

6.—*Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall.*

The *Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall*, as it is generally termed, from the precipice having been worn by the water into somewhat of that form, is 154 feet in perpendicular height; in consequence of its shape, the water converges to the centre, where it descends in a solid mass at least 12 feet in thickness, being driven forward with an impetus that hurls it into the gulf below, 50 feet from the base of the rock. For nearly two thirds of its descent, the water in the centre falls in one vast, unbroken mass, smooth and unruffled, and of a beautiful green color: the remainder is hidden by the vast body of vapor, ascending from the abyss. The whole surface of the river appears a body of foam, differing essentially from any thing of the kind produced in a similar way: the bubbles of which it is universally composed are extremely small, are always ascending by millions, and spread over the water in one continued and apparently solid mass. The water is also projected upwards, sometimes to the height of 120 feet, by the force of the air below, in an immense number of small white cones, with pointed heads, their tails varying from one to twelve yards, stretching in every direction, which may be seen continually starting from the cloud of spray.

From *Goat Island* to *Table Rock*, the distance in a straight line is 1221 feet, but following the curvature of the Fall, which is an irregular segment of a circle, with a deep angular gash near the centre, it is 2376 feet, which vast width detracts most surprisingly from its apparent height. The tremendous noise occasioned by this vast body of water falling on the rocks below is of a most extraordinary description. Capt. Hall compares it to the incessant rumbling, deep, monotonous sound, accompanied by the tremor, which is observable in a grist-mill of very large dimensions, where many pairs of stones are at work;—Mr. McTaggart, to the tumbling of a vast quantity of large round stones, from a huge precipice into water of a profound depth. A slight tremulous motion of the earth is felt to some distance on all sides, but is more particularly observable on *Goat Island*: the noise may be heard, when the atmosphere is favorable, fifty miles.

7.—*Cavern behind the Sheet of Water at Table Rock.*

The violence of the impulse causes the water of the *Great Fall* to incline considerably forward in its descent, and the continual action on the shale has hollowed out the rock below, leaving the upper or hardest stratum hanging over in a very perilous manner, above 50 feet, forming a sort of cavern, into which travellers are able to penetrate as far as *Termination Rock*, an impassable mass, 155 feet from the entrance. The passage into this cavern is rather difficult; but it is the place of all others to contemplate the extraordinary sight. The rush of the water here is awful, the thundering sound tremendous; but the slippery 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 unpleasant to remain any length of time.

10.—*Pavilion Hotel.*

A large and commodious house, on the heights above the Falls, containing excellent accommodations for about 150 persons. From the top of this house, and from the galleries or verandahs 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. A foot-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 *Table Rock*.

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, who was the first proprietor of the hotel on this side, 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.*"

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