

filled up to nearly the level of the surrounding country.

Look also at the view, given in very recent years by nature, of how her forces worked to excavate the Niagara gorge in the mass of old Table Rock, left hanging over the abyss for years and falling by its own weight in 1853. Remember the thrilling trip of the little steamer "Maid of the Mist," which, from the quiet waters of her usual, circumscribed limit below the Falls, was, in 1861, taken through the mad rapids safely into the whirlpool and, thence, through the lower rapids into Lake Ontario,—the only vessel that, during the 100 years of Queenston's existence as a port of entry, ever entered it from up-stream; and which vessel was compelled by the canny officer then in charge of the port, to take out entrance and clearance papers, although, according to these, she carried "no passengers and no freight." The trip of that little steamer proved, so far as the river below the Falls was concerned, what the courts have since decided, that the Niagara river throughout its entire length is a navigable stream.

Finally, think of Niagara as the Mecca of all travelers to the New World, think of

"What troops of tourists have encamped upon
the river's brink.
What poets have shed from countless quills,
Niagaras of ink."

Turn also to the long list of noted persons who have paid their devotions and tributes at Niagara's shrine. Potentates and princes have come, gazed on the Falls, and gone away, their visit to Niagara, perhaps like their lives, colorless and without a trace. Then, with greater satisfaction, turn to the large number of famous men and women, uncrowned, but still, by reason of their abilities, rulers of the people, who by their words, their pens, or their pencils, have given their impressions of the cataract to the world, and have, at least, earned for themselves thereby the right to be allowed a niche in Niagara's temple of fame. And numerous are the names of men and women who, in these and other ways, have connected their names with Niagara, embracing the

leaders in every branch of science, knowledge and art.

There is yet another set of men whose greatest notoriety has been acquired at Niagara. Among these are Francis Abbott, "the hermit of Niagara," whose solitary life, close to the Falls themselves, and his death by drowning, have stood as a perpetual proof of the influence of the great cataract on human nature; Sam Patch, whose daring led him to make two jumps from a scaffold, 100 feet high, into the deep waters at the base of the Goat Island cliff, safely in both cases, although, not long afterwards, a similar attempt at the Genesee Falls proved to be his last; Blondin, whose marvelous nerve led him repeatedly, and under various conditions, to cross the gorge on a tight-rope; Joel Robinson, whose life was often risked thereabouts to save that of others; and Matthew Webb, whose prowess as a swimmer led him to try, unaided by artificial appliances, to swim through the whirlpool rapids, in which attempt he lost his life.

Of early Indian names on the frontier, two are specially prominent,—Red Jacket, a Seneca, the greatest of all Indian orators, who spent most of his long life near Buffalo, and died there, and who fought, with the rest of his tribal warriors, in the American army in the war of 1812; and John Brant, son of the famous Joseph Brant, a Mohawk, educated mainly at Niagara at the mouth of the river in Canada, whose first leadership in war was as an ally of the British at the battle of Queenston.

Forever and inseparably connected with the Niagara region will be the names of all of the persons here referred to, some mentioned merely as members of a class, others individually. Among the first on this roll of honour, as they were among the first to view, depict, and describe the Falls, are the names of La Salle and Hennepin,—the intrepid explorer, and the noble, though much villified, priest, for since 1678 there has been no portion of the globe to which the attention of mankind has been more, and in more ways, attracted than to this Niagara region.