

WHILST we congratulate our fellow islanders on their fortunate escape this season, from the direful effects of a hurricane, that scourge of the West Indies, the feeling reader will drop a tear with us, on reading the following recital of the sufferings of the miserable inhabitants of Honduras, written by an intelligent inhabitant of the Bay, and brought by the last vessels from that place.

Particulars of a most violent HURRICANE, which happened in the Bay of Honduras, on the 2d day of September last.

On Sunday, the 2d day of September, 1787, between the hours of 4 and 5 in the morning, a gale of wind commenced from the N. N. W. At 6 o'clock it came to blow at W. N. W. with great violence, attended with rain; the sky became dark and obscured, and carried with it a most threatening appearance. At 8 o'clock it blew a most violent hurricane, attended with incessant rain, which fell very heavy and sharp. At this time the houses, on both sides the river Bellize, began to fall, and the branches of the surrounding trees to break, which put the inhabitants into the utmost fear and consternation. About 10, the wind shifted to S. W. and blew, if possible, with redoubled violence. At that instant, the sea began to rise, and continued approaching with such rapidity, that the banks of the river were in a few minutes overflowed, and thereby after the whole surface of the earth covered with water. What houses at this time remained standing were soon brought to the ground, and the inhabitants, men, women, and children, aged and infirm, were obliged to commit themselves to the mercy of the wind and sea, in momentary danger of being either killed by the branches of the trees, every where falling around them, or of having their limbs broken by the violence of the wind and current into the bush. In this perilous situation, and having nothing but the prospect of death before them, many betook themselves to the trees, to logs of mahogany, or pieces of wrecks then afloat or to such canoes, or other crafts, which Providence had thrown in their way; whilst others, after making such efforts for their safety and preservation, as their weak and feeble state admitted, perished in the attempt. The water at this time, being in some places five feet, and in others upwards of seven, above the surface of the earth, and still continuing to rise, the scene of misery and distress which prevailed, and which was further heightened by the dreadful prospect that presented itself, from the most uncommon violence of the wind and rain, is better to be conceived than expressed, and equalled, if not exceeded any thing of the kind, ever known or experienced in any part of the West Indies. The cries of the women and children, the floating of the dead bodies amongst the ruins, was truly shocking and lamentable. To add to this almost unparalleled scene of misery and distress, the minds of the suffering inhabitants were filled with consternation and dread of the water continuing to rise, in the same rapid manner it had already done, an event, which alone, must have deprived them of all hopes of future safety and deliverance; for the sky was so obscured by the violence of the incessant rains, as to prevent any object being seen beyond the distance of twenty yards.

After remaining in this uncertain and disagreeable situation, till near one o'clock, the hurricane abated, and in a short time after, the weather cleared up; when it presented to the surviving inhabitants, a most melancholy picture of misery and distress; not a single house, hut, or any

kind of habitation on either side of Bellize river, standing; not less than 500 houses of different constructions have been blown down; the whole reduced to a heap of rubbish; with the furniture and effects, of various kinds, either totally destroyed, buried in the ruins; or carried to an uncommon distance into the woods; the dead bodies of those who had perished in their attempts to gain a place of safety, the carcasses of the hogs, goats, cattle, and other species of live stock, lying in different parts of the bush, all served to heighten the distressed scene. Out of fifteen square rigged vessels, sloops and schooners, including a number of craft, and other vessels employed in bringing in wood from the different rivers, which were riding at anchor in Bellize road, at the commencement of the gale, not a single one was to be seen, the whole having either sunk or been drove on shore, and many of their hands perished. Besides these, a variety of sailing boats, canoes, pinnacs, and dories, were drove out to sea, or washed to pieces by the violence of the waves, on the beach. In this disconsolate situation, the distressed inhabitants, without any dry clothing, or other necessary refreshments, almost exhausted with extreme cold, their bodies every where bruised by the blows they had received from the limbs of trees, logs of mahogany and other pieces of wrecks floating about in the bush, betook themselves to the erecting a few temporary sheds, and by digging among the rubbish, endeavoured to find some part of their clothing. In this attempt but few of them succeeded, as a considerable part of their moveables were drove by the violence of the wind and sea, to an uncommon distance from their respective habitations, and, in many respects, either totally destroyed, or rendered useless. Upwards of 300,000 feet of mahogany that was on shore, and in the river, ready to ship in the different vessels, was carried out to sea, and totally lost.

Amongst the number that perished, were Mr. John Leith and wife, Mr. Bath, Miss M'Daniel and Capt. Edward Davis. Mr. John Pitt, a most respectable member of the community, lately arrived from Musquetto shore, with his family, was overtaken in his schooner, with which he had come from Rowley's Bight the evening before, and perished. With them most of the negroes on board, who composed a part of the vessels crew that were lost; there were a number of other persons, whose names are not mentioned, but supposed in the whole to be about one hundred and upwards.

At St. George's Key the hurricane was, if possible more violent; the few houses that were erected there, though constructed with no small degree of strength, were blown down, and the inhabitants, being mostly women and children, exposed to all the rage and violence of which those elements, the wind and sea, are so susceptible; they were compelled in many places to throw themselves flat on the ground, and to make use of every effort to preserve themselves from being washed into the sea, which at that time made a fair breach from one side of the Key to the other. All the sloops and schooners employed in dragging mahogany and log wood, as well as those at the Old River's mouth, in number about 15, and composing two-thirds of what is employed in that occupation from Northern River, Rowley's Bight, and New River, were dismantled, drove from their anchors, and either sunk, drove ashore, or destroyed. Besides these, a great number of boats, canoes, pinnacs and other small craft, the wearing apparel, furniture, dry goods,

and other matters of property, shared of the Key, a fate similar to what was experienced at Bellize.

In the Old and New Rivers, Northern River and Rowley's Bight, the houses were all blown down; and what served to complete the measure of their misfortune, the plantations were all levelled with the ground, and in a manner totally destroyed. They were in general in good order, and promised a most plentiful crop; the quantity of corn in particular, then nearly ripe, exceeded any ever known in this country; in a word, not the least article of vegetables was left on the surface of the earth; nor a tree or bush for the distance of 30 leagues from North to South, had a single leaf or shrub left on them. The number of mahogany trees blown down in the different rivers, and split to pieces, is incredible. The parags are to be filled up with limbs and branches of trees and other rubbish, that it will require a length of time to clear them. In short, the whole country, for upwards of 20 leagues along the sea coast, and the same distance up the rivers, exhibits a scene of desolation and ruin.

It was a most fortunate circumstance, that this violent hurricane did not happen in the night; for if it had, not fifty people out of near one thousand, then at Bellize point, could possibly have saved themselves. The damage sustained by the inhabitants alone, including their crafts, negroes, provisions, dry goods, furniture and other articles of property, are estimated at not less than 30,000.

Since the melancholy event, the Superintendant has paid 2 months provisions to a part of the Musquetto Shore inhabitants. The greatest part of the flour was damaged; nevertheless, it proves a reasonable relief. The other inhabitants have been likewise relieved from the apprehensions of famine, by the arrival of three or four vessels from Europe and Jamaica, which have brought them a reasonable supply of provisions and clothing, with some other necessaries for family use, which they were much in want of. They are now employed in erecting themselves temporary huts, until they are enabled by a supply of lumber, to build themselves more comfortable habitations.

Ohio Adventurers.

THOSE who are concerned, for whom the subscriber acts as agent, are desired to meet him at Mr. Abiel Pomeroy's, in Northampton, on Monday the 18th instant, at one o'clock P. M. to agree on a method for obtaining a draught of the first division of land belonging to the Company; also to transact any business which shall be judged necessary, that respects the association.

It is expected that those who have not paid up the whole which they subscribed for, will come prepared to complete it at the above mentioned day.

BENJ. TUPPER. February, 1788.

NOTICE is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Conroy, in the county of Hampshire, that his land is offered in a village, to run and state tax, for the year 1789 and 1790, as follows, viz.

Table with 3 columns: Lot No., Name, and Amount. Includes entries for Lot No. 44, laid out to Moses Stebbins, and other lots owned by Ditto, Datto, and Datto.

Unless said taxes are paid on or before Thursday the 21st of February next, so much of said land will be then sold at public vendue, at the house of Capt. Elias Dickinson, in said Conroy, at 4 o'clock P. M. or will be sufficient to discharge the same with intervening charges.

ALBANDER OLIVER, Collector. Conroy, Jan. 7, 1788.

FOR SALE, at the Printing-Office in Northampton, STRONG'S and BICKERSTAFF'S ALMANACK, For the Year 1788.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1788.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW ROADS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION.

(Continued from our last.) Monday, January 21st, P. M. The 8th sect. of arr. is still under consideration. Mr. Thompson, Mr. President, I totally agree with your paragraph. Massachusetts has ever been a leading State; nor has her five good advice to her sister States. Suppose some States adopt this Constitution—who shall touch them? Some cry out for them—I say draw them. We love liberty—Britain never tried to enslave us until she took us without our consent. We cannot have too much liberty. The Convention wants amendments—shall we amend it? The Convention were first on to Philadelphia to amend this Constitution, but they made a new creature—and the very setting out of it is unconstitutional. In the Convention, Pennsylvania had more members than all New-England—and two of our delegates only were persuaded to sign the Constitution. Massachusetts once shut up the harbours against the British—There I confess I was taken in. Don't let us be in a hurry again. Let us wait to see what our sister States will do. What shall we suffer, if we adjourn the consideration of it, for five or six months?—It is better to do this, than adopt it to hastily. Take care we don't disoblige the States.—By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.

Major Kingsley, Mr. President. After so much has been said, on the power to be given to Congress, I shall say but a few words on the subject. By the articles of Confederation the people have three checks on their Delegates in Congress—the annual election, of them—their rotation—and the power to recall, any or all of them, when they see fit. In view of our federal rules, they are the servants of the people; In the new Constitution, we are deprived of annual elections, have no rotation, and cannot recall our members; therefore our federal rules will be masters and not servants. I will examine what powers we have given to our masters, they have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises—raise armies—fit out navies—establish themselves in a federal town, of ten miles square, equal to four middling townships, erect forts, magazines, arsenals, &c. Therefore should the Congress be chosen of designing and interested men, they can perpetuate their existence, secure the resources of war, and the people will have nothing left to defend themselves with. As we look into ancient history—The Romans after a war thought themselves safe in a government of ten men, called the Decemviri;—these ten men were invested with all powers, and were chosen for three years—by their arts and designs they secured their second election, but finding from the manner in which they had exercised their power, they were not able to secure their third election, they declared themselves the masters of Rome, and impoverished the city—and deprived the people of their rights. They even abused themselves to be defeated in the field, merely the better to subjugate the people of Rome. It has been said that there was no danger—I will suppose they were to attempt the experiment—after we have given them all our money, established them in a federal town, the power of raising money, and raising a standing army? and they should attempt to establish their arbitrary government, what resources have the people left? I cannot see any. The parliament in England was first chosen annually—they afterwards lengthened their duration to three years, and from triennial they became septennial—the government of England, has been represented as a good and happy government—but I believe it a mistake. Attempts are yearly made to shorten the duration of their Parliament, from triennial, but the influence of their power is so great, that it has not yet been accomplished. From this duration, bribery and propitiation are introduced. Notwithstanding they receive no pay, they make great interest for seat in Parliament, and give from five to twenty guineas, and give from five to twenty guineas, for a vote, and the candidates sometimes spend from 10,000 to 30,000 l. Will a person buy such a fortune, and waste so much money, without the probability of replacing such an interest? Or can there be a security in such men? Bribery may be introduced here as well as in Great Britain—and Congress may equally oppress the people;—because we cannot hold them to account, considering that there is

no annual election—no rotation—no power to recall them provided for.

TUESDAY, January 22, A. M. Section 8th still under consideration. Mr. Mr. Dalton. It is apparent, Sir, that government should have an efficient power delegated to them: If they have no power it cannot be said to be a government: A Constitution is now established with that defect; with no money and no dependence; such a government will here lay the evil. Let us see to whom we give this power; is it not to men of our own choice? The delegation of power to the federal Legislature will present the numerous evils: They have the power of laying up for destruction: The danger of accepting this Constitution is not equal to the danger of refusing it: Look to the Kingdom of France, their power, however high, cannot be exercised, to the prejudice of the people; in the reconstituted of the notables and the parliament of Paris rejecting; and withstanding a tax proposed by the King; but when they are exercised it must be for the good of the nation. If Congress have authority to levy a direct tax, it is supposed they will exercise it only in a time of war: In peace the impost and excise will answer the purposes of government; but if a war breaks out, they will not answer, therefore must be had to a direct tax. Some have supposed that the Congress by perpetuating themselves, might introduce a kind of aristocracy: The power after a short time, returns to the people, and they delegate it again: They feel their dependence on the people, and therefore will not abuse the confidence placed in them. Have not other States of America the spirit of freedom to resist the collectors of direct taxes, as well as New-England? The answer to this section, the more is an acknowledgment of the necessity of this power being lodged in the federal head.

Judge Sumner. The power in the present section is very important; at present my opinion is in favour of following this power in the general government, nevertheless I may change my opinion. The prosperity and happiness of this country depends in a great measure on the subject under consideration. It is said that this is a great power, but will not the same objection be against the delegation of any power? They have a power to levy taxes; they may levy more than is necessary, instead of voting themselves 68 per cent, they may vote themselves 12 l. If they abuse their power in this manner, the only convenient way is to keep them from office. The confidence reposed in them, they will not be re-elected. Again, it is said that the house of representatives is too small. We know all money bills are to originate in the representative body: Can we suppose that Georgia or any small State, will have as strong a voice to tax us, as Massachusetts? But why shall we alarm ourselves with imaginary difficulties. I suppose if the impost and excise should produce insufficient for the expenses of government, direct taxes must supply the deficiency, and in case of a war, would not the power of raising those taxes be necessary? What would be our case if Congress had not this power? The Hon. gentleman from Newbury-Port yesterday adduced proof that such power was requisite, in the example of the United Provinces. The history of our own times shows us that requisitions have been insufficient; some States have paid, while others have been delinquent—I think, Mr. President, we shall never get to be a respectable nation without a federal government. Another objection has been made to this Constitution: It is said that the general power, delivered to the Legislature. If we consider, that the general government depends on the State Legislature, that the President is to be elected by the Senate, the Senate by the State Legislatures, the Representatives by the people; we find the general government cannot exist without the State Legislatures. I hope Sir, we shall see the necessity of federal governments, and not make any objections, unless of greater weight.

Mr. Gore. This section, Mr. President, has been the subject of much jealousy. Gentlemen have compared the delegation of the power of making taxes, to the government of Great Britain—this which does not agree. It has also been compared to ten men of Rome, chosen to compile a system of laws. These people usurped the

power—to what was this owing? To the feeble idea of those people, who had no idea of representation. Can we compare the government of the United States of America, to Rome?—Iea government whose representatives are chosen from the mass of the people, to be compared to ten men of Rome, who had power over the lives and laws of the people? No more, Sir, than a well regulated government to a mob. It is said the Representatives of Great Britain receive no pay; but consider the difference between the Representatives of this country, and the pretended Representatives of Great Britain! Consider the checks upon our Delegates, and the dissimilarity is obvious. Some gentlemen cannot see the necessity of taxation being lodged in the general Government. Let us inquire into the duties of the general Government. We find they are to pay debts, provide for public safety—raise armies—build navies, and support them. Can any one tell what will be the exigencies of government? Where we demand an end, we ought to give the means of attaining it.

Hon. Mr. Phillips, (Boston) I rise to bestow a few considerations on this section, it appears to me absolutely necessary. If federal government did not exist, there would be an end of individual government; therefore our very being depends on federal government. On this article is founded the main pillar of the building—take away this pillar and where is your government? Therefore, I conceive, in this view of the case, this power is absolutely necessary. There seems to be a suspicion that this power will be abused, but is not all delegation of power equally dangerous? If we have a cattle, shall we dare to put a commander into it, for fear he will run his artillery against us? My concern is for the majority of the people, if there is no virtue there what will the Congress do? If they had the weakness of Moses, the patience of Job, and the wisdom of Solomon, and the people were determined to be slaves, Sir, could the Congress prevent them? If they let Heaven at defiance, no arm of flesh can save them. Sir, I shall have nothing to do in this government.—But we face the situation we are in, we are verging toward destruction, and every one must be sensible of it. Many people cry out—take time—see Virginia—they are not in haste.—Sir, there are merchants in Virginia, who wish to defeat this Constitution. It will raise the New-England States, so that they are afraid we shall become too powerful for them. We shall freight their tobacco, &c.—I suppose the New-England States have a treasure offered to them, better than the mines of Peru: For they who become the carriers of a nation soon become their rivals in trade.—Great Britain and France come here with their vessels, instead of our carrying our produce to those countries in American vessels, navigated by our own citizens.—When I consider the extensive sea coast, there is to this State, a one, so well calculated for commerce, viewless matters in this light, I would rather sink all this continent owes me, than that this power should be withheld from Congress. Mention is made that Congress ought to be restricted of the power to keep an army except in times of war.—I apprehend that great mischief would ensue from such a restriction. Let us take measures to prevent war, by granting to Congress the power of raising an army.—A declaration of war is made against this country—and the enemy's army is coming a gain, and before Congress could collect the means to withstand this enemy, they would penetrate into the bowels of our country, and every thing dear to us, would be gone in a moment.—The Hon. gentleman from Topsham has made use of the expression "O my country," from an apprehension that the Constitution should be adopted; I will cry out "O my country," if it is not adopted. I see nothing but destruction and inevitable ruin, if it is not.—The more I peruse and study this article, the more convinced am I of the necessity of such a power being vested in Congress—the more I hear said against it, the more I am confirmed in my sentiments of its expediency—for it is like the pure metal, the more you rub it the brighter it shines. It is with concern I hear the Hon. Gentleman from Topsham make use of language against the gentlemen of the law.—Sir, I look on this order of men to be essential to the liberties and rights of the people; and whoever speaks against them as seeking against an ordinance of Heaven.—Mr. President, I hope every gentleman will offer his sentiments con-