

"EVOLUTION OF THE FALLS OF NIAGARA,"

by Dr. J. W. SPENCER

**Expressions of Scientific Men who have written on the Falls
or subjects bearing upon them.**

The late Prof. J. P. Lesley, (Director of the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and Father of the Science of Topography) was the first to inspire the Author, by his enthusiastic interest, on learning of the Author's observations, showing that Niagara was a modern river, (1881). Prof. Lesley urged for immediate publication, and on the appearance of the paper he referred to it as follows: "It is well, now that Dr. Spencer has disembarassed us of the chief difficulty of our best preserved water system of the North, to remind the admirers of his great discovery", etc. (Report Q 4, Geol. Surv. Pa.) On these researches being extended, Prof. Lesley again wrote: "It is a page in the new history, inaugurated in a great measure by yourself, and involving some of the most important points * * * and in fact must throw light upon the whole subject of elevation and subsidence, as applicable to the entire area of the United States" (Feb. 11, 1888). This prophesy concerning the great scope of the Author's investigations has been fulfilled, not only by him in America, but also by Prof. Edward Hull of England and Dr. Fridtjof Nansen of Norway. Later, Prof. Lesley wrote of Dr. Spencer that he was "not only a well-proved investigator, but an excellent publisher of discoveries", referring to certain ones, which he called "very remarkable".

From this date many contributions by the Author appeared in the leading scientific journals. Some of these were declared epoch-making by men, who themselves were great investigators. The work then done gave the nomenclature, by right of priority, to many of the new features discovered in the Lake region. On request of the late Hon. Andrew H. Green