

ascending mist and agitated bosom of the river, assume the appearance of living liquid crystal."

MINOR CURIOSITIES.

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. 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 sweer," as well as "wretched ill o't," we again borrow as follows from Mr. Lane's manuscript:

"Once arrived at the water's edge—no matter by what means—the eye is directed to the Whirlpool, which seems to be a sort of natural basin, or '*half-way house*,' where the river may rest and refresh itself after its recent exertions.* It is nearly circular, and, as far as I can judge, about a mile in circumference.

"From the appearance of the land upon the hill, I am led to imagine that the Falls were anciently situated here ; and have gradually receded to the place at which we now find them.(?) Unfortunately on my visit, the Whirlpool was about five feet below its usual level ; still it possessed sufficient attractions to repay me amply for my trouble. A tree which had either been precipitated over the cataract, or had accidentally fallen into the river below it, continued for two hours—the duration of my visit—most perseveringly performing a rotary motion around a circle a furlong in diameter.

"The river at this place turns abruptly round a point, as if with an intention to retrace its course, as part of the current dashes suddenly round and pursues its onward way, while another portion, obstructed in its progress by the inter-

* This "*half-way house*" seems to be rather a disorderly *resting-place*.—ED.