

unroofed, and parts of its walls blown down. One portion of the Commandant's residence had been blown down, the rest unroofed and greatly injured. Of the officers' quarters a considerable portion had been unroofed and their inmates (ten in number) dislodged.

8. All the public buildings have been more or less injured. The main building, containing the Court-house and Council Chamber, has been unroofed; the old Gaol was unroofed; the new one in course of erection has been partly blown down; Government House was unroofed. By 2 o'clock P.M. the wind had dashed in one or more windows or doors in every apartment on the upper storey, used for purposes of residence or reception. My family had to take refuge in the offices on the ground floor, and to leave the building next day for a private house, which was luckily vacant and had escaped with little damage. The Wesleyan Chapel, just finished at a heavy expense and not yet paid for, was entirely destroyed. Two other chapels were blown down. The Cathedral and other churches, and most of the school-houses, are more or less injured.

9. Scarcely a warehouse or store has escaped destruction or severe injury. Many of these were roofed with metal, and of such only one escaped. The loss of the mercantile community in this description of property, and by the injury to their stocks of goods, is very great.

10. I inclose an abstract of the information obtained by the police as to the extent of injury done to house property throughout the island.\* It is necessarily imperfect to some extent, and it does not include the injuries done to outhouses, fences, orchards, gardens, &c., which add considerably to the losses of the population. But your Lordship will be able to form from it some idea of the calamity which has befallen this island, containing perhaps 12,000 to 13,000 inhabitants, of whom the greater portion reside in the city and its suburbs. The list includes—

- 617 houses destroyed.
- 609 ditto injured.
- 17 warehouses destroyed.
- 18 ditto injured.
- 12 shops destroyed.
- 17 ditto injured.
- 5 school-houses destroyed.
- 2 ditto injured.
- 5 churches and chapels destroyed.
- 3 ditto injured.
- 1 theatre destroyed.

1,034 persons made houseless.

11. The accounts from the out islands are as yet hurried and incomplete; but we know that every one, without exception, was visited by the storm, and that on all greater or less injury has been inflicted. I regret to say that almost all have been severely injured. Magua alone appears to have escaped with trifling damage.

12. I have collated, in Inclosure No. 3, all the authentic information which has reached me concerning them. The almost universal report is:—many public buildings and houses blown down; most of those left standing injured; vessels and boats destroyed, or badly injured; forest trees and orchards uprooted, or stripped of their leaves and fruit; grain and root crops destroyed; the herbage blasted and blackened; and the wells and water tanks impregnated by the surge which burst over many parts of these narrow islands and cays, or

by the salt spray which swept them all. In one instance a small cay has disappeared, with the buildings and trees which existed upon it.

13. Scarcely a month has elapsed since I wrote in my Annual Report that Lanticipated next year a substantial and rapid advance in the prosperity and wealth of these islands. This prospect has vanished for the present, and the Colony will have to struggle for some time with diminished means to recover its lost ground, and to overcome the moral discouragement which the destruction of its rising hopes has inflicted upon it.

14. The pressure will be most felt in the out islands, where the greater part of the population live upon the produce of their fields, with no opportunity of earning wages as labourers, and where there are few gentry or persons of capital or enterprise capable of aiding them in time of distress or of stimulating them to industry. The resource which this class of the population used in times of scarcity to find in the fruits and berries of the forests has on this occasion been cut off, and the accounts which have been received of their present condition and prospects, and the appeals for immediate supplies of food to prevent impending starvation, are most distressing. The destruction of their standing crops and boats has not only deprived them of their present means of subsistence, but will keep them in the same state until fresh crops can be sown and gathered, a period of at least two or three months.

15. In Nassau, I am happy to report, affairs wear a brighter aspect. An amount of self-help, neighbourly kindness, and cheerfulness has been displayed which is most creditable to the people, and has afforded me the greatest satisfaction and encouragement. The weather has been very fine since the storm ceased, and the population has been actively engaged in repairing their houses and boats. Full employment has been given to all who are able and willing to work; wages have risen; merchants and tradesmen have profited by a rise in the prices of building materials and provisions,—though be it said to their credit that some of these have furnished the Government with provisions destined for the relief of the out islands at cost price; a large number of wrecks and wrecked cargoes have been brought in, and certain classes of the inhabitants have thus found some compensation for the damage done to their properties. In confirmation of the above, I may mention that the applications to the Relief Committees for food or other eleemosynary assistance have been very few.

16. I annex such further information as I have been able to collect with respect to the ravages of the storm:—

(1.) An abstract of the injuries done to the public buildings in New Providence, with the Civil Engineer's estimate of the cost of repairs, amounting, with the injuries done to roads and streets, not included in the estimate, to about 9,000*l*.

(2.) An abstract of the injuries done at the several lighthouse stations.

(3.) An abstract of the injuries done to the several public school-houses, as far as known.

(4.) An abstract of the injuries done to buildings belonging to the Church of England (exclusive of churches belonging to the Colonial Government) in the several islands, estimated by the Bishop of the diocese at 5,000*l*.

(5.) An abstract and detailed Return of Wrecks and Casualties to Foreign-going vessels, as far as known.

\* Inclosure No. 2.