

# On the *Water*

## Stories from Maritime America

### **Hurricane winds and high seas**

Edward Barlow describes conditions in the Caribbean during a voyage from Jamaica to England in 1680.

From Basil Lubbock, trans. *Barlow's Journal of his Life at Sea in King's Ships, East & West Indiamen & Other Merchantmen from 1659 to 1703*. (London: Hurst & Blackett, 1934), vol. II, pp. 332–48.

...at last there arrived a ship which had loaded at Barbados...and having been out of Barbados for two days, did meet with a “harey-cane” or storm of wind, which blew so fiercely, and continued so long that she was forced to cut her mainmast and mizenmast by the board, having much water in the hold, which had spoil'd all the lower tier of sugar and done them a great deal of damage; and she was forced to bear up for Jamaica to repair again and get a new mast.

So hauling our ship to the quay, we delivered out all our goods; and...began to receive goods aboard again, taking in sugars at six pound ten shillings the ton, and logwood... and dried hides...and cotton wool...and indigo and “pemento” and ginger twoand-six per cent... And in seven weeks time we were laden and as full as we could hold...

We had very tempestuous weather, the seas breaking into our ship and damaging a great deal of goods, so that we were forced to throw overboard all our water casks which stood upon the upper deck, and we lost and staved fifty pounds worth of limejuice, which ran out all into the sea; and we had a good deal of damage in other goods, as hides and cotton wool and indigo...

...And coming into the latitude of 48 north, one day being under a fore course reefed, a great sea broke into our great cabin windows and broke them all to pieces, and filled the great cabin so with water that it beat down the nurse and little child, so that the little infant was almost “drown'd”, and a great deal of water going down between decks and into the steerage, did a great deal of harm.

