

follow the course of the waters as they roll from the rude confusion below you, and spread themselves out into bright, curling, foaming, green and white waves. To some persons, nothing at the Falls appears so beautiful as the columns of mist, which soar from the foaming abyss, and shroud the broad front of the great flood, whilst here and there rainbows peep out from the mysterious curtain."

The River Niagara, which is only thirty-three and a half miles long, forms the connecting link between Lakes Erie and Ontario—the latter lake being three hundred and thirty-four feet below the level of the former. Above the Falls, at Table Rock, the descent has been found to be fifty-one feet, and from the boiling basin below the Horse-Shoe Fall to the level of Lake Ontario one hundred and nineteen, which thus leaves one hundred and sixty-four feet of a perpendicular fall. So far then as mere height is concerned, the Falls of Niagara are not the highest in the world. But let the spectator reflect, while the solid earth trembles under his feet, while gazing on the phlegethon of seething waters lashed into one sheet of foam beneath, that into that cauldron are precipitated the drainage of the immense territories which surround Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie ; lakes, or rather seas, which, in their aggregate, cover ninety-two thousand square miles—that all this mass is compressed or forced to flow within a channel little, if any, over a single mile in breadth, and that here, after being roused into frightful tumult by the rapids above, the whole, amid its own thunders, plunges at one bound to seek repose in the placid bosom of Lake Ontario.

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