

A BRIEF GUIDE

—TO—

NIAGARA FALLS AND VICINITY.

COMPILED FROM PILGRIMS' NOTES.



READER, the pilgrim stands entranced and lingers on the platform at the station of Falls View, on the Canada side. He hesitates to advance farther in his explorations, in fear of destroying the deeply-rooted impressions left upon all his senses at the first sight of that wondrous vision of Niagara, which defies at once description and analysis, and excites by turns, ideas of grandeur, beauty, terror, power, sublimity. But remembering his bounden duty to you, he wends his way, leisurely, to the little Canadian village lying immediately under the brow of the hill, and soon reaches the river bank.

GENERAL VIEW.—From the bank just below the Clifton House there is a fine panoramic view of both Falls. The larger cataract stretching from shore to shore is the Canadian or Horse-Shoe Fall, whilst the smaller one is the American. This view embraces the entire contour of the Cataract from the northern point of the American Fall to the Canadian shore at Table-Rock.

AMERICAN FALLS—FRONT VIEW.—A few steps further, and from a small platform on the ledge opposite the Brunswick House, there is a most interesting front view of the American and Center Falls. The Rapids above, the church spires of the American village showing through the trees, the islands in the river, the rocks at the foot of the Falls upon which the descending torrent breaks into spray, all contribute to the magnificence of the picture.

TABLE ROCK exists only in name, and in the interest which attaches to its site. It was a truly magnificent crag, overhanging the fearful abyss, and it constituted one of the wonders of the place. The overhanging Table fell in 1850, and its remains stand in a huge mass of rock at the edge of the river below the bank. It extends along the bank to the very junction with the Horse-Shoe Fall, and the view from it is full of sublimity.

HORSE-SHOE FALL.—Here we are at the edge of the famous Cataract. The pencil nor the pen can do justice to the scene. The silent and still picture wants the motion and the sound of that stupendous rush of waters. An ever-rising column of spray, crowned with prismatic glory, spires upward from the foaming gulf below. This spectacle alone is worth a pilgrimage of several thousand miles to see. The depth of the water in the center is more than 20 feet, as proven by an experiment made with the unseaworthy vessel, "Michigan," sent over the Falls in 1827.

This Fall is 1900 feet across with a drop of 158 feet and fully fifteen hundred million cubic feet of water pass over the ledge every hour. The name "Horse-Shoe" is hardly