

of the boundless forest, or jarred upon the deep music of the cataract, which day by day and year by year resounded ceaselessly among the woods, flit before the mental sight of the beholders, who seem to stand in imagination beside that solitary traveller* as the deep, monotonous thunder of the great river first falls upon his ear, and his eye catches the first distant glimpse of that formless vapour which has settled vague and ghost-like over the gloomy verdure of the forest.—How he pauses in wonder and amazement as the sound grows upon him, and the formless vapour becomes more distinct! How full of expectation he advances, drawing nearer and nearer, till presently the mystery is solved—the Niagara has burst upon his sight! He bows in adoration, for he has chanced upon holy ground—he is before the sanctuary, and the power of the Infinite rushes upon him!

Then again in the tumult of thought is the present recalled, and the congregated worshippers take note of the passing moods, and contemplate how season after season, with every changing phase of earth and sky, still new and strange effects succeed each other; how all around the bloom and freshness of the bordering woods have passed into the golden hues of autumn, and how presently the mysterious colouring and dreamy atmosphere of the fleeting Indian summer are replaced by the snows and crisp cold airs of winter, which, with chill, transforming touch, have changed the out-

* The Niagara Falls were discovered by Father Hennepin, in 1678.