

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, until 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 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 delapidation 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 36; 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 meantime 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 dispatch 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.

*The Right Hon. Viscount Gooderich,*  
&c. &c. &c.

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.

*Government-House, Barbados,*  
*August 30, 1831.*

MY LORD,

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 Diocese 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, I 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 seven hundred and fifty pounds only remains in the public treasury; but the taxes for the year are still outstanding, with the exception of fifty pounds, 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