

from Mr J. B. Burnside, the energetic and zealous police magistrate of Harbour Island, within whose district this island is situated. Though not the largest in area, it has a much larger population than any other of the out islands, and contains several settlements of considerable size. Each of them has been visited, and arrangements have been made for feeding the infirm, and families incapable of labour, and for giving employment to the destitute, who will receive provisions in payment of their labour.

23. On this island—

9 churches and chapels,
2 school houses,

Have been destroyed or injured.

240 dwellings destroyed.

56 dwellings badly injured.

831 persons rendered houseless.

8 vessels and boats destroyed.

16 vessels and boats injured.

24. The fields in some places have been blasted by the sea spray. The pine-apple crop it is expected will be reduced to one-half. Roads have been generally destroyed or rendered impassable, and the causeways washed away. At some of the settlements more houses have been destroyed than are left standing. At Rock Sound particularly there is much distress. The dwellings destroyed are chiefly of wattle and daub, and of small value, but their reconstruction by persons possessed of no capital, whose crops have been injured, and whose means of employment have been diminished, is not an easy task, especially when, as the magistrate reports, the people seem to expect that the Government will continue to support them, and that losses by the hurricane will furnish an excuse for protracted destitution, without any effort on their part to supply their own wants, and to restore their dwellings. The magistrate has therefore very properly applied the crucial test of labour, and it is expected that further assistance, except to acknowledged paupers, will be required only in one or two parts of the island.

12. HARBOUR ISLAND.

25. This is the largest and most opulent settlement after Nassau, whose population is very well able to bear their own losses, and to help one another. When therefore they sent down a deputation, in the person of the Wesleyan missionary of the station, who waited upon me with two of the members for the island, I urged upon them the duty and necessity of relying upon their own exertions and charitable impulses, and I sanctioned only a small supply of food for paupers and others who could not obtain any. The damage done in this island consists of—

1 church (Episcopal) destroyed.

1 police office and prison destroyed partially.

2 school-houses destroyed.

26 dwellings destroyed.

21 dwellings injured.

4 schooners lost.

12 schooners considerably damaged.

2 sloops considerably damaged.

The latter are fast undergoing repair.

13. ABACO.

26. This is the only other island to windward of the centre of the Cyclone. The magistrate has not been able to visit the several settlements, and I have no detailed reports regarding them.

But in each, with one exception, the school-house has been blown down and many dwellings destroyed or injured. The fields have been wracked, and many of the inhabitants reduced to want. Supplies have been sent up from Nassau. In some places provisions have been obtained, and salvage has been earned, from the numerous wrecks on the southern shores. Attempts at plunder have also been made, and I regret to have occasion to report that action on the part of the magistrate to enforce the wrecking law of last session, and to have search warrants for stolen property executed, has led to tumultuous assemblages, which has rendered it necessary to send up the inspector of police with a reinforcement of constables from Nassau.

14. ANDROS.

27. Andros Island is within the police district of Abaco, and has only one Justice of the Peace, who resides in the middle portion of the island. The settlements are scattered, and I have no detailed reports from the northern portion, where the principal village is situated, but it is stated to have suffered severely; and at Red Bay, on the western shore, the sea washed up to the houses and swept them away, destroying, it is said, several lives. At Fresh Creek, the church, school-house, and several dwellings have been blown down or injured, and considerable damage was done afloat. At Calabash Bay, Standard Creek, Bower Sound, and Man of War Sound, many dwellings were destroyed or injured. The latest accounts, however, of the prospect of early supplies of provisions from the fields are encouraging.

15. BERRY ISLANDS.

28. These islands are also within the same district. The highest local authority is a police-constable. The population is scattered over the islands in small numbers. Their dwellings suffered in the same way as on the other small cays; but, since the first few days after the hurricane, it has not been necessary to supply them with provisions. It is to be regretted that a chapel, used also as a school-house, has been blown down.

16. BIMINIS.

29. From the Biminis I have no certain information. They also are within the Abaco police district. Some injury was inflicted there, both ashore and afloat. But as there were several wrecks in the neighbourhood the inhabitants have doubtless been able to procure the means of subsistence, and there have been no applications for assistance. Here also the church has been thrown down.

17. GRAND BAHAMA.

30. Grand Bahama, in the same police district, is one of the poorest islands in the group. Last year I was obliged to relieve a number of the inhabitants whose crops had been destroyed by the hurricane of September. I made it a condition of relief that the recipients should plant a certain quantity of cotton; but there was no officer of influence on the spot, and I fear that the condition was kept only by a few, and the hurricane of this year will prevent me from enforcing the notes of hand which the people gave. It was some time before any intelligence