

BLOW IN JAMAICA

Things That Happen When a Big Storm Breaks Loose There.

A WEST INDIAN HURRICANE.

It Will Leap Out of a Clear Sky and Swoop Almost Everything in Its Path—Then Comes a Torrential Downpour That Ends in a Flood.

"Have you ever been through a West Indian hurricane?" said a man who has lived in the tropics on and off for a number of years. "Do you want to know what the experience is like?"

"A hurricane will leap out of a clear sky, swoop down on a city, blow everything in its path flat and pass on. Then follows the tail of the hurricane, a steady breeze blowing in the same direction, but at a much lower velocity. This is likely to continue for many hours, sometimes for many days, and is always accompanied by a torrential downpour of rain.

"I was in Kingston, Jamaica, at the time of the hurricane of 1903. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon I was in my office on the top floor of a rickety wooden building. As suddenly as a clap of thunder the room went dark. I had a pretty good idea of what was about to happen and, going to the window, looked out across the roofs. A black cloud had whirled up out of the southwest, obscuring the sun, but the mountains back of the city were still golden with light.

"In less than a quarter of an hour the wind reached us. The first structure that went was a wooden watchtower about 200 feet high that had been used in the old days to locate ships approaching the harbor. It had withstood all previous hurricanes, but this time it went down like a house of cards. Spars of lumber from that tower were carried as far as twenty blocks before they came to the ground.

"Then the spire of the church went, the roofs of a good many residences were torn off, and some fine palm trees in the public gardens snapped off about halfway from the ground. Buildings in Kingston, however, are calculated to stand a pretty severe blow. They are built only a few stories high, and the roofs present a broad and comparatively flat surface to the wind. Considering the velocity at which that hurricane was traveling, the damage was not great. Even my crazy office building withstood it. But the tail of the thing followed, with a heavier rain than I have ever seen before or since. To say that it came down in buckets would be mild. It was as if the clerk of the weather had taken the plug out of some huge vat suspended above our heads and allowed the water to plump straight down on us.

"In three hours the macadam on the streets had been washed into the harbor. The street outside my window was a rushing river as much as four feet deep in places. I saw a cart try to cross it, but with the water above the axle of the wheel and the horse's legs being washed away from under it was an impossible task, and the driver turned back. Big casks and packing cases were dancing on the surface like corks.

"As you can imagine, I did not get home to supper that evening. It was 8 o'clock before the rain stopped and the water in the streets had drained into the harbor. Even then traffic had not begun to reorganize itself.

"The trolley car tracks had been washed out, and no cars were running. Cabs, however, were doing a roaring business, and eventually I got a cabman to drive me home for three times his customary charge.

"The damage to property in Kingston amounted up to hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the real destruction was wrought in the country districts. Floods wiped out many a negro village and sent the flimsy houses floating down the rivers. The railroads were tied up for nearly a week. Every banana tree in the path of the hurricane was uprooted. Oh, yes, a West Indian hurricane can do a lot of damage when it gets busy.

"Loss of life, did you say? Of course there was. Nearly 200 people were killed throughout the island on that occasion, but we grow accustomed to that in the West Indies. We expect a hurricane every once in awhile, and we know that it will take its toll of human life when it comes. If you had been telling the story you would probably have mentioned that first of all, but sudden death is so common below the tropic of Cancer that we get callous, I suppose."—New York Sun.

Albion and Columbia. "Albion, the Gem of the Ocean," was written and composed by Jesse Hammond, an English government dock official, about 1820 and was heard above all others in the theaters, music halls and on London streets. It is apparent that "gem of the ocean" fits an island more aptly than our large tract of continent, and "borne by the red and the blue" (the red of the British army and blue of the navy) is more logical than the meaningless line "borne by the red, white and blue." The lines of the English songs are almost word for word identical with our version, "The Red, White and Blue."—Exchange.

A Manly Woman. "Why do you say she is a manly woman?" asked Jinks. "She always gets off a car properly," said Minks.—Buffalo Express.

Tomorrow is not elastic enough in which to press the neglected duties of today.

THE SKIPPER'S WHITE LIE.

What Happened at Night and What the Passenger Was Told.

It was a dirty night, to use a sailor's phrase, and the talk in one corner of the stinking room drifted to events at sea and the childlike faith that passengers repose in navigators.

Said the scientist who had been collecting specimens on a coral reef, "I've often heard men and women say they felt so safe with Captain So-and-so, and I've wondered, too, whether their sense of security would still be retained if these favored travelers knew exactly what happened on ship-board during a voyage. For my own part, I have more confidence than ever in a captain of my acquaintance since I learned that he could tell a white lie when it was necessary to calm the fears of a nervous traveler. It so happened that one foggy night I was awakened by the sudden stoppage and reversal of the engines. I jumped on top of my bunk, went on deck and was told by the second officer that we had had a narrow squeeze. It appeared that we had nearly run down a schooner as she silently crossed our bows and disappeared into the haze.

"Next morning a woman passenger who sat at the captain's table asked him whether the engines had been stopped and reversed, and he replied, 'Yes; we sometimes do this to test the engineer's watch and see if our machinery is in proper order. We do it at night so as to create no excitement. Then he got the woman to describe what she had heard and asked her: 'Did you find much time between the stopping and reversing?'"

"No," she replied. "Then," said the skipper, "that showed how well everything was working, did it not?"

"When I got the skipper's ear I told him confidentially that I didn't think the schooner's engines had worked as well as ours, and he remarked that it might have been worse. Whether he meant the lie or the incident I didn't inquire, but I suspect it wasn't the lie."—New York Post.

LAW OF GRAVITY VIOLATED.

Conditions Under Which Water Actually Flows Upward.

"Water seeks its level" is an expression heard so frequently as to be almost trite, and yet the law has its exceptions. There are conditions under which water actually flows upward and rises above its source. If a glass tube be dipped into water the column inside will be above the level of the surrounding surface. Moreover, if a tube of half the diameter be substituted the column doubles its height. The water creeps along the inside of the tube, owing to the adhesion, and forms a cup shaped depression at the top.

An explanation is not difficult. It can be proved mathematically that if the diameter of a circle be diminished one-half the circumference is also reduced to that extent, while the area is one-fourth of its former value. The circumference of the column of water being reduced one-half, its contact with the glass, and hence the adhesive force, is also diminished to that extent, while the cross section, and hence the weight, is decreased to a fourth of what it was before. Therefore the second column can be twice the height of the first without exceeding the lifting power.

Remarkable as the underlying principles of this phenomenon undoubtedly are, nature made use of them long before man made their discovery. Every tree and flower adds its testimony. The core of a tree or plant, instead of being a single open channel, consists of a spongelike substance containing many miniature tunnels, through which the sap and moisture collected by the roots flow upward in small rivulets, rising higher and higher in sheer defiance of the great law of gravity.—St. Louis Republic.

Sense of Danger. Dr. Waldo of London holds that people should develop a sixth sense to inform them of the approach of danger in the streets. Lafcadio Hearn once said: "While in a crowd I seldom look at faces. My intuition is almost infallible, like that blind faculty by which in absolute darkness one becomes aware of the proximity of bulky objects without touching them. If I hesitate to obey it a collision is the inevitable consequence. What pilots one quickly and safely through a thick press is not conscious observation at all, but unreasoning intuitive perception."

A Sight Worth Paying For. The cab, drawn by a weary looking horse, came to a standstill opposite a public house. As the driver was preparing to descend a small boy ran up with, "Old yer 'orse, guv'nor?" "Old my 'orse? Look 'ere, my lad, Ah'll give yer a bob if it runs away."—Manchester Guardian.

His Contribution. "Have you ever done anything for the good of the community?" asked the solid citizen. "Yes," replied the weary wayfarer: "I've just done thirty days."—Philadelphia Record.

The Very Latest. "Nice car." "Yes." "Is it the latest thing in cars?" "I guess so. It has never got me anywhere on time yet."—Houston Post.

Hamlin's Soliloquy. Hamlin (standing before the tattooed man in the museum)—Heavens, how that fellow must suffer if he ever gets the jimjams!—Smart Set.

SPECULATING ON MARGIN.

American and English Ways of Doing It Are Very Different.

In America a speculator's capital (with an exception to be noted below) is necessarily at least the size of his margin in his broker's hands, though it is to be feared that in only too many instances it is just this and nothing more.

"On the London Stock Exchange another method prevails which, says Moody's Magazine, it is probable has done more in the long ago past to give stock speculation its bad name than all the episodes of an unsavory nature which have ever occurred on American exchanges. In London after the inevitable introduction to a broker the new customer gives his order, but makes no deposit at all.

The broker is supposed to learn something of his new client's means and how far he should be allowed to commit himself. Twice a month the English have what they call their settlement days. A customer long of a stock whose commitment has gone somewhat against him is then required to pay the difference, as they are called, between his purchase price and the current quotation.

He must also pay a charge called a contango for holding the settlement over into the next fortnightly period if he does not wish to close the commitment. As a consequence of this way of doing business a speculator may be trading on a few points margin in reality or, in fact, on no margin at all. He may be utterly penniless without the broker knowing it.

That this method works out with fewer losses in England than it would do here is due to the fact that the social and economic strata to which an Englishman belongs are much easier to determine than the corresponding facts among us, and also that an introduction means more there than here, as the introducer is regarded as to a certain extent responsible morally for the business department of his friend.

It is worth while observing (and this is the exception referred to above) that in certain instances the methods pursued in American stock exchange houses are the same as those obtaining in London. Little as the fact is known, it is not an infrequent custom for very wealthy speculators to have no fixed margin or even no margin at all with their brokers.

If a man of this sort loses on a commitment he sends his broker a check for the loss. If he wins his brokers remit to him for his gains. The broker dislikes to offend a very powerful client by troubling him for funds, and hence takes risks with his account which he would not dream of taking with the account of smaller men. Instances of this sort sometimes become public in cases where the broker is forced into bankruptcy, whether owing to this cause or not.

Could Do For Herself. She was a very delightful but a very aged lady—over ninety—and her friends and relatives and even chance acquaintances, drawn by her exquisite personality, all did her homage and, as the saying is, "waited on her hand and foot."

She accepted it all very graciously, but with some inward rebellion, for to a very old and close mouthed friend she once said, with a quaint pucker of lips and brows: "I am reminded sometimes of the old lines: 'Two were blown' at her nose, and three were bucklin' at her shoon.'"—Youth's Companion.

A Word For the Tightwad. In France they have an expressive phrase, "liquid money." It means that part of the family income which is used for the necessities and luxuries of life. It is quite apart from and kept apart from the more serious, substantial part of the income, which is the saved part. In America the entire income is "liquid, and the man who attempts to make part of it solid is called a "tightwad." A "tightwad" is really a man who creates a principal—a capital, in other words—and he is the living example of what every private business must be and of how the country's resources should be handled.—Argonaut.

Voting in Spain. Voting in Spain is held to be a duty to the community, not merely a privilege of the individual, and neglect of civic obligations carries its own penalty. Male adults of legal age and under seventy, with the exception of priests, notaries and judges, are required to vote in municipal elections. Failure to cast a ballot is punishable by having one's name published as censure for neglect, by having taxes increased 2 per cent, by suffering a deduction of 1 per cent in salary if employed in the public service and for the second offense the loss of right to hold elective or appointive office.

His Landscapes. A nouveau riche recently attended a picture sale. A friend who had noticed him at the sale asked afterward, "Did you pick up anything at that picture sale, Jorkins?" and the other responded: "Oh, yes; a couple of landscapes. One of 'em was a basket of fruit and the other a storm at sea."

Neither the Other. "Don't you know that tune? I forget the name of it, but it goes like this." And he whistled it. After he had finished his friend turned to him with a sigh. "I wish to goodness you had remembered the name and not the tune," he said.—Lippincott's.

Exactness in little duties is a wonderful source of cheerfulness.—Fabre.

EYES AND TEETH. You spend from \$5.00 to \$20.00 per year on your teeth and think nothing of it. Which would you prefer to loose: YOUR EYES or YOUR TEETH? Your eyes can be looked after from \$1.00 to about \$8.00, and this will be the total expense for about 3 to 5 years, and often a great deal longer. Remember you can get NEW TEETH, but not NEW EYES. What VALUE do you place on YOUR EYES? What per cent of insurance would you pay to keep them as good as at present? Make yourself a 'Xmas. present of a pair of glasses? All work guaranteed to be satisfactory in every respect. Dr. Henry E. Morris.

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