

ried in the Ruins of their Habitations, and many, in attempting to escape, were maimed and disabled; a general Convulsion of Nature seemed to take Place, and an universal Destruction ensued. The strongest Colours could not paint to your Lordship the Miseries of the Inhabitants on the one Hand, the Ground covered with the mangled Bodies of their Friends and Relations, and, on the other, reputable Families, wandering through the Ruins, seeking for Food and Shelter; in short, Imagination can form but a faint Idea of the Horrors of this dreadful Scene.

Every Plantation and Building, great and small, are thrown to the Ground; the Cattle and Stock belonging to them are almost all destroyed; the Produce of the Earth torn up by the Roots, and not a Trace left behind; so that there is but too much Reason to fear that a Famine must inevitably ensue, unless some effectual Means are used to prevent it.

Fortunately the Stores and Provisions belonging to the Army and Navy, (the latter of which are very considerable,) have been with great Difficulty nearly all saved, although the Whole was a continued Scene of Rapine and Confusion, and the Negroes, (who are exceedingly numerous in this Island,) instead of attempting to save the Effects of the unhappy Sufferers, were plundering in every Part of the Town.

Every Ship which was in Carlisle Bay, amongst which were One Army and Two Navy Victuallers, and One Ordnance Ship, were driven to Sea, and I much fear that most of them have perished, or are carried so far to Leeward, as to render it impossible for them to regain this Port.

I must beg Leave to refer your Lordship to his Excellency the Governor's Letter, for a more minute Description of this destructive Tempest; and I am confident your Lordship must sensibly feel for the miserable Calamities that have befallen the Inhabitants of this ruined Country.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

J. VAUGHAN.

*Extract of a Letter from Major-General Cuninghame, Governor of the Island of Barbados, to Lord George Germain, dated Barbados, October 20, 1780.*

THE inclosed Journal, which I have the Honor to send your Lordship, will, in feeble Colours, present to your View the almost total Destruction of this once beautiful Island, which many Years cannot repair; and I much fear that the present Proprietors of the Soil will be unable to erect Buildings, so deeply are they indebted to the English Merchants, unless from great Indulgence.

The chief Employment now going on is to secure Covering for their Negroes and Inhabitants, and planting Provisions; and here I must recal your Lordship's particular Attention to the speedy supplying this Island with Provisions from England and Ireland, which they have no Doubt but that the Bounty and Generosity of the best of Kings will amply provide, otherwise they will run a Risk of Starving.

The first Object of my Attention was to send speedy Notice to Commodore Hotham of our Disaster, that he might furnish a Frigate to go to England; and I have also written circular Letters to the Governors in North America, to encourage Lumber and Provisions to be sent out to us.

Your Lordship will receive inclosed the Address of the Council of this Island to the Throne; and I must do them the Justice to say, that I have found them ready to co-operate in every Measure proposed for the Good of the Island and His Majesty's Service.

It is fortunate that General Vaughan resided in this Island. His Authority, joined to the Activity of the Officers and Troops under his Command, contributed greatly to preserve Order in the Town, preventing Rapine and Plunder from the Prisoners and Negroes.

The Spaniards, under the Direction of Don Pedro St. Jago, Captain in the Regiment of Arragon, conducted themselves more like Friends than Enemies: I therefore mean to shew them every Indulgence in my Power.

I have the Satisfaction of informing your Lordship, that the Records of the Island are preserved.

*Copy of a Journal of what pass'd at Barbados from the 9th of October until the 16th.*

THE Evening preceding the Hurricane, the 9th of October, was remarkably calm, but the Sky surprizingly red and fiery; during the Night much Rain fell. On the Morning of the 10th, much Rain and Wind from N. W. By Ten o'Clock it increased very much; by One, the Ships in the Bay drove; by Four o'Clock, the Albemarle Frigate (the only Man of War then here) parted her Anchors and went to Sea, as did all the other Vessels about 25 in Number. Soon after, by Six o'Clock, the Wind had torn up and blown down many Trees, and foreboded a most violent Tempest. At the Government House every Precaution was taken to guard against what might happen; the Doors and Windows were barricadoed up, but it availed little. By Ten o'Clock the Wind forced itself a Passage through the House from the N. N. W. and the Tempest increasing every Minute, the Family took to the Centre of the Building, imagining from the prodigious Strength of the Walls, they being Three Feet thick, and from its Circular Form, it would have withstood the Wind's utmost Rage: However, by Half after Eleven o'Clock, they were obliged to retreat to the Cellar, the Wind having forced its Way into every Part, and torn off most of the Roof. From this Asylum they were soon driven out; the Water being stopped in its Passage, having found itself a Course into the Cellar, they knew not where to go; the Water had rose Four Feet, and the Ruins were falling from all Quarters. To continue in the Cellar was impossible; to return to the House equally so; the only Chance left was making for the Fields, which at that Time appeared equally dangerous: It was however attempted, and the Family were so fortunate as to get to the Ruins of the Foundation of the Flag Staff, which soon after giving Way, every one endeavoured to find a Retreat for himself; the Governor, and the few that remained, were thrown down, and it was with great Difficulty they gained the Cannon, under the Carriage of which they took Shelter: Their Situation here was highly deplorable; many of the Cannon were moved, and they had Reason to fear that under which they sat might be dismounted, and crush them by its Fall, or that some of the Ruins that were flying about would put an End to their Existence; and to render the Scene still more dreadful, they had much to fear from the Powder Magazine, near which they were; the Armoury was level with the Ground, and the Arms, &c. scattered about. Anxiously did they wait the Break of Day, flattering themselves, that with the Light they would see a Cessation of the Storm; yet when it appeared, little was the Tempest abated, and the Day served but to exhibit the most melancholy Prospect imaginable; nothing can compare with the terrible Devastation that presented itself on all Sides; not a Building standing; the Trees, if not torn up by their Roots, deprived of their Leaves and Branches; and the most luxuriant Spring changed in this one Night to the dreariest Winter. In vain was it to look round for Shelter; Houses, that from their Situation it was to have been imagined would have been in a Degree protected, were all flat with the Earth, and the miserable Owners, if they were so fortunate as to escape with their Lives, were left without a Covering for themselves and Family.

General Vaughan was early obliged to evacuate his House; in escaping he was very much bruised; his Secretary was so unfortunate as to break his Thigh. Nothing has ever happened that has caused such universal Desolation. No one House in the Island is exempt from Damage. Very few Buildings