store.

The former appeared inadequate to furnish more than sufficient for five or six weeks' consumption, and the quantity of lumber too scanty to meet any thing like the demand and immediate exertion to reconstruct the habitations, the mills, and the other sugar works.

The council, therefore, unanimously recommended

that flour and lumber should be admitted duty free, until the 31st of December next.

The advanced season of the year rendered timely supplies from British America unlikely, whilst the deplorable situation of Barbados confirmed the necessity of yielding to the proposition. I deemed it inexpedient to extend the period beyond the present year of 1831, for the free admission of flour and lumber, which gives ample time to receive your lordship's instructions on the subject, and in case of the arrival of sufficient supplies to resume, by proclamation, the payment of duties. There has been an arrival here last week of five hundred barrels of flour, and although an embargo at Barbados has been laid against the export of provision (of which we do not in any manner complain), yet I have no dread of absolute want.

Opportunities have offered and have been taken of notifying in Canada, and the United States, the situation of both Barbados and St. Vincent, and supplies, direct, to each of these islands may soon be expected from the United States. St. Lucia has not experienced much injury: the other islands to the north (as reported) none at all.

enclose the Royal St. Vincent's Gazettes for your lordship's information, which give full particulars of this lamentable occurrence.

I have very great satisfaction in reporting to your lordship that neither during the confusion occasioned by the tempest, nor from the dispersion of all sort of property thrown about thereby, have any instances of plunder occurred, or the slightest degree of insu-

bordination. Whereas, on some estates, the exertions of the negro population to assist their owners and managers, have been most meritorious, nor have the merchants generally taken advantage of the present distress by enhancing prices. The loss of life has been, comparatively with Barbados, insignificant. Poor Mr. Littledale, the judge's brother, and his housekeeper, were crushed to death in the ruins of his house, which is the only instance amongst those in his station of life of any person being killed.

I shall feel much anxiety to be informed whether the measure I have ventured to take shall receive your lordship's approbation.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

G. F. HILL.

Extracts from the St. Vincent Gazette.

Friday Evening, Aug. 12, 1831.

WE stop the press to announce one of the most awful and destructive visitations of Providence ever experienced in this island. Yesterday morning early, the wind commenced blowing from the westward, and continued to increase in violence, attended with a heavy sea, until about ten o'clock, when every vessel in Kingstown harbour, except the ship Sarah Ward, Captain Moore, and the brig Commerce, Captain Wainwright was on shore. The wind and sea continuing to increase, it was observed that the Sarah Ward was dragging her anchors and nearing the

shore, although slowly. About twelve o'clock, however, all hopes of her safety were at an end, by her grounding opposite Durham's wharf, one of the most dangerous places in the harbour. The state of the other vessels was now lost sight of, and all eyes were turned towards this ship and her unfortunate crew. The sea continued to increase in violence, breaking completely over her, and as she was nearly loaded (having in, upwards of four hundred hogsheads of sugar, and fifty puncheons of rum), she grounded too far from the shore to admit of any escape by the crew, either by swimming or on rafts. Her main and mizen-masts were both cut away to lighten her, but unfortunately she bilged, and the water rushing in increased the great weight of her cargo. It was now perceived that the ship was settling fast and heeling over to the sea, and that unless speedy aid was afforded them, all on board must perish. Three brave fellows (Sam Bruce, Nelson Morgan, and Healy Gelizeau) launched a canoe and ventured near enough to the vessel to receive a line which was thrown to them, but before they could get to the shore one of them (Healy) was forced overboard, with the line in his hand, and having received a heavy blow in the struggle, was picked up senseless, but soon recovered himself. All efforts made from the ship to get a line on shore failed, the reaction of the waves carrying every thing thrown overboard back to the ship, often when just within reach, and one man, in too eagerly plunging after a buoy, was carried out to sea, and was only saved by a miracle. Interest the most intense was now excited

for those on board. The day was waning fast—the sea unabated in its fury. At length Charles Simmons (slave to Mr. Jones) after many attempts, succeeded in slinging a stone with a line attached to it round one of the ropes thrown from the ship, and by that method a hawser was passed to the shore. This was presently secured to the house of Mr. Henry Arindell, opposite the ship, and every necessary preparation being made on shore and on board, at three o'clock the first man took his leave of the ship. No words can describe the anxiety of the spectators on shore for the fate of this man as he was now seen lifted up into the air, and then dashed into the water beneath, according to the movements of the vessel. A few moments, however, relieved them of their fears; he was brought safely to the shore, and received with a shout that rent the air. In this way twenty-seven fellow creatures (including six black men employed on board as labourers) were rescued from a watery grave. Captain Moore was the last man but two that left the ship, and they refused to leave her until they saw him safe on shore. The ship, shortly after, heeled over and became a perfect wreck. Not a vestige of property has been saved either by the captain or crew, and these poor fellows (the crew) have now to depend upon charity until they can get employment, which is far distant, the Sarah Ward being the last ship to leave for Europe during the year. Captain Moore himself is too highly esteemed throughout the island, both as a gentleman and seaman, and has too many friends in it, to suffer any privations, and therefore his greatest

anxiety must be to see his crew provided for. It is, we hope, superfluous in us to point out what humanity must dictate to every feeling breast—the necessity of making some provision for these unfortunate tars, either by subscription or public donation.

Every man present exerted himself as if the safety of a brother was at stake, and it would, therefore, be a difficult task in us to point out particular individuals: but, for all that, we cannot omit mentioning Mr. Joseph Brown, who ran many risks, and who was foremost on all perilous occasions.

Our worthy Governor was seen among the throng as actively engaged as any other individual. His warm heart sympathised with those on board, and by none was the communication with the ship hailed with more satisfaction than himself. His Excellency, as soon as the crew of the ship were placed in safety, sent off to the garrison and obtained an officer's guard for the protection of property, which were posted all along the shore, and which judicious disposition prevented plunder to any extent. We lament to say that the destruction on shore is also great; numbers of houses in town and in other parts of the island have been destroyed. The barracks at Dorsetshire-hill were blown down, and several buildings on Fort Charlotte injured. We have heard but few reports from the country; those that have reached us are truly distressing. Numbers of estates have suffered in buildings alone to a great amount. In Chateaubellair there are only three houses standing.

Barrouallie and Layou have also suffered, and in

Buccament not one estate has escaped the fury of the wind. A good judge has estimated the damage done to the island at 200,000*l.* sterling.

August 18.

THE details of the storm which we gave in our last were confined chiefly to the destruction of marine property; and although such accounts as had then reached us from the country led us to anticipate considerable loss in buildings, yet we did not contemplate that this week we should have to deplore, not only the devastation of nearly the whole island, but the loss of many lives. The distress in the windward and leeward quarters beggars all description. On many estates, every building has been levelled with the earth—the proprietors and white servants taking refuge in temporary huts, and the slaves by hundreds huddled together under broken walls and fragments of houses. Joined to these miseries, famine is staring the inhabitants in the face. Provision grounds every where destroyed, and the crops of yams, which were just ready for digging, all washed away by the heavy rains. Not a plantain tree remains standing on some estates, nor indeed a tree of any description. The responsible and expensive duty of providing for the slave thus falls suddenly upon the master at a time that he needs assistance for himself, and when he cannot look forward to any alleviation of his distresses; for most of the early canes for the ensuing crop have been destroyed: so that, even with a succession of favourable weather, he cannot calculate

upon more than half a crop next year. To add to these afflictions, flour and meal, as was to be expected, have taken a sudden and rapid rise in price, and are getting scarce. But even these accumulated misfortunes might have been borne for a time, had there remained a chance of getting supplies from Barbados, whither several vessels have been sent; but the woful tidings received from the heap of ruins have bereaved us of all hope in that quarter; and should an all-wise Being have visited with his scourge the colonies to the northward, our only anchor of hope, for many months, must rest on America; and there, in our opinion, instant application ought to be made, as well for the necessaries of life, as for the means of rebuilding our ruined habitations.

The advance of the wind in the northern quarter of the island on Thursday is described as most terrific. In vain did man by art construct edifices which he relied upon as capable of resisting the fury of the elements. The wind passed over them, and they were no more to be seen. The stoutest and the hardiest trees were uprooted like saplings, and scattered in the air like twigs. Houses were lifted up entire and thrown to an incredible distance from their foundations. The memorable hurricane of 1780, although its approaches were more awful, attended as it was by loud peals of thunder, incessant rains, a roaring sea, and vivid lightning, none of which accompanied the late storm, save heavy rains, was far less destructive. Its effects were more felt in the towns by the demolition of houses, but the country

throughout was not near so much injured. The storm of Thursday was one of wind, which passed over the land with resistless fury, sweeping every thing before it. Among those who lost their lives during its continuance were the Hon. Johnson Littledale and his housekeeper, Miss Jessy Douglass, who were both killed at Owia, by the falling on them of a house; also the infant son of James Sutherland, Esq., who was killed in his mother's arms on Waterloo Estate, as the unfortunate lady fled with him out of a falling house. Sixteen slaves were also killed.

We have used our best endeavours to collect the disasters and losses on each estate, as well for public information as to make an estimate of the general loss; and as our applications were readily attended to by attorneys and others, we have it in our power to give to the public to-day a pretty full statement of such losses and disasters, although there are several properties that have suffered much from which we have no accounts. Far from having overrated in our last number the amount of the loss sustained, this statement, fairly estimated, points out the immediate loss to be much nearer £500,000 than £200,000. Frightful as this amount is to an already impoverished people, yet, could they see their way clear, firmness, economy, and perseverance, aided by friendly assistance, may enable them to surmount their difficulties; but worn down as they are by oppression—their hopes blasted, and a certainty of increased expenditure, with diminished resources to meet it, what have they before them but prospects the most appalling?

Some correct idea may be formed of the injuries sustained in the Charaib country only, when we state that by an estimate made for one estate there, it will require £150,000 feet of lumber alone to replace what has been destroyed. Many estates, we fear, will never resume their pristine grandeur.

ST. VINCENT.—A PROCLAMATION.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE FITZGERALD HILL, BART., CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND GOVERNOR IN-CHIEF, IN AND OVER, THE ISLAND OF ST. VINCENT.

GEORGE F. HILL,

WHEREAS, from the consequences of the dreadful hurricane with which this island and its dependencies were visited on Thursday morning, the 11th instant, it is essentially necessary, for their relief, to encourage the importation of the only article of food which bears a duty, namely, flour, and of such materials as are required to repair the extensive damage which has been sustained in houses, buildings, and sugar works over the greatest part of this colony; I do therefore, by and with the advice and consent of his majesty's privy council, authorise and require the port of Kingstown to be opened accordingly for the admission of flour, and of white, yellow, and pitch pine boards, plank, and scantling and shingles, free of all duties payable thereon, until the 31st day of December now next ensuing; of which all officers of his majesty's

customs, and all others whom it doth, shall, or may concern, are hereby required to take due notice, and to govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at the Government house, in Kingstown, this 18th day of August, 1831.

By his Excellency's command,
THOMAS MELVILLE,
Government Secretary.

Extract from a private Letter.

St. Vincent, Aug. 16.

I WRITE this to you under a temporary shed, for house and home I have none. I feel grateful to that Being who has preserved my life, and submit without a murmur to the loss of my property, for he gave and he taketh away. On the evening of the 10th of August I looked out from the gallery of my house on the fertile plains below me, as Moses surveyed the land of promise from the top of Mount Pisgah, with delight. Bounded by the sea on the one side, and by impenetrable mountains on the others, it was a little Goshen, a spot on which the eye rested with pleasure; my people, happy and contented around me, formed one large family; and our mutual endeavours tended always to make each other contented with the lot Providence had decreed us. During that night occasional gusts of wind announced an impending storm, and measures were immediately adopted which we supposed might counteract its

violence. The storm increased; then would follow a lull—all was still—but it was not the stillness of sleep; it was as that breathless feeling where every thing is concentrated in an intensity of thought; it was the interval between the last moment of hope and the first of despair. The whirlwind again burst forth upon us, and in an instant swept off every thing on the face of the earth! The destroying angel had passed over us, the seventh vial had been emptied,—it was done. My negroes and myself had now lost our all; they crowded round me, claiming protection and succour, and it was the first time that appeal had been made in vain; nor till that moment had I known the full extent of my misfortunes. Shelter I could not afford, food there was none to give! We, however, immediately set about to dig from the ruins of the houses and works what provisions might have escaped, and we obtained a temporary supply; but without assistance is at hand from the neighbouring colonies we must all miserably perish. From the magnificent bread-fruit tree, which the day before was bending under a wild luxuriance of food, to that most humble plant the cane, the most useful and indispensable that lavish nature has furnished to stimulate the industry and supply the wants of man, all is destroyed. The awful element had everywhere asserted her majesty, but it was the majesty of a tyrant frowning over the ruins and desolation of a country. She held her court in dreadful pomp, at night, and with the magnificence of horror. Philosophy seeks in vain to discover the causes of these

visitations. They only serve to teach man, vain of his abilities, the narrow limits of his understanding. Individual losses I have not time to particularize; the heart grows sick at the detail: let this suffice, it is *one general* calamity. Our friend Littledale lost his life in endeavouring to escape from his falling house, and Mrs. Sutherland had her infant child killed in her arms; she had lately given it being, and again risked her life in the vain attempt to convey it to a place of safety. Our only hope is now in the justice of the British nation. Our agent, Mr. Colquhoun, will no doubt make an immediate application to the ministers, and do every thing that a feeling heart and good sense will dictate. But government must be told that a loan will be useless, for we shall not be able to repay it. Burthened as we are with debt, and worn down by misfortunes, they must grant immediately a sum of money to save us from utter ruin—to avert pestilence and famine. Fiscal regulations attempted to be multiplied on the planter—a frightful war, which, like an incubus, smothers all his energies and paralyses all his exertions—and calumnies oft refuted and always renewed, are oppressions that have arisen to that pitch that longer forbearance under them ceases to be a virtue. The planter, therefore, now boldly throws himself on the justice of the British people. Truly may it be said of him, *Fortunæ crimen in illo, non scelus invenies*. As soon as an estimate of our losses can be made out they will be forwarded to government, but instant relief can alone save us.

Extract of a Letter from a private Gentleman.

I WILL give you a short account of what I have been an eye-witness to, respecting the hurricane here. On the morning of the 11th, before daylight, it blew strong from the north-east, and increased as daylight came on, working round to the north, from that to west. At this time the sea rose (to appearance from my house) higher than the tops of our negro houses :* all buildings at this time were standing, until the wind shifted to the south-west, when, in the short space of half an hour, all the buildings on this side of Rabaca-road were levelled with the ground, not a house standing on this estate except the sick-house and one negro house, the thatch of which came off. As for my own house, low as it was on the ground, part of it was carried past the main range, and the rest knocked to pieces. Even the flooring was carried from off the foundation. I had all along an eye on the kitchen, as the walls are very strong; but while waiting at the door opposite to it, when my own house was just on the go, I observed the kitchen roof ready to cover us. I immediately went out with my wife and one child (giving the other to one of the domestics), and was placing them under the steps, when I beheld the domestic and the eldest girl blown away. I got hold of her (the child) just as they were nearly forced through a fence; but to get her back was the

* This is full 250 feet above the usual level of the sea.

task, which I effected by going on my knees, and paddling with one hand. The domestic was blown away, as well as all my servants, whom I did not see again until the gale abated. From below the steps we were drawn out by the force of the wind, when I got Mrs. M.'s head to the lee of one of the steps, where she was enabled to hold fast, lying flat on the ground with one child, when I carried the other to the bare walls of the kitchen, and placed her under the dresser. I then got the other in the same place, and afterwards their mother; but although safe from the flying timber, they were all in water—not rain, but I may say sheets of water, constantly falling. At this time they were quite blue with cold. My next object was to get mattresses from under the wreck of the house, which I succeeded in doing, and which was the only thing that saved them. Thank God they are now quite well. I will now give you some account of your own estate; the boiling, still, and curing-houses unroofed; still-chimney down; front of boiling and curing-houses down; mill-house leaning; spindle broke; sick, magass, and overseer's houses down to the ground; wharf, store, and every thing at the bay, carried away. It will give you some idea of the sea, when I tell you that it came up to your cooper's shop, and even to the back of the curing-house.* No one can pass the little gutter on this side where your store was: all the rocks came down, and filled up the place. On the other side of the works

* A considerable distance inland, and more than 200 feet above the level of the sea.

is now a sandy bay.* There are four negroes killed, and the roads quite impassable past our ravine."

Thus ends our narrative of the dreadful sufferings endured by the inhabitants of *St. Vincent*. We have yet one more duty to perform towards *St. Lucia*, and it is *some* relief to us when we consider that the damages here have not been nearly so great as those at Barbados or *St. Vincent*.

* This was a pile of rocks that had stood for ages.

CHAPTER XVI.

HURRICANES.

AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT, DERIVED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND PRIVATE LETTERS, OF THE DREADFUL HURRICANE AT ST. LUCIA.

*Copy of the Despatch received by the Right Hon.
Viscount Goderich.*

MY LORD,

St. Lucia, Aug. 18, 1831.

I BEG leave to acquaint your lordship, that on the morning of the 11th instant, this island experienced a most violent hurricane, which has occasioned more damage and loss than the hurricane of the year 1817. I am happy to add that few lives have been lost, but the plantations, to the windward and southward side of the island have suffered severely. I enclose, for your lordship's information, the St. Lucia Gazette, which gives a more full and detailed account than the limits of a letter will admit of. The losses sustained by the colony may, as far as I can judge at present, be estimated at from £25,000 to £30,000 sterling, but the returns from the different quarters of the island have not yet been received.

I have the honor to be, &c.

M. A. BOZON.

Lieut. Col. administering the Government.

Extracts from the St. Lucia Gazette.

Aug. 17, 1831.

IT becomes our painful and distressing duty to announce that this island has just experienced one of those awful visitations to which the West India islands are, occasionally, though not frequently, subjected; and which, when they do occur, leave awful proofs of their destructive and resistless power. On the night of Wednesday last, the sky had a very heavy lowering appearance, which was scarcely regarded, but early on Thursday morning, the wind north, it commenced to blow very fresh, which continued increasing, accompanied with some rain, until five o'clock, when its augmenting violence excited a strong sensation of alarm, the wind varying a little to the east, which was generally considered favourable? but by seven or half-past seven o'clock no doubt was entertained but that we were doomed to encounter all the dangers of a hurricane, which heretofore was considered as only to occur with a westerly wind. At a little after eight o'clock our harbour presented a most awful appearance, the sea running mountains high, and breaking with appalling violence on the south side: the vessels all endeavouring to secure a safe anchorage, while many of them, totally unmanageable, led to the natural conclusion that they at least, if not the hands on board, were doomed to destruction, while, through the town, tiles, shingles, arms of trees, fragments of houses, and other dangerous missiles, were flying rapidly about, and

retained almost uninterrupted possession of the streets : in this awful situation, the town was situated from about half-past eight o'clock until twelve, when the wind, which was not one continued gale, but frequent and violent gusts, became more moderate, and though after that hour there were a few violent squalls, before two o'clock it was comparatively calm : during the continuance of the gale it rained unceasingly, but not violently, and the wind varied very little ; at the commencement it was N., and went as far as E. S. E., but was most steady and of longest continuance at E. Had the wind got into the west we should have had to contend with the sea, which would have inundated a great portion of the town with several feet of water. The damage has been considerable, principally here, however, to the shipping, and we should have felt satisfaction could we confine the loss to property only, but we fear that many individuals have also fallen victims to its violence. One man endeavouring to cross the harbour in a boat was lost, and a boy endeavouring to get from the brig *Victory* to the wharf, was drowned : a man was found dead on the chaussee. These are the only loss of lives of which we have heard within the town.

When the gale commenced there were many vessels in the harbour : of the small craft several got into the old Carenage, and rode out the gale in safety.

The ship *Magnet* dragged her anchor and drifted, but fortunately her side came against a bank on the south side of the harbour, and she was there secured without injury. Captain M'Minn was, at the com-

mencement of the gale, at the Marques Estate, and came across the island on foot, encountering very great fatigue and danger, and arrived in time sufficient to secure the safety of his vessel, but not until after she had dragged her anchor and drifted.

The brig *Victory*, which lay near to the wharf, was in a very critical and unmanageable situation for some time; her own situation and that of the wharf being for some hours problematical: however, her crew succeeded in getting her some way out, and in safe anchorage, where she rode out the gale in safety, as did the brig *Antigua*.

The sloop *Atalanta*, belonging to Mr. Glandut, and schooner *Sir Edward Barnes*, belonging to Captain Marc, were driven on shore, but have not, we understand, experienced much injury; the sloop *Juno*, belonging to Mr. Dusard, and the *Sir John Keene*, belonging to Mr. Cuvallier, and some of the smaller craft, are lying on their sides on the southern side of the harbour, and it is hoped will be all got off without any very serious damage.

The brig *Coquette*, Captain Hinds, which only arrived on Tuesday, was, however, the vessel most exposed to danger, as she lay nearly at the mouth of the harbour, and under a most heavy sea; however, early and precautionary measures on the part of the captain fully proved the advantage of good seamanship, and she rode triumphant and uninjured on the waves.

In the town there were very few houses that did not suffer more or less. The premises occupied by

the chief secretary appear to have suffered the most ; the back dwelling house in New Street was almost entirely uncovered. The front house in Manoel Street had almost all the glass in the windows broke, and one window, glass, sashes and all, was knocked to pieces ; the kitchen was nearly uncovered, and the secretary's office partially injured by the falling of a cocoanut tree ; and of two very beautiful cocoanut trees in the yard, one of them was nearly prostrated, being torn up from the roots ; a very large breadfruit tree and several large poplars were torn from the roots, and with the plaintain and other trees, and all the railing, and a great part of the grape frame, and several gates, doors, and window shutters, all laid prostrate on the ground ; while the canopy over the entrance to the stores was almost entirely destroyed, and the heavy sheets of lead which covered it blown about in various directions—the entire premises exhibit a scene of devastation and ruin.

A large house on the south of the bridge, which belonged to the late widow Smith, and in which three families resided, was removed, *in toto*, about twenty feet behind its original position, as was a small house belonging to Mr. Teague at the other side of the road.

In the house in which the first president resides, one window, glass, frame and all, was demolished.

The premises of Mr. Muter suffered severely, chiefly in the loss of tiles.

In Marie Saint Street, the large wooden frame of a house was laid prostrate on the ground. Several small wooden houses, from thirty to forty in number,

altogether disappeared. One of the large trees in the Market Square was taken up from the root, and the others nearly felled; and in every direction the streets were filled with the scattered fragments of dilapidated, or rather dissipated, buildings, branches of trees, and all the other emblems of the destructive influence of the angry winds in a tropical climate.

The house in which the gunners of artillery resided, on the Tapton, was blown away, and not a vestige of it remains, while the artillerymen were for some time placed in imminent danger, as the sea washed over the rock; they secured their safety by getting under the guns on the battery.

Government House, which was unoccupied, has suffered very much: one of the porticos is nearly destroyed, and the other much injured; the glass in the drawing-room all broken, and other material damage sustained.

On the Morne they also suffered very much, and the greater number of the small huts were prostrated.

While we now write (Saturday) we have not had sufficiently authentic information from the interior of the island, but from what we have learned, the accounts will be of the most calamitous description. In Soufrière we are informed that two lives were lost, and twenty-eight houses levelled to the ground. The schooner, *Steer-me-well*, belonging to Mr. Joseph Gerard, the schooner *Rattlesnake*, belonging to Messrs. M'Gowan, and sloop *Greyhound*, belonging to Mr. Andrew Gerard, dragged their anchors and went to sea, their crews being all on shore; and the sloop

Mary Jane, belonging to Messrs. Ferguson and Co. with seven of the crew on board, was also forced to sea.

The town of View Fort has also similarly suffered; we are told that almost the entire of the town was blown down; the bark Sandwich, Captain King, which lay there, preserved her safety by cutting away her masts; and the ship Cuba, belonging to Messrs. Ferguson and Co. was forced to sea.

At Denery the sloop Duncan Ferguson, belonging to Mr. Philip Pugole, was totally wrecked, and one man lost.

There are also four other vessels belonging to the island with their crews missing.

On Thursday evening the schooner Warrior, from Grenada for Barbados arrived here, under jnymasts; she reached within twenty-five miles of Barbados, when she was obliged to change her course, and, after weathering the storm, with loss of masts and other damage, succeeded in making this port.

We should feel inclined to think that Barbados has suffered still more severely than this island, and that to these two islands will be confined the destructive ravages of the tempest.

This awful visitation of providence, though by no means dealt to us according to the measure of our deserts, must plunge this island in great, if not in irretrievable distress. For some time past we had great murmurings and repinings, strong expression of distress and poverty, exaggerated statements and contentions, and frivolous complaints of the weather,

the crops, the resources of the colony, its grievances, severe taxation, and oppressive government, both as regards the local executive and the mother country: but as we considered them undeserving any serious attention, and emanating more from a spirit of discontent and dissatisfaction than from any real or existing cause, we should not have made any allusion to them, were it not that it is the will of Providence that our imaginary sufferings should be converted into real calamities; and that now distress in the most extended form, if not famine and disease, is with too much reason to be anticipated, and to which all the energies of those best calculated to check or mitigate them ought to be immediately directed. At present, the greatest sufferers are those least able to afford it, the poorer classes in the destruction of their dwellings and their provision grounds; but in any community, and more particularly in a community constituted as is that of St. Lucia, it is impossible that famine and disease can be confined to one class of society; it will extend itself through all ranks; a white complexion will afford no shield against its effect: it is therefore the duty of all, but more especially of all who can afford it, to adopt such immediate measures, zealously and liberally, as will afford relief where required, and check, in some degree, the dreadful consequences of our recent and no doubt justly merited, though severe, manifestation of the dire displeasure of the all Just disposer of events.

We are satisfied if an appeal is made to his majesty's government, that assistance may be acquired,

provided it appears, that there has been no want of zeal and energy in the colony; and provided that a representation free from any of those hyperbolical statements for which St. Lucia is so deservedly celebrated, but fairly and fully explaining the consequences likely to result, and which require to be averted, is made to the secretary of state: if any other is made, its fallacies and absurdities must and will be refuted, and our wants and our distresses will meet the same commiseration which they did in 1817; when the representations which were made were so absurd, and the style in which they were couched so ridiculous, that they were deemed totally undeserving of any attention.

We have communicated with different persons as to the comparative violence of the hurricane of 1817, and that which we have now experienced; and from the most accurate information we can obtain, we are disposed to think that the strength of the wind on this occasion was not by any means inferior to that of 1817: but that in Castries, the former was more appalling, in consequence of the effect of the sea, and the wind blowing from the west, which caused the leeward of the island to suffer considerably more than the eastern line of coast, while now the windward has suffered most. There cannot, however, be a doubt but that the injury sustained throughout the island will exceed that of the great hurricane of 1817.

Our accounts from the interior of the island are very distressing: the plantations have all suffered

considerably. Throughout the island, the negro huts have been almost entirely destroyed, and on many estates the works are injured : several fine cane pieces are swept away, and the coffee crop will not exceed one third of what it was fairly calculated to produce.

The deplorable situation of the town on Thursday last prevented any attendance at our office, and on Friday morning we found it in much disorder : our present publication has consequently been in some degree retarded.

The hull of a vessel, supposed to be an American brig, was thrown into one of the bays on the windward of the island ; the body of a white dead man, in a sailor's garb, was in the cabin.

The island of St. Vincent has, we are informed, suffered still more severely than this island.

It is with considerable pleasure we announce the safety of the *Cuba*, Captain Wyley ; she is now signalled. This is the only vessel missing, of which there is any account.

The *Duke of York* army transport is just signalled ; we shall be able to ascertain from her how Barbados was affected by the hurricane."

Our painful task is now over ; little did we think when we first sat down to pen the early pages of this volume that we should be called upon to make so melancholy an ending. But the ways of providence are unsearchable ;—and now, reader, farewell !



