

visited by the Indians in the passage from the western regions going eastward down the lake towards the Sault Ste. Marie. Tracing their picturesque details in this direction, the voyager on sailing inside Grand Island, towards the shore, gradually approaches a range of stratified sand-stone cliffs, banded in layers of white, yellow, red, and deep-brown strata, and streaked with strongly-marked veins of perpendicular coloring, occasioned apparently by the water oozing through the seams impregnated with metallic oxides, or other coloring matter, and distributing it over the broad bands of white sand-stone which constitute the main mass of the rock, and lie between the thin layers of colored rock or shale. In describing one magnificent segmental curve of the cliffs, to which, from its lofty and regular proportions, Messrs. Foster and Whitney have given the name of "The Amphitheatre," they remark: "It is in this portion of the series that the phenomena of colors are most beautifully and conspicuously displayed. These do not by any means cover the whole surface of the cliff, even when they are most conspicuously displayed, but are confined to certain portions of the cliffs in the vicinity of the Amphitheatre; the great mass of the surface presenting the natural, light-yellow, or raw sienna color of the rock. The colors are also limited in their vertical range, rarely extending more than thirty or forty feet above the water, or a quarter, or a third of the vertical height of the cliff. The prevailing tints consist of deep-brown, yellow and grey; burnt sienna and French grey predominating. There are also bright blues and greens, though less frequent. All of the tints are fresh, brilliant and distinct, and harmonize admirably with one another, which, taken in connection with the grandeur of the arched and caverned surfaces on which they are laid, and the deep and pure green of the water which heaves and swells at the base, and the rich foliage which waves above, produce an effect truly wonderful." This aspect accordingly, predominating over the other striking features of these rocks, suggested their English name, while the voyageurs of French descent, conferred on them a designation derived rather from their most characteristic forms. Many portions of the cliffs are indented by wedge-shaped recesses, which leave the intervening rock projecting like the wasted round towers or bastions of an ancient castle, while the loose soil and shale at top, yielding more freely to the action of the atmosphere, and of moisture and frost, have most frequently assumed the form of a conical roofing, greatly adding to the artificial look of the whole. In one group, especially, a little to the west of the magnificent natural arch styled "Le Grand