

gether interrupts the navigation of the stream. In fact, the merchandise which is sent into the interior of North America is obliged to be landed at some distance below the falls, and thence carried across the country to the nearest navigable part of the river above them.

The whole breadth of the precipice is nearly three quarters of a mile, and the quantity of water carried down the falls is said to be 2,688,000 hogsheads-full in a minute. The current is here, and for some distance higher up the river, so rapid, that even fishes are not able to stand its force; they are always dashed to pieces in the fall, and the shore below is covered with their dead bodies, which have been subsequently washed up.

Among the numerous stories current in the country, relating to this wonderful cataract, there is one concerning the fate of an Indian, the truth of which is unquestionable. This unfortunate creature, intoxicated with spirits, had laid himself down to sleep at the bottom of his canoe, which was fastened to the beach, at the distance of some miles above the falls. By some accident the rope loosened, and the canoe of course went adrift. It quickly floated away with the stream, and in a few minutes was carried down the rapids, where the channel becomes narrower, and the bed of the river is covered with rocks. Here it was distinctly seen by several persons standing on the shore, whose attention had been caught by the appearance of a canoe in such a dangerous part of the river. The violent motion of the boat soon awoke the Indian ;