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NIAGARA FALLS.

Who ever becomes tired of seeing, hearing or reading about the falls of Niagara? It is too grand for our feeble nerves to comprehend at once. At the first sight it appals; it seems to deaden the senses to its sublimity as the bright glare of sunlight after the dimness of a curtained room; but after a while the waters begin to sing a sweeter song, whose music grows the more enchanting the longer it is heard, and the eye, becoming accustomed to the scene, is educated into a comprehension of its grandeur.

The portion of the falls on the American side of Goat Island as shown in our illustration is 164 feet high and about 1100 feet wide, while the Horseshoe fall on the Canadian side is 150 feet high and about 2200 feet wide.

Among the great cataracts of the world Niagara stands pre-eminent for the enormous volume of water that is carried over so high a precipice. Although there are many that descend from greater heights, yet "the sublimity of Niagara is in the vast power displayed by a mighty current descending down the long rapids, and finally plunging in one unbroken sheet into the deep abyss below."

NOT ONE CENT MORE.

A merchant in a thriving country village was asked one day to subscribe for the support of the gospel. "Not one cent more," was the short and querulous reply.

"Shall I understand, then," said the solicitor, "that you are not paying for ministers?"

"Exactly that, you are to understand. The money I have paid for what you call the gospel is so much that I have thrown away, and I am now done."

"Are you so determined in this matter?"

"Yes, so determined—that's the word."

"But you pay for insuring your goods?"

"Certainly."

"What do you insure against?"

"Against fire—nothing else."

"Upon what do you depend to protect you against thieves and robbers?"

"Upon the laws."

"Do you think the laws would protect you unless they are enforced?"

"No fool would expect that."

"Suppose that all the people within six miles of your store were thieves and robbers, do you think that in such case the laws would do you much good?"

"I know they would not. But then, what is the use of such talk? The people around here are not thieves and robbers, but a wholesome, law-abiding people. I know that if such a thing should happen that a thief or a robber should meddle with my property, there is virtue enough in this community to enforce the laws and protect me."

"I believe just as you do in that respect. But what produces the virtue among our people?"

"I don't concern myself about that."

"Can you deny that it is the Sabbath, the Bible, our Sunday-schools, our preaching, our prayer-meetings, and whatever is done

among us to expose sin and inculcate holiness?"

"Well, what if all that is true?"

"If all that is true, then these moral appliances of the community are making the people safe for you to live among. And I ask you, as an honest man, whether you

would live here a day if all the churches, Bibles, ministers, &c., were taken out of the community, and you had nobody left but vile elements of society?"

"Well—well—I don't think I should, if I must tell the truth."

"What, then, does it amount to but this, that the money which other people pay for the support of religion is really so much money against thieves and robbers?"

"I never saw it so before."

"And now, I ask, are you the man to wish these people, who support religious meetings, to pay your tax for insurance?"

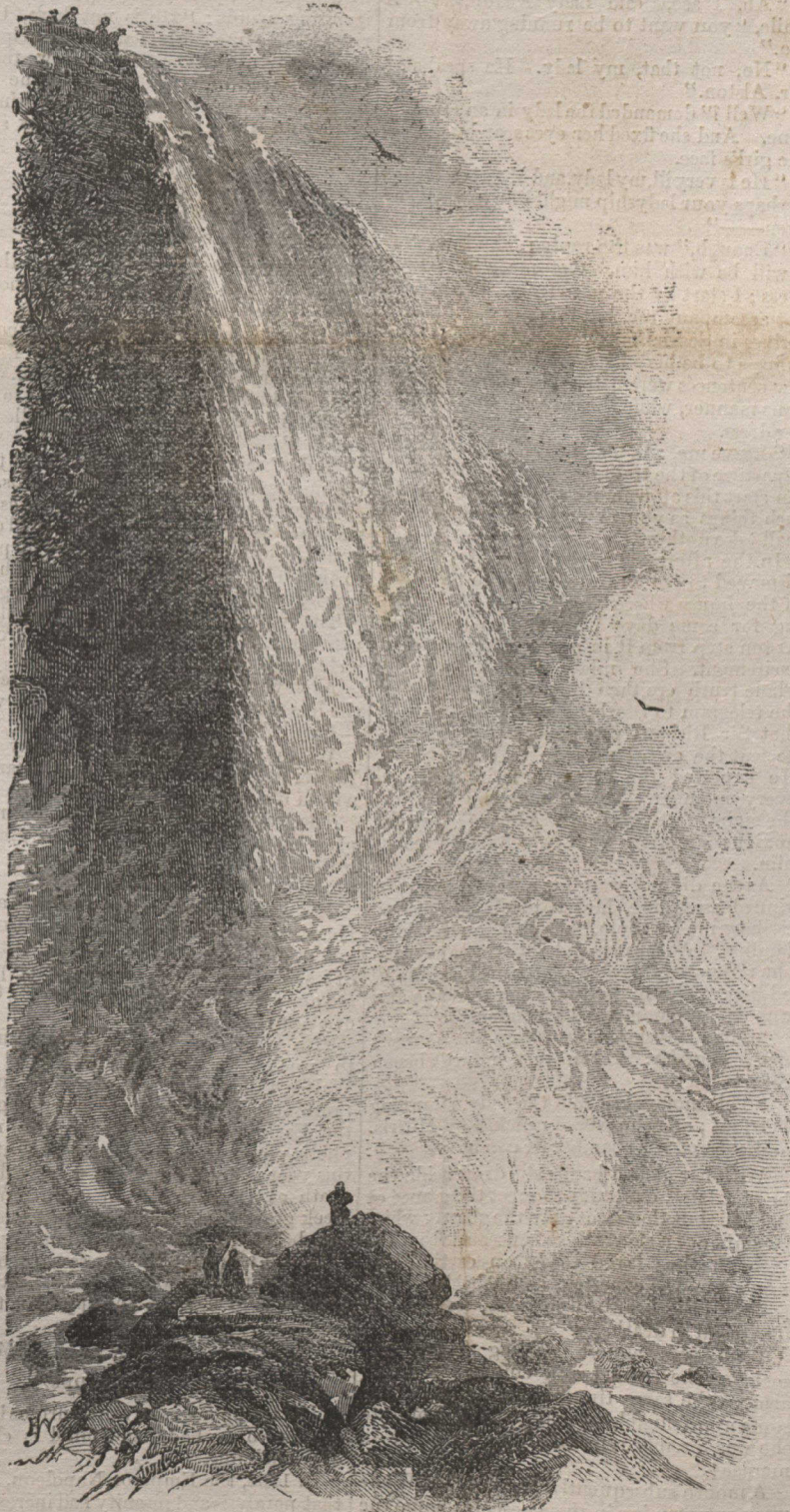
"Not I. Take this ten dollar bill; and let me know when any further sum is needed as my part of the insurance which the gospel brings our village."—Selected.

WHAT MARY GAVE.

When the collection is taken up in church, the boys and girls put in money which their parents have given them for that purpose. The money is not their own gift, but that of their father and mother. They have just as much to spend for their pleasure as they had before. And so I once heard a kind-hearted girl complain that she had nothing of her own that she could give. I will tell you what she gave in one day, and you will see that she was mistaken.

She gave an hour of patient care to her little baby sister who was cutting teeth. She gave a string and a crooked pin and a great deal of advice to the little three-year-old brother who wanted to play at fishing. She gave Ellen, the maid, the precious hour to go and visit her sick baby at home; for Ellen was a widow, and left her child with its grandmother while she worked to get bread for both. She could not have seen them very often, if our generous Mary had not offered to attend the door and look after the kitchen fire while she was away.

But this was not all that Mary gave. She dressed herself neatly and looked so bright and kind and obliging that she gave her mother a thrill of pleasure whenever she caught sight of the young pleasant face. She wrote a letter to her father who was absent on business, in which she gave him all the news he wanted, in such a frank, artless way that he thanked his daughter in his heart. She gave patient attention to a long, tiresome story from her grandmother, though she had heard it many times before. She laughed just at the right time, and when it ended made the old lady happy by a good-night kiss. Thus she had given valuable presents to six people in one day, and yet she had not a penny in the world. She was as good as gold, and she gave something of herself to all those who were so happy as to meet her.—Young Days.



NIAGARA FALLS—AMERICAN SIDE.