

other large rivers of Labrador, flows in a distinct valley cut down far below the general level of the surrounding country. If Hamilton Inlet, which is only a portion of the ancient valley now sunk below sea level is included, the main valley extends inland nearly four hundred miles, and its present bottom is from 600 to 1,200 feet below the surface of the surrounding tableland. The upper portions of the river flows nearly on a level with the lower portions of the central tableland, and like the Kanapiskan spreads out into lakes, or in other places is broken into several channels by large islands, so that it is often difficult to define or follow the principal channel. Near the Grand Falls, the river changes from a meandering stream, that follows the lower levels of the general surface, and contracting into one channel, is precipitated into the ancient, deeply cut valley. In twelve miles this great river, with a volume nearly equal to that of the Ottawa where it flows past the Capital, falls 760 feet from where it issues from a narrow canon into the wider valley. The first part of the descent is seven miles of rapids with a total fall of 200 feet. The river then contracts into a narrow inclined, rocky trough down which it rushes with a tremendous velocity and is spurted out in a solid mass over a steep precipice into a circular basin 300 feet below. The mighty roar of this falling, seething mass of water, which can be heard ten miles away as a vibrating rumble, the mighty display of power and the whole grandeur of the scene fills the beholder with awe so great that the poor Indians of the region cannot be induced to look at it. The basin into which the river falls is about two hundred yards wide, and is nearly surrounded with vertical rocky cliffs, that rise 500 feet above the water. The bottom of the cliffs are lashed continuously by the mighty waves generated in the basin by the fall; while rising high above the walls of the basin is a column of spray that forms a conspicuous mark visible from any hill within 30 miles of the falls. From the basin the river rushes out through a narrow canon cut vertically into the rock at right angles to the falls. This canon, on