

Santiago de Cuba September 8th 1842

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DUBLIN Y.M.
HISTORICAL
COLLECTION

My dear cousin

6, EUSTACE STREET.

I had last the pleasure on the 9th of July, to which I beg your reference and attention, and I now have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt on the 29th ultimo, of your very acceptable favour of the 19th of the preceding month via Swansea, which came by a vessel that had a short passage. The account published of the violent earthquake that we experienced here on the 7th of June, you will already have observed, from my preceding letter, I mean letter preceding this one, was erroneous and that it must have had reference solely to that which visited so severely St Domingo on the 7th of May, destroying utterly one of its principal cities, together with several smaller towns and much injuring many others, and which was sensibly felt here, as well as in other parts of this end of our island, and the southernmost verge of whose movement appears to have been, in a line from the south point of the west end of St Domingo to New Orleans, which included this district of Cuba only as it was not felt to westward of it, nor in Jamaica at all. I think I have mentioned its effects here either to you, or to aunt Martha, but I will not be positive, as I have no copies of my letter to refer to, therefore I may say, that the destructive shock was felt here, almost simultaneous as in St Domingo, doing no more harm however, than splitting the walls of houses and deranging the tile roofs of many, without any loss of life what so ever.

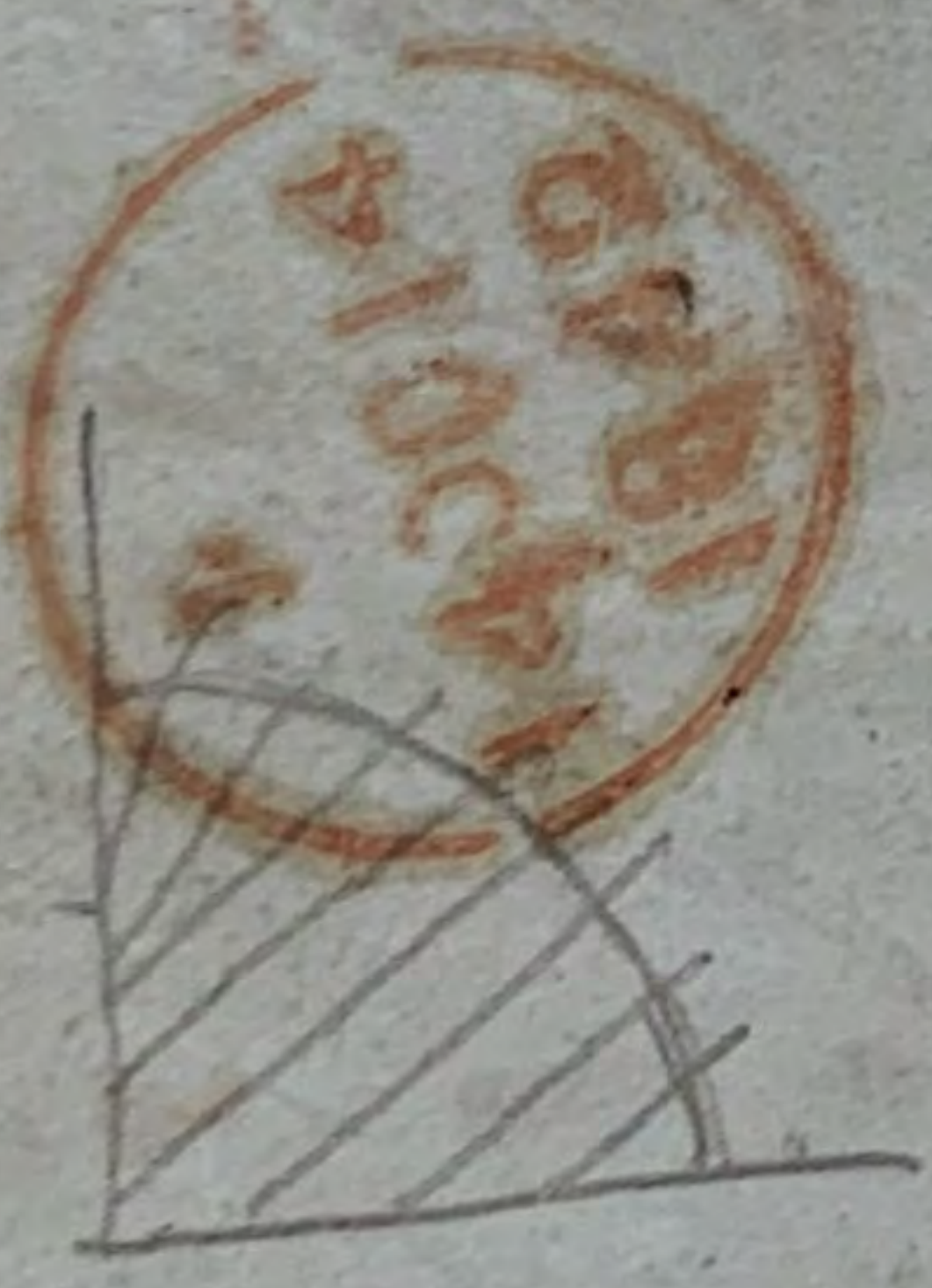
was sitting in an easy arm chair, in my room up one pair of stairs,
reading when felt the first movement, and thinking it was a slight
shock such as we are accustomed to, and don't mind much, I did
not move at once, but finding the vibration continue, I rose slowly
and quietly laid down my book, still determined to read, but the
violence augmenting I made for the stairs, while going down which
pretty deliberately, I could perceive the building evidently in motion
the walls cracking, and the timber and tiles creaking much, when at
the bottom of the stairs I made across our small backyard pretty
swifly, till I got opposite a side entrance to our dwelling from a
narrow street, out of which our negroes were actually trembling
in their hurry, where I stopped a moment, and I think not more
than a moment, to feel whether it was over or not, for I couldn't tell
when walking fast, and to decide whether to follow the blacks, but
the high wall opposite of a public building made that street danger-
ous, so that I passed on again through our front yard, through
our principal apartment to the front door, when I found on
stepping to open it, that all was over, and mother earth again
tranquil, the time occupied by the entire shock was not in my
opinion a minute, and I think I have felt heave or quake, but none
as long continued, almost the entire population was in the streets
engaged in prayers for preservation, and after the news from
Domingo was received we had a day devoted to thank-
giving for our escape. Those who were in boats in the harbor,
and had thus a full and perfect view of the building, describe
the houses as moving to and fro, slowly, but considerably, in fact

the movement was slower than many other shocks, which I have
felt, and was in my opinion the lingering undulation on almost
the extreme verge of its action, there were a great many weaker
shocks subsistent to the great one in St Domingo felt for weeks
from time to time, many of which had force enough for the pulsa-
tion to be felt here, but feebly, and that was my tale of the great
earthquake as felt in this City, for the effect in St Domingo I beg
to refer you to the newspapers as giving a more detailed ac-
count of the extent and horror of its ravages, than the limits
of a letter permit, it would almost appear as if that fated island
was devoted like Sodom & Gomorrah to the visitation of an avenging
Deity, and that not even the afflictions of the earthquake
were accepted as sufficient expiation, for the awful charac-
teristics of conflagration pillage and slaughter succeeded,
and continued for several days, the black of the surrounding
country after the earthquake had passed, poured into the ruined
city and commenced their works of devastation. I note
the number 108 Thomas Street, to which aunt Martha was about
moving, and feel for the misfortune of uncle William's daughter
Abigail Newton and husband, the times are critical for all those
engaged in business in most parts of the world, and have
been and are shocking & severe here, and we do not expect much
amelioration for some time yet, we preserved the probability of
of the storm, and contracted our affairs & much preparatory to
it, or it might have dealt hardly by us, as it was, we are free
from creating scot free, although nothing vital was suffered
I am not unfeeling of

I am fully sensible to the kindness of yours and aunt
and thought about me, and feel that I need not care in kind as
the affection thereof, for it is a pleasure to dwell upon such
reflections, the produce of the memories and dream of times gone
by, and of kindred ties and feelings

JACO-DE-CURIA
SP 10 CURIA
1842

Jonathan Wright
No 7 Christ Church Place
Dublin
Ireland
via Swansea



Remember me to aunt Martha and all relations I am
believe me Dear Jonathan very affectionately
Your true cousin
James Wright