

Events of Long Ago.

A much-esteemed lady correspondent furnishes us with the account which follows of a storm which visited this Province at this season just fifty years ago, and suggests, as a feature sure to interest many readers, the reprinting of such items describing notable events of long ago.

On the 23rd of December fifty years ago, a fearful storm visited this Island. "The roof of the north side of St. Paul's Church was completely torn off and thrown to the ground, the wind having gone under the eaves, and from thence along the roof. The interior of the Church has suffered no great injury, and a large body of workmen are engaged in repairing the damage to the roof, and in preparing the Church for the services of the morrow."—*Haszard's Gazette*, Dec. 24th, 1853.

A more extended report of the gale is given in the *Islander* of December 30th, 1853:—

"We regret to have to record the most disastrous storm ever experienced in the Colony. As the Sun went down on the evening of the 23rd, the sky wore a threatening aspect, but, although blustery weather may be expected about the solstice, we apprehend nothing worse, the atmosphere at that season being less disturbed by a change in the Sun's declination than at any other. From about seven o'clock, however, the storm increased, and continued with unabated violence throughout the night until its greatest fury was manifested about break of day on the morning of the 24th, from which time it gradually abated. * * * *

"The destruction is immense. The highways are covered with windfalls to an extent altogether unprecedented; and even vigorous young spruce trees, about eight or nine inches in diameter, we have seen either broken a foot or two from the ground, or torn up by the roots. The damage done to property is so extensive that the casualties within a radius of a few miles would present a formidable list. We have heard of one or two dwelling houses blown down and ignited by the hearth fire, burned to ashes. One of the most lamentable cases we have heard is that of Mr. Richard Clark, of Bedeque. Suspecting nothing more than an ordinary breeze the family retired to rest, and were all asleep, when the wind, forcing the doors, scattered the burning embers about, and so quickly was the work of destruction completed that the inmates had barely time to escape with their lives in their night-clothes. A Mr. Burns, in Freetown Settlement, had a large stock of horses and horned cattle, but the building in which they were housed was thrown down, and, we hear, two horses were killed, and all his cattle but seven. * * *

In Charlottetown the storm was equally severe. The roof was blown off one side of St. Paul's Church, and quite a number of chimneys, spouts, porches, fences, etc., blown down. At Bedeque, several Houses and Barns, in the progress of erection, and the frame of an English Church were razed to the ground."