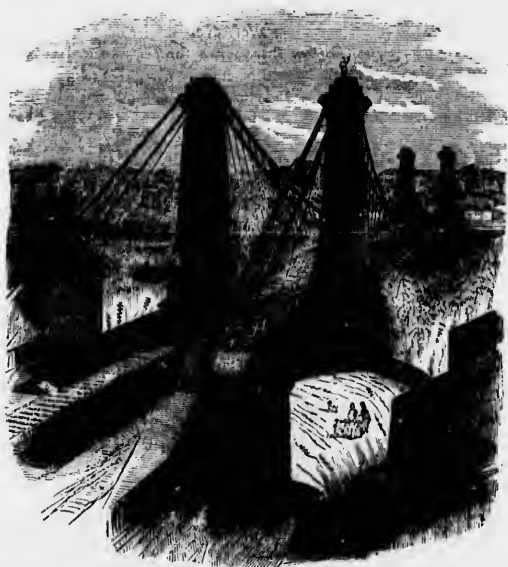


SUSPENSION BRIDGE, FALLS OF NIAGARA.



NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE—RAILROAD TRACK VIEW.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

[Distant from New York, 440; Quebec, 585; Philadelphia, 441; Baltimore, 632; Toronto, 50; Buffalo, 52 miles.]

To attempt to convey the faintest impression of the unspeakable magnitude and magnificence of the Falls of Niagara almost borders on presumption. They have been elud with a brilliant halo of imagination since we first heard of their existence, at school. The pen, the pencil, and photography, have all been laid under contribution, for the purpose of describing and illustrating the mighty cataract. The powers of word-painting have been wielded by the literateur, the preacher, and the poet, to furnish suitable representations of the "world's wonder." Futility and failure have been written upon every attempt. The thunder of waters is inexpressible by human language; but yet, to be admired it needs only to be seen; and the deep impression that is stamped upon the mind of every spectator that stands before the stupendous scene of Niagara, will never be erased from the tablets of memory. Who shall ever forget that moment when he leapt from the cars, bounded, with all the impatience of a curiosity cherished from earliest infancy, down the declivity, and the sublime scene burst upon his astonished vision?

The eye wandered up and down "the Rapids," rushing, for a mile above the Falls, in tumultuous madness, fretting and eddying, whirling and twirling, rumbling and tumbling, pell-mell, in precipitate confusion; fell then upon the pure, pellucid waters, that soothed themselves into a solemn sweep as they moved, with the majesty of irresistible might over the lofty precipice, with the deafening roar of gratulation at their safe descent; and last, not least, upon the beauteous bow that capped and crowned the glowing scene resplendent with magnificence and redolent of transcendent sublimity.

But instead of straining the capabilities of language, by heaping metaphor on metaphor, in a listless endeavour to describe the indescribable, let us act as *cicerone* to the tourist, and leave him to drink inspiration from the voice of the living waters themselves.

We may here notice that the Falls are formed by the United waters of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie, which all meet in the River Niagara, at the eastern extremity of Lake Erie, from which it pursues its