

with Niagara ; for stupendous as nature is in that place, the soaring imagination of man overtops and looks down on all material grandeur. The cataract, the snake or the mosquito, displaces by actual contact preconceived opinions, and substitutes simple realities. I cannot hope that any words of mine should dispel mental or moral Niagaras, but the understanding must be deranged indeed, to which the words of truth and earnestness cannot convey conviction, as readily as the sting of an insect or the venom of a reptile conveys pain to the body.

Of the erroneous impressions existing in Ireland, alike as to Republican and British America, it must be owned the main source is a want of downright candor on the part of the Irish on this side, in their communications with their friends "at home." To give pleasure instead of pain—to keep up heart and hope in anxious relatives and friends—to dazzle the neighbours—to enjoy a triumph even in their absence—the worst fortune has been made to appear better, the middling lot has been puffed into a prodigious run of luck, and even the best success has been exaggerated beyond bounds. I remember one of our countrymen in Boston about twenty years ago writing to his friends that he inhabited a four-storied house and drove his own carriage. So, indeed, he did ; he inhabited the cellar, and drove a hack about town at a quarter dollar a fare !