

and rugged rocks, the difficulty of respiration, and the blasts of air, which is carried down in vast quantities by the river, and rises again with proportionate velocity in every direction, with the quantity of spray which accompanies its ascent, renders it unsafe, if not impossible, to remain any length of time.

8.—*Forsyth's Hotel.*

A large and commodious house, nearly overhanging the fall, containing excellent accommodation for about 150 persons. From the top of this house, and from the galleries or pavilions in the rear, which are ranged one above the other, a fine view is obtained, the surrounding country, the upper course of the river for several miles, the rapids, and the falls, being seen at the same time; the lower part of the fall is of course invisible, but the imagination cannot picture it more grand than it really is; from the pasture about path, laid with planks, winds from the upper bank, on which the house is situated, through the narrow marshy slip which forms the immediate margin of the river, to the Shantee, where an album is kept, in which visitors generally put their names, and which contains a vast number of the photographs of eminent travellers, and scientific men, from all parts of the world.

The Canadian side is exquisitely beautiful, richly cultivated, and thickly inhabited; the ground is extremely fertile, and the rapid progress of population, business, and the arts, created by the Welland canal, and its collateral works, and its inexhaustible water power, will soon render it one of the most important parts of the British dominions. Mr. Forsyth has recently disposed of his hotel and surrounding property, to a company of gentlemen, who have planned a city, and propose erecting churches, schools, ball and promenade rooms, public gardens, libraries, and houses of various sizes, so as to form a place of fashionable resort, to be called "The City of the Falls."

14.—*Guide's House.*

The dwelling of the guide, who provides visitors with suitable dresses, and attends them to the cavern under the great fall. From the rear of his house a convenient staircase descends from the platform to the edge of the water below, and a rough and slippery path, over fragments of fallen rock, conducts to the foot of the fall; from the river the view is generally acknowledged to be much grander than from the American side, and the fall has an extraordinary appearance, no part of the rapids being seen; the water appears to be poured perpendicularly from the clouds. The Shantee, in front of the guide's house, is a favourable spot for ladies to view the scene without inconvenience.

17.—*Table Rock.*

A broad flat rock, forming a circular platform of considerable area, on the same level, and in immediate contact with the western extremity of the great ledge, over which the stream is precipitated; being 100 feet below the upper bank, it is undoubtedly one of the best, if not the very best point for viewing this magnificent scene, as the eye commands at once the whole of the majestic amphitheatre of cataracts, as well as the various stations on both sides of the river, a considerable distance. The shale having been washed from beneath, the rock projects several feet over the fall. Visitors possessed of strong nerves, lay themselves flat on the rock, with the face beyond the edge, looking from this fearful height into the roaring abyss below. The Table Rock is a favourite place for strangers to inscribe their initials or names, with the date of their visit; but it is probable that posterity will not be much benefited by this ingenuity, as the rock has many considerable seams and fissures; and a long slip a few yards below fell with a tremendous crash, in July 1818. This mass, which was 160 feet in length, and from 30 to 40 in breadth, providentially fell during the night, or many lives might have been lost, as the pathway to the guide's house passed over it; a portion of it, 15 feet long, lies on the bank of the river below.

18.—*Path to the Ferry.*

A convenient path, recently made, which greatly facilitates the approach to the Ferry, and forms an agreeable promenade; it proceeds about half a mile in a direct line, when turning short round, it descends, in a safe and easy manner, to the margin of the river.