
 Biddle Stair - Case.

brightest nights he has ever known, in full view of this enchanting scene, and then of taking a romantic excursion with the party around the island. This was poetry indeed; it was one of those bright and verdant oases sometimes met with in the journey of life.

 BIDDLE STAIR-CASE — ÆOLUS CAVE.

At the lower end of Goat Island, about one third across it, a stair-case, erected in the year 1829, at the expense of Nicholas Biddle, Esq., of Philadelphia, gives visitors an opportunity of descending below the bank, and of passing a considerable distance behind the two main sheets of water. The descent from the top of the island to the margin of the river, is 185 feet. A common flight of steps leads down 40 feet, to the perpendicular spiral steps, 90 in number, which are enclosed in a building in the shape of a hexagon resting on a firm foundation at the bottom. From the foot of the building, there are three paths leading to the most important points of observation, one of which leads to the river below, 80 feet, where visitors will find one of the finest fishing places in this part of the world. All the varieties of fish existing in Lake Ontario, are found here,

 Cave of the Winds . . . Passage behind the Falls.

among which are sturgeon, pike, pickerel, black and white bass, herring, cat-fish, eels, &c. Here was Sam Patch's jumping place. The path at the left of the stair-case leads to the great Crescent fall, where, when the wind blows up the river, a safe and delightful passage is opened behind the sheet of water.

The path to the right leads to a magnificent Cave, appropriately named when it was first discovered, twenty seven years since, Æolus' Cave, or Cave of the Winds. This cave is about 120 feet across, 50 feet wide, and 100 feet high; it is situated directly behind the Centre fall, which at the bottom is more than 100 feet wide, and were the rocks excavated a little and a few steps made, visitors could safely pass into and entirely through the cave behind the sheet of water. Beyond this cave, at the foot of Luna Island, there is an open space where persons may amuse themselves at leisure upon the rocks over which the floods are pouring, and then venture in as far as they please behind the whole American fall.

The writer of these pages first conceived the idea of effecting an entrance into this cave, July 14, 1834, while passing in front of the American fall in a boat, and the next day it was effected, for the first time, by Messrs. Berry H. White and George Sims, both residents at the Falls, who passed round the outside of the falls, and landed at the foot of Luna Island. Accompanying

 Passage behind the Falls . . . Rainbow.

the above idea, was a project of passing behind the whole American fall, 56 rods, and coming out near the ferry. This passage, though not yet effected, is believed to be possible ; for the opening between the sheet of water as it falls, and the rock behind is from 15 to 50 feet wide, and there are rocks to walk upon through the whole distance. If there be any insurmountable obstacle, it will probably be found in the tremendous wind and spray occasioned by the falling flood. A passage into the cave was at first considered a great exploit, but a passage behind the whole sheet would be inconceivably greater. The cave itself, is the *ne plus ultra* of wonders, a visit to which no person of sufficient nerve, ought to omit. Ladies and gentlemen can very often, when the wind blows down the river, pass a considerable distance behind the sheet of water within the cave, without getting wet at all. The view presented to a person while in the cave, in connexion with the tremendous and astounding roar of waters, which, owing to the echoes or reverberations, is apparently a hundred times greater here than any where else, will enable him to appreciate the following beautiful and graphic lines of Brainard, — especially as there is always, in the afternoon, when the sun shines, a very bright rainbow visible directly within the cave, and behind the sheet of water.

 Extract from Brainard.

“The thoughts are strange that crowd into my brain,
 While I look upwards to thee. It would seem
 As if God poured thee from his hollow hand,
 And hung his bow upon thy awful front,
 And spoke in that loud voice, which seemed to him
 Who dwelt in Patmos for his Saviour's sake,
 ‘The sound of many waters ;’ and had bade
 Thy flood to chronicle the ages back,
 And notch His centuries in the eternal rocks.

Deep calleth unto deep. And what are we,
 That hear the question of that voice sublime ?
 Oh ! what are the notes that ever rung
 From war's vain trumpet by thy thundering side ?
 Yea, what is all the riot man can make
 In his short life, to thy unceasing roar ?
 And yet, bold babbler, what art thou to Him
 Who drowned a world, and heaped the waters far
 Above its loftiest mountains ? — a light wave,
 That breaks and whispers of its Maker's might.”

How little and insignificant do the efforts of man appear, when measured by this exhibition of Omnipotence ! The earthquake, the volcano, the wide spread conflagration, the shock of contending armies, are sublime and terrific spectacles, though short in their continuance and limited in their effects ; but here, ever since the flood, probably, the deafening and incessant roar of the mightiest cataract on the globe has called upon the children of men to fall down and adore their Maker.

 Ferry to the Canada Falls.

THE FERRY.

There is another stair-case leading down the bank, about six rods below the falls, where visitors will find a safe ferry to the Canada side, and have an opportunity of viewing a scene of surpassing grandeur. The deep green glassy river beneath, the awful precipice of rocks, and the mighty floods rolling and tumbling from the heights above, and the singularly wild, romantic and variegated scenery around, fill the mind of the beholder with sensations not to be described. Here one may perceive the propriety and beauty of the figure representing Him, who is the "Rock of ages," as "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," to those who fly to him for refuge.

"While viewing thee

I think how grand and beautiful is God,
 When man has not intruded on his works,
 But left his bright creation unimpaired.

Blessed scenes!

* * * it is no mortal touch

That sharpened thy rough brow, or fringed thy skirts
 With coarse luxuriance;—'twas the lightning's force
 Dashed its strong flash across thee, and did point
 The crag; or, with his stormy thunderbolt,
 The Almighty Architect himself disjoined
 Yon rock; then flung it down where now it hangs,
 And said, do thou lie there."

 City of the Falls.

The ferryman, Mr. S. L. Ware, on the American, and Mr. J. Shultersburgh, on the Canada side, are both very civil and accommodating, well acquainted with their business, and able to give much information to visitors. Whenever required, they take parties out on pleasure or fishing excursions, and thus enable them to take a more extensive view of the gorgeous river scenery. The construction of a carriage road is contemplated, down these perpendicular banks, so as to have a ferry for teams and carriages; and when it is completed, must become a great and important thoroughfare for travellers.

 CANADA VIEWS—CITY OF THE FALLS.

Directly opposite the Falls on the Canada side, an enterprising Company, a few years since, purchased the grounds formerly owned by Mr. Forsyth, projected and laid out a city, which they called "The City of the Falls," and have made some improvements. They intended to have schools, churches, libraries, ball and promenade rooms, baths, public gardens, and indeed, every thing considered necessary to an elegant and fashionable city. The lots and streets are laid out with

Clifton . . . New Hotel.

much judgment and taste ; but whether the anticipations of the enterprising projectors will ever be realized, other generations must tell.

The table land on the river's bank below the falls, and opposite the ferry, owned by Capt. Creighton, has also been surveyed into lots for a village, which is called " Clifton ;" and here, directly at the top of the ferry road, stands the Clifton House, erected by Mr. Chrysler, which contains upwards of sixty rooms, and will accommodate nearly one hundred guests. This is a very delightful site for a village, and is one of the most pleasant places of resort on that side of the river. The following stanza of Byron, is beautifully descriptive of this place :

" From thy shady brow,
Thou small, but favored spot of holy ground!
Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,
What rainbow tints, what magic charms are found!
Rock, river, forest, mountain all abound,
And bluest skies that harmonize the whole ;
Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound
Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll
Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet please the soul."

In ascending the high bank, the visiter is presented with some delightful views of the falls and rapids, and of the surrounding country. The two principal Hotels,



Maaron's Mills from near Clifton house

Appearance of the surrounding country.

on the Canada side, are the Ontario House, on the high bank nearly opposite the great fall, and the Clifton House, at the head of the carriage road, both of which have ample accommodations. The Pavilion was totally destroyed by fire, in February, 1839.

Strangers who have never visited the Falls, have an idea that the surrounding country must be mountainous, like that in the vicinity of most other falls; but the general aspect of the country here for a great extent on both sides of the river, above and below, is that of an almost perfect level, and nothing indicates the existence of the river or the falls, except the constantly ascending and floating mist, and a subterraneous, thundering roar. Below the falls, the earth and rocks appear as though they had been suddenly rent asunder and separated one-fourth of a mile apart, in order, by the perpendicular chasm thus made, to form a channel for the river. The corresponding portions of rock are as regular in the succession of their strata, as would be the leaves and cover of a book, if they were bisected and placed opposite each other. The whole country in Canada, between the two lakes, except a narrow strip bordering upon Lake Ontario, is generally level, rich and productive, and is also becoming quite populous. In visiting the Canada side, you can cross the river at Black Rock, Lewiston, or at the Falls; and can always have carriages on that side to

Welland Canal.

transport you whither you choose. Stage Coaches run from the Hotels to Queenston and Niagara, daily ; also to Chippewa and Buffalo. From Chippewa, the steamboat Red Jacket runs daily to Buffalo, leaving Chippewa in the afternoon. No one should fail of visiting the Canada side, as this grand and unparalleled scene of nature's wonders, the fame whereof is spread over the world, should be viewed and contemplated from every position.

WELLAND CANAL.

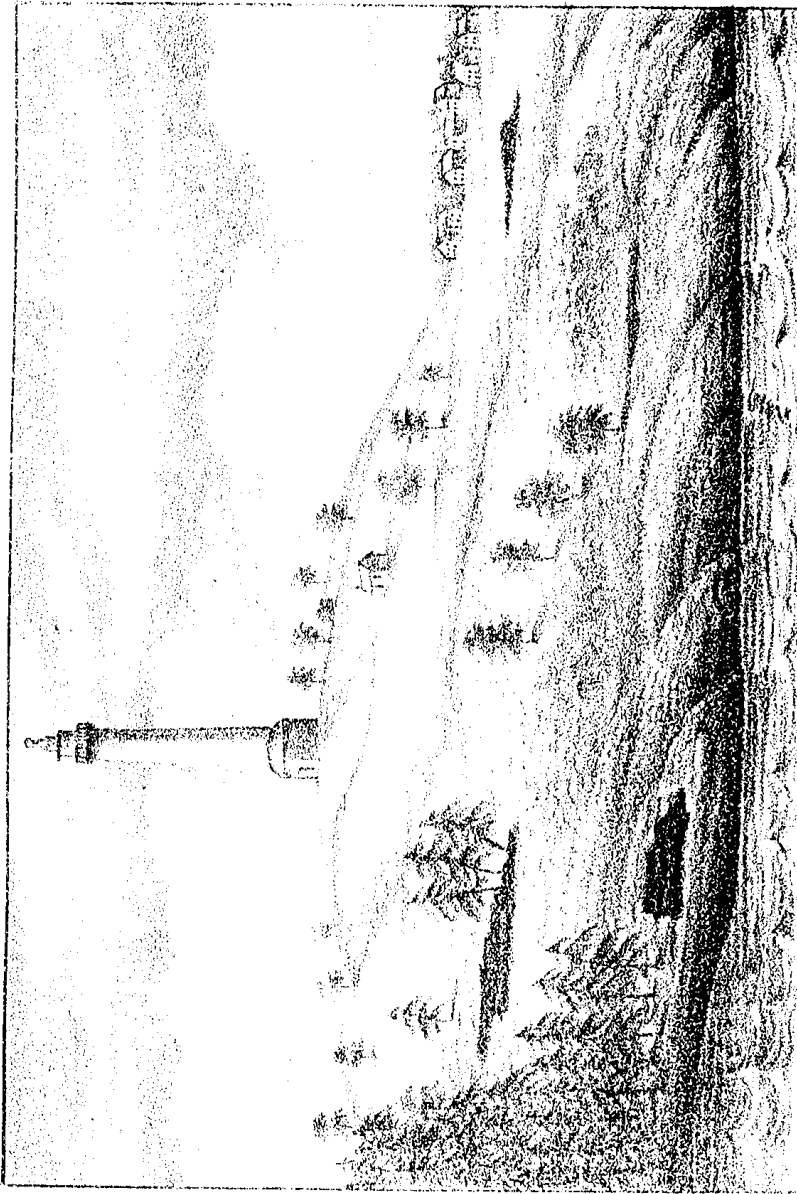
Eight miles west from the Falls is the Welland Canal, connecting the waters of Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, and affording a passage for sloops and schooners of 125 tons burthen. This canal commences at Port Maitland, near the mouth of Grand River, on Lake Erie, 48 miles west of Buffalo. It runs in a straight line across Wainfleet Marsh, crosses the Chippewa river by means of an aqueduct, and enters Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Twelve Mile Creek. It is 42 miles in length, 56 feet in width, and varies from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 feet in depth. The whole descent from one lake to another, 334 feet, is ac-

Brock's Monument.

completed by means of 37 locks. At the deep-cut, on what is called the mountain ridge, the excavation is 45 feet in depth; and 1,477,700 cubic feet of earth, and 1,890,000 cubic feet of rock were removed. The locks here are 22 by 100 feet, and west of this ridge they are 45 by 125 feet. The canal was commenced in the year 1824, and completed in five years, and cost over \$1,000,000. A part of the stock is owned by individuals in the State of New-York. The company own all the land along the line of the canal, including the hydraulic privileges; and another tract, containing about 16,000 acres, has been granted to them by the British Government.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.

Six miles and a half north from the Falls, upon Queenston Heights, is General Brock's Monument, constructed of free stone, 126 feet high, and admitting an ascent to the top by a flight of 170 winding steps. From this eminence, the country around, including the picturesque lake and river scenery, may be seen for fifty miles. The following is the inscription on this Monument:



Brock's Monument & Queenston from the American shore.

 Burning Spring.

“The Legislature of Upper Canada has dedicated this Monument to the many civil and military services of the late Sir James Brock, Knight, Commander of the most Honorable Order of the Bath, Provincial Lieutenant Governor and Major General, Commanding His Majesty’s forces therein. He fell in action, on the 13th of Oct., 1812, honored and beloved by those whom he governed, and deplored by his Sovereign, to whose services his life had been devoted. His remains are deposited in this vault, as also his Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant Colonel John McDonald, who died of his wounds the 14th of Oct., 1812, received the day before, in action.”

 BURNING SPRING.

One mile above the Falls, near the rapids, on the Canada side, is the Burning Spring. This is in a state of constant ebullition, and from it issues a stream of sulphurated hydrogen gas, which quickly ignites on the touch of a candle, and burns with a brilliant flame. The spring is enclosed in a barrel, which collects the gas and lets it through a tube inserted at the top. This gas might, without doubt, be communicated by pipes to

 Stair - Case.

neighboring buildings, and substituted for candles and lamps. The keeper of the spring, Mr. J. Conklin, expects a small fee from visitors, for his trouble. There are strong indications at this Spring of a bed of coal near, but no effort has yet been made to discover it.

 STAIR - CASE.

At the falls, near Table Rock, is a spiral stair-case, constructed for the purpose of enabling visitors to descend and pass behind the sheet of water, to Termination Rock. The entrance behind the great sheet looks somewhat formidable, and sometimes deters visitors from making the attempt, but when it is accomplished, which is frequently done by ladies, the views behind this immense sheet are awfully sublime and terrific, and will fully repay the adventurous lover of the wonderful in nature, for the thorough drenching which he will receive and which constitutes all the danger of the attempt.

Mr. Starkey, who keeps an excellent house of refreshment, and a cabinet of minerals here, is very accommodating to visitors, and when desired, furnishes them with a dress and guide to facilitate their passage behind the falls. This place is extensively known, and much frequented.

 Museum.

MUSEUM.

A few rods from this stair-case, and very beautifully situated, is Mr. Barnett's Museum of natural and artificial curiosities;—an establishment well worthy of patronage. The rooms are arranged very tastefully, so as to represent a forest scene, and contains upwards of 5000 specimens of various kinds and descriptions. There are bipeds and quadrupeds; birds, fishes, insects, reptiles, shells, minerals and Indian curiosities; all calculated to delight the eye, improve the understanding, and mend the heart. Of the birds, beasts, fishes, and insects, several hundred species were caught in the vicinity of the Falls. The noblest eagles of the land delight to hover around the falls; and here they are frequently killed, stuffed, and offered for sale. A large collection of living rattle-snakes may also be seen here. Mr. Barnett also keeps an excellent house of refreshment, and a large assortment of Indian curiosities and geological specimens for sale, and is very polite and attentive to visitors.

One of the very best general views of the falls, is to be obtained from the piazzas of this museum, and a view through a prism, which is kept there, is extremely beautiful and interesting.

 Summer and Winter Scenery.

SUMMER AND WINTER SCENERY.

The surrounding scenery on both sides of the river is in good keeping with the magnificence of the falls. It is just what it should be, — grand, striking and unique. By most visiters it is only seen in summer. But in the winter it is also inimitable and indescribably beautiful. The trees and shrubbery on Goat and other islands, and on the banks of the river near the falls, are covered with transparent sleet, presenting an appearance of “icy brilliants,” or rather of millions of glittering chandeliers of all sizes and descriptions, and giving one a most vivid idea of fairy land.

“For every shrub and every blade of grass,
 And every pointed thorn seems wrought in glass;
 The frighted birds the rattling branches shun,
 Which wave and glitter in the distant sun.”

The scene presents a splendid counterpart to Goldsmith's description of the subterranean grottos of Paros and Antiparos. The mist from the falls freezes upon the trees so gradually and to such thickness, that it often bears a most exact resemblance to alabaster; and this,

 Winter Scenery.

set off by the dazzling colors of the rainbows that arch the river from twenty different points, seems by natural association, to raise the imagination to that world, where the streets are of pure gold, the gates of pearl, and night is unknown.

“ Look, the massy trunks
 Are cased in the pure crystal ; branch and twig
 Shine in the lucid covering ; each light rod,
 Nodding and twinkling in the stirring breeze,
 Is studded with its trembling water-drops,
 Still streaming, as they move, with colored light.
 But round the parent stem, the long, low boughs
 Bend in a glittering ring, or arbors hide
 The glassy floor. O ! you might deem the spot
 The spacious cavern of some virgin mine,
 Deep in the womb of earth, where the gems grow ?
 And diamonds put forth radiant rods, and bud
 With amethyst and topaz, and the place
 Lit up most royally with the pure beam
 That dwells in them ; or, haply, the vast hall
 Of fairy palace, that outlasts the night,
 And fades not in the glory of the sun ;
 Where crystal columns send forth slender shafts,
 And crossing arches, and fantastic aisles
 Wind from the sight in brightness, and are lost
 Among the crowded pillars.”

The winter scenery about the falls is peculiar, a sight of which is worth a journey of thousands of miles.

 Wild Ducks . . . Eagles.

Myriads of wild ducks and geese spend the day in and above the rapids, and regularly take their departure for Lake Ontario every night before dark ; though some are often found in the morning with a broken leg or wing, and sometimes dead, in the river below the falls. This generally happens after a very dark or foggy night ; and it is supposed that, as they always have their heads up stream, while in the water, they are carried down insensibly by the rapids, till they find themselves going over the precipice, and then in attempting to fly, they dive into the sheet of water, and are buried for a time under the falls, or dashed upon the rocks.

Dead fish too, of almost all sizes and descriptions, and weighing from one to seventy pounds, are found floating in the eddies below the falls, forming a dainty repast for gulls, loons, hawks and eagles. The splendid gyrations of the gulls, and their fearless approaches, enveloped in clouds of mist, up to the boiling cauldron directly under the falls, attract much attention. But the eagle, fierce, daring, contemplative, and tyrannical, takes his stand upon the point of some projecting rock, or the dry limb of a gigantic tree, and watches with excited interest the movements of the whole feathered tribes below. Standing there in lordly pride and dignity, in an instant his eye kindles and his ardor rises as he sees the fish-hawk emerge from the deep, screaming with exultation at his

 River below the Falls.

success. He darts forth like lightning, and gives furious chase. The hawk, perceiving his danger, utters a scream of despair and drops his fish; and the eagle instantly seizes the fish in the air, and bears his ill-gotten booty to his lofty eyrie.

Sometimes during a part of the winter, the ice is driven by the wind from Lake Erie, and poured over the falls in such immense quantities as to fill and block up the river between the banks, for a mile or more, to the depth of from thirty to fifty feet, so that people cross the ice to Canada, on foot, for weeks together: the river itself is never frozen over, either above or below the falls, but it affords an outlet for vast quantities of ice from the upper lakes.

 RIVER BELOW THE FALLS.

The river at the falls, is a little over three-fourths of a mile in width, but below, it is immediately compressed into a narrow channel of less than one-fourth of a mile in width: its depth, as ascertained by sounding, is about 250 feet. Its color is deep green, and sometimes blue; occasioned, no doubt, by reflection from the sky.

 Point View . . . Channel . . . Earliest Discoveries.

One of the best general views of the falls and river below, is from a projecting rock, about a mile below the village, sometimes called Point View. The perpendicular rock is here 200 feet above the river, and from the verge of the dizzy height is to be obtained the most complete and extensive view of the entire falls, the river below, and its rocky and precipitous banks, that can be obtained from any other position.

For about two miles below the falls, the river is comparatively smooth; it then runs with amazing velocity to Lewiston; and, what is remarkable, while the river makes a constant descent, the banks have a gradual ascent for 6 miles; so that from the top of the bank to the water, at Brock's Monument, near Queenston, is 370 feet; and the heights there are 38 feet higher than Lake Erie, and 25 feet higher than the land at Schlosser. Whether the bed of the river here was once a natural ravine, or was formed by an earthquake, or worn away by the continued and violent action of the water falling upon the rocks—thus carrying the falls back from Queenston to their present situation, it would be difficult to determine with certainty.

From descriptions of the falls written nearly two hundred years ago, we learn, that though their *shape* has been somewhat altered since, they then occupied the place which they hold now, and exhibited the same

 Remarks of Hennepin, Tonti, Hontan, etc.

wonderful phenomena. When and by whom among the whites they were first discovered, the writer has never yet been able to ascertain. Tradition ascribes their discovery to two missionaries, who were on an exploring tour to this part of the country, in an age anterior to any written account extant.

 REMARKS OF HENNEPIN, TONTI, HONTAN, ETC.

Father Hennepin, who visited this place in December, 1678, thus describes the falls: "Betwixt the Lakes Ontario and Erie, there is a vast and prodigious cadence of water, which falls down after a surprising and astonishing manner, insomuch that the universe does not afford its parallel. 'Tis true, Italy and Suedeland boast of some such things, but we may well say that they are but sorry patterns, when compared with this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible precipice, we meet with the river Niagara, which is not above a quarter of a league broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this descent, that it violently hurries down the wild beasts while endeavoring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to with-

 Earliest Discoveries.

stand the force of its current, which inevitably casts them headlong above six hundred feet high.

"This wonderful downfall is compounded of two great cross streams of water, and two falls, with an isle sloping along the middle of it. The waters which fall from this horrible precipice, do foam and boil after the most hideous manner imaginable, making an outrageous noise, more terrible than that of thunder; for when the wind blows out of the south, their dismal roaring may be heard more than fifteen leagues off.

"The river Niagara having thrown itself down this incredible precipice, continues its impetuous course for two leagues together, to the Great Rock above mentioned, with an inexpressible rapidity; but having passed that, its impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for other two leagues, till it arrives at the Lake Ontario or Frontenac.

"Any barque or greater vessel may pass from the Fort to the foot of this huge rock, above mentioned. This rock lies to the westward, and is cut off from the land by the river Niagara, about two leagues further down than the Great Fall; for which two leagues the people are obliged to transport their goods over land; but the way is very good, and the trees are but few, chiefly firs and oaks.

"From the Great Fall unto this rock, which is to the west of the river, the two brinks of it are so prodigious

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high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the water, rolling along with a rapidity not to be imagined. Were it not for this vast cataract, which interrupts navigation, they might sail with barques or greater vessels more than four hundred and fifty leagues, crossing the Lake of Huron, and reaching even to the further end of the Lake Illinois; which two lakes we may easily say are little seas of fresh water.

“After we had rowed above an hundred and forty leagues upon the Lake Erie, by reason of the many windings of the bays and creeks which we were forced to coast, we passed by the Great Fall of Niagara, and spent half a day in considering the wonders of that prodigious cascade.

“I could not conceive how it came to pass, that four great lakes, the least of which is four hundred leagues in compass, should empty themselves one into another, and then all centre and discharge themselves at this Great Fall, and yet not drown good part of America. What is yet more surprising, the ground from the mouth of the Lake Erie down to the Great Fall, appears almost level and flat. It is scarce discernable that there is the least rise or fall for six leagues together. The more than ordinary swiftness of the stream is the only thing which makes it to be observed. And that which makes it yet the stranger is, that for two leagues together, below the

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Fall, towards Lake Ontario or Frontenac, the lands are as level as they are above it towards the Lake Erie.

“Our surprise was still greater when we observed there was no mountain within two good leagues of this cascade; and yet the vast quantity of water which is discharged by these four fresh seas, stops or centres here, and so falls above six hundred feet deep down into a gulf, which one cannot look upon without horror. Two other great outlets or falls of water, which are on the two sides of a small sloping island, which is in the midst, fall gently and without noise, and so glide away quietly enough; but when this prodigious quantity of water of which I speak, comes to the fall, there is such a din and such a noise, more deafening than the loudest thunder.

“The rebounding of these waters is so great, that a sort of cloud arises from the foam of it, which is seen hanging over this abyss, even at noon-day, when the sun is at its height. In the midst of summer, when the weather is hottest, they rise above the tallest firs, and other great trees, which grow on the sloping island, which makes the two falls of water that I spoke of.

“I wished an hundred times, that somebody had been with us, who could have described the wonders of this prodigious, frightful Fall, so as to give the reader a just and natural idea of it; such as might satisfy him, and

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cause in him an admiration of this prodigy of Nature, as great as it deserves. In the meantime accept the following draught, such as it is; in which, however, I have endeavored to give the curious reader as just an image of it as I can.

“ We must call to mind what I observed of it in the beginning of my voyage. From the mouth of the Lake Erie to the Great Fall, are reckoned six leagues, as I have said, which is the continuation of the great river of St. Lawrence, which arises out of the four lakes above mentioned. The river, you must needs think, is very rapid for these six leagues, because of the vast discharge of waters which fall into it out of the said lakes. The lands which lie on both sides of it to the east and west, are all level from the Lake Erie to the Great Fall. Its banks are not steep, on the contrary, the water is almost always level with the land. It is very certain, that the ground toward the Fall is lower, by the more than ordinary swiftness of the stream; and yet it is not perceivable to the eye for six leagues above.

“ After it has run thus violently for six leagues, it meets with a small sloping island, about half a quarter of a league long, and near three hundred feet broad, as well as one can guess by the eye; for it is impossible to come at it in a canoe of bark, the waters run with that force. The isle is full of cedar and fir; but the land of it lies no

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higher than that on the banks of the river. It seems to be all level, even as far as the two great cascades that make the main Fall.

“ The two sides of the channels, which are made by the isle, and run on both sides of it, overflow almost the very surface of the earth of the said isle, as well as the land that lies on the banks of the river to the east and west, as it runs south and north. But we must observe, that at the end of the isle, on the side of the two Great Falls, there is a sloping rock which reaches as far as the great gulf, into which the said water falls, and yet the rock is not at all wetted by the two cascades, which fall on both sides, because the two torrents which are made by the isle, throw themselves with a prodigious force, one towards the east and the other towards the west, from off the end of the isle, where the Great Fall of all is.

“ After these two torrents have thus run by the two sides of the isle, they cast their waters all of a sudden, down into the gulf by two great falls; which waters are pushed so violently on by their own weight, and so sustained by the swiftness of the motion, that they do not wet the rock in the least. And here it is that they tumble down into an abyss above six hundred feet in depth.

“ The waters that flow on the side of the east, do not throw themselves with that violence as those that fall on the west; the reason is, because the rock at the end of

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the island, rises something more on this side than it does on the west; and so the waters being supported by it somewhat longer than they are on the other side, are carried the smoother off; but on the west, the rock sloping more, the waters, for want of a support, become the sooner broken, and fall with greater precipitation. Another reason is, the lands that lie on the west are lower than those that lie on the east. We also observed that the waters of the fall that is to the west, made a sort of a square figure as they fell, which made a third cascade, less than the other two, which fell betwixt the south and north.

“ And because there is a rising ground which lies before those two cascades to the north, the gulf is much larger there than to the east. Moreover, we must observe, that from the rising ground that lies over against the two last falls, which are on the west of the main fall, one may go down as far as the bottom of this terrible gulf. The author of this discovery was down there, the more narrowly to observe the fall of these prodigious cascades. From thence we could discover a spot of ground, which lay under the fall of water which is to the east, big enough for four coaches to drive abreast, without being wet; but because the ground which is to the east of the sloping rock, where the first fall empties itself into the gulf, is very steep and perpendicular, it is

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impossible for a man to get down on that side, into the place where the four coaches may go abreast, or to make his way through such a quantity of water as falls towards the gulf; so that it is very probable, that to this dry place it is that the rattle-snakes retire, by certain passages which they find under ground.

“ From the end of this island it is that these two great falls of waters, as also the third but now mentioned, throw themselves, after a most surprising manner, down into a dreadful gulf, six hundred feet and more in depth. I have already said, that the waters which discharge themselves at the cascade to the east, fall with lesser force; whereas those to the west tumble all at once, making two cascades, one moderate, the other very violent and strong, which at last make a kind of crotchet or square figure, falling from south to north, and west to east. After this they rejoin the waters of the other cascade that falls to the east, and so tumble down altogether, though unequally, into the gulf, with all the violence that can be imagined from a fall of six hundred feet, which makes the most frightful cascade in the world.

“ After these waters have thus discharged themselves into the dreadful gulf, they begin to resume their course, and continue the great river St. Lawrence for two leagues, as far as the three mountains which are on the