

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed September 19, 1928

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HAMILTON'S HURRICANE

A certain storm of the year 1743 is known to meteorologists as "Franklin's Storm", because Benjamin Franklin wrote an account of it in which he partly anticipated our present knowledge of the rotary circulation of the winds around storm centers. With equal propriety the name "Hamilton's Hurricane" might be applied to a West India hurricane of the year 1772. Alexander Hamilton, then a boy, was living at the time in the Danish West Indies. He wrote a description of the hurricane, which attracted such favorable attention that his friends and relatives provided funds for sending him to the northern colonies to be educated.

This storm swept over the West Indies in the latter days of August and the first days of September, causing frightful havoc among the Leeward Islands. At Dominica 18 vessels were driven ashore and lost. At Montserrat and Nevis nearly every house was blown down, as were great numbers of houses elsewhere. At Santa Cruz the sea rose 72 feet above its normal level, carrying every ship at the island on shore. The total damage in the Danish West Indies alone was estimated at \$5,000,000.

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