

The following account of the Great Storm of 1822, which prevailed on the coast of South Carolina at North Island and at North Inlet, the northern end of this Island, is copied from the Georgetown Paper of October 2nd. 1822. This paper is in the possession of Mrs. E. C. Vaux and its appearance and odd advertisements, easily indicates its age.

Georgetown,

Wednesday, October 2nd. 1822.

### H U R R I C A N E A T N O R T H I N L E T.

The duty incumbent on the Editor, as a public journalist, imposes on him the painful task of detailing the circumstances of that awful dispensation with which the omnipotent disposer of human events has been pleased, in his inscrutable wisdom, to visit this devoted village. With feelings still strongly excited by those dreadful occurrences which it was, so lately, his lot to witness, he will not attempt to do more, at present, than to furnish the outlines of the heart rending scenes of this eventful night.

The weather had been for a week, or ten days very unpleasant, the wind blowing occasionally fresh from the E. and S. E. but as their appeared none of these indications which usually precede a hurricane, and as the mercury in the thermometer continued low, very little apprehension was entertained;— even at Sun set on Friday evening, the 27th. inst. although, the weather was bad, yet still there appeared no cause to apprehend a gale; at the close of the day there was a heavy shower from the S. E. accompanied by some wind, after which the weather appeared better; between 10 and eleven o'clock, however, we had a squall from the N. E. from which quarter the wind continued to blow high till about twelve, when we experienced a more violent squall from about E.; the mercury about this hour had risen to 79 and continued to rise for some time after. From twelve the wind continued to change to the S. E. and S. increasing in violence as it shifted; from S. E. it blew with frightful and unprecedented violence; most of the injury caused by the wind must have occurred about two o'clock in the morning and while it blew from this quarter. As the time of high water had been about seven o'clock in the evening, the inhabitants apprehended no danger from the tide, as from the violence of the gale, it was presumed that it could not

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continue till the period of the succeeding high water- in this expectation however, it pleased the Almighty to disappoint them, and by the awful result to prove how fallacious are all human calculations - the tide could have ebbed very little, if at all, when the waters returned with irresistible violence and between three and four o'clock, in the morning had reached a height far exceeding that in the great gale of 1804 and we believe of any other tide within the memory of the oldest inhabitants; a very small portion indeed of the inhabited part of the island remained above the Ocean. The gale began to subside we believe, about half after three o'clock, the wind blowing then from S. W. It was oppressively warm during the gale and many of those luminous bodies, or meteors unusual in our fall gales, passed near the surface of the earth. The gale was of shorter duration and accompanied by less rain than usual.

A detailed account of the sufferings of families, or individuals will not be attempted, for were it necessary, the state of our feelings produced by the horrors of this dreadful night, and the scene of ruin and devastation which now surrounds us, would incapacitate us for the task.

We hasten to give a brief account of the injuries sustained in the different dwellings.

Dr. Ford.- His out buildings injured and piazza settled.

Dr. Allston.- Kitchen blown down and servants hall injured.

G. W. Heriot.- Servants' Hall down and kitchen unroofed- stable partly so.

Rev. G. Capers.- Kitchen and stables unroofed- much of the underpinning of the dwelling House washed down by the sea.

Robert Heriot.- Dwelling House unroofed - doors and windows burst in- all the piazzas and the Eastern shed rooms blown away - the Chimney fractured near the base and the top blown off- the family (with a child very ill) after the house was unroofed fortunately obtained shelter in a neighboring dwelling- the family escaped through divine mercy without any other injury than a contusion on the eye of an infant son.

B. F. Trapier.- Servants' lodging blown down and stables partly unroofed.

Rev. M. H. Lance.- Kitchen down and the chimney of the dwelling house down.

Mrs. E. Myers.- House nearly down and injured in the roof and gableend.

Mrs. Sarzadas.- Every building destroyed- the family took refuge in the House of Moses Fort Esq. where three of them afterwards lost their lives- a white child and two of their servants.

R. A. Taylor.- Every building down.

T. F. Goddard.- Piazzas and sheds destroyed- out buildings damaged.

I. Salmon.- House and Kitchen chimnies down.

A. Marvin.- Out buildings destroyed.

P. Cuttino.- House chimney down- piazza roof partly off- out buildings injured.

Mrs. Henry.- Every building demolished.

Rev. J. S. Capers.- Piazza injured.

I. Salomons.- " " " "

Lizar Joseph.- Part of piazza and stable injured.

Gen. T. Carr.- Dwelling house chimney down, and kitchen piazza blown away.

Mrs. Savage Smith.- Stables and fish house destroyed.

L. L. Josephs.- Dwelling house down and torn to pieces- out buildings injured.

Mrs. Thurston.- House down- out buildings damaged.

Thomas Heriot.- Buildings destroyed and carried off by the water.

The Church destroyed and every vestage carried off by the water.

H. Inglesby.- Kitchen piazza blown away.

Mrs. Blyth.- " " " "

J. M. Taylor.- Dwelling house down.-

Dr. Thomas.- Carriage house and stables down.

J. C. Coggeshall.- Dwelling House settled at one end.

John Poretr Dun.- Dwelling House much wrecked and out buildings injured.

A. DeRosa.- Building destroyed and carried away by the water- this benevolent, industrious and honest man, and a negro lad, the only inhabitant are both lost.

Moses Fort.- Every out building destroyed- the Dwelling House thrown from its foundation, shattered and removed some distance; the piazzas and sheds blown away. In this House there were five deaths, to wit; Mrs. Hannah Botsford, the relict of the late Rev. Edmund Botsford- Miss

Scott the daughter of David Scott, and three servants.

Dr. L. Myers.- Every building torn to pieces by the sea and every vestige of them destroyed, and this respectable and worthy man with every member of his amiable family drowned. In this House fifteen lives were lost, to wit; Dr. Myers, Mrs. Myers, three Daughters and a son, and nine servants.

R. F. Withers.- The Dwelling House, a very large new building, and every out building destroyed and not a vestige remaining- here again it is our melancholly duty to state the loss of many valuable lives- there were in this House eighteen Persons, of whom four have been most miraculously saved;- those saved are Mr. R. F. Withers and three negroes- those lost, we lament to say, are Mrs. Withers, her four amiable Daughters, her Son, Mr. Withers Shackelford nephew of Mr. Withers, Mr. Wish, and five negroes. Mr Withers, about daylight, was heard calling for help in Dubourdieu's Creek, (near the ocean,) a little above the settlement on that Island, and was rescued, we understand, by Lieut. Levy, of the U. S. Navy; it appears that he had clung to a piece of timber; Mr. Withers, who had been long in a very bad state of health, finding himself chilled and exhausted called to one of his negro men, who was endeavoring to gain the timber but whom he did not know, to secure himself on it, as he was about to relinquish it through inability to contend any longer; at this moment he heard the voice of his affectionate little Son, of twelve or thirteen years of age, of whose presence he was before ignorant, cheering him and intreating him to preserve in his exertions and assuring his Father that he believed, himself, would be able to retain his grasp of the timber till it should please God to cast them on shore- this instantly restored, to the father, animation and strength, but, in a few minutes after, an overwhelming surge separated them forever in this world. The negro was after taken up alive in the marsh opposite to that Island; a negro boy, of Mr. Withers, was driven across to Dubourdieu's Island on a pair of steps, landed and took refuge in a House which was shortly after blown down- he survives uninjured; another negro man, whose arm was broken in the fall of the House, has been also taken up alive.

The few boats that have been recovered are used in searching for the

bodies of the deceased and in removing them to town.- Before we close this brief statement we will merely state, for the satisfaction of our distant readers, that the buildings at the South end of North Island are much injured, but that no lives have been lost.- At Dubourdieu's Island has been less, but many negroes have been drowned and crushed by the falling buildings; we understand that Wm. A. Alston Esq. has lost on that Island Eleven negroes.

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The violence of the Gale in this town was greater than any that has occurred, we have reason to believe, since the year 1752, - We had intended to give a particular account of the damage which had been sustained, but our limits will not permit us- it will be sufficient for us, at this time, to say that the town exhibits one general scene of ruin and devastation- buildings blown down, others unroofed- Chimnies, fences and trees lying prostrate, in every direction. Several negroes have lost their lives, but, we are happy to say, that we have heard of no white persons being injured. The roads are in such a state that Saturday's mail from Charleston did not reach us until ~~Monday~~ yesterday, and no mail from the North had arrived when this paper was put to press.- The damage done to the plantations is incalculable and unprecedented.

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From,

Reid Whitford,

Georgetown, S. C.

May 25th. 1894.

Note in the above account  
50 lives were lost - 19 Whites,  
31 blacks.