

steps, such as has been before mentioned. Perhaps from no point is the American Fall seen to greater advantage than from the river in crossing the Ferry. In a clear day the scene is indescribably beautiful; and if you have just been viewing the British Fall, the prospect of the bright sparkling torrent of water, white as unsunned snow, and studded with innumerable rainbows, broken into fragments, and vibrating amid the dashing spray, has an exhilarating effect on your spirits, and contributes to dissipate that undefinable sensation of awe which always comes over the mind, while contemplating that magnificent "wonder of the world." Accounts differ as to the comparative height of the two Falls. One has been already copied; others again make the American Fall 164 feet and the "Crescent" only 158 feet high. But it is not a question of any moment whatever. That petty national jealousy, or interested rivalry, which is so ludicrously displayed in the "Guide Books," cannot add a foot to the one Fall, or deduct any thing from the other. There they roll away, side by side, unconscious alike of national distinction and local prejudice, pealing in unison their deep monotonous hymn to the Almighty Monarch of the universe.

Although it is only from the Canada side, or from the river at the Ferry, that a full front view of both the Falls can be obtained, still for a variety of prospect, the palm must be yielded to Goat or Iris Island, which is situated in the midst of the Rapids, and constitutes the wall of partition between the Cataracts. After ascending the stairs from the Ferry to the village of Niagara Falls, where there are several magnificent hotels for public accommodation, you reach the Island by a wooden bridge thrown across the Rapids, for the use of which you have to pay 25 cents. The toll-keeper has always on hand a large stock of Indian and other curiosities for sale. The guides are Messrs. Hooker and Sons, who, with their assistants, will render you prompt and willing service in exploring the beauties of his island paradise.

At the lower end of the island there is a spiral stair-case, by which you can descend to the margin of the river, 185 feet, along which there is a pathway leading to the great Crescent, by which, when the wind blows up the river, you can go with great safety and pleasure under the sheet of water; and another leading to one of the most stupendous scenes in this interesting locality — the "Cave of the Winds." This cave is situated