

17. Captain Chatfield, R.N., commanding Her Majesty's ship "Nimble," is preparing a chart of the course of the hurricane, of which, and of his report thereon, I hope to be able to forward a copy by the next mail. At present I will only state that it passed over or near the Turk's Islands, followed the edge of the Great Bahama Bank, sweeping all the inhabited islands in that direction; continued its north-westerly course after crossing New Providence; was felt at Key West and in Chesapeake Bay, on the coast of the United States; curved to the northward and eastward with the Gulf Stream, and was felt in its full force half-way between Cape Hatteras and Bermuda,—the usual course of hurricanes in these seas.

18. The following are the measures which I have taken to meet the emergency:—

19. I employed the only available vessel in the harbour, which arrived on the day after the storm, having been out of the range of its greatest fury, to visit several of the uninhabited cays in the neighbourhood, upon which it was expected that some of the sponging vessels would be wrecked. On its first trip it brought in twenty-nine men, the crews of six vessels, whom it had picked up on the cays, naked and starving.

20. I invited the Members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, most of whom reside in Nassau, to meet me for the purpose of consulting with them as to the most convenient measures to be taken, and to apprise them of my intention of holding an Extraordinary Session of the Legislature on the earliest possible day—the 6th November, to which date the meeting of the Houses stood prorogued. I am happy to say that the Members entered cordially into my views, and indicated their readiness to support the measures founded upon them.

21. I had appointed a Relief Committee for the city, composed of leading public officers. I then added to it branch Committees for the several districts of the city and islands, consisting chiefly of Members of the two Houses; having for their special duties the objects described in the inclosed copy of the notice appointing them.

22. The police and Receiver-General were charged with the duty of ascertaining the nature and extent of the damage done to buildings and shipping.

23. Finding that these inquiries had to some extent created an impression that the Government was preparing to undertake the reconstruction of the dwellings of the poor, I added to the notice last mentioned a paragraph, for the purpose of disabusing the public mind of such an erroneous notion.

24. It has been my endeavour, in all the measures which I have adopted or sanctioned, in my communications with all classes of persons, including residents in the several districts which I have visited, and in which I have taken the opportunity of conversing with many of the sufferers, and of encouraging them to hopefulness and exertion, to discountenance the idea of charitable relief, to inspire them with feelings of independence and self help, and to hold out the prospect of public aid only for the purposes of restoring the productive powers of the community,—as by the repairing of their vessels and boats, the planting of their fields, &c.

25. I have sent to Cuba for a supply of seed-corn, and I shall procure one of cotton seed,—the former for sale, the latter for distribution.

26. I have been obliged to send supplies, but limited in quantity, to a number of settlements in the out islands. I have in each case employed

some responsible officer to distribute them, and required him to dispose of them on credit to all persons who may hereafter be able to repay the advance by money or labour, and to relieve gratuitously only those who have no means, present or prospective, of repayment.

27. I have called upon the several out-island magistrates to report in detail upon the damage done in their respective districts, and I hope to be able to transmit to your Lordship by the next mail a more complete statement of the extent of it.

28. I anticipate being under the necessity of raising a loan of moderate amount, but I hope to avoid recourse to the English market. I may perhaps be able to avail myself of the opportunity of obtaining a moderate circulation of Government notes, which will be a great convenience to the public, under arrangements which I trust will be found unobjectionable, and which will be submitted for approval before adoption.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

President Moir to Governor-in-Chief.

Government House, Grand Turk,

October 4, 1866.

SIR,

It is with deep regret that I have to report to your Excellency the destruction and loss of many lives and much property in this Colony from the effects of a very violent hurricane which passed over us on Sunday the 30th September last.

2. The weather, though somewhat wild looking on Saturday evening, did not make us anxious, nor did the barometer, which stood at 29 80', give warning of coming change. During the night, however, the wind increased, and towards daylight on Sunday morning I was induced to look at the glass, when I found it had sunk to 29 40'. It was then blowing half a gale of wind, and Mrs Moir having hastily dressed herself and the children sought safety in the lower part of Government House. As soon as it was light enough I discerned that the wind blew from north to north-east, and that a heavy sea was running. A brig, two steamers, and three sloops were endeavouring to ride it out nearly opposite to and under the lee of the land on which Government House was built, and before the deluge of rain came down I saw some people making for shore, but by that time I was glad to fasten up every opening to windward both of the main building and of the surrounding enclosed verandah, and abandoning everything up stairs, seek shelter with my family below. I fortunately carried my aneroid (No. 10,427) with me, and from time to time examining it, I found it indicating a steady increase of the gale, and about 12:30 o'clock, when a temporary lull took place, it had sunk to 28 50'.

3. By this time the verandah and steps leading to the upper part of the house had gone, the wind had penetrated to the bed-room and dressing-room, of which that portion of the house consisted, and swept out of them much personal property; the roof of the water tank had been carried off and smashed; the office, with all its valuable public documents and books, thrown down in utter ruin the stone stable and wooden pen demolished, killing a large calf and injuring a carriage horse; the coach-house lifted off its foundation and blown clear over the remains of the office at the end of which it had stood, leaving my carriage standing in