

18.—*Ferry*

About half a mile below the Falls the river, which is there 400 yards in width, is safely crossed in a small boat; although the water is considerably agitated, the ferrymen, upon their knowledge of the various currents and eddies, cross it without danger at any time of the day in about a quarter of an hour; but the passengers seldom escape without a complete soaking from the spray of the great fall, which descends like rain. The comparative smoothness of the river so immediately after the fall, is accounted for by the great depth of the pool into which the cataract is precipitated, and the sudden contraction of the river; the descending water sinks down and forms an under-current, while a superficial eddy carries the upper stratum back to the fall.

The banks of the river are here remarkably wild and striking. Mr. Howison is enthusiastic in his description of the view from this place: he speaks of it as being of the most gorgeous description, and of most surpassing grandeur.

20.—*Niagara County.*

The banks of the river, for nearly its whole course on the American or United States side, are in the County of Niagara; at the Falls is the rapidly-increasing manufacturing village of Manchester. Two large hotels, kept by Mr. Whitney, are situated here, which, as well as those on the British side, are crowded with visitors during the summer season, and constant communication is kept up with various parts by well-appointed stage coaches. The roads on both sides are separated from the precipitous banks, in many places, only by a narrow slip of wood, and the country round is most beautiful, being a succession of fertile fields, orchards, and gardens. The village of Manchester was burnt by the British troops in 1813, and was rebuilt after the peace.

At a short distance is a small territory, belonging to the remnant of the once powerful tribe of Tuscarora Indians, who emigrated from North Carolina about the beginning of the last century, at the invitation of the Five Nations, into whose confederacy, which then received the title of the Six Nations, they were received; they have a Protestant clergyman resident amongst them, and many have voluntarily adopted Christianity; several of their farms are handsome, and well cultivated.

22.—*American Fall.*

The American, or, as it sometimes called, the Fort Schloper Fall, is 163 feet in perpendicular height; although it is in reality 18 feet higher than the great fall, yet from the Table Rock it appears otherwise. This is partly from the effect of the perspective, but more particularly from the accumulation of rocks below, upon which the water breaks; the whole width of the fall to Goat Island is 1072 feet: it is bold and straight, and is chafed to snowy whiteness by projecting rocks, which break its fall in several places to two-thirds of its descent, but it does not approach in extent, sublimity, or awful beauty, that on the Canadian side. Near Goat Island a rock of considerable size, on the verge of the precipice, cuts off a portion of the water, which descends in a narrow stream, sometimes dignified with the title of the Montmorency Fall; which, however insignificant it may appear, here amid the mighty rush of waters, would rank high amongst European cascades.

About 50 yards above the crest of the fall, and of course not seen in the present view, is a wooden bridge of admirable construction, crossing the worst part of the rapids on this side to Goat Island, which was before only accessible at great personal risk by dropping down the river between the two currents; much boldness of conception, skill, and ingenuity, was shown in the construction of this bridge, by its spirited projector, General Porter, of the American army.

FINIS.