

from the northwards, pour their waters into the Saint Lawrence. The chief of these is the Saguenay, drawing its source from lake Saint John, and running to the eastward through a mountainous and barren region. The lake is about thirty leagues in circuit, and its borders, as well as the surrounding country, are covered with pine trees of a small growth. The Saguenay, which sweeps along a prodigious body of waters, is interrupted in its course by abrupt precipices, over which it dashes its foaming current; and, being bounded by banks of great elevation, is remarkable for the depth and impetuosity of its flood, long before it mingles with the great river. The fall, which is about fifty feet in altitude, is ninety miles distant from the mouth of the river, and is chiefly striking, for the immense sheet of water, which is perpetually broken in its rugged course, and assumes a resplendent whiteness. When viewed from below, the scene is stupendous and terrific. The incessant and deafening roar of the rolling torrents of foam, and the irresistible violence and fury with which the river hastens down its descent, tend to produce on the mind of the spectator an impression awfully grand. The picturesque and rudely wild forms of the lofty banks, exhibit a gloomy contrast to the lively splendour of the cataract.

The impetuous torrent of the Saguenay, when the tide is low, is sensibly felt in the St. Lawrence, which for a distance of many miles, is obliged to yield to its impulse; and vessels apparently going their course, have thereby been carried sidelong in a different direction.

Besides the fall now described, this river is broken into several rapids or cataracts of lesser height. In many places the banks are rugged and steep, and at intervals, consist of almost perpendicular cliffs of astonishing elevation, some rising to a thousand, and some to six or seven hundred feet. The length of the course of this river is a hundred and fifty miles; its breadth is generally near three miles, except near its mouth, where it contracts to one third of that extent. An attempt has been made, in the centre of its mouth, to sound the depth with five hundred fathoms of line, but no bottom was found. A mile and a half higher up from thence, the depth has been ascertained at one hundred and thirty-eight fathoms; and sixty miles further, in ascending the course of the river, the depth is near sixty fathoms.

Notwithstanding its immense breadth, and the stupendous elevation of its rocky shores, the course of this river is rendered extremely crooked, by points of land which appear to interlock each other; and thus prolong its navigation. The tide ascends to the peninsula of Chicoutami, and, intercepted in its retreat, by these frequent promontories, is much later in its ebb, than that of the Saint Lawrence. The level of the former river, becomes thus,