

two pieces of timber laid across, and within a few yards of the brow of the cataract or centre Fall, which is about 54 feet wide. Looking up between the Islands, this small branch of the river appears to be issuing out of a wood, and coming down a flight of steps, some eight or ten feet distant from each other, forming, if not so sublime, at least as beautiful a view as that of the Falls themselves. From the Island, which is about 30 yards in width, a side view of the American Fall may be obtained. From its edge that which in front appears to be straight, or nearly so, assumes almost as much the shape of a curve as the Grand Crescent itself. From this point, too, when the sun is shining, and has reached sufficient altitude, a beautiful rainbow may be seen immediately beneath the feet of the spectator; such as is indeed presented at every point of the Falls under similar circumstances. The moon also by night produces the same phenomenon, while the white foam of the falling waters, the ascending mist and agitated bosom of the river, assume the appearance of living liquid chrystal."

Minor Curiosities, &c.

THE WHIRLPOOL.

It is the same with this as with other wonders of the Niagara River—personal inspection is the thing. Books are mere transcripts of impressions made on the minds of their respective writers. They furnish nothing like description, any more than the unutterably wretched wood-cuts which are put into them by way of embellishment and illustration afford even the remotest idea of what they profess to represent. Still it may be well enough, after you have seen with your own eyes, to listen to what others think and say of what you have thus seen; but we hold it as a good general rule to look first, and read the book, whether it calls itself a "Guide" or not, afterwards. But we are forgetting the Whirlpool. Having no knack at what is called description, and being withal "dead sweet," as well as "wretched ill o't," we again borrow as follows from Mr. Lano's manuscript:—