

Historical earthquake effects from:

José Grases G. 1990

Terremotos Destruidores del Caribe 1502-1990” Una contribución al Decenio Internacional para la Reducción de los Desastres Naturales, Caracas, Agosto de 1990. UNESCO – RELACIS

1690/04/05

Antigua – Some buildings collapsed and an unknown number of people was killed. The governor at the time put the damage at £2,000 sterling.

St. Kitts – There were cracks in the ground as wide as 9 feet in some areas. The Jesuit college and other wooden structures collapsed.

Nevis – The sea was disturbed and a tsunami appears to have affected Charlestown.

1844/08/30

St. Vincent – The buildings in Kingstown were shaken with the fall of some chimneys and older buildings.

Saint Lucia – In Castries and Soufriere there was damage to the walls of some large buildings.

Barbados – minor damage

1888/01/10

Grenada – One report describes a sequence of strong earthquakes lasting 20-30 seconds. Several houses in St. Georges were severely damaged. The Catholic church needed to be reconstructed as did the Anglican church and the Court House.

Trinidad – reported significant damage in many places.

1953/03/19

Saint Lucia – In Castries, there was partial collapse of buildings previously damaged by fire, and some damage to other buildings. New buildings designed to resist earthquakes were undamaged.

Barbados – Tremor which lasted about eight seconds. Houses shook at their foundations and crockery made noises waking occupants.

Women and children awakened by the shock ran from houses screaming into the streets.

At Hutchinson's Hardware several plates and other items of crockery were shaken from the shelves.

At Collins Drug Store a window was shaken from its socket in the wall leaving glass and bits of woodwork blocking the alley between Collins and Sahely's Ltd. Opposite, R.H. Edwards had cracks in the walls making the building appear from outside

to be in a dangerous condition. At Hutchinson's Hardware several plates and cups were shaken from the shelves.

In Swan Street, some merchants opened their stores to find that their goods had been "knocked about". Some of the rafters and part of the ceiling of Sahely's were damaged.

Owners of most of the city buildings do not know the exact age of the buildings, but could only state when they bought them.

Most of the city, however, had to be rebuilt after the 1831 hurricane so few of the buildings are more than 120 years old.

At Hole town it was reported that the Zion Hill Bridge had been cracked.

The Police received a number of reports of damage. The Bridge Police station reported that the walls of Ward 12 and X-Ray rooms at the General Hospital were cracked, the boundary wall of the Barbados Ice Co., Bay Street, was damaged.

The walls of the Bay Street Boys' School and windows and parts of the wall of the St. Leonards Girls' School, Westbury Road, were also damaged.

Another report said that the steeple of St. John's Church was cracked.

District "C", St. Philip, reported that Elretha Martindale's house at Sealy Hall, St. John, was damaged. At St. George, the 20-foot guard wall at Ashbury showed large cracks. Housewives in the Belmont area, St. Michael, said that plates and dishes were broken during the earthquake.

At Three Houses Factory, St. Philip, a triangular portion of the chimney was broken out leaving an opening at the top about three feet wide and almost as deep. The stone which had fallen from the chimney which is about 110 feet high, smashed in part of the roof of the boiling house. There is a crack in the chimney about 20 feet long.

In the factory yard, an opening about two feet wide and four feet deep occurred as a result of the quake. Mr. Reece, manager of the factory said "I sat for some time and watched the chimney sway from side to side and at one time it seemed as if it would fall". In the factory itself, the quake caused about half the water in a 1,000 gallon tank to spill, he said.

There were no reports of damage in St. Joseph but in Belleplaine, St. Andrew, the double roofed wall and wooden house of Mrs. Arminta Doughlin was badly damaged. The owner was unhurt.

The entire front wall of the house fell inwards completely covering the floor of the room. A mere wooden partition separated Mrs. Doughlin from the falling wall some of which filled the passage between the two bedrooms in the second house.

Throughout the rest of the house the walls were badly cracked and partitions leaned precariously. The floor fell in.

St. Vincent - The Gomea Roman Catholic Church was destroyed and there were, slight cracks in the walls of the Colonial Hospital, Police Barracks, T.R. Evans Store and a few other private residences.

The anxiously expected steamer with the second January mails from England arrived the evening before last. Any political news which the English papers may have brought sank into perfect insignificance, the public feeling being wholly absorbed in the melancholy intelligence which the Packet brought us from the sister colonies to the northward. We had too much reason to fear from the nature of the shock of earthquake felt here on Wednesday, the 8th, that our neighbours had experienced it in far greater severity; and too truly have our apprehensions been realised. The accounts received through the Antigua "Register", and by private letter from that most unfortunate island, are deeply distressing, and calculated to call forth in this mercifully protected island, the most sincere sympathy with our afflicted fellow colonist, and the profoundest gratitude and thankfulness to the God of Mercy for our providential escape from the horrid effects of the late tremendous convulsion of the earth.

The Antigua Weekly Register of the 9th instant, which the Rev. Mr. Clarke has kindly lent us, enables us to lay before our readers such particulars as the Editor was enabled to publish at the spur of the moment. And we are indebted to a kind old friend for a letter from his son, a clergyman in Antigua, the greater part of which we now present to our readers:

Our extract from the Dominican of the 8th will shew that Dominica has also suffered severely.

There are reports of the calamity having been still more terrific and disastrous at Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, where it is said several thousand lives were lost!

We have been favoured by a kind friend of ours with a letter from his son, a clergyman in Antigua, from which we extract the following afflicting passages descriptive of the late awful calamity:-

Antigua, February 11

On Wednesday morning, the 8th, between the hours of ten and eleven, we experienced one of the severest shocks (perhaps with the exception of Hayti) that has ever been felt in the western world. I had just time to drag my wife and little Charlotte out of the house to prevent our being buried in the ruins. Jenny escaped out of the drawing-room door, Willy was fortunately in the yard, and my poor wife and self had the agony of knowing that our youngest child and the nurse were still in the building; fortunately they were in the wooden part; and here we are all, God be praised, unhurt. It

lasted upwards of two minutes, in which time the work of destruction was incalculable, to Antigua positive ruin. Every Church, with the exception of one old wooden one, levelled or ruined, my own dear little one among the member; and, what is still more distressing, most of the mills and boiling houses either thrown down or so severely rent as to require almost re-building before they can be used. I do not believe that there are at this moment more than a dozen wind mills in the island effective; and this, melancholy to relate, at the commencement of one of the finest crops Antigua has had for many years. The greater part of the crop must perish for want of machinery to take it off; if persons even had the means, the mechanics necessary could not be obtained to re-erect them. I have lost all my little property, the accumulation of years, as my furniture was almost all destroyed or injured, and am now left almost houseless and destitute, with a wife and four children, and on the eve of her confinement with another. The only shelter we have is a bedroom and dressing room which being of wood and the old part of the house remains, although the foundation on which they stand has been so shattered that it is very unsafe. My personal loss amounts to about £300 sterling.

"I do not, however murmur, although almost in a state of destruction as to shelter and the means of supplying my family with the common necessaries of life for the present year, but feel grateful to a merciful Providence in having saved our lives. We are but the clay, and shall we cry out against the potter! No. It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth good to him! I think frequently on the lot of poor Thompson, the English Consul at Hayti, and am abundantly thankful. Wife, children and home all engulfed in the earth! Why, we may ask, was not our lot like his? Why, but because the Lord is long suffering and merciful, and even in the midst of these his awful judgments, remembers mercy!

"Every building at the Rectory is either thrown down or rendered useless, and no prospect of their being rebuilt immediately, as my unfortunate flock are in the same deplorable condition. I must endeavour by God's blessing, and the kind assistance of my family, to patch up the remnant that is left, so as to make it habitable and to await for future years for its rebuilding. At one time, I expected that the mountain in rear of the house would have tumbled over and buried us, as a large avalanche of stone and earth came tumbling over; the sea also rose considerably and as we are on low alluvial soil, I expected momentarily when it would have rushed up to the base of the mountain and overwhelmed us. But God was merciful to us and spared us. The town, I am told, presents one scene of destruction, the poor unfortunate merchants, many of whom were burnt out about a year and half ago, and were just recovering from their losses, and rebuilding their stores, are again ruined. My poor friend Athill in the pride of human wisdom, thought that he would provide for future casualties, and erected a fire proof store all of arches at the expense of £1,000 sterling, and, in one moment it was a heap of ruins, proving to him, poor fellow, the immutable truth "That except the Lord build the house the labour is but lost."

"I am sure that after the occurrences of Wednesday "the wise man need not glory in his wisdom, nor the strong man in his strength" for the utter nothingness and insignificance of the creature must have been self evident to every eye-witness of the awful visitation. The dock yard, which was the boast of Antigua, has been so cracked and the pier so sunk, as to be rendered almost useless, the estimated expense of repair is upwards of £50,000 sterling. The Garrison shared a similar fate, as the barracks are in such a state as to be uninhabitable. The troops are under canvass - in fact almost all our houses present the appearance of an umbrella, the roofs standing, but the houses gutted. The Governor, who has been residing out here, has been forced to abandon Dow's Hill, after having lost the greater part of his furniture: fortunately for him the Government House in St. John's is a wooden building and is safe. We are dreading to hear from the other islands, as volumes of smoke were seen to issue from Montserrat, where there is a Souffriere. The Paymaster of the 81st tells me that after the earthquake he saw a column of smoke ascending up in the direction of Dominica.

"We had three very slight shocks on Wednesday night, and one on Thursday, which you may judge terribly alarmed the already awe struck inhabitants. My self and family were wandering about in the open air for a considerable time, dreading to go into the tottering dwelling. The weather has been very dry since, fortunately for the houseless inhabitants. Our loss as to property, in the final result, will be considerably greater than that of Barbados in 1831. As your mills were not thrown down you had time to prepare for the ensuing crop. The greater part of ours must perish on the ground. The loss of life has been, thank God, very inconsiderable, altogether I suppose not more than 12, and those chiefly children. McLedeth's mother was killed by the house falling on her. Had it been in the night three fourths of the inhabitants would have been buried in their houses."

Postscript, 12 o'clock

Dreadful as the accounts are from Antigua, the intelligence communicated by the Captain of the steamer Dee to His Excellency the Governor of Barbados, of the earthquake at Guadeloupe, is still more appalling:-

"Royal Mail Steam Packet Dee"
Barbados, February 13, 1843

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir Charles E. Grey, Knight, Governor, and vice admiral of Barbados, etc.

Honourable Sir, - Having been Master of the "Pique" Frigate in June 1835 when Your Excellency took a passage in her to Quebec and being now Commander of this

Steam Packet passing through the West India Islands which have been recently visited by an Earthquake, I beg leave most respectfully to give you a brief account of what information I have obtained from each island, remaining from 1 to 1½ hour at each place.

"On reaching St. Thomas on the 9th instant from Jamaica and St. Jago de Cuba I learnt that the shock of an earthquake had been felt there 10.30, of the 8th instant but fortunately without doing any damage, from thence I proceeded through the Islands as follows:-

- Tortola - at 10.30 a.m. a severe shock but not injured, lasted 4 minutes.
- St. Kitts - Houses much shaken but not materially injured, lasted 3 minutes.
- Nevis - Charlotte Town Court House to the ground. Bath house much damaged. Custom House partly down and all the Mills in the island more or less injured, nearly the whole of the town destroyed, most of the wood built houses are left standing, all the stone buildings are so injured that they must be taken down and rebuilt, estimated damage at £50,000 only 2 Mills on the island that can be worked.
- Montserrat - Wesleyan Meeting House so much injured must be taken down, the shole of the Mills on the Sugar Estates unfit for use, several large fissures (from land slips) appear on the sides of the Hills, lasted 2 minutes, six lives lost, the whole of the stone buildings more or less injured and at present not inhabitable.
- Antigua - This island has suffered most severely, the whole of the churches and mills throughout the island being a heap of ruins. The organ in the Church of St. John's totally destroyed; the Dockyard at English Harbour is sunk considerably, many parts being under water, the whole of the stone houses in a complete ruinous state, the walls partly or wholly down; the water tanks containing nearly 11,000 tons of water burst with an awful crash; the earthquake lasted about 4 minutes. Mr. Hart, Clerk in charge of the Dockyard, English Harbour, states that 3 clocks in the neighbourhood stopped at 10h: 40M: a.m. Precise accounts had not been received from the interior. It is ascertained 40 lives had been lost - fears were entertained it was short of the actual loss. The Governor's House (Dow's Hill) is partially destroyed with nearly all its furniture; the Ridge Barracks much damaged; the

Custom House, Court House, and Wesleyan Meeting House destroyed.

"The next island visited was Guadeloupe, the accounts from which are truly appalling and heart-rending. The whole of the town of Point-à-Pitre is no more! It appears this was the centre of the dreadful calamity. I relate as near as possible the account as given me by an eye witness of the scene (Mr. Risley of Philadelphia). At about 10h. 30M a.m. of the 8th instant, in company with 150 or 160 persons, I was breakfasting at the Hotel situate in the large square, when all of a sudden a dreadful noise not be described, with a rocking movement, was felt; being near the door, I instantly rushed out and perceived the buildings falling in every direction. I perfectly recollect what happened for the first 15 to 20 seconds and saw many persons either wounded or killed; the whole of my fellow companions at breakfast I never saw again. In the midst of all this calamity the earth in several parts of the town opened to a considerable extent, when volumes of water spouted forth with awful fury to the extent of a hundred feet perpendicular in columns of several feet in thickness, momentary and most awfully swallowing up hundreds of the inhabitants the earth closed again. What followed for 20 seconds after I have no recollection of - on recovering I found myself beside 3 dead bodies, in the midst of a heap of ruins, my clothes torn, and my hat broken. My Son, a child six years of age most providentially escaped unhurt finding him shortly after on a heap of ruins. The scene which presented itself was more than words can express. Thousands were buried among the ruins still living and raising their voices for succour, many were saved: but alas, the work of destruction was not yet finished; a cry of fire was heard, which proved to be true: what the earthquake and water had begun, the fire finished.

"The survivors are left in a most destitute state, being without food, clothing, and houseless, despatches were immediately sent to the neighbouring towns and islands, informing them of the state of the town, who promptly responded to their calls, and immediately the Governor of Martinique ordered the steam ship Gomez to load with provisions and clothing, and forthwith proceed to Point-à-Pitre, all vessels in the harbour at the time were detained and not allowed to leave the port: a Proclamation was immediately issued by the Governor, declaring all ports in the island of Guadeloupe free for all commodities, and also for timber for building purposes.

"At the time of the fire the heat was so intense, that the iron safes with gold and silver in them melted, and became consolidated masses. The work of plunder commenced by some of the negroes, when it was found expedient to call out the military and report says many of the negroes were shot in attempting to resist the military. Several French ships of war have repaired to the spot, and on Sunday the 12th instant, were to bombard the remaining standing walls. How the fire originated has not been ascertained: some suppose it from the earth, others that it was from the stores. Loss of

life cannot yet be ascertained, variously reported, at 4,000, 5,000 and some say 6,000 souls. Basse Terre has not sustained any injury.

"Dominica - violently shaken - no real mischief done - Refugees arriving from Guadeloupe.

"Martinique - shaken but no injury in town - the sugar mills a little damaged.

"St. Lucia - A little shaken but no injury.

"At the time of the earthquake the ship was off the island of Porto Rico, no shock was felt on board."

I have the honor to remain,
Honorable Sir,
Your most obedient humble,
humble Servant,

(Sgd) Wm. Helmsley,
Captain.

ANTIGUA

(From the Weekly Register)

Thursday Morning, Feby 9th 1843

Dreadful visitation by Earthquake

At the moment of going to press yesterday morning, a terrible and appalling calamity fell upon this island, whose destructive violence and extent require no ordinary talent or ambition of narration to describe with any language that can convey to those who did not feel the effects and witness the ruin, anything like reality. This terrible earthquake began about a quarter of an hour before eleven o'clock, lasted a considerable time, and before it ceased made St. John's a spectacle of ruin and devastation, there being no house or premises of which wall work formed a part, which has not felt its effects, and the owners of which have not sustained heavy loss, nor indeed any other building which has not suffered in some shape. It is too soon to enter into details, but we will only mention that our old Metropolitan, now the Cathedral Church of this city, is a heap of rubbish, - that fine building the Court House, is so rent and cracked in several places, as to be unsafe, and that new edifice the Wesleyan chapel in a much worse state.

The country exhibits a general picture of desolation. The Sugar Mills and works either totally destroyed or so injured as to arrest the progress of the crop which some estates had just begun, and render it uncertain when the remainder can proceed with theirs. The new villages built and settled by the laborers, as well as the houses on the plantation, are almost all level with the ground. Falmouth Church is level with the ground, as also All Saints, Lebanon, at Sea View; nearly so: the town of Falmouth a heap of ruins; English harbour the same; the Dock Yard the same - there the ground sunk in many places to a great extent; the Barracks on the Ridge uninhabitable, the men put under canvas. The Engineer quarter, Commissariat and Barrack Master's the only buildings escaped damage, being of wood; Dow's Hill house uninhabitable, the interior having fallen completely to pieces. The Governor and family came in to town last night to take up their residence. On His Excellency's arrival in Town, the Magistrates, Merchants, and principal inhabitants who had been previously summoned, assembled at Government House where measures were resolved upon for the security of property, special constables sworn in, and a detachment of the 47th Regiment marched down to the Police Quarters to assist in case of necessity. We hear that His Excellency has lost to a large amount in Furniture, Chinaware, and Painting etc. It is with deep concern we add, that several lives have been lost and many persons wounded by the falling of the walls. Other Churches and Chapels in the several parishes have entirely fallen, or are left in a shattered condition. During the convulsion the sea encroached considerably on the land, and round the coast had a turbulent, discolored appearance; deep cracks and fissures in the earth are to be seen in several places from some of which water was

thrown up, and the smell of sulphur strong in others, as described by one of the Moravian missionaries who was on his way from Grace hill to his house in Lebanon, and as almost intolerable.

The smell was also perceived at Popeshead, in a quite opposite direction of the Island.

We shall give further particulars of this dire and wide wasting calamity on a future day; in the meantime will thank the Proprietors, Attorneys, Managers, as well as the inhabitants of the towns, for memoranda of their respective disasters. When and how Antigua can recover it is yet impossible to foresee.

Great fears entertained for Montserrat and Guadeloupe - heavy dense clouds apparently of dust overhanging them for two or three hours.

Postscript
Friday, Feby 10th

Since writing the above we have received authentic intelligence from Montserrat up to yesterday noon. The Souffriere was quiet and not more than usually affected, but the fall of earth in various parts had been tremendous, causing those clouds which were seen to overhang the island for a long time. Two churches are down - nearly every building in the town of Plymouth more or less injured, but fortunately only four or five lives lost so far as had been ascertained. Very many mills and works totally overthrown and nearly all the others injured.

It is stated that the Souffriere at Guadeloupe emitted clouds of vapour.

All the vessels arriving report having felt the shock at about the same hour as it occurred here.

DOMINICA
(From the Dominican, February 8th)

The inhabitants of Roseau were, at seven minutes to eleven o'clock this forenoon, suddenly and justly alarmed beyond all description by the terrific shock of an Earthquake which for violence the oldest of them say, has not even been exceeded here whilst its duration was longer than they ever experienced. As far as the agitated mind of

everyone in town can at this moment calculate, the vibration rocked from N.E. to the S.W. producing a rushing noise like a hurricane, and afterwards the ground seemed to heave perpendicularly, shaking the houses with a cracking noise similar to that heard when a roof is being unshingled. At the same moment the larger buildings clearly appeared to be rolling to and fro, and columns of smoke were seen issuing from several of the mountains in sight of town. During the morning as for several days past the sky had been exceedingly clear and serene. We think the shock lasted 2½ minutes; but one gentleman assures us that by a watch he had in his hand it occupied three minutes and a half! In about half a minute from the commencement almost every house was vacated, leaving the streets covered with the inhabitants of every class, sex, and age. Several stone buildings have been cracked, and some old walls and chimneys thrown down. The Jail, Police Office, and Roman Catholic Church are included in the report. At the Militia Arsenal the arm racks were so shaken as to bring the muskets to the floor. Several messengers have already reached town from the neighbouring Estates with reports of accidents to buildings, and of tumbling down of bodies of earth from the hills and Cliffs but we prefer to day confining ourselves to the town to avoid mistakes.

Note. Since writing the above, we have learned with regret that the Windward quarter of the island has sustained material injury by the awful calamity, and that amongst other losses the Sugar Works and other stone buildings of the Melville-Hall and Londonderry Estates have been destroyed!

The Barbadian
Saturday, Feby 18, 1843
(Globe Office, 2 o'clock)

We have just been favoured by Arthur Taylor, Esq. of the Post Office Department, with a French document - from which we have translated two out of several letters received at St. Pierre, Martinique, on the 11th instant from Guadeloupe, confirmatory of the worst accounts which are in circulation of the ruin caused by the earthquake which visited that unfortunate island three days previously.

Extract from first letter addressed to Messrs Beysac and Maxwell.

"Yesterday at a quarter before eleven o'clock, a frightful earthquake which lasted about two minutes, was sufficient to cause the total destruction of every stone building in our City. This frightful event was accompanied by a conflagration of so violent a nature, that the wooden houses which resisted the shock are, at the moment I am writing to you, reduced to ashes, scarcely a fourth part (and that the most wretched) of our unfortunate city remains standing. The number of victims is not known, but it will be immense.

"As every Sugar Mill in the island has been thrown down, we have no hope of saving any of the present crop."

Second letter addressed to Messrs Capeyra and Olander:

"I write to you on the ruins of our poor city - surrounded by dead and mutilated objects; all is lost - not a stone upon a stone remains - yesterday at eleven o'clock an earthquake caused all our misfortunes - and as if that scourge was not enough - fire has consumed the remains of our houses. We are in a complete state of wretchedness, without money, without clothes, in want of everything."

The Mayor of St. Pierre, Martinique has issued an address - thanking the inhabitants of that town for the prompt manner in which they came forward with their charitable contributions on the first intelligence of this disaster - and begging them to redouble their generous efforts, as their brethren in Guadeloupe were without food, clothing or shelter.

The earthquake was also felt in Berbice.

The Barbadian
Saturday, Feby 18, 1843
(From the St. Lucia Palladium)

Earthquake Yesterday, at 28 minutes past 10 a.m. this place was visited by a vehement shock of earthquake, which lasted nearly three minutes. The motion was rapid and tremulous, accompanied with alternate undulations North and South, which seemed to threaten the demolition of every building in the town. Like the great shock in January 1839, that which occurred yesterday was unaccompanied by the rumbling noise generally heard to precede the shocks of earthquake. In this instance the startling phenomenon was equally alarming with that, the sad recollection of whose appalling effects is still fresh upon our minds. In a moment after the first vibration, nearly all the houses in town were deserted by their inmates, who were to be seen clustered about the Streets and Squares, kneeling, and recommending themselves to the Almighty Protection. Happily, the dreadful vibrations ceased without causing that destruction which there had been so much cause to apprehend while they lasted. The Roman Catholic Church, the Custom House, Gaol enclosures, and some other buildings of mason work have been cracked, but none materially injured in the town.

Slight shocks were also felt during the night of Tuesday and last night.

It is to be feared that the islands northward may have suffered great damage from the same shock; and we shall look with anxiety for accounts from Martinique and Dominica.

The Barbadian
Wednesday, Feby 22, 1843

Our exchange papers from the other islands have furnished us with additional distressing particulars of the late dreadful calamity to Leeward. We regret to learn that St. Christopher's suffered much more severely than we were led to expect from accounts previously received. The earthquake appears to have been felt as far to the N. and W. as St. Thomas's; from the several small islands in that neighbourhood we have not yet received any tidings, nor from Jamaica. Every Colony in the neighbourhood seems to have suffered the shock, more or less, except the island of Tobago, neither our private letters nor the newspapers from thence, making any mention whatever of it. This is singular as the islands in the immediate vicinity, Trinidad and Grenada, experienced the shock; happily, however, the colonies to the South have received no damage, either in property or in life.

TRINIDAD

A slight shock of earthquake was felt yesterday in the town and suburbs; the motion was tremulous - slow and unbroken, and of about a minute's duration. Like all similar awful visitations, it caused anxiety; but as the shock was not repeated, the admonitory warning, as usual, was speedily forgotten, or disregarded. We much fear that what was felt here was merely the vibration of a much more powerful convulsion at some distant spot - Trinidad Standard, February 9.

EARTHQUAKE AT MARTINIQUE

A passenger by the Schooner "General Grant", which arrived from Martinique on Sunday, reports that an earthquake took place at St. Pierre on Wednesday last, at the hour at which one was felt here; it was marked by the same tremulous motion, without shock, which characterized its action in this Colony. The vibrations are said to have continued without intermission for several minutes. The whole of the inhabitants of St. Pierre fled down to the sea beach, and part of what we understand to be the celebrated over-hanging rock, fell into the town. The "General Grant" was getting under weigh at the time, and had no subsequent communication with the shore, so that it is not known whether any lives were lost, or what damage has been done - Standard, February 13.

GRENADA

On Wednesday forenoon last, a severe shock of earthquake was felt here, 20 minutes before 11 o'clock, and there was too much probability to suppose that it had extended to the Northern Islands. A few days ago the Captain of a Schooner arrived at this port from Martinique, conveying the most disastrous accounts. On the same day and about the same time, as he reports to us, the shock was experienced at Martinique; on the subsequent morning, a small vessel arrived at St. Pierre with the intelligence that the town of Point-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, had been laid in ruins, and at the time the vessel left the fallen buildings were on fire. The Rock over the town of St. Pierre, Martinique, it was stated, had slightly been thrown off its equilibrium. The accounts may be exaggerated; we hope so - Grenada Free Press, February 15.

St. Christopher - Basseterre Church irreparably injured. The Churches of St. Peter's, St. Mary's, Cayon, P. Point, Old Road, and Sandy Point are materially injured. The town of Basseterre has suffered severely. Wall House in the square down. Part of the Reading Room - Mr. Matthew's Store - all down. The House occupied by the Director of the West India Bank nearly down, and every stone building in town so much injured, that it will be necessary to take down many of them. One house in town partly sunk into the cellar. All the Estates throughout the island much injured. Steam Engines, Boiling Houses, Dwelling Houses, and works, levelled with the earth. The works of the Bevon Island Estate thrown into a ravine below them. The loss of property in stores, furniture, etc., very great. Four Mile Bridge undermined - St. Vincent Observer, Feby 14.

DEMERARA

Yesterday, this City was visited by two very smart shocks of earthquake, which, together, lasted about forty-five seconds. Houses and Churches were violently rocked to and fro - the spire of the Scottish Church, in especial, we are informed, vibrated considerably, even after the cessation of the shock. In a certain wine-store in Water Street, we are told, the bottles played such fantastic tricks, as their contents were apt to produce on mortals. We believe, also, some few chimnies fell: and it is very possible that, in the country, some of the tall chimnies of the boiling houses may have suffered. But, as the shock was accompanied with more of an undulating motion, than the sharp violent jar which generally marks these fearful phenomena of nature, the damage is not likely to be great in this colony. It is impossible to say, however, what may have been the effects in the neighbouring Islands. Our soil - our wooden tenements - the flatness of the land, whereby no buildings are erected on declivities, are all circumstances combining to lessen the desolating effects of earthquakes in Guiana. Thus, when in 1839 a similar convulsion of nature occurred, its effects were slightly felt, and quite harmless, as regards this colony; while the capital of Martinique was laid in ruins, and all the adjacent islands were, in different degrees, more severely visited than we. - Guiana Herald, February 9th.

(From Guiana Times, February 8th)

At ten minutes past eleven o'clock, this forenoon, occurred as severe an earthquake as some of the oldest inhabitants have any recollection of. Every moveable in every house was in motion, and every house shook violently; some old chimney stacks fell; people were seized with giddiness and nausea, similar to the feelings incidental to incipient sea sickness. As nearly as confusion would allow persons to judge, the shock, or rather the two shocks lasted, altogether, forty seconds. But on these occasions no man thinks of taking out his watch, and counting time, for the Philosopher is lost in the helpless and apprehensive human being.

And no marvel. The last earthquake experienced in this place, occurred on the 11th January, 1839. It was severe, but not alarming in comparison of the convulsion of to-day. Yet, on the fatal morning, fell the town of St. Pierre in Martinique, killing, or miserably mangling in its ruins, a thousand of its inhabitants. Who can tell that multitudes in the neighbouring Colonies are not at this moment bewailing, in desolated habitations, amid dead or expiring relatives, the havoc which a few seconds have made?

The Barbadian
Saturday, Feby 25, 1843

To the Editor of the Martinique Journal

St. Pierre, 12th Feby, 1843

The pen trembles in my hand, my thoughts are confused, I am heart struck. I do not know where to begin the recital of this immense disaster. Eighth February, 1843! A date for ever memorable in the annals of humanity! In auspicious day! so to be considered for ever; and which will remain in the memory of man as one of those days which have beheld the accomplishment of one of the most terrible decrees of Providence! It was on the 8th of February, at 35 minutes after ten in the morning, that a violent and long shock of earthquake was felt at St. Pierre. I cannot describe to you the terror which seized the people. Once recovered from this consternation, their thoughts were immediately carried towards the fate of Fort Royal. With what anxiety did they expect the canoe which was to bring the tidings of the ruin of our unhappy capital. At last towards 3 o'clock their minds were tranquillised; Fort Royal had been spared. The hand of God had abandoned it to fall heavily elsewhere. The danger passed - life had returned to its ordinary course, excepting an involuntary terror which prevailed everywhere. The shock had been so long, that a repetition of it was expected; and the dreadful remembrance of the 11th January gave only too good a foundation for these fears. The next day towards 2 o'clock in the afternoon a boat which had come to anchor almost unperceived, brought a letter, a single letter from Basse Terre, which announced that Point-à-Pitre existed no more. I do not attempt to describe the terrible impression produced by this frightful news. The catastrophe appeared so dreadful, that one doubted the truth of it. The letter, nevertheless was there! every one could read the paragraph, "We had the most lively fears for the fate of la Pointe, when a schooner which came in this evening confirmed the tidings of the entire destruction of the town." However, nothing official had arrived, and the Captain complying with the directions given him, gave no details. He knew nothing - he had heard nothing said. The boat had been sent off on speculation. Imagine a man, who at such an event, could submit all the faculties of his mind to the combinations of a commercial undertaking, the success of which was based upon the ruin of a city! Ah! it was dreadful! there is no word that can sufficiently stigmatise such conduct.

True or false, we did not wait the confirmation of the news, but put ourselves in train to expedite immediate succour. By a spontaneous movement, and without its being even proposed, a subscription is immediately opened at the Treasury; the list is covered with signatures; and M. Dulien, Mayor of the City, whose noble conduct merits the

highest praise, was scarcely sufficient to receive the offerings which poured in on every side. In one moment la place Bertin is inundated by the people; the whole city, young and old, great and little, every body came to bring his mite. Sublime breath of a people, whom one only feeling influenced! generous devotion of a people, who forgets its own misfortunes to think only of relieving the greater misfortunes of others. Yes, it was beautiful to see among that crowd, unhappy individuals, who in this solemn moment, forgetting their own miseries, wished to have a share in contributing to relieve a misery still more profound! If we were to attempt to describe all the sublime scenes we were allowed to witness, this article would not contain them. Fancy anything more touching than the gift of this poor negro, who brings a quarter dollar, and begs that they will return him two farthings to buy meals: and of this poor negress, who brought two bundles of rags, saying that she had no money: and of that other old woman, who gives two chemisse to make bandages for the wounded. Are you not affected by traits like these? What, tell me, beside these modest offerings, are the pompous alms of the rich, who give handfulls of gold which they do not need. Find in France, or in the whole world, a population who can give an example of like generosity. It was necessary however to provide for the most pressing wants of the unhappy persons whom the scourge had spared; provisions are brought and given, boats are offered for conveying them. The news had only been known at 3 o'clock, and at 5 o'clock a first convoy of four boats set sail for Point-à-Pitre, loaded with provisions of every kind, with linen, and with medicine. A young physician, as distinguished for his knowledge as for his humanity, listening only to the dictates of his own heart, abandons his patients, his family, and his friends, and embarks for Pointe-à-Pitre where he thinks his presence may be as useful as the provisions. M. Bulin, who has already received the baptism of fire, and whose arms still bear the marks of a noble wound, goes now to expose himself to the horrors of a city enclosing the plague. He fears nothing; he sets out immediately. Sublime self-devotion, whose recompense is in his own breast!

However nothing appeared: eyes continually fixed upon the point Isle Precheur, seemed to wish to pierce the immensity of the horizon: anxiety was at its height. This silence presaged nothing good; the sea in the distance displayed only the vast mirror of its sparkling azure: everything was calm - hearts alone were agitated with sinister presentiments. Friday passed in dreadful doubt. Nothing had appeared. Offerings still abounded; the same eagerness the same generosity! Zeal redoubled in proportion to anxiety. The government had received no official report. Everything was done in consequence of the letter received from Basse Terre. At length on Saturday morning the signal staffs announced La Mouche - its flag was half-mast high. No more doubt. The disaster was great. The whole population repaired to La Place Bertin. They counted the strokes of the oars of the boat returning from the ship. The disembarked were assailed and almost stifled with the endeavour to learn the details. The catastrophe has horrible. The City De La Pointe was a heap of ruins; and to crown the misfortune, the fire, the

fire, zealous of seeing the work of destruction accomplished without its aid, had come to unite itself to the crumbling houses, to the stones which crushed the wounded. All that the imagination could dream of most terrible, did not approach to the reality. The letters received contained these frightful accounts. Pointe-à-Pitre is but an immense cemetery, from which the groans that arise from under the rubbish pour themselves.

In Saint Pierre there was one cry of desolation. Terror and consternation were depicted on every countenance. Every one was anxious for tidings who had an acquaintance, a friend, a parent in that unhappy town. "Is such an one dead? or such an one? Is this person wounded? or that?" Alas! Alas! what mighty crime has been committed by this ill-fated town, to draw down a punishment so severe Great God! when Jerusalem sold thy divine Son, and shed his blood, thine anger wreaked not itself so awfully on that infatuated city! The voice of thy Prophets had foretold its last hour, and it might have escaped the doom which awaited it. Thy vengeance, then, though tardy was terrible. Thou didst charge men with the execution of thin immutable sentence; and the city that had denied its God, and shed the blood of the Just One, might have redeemed itself by its submission. But in this case, alas, neither repentance nor submission could save her. Her hour was marked on the dial of eternity, and her lot was cast!

Quickly the zeal here was redoubled. Persons were seen running from door to door asking for clothing. Daily occupations were abandoned. The wardrobes of the rich and the trunks of the poor were emptied, all pressing forward to give as much clothing as possible. Nor was this all: in every house nothing was to be seen but women and children occupied in making lint for the wounded. In a moment the Exchange presented the same appearance; on all sides exertion and activity. All were afraid to lose any time, declaring that for every moment that was lost, was one of the wounded drawing his last breath.

But after all the "la Mouche" had only confirmed the news, the principal details were still wanting. It was bound by its mission to Fort Royal. But the vessels arrived to-day from those scenes of desolation have taught us everything! We know now only too much.

The pen refuses to retrace the picture of this destruction of a City of which there remains not a house standing, not one! - and where the flames continue to rage. The few wooden houses which the scourge had spared are the prey of the flames, which have made us many and even more victims than the earthquake itself. The unfortunate people who found themselves buried in the ruins, not being able to disengage themselves from these mountains of ruins, on being attacked by the fire, saw every chance of escape vanish; young girls, old men, women, half buried between blocks of wall, besought succour which it was impossible to render, for the fire which advanced like a furious ocean finished by engulfing them (or swallowing them up). The violence of the fire

kept those at a distance whose courage and self devotion could have excited to brave everything, in order to snatch these unfortunates from so horrible a death.

Saturday evening the City was still but one immense furnace! But to finish this mournful recital: here is a letter written upon the ruins of la Pointe-à-Pitre to M. Bratin, a merchant of that city. It tells more than all language, than all the narratives possible.

"I have received your letter, and thank you for your remembrance: I am well. Everything is ruined or lost; all! all! This evening we are employing artillery to batter down the remainder of the walls, in order to save the labourers from their probable fall.

Since yesterday evening we have been unable to carry away any more of our dead bodies. There are too many of them.

Entirely yours,
Bertheelm"

11th February

This expression, are you not entirely overwhelmed in reading it. Since yesterday evening we have been obliged to give up carrying away our dead bodies, there are too many of them."

In fact after the last news they drew them in hundreds from the rubbish, and there were still whole streets which they did not dare to clear, so much did they dread to discover more of them.

Three things alone crown the ruins of this vast necropolis. The front of the ruined Church stands there still, with its dial which marks five and thirty minutes after ten, the hour in which the ruin of a city, the destruction of a population was consummated. The hour of eternity was about to strike, and in less time than was necessary for the hammer to rise and fall, the work of destruction was accomplished; the silence of death had succeeded to the tumultuous sounds of life. The poor and the rich, the bond and the free slept under the same stone, and the red reflection of the flames lighted the funeral of this annihilated people: whilst in the midst of this sad spectacle upon the pannel of a wall of one of the ruined houses there hung a picture preserved by a strange fatality, a picture representing the ruins of Babylon! Singular contrast! the traditions of the past, face to face, with the realities of the present! the picture of human destruction in the presence of divine destruction! and a little further off, isolated, looking down upon this scene of desolation, the picture of the King, alone, preserved by a miracle, appeared to promise protection and succour to those who have had the happiness to escape this calamity. Yes, Sir, you will come to the assistance of this population without an asylum, yesterday, rich, to-day, ruined; without either bread or

clothing. Sir, God has spared your image here, as he has spared your days here below, that you might bring relief to a miserable people, as you have found remedies for the troubles of the country; for God in his terrible justice has seen fit to leave you the noble mission of relieving so great a calamity, and your picture respected in the midst of this frightful catastrophe, seemed there to tell the miserable that they had not lost all, that they had still a father.

L.B.

(Extract from a letter to the Mayor of St. Pierre)

"Here the pen fails. Never, M. le Maire, can we convey to your mind an exact idea of the horrible destruction which has come in a moment to destroy this beautiful city. We can only tell you that there no longer remains one stone upon another, for all that this terrible scourge had spared, has been overturned, destroyed by another pestilence, fire. Beneath the ruins still smoking, beneath these heaps of stone darkened by the fire, stained with blood, a third of the population has been buried. Scarcely two hundred persons, wounded, mutilated, have they succeeded in snatching from death and sending to Basse Terre, and the surrounding country.

"Before our arrival, labourers were wanting, and however great was the activity employed by the courageous persons who had devoted themselves to the clearing, scarcely six hundred bodies had been drawn from the ruins. Many streets, and those the most populous, had not been searched. Those of "Martinique des libymes", and a great part of the wharves were just as the earthquake had left them. But thanks to the five hundred men from the men of war, which M. the Rear Admiral de Moges, has placed at the disposal of the municipality, they hoped to draw from the ruins numberless victims who were buried there.

"An order has been given to the artillery, to bring down the walls still standing; this measure which became necessary to secure the lives of the workmen, may give some idea of the terrible effects of the earthquake.

"The City of Pointe-à-Pitre, a few hours ago so rich, so beautiful, so full of life, is now only a heap of ruins. Those who by a miracle have succeeded in escaping from death, have fled from a place which no longer affords them an asylum. It is this desolation which led M. Maire to believe, that the assistance sent from hence sufficed for the moment, and that what is now most urgently required is lumber.

"Here then M. le Maire are the afflicting details of that which we have seen and heard. Never has a greater misfortune terrified our unhappy population. May they yet

find in the generous sympathy of the mother country, the same succour, the same encouragement which Fort Royal found a few years ago.

"We have the honour to be M. le Maire,
With the most profound respect, etc., etc.,

"N. Montes,
"P. Ruyz
"I. Beyssae."

The Barbadian
Saturday, Feby 25, 1843
ANTIGUA

Dated 14th February.

The "Clydesdale" despatched expressly from this island will bear the mournful tidings, if they have not already reached you, of the desolation with which our Island is filled from one end to the other by the awful earthquake which surprised us at 20 minutes before 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 8th inst. So impressed are all with the Mercy of God in sparing their lives, that none are heard to murmur under the pressure of their losses and the gloomy prospect that awaits them, but every tongue is ready to confess how much they owe to the Mercy of God that they were not destroyed. I have not heard of more than four children killed and four grown up persons. Had the calamity happened at night instead of day, thousands must have perished; whereas happening when it did and with a shock preceding the continuous ones, a way of escape was made for us. My Church which, as the Cathedral, we were about to improve within, and to elevate the tower thereof without, is now a pile of tottering ruins: the walls must for safety's sake be taken down, and the tower which we thought to elevate, we have begun to dismantle. St. Philip's Church is materially injured: St. Stephen's Chapel flat on the ground; so the newly built chapel school of St. Bartholomew at the entrance of St. Philip's parish. Falmouth church flat on the ground: All Saints has its roof fallen in and its walls standing, naked and rent; the new Church at Parkham, injured in the East part: St. Mark's Chapel of ease in Mr. Hall's parish flat on the ground: the newly built wings of St. James's down, but the original church quite sound.

My life has been marvellously spared, and yet not mine only, but the lives of us all: but I must tell you about myself, how I was spared. I was in my Church when the earthquake came, and should have been at the Communion Table solemnising a marriage, had the bride been there. Not having come, I was waiting in my vestry Room, whence the way of escape was short enough to allow me to get out at the North door, before the massive pile of stones and bricks fell down. Had I been at the Communion Table, I should either have been crushed by the falling down of the altar piece and the upper part of the East Wall, or have been overwhelmed by the ruins that fell in at the north entrance just after I fled out of it. The whole of the roof - 130 feet long - was set in agitation and shook out of the wall, which, as soon as it was disengaged from the beams fell out en masse. When I got into the street and actually bounded along on the quaking earth, I beheld with overwhelming dismay the whole church trembling at the force of the earthquake (just as I have seen a strong man shaking from an ague or fit, (if I may so compare it) and then falling out piece meal. Families whom you knew

surrounded with every comfort, are now in deep distress and difficulty: furniture and houses all lost. But I must close my hasty recital.

The Barbadian
Tuesday, Feby 28, 1843.

We have this day received the St. Lucia "Palladium" of the 23rd instant from which we extract a few more particulars of the late destructive earthquake at Guadeloupe:-

Point-à-Pitre (in ruins) 9th Feby.

"Governor - A dreadful earthquake has just plunged in consternation the Colony of Guadeloupe. I write you in the midst of the ruins of Point-à-Pitre, which exists no more. If you are more fortunate than we, send us food, especially biscuits, for we have no ovens, all are destroyed. I write you in the midst of 15,000 inhabitants deprived of an asylum and of bread. Make haste: the hungered have not time to wait.

Your

Gourbeyre, Rear-Admiral

We fear the agitation of the earth in these colonies is not over. At one o'clock this morning several persons felt a shock of earthquake; the greater part of the inhabitants being in profound sleep, it is probable that very few persons experienced the motion.

It has been said that the earthquake was not felt at St. Thomas's. The St. Lucia "Palladium" however contains the following paragraph from the St. Thomas Times of the 8th instant:

"The earthquake which took place this morning was from N.E. and the vibrations were felt without intermission for the space of nearly two minutes. The thermometer then indicated 78, which immediately rose to 80, (to be observed) and continued so up to 3 o'clock, our going to press.

NEVIS

(Extract from a letter, dated Nevis, 9th Feby, 1843)

"Yesterday was the anniversary of the dreadful earthquakes which we were visited in the year 1833, just ten years before; and upon that anniversary at half past ten in the morning we had a shock that it is impossible for me faithfully to describe. It was preceded by the usual low rumbling noise like distant thunder. The earth then commenced a tremulous motion which continued for half a minute. This was succeeded by a dreadful heaving and shaking, which I am told lasted full a minute and a half. I was upstairs at the commencement, and instantly ran down, calling out to my mother and sister to follow me into the yard. Scarcely had I left the house, when the violent motion I have mentioned came on, and the sensation was as if a vast wave was moving violently beneath my feet. At this time the scene beggared description. Houses cracking and shaking as if ready to be precipitated from their foundation; stone buildings falling and crushing in every description, people running to and fro, overwhelmed with terror and consternation, and shrieking in the most appalling manner. For myself, I stood up in the centre of the yard, expecting every moment when the ground would open and Charlestown be swallowed up, and its inhabitants ushered into eternity. Thank Heaven it passed; and tho' Charlestown is almost in ruins, it stands and not a life has been lost, and scarcely any personal accident of any kind has happened to any one.

"Our Court House is nearly level with the ground: the Secretary's Office quite gone, and the Marshal's split and cracked in every direction. The Church is partially injured, the Vestry Room quite down. Mrs. Frederick Huggins stone building, and one put up about 8 years ago by Mr. Lennington, are both so much damaged as to render it unsafe to inhabit them. Penny Abbot's large building, which you may remember, presents an awful aspect; the stone part next the street fell in and nothing of it remains but the wooden pillars which support the flooring. Poor Mrs. Cassin's too, will never be fit to be inhabited, almost every apartment is split from top to bottom. She had lately fitted up the two rooms to the north in a very nice manner, and must have expended at least £300 sterling. The Bath house yet stands, but it is cracked in several places, and it cannot survive another shock. There is scarcely an estate in the island upon which the works have not been completely destroyed; and with respect to town, Lawrence Nicholson's house, beneath which stands his stores and the Bank, is the only one that has not been injured.

"My house, which is as you know, a wooden one has sustained no damage; but all the wall of the servants rooms which forms one entire side of them is down, also the greatest part of the kitchen (very lately put up) and the wall which divides the premises from Lennington's (formerly the Smiths').

"St. Kitts, I hear, felt the shock as severely as we did, and the damage has been more considerable; one or two lives have been lost there.

"Such is an imperfect sketch of the calamity of yesterday. The undulation appeared to me to come in a north easterly direction; and I have no doubt a sad tale is to be told of Antigua and Montserrat, and perhaps of islands even further to the southward than the latter.

"You have felt it, though perhaps but slightly - was on an eminence at the prospect when the shock commenced, and he told me that the scene appeared more ideal than real. He stated that he saw the island with its huge mountain waving to and fro before him, just like a moving panorama. Several rents which appear in the mountain he observed when they gave way, and then, to a considerable extent, the mountain itself seemed enveloped in smoke. We had two slight shocks in the early part of last night, but the earth is at present quite still. As you may readily imagine, people's minds are in a sad state of fear and apprehension. It is upon such occasions, more than any other, that man feels and acknowledges the almighty power of the great author of nature and father of all, and in deep, unfeigned humility of soul, is made conscious of his own utter insignificance and helplessness. O! that they may properly operate upon and influence the heart of all."

St. Martin's - Estates all ruined, and stone houses all thrown down - no lives lost.

St. Barts - All the stone houses split - many must be pulled down. No lives lost. For about half a mile in the town, along the streets, there is an opening in the ground of about 10 inches wide.

St. Eustatia - Estates all severely injured; and crops will consequently be lost.

Dominica - Effects of the earthquake! - In fulfilling our promise of last week! We proceed to-day to lay before our readers (as far as our space will permit us) a sketch of the effect of the late earthquake upon the various Estates to the northward of Roseau, which has reached us from a highly respectable source, and which may be relied on as being substantially correct.

We commence then by stating that the dwelling house of the York Valley Estate has been rendered uninhabitable: the works however have been but slightly shaken. The estimated amount of damage done to this place is about 100L.

No serious injury has been done to the other Estates in the Layou Valley, nor to any other on the leeward coast as far on as to Prince Ruperts. ('Portsmouth' by JBS in pencil).

Picard - at this place the sugar works have been shaken to their foundation; and the chimneys rendered quite unsafe. These will have to be rebuilt as soon as the present crop is taken off. Probable cost for rebuilding 250L.

Sugar Loaf - The chimneys of the sugar works and distilleries together with the walls of a blacksmith's shop, stables, pens, stock houses, etc., have been thrown to the

ground - a mass of ruins! and the boiling house so shaken that part has already been taken down. It must be rebuilt after the crop. Probable cost 1050L.

Londonderry - The whole of the sugar works, curing houses, distilleries, store rooms, with chimneys, boilers, etc., have been levelled to the ground. There is not a stone building on this property which has not either been totally or partially destroyed - Probable cost £2,000.

Melville Hall - The walls of the curing houses, dwelling house, and distilleries, in fact every stone building on this Estate are almost in every part down. Those of the boiling and Mill houses shaken. The Sugar boilers sunk in their seats, and the chimneys entirely destroyed, the canal split to the length of four hundred yards. The land of both these valleys has sunk inward from the N and the S. falling five inches and the river thrown out of its accustomed bed to the south about 20 feet - one child killed. Probable cost £1,550.

Castle Bruce - The chimnies of the boiling and still houses were both thrown down, the former fell upon the roof and in part crushed it in - part of the east end of the curing house wall is thrown down, the north wall of the little house is split literally from top to bottom, the walls are otherwise much injured and must be taken down in part and rebuilt after crop is gathered in. The mill house is rent and much shaken and must also in part be rebuilt. Probable cost £450.

The state of Hutton Garden estate is portrayed in the following extract of a letter in the Colonist:-

"Our works were in full play, making sugar, when the earthquake commenced, in a few seconds I observed part of the wall of the mill house falling and the roof (of slate) with it - at the same time the chimney of the boiling house, part of the wall of the still house, and curing house, were tumbling in, and clouds of dust then arose as if the whole of the buildings were demolished. Fortunately, the roofs of the boiling, curing, and still houses remain up. The back part of the wall of the boiling house is so rent and shattered, that it must be taken down by degrees and rebuilt: I may say the same of a great part of the curing and still houses, it being unsafe for any person to remain in them. I am glad to say the horse stable, though in mason work, has not suffered; my house, fortunately, is built of wood, but rests on a breast wall, which has given way in several places; my kitchen walls partly thrown down - I observed the earth is cracked within six feet of my house, and ready to slide away, so violent was the shock of the earthquake, that the trash was thrown from off several of our negro houses.

Eden - Chimney and boiling houses down and wall partly injured, thanks to God no lives lost here - Dominican, February 15.

The Late Dreadful Earthquake Immense Destruction of Property

ANTIGUA

(Extract of a letter from an Officer at Antigua,
dated the 9th instant.)

I was proceeding from the Ridge barracks on Wednesday morning, on board the Dee, when this island was visited by one of the most dreadful earthquakes ever known here. I do not know whether you have ever seen Antigua, if not, I must tell you that the principal barracks, viz, the Ridge, is situated immediately above English Harbor. The Harbour is itself a beautiful basin with a very narrow entrance, and a most perfect little model of a dockyard. The Dee is moored close to the Coal Wharf, and in order to go to the barracks, it is necessary to cross the basin in a small boat. Having now described the situation of the Dee, I will give you a slight description of my sensation during the earthquake, and the extent of the injury done as far as has yet been ascertained. At about five and twenty minutes before eleven, on the morning of the 8th instant, . . . , of the 47th, 92nd, and myself, were rowing from the wharf to the steamer, when we suddenly heard a rumbling noise, which appeared to me as if the steam was being let off from a steamer; but on looking around us, we were soon undeceived, for we then saw all the men who were employed in coaling, about 50 in number, rushing towards the side of the vessel, and, at the same time, the buildings falling in all directions, and immense rocks and stones projected down the sides of the mountains. The whole occupied about the space of a minute and a half. To say that we felt frightened during this time would not be in doing justice to our feeling, we were perfectly paralyzed; and I defy any one to feel otherwise on such an occasion - one's situation is utterly helpless, being surrounded with falling mountains, rocks, trees, and houses. On first feeling the shock we had dropped our oars, and lay in the middle of the basin, which luckily was the safest place. When we had sufficiently recovered to look around, the sight which presented itself was most awful - the little dockyard, which we had so much admired for its regularity and neatness, was, in the space of a minute and a half reduced to ruins - the coping stone round the wharfs had in many places broken away and the wharfs themselves, which are principally made ground, had cracked and fallen in, the edges presenting an undulating appearance like the waves of the sea. At the time of the shock the sea rose full four feet, but sunk immediately, remaining calm the whole time. On further enquiry we found that the barracks on the ridge were in ruins, as also Dow's Hill, the country house of the Governor. About an hour afterwards, I hired a horse and rode to St. John's, which is the principal town, about ten miles distant from English Harbour. The road presented a most desolate appearance, every stone building being demolished. Two churches were entirely level with the ground, and the mills and works on the estates completely destroyed. On reaching St. John's, nothing could equal the scene. No town after having

been shelled and sacked could have borne a more ruinous aspect. The Cathedral was entirely destroyed, together with every stone building in the town. Thousands of broken bottles were lying in every direction, and all the property that had escaped being demolished was exposed to view by the falling of the outer walls of the building. At every corner were collected knots of people with misery depicted on their countenance, scarcely knowing what to do, and every moment expecting a repetition of the shock. Well may the man of Antigua look miserable for there is scarcely one who is not ruined by this earthquake. On Tuesday all were rejoicing, as they had every prospect of a better crop than they had known for many years, and in one minute they found themselves reduced to poverty; for, independently of the immense loss in buildings, they were just upon the point of taking off the crops, and now the works are so completely destroyed that they will be all lost. From what is already known, two millions of money is said to be too little to cover the loss. Luckily few lives have been lost; I have only heard of six up to the present moment, though many have been seriously wounded. Thankful must we all be that it did not happen during the night, otherwise many thousand lives must have been lost, . . . 's quarters, at St. John's were completely destroyed, and all his things smashed to atoms.

I remained at St. John's during the rest of the afternoon and night. We experienced two other slight shocks, viz, at ten minutes to four o'clock in the afternoon, and again at twenty minutes to eleven at night, but they were not strong enough to do any more damage. A number of special constables were sworn in, who, together with the detachment 47th regiment, patrolled the town during the whole night, to prevent any plunder, which they did effectually.

I fear that this is not the only island which has suffered. Montserrat was said to have been seen enveloped in a cloud of dust, and most of these islands have some connecting chain one with another. God grant St. Vincent has escaped.

We are rather short of water, as the magnificent tank in the dockyard was burst by the earthquake. I fear that the dockyard is not repairable.

The Barbadian
Saturday, March 4, 1843
(Antigua, Feby 20, 1843)

Exaggerated accounts of the effects which followed in the wake of the earthquake have doubtless gone abroad; but such is the wreck and destruction it has occasioned, that it is not at all necessary to draw on the imagination for facts to attempt any colouring to heighten the effect of the scene. I shall therefore confine myself to circumstances which fell under my own observation and for the accuracy of which I can vouch; and my narrative shall be as brief as may be deemed consistent with perspicuity.

The morning of Wednesday the 8th instant was ushered in by no phenomenon of a remarkable or essentric description. It was indeed excessively close and sultry; and the heat assimilated itself strongly to that which we are warranted in expecting in these climates at a more advanced stage of the year. Still the temperature of the atmosphere on this particular morning partook largely of the character of those which had preceded it for the previous fortnight. The sky (as is the case of the earthquake by which Lisbon was overthrown in the middle of the last century) was serene and cloudless: the winds were light and variable: the millvanes revolved lazily on their axis, as though they sympathized in the oppressive effects of the heat on the animate creation; and all whose occupations did not imperatively demand exposure to the unmitigated fierce rays of a tropical sun, might well have felicitated themselves on their enviable good fortune. Such were the main features that characterized the morning which smiled on this little island with its cheerful population and its promising crop. But ere the sun had attained his meridian height, we were destined to experience a convulsion of nature unparalleled in the history of this Colony.

It was within 20 minutes of 11 in the forenoon when I was preparing to go forth in order to effect some pastoral visits in my district, as is my general practice in the middle of the week, and when the sun is nearly vertical. I was in my study thus occupied when an earthquake (from the S.E. as nearly as I could judge) surprised me. Slight shocks as you are aware are by no means infrequent in this section of our Archipelago, and I presumed that this would also pass off as so many have hitherto done without leaving any memorial. I therefore suffered some seconds to elapse without taking any decisive measures for my personal safety. But I was soon to be undeceived, for I perceived that the oscillation of the earth was evidently on the increase, and I now saw no alternative but to escape into the open space in front of the house. I could only succeed however in reaching the door of the apartment. Here unable to preserve my footing, I clung for support to the door post and on turning my eyes to the spot I had just quitted, I saw it occupied by a large old fashioned eight day clock which had been thrown down with considerable violence, together with some large fragments of thick

plastering from the adjoining partition wall. Meanwhile the motion of the earth had considerably increased. Various articles of furniture and books were thrown down or hurried from one part of the study to the other: nothing remained stationary; while the ear was saluted by the most discordant, terrific, nondescript sounds arising from a rumbling subterraneous noise, combined with the howling of terrified cattle, the unspacing breakage of glass and china, the collision of pieces of furniture, the crash of falling walls, the cracking of the timber framework of the house, and the rolling of detached fragments of rocks down the declivities of the hills. These sounds all continued to increase in proportion to the violence of the earthquake, which attained its apex, as it were, and then ceased in a more summary manner than I had ever experienced, when we verily gave up all for lost. Struck with the danger of the place I had been occupying, and apprehensive lest there should be an immediate recurrence of the earthquake, I lost not a moment in escaping to what, humanly speaking, appeared to be a more secure place. And what a spectacle presented itself before me! The whole extent of country, as far as the eye could reach, was enveloped and obscured by a low dense cloud, which thickened and enlarged in its volume as it progressed and received fresh accessions. This cloud was composed of vast quantities of pulverized mortar from ruined buildings, and dust from fallen cliffs on the windward coast mingled with smoke from the fires partially quenched by the ruins of chimnies and arches of boiling houses. When this cloud had moved majestically down the country, I was enabled to judge of the extent of the devastation which reigned around us. Casting my eyes to windward, in the place of the little village of Willoughby Bay, with its recently erected spacious Wesleyan Chapel, I beheld a mass of ruins relieved here and there by a wooden house which had not suffered. Looking upwards I could see but a small portion of the Tower of St. Philip's Church which had hitherto formed a prominent object in the landscape. (The body of the edifice which is never visible from this quarter, I have subsequently visited and fear that it is irreparably damaged, while I am happy to add that the East window stands uninjured.) The spot where Freyes Mill stood was marked by an unsightly mass of ruins. The major part of the mill on Lyons's lower work thrown down. Little Duers works a heap of undistinguishable ruins, and Delap's Mill, etc., in a miserable plight. As to the other plantations in view, the greater portion of their buildings were injured or demolished, and in most cases where the walls still remain standing, large fissures were discernable at the distance of some miles. All this while the sea was labouring under the most unwonted commotion - the waters appeared to be bubbling up; and the sand mingled with froth imparted to the waters within the more shallow parts of the bay a singular milk-white appearance, when contrasted with the heavy laden hue of the waters beyond the reef.

On recovering from my consternation, I now mounted my horse and soon reached Dow's Hill, as I was anxious as to the safety of the Governor and his family. And here I was happy to meet with Sir Charles and the Lady Mary Fitzroy in safety

under a tree in front of the house. On inspecting the mansion I found that the walls were sadly rent, and was concerned to see that His Excellency had sustained a heavy loss in the destruction of his valuable furniture. I now proceed in the direction of All Saints, taking three of the Estates in the district in my way. Nor was I surprised at finding that chapel in ruins; the children had but just escaped from the part appropriated to a Daily School when the walls and the roof fell in. Keeping my way to Old Road I found that the stone foundations of the Rectory (a wooden structure) were seriously damaged. The walls of St. Mary's Church seemed to be much cracked but were still standing. Captain Williams's house and furniture were much damaged, and the works on both estates in this section of country were for the most part entirely demolished. In the neighbourhood of Fig Tree Hill were large fissures in the earth from some of which copious streams of water had been emitted during the earthquake. During this night there were two smart shocks which tended much to alarm us all, and on the following evening after interring the remains of a poor fellow who had been killed by the fall of a mill, I held solemn assemblies on two of the estates within my cure. On Friday I visited St. John's Town. Here I inspected St. John's Church and it is most certainly in a very deplorable state. The walls were not absolutely level with the ground desperately cracked - many of the chaste marble monuments shivered in pieces. The altar piece broken up and defaced by fragments of the wall which had fallen upon it. The organ dismantled and the tower standing indeed, but irretrievably cracked and threatening to bury the small houses to the west in its ruins. I rejoice to add that the noble roof of the edifice is still standing, supported by detached portions of wall together with the pillars in the aisles; and that the marble pavement is still preserved.

Doubtless great effort will be made for the rescue of three portions of an edifice which has for upwards of 140 years (if my memory serve me aright) been an ornament to the island, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Legislature at their special meeting voted £500 cry. for this purpose a large sum when the impoverished state of the country is taken into consideration. St. Paul's Church and St. Stephen's Chapel of Ease are level with the ground, as well as a chapel school which had been nearly completed in St. George's parish. The other Churches and Chapels have suffered much with the exception of St. Peter's old church, a wooden structure, but I have not had it in my power to ascertain the exact amount of the damage each has sustained. The walls of the yet unfinished new church near Parham have not escaped without their share of injury.

Most of the stone built dwelling houses are sadly dilapidated if not totally overthrown; and many highly respectable parties are literally without a roof to shelter them. The house from which this communication is dated, has been all but entirely demolished. The foundations have for the most part given way, and it will be rendered expedient to pull down every portion of wall left standing. There are only three rooms now habitable, the out offices are all flat, and much of our furniture has been destroyed. Truly may we assert that in the present instance, "God hath dealt very graciously with his

people" for in this visitation "mercy hath rejoiced against judgment," and the loss of human life has not borne any proportion to the destruction of property. I have not heard of more than five victims in a population approximating to 37,000; and of these, three were children who were buried in the ruins of a Moravian School room in my district. Had the angel of wrath swept over our land with the bosom of destruction at a corresponding hour of the night, when more than nine tenths of our population should have been enjoying their earliest and soundest sleep - had the calamity overtaken us on Sunday forenoon - or had our roofs been covered with heavy tiles instead of wooden shingles, I shudder at contemplating the inevitable sacrifice of human life - the living should not have sufficed to bury the dead. One of the most gloomy features in the present state of things is the lamentable destitution in regard to religious edifices. I trust that the mother country, and our religious societies at home will now come cheerfully forward and lend us a helping hand in this our urgent necessity.

As one might naturally expect, the congregations throughout the colony have been larger during this visitation than they previously were in ordinary. Mine which had in general been overflowing prior to the overthrow of our little Chapel, has received no small reinforcement from those who had hitherto been guilty of habitual absenteeism from the Sanctuary, and who took refuge in the inadequacy of our late church accommodation.

At the morning service of the fast day, and on the two Sabbaths since the infliction of the calamity, we could hardly have numbered less than fourteen hundred Souls. This augurs well for the wakening effect it has produced.

The Barbadian
Saturday, March 4, 1843
NEVIS

On Wednesday the 8th, at half past ten a.m., the inhabitants of this island were called to witness one of the severest earthquakes to which either the memory of the aged, or the past history of the island bears testimony.

Extensively destructive in its consequences, it has impressed in its tumultuous course, marks upon the geographical features of the country, that will be monuments for posterity to gaze at; and which the wear and waste of ages, or confusion of matter alone can obliterate: while the feeble structures of art reared by the finite hand of man with presumptuous claims to strength, and durability, crumbled upon the bosom of their mother earth, in obedience to inexorable demands of gravity. On the dawn of this long to be remembered day, no threatening indication of struggling elements was observable, the whole face of nature seemed to share in one general smile at the benefits which Providence day by day had conferred. The first perception of motion was not preceded by those rumbling presages of sound, which are the terrific harbingers of earthquakes of a volcanic origin, but a gentle undulatory swing which lasted about 30 seconds accompanied by a cracking noise sufficient to indicate the character of the phenomenon: then suddenly advancing to violent motion with longitudinal waves from East to West, succeeded by an equally increased and deafening noise for an additional time of two minutes. In this sad short space of Time the Court House, the ornament of our town, including the Secretary's Office was destroyed, the East and Western ends of the Jail were thrown down, and nearly every stone building of value has been so rent and injured as to require extensive repairs and in some instances to be taken down altogether. In the rural districts the Parishes of Windward and Gingerland, appeared to be the theatre of the most violent action: in the former Parish, on the estates of the Hon. J.W. Maynard two continuous sets of works comprising two windmills, Dwelling Houses, Boiling Houses, and a numerous suite of out buildings, shared in one common overthrow, while the neighbouring estates north and south upon narrow lines appeared to suffer partially: then extending beyond these again in both directions, several plantation buildings have been thrown down, of these Hack's, and Potworks in Windward, Dunbars, and Zetlands, and the two Sugar works of the Hon. Jas. Hanley, may be considered as totally ruined, - there is hardly a single locality throughout the island, that has not suffered more or less - not five chimneys out of twenty - that have escaped. The Churches in Windward Gingerland are so rent and fractured as require them to be rebuilt: the Wesleyan Chapel in the latter place has been nearly overthrown. In the central line which proceeds from Charlestown across the mountain, large slips of earth have taken place, sweeping in their course trees and massive fragments down the steep slopes, leaving exposed the hard

granite - fissures were observed in the neighbourhood of Charlestown while from high situations were seen the agitated waters of the sea for an extent of two miles from the coast heaving up the slumbering deposits which had submerged beneath the waves for years, and which mixed with the briny foam, seemed to be the outlines of one vast grave into which the country was fast settling. This earthquake has been succeeded by some others, barely perceptible; but reverting to the circumstances, the marvel is, of man and beast neither life or limb has suffered in the slightest degree: a constant, superintending, Almighty God alone, held his affrighted creatures safe in the hollow of his Hand. - Communicated.

