

constrained to make a *portage*; that is, to transport our goods over land, but the road is very good. Trees are few in number, the land consisting almost exclusively of meadows, with pines and oaks interspersed.

From the Falls to the Rock which lies on the western side of the river, both banks rise so exceedingly high that one shudders to look at the whirling current beneath. Were it not for these great Falls of Niagara, the navigation, which is completely obstructed, would be open to large boats and even ships more than four hundred and fifty leagues through Lakes Huron and Illinois. These lakes may truly be called small seas of fresh water." (1)

At the period of P. Hennepin's voyage the wild state of the country must have imparted to this great wonder of nature an aspect even more grand and terrible than that which still makes it an object of unequalled magnificence, and consequently of universal attraction. There exists between the well known contour of the falls and the altered scenery by which they are now surrounded a pleasing harmony, which has dissipated the rugged and inhospitable look that struck terror in the first Europeans who beheld them. Châteaubriand has given the world a description of Niagara in his *Atala*, which has contributed as much to establish the reputation of the falls as all that has been said about them since; these few lines alone, written by the author of the *Genie du Christianisme*, and which we now translate, have drawn thousands to the spot.

"We soon reached the brink of the cataract whose presence was announced by dreadful roaring. It is formed by the River Niagara which issues from Lake Erie and falls into Lake Ontario, its perpendicular height is one hundred and forty-four feet. From Lake Erie to the falls the river runs over a steep declivity, and as it leaps down has the appearance less of a river than of a sea whose tide rushes headlong into a yawning abyss. The cataract is divided into two branches, and assumes the form of a horseshoe; projecting forward between the two falls and suspended above the chaos of waters is an island, hollowed out underneath and overgrown with trees. The great body of the stream falls towards the south, bending into a vast cylinder and unrolling itself as a sheet of snow, brilliant with many colors in the sun. Towards the east the torrent descends in a frightful shadow, and seems a liquid column of the deluge—a thousand rainbows playing over the deep chasm. The water striking violently against the shattered rocks flies in whirlwinds of mist high above the forest as the smoke of a vast conflagration. Pine and wild walnut trees with rocks hewn into fantastic figures decorate the scene. Eagles drawn by the gush of air descend whirling around to the bottom of the chasm; and caracoux hung by their pliant tails from the low branches watch, eager to seize the drifting carcasses of the moose-deer and of the bear."

Queenstown which the Prince visited immediately after leaving the Falls of Niagara, is situated on very elevated ground, and commands a charming prospect. On one side the Niagara River, with its cold green waters, is seen winding between its high banks; on the other Lake Ontario, with a vast extent of country whose luxuriant vegetation offers the most varied tints, opens to the view.

It was here that one of the most remarkable combats of the war of 1812 took place. General Brock died victorious on this spot, as Wolfe had done on the Plains of Abraham. As he fell mortally wounded his troops and militiamen rushed upon the enemy to avenge his death, and overthrew all that opposed them. The first monument erected to his memory was destroyed in 1810 by some unknown Vandal, who blew up a portion of it with gunpowder; but a column more befitting the deeds which it is to commemorate, was undertaken in 1856,—a national subscription having been opened for the purpose,—and was finished and solemnly inaugurated in September 1859. The cost of this new monument was over £2000; it consists of an elegant Corinthian column, rising from a pedestal ornamented with bass-reliefs at the four angles of its base lions support escutcheons bearing the arms of the hero. The total height is 150 feet including the statue of the general, who is represented with his left hand resting on the pommel of his sword, his right extended and grasping a baton—the classical symbol of military authority. In the vault under the monument lie two sarcophagi of stone which enclose the remains of Sir Isaac Brock and of his aide-de-camp, Col. Macdonnell.

The monument had been left purposely incomplete at the time of its inauguration; the Prince now laid the last stone in the presence of 160 veterans, who had served in the war of 1812, and among whom we notice Sir J. B. Robinson, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, Sir Allan McNab and Sir Etienne Taché. The first named gentleman read the following address:—

*May it Please Your Royal Highness,—*

Some of the few survivors of the Militia Volunteers who assisted in

(1) *Voyage du R. P. Louis Hennepin, Amsterdam 1704.* It will be seen that this writer greatly exaggerates the height of the falls.

defending Canada against the invading enemy during the last American war, have assembled from different parts of the Province, in the hope that they may be graciously permitted to offer to Your Royal Highness the expression of their loyal welcome, upon your arrival in this portion of Her Majesty's dominions. In the long period that has elapsed, very many have gone to their rest, who, having served in higher ranks than ourselves, took a more conspicuous part in that glorious contest. They would have delighted in the opportunity which we now enjoy of beholding in their country a descendant of the just and pious sovereign in whose cause they and their fellow-soldiers fought, and whom they were from infancy taught to revere for his many public and private virtues.

We feel deeply grateful to Her Majesty, whose condescension to the wishes of her Canadian subjects has conferred upon us the honor of a visit from Your Royal Highness; and we rejoice in the thought that what Your Royal Highness has seen, and will see, of this prosperous and happy province, will enable you to judge how valuable a possession was saved to the British Crown by the successful resistance made in the trying contest in which it was our fortune to bear a part; and Your Royal Highness will then be able to judge how large a debt the Empire owed to the lamented hero Brock, whose gallant and generous heart shrank not, in the darkest hour of the conflict, from the most discouraging odds, and whose example inspired the few with the ability and spirit to do the work of many.

We pray that God may bless Your Royal Highness with many years of health and happiness, and may lead you by a Providence to walk in the paths of our revered and beloved Queen, to whom the world looks up as an illustrious example of all the virtues that can dignify the highest rank, support worthily the responsibilities of the most anxious station, and promote the peace, security, and happiness of private life.

His Royal Highness replied as follows:—

Gentlemen.—I accept with mixed feelings of pride and pain the address which you have presented on this spot; pride in the gallant deeds of my countrymen, but pain from the reflection that so many of the noble band you once belonged to, have passed away from the scenes of the bravery of their youth, and of the peaceful avocations of their riper years.

I have willingly consented to lay the first stone of this monument. Every nation may, without offence to its neighbours, commemorate its heroes, their deeds of arms, and their noble deaths. This is no taunting boast of victory, no revival of long-passed animosities, but a noble tribute to a soldier's fame; the more honorable, because we readily acknowledge the bravery and chivalry of that people by whose hands he fell.

I trust that Canada will never want such Volunteers as those who fought in the last war, nor her Volunteers be without such a leader; but no less and most fervently I pray that your sons and your grandsons may never be called upon to add other laurels to those which you have so gallantly won.

Accept from me, in the Queen's name, my thanks for your expressions of devoted loyalty.

The Prince and suite then ascended to the top of the monument and viewed the scenery, which in grandeur cannot be surpassed. His Royal Highness also laid the last stone of an obelisk erected on the precise spot where Brock fell.

Shortly after the Prince went on board the *Zimmerman* and proceeded to the little town of Niagara, which under the name of Newark was once the capital of Upper Canada. It is situated at the head of Lake Ontario, almost facing the old Fort of Niagara which stands on the United States shore, and which awakens so lively an interest in the mind of the tourist.

Although the population of Niagara does not exceed 3000, still it returns a member to Parliament—the least an ancient capital can do. The neatly adorned little town gave the *Heir Apparent* a kind reception; having heard the official harangues of the mayor and magistrates, His Royal Highness received a deputation of ladies, who came to make an offering of a basket of fruit grown in the well known orchards of the vicinity. The royal party having again set out soon reached Port Dalhousie, and thence visited St. Catharines, on the Welland Canal.

This last mentioned place, as the Welland Canal to which it is indebted for its prosperity, owes its existence to Hon. Mr. Merritt, a gentleman whose plans were looked upon as chimerical, but who happily has lived to see them transformed into splendid realities.

This little town, whose population numbers about 7000 inhabitants, desirous of giving in the joyous festivities of the day, a prominent place to the main element of its success, erected a triumphal arch entirely composed of flour barrels. It is said that this construction did not present such a heterogeneous figure as might have been expected.

Having received several addresses, including one from the mayor, Mr. Currie, the Prince left St. Catharines by the Great Western railway for Hamilton.