

AN ACCOUNT

OF A

DREADFUL
Hurricane,

Which happened in the Island of JAMAICA,
in the month of October, 1780.—Also of
another in the year following.

AND OF

An Awful PHÆNOMENON

· CALLED A

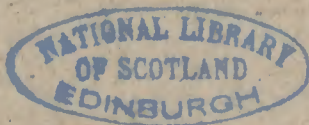
Tornado,

which took place, in the parish of Ednam in Berwickshire, this present year, 1799. To the great terror of the Spectators who beheld its alarming aspect.

.....
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W H O Z E - S A L S E and R H T A L L.



AN ACCOUNT
OF A
Dreadful Hurricane, &c.

Hurricane in Jamaica, October, 1780.

THE most formidable enemy the sugar-cane has to encounter, and the principal dread those latitudes in which it grows, must, from its destructive pre-eminence, be deemed the hurricane. The fell Tornado, and the burning plains of Africa have only sands and deserts to witness their malignant fury; but the wind which, from its effects, am about to describe, sweeps through the regions of cultivation and expence, and reduces, and almost with a single blast, the independent to distress, the affluent to want, and the feeling to despair. It is unpleasant to speak of public calamities, if the

calamities can come home to ourselves; and it is so common for those who suffer but little to complain, at those who suffer much are hardly credited in the enumeration of misfortunes. The first impression of things is generally magnified; and the distance which removes us from the seat of action, is the cause of disbelief; and fancy is often supposed to be called in to the aid of truth. But what I am about to write is a plain and a simple narrative, experienced by numbers, and (if so humbled an individual may dare to speak) most awfully felt by self; although I am conscious that my loss was only like a bubble in the ocean, when compared to the magnitude of the general mass. The shock which the suffering parishes sustained, very few portions of those parishes will ever recover. A general destruction in the extent of a given portion of land, hath rarely happened; and the hurricane of 1780, will be ever acknowledged as a visitation that descends but once in a century, and it serves as a scourge to correct the vanity, to subvert the pride, and to chastise the imprudence and arrogance of men.

The following description, which immediately and naturally arose from the melancholy subject, when the facts were fresh, and the ruins, as it were, were before my eyes, will not, I trust, be deemed foreign to the general tendency of these remarks; and I will be, I hope, excused, if I endeavour to awaken the recollection of calamities past, particularly as in these calamities the poor negroes had likewise their portion of disappointment and affliction.

This destructive hurricane began by gentle and most unperceptible degrees, between twelve and one o'clock, on the morn of the 3d of October, and the year 1780. There fell, at first, a trifling rain, which continued, without increase, until ten

o'clock; about which time the wind arose, and the sea began to roar in a most tremendous and uncommon manner. As yet, we had not any presentiment of the distress and danger which it was for afterwards our unhappy fortune to encounter: and although between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, we saw the subordinate buildings begin to totter and fall around us; yet we did not think necessary to provide, at that time, for our present or future safety. We now observed, with some emotion and concern, a poor pigeon endeavouring with fruitless struggle, to regain its nest: it fluttered long in the air; and was so weakened at last that it was driven away by the wind, and in almost a moment was carried entirely out of sight.

As great events are sometimes the consequence of small beginnings, and as simple occurrences are often as striking as great concerns, I could not be dwelling with commiseration upon what I had feared and of anticipating, in some measure, the loss and inconvenience, though not the real *destruction*, what soon afterwards ensued.

A poor discouraged ewe, intimidated by the terrors of the night, had found its way into the quiet quarter of the house, which, at the time of her retreat, must have been wholly neglected; to which it was afterwards, as our last resort, an unfortunate destiny to repair. She lay with pain, cold, and fearful trembling, amidst the joists, and could she be displaced by the importunity of kicks and cuffs that were incessantly dealt around her. She became a pathetic sufferer in the succeeding lameness; and he must have been a brute, indeed, and more deserving of the appellation she bore, who could have persevered in forcing her from such seeming protection, or could have been envious of that safety, which, from her unwillingness to

love, it was natural to think that she at that time
 enjoyed. I must confess, that I tried to dispossess
 her, but I tried in vain; and I have since reflected,
 that her preservation was as dear to her as mine
 is to me: and I feel a real comfort in repeating
 those exquisitely humane and tender lines of Ovid,
 which are so feelingly descriptive of the fate of this
 most useful and patient animal.

Every thing claims a kindred in misfortune; it
 feels like death; but death, alas! to some comes
 too late; and to others it comes too early. In a
 short time, perhaps, it was the fate of the poor
 weak creature above described, to feel its stroke.
 It might have caused, unknowingly, its execution;
 and might have feasted upon its flesh. The very idea
 kills my blood, and brings to my mind the
 remembrance of the dreadful situation of Pierre
 and Aud.

An act of dire necessity may be certainly excused;
 but to destroy (for the gratification of an appetite
 which we have in common with brutes) *that* which
 has been used to live in a domestic and in a cherish-
 ed state around us, would argue an insensibility,
 upon which every feeling mind must naturally re-
 sult: and I should hope, that there are but few
 people who could eat of that kid, which they had
 seen lick the butcher's hand at the very moment
 that the knife was about to deprive its innocence of
 existence; and when it supplicated, with an almost
 human cry, its preservation of life, and with a
 supplication so particularly expressive of tender-
 ness and pity.

From the morning until four o'clock in the af-
 ternoon, the wind continued to blow with increas-
 ing violence from the north and east: but from
 that time, having collected all its powers of devas-
 tation, it rushed with irresistible violence from the

fourth; and in about an hour and half after that period, so general and persevering were its accumulated effects, that it scarcely left a plantain tree, cane, or building, uninjured in the parish. At about four o'clock, we found it impossible to secure the house against the increasing impetuosity of the wind, which began to displace the shingles, uplift the roof, to force the windows, and to gain an entrance on every side: and its hasty destruction, but too fully proved how soon, and how universally, it succeeded! We were now driven from the apartments above, to take shelter in the rooms below; but there we were followed by fresh dangers, amplified by fresh alarms. The demon of destruction was wafted in the winds, and not a corner could escape its malignant devestation. While we were looking with apprehension and terror around us, the roof, rafters, plates, and walls of six apartments fell in, and immediately above our heads, and the horrid crashes of glasses, furniture, and floors, occasioned a noise and uproar, that may be more easily felt, than the weakness of my pen can possibly describe.

I will not attempt (indeed my abilities and language are unequal to the task) to awaken the sensibility of others, by dwelling upon private misfortunes, when the loss of many are entitled to superior regard: but egotism may be surely allowed in a narrative of this kind, where general comparisons must in some measure describe individual sufferings, and where what *one* has felt, has been that of *numbers*: and where a person has indistinctly seen, and been involved in the same destruction, it is difficult to keep clear of expressions that do not immediately apply to, and speak the language of self.

The situation of the unhappy negroes who pou

in upon us so soon as their houses were destroyed, and whose terrors seemed to have deprived us of sense and motion, not only very particularly augmented the confusion of the time, but very considerably added, by their whispers and distress, the scene of general suspense, and the fluctuations of hope and alarm. Some lamented by anticipation, the loss of their wives and children, of which their fears had deprived them; while others grieved the downfall of their houses, of which they had so lately been the unfortunate spectators. It will be difficult to conceive a situation more terrible than what my house afforded from four o'clock in the afternoon until six o'clock the ensuing morning. Driven, as we were, from room to room, while the roofs, the floors, and the walls, were crumbling over head, or falling around us; the wind blowing with a noise and violence that cannot even now be reflected upon without alarm; the rain pouring down in torrents; and the night which seemed to fall, as it were in a moment, uncommonly dark, and the gloom of which we had not a gleam of light to enliven, and the length of which we did not either spirits or resolution, by conversation, cheer! The negro huts, as before observed, were this time destroyed; and the miserable sufferers crowded into the house, and began such complaints and lamentations, as added very considerably to the discomforts, and much increased the almost before unexpressed distresses of the scene. One poor woman in particular (if *real* philanthropy would not disdain to make a discrimination of colour), was, in a very particular and sensible manner, entitled to pity. Her child and that a favourite, was early buried in the ruins of her house that fell upon her: she snatched it, with all the inconsiderate impatience of maternal fondness, from the

expectation of a sudden fate: she strained it to her arms in simple love and unassisted protection, and flew to deposit her tender burden in the retreat distant safety: she flew in vain: the tempest reached her and swept the child, unconscious of danger from her folding arms, and dashed her hopes and comforts to the ground. She recovered, and to her bosom restored the pleasing charge: she endeavoured to sooth it with her voice; but it was fire she felt it, and she found it cold: she screamed, lamented; and she cursed: nor could our sympathy console her sorrows, our remonstrances restrain her violence, nor our authority suppress her execrations. She felt like a mother, although an apathy might say she did not feel like a Christian. What a cold and illiberal distinction! Give a Negro religion, and establish him in either the principles of obedience, or the knowledge of endurance, and will not disgrace that tenet which shall be recommended by practice. Her lamentations were natural, and of consequence affecting; and give additional despondency to a night that was already too miserable, to bear an augmentation of sorrow.

The darkness of the night; the howling of the winds, the growling of the thunder, and the partial flashes of the lightning that darted through the murky cloud, which sometimes burst forth with plenitude of light, and at others hardly gave sufficient lumination to brighten the terrified aspect of the negroes; that, with cold and fear, were trembling around; the cries of the children who were exposed to the weather, and who (poor innocents) had lost their mothers in the darkness and confusion of the night; and the great uncertainty of general and private situation combined; could not fail to strike the soul with as deep as it was an unaccounted horror. In the midst of danger, in the a

moments of suspense, and when almost sunk by despair, we prayed for more frequent lightning to rattle the walls, for more heavy thunder to out-roar the blast, in the philosophic consolation that they might purge the atmosphere, and disperse the storm: but alas! they were but seldom seen, or scarcely heard, as if afraid of combining the influence of light with the destruction of sound, and of raising upon the ground of terror, the superstructure of despair!

When the night was past, and our minds hung suspended between the danger we had escaped, and the anticipation of what we might expect to ensue; when the dawn appeared as if unwilling to disclose the devastation that the night had caused; when the sun's beams peeped above the hills, and illuminated the scene around—just God! what a contrast was there exhibited between that morning and the day before! a day which seemed to smile upon Nature, and to take delight in the prospects of plenty that were spread around, and which produced, wherever the eye could gaze, the charms of cultivation, and the beauties of abundance; but which fallacious appearances, alas! were to be at once annihilated by the extensive and melancholy view of desolation and despair, in which the expectations of the moderate, and the wishes of the sanguine, were to be soon ingulphed. The horrors of the day were much augmented by the melancholy exclamation of every voice, and the energetic expression of every mind: some of which were uplifted in acts of execration; some wiped the tears that were flowing from every eye: while some, considering from whence the calamity came, were seen to strike their breasts, as if to chide the groans which it was impossible to restrain. An uncommon silence reigned around: it was the pause of consternation; it was a dumb ora-

tory, that said more, much more, than any tongue
 could utter. The first sounds proceeded from the
 mouths of the most patient of Nature's creatures—
 from the melancholy cow that had lost its calf, and
 with frequent lowings invited its return; from the
 mother ewes, that with frequent bleatings recalled
 their lambs, which were frisking out of sight, un-
 conscious of danger and unwindful of food: at
 which solemn and pathetic invitations, after such
 night, the contemplation of such a scene, and the
 disposition of the mind to receive pathetic impres-
 sions, came home with full effect to those who had
 suffered, but who wished not to complain! If the
 distresses of the feathered tribe be taken into the
 description, their natural timidity, their uncertain-
 ty of food, of shelter, and domestic protection,
 cu'y considerably trifling as these observations may
 appear, they certainly help to swell the catalogue
 of distress, to awaken the sigh of sensibility, and
 teach us that their existence, and their end are
 the hands of the same Creator.

The morning of the 4th of October presented
 with a prospect, dreary beyond description, and a
 most melancholy beyond example; and deformed
 with such blasted signs of nakedness and ruin,
 calamity, in its most awful and destructive mo-
 ments, has seldom offered to the descending obser-
 vations of mankind. The face of the country seem-
 ed to be entirely changed: the vallies and the plain
 the mountains and the forests, that were only the
 day before most beautifully clothed with every ve-
 getable, were now despoiled of every charm; and
 an expected abundance and superfluity of gain,
 a few hours succeeded sterility and want; and eve-
 ry prospect, as far as the eye could stretch, was vi-
 bly stricken blank with desolation and with horror.
 The powers of vegetation appeared to be an on-

suspended; and instead of Nature and her works, the mind was petrified by the seeming approach of fate and chaos. The country looked as if it had been lately visited by fire and the sword; as if the Tornado had rifled Africa of its sands, to deposit their contents upon the denuded bosom of the hills; as if Auna had scorched the mountains, and a volcano had taken possession of every height. The trees were uprooted, the dwellings destroyed; and in some places, not a stone was left to indicate the use to which it was once applied. Those who had houses, could hardly distinguish their ruins; and the proprietor knew not where to fix the situation of his former possessions. The very beasts of all descriptions, were conscious of the calamity: the birds, particularly the domestic pigeons, were most of them destroyed; and the fish were driven from those rivers, and those seas, of which they had before been the peaceful inhabitants. New streams arose, and extensive lakes were spread, where rills were scarcely seen to trickle before; and ferry-boats were obliged to ply, where carriages were used to travel with safety and convenience. The roads were for a long time impassible among the mountains; the low lands were overflowed, and numbers of cattle were carried away by the depth and impetuosity of the torrents; while the boundries of the different plantations were sunk beneath the accumulated pressure of the inundation.

To give you at once a more general idea of this tremendous hurricane, I shall observe, that not a single house was left undamaged in the parish; not a single set of works, trash-house, or other subordinate building, that was not greatly injured, or entirely destroyed. Not a single wharf, store house, or shed; for the deposit of goods, was left standing: they were all swept away at once by the billows.

of the sea; and hardly left behind, the traces of their foundations. The negro houses were, and I believe without a single exception, universally blown down: and this reflection opens a large field for the philanthropist, whose feelings will pity, at least, those miseries which he would have been happy to have had the power to relieve. Hardly a tree, a shrub, a vegetable, or a blade of grass an inch long, was to be seen standing up and uninjured; the ensuing morning: nay, the very bark was whipt from the log-wood-hedges, as they lay upon the ground; and the whole prospect had the appearance of a desert, over which the burning winds of Africa had lately past.

At Savanna-la-Mar, there was not even a vestige of a town (the parts only of two or three houses having in partial ruin remained, as if to indicate the situation and extent of the calamity): the very materials of which it had been composed, had been carried away by the resistless fury of the waves, which finally completed what the wind began. A very great proportion of the poor inhabitants were crushed to death, or drowned, and in one house alone, it was computed that forty, out of one and forty souls, unhappily and prematurely perished. The sea drove with progressive violence for more than a mile into the country; and carried terror, as it left destruction, wherever it passed. Two large ships and a schooner were at anchor in the bay, but here driven a considerable distance from the shore, and totally wrecked among the mangro-trees upon land.

Were I to dwell upon the numberless singularities of accidents that this dreadful storm occasioned, both among the mountains and on the plains over which it passed; were I to mention its particularities and cruelties, and the variety of contingencies

which seemed impossible to happen, which imagination might trifle with, but which reason would scarcely believe; in short, were I to mention what myself saw, and what numbers could witness; I should be afraid to offer them to the serious regard of my readers, in the dread that I might be thought to insult their understandings, and to advance as a fiction, what it would be very difficult, indeed, to admit as truth.

The distresses of the miserable inhabitants of Sanna-la-Mar, during the period, and for a long time after the cessation; of the storm, must have exceeded the most nervous, as they would have passed the most melancholy powers of description.

They were such as ought to have affected (if public losses and private sufferings can ever affect stony bosoms of the rapacious, and the icy walls of the interested), they were such, I say, as would almost have melted the unfeeling, and have softened the obdurate; but, alas! they could not, in many instances, divert the rigid purpose, and withhold the rigorous hand of the man of business. Those who the day before were possessed, not only of every domestic comfort, but of every reasonable luxury of life, were now obliged to seek for shelter on a board; and were exposed, in sickness and affliction, unsheltered and unprovided, to the noisy ructions of the wind and the cold, and the frequent visitations of the shower.

Were I to enumerate private afflictions in this scene of general devastation and despair, I should require the pathetic pen of that accomplished writer who has given a charm to grief, and a dignity to suffering, in the tender pages of Emma and Robert: and who could so well have expressed the corresponding sentiments, by flowing language, and glowing truth, those mighty sorrows which the

father endured for the death of a son, which wife sustained for the loss of her husband, and all those minor ties of consanguinity and friendship which were, at this unhappy and awful period generally dissolved.

When we consider how very soon the gay pursuits and flattering appearances of life are destined; how uncertain are our possessions, and how subject to hopes, and how embittered by disappointments, are our pursuits; it is somewhat extraordinary, that we should be so much attached to the world, should entrust the sunshine of our days and without suspicion of a change, to every cloud should commit our present happiness to the instability of climate, to the vicissitudes of cold and heat to the terrors of the tempest, or the pestilential dangers of the calm:—it is astonishing, I again repeat, that we should repose all our comforts, all our expectations; upon a world so full of mortification, disappointment, and affliction; when we must be conscious that we must so soon leave this world and all its empty delusions behind. When we look around, and see people who thought themselves above the reach of want, and reclining, after a long apprenticeship of patient industry and persevering toil, upon the lap of late-earned independence and honest repose; when we see them enjoying the fruits of exertions thus made, and of comforts thus enjoyed, in one fatal and destructive hour,—what an awful lesson does this reflection awaken in our minds! and how much does it not warn us against building upon a foundation so very precarious, best, and at the best deceitful! But then to see them reduced to this situation, and struggling with infirmities, without the vigour of youth, or the exertions of manhood,—without shelter from weather, protection from power, or meat

ink to comfort the calls of declining nature, or interest enough to rescue them from the impending horrors of a gaol;—the accumulation of such misfortunes, is more than sufficient to excite compassion, but not always sufficient, as we find by melancholy example, to obtain relief.

So sudden an alteration, is enough to shake a philosophy that has not before been tried; and such a change is sufficient to excite those complaints which are caused by disappointment, but which may be born with patience, and finally overcome by calmness and resignation. If ~~we~~ meet with affliction, are *we* alone unfortunate? If *we* lose our all, are *we* the only beggars? How many are reduced to penury, who cannot work! what numbers perish without help, or are entombed alive without pity! and yet how many emerge from distress and want, by a manly fortitude, and steady perseverance of conduct! The hand of power may oppress; but innocence has its peculiar triumph, as misery cannot reach the grave; for that is the retreat of Virtue, her consummation, and her end.

I can hardly prevail upon myself to believe, that the united violence of all the winds that rush from the heavens, blown through one tub, and directed to one spot, could have occasioned such destruction, and in so short a space of time, as that of which I was an unfortunate witness, and of which I am now become the feeble recorder. If we even conclude it possible that the ruins of our buildings could have been occasioned by the concentration of its fury, how are we to account for some phenomena of which we were the suffering and astonished spectators? How account for the sudden irruption of rivers, the lapses of earth, the disjunction of rocks, the fissures of mountains, and for other objects of the sublime and terrible, which have changed and

disfigured the face of the country? How account for the hollow roarings of the sea, and for the instability of the climate for many months before and for the dreadful pauses that were observed to take place, before the buildings were entirely overturned? It can hardly be doubted but that heaven and earth were combined in completing our destruction. One element alone has been hardly ever known to occasion so extensive a devastation; and the sudden swelling and raging of the sea, we may reasonably attribute to the heavings of the earth-quake; to which likewise the general ruin of our houses may be in some measure attributed.

I have seen the ruins of Lisbon; and if it would not almost amount to folly to compare, in this place, great things with small, I should say, that the destruction there, great and melancholy as it was, could only have been, by comparison of buildings and extent of population, more dreadful than that calamity which I have now the presumption to describe. The earthquake at Lisbon happened in the morning; and although it almost universally affected its buildings, yet the productions of the earth received, in consequence, but little damage whereas the hurricane in Jamaica continued throughout the night, which has its particular terrors, independently of water, and of wind; and not only blew down every thing within its sweep, but spread desolation through the country round: and I am apt to believe, that the peculiar distresses of the unhappy sufferers of Savanna-la-Mar, must have equalled every thing (I still mean by comparison that is to be met with in the most melancholy annals of human misfortunes.

To this calamity, another unfortunately succeeded; and the consequences of which were still more fatal to the lives of those who had survived the

m. The stench that arose from the putrefac-
 tion of the dead bodies, which remained for many
 weeks without interment (and to numbers of which
 the rites of burial could not be administered), occa-
 sioned a kind of pestilence, that swept away a
 great proportion of those who had providentially
 escaped the first destruction. Almost every person
 in the town and neighbourhood was affected; and
 the faculty were rendered incapable, through
 sickness, to attend their patients, many of whom
 perished from the inclemency of the weather, from
 want of attendance, or supply of food: and to add
 to the general apprehension, the negroes poured
 down in troops to the scene of devastation (and, I
 am sorry to observe, that many white people were
 treated, upon the spot, of promiscuous plunder);
 and having made free with the rum that was float-
 ing in the inundations, began to grow insolent and
 unruly; and, by their threats and conduct, occasion-
 ed an alarm which it was found necessary, by exer-
 tion and caution, at once to suppress: and what the
 consequences, at such a time of general confusion
 and dread, might have been, had not the punche-
 s been immediately staved, can hardly, even at
 this distance of time, be reflected upon without
 error.

That the unenlightened negroes should be led to
 plunder, when they could do it with safety, and
 without the curbs of morality and religion to re-
 strain them, is a circumstance not to be wondered
 at, as it is consistent with the common depravity of
 human nature; but that those who ought to be a
 check upon that licentiousness which they them-
 selves perhaps have taught, should stand forward to
 invest misery of its last support, and even plunder
 misery itself of its utmost farthing, is a reflection
 upon those who can distinguish black from white

in the colour of the human skin, but who cannot discriminate what is black from white in the integrity of man to man. To take advantage of misfortune, in the time of public calamity and private affliction, and to raise a superstructure, however small, upon the ruins of others; is what, alas! has been too often practised without chastisement: and enjoyed without shame: and if those who are in authority over negroes, and to whom they are taught to look up for the theory as well the practice of integrity, shall set an example of worldly injustice, of rapacity and plunder—the negro who follows this infamous example, unconscious of wrong, is neither a principal, nor an accessory, altho he may possibly be convicted of both; while the real delinquent, who grows rich from infamy, is suffered to escape without trial, and consequently without a punishment. I must therefore from facts conclude, that a reformation in practical manners must begin with the white people in the colonies, before any humane institutions for the relief of the slaves can either be carried into full, or even into partial effect; and this preliminary I shall hereafter endeavour to support by corollaries drawn from fact and experience.

The congratulations of the morning that succeeded the dreadful visitation which has been the subject of these pages, were such as seemed the spontaneous effects of what the bosom felt from the relief of supereminant dangers: the sad occasion seemed to create new ideas in the mind, and to give pangs to feeling, of which the heart was before unconscious. Many people thought that the day of final judgment was come; and felt it as if it was then too late to reflect upon danger: for danger, which implies uncertainty, would then have been a pleasing idea, inasmuch as chance is a contrast to

ual despair. It is the natural province of man to suffer; it is an appendage of his condition: but it requires a something more to learn to submit, and patient submission, without complaint, to bear. It is natural to suppose that the storm above described, must have given rise to many distressing and patheti^c scenes; must upon some occasions have narrowed up the soul, and upon others, have induced a tenderness and pity. Husbands and wives, and parents and children, were in many places separated by the terrors of the night and separated, as before observed, to meet no more: but upon these dreadful scenes I shall not attempt to dwell, as their remembrance will survive the description of my pen, in the melancholy perpetuity of domestic afflictions; and which numberless families, more or less, to the destruction of their hopes, and the discomfort of their lives, will long, very long, have cause to lament.

I shall never forget the desolate appearance my house made immediately after this catastrophe, nor the many circumstances of distress and commiseration that alternately shocked and softened the mind. Here a poor infant was seen extracted from the ruins, and its lifeless body confined to the care and lamentations of its desponding parents; there sat a group of negroes bewailing with heaviness of heart, and all the silent eloquence of streaming eyes; and stretched-out hands, the total destruction of their little fortunes, in the wrecks of their houses, the ruin of their effects, and the demolition of their grounds; while others ran confusedly here and there, without knowing upon what errand they were bent, or where to begin, or how to set about the restoration of their losses, or by what philosophy to console their minds.

There were many who wished to be employed in rendering our situations more comfortable, but

who, from want of method, and from that hurry which is its constant attendant, were always in the way, and consequently did more harm than good. Some, indeed, succeeded in their exertions, and I should little deserve those comforts I so soon found, in comparison to many others; did I not bear witness to the willing industry and unremitting application of the tradesmen and other negroes who were employed in the reparation of the offices, as in making tight those parts of our temporary dwellings which were destined to the accommodation of ourselves and friends.

Another Hurricane in Jamaica, 1781.

IN addition to the forementioned calamity, the inhabitants of the island of Jamaica, were again visited by this dreadful scourge of Humanity within less than a twelvemonth after it happened—as appears from the following extract.

Kingston, Aug. 4, 1781.

About eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, the 1st inst. a hard gale of wind came on from the southward, but soon after veered to different points of the compass; before nine it increased to a perfect hurricane, and continued to rage till near eleven—the greatest part of the time blowing from the south-east, accompanied by a heavy and incessant rain; nor did the storm altogether subside till about two in the morning: 73 sail of vessels, including sloops, schooners and shallops were on shore between Russel's bulks and the wharf of John Vernon, Esq. and Co. and several others to the westward of the town, but being mostly light vessels, the greater part of them either have been, or will be got off.

ugh not without considerable damage. The
 er in the harbour is supposed to have risen be-
 en four and five feet perpendicular, the plank-
 of the wharfs in general being torn up, and
 ny heavy articles that were upon them entirely
 ried away; of Messrs: Law and Hargreave's
 arf, scarce the vestiges remain.—The greatest
 t of the returned fleet being at Port Royal, the
 ounts from thence are still more deplorable, two
 ded ships being either sunk or overset, and 24
 n on shore between Salt Ponds and Musquito
 nt.

Many houses and piazzas in this town were blown
 wn, and two negroes found drowned in the
 eets, in which torrents of water for several hours
 n down with great rapidity.

His Majesty's ship Pelican was drove upon Mo-
 n Key, and supposed to be totally lost; the ship's
 mpany, excepting four; were providentially saved.
 Three vessels were drove ashore in the harbour
 Martha Brae; the ship Robuck, of New-York,
 e sloop Beaver, and a sloop belonging to King-
 n; the first is totally lost, the other two will be
 t off.

The ship Orange Bay, which went ashore near
 e Twelve Apostles, contrary to all expectation,
 s been got off. A considerable part of the car-
 es of several other vessels, that were drove on
 ore near that place, has been saved.

His Majesty's ship Southampton, after having had
 engagement with a French frigate off Cape Fran-
 is, was by the late storm dismasted and driven to
 reck Riff, to the leeward of Port Royal, where
 e now remains; the Vaughan and several other
 ffels are gone to her assistance.

The storm very unfortunately proves to have been
 neral throughout the island, though not equally

violent: in Westmoreland, St. Ann's, and St. Mary the canes have received considerable damage, and the plantain walks, together with the ripening corn have been totally destroyed; the other parishes particularly those to windward, have suffered in much less degree.

Montego Bay

The storm on Wednesday the 1st of August has done much damage to our shipping; it has drove ashore two ships, the *Christina* and *Junio*, a four vessel of Niel's, and a brig belonging to Capt. Alexander Hamilton, is totally lost, and himself and many drowned; McKay's wharf is carried away: Drs Pinney and Ruecastle, Messrs. Blake and Ingles's warehouses and stores are thrown down; all the provision and fine crops of corn are destroyed; the canes are all laid flat, and there is hardly an estate in Westmoreland but has suffered in buildings. The *Ulysses*, which came here from Kingston with 20,000*l.* a part of the parliamentary grant to the sufferers by the storm in October last, has been drove to sea, together with a brig out of Bluefield and, through the whole parish of St. Elizabeth, the provisions in general are destroyed, and the canes greatly damaged.

The accounts from Hanover are equally unfavorable.

St. Mary's, St. Ann's, and Trelawny, have also suffered very considerably in their provisions and canes.

On Sunday last the ship *Ulysses*,——, Thomas Esq, commander, went into Lucea harbour under jury masts, with the loss of her bowsprit, being all the damage we understand she has sustained.

Letters received from St. Elizabeth mention that the scarcity of provisions for the negro is so great, in consequence of the last storm, that

of the inhabitants are obliged to purchase
at the exorbitant price of a bit for six ears,
ly to keep their slaves from perishing until
provisions can be procured.

is yet impossible to say what number of lives
been lost in this dreadful calamity; but they
be numerous; in one plantain boat only,
persons perished; as did the crew of the Ruby's
at Port Royal, in endeavouring to assist a ves-
n distressed soon after the storm came on.

Edinburgh Advertiser, Nov. 6, 1781.

Tornado in Scotland, July, 1799.

Tornado. The following interesting account of
this awful phenomenon, which took place at
Ardara, in the parish of Ednam, Berwickshire,
we copy from the *Kelso Mail*.

The weather through the day had been calm,
soft showers. At seven o'clock in the even-
ing there was observed by many people, a little to
south-west of Mr. Tod's house at Whitelaw,
a light coloured cloud of a very uncommon
appearance. It resembled an inverted cone, reach-
ing from the ground to a considerable height in the
sphere. Its motion towards the house was slow
and majestic, a person of no great agility on seeing
it approach could easily have escaped from it. It
then at length to whirl round with great rapidity,
accompanied with a loud rattling noise. The effect
of its amazing power was first exhibited upon a large
stack of straw in the barn yard, which it raised in
moments to a considerable height in the air. A
beam of timber, lying flat on the ground, was hurled
from its place several feet; and it will be thought
not to exceed credibility when it is mentioned,
that this beam was thirty-three feet long! Small
stones were heaped together in mounds as if by
wind. The farm-offices were materially injured;

some of them, indeed, were almost entirely stripped of their tiles.

“ Human strength was mere weakness when opposed to this war of elements. A stout young fellow, who had witnessed the scene in the barn-yard from an apprehension that the house must necessarily be tumbled down, run out for safety. The titleless enemy, however, lifted him over a wall five feet high, and carried him forwards for thirty or forty yards!—Several of the servants were forcibly driven about, some in one direction and some in another, according to the eddy. The horses and cattle upon the farm exhibited the liveliest symptoms of alarm and agitation.

“ The dwelling house at Whitelaw, in which the family resided at the time, shook with such violence as to threaten its destruction and theirs. Providentially, however, amidst all the devastation, no person was materially hurt; and, what renders this more remarkable is, that the tiles which were torn from the surrounding offices fell from an immense height, in vast numbers, among the people exposed to the storm.

“ Before the cloud reached the farm house it happily divided, and the two parts taking different directions, only one of them struck the building. Had the whole collected force discharged itself once, few, it is probable, would have survived to relate the particulars.

“ There was little rain at Whitelaw either immediately before or after the whirlwind; but in adjacent country, to the north and east, owing, it is supposed, to the violent concussion of the cloud there was a torrent of rain, and in some places for a few minutes, as had not been observed in memory of man.—*Edinburgh Weekly Journal*, No.