

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
September 13, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed September 6, 1933

HAMILTON'S HURRICANE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

Apropos of the recent West Indies hurricanes, there was one back in the year 1772 that, in an indirect way, had an important influence on the history of the United States. 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. On the shores of St. Croix 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.

Alexander Hamilton, then a boy, was living at the time on the island of St. Croix. He wrote a description of the hurricane for a local newspaper, and this youthful effort attracted such favorable attention that friends and relatives provided funds for sending him to the northern colonies to be educated. But for the storm Hamilton might never have entered the arena of American politics.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.