

## THE GALVESTON DISASTER.

**G**ALVESTON Island is one of a series of low-lying islands that extend along the entire coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and is in the direct path of hurricanes from the West Indies. These storms are very severe and often disastrous. The entire island is only five feet above the sea level, and has had severe storms sweep over it before, in past years, but has had no great disaster until September 8th, 1900. Galveston, the city, is situated on the western end of this island. In 1857 it was buried for several hours under ten feet of water. In 1867 it was almost submerged, and for six times in eight years since then has had repeated narrow escapes from total destruction by storm and flood. The last one of these in 1875 was so violent that it destroyed one end, a waste part, of Galveston Island altogether.

It is estimated that 20,000 persons have been killed and much valuable property has been destroyed, within the century, on the Texas Islands along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Galveston, in spite of these warnings, felt secure. Scientific men had repeatedly warned them to move over to the mainland, and make the island merely a port, with only a few persons there in the daytime and none at all at night, but they indignantly refused to listen to such a proposition. It was pointed out to them that although