

ble than that of thunder ; so that when the wind blows from the south, their dismal roaring may be heard above fifteen leagues off.

The river Niagara having thrown itself down this incredible precipice, continues its impetuous course for two leagues with an inexpressible rapidity ; and the brinks are so prodigious high, that it makes one tremble to look steadily on the water, rolling along with a rapidity not to be imagined. It is so rapid above the descent, that it violently hurries down the wild beasts, endeavouring to pass it to feed on the other side, casting them down headlong above six hundred feet. A bark or greater vessel may pass from fort Frontenac until you come within two leagues of the Fall, for which two leagues the people are obliged to carry their goods over land ; but the way is very good, and the trees are but few, and they chiefly furs and oaks. Were it not for this vast cataract which interrupts navigation, we might sail with barks or greater vessels above four hundred and fifty leagues further.

On the seventh of August we went on board, being in all thirtyfour men, and sailed from the mouth of the lake Erie, and on the eleventh entered a streight thirty leagues long and one broad, except in the middle, which makes the lake of St. Claire. On the twentythird, we got into the lake Huron. The twentysixth we had so violent a storm that we brought down our yards and topmasts, and let the ship drive at the mercy of the wind, knowing no place to run into to shelter ourselves. Mr. la Salle, notwithstanding he was a courageous man, began to fear, and told us we were undone ; whereupon