

alone offers a scale of sufficient magnitude to exhibit at one view (which is indispensable) the various parts of this wonderful scene, and to convey any adequate idea of the matchless extent, prodigious power, and awful appearance, of this stupendous phenomenon of nature; but the scene itself must be visited, to comprehend the feeling it produces, and to appreciate the petrifying influence of the tremendous rush of water, the boiling of the mighty flood, and the deep and unceasing roar of the tumultuous abyss; "it strikes upon the soul a sense of majestic grandeur, which loss of life or intellect can alone obliterate."

The drawings for the present Panorama were taken near the Table Rock—a commanding situation, affording the most comprehensive, and, at the same time, one of the finest views of this imposing scene. Immediately in front of the spectator, are the Falls, in simple and sublime dignity, an ocean of waters three quarters of a mile in width, precipitated with astonishing grandeur, in three distinct and collateral streams, down a stupendous precipice upwards of 150 feet in height, on the rocks below, from which they rebound, converted, by the violence of the concussion, into a broad sheet of foam as white as snow; pyramidal clouds of vapor or spray rise majestically in misty grandeur from the abyss, sparkling here and there with prismatic colors, and a rainbow of extraordinary beauty, and peculiar brilliancy, heightens the scene, by spanning the Great Fall. Above are seen the agitated billows, and white-crested breakers of the Rapids, tumultuously hurrying towards the precipice, bounded on the one side by the luxuriant foliage of Goat Island, and on the other by the fertile and thickly-wooded shores of Upper Canada. Below, the river winds in a stream, bright, clear, and remarkably green, between bold and rugged banks, richly colored by both wood and rock. The surrounding scenery, although it must be viewed with comparative indifference, whilst the mind is absorbed in contemplating the grandeur and extent of the cataract, is also in excellent keeping; stupendous and lofty banks, immense fragments of rock in fantastic forms, impenetrable woods approaching their very edge, the oak, ash, cedar, maple, and other forest trees of extraordinary growth and singular shape, the pine, and various evergreens, brushwood peeping from the fissures, and beautiful creeping plants clinging to the perpendicular sides of the rocks, presenting a vast variety of foliage and diversity of hue, rendered still more pleasing by the first frosts of autumn having changed the leaves of some of the more tender to every shade of color, from the brightest yellow to the deepest crimson, thus combining every thing that is essential to constitute the sublime, the terrific, and the picturesque.

The Niagara strait—which forms the boundary line between the British possessions and the United States—is a grand natural canal, by which the superabundant waters of Lake Erie are poured into Lake Ontario. It is a continuation of the River St. Lawrence. Its length from lake to lake is 37 miles, following the windings of the stream, its general course being northerly, and it varies in breadth from 30 rods to 7 or 8 miles.* In this distance the water sustains a fall of 334 feet, thus calculated:—between Lake Erie and the Rapids, 16 feet; in the Rapids, 58 feet; in the Crescent Fall, 154 feet; and the remainder before it reaches Lake Ontario. In the early part of its course, the river is broad and tranquil, and presents a scene of the most profound repose, its waters being nearly level with its shores, and the large and beautiful island, Owanungah, dividing it into two streams for a considerable distance. At Chippewa and

of painting, might produce a picture which would probably distance every thing else of the kind."

"The task must be done by a person who shall go to the spot for the express purpose, making the actual drawings, which he himself is afterwards to convert into a Panorama, which, if well executed, could not fail to impart some portion of the pleasure communicated by the reality."

The same traveller, having seen the painting in progress, has expressed the following opinion:—"The Panorama of Niagara, though not completed, is sufficiently advanced to enable any one who has seen it to judge of the effect; and I have no hesitation in saying, you have accomplished a task which I hardly hoped to see executed; I think your painting gives not only an exceedingly accurate, but a most animated view of the Falls."

* Its greatest width is across the centre of Owanungah, or Grand Island, which is about 6½ miles across, and divides the river into two parts for about 10 miles, the branch on each side of it being from ¼ to 1 mile in width. The broadest expanse of water is below Grand Island, where it resembles a beautiful bay, about 2½ miles broad.—*Ingraham's Manual*.

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