

describing how he got there. But this rigid compliance with the rule,

*Semper ad eventum festinat : et in medias res
Non secus ac notas, auditorem rapit,*

would erase from my chapter one or two recollections which I had much rather preserve in it. I shall therefore begin at the beginning, and rather incur the charge of prolixity, than leave out certain little incidents, which though they may appear very trivial to the next generation, loom somewhat large in the traveller's own eye. I must premise, moreover, that I use the privilege of individuality or plurality, just as my humour may incline, for I and the friends who accompanied me exchanged sentiments with such free and affectionate confidence, our feelings and opinions seemed in most instances to be so harmonious, that in my recollections I cannot isolate myself from them. But though the writer may seem to be speaking occasionally for others, he would rather be understood as narrating only his own reminiscences.

We passed the Falls of Niagara about mid-day, and although to us now they are rather a familiar object, we gazed upon them with greater admiration than ever. The emotions of sublimity excited by this stupendous cataract are not lessened, but increased, by frequent and deliberate contemplation. It is the hasty observer only that complains of disappointment, and leaves behind him unmoved, because unviewed, one of the grandest objects presented on this earth to the observation of man. On this beautiful day, emotion seemed to be started by every object. The fresh and young foliage of the trees, the golden lustre that a bright though mild sun shed on all the scene, the glittering of the ever-rolling rapids, as we descended towards them, and when we reached the Table Rock, the column of

spray, which from the state of the atmosphere rose to an unusual height, the chasm filled with "heavenly arches," so perfect and distinct in all their colours, the tremendous basin of the cataract, in which the water that had taken its leap, and issued from the dense cloud beneath, seemed to be converted into a creamy liquid, working and boiling until it escaped the vortex, and in the current below again resumed its natural green. What a glorious sight ! How indescribable !

" 'Tis listening fear and dumb amazement all."

It rolled on in thundering majestic solitude, embosomed in its own primeval forests, when no human eye saw it. The wild Indian centuries ago—if indeed he was not preceded by some civilized race now extinct—first gazed with amazement upon its wonders. Now, though changed in some of its outlines, undiminished in its grandeur, it is beheld by men of every land, free, enlightened Christians, and is to them the memorial of the eternity and omnipotence of the Creator.

"These as they change, Almighty Father, these
"Are but the varied God."

Leaving the Falls, the stage speedily carried us along the banks of the Niagara River to Fort Erie, a distance of fourteen miles, when we crossed to the American side, and were transported along a rail-way of three miles to Buffalo, the grand emporium of the west, and the principal harbour on these inland lakes stretching out like seas, and extending a navigation, without embracing Lake Superior, of nearly a thousand miles. The commercial enterprise and prosperity of its inhabitants have not blinded them to the importance of education and religion to the well-being of a state, as the following splendid benefactions for the establishment of a College in the city will shew :