While there is every reason to believe that a winter of continually freezing weather, by retaining the snowfall until the thawing weather of April or May, will tend to raise the summer level of the lake at the expense of the winter level, it is not confirmed to any great degree. The explanation of this is not difficult. A single week of warm weather in the winter, causing the melting of the greater part of the snow, might be preceded and followed by extremely cold weather, giving a low mean temperature for the month; so that a cold winter does not necessarily imply the impounding until spring, in the form of snow, of the winter rainfall. Vessel owners and captains state that the water in the several lakes must have decreased and fallen, as it is now found more difficult to enter the several harbors and navigate the channels. Others have remarked that the deepening of some of the channels lying between the chain of lakes has caused a drainage and lowering of the water in the lakes; others, that the wearing away of the crest of the rock at Niagara Falls has lowered the water above that point.

In making these and other assertions and statements, these persons seem to forget entirely that the vessels used now are larger, and draw from six to ten feet more water than they did some few years ago, and, consequently, require a corresponding greater depth of channel and harbor accommodation. General Poe, Lieut.-Col. of Engineers, U.S. Army, in charge of the Lake District for the American Government, writing upon this subject, states : - " There is no indication anywhere that the waters in the lakes have mysteriously fallen. The long continued series of observation, now available, show that since 1838 the water level has fluctuated within limits somewhat less than 6 feet, and that these fluctuations were due to the greater or less rain and snowfall. It may be considered, as a fact established, that the lakes are simply great pools forming part of the course of a river, and that they conform to all the laws governing the rise and fall of rivers."

In 1881, it was stated by the Toronto newspapers that the level of Lake Ontario had been lowered by work done at the Galops Rapids, in the St. Lawrence river, and that the harbor of Toronto had been damaged by it. It was proved, however, that thirty years before the deepening of the Galops channel was begun, the water

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