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FALLS OF NIAGARA.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Falls of Niagara may justly be classed among the wonders of the world. They are the pride of America, and their grandeur, magnitude, and magnificence are well known to all the civilized world. Ever since the discovery of this wonderful cataract, millions have flocked thither from all countries to gaze with feelings of the deepest solemnity on the tumultuous fall of waters, and to adore the power and majesty of the Almighty as these are exhibited and realized amid the sublime scenery of this stupendous waterfall.

In the following pages we shall attempt to guide the traveller to the various points whence the finest views of the Falls may be obtained, and, thereafter, conduct him to the spots of peculiar interest in their neighbourhood.

The great lakes of North America—Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie—pour the flood of their accumulated waters into Lake Ontario through a channel of about 36 miles in length. This channel is named the Niagara River, and is part of the boundary between Canada and the State of New York. Twenty-two miles below its commencement at Lake Erie occur the famous Falls of Niagara. These Falls are divided into two by Iris or Goat Island. The American Falls are 900 feet wide, by 164 feet high. The Horse-Shoe or Canadian Fall is 2000 feet wide, and 153 feet high. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it is supposed to be of Iroquois extraction, and to signify the “Thunder of Waters.” The roar of the Falls is sometimes heard at a great dis-