

the city had no great disaster from hurricanes and storms, the total destruction of the city and island by storm, or by flood, was by no means an impossibility but a grave probability liable to occur at any time, because of being in the direct path of the great West India hurricanes, and being almost on a level with the waters of the Gulf backed up by the powerful ocean-tides. But the people fancied themselves secure and heeded not these timely warnings. They were warned again on September 7th by the United States Weather Bureau that a West India hurricane of unusual severity was developing, and the towns and cities of the Gulf coast were directly in its path. They were told to prepare for it, but the people had heard this before and paid no attention to it, but went on as usual with their business and their pursuit of pleasures and pastimes. At 12 o'clock at noon of September 8th the predicted hurricane came. The United States weather observer in Galveston sent out warnings that a storm of unusual severity was indicated. It grew in intensity every hour until at 4 p.m. the wind gauge in the Weather Observatory was smashed. Realizing now that a terrific hurricane was approaching the weather observer ran out through the southern part of the city, imploring people to leave their homes and flee to the centre of the city for safety. But, strange to record it, only a few accepted his words and consequently many