

The most important storm of the month was the West India cyclone of the 27th-31st, the path of which is approximately plotted on chart I. This storm was first reported to the eastward of the Windward Islands on the 26th. On this date the s. s. "Haytian," at noon, in N. $24^{\circ} 52'$, W. $54^{\circ} 45'$, had moderate e. breeze, with cloudy, squally, dirty weather, and wind increasing in the afternoon. On the 27th, at noon, this vessel was in N. $22^{\circ} 18'$, W. $58^{\circ} 35'$, and reported squally e. winds, dull weather, falling barometer, heavy rain and high sea. In the afternoon and evening hard gale and high sea, terrific squalls, wind and rain, blinding lightning from w. and southward. Stopped engines and hove ship to on starboard tack, heading nne. at 11 p. m. At midnight heavy gale with terrific squalls and high confused seas. On the 28th at noon, in N. $22^{\circ} 55'$, W. $59^{\circ} 34'$, wind e. strong, and heavy easterly swell. Mr. Joseph Ridgway, jr., the observer at Saint Thomas, W. I., reports that on the 26th and 27th there were indications of a cyclone in the neighborhood of Saint Thomas. The barometer (aneroid) fell to 29.89 (759) to 29.90 (759) (113 feet), the usual reading being 30.00 (762) to 30.02 (762). The wind shifted from ne. to nw. and w., with strong puffs from the ne. The tide was higher than usual and there was a southerly swell. The barometer did not rise to its usual position until midnight of the 27th. Mr. Ridgway stated further that the s. s. "Alliance," from Newport News, arrived 11 p. m., 28th, and reported having encountered heavy seas from e. and se.; lowest barometer 29.90 (759), and that the s. s. "Portuense" was sunk in a hurricane on the 28th about 250 miles ne. from Anegada Island, and captain and 9 of crew lost; the balance of the crew reached Tortola Island in the ship's life boat. The "Portuense" foundered in about N. 21° , W. 63° , shortly after 6.30 a. m., 28th; between 2 and 3 a. m. a fearful ne. hurricane raged and the barometer was reported 28.50 (724); shortly after ship foundered the wind went to sse. The bkn. "Onalaska," at 8 a. m., 28th, in N. 24° , W. $62^{\circ} 20'$, had hard gale from ese., with terrific sea running from se. and s.; the barometer which had been standing at 30.30 (770) fell to 29.70 (754). Hove to with head to s., and so remained 10 hours, the hurricane evidently passed to the sw. On the 30th the brig "Abbie Clifford" was wrecked, with loss of life, in about N. 30° , W. 67° . At 2 a. m., 31st, the s. s. "Orinoco" was struck by a hurricane about 100 miles nw. from Bermuda. The wind came from about sse., and terrific seas swept over the vessel, carrying all movable objects overboard, smashing the steering gear and a life boat, and flooding the saloon. The barometer stood at 29.20 (742) until 4 a. m., when it began to rise, and at 10 a. m. the wind was sw. Terrific storms of hurricane force were encountered during the 31st along the trans-Atlantic steamship routes south of Nova Scotia. Reports at hand will not admit of more definitely describing this storm or of more accurately locating its path.