

4. CROOKED AND ACKLIN'S ISLANDS.

7. I regret that I have no detailed accounts from these islands. Their Magistrate resides at Inagua. Finding that he had no intention of visiting the islands to inquire into the condition and wants of the people, I have directed him to do so. From the collector at Long Cay I learn that three-fourths of the dwellings are destroyed, and that the population is in a deplorable state, without food or shelter. In many parts the sea overflowed the fields, destroying all the vegetation, while the high lands were devastated by the violence of the wind and rain.

8. These two islands, which at the beginning of the present century were amongst the most favoured and best cultivated, having the advantage of several resident proprietors of means and education, have become the poorest of the Bahama group. That class has long disappeared. I know but of one on the two islands. The people are scattered in single houses, or small hamlets, around the shores of the islands. They have neither church nor school; are seldom if ever visited by their magistrate, and only at distant intervals by the clergyman of Long Cay, in whose parish they are included. They do not work for wages, but depend upon the produce of the ocean and of their fields, and upon the profits of wrecking. They were therefore among those worst prepared to combat their present difficulties, and I believe that the distress has been, and will continue to be for some time, more severe among them than in any other part of the colony, until their fresh crops come in. The supplies sent to Long Cay have been chiefly applied to meeting their wants, and the collector has, upon his own responsibility, which meets with my entire approval, purchased supplies on the spot, and procured others from Inagua, to provide for their immediate necessities.

5. RAGGED ISLAND.

9. From this island it is reported that the public school-house was blown down, but that no private dwellings were seriously injured. Upwards of 50,000 bushels of salt were lost by the rise of the tide. One schooner was driven ashore, and ten boats and launches were more or less injured.

10. An application for relief from a respectable agricultural proprietor, living on Great Nurse Cay, about 17 miles from Ragged Island, affords a tolerably faithful picture of the condition of the residents on most of the small inhabited cays throughout the Bahamas, and of the influence of the desolation of one community upon its neighbours.

"I have lost everything in my fields, together with my creatures (animals). My fields were entirely inundated by the overflow of the tide, which lasted a couple of days. The results are, everything is either burnt or drowned. Had not my fields been overflowed they would have been of great assistance to Ragged Island, as they have very often been. And now, not having any provisions, and no means of obtaining any, I humbly solicit some aid for myself and my family, consisting of 12 persons."

6. LONG ISLAND.

11. This island has the advantage of a resident magistrate of intelligence and activity. His first accounts were very distressing. He described the whole island as presenting one scene of desolation. Almost every building had been swept to the ground. This island, as my previous reports upon the progress of cotton cultivation in the Bahamas have shown, was making

a more rapid progress in the culture of the soil and the acquisition of wealth than any other. Ten days after the hurricane the magistrate wrote that the inhabitants were already suffering all but starvation, some existing on crabs and fish alone. At that time some of the population of the town were still glad to find shelter in the prison and police-office—62 in the former and 23 in the latter. The destruction was spread over the whole of the island. On one of the most flourishing estates at the north end all the buildings of the proprietor were thrown down, except the kitchen, in which 47 persons had to take refuge. This gentleman sent up to Clarence Town, the seat of magistracy, for food. There was none to spare.

12. The report of property destroyed throughout the island, exclusive of buildings injured, enumerates 2 churches (Episcopal).

2 churches (Baptist).

1 school-house.

5 stores.

230 dwelling-houses.

5 schooners.

2 sloops.

16 boats.

13. The more recent accounts from the same magistrate are encouraging. Writing six weeks after the hurricane, he stated that the period of the people's destitution was nearly over. Peas were being obtained from the fields. In a week or two sweet potatoes would be dug. The corn fields looked very promising, and the effect of the hurricane, bringing large quantities of rain, which washed the decayed vegetable matter from the higher and unoccupied parts of the island into the fields of the inhabitants which lie along the shores, seemed to have caused an unusually rapid growth of vegetation. The cotton fields, which had been destroyed or severely injured by the hurricane, had been replanted immediately afterwards, and were looking much better than could be anticipated. The greatest remaining cause of suffering was the want of shelter. The dwellings throughout the island were covered with palmeth thatch. The roofs and the growing trees were alike stripped. A fresh supply of leaves could not be expected for four or five months. They could not be obtained elsewhere. The dwellings of a large portion of the population could not be restored until these were procurable. Happily this is a dry season, but it is also a cold one. The population will therefore remain exposed to serious inconvenience and discomfort for a period of nearly six months.

7. RUM CAY.

14. From Rum Cay the collector reported, immediately after the hurricane, that the country was in a most deplorable state, the crops entirely destroyed, and starvation staring all in the face, that most of the houses were entirely down, and not one uninjured. A latter report enumerates

1 church (Episcopal) destroyed.

2 chapels (Baptist) destroyed.

2 ditto, ditto, severely injured.

1 police office and prison unroofed.

1 school-house destroyed.

3 canals of Salt Pond destroyed.

2 stores destroyed.

2 wharves destroyed.

22 dwellings destroyed.

18 dwellings severely injured.

15. The population of Rum Cay is chiefly employed in raking salt. Of this 130,000 bushels,