

WASHAGO

Is a little village at the head of navigation, on Lake Couchiching, 12 miles north of Orillia, and forms the entrance to the Free Grant district of Muskoka. Here the steamboats land their freight and passengers. It contains an hotel, post office, and saw mill. Many have turned back on their arrival here, and it is not much to be wondered at, for the scene is anything but inviting. Rock is very prominent, but I assure my readers that if they will penetrate the settlement, a more pleasing prospect will meet their view.

MUSKOKA FALLS.

Muskoka Falls is situated on the north-west corner of the Township of Draper, at the junction of the Peterson line of road with the Muskoka Road. It is 21 miles north of Washago, and 3 miles south of Bracebridge. There is in this village a post office, with daily mail; store, hotel, school, meeting-house, &c. The soil in the neighbourhood is good, and the country around is well settled. It is chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its scenery. The Grand Muskoka Falls are always attractive to tourists, and much admired by the lovers of nature. In the spring of 1866 a scene of unusual interest presented itself. In former years the spray had formed an arch over the Falls, but on this occasion it assumed the form of a cone with a crater, and from its mouth the spray came boiling forth in awful grandeur, ascending at least 100 feet. It might be compared to a mighty, massive silver fountain, sending forth its sparkling waters. Any one who has witnessed Vesuvius burning in his fury may form some conception of this grand sight. As I gazed upon the scene a double rainbow spanned the Falls; countless icicles were hanging from the branches of the tall pines as they bent gracefully over the cataract, and I wished that the world might be privileged with the sight. I drove some distance in order to get an artist to take a negative, but the spray was so great that a good picture could not be obtained. Multitudes of those who love the sublime and picturesque take a trip hither once a year; and, when we consider that the Falls are 175 feet in height, and that 3,670 tons of water per minute rush through this narrow mountain gorge and descend to the basin beneath with a voice like thunder, it is not to be wondered at that visitors from almost every part of the continent have carved their names on the