

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES—continued.

can Fall, which, though sublime, inclines to the beautiful; while the Canada Fall, though beautiful, is characterized by an overpowering sublimity.

The number of visitors at the Falls is said to be about 40,000 annually, and the number is increasing. While curiosity constitutes an attribute of the human character, these Falls will be frequented by admiring and delighted visitors, as one of the grandest exhibitions of nature. The fashionable, the opulent, and the learned here congregate in the summer season from the principal cities in the country, from the Southern and Western States, South America, the West Indies, the Canadas, and various parts of Europe, and, indeed, from all parts of the civilized world. An American poetess has well said of Niagara:

"Flow on for ever, in thy glorious robe
Of terror and of beauty! God hath set
His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
Mantles around thy feet. And he doth give
Thee voice of thunder—power to speak of Him
Eternally—bidding the lip of man
Keep silence, and upon the rocky altar pour
Incense of awe-stricken praise."

There are good hotels on both sides of the river, but the Clifton House, on the Canada side, commands the best views; and the grounds adjoining being laid out with such exquisite taste attract to this hotel visitors in search of either health or pleasure.

St. Catharines—is a town of great business, situated on the Welland Canal, that great work which connects Erie and Ontario. Many of the public buildings are of cut stone, and are exceedingly handsome. Its principal business street, however, is very ill-planned, and detracts much from the appearance of the place. The water-power is considerable, and works numerous mills for the manufacture of flour, the staple trade of St. Catharines. Hotel accommodation, until recently, has been very poor. The opening of the Stevenson House, however, in connexion with the Baths, has worked a great improvement in this respect, and there are few places where the man of business or the invalid is better cared for than at this, the Saratoga of Canada.

Grimsby—is situated on Forty Mile Creek, the scene of some fighting during the last American War. It is a small village of 800 inhabitants; there are two churches, grist and saw mills, brewery, &c.

Hamilton—Population 25,000—has good claim to the title of "The Ambitious City." But twenty years ago, there were only as many shanties where now may be seen stately mansions—built of enduring stone, tenanted by its merchant princes—extensive warehouses, magnificent public buildings, and all that denotes a populous and wealthy place. It numbers five banking establishments, two Episcopal, two Presbyterian, one Free, and five Methodist churches; a Mechanics' Hall, school-house, news-room, and an hospital. It possesses, in Burlington Bay, formed by that very remarkable tongue or slip of land which divides it from Lake Ontario, one of the finest and most secure harbours in British North America—the secret of its great trade and commerce. The Hotels are, Davidson's and Norton's, both excellent. The Anglo-American, a superb structure just opened, bids fair to be the best, as it is the largest, in western Canada.