
*Abstract of a Journal kept at the Mauritius, of the
Barometrical Movements during the Hurricane of the
23d February, 1824.*

THE weather, for the greater part of this month (February), had been very stormy, though not unusually so for the season of the year, as, during this period, which is the rainy, and in common language called the hurricane season, the island is constantly liable to severe gales, and storms of thunder and lightning. In them, however, there is scarcely any variation in the direction of the wind, or any sensible alteration in the barometer.

From the 18th to the 22d, it blew a succession of short gales, seldom continuing beyond 6 or 8 hours, with constant rain, and frequent thunder storms. The barometer, however, on which alone every reliance may be placed on these occasions, as to the threatened danger, was but slightly affected,—nor did it indicate by its tardy movements, any sudden change. Its extreme variation having never exceeded one-tenth below its usual standard. There were yet at this period, many indications of a coming storm:—The air was oppressive,—the sky was heavy and gloomy,—the mountains were enveloped in clouds,—and the sea rolled heavily in on the coast, with much noise.

During the night of the 22d, the wind increased in a very sensible degree; the squalls or gusts became more frequent; the rain was incessant, and with, at times, vivid lightning.

The barometer was also observed to have fallen one-tenth and a half on the morning of the 23d; at 6 A. M. it stood at 28° 9'. Soon after this the hurricane was declared, and the following is an abstract from a meteorological journal kept during its continuance.

Date.	Hour of Day.	Barom-eter.	Wind.	Weather.
23d Feb. 1824.	6 A. M.	28° 9'	S. E.	Rain drizzling.—Wind in strong gusts.
	9 —	28 8	S. E.	Steady — Squalls stronger and more frequent.
	10 —	28 7	S. E.	Much increased, some very hard gusts. Rain constant.
	12 —	28 5	about E.	Very violent.—Its effects now apparent, Trees, houses, &c. falling.
	1 P. M.	28 3	E.	Gusts, with scarcely any intermission.—Rain hard; salt to taste throughout the gale.
	2 —	28 1	E.	No amendment.
	3 —	27 9	E.	Several very hard squalls during the last hour: latterly, not so frequent. Thick fog appears.
	4 —	station-ary.	E.	Wind nearly the same in strength; gusts less frequent. Rain ceased. Fog continues dense. The whole atmosphere of a fiery red colour.
	4½ —	27 9½	—	Nearly calm. Fog less dense. No rain.
	5 —	28 0	N. to NW	Moderate breeze.
	6 —	28 1	N. W.	Freshens,—latterly, with several hard squalls, with rain. Fog disappeared.
	7 —	28 3	N,	Much increased.
	7½ —	—	variable	
	8 —	28 3½	W.	Nearly as violent as at any period of the day.
	9 —	28 5	W.	Squalls, in strength undiminished: not so frequent.
	10½ —	28 7	N. W.	Gale sensibly less; strength and frequency of squalls also less; rain ceased, and weather looks more settled.
	12 —	28 8	N. W.	Gradually decreasing. During the night subsided into a pleasant breeze at N. W.

The situation at which these observations were made, was at an elevation of 900 feet above the level of the sea.

The thermometer, during the whole of the gale, stood at 73°.

Greatest range of thermometer in February, 1824, - 13°

Average heat at noon-day, - 83

Number of days rain, - 21

Do. thunder and lightning, - 10

Rainbows, 5.—Lunar, 8.