



SUPPLEMENT
TO
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1831.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, October 8, 1831.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, together with their Enclosures, have been received at this Office from the Governors of Barbados, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, and also an Extract of a Letter from the Bishop of Barbados :

MY LORD, *Barbados, August 13, 1831.*

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 lightening 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 lightening 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,