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THE RIVER NIAGARA.

CHAPTER I

EARLY HISTORY.

THE Pan-American Exposition is located on the border of the most wonderful and renowned fresh-water course on the globe. The eventful history of the Niagara River is in keeping with the majestic wonders of Nature there presented.

The wonderful Niagara! flowing from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, prior to 1825 (when was opened the Erie Canal), was the gateway to western empire and civilization, a prominent factor in the settlement of a region now of vast expanse and population, and of unlimited resources. This writing is descriptive of the famous river, of its historic localities, and of the important events occurring thereon and thereby, on the march to civilization and settlement.

The region was first known to the civilized world through the report of James Cartier, a French navigator, who, in 1534, discovered and explored the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Cartier was told, by the natives, that the big river flowing into the Gulf came from a big lake far in the