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NIA ABA
POEn.

#  

- Our outward sensm Is but of gradual grasp-and as it is, That what we have of feeling most intense, Outstrips our faint expression.
"Fven when present at the Falls, it is probable that the observer himself takes correct notice of a small part only, of the objects presented to his view. 'Those, however, which he does remark, straightway suggest, images to his mind, suitable to his own particular character; and of course, essentially modified by the peculiar circumstances of his past life. Now, if we suppose it possible, that he could describe with what is called perfect or graphic fidelity, both the facts themselves which strike his senses, and the ideas which arise in his mind from a contemplation of them, the chances are still infinitely against these recorded conceptions being found suitable to the minds of his different readers. At the best, the ideas suggested to others by his descriptions, must inevitably be feeble and incomplete, in comparison with his own. His impressions are not produced by the observation of a series of details, considered one after another,-the only method in which a reader can view them,-but are stamped upon his mind and feelings at the moment, by the whole in combination."
Travels in North America by Captain Basil Hall.


## INIAGARA.

Queerstos, while on thy far-famed heights I rest, What glowing thoughts, invade my ihrilling breast! And shall I pass thy scenes, and yon lone tomb, Where all earth claims of Brock, receives its dom, Nor strive, ere other themes, cugross my lay, A grateful tribute, to thy fame to pay?
Sweet is the view, thy lofty brow commands; The spacious plain,--lie shores of rival lands;Between whose bounds, the placid river flows, Smiling serene, as conscious of repose : Nor idly flows; for as its waters sweep, Their devious course, towards the distant deep, They on their bosom, bear the rich produce, Of fertile fields around, for foreign use. Wandering in joy, the chainless Zephyrs play, And kiss its glassy cheek, as on they stray, To where its waters, like a mirror spread, Translucently above, Ontario's bed ; In which, Angelic Hosts, might stoop to view, Heaven's arch reflected, of celestial blue! Beneath yon mound-but wherefore should I tell, Since History's page relates, what there belel? Although our Meteor fing, in triumph waved, The conqueror fell upon the soil he saved. Yonder the column stands, by Briton's reared,
To thee immortal Brock ! whom all revered!
"Bright names will hallow song," and verse like mine, Illustrious Hero! stands in need of thine ;
For of the brave, who fought to guard our land, From the incursions of an hostile band ;

Who can seleat, from the pread throng, a mane ; 1s bright as thine, -ol such enduring fame? Bravest, where all were brave;-in zeal, matired;A soul, with every , mitriot virtue fired; Avdent and generous,--prompt at glory's call ; The victors wepi,--the vanquished mourned thy fall : I siaid by all revered: by one young land 'Shou wert adored; thy life's blood dyed her strind.
Whatever Titles others may confer,
She feels thou wert, a Martyr unto her!
Exultingly, she watch'd thy brief career, And when fate stretched thee, on an carly bier, Upo: her brow, dark clouds of sadness hung; And lamentations dwelt upon lier tongue ! With deepest woe, her dauntless heart was rife, E'en victory cheered not, purchased with thy life! T'iny deathless name, her annals, shall adorn; And be extoll'd through ages yet unborn ; With deep-felt awe, her sons will view the grave, Of him who died, their Father's hearths to save; And while her native pines, retain their hue, With grateful hearts, will pay the tribute due! Yes! loug as thy proud Monument remains, Or the blood flows within a Briton's veins, Thy hallow'd fame, shall be her boast and pride, And the spot sacred, where in crimson tide, 'Thy precious life, grushed from thy wounderl side. f

Queenston, adieu! I quit thy heights to trace,
The chasm worn by the wild torents race;
'To mark what form, its rugged shores pervade, As they approach Niagara's Cascade.
Near where Brock led the brave in stern array, And eve: foremost, perished in the affray ; The Cataract, 'tis said, first rushed sublime:
Was it coeval with the birth of time?
Or did some dire convulsion shake this ball, And raiso the sieppe, from whence its waters fall? Determine ye, whom Geologic lore,

Shall hither leai, the struta to explore, Enutrgh, if I, in numbers can convey,
The scenes and thoughts, which strike ine, as I stray . -
Along the shore, the ledge o'er hangs the stream,
Aud far henealh, the flashing billows gream:
Like angry 'Titans, o'er a prostrate foe,
The fenwning rocks, gize on the wares below; Which undermine their strength, 'till each proud head
F'lls crush'd, and broken, on a wave-worn bed!
Such is the scene, to where the raging flood, Furms a vast whirdpool midst the shelt'ring woot.
Fierce daughter of the torrent ! thou dost sweep
In fearful cudics, round thy verdant steep;
And many a Monarch of the forest, rides,
Barkless und branchless, on thy whirling tides !
Navelld amid the wools, thy sudden bend,
Looks like the goal, where the huge turrents end;
But pass the point, lo ! with impettious gush,
The ragingrapids, onward reckless rush!
Fonm crested, bounding billows! ye are pass'l,
And on the Table Rocis, I stand at last. Sublimest wonder of A lmighty might,
That ever charm'd with dread the human sight,
From humbler themes to the ! with awe I turn
Thou matchless king of floods,-tlow desert brom!
Niagara Hail ! oh, how skall i impart
With words, the feelings, which invade my heart?
I rest un rocks, which overhang the abyss,
Where thy dire " Hell of waters, howl and hiss!"
On that worn ledre, from whenee with awful bound,
The foamiag waters plunge with stunning sound!
I gaze, and turn away-then gaze again ;
Dread, fear, and joy, perplex my reeling brain:
Mixed undefinable sensations, rush
Across my mind ; wild as thy torrents çusth!
Imagination, baffed; strives in rain:
The willest dreams that even poets feign,
Thew dost transcend! There is no power in song.

To paint the woaders that around me throng : The worldabomnds with sights and scenes sublime, Seas-Rivers-hakes-are !ound in every Clime : Cities and Castles, Palaces and Faues, Abound, where roll the Tiber and the Thames, The Seine-the Rhine-the Severn, nut the Po, Alike through realms of cultur'd beauty flow; Ścenc like to scene, we meet in every zone, But there is nought like thee!--Thou art alone!
Mysterious spirit of this awful place; Withdraw the veil of waters, from thy face ! Who shall attempt to sing thee, unless thou, Unveil the hidden terrors of thy brow ? Fain would I grow familiar with the form, That rules these wonders, and directs the storm, Or winds and waters, which benenth me rage, And with these rocks, a war cternal, wage! Flond of the widd! through hats unkuwn tosong, And forests drear, thou roll'st thy course along; Through wood clad verdant vales, and sunny glates ; Theongh dark and humid swamps, of deepest shades. Each tributary stream, its homage shows, And swells thy gathering !ower, as on it flows; Till concentrated here, thy waters all, Rush thundering down thy huge grigantic fall! Here white as untrod stow,-there green as grass, In its first icrdure ; fills the aqueous mass: Conflicting-sweeping onward in its conrse, With an Eternity's resistless force! The firm earth shakes, as if with fear, around ; And the rocks tremble, with its dread rebound. Beneath is thy abyss; Oh, what a scene! The rising mists, float o'er, as if to screen, The dreadful conflict! See the waters meet; And how in hostile rage, they fierce compete! Flood, wars with flood, the kindred drops rebel, And like the roused ocean of a Hell, Thy turbid bosom heaves. the rising sound

Like moanings of the damned, my ears astound, All awe inspiring roar! such as would rise, From hopeless millions, to unpitying skies ! Behold ! upshooting, from the Cauldron's breast, The boiling torrent, tortured into yeast ; Rising in billowy piles, as if to gain, The beights which they can never more attain : Like sheeted ghosts, striving from thy dread deep, To gain a place of rest, they upward leap ! Whirling, like waltzing fiends, thy eddies play, Aud sport and gambol, midst the dire affray; The heaving surges too, each other chase, And burst in foam, against thy rocky base ; Then on, like foaming steeds, with fearful force ; The billows, gallop duwn, thy rapid's course. Serenely floating o'erthy wild cascade ; Spanuing the ragged rent, its stream lath made;
An Iris glows in its celestial hues; And with a magic charm, the scene imbues. The wild sea-mews, careering in the spray, Amidst its heaven born dyes; delighted, phay: And Lo! as down the gulph my restless eyes, Pursuc thy course, to where the rocks arise, Like an embattled wall, curtain'd with foam;
Another rainbow seeks, its stormy home!
How beautiful its tints! Divinely calm!
Over the mingling strife, it sheds a balm,
Like "hope on death beds," ere saints sink to rest;
Or " beauty sleeping," upon " horrors breast!"
A floating shroud, o'er all thy grandeur dwells,
Form'd by the spray, thy angry flood repele;
And the blue heavens, like a celestial pall,
Form one wide canopy, and cover all!
Great God! How wonderful thy works, when Thou, Sports't with thy elements, as Thou dost now!
How mean,-how insignificant are all,
Man's inightiest works, that decorate this Ball;
They fade, and pass away; hat Thine remain,

Emblems of Thy power,-cernal as Thy reign! Prostrate before Thy mightiest display, I worship Thee;-Thy temple is the day! Niagara, Thy Altar! Its loud roar, Sounds Thy Omnipotence, from shore to shore! On Thee, great author, and first cause of all, E!ernal tource of light and life I call! Teach me, whene'er Thy awful steps I trace 'Mid scenes, which Thon hast made my dwell Or from Earth's surface, lift my wony dwelling place, To view thy glory, in the my wond'ring eyes, To feel that awe whin the star-lit skies; When he attem thering man should feel, Impetuous C ts thy greatness to reveal. Thou seem'st to hact! sublimely grand! Who holds the Ocean in the fetters of His hand, Who bids thee Ocean in His hollow palm; And o deep awe, , and can, thy raging calm: As though His laws, etewers the astonish'd mind, Thee to the Channel, eternal; dici not bind Mark'd as a passe, which His finger's trace, Restrain'd by fige, for thy billowy race! Tyy harmless tim, thou sends't with steady flow, Where thy proud billows all depths below; Each idle vestige frows all opposing sweep, Ye rushing Tide from thy troubled deep. Ere aught bues ages, on ages, pass'd, Except the wild bur loud roar, disturb'd the blast; Of Red men, broket's hewl, or.warlike cry Or the loud crash, when with of of the sky; The frozen masses, falling, ohorwhelming force, But where are they, whum scened your course. That the Great Spirit reignsenes like thine, first taught, Is huanble :vorship bowed aned? Who on this spot, Who, : loeked the bow and felt o'awed:
Fierce ac the besough nature, up to natures' God?", Along thy shores, theiry sought, - tw warfare bred. Wild as thy food,_imprant tribes they led; Wild as thy foon,-impetuous as its speed,
'Their legende tell, of many', a bloody deed.
The new world was their own,-its boundless woods, Its wide Savannas, and gigantic Floods:
'Till thou Columbus, stecr'd o'er unknown seas, Where sail had never flutter'd in the breeze. 'Thy daring keel, the first that ever press'd, The azure billows, of their virgin breast! Onward, like hope, thy streaming pennon played, Until their shores, thy longing eyes surveyed.
Soon flew the tidings, and the white man came, And dispossess'd, the lunter, and his game:
Long have the Redmen ceased to throng thy brink,
Their songs are bushed their council fires extinct,
The warriors mound will soon alone be all,
That will remembrance, of their race, recall.
Ye children of the forest! It was not
In open war, that men from Europe, sought
Your fertile shores: thiey came with heartless wile
And you rejoiced; suspecting not their guile. Missouri and La Plata! Rio Grand ind all ye floods that lave their outraged land!
Bear witness ye,-for often hath your wave Dyed with his b'ood, afforded him a grave,Bear witness how, the Whiteman hath repaid, The Indian's kindness! how he oft hath laid His dwelling desolate; and made his name, A by-word and a scoff: and Oh! eternal shame! Oppress'd and plunder'd him! The murder'd hosts If call'd to life, would throng your spacious coasts. Niagara, the reminant of that race, Which call'd thy verdant shores, their dwelling place, Are now protected, and securely toil, Where ever Britain sways the Indian soil. But where the "Patriot's banner,'" long hath wared, And sable millions still remain enslav'd; The ill-fated Indian, on his own domain, Asks but to live in peace, but asks in vain.

Is there no place on earth man calls his own,

Where guilt and outrage, hath remain'd unknown:
Is there no spot, his restless foot hath trod,
Where blood, hath never stain'd, the guilty sod?
Long, -long ago, as Indian legends tell,
On yonder Isle, victims to vengeance fell.
Wild on the blast, all sustenance denied,
Their shrieks arose, above thy roaring tide:
Tis said their spirits, doomed to know no rest,
Amidst the warring floods still dwell unbless'd,
And fancy's ear, can catch their mournful groans,
Now rising high,-now sunk to sullen moans;
'Twas but of late, invaders sought our land
And fought and fled, defeated, from thy strand,
'Thou, too, hast heard, the White man's shouts arise,
The din of war-the death struck wretches cries!
Seen blood profusely flow, when hand to hand,
The crimson'd steel, clash'd, mids't the hostile band; And mimic light'nings flash, the live-long night,
While the loud cheer, proclaim'd the lengthen'd fight;
And heard the thunders of the cannon's roar,
"Vex the dull ear of night;" along thy shore.
Insulted Genius of the spot, expand
Each narrow mind-avert each daring hand,
That would denude thy shrine, and Oh! defeat,
Man's innovations, on thy dread retreat!
Could he not count his pence, and leave between
Thec, and his plodding deeds, a leafy screen?
Could not, a margin of the wild, be spared?
No, where thy shore is clothed 'twill soon be bared.
And Taverns, Mills, and Groceries will rear
Their shingled roofs, o'er thy sublime career!
Oh, had I power, how soon would I restore,
The forest he hath stripped from thy dread shore;
And force, the staring structures of his hand,
A proper distance from thy outrag'd strand.
Shall gain alone, the soul of man infest-
Lead " wrens"' to prey, where 'eagles', dare not rest?
Rise in thy wrath, thou mighty flood, and sweep
The intruders works from thy colossal steep!

Man! slay thy hand,-here let thy mind dilate, And strive to grasp, what thou dost contemplate. Nature is eloquent-the torrents flow, Can teach a lesson it is well to know; And thou Niagara, if rightly read, Speaks't to the heart, like requiems o'er the dead. Here all is cbange. Mark hnw the constant shock Of falling torrents, frets the solid rock. Time like thy flood, incessant onward rolls, And with its billows agitates our souls. Years, countless years, have heard thy sclemn roar; It will be heard, when all shall be no more, Whose hearts now throb! When not a trace is left, And even our graves shall be of us bereft. Thou art not wrinkled by the hand of time; The lapse of ages, leaves thee in thy prime ! Alas ! how different, with the crowds that flock From distant lands, to throng thy Table Rock ! A few short years, and Lo! the spark expires, Which gives them life-they moulder, with their sires:
But when their tombs are tenartless, thy voice
Will make the hearts, of other crowds rejoice;
They too shall pass away -yet still thy song Will hoarsely rise, these wave-worn rocks among. Alas ! my soul is dark,-dark as the abyss, That yawns beneath! Hope, whispers, future bliss:
But even her vivid eye, will oft grow dim :
Doubts, like thy mists, before its visions swim, And fiend-like, whisper to the heart, and say, Its hopes shall perish, like thy rising spray ! Oh ! Man, thou "pendulum" 'twixt "smile and tear,""
Now buoyed by hope, and now depress'd by fear, Now doubting all things, then believing all, That priestcraft hath invented, since thy fall! What is thy lot? disease, add death and strife. And what thy hope? bliss, in a future life.
Shalt thou, like yonder rainbow, pass away, And with thy spirit, share a bed of clay?

Shall all the clements of this dull earth, Retain the power, God gave them at their birth;
A nd thou, and thy, all-grasping, restless mind Become exthet ? a grave eternal find, -
In the dark earths embrace? Oh! faitir impart,
Thy confidence to every doubting heart ;
As the cool water, from the fountain brought,
$\times$ To the parched lips, thou art to the thought.
On every soul, oh! let thy full light stream,
And gild each wayward thought, with thy bright beam :
And should times, adverse storms still ruthless sweep
My shatter'd skiff, across lifes' dreary deep,
Soul soothing Angel Faith, do thou remain,
To still the tempest, or, my bark sustain !
And when the dreary voyage, of life, is o'er,
And its worn fragments, strew death's sable shore;
Let my freed soul, in thy embraces ride,
Into Eternity's, "unebbing tide":
Where sorrows blight comes not, nor thou despair,
And find a stormless, tranquil haven, there !
Yes! when Niagara, thy voice no more,
Shall in the ears, of awe-struck listners, roar ;
When wasted are thy floods, and thy will waves,
Have perish'd with the shores, thy torrent laves;
Then shall the immortal soul, on wings sublime,
Soar-daring sna:, above the wrecks of time !
O'er this crush'd world, its song of triumph sing,
"Oh! grave where is thy victory ! Oh ! death, where is thy eting!"
On Qucenston heights, I stray'd in lonely guise,
This morn, and saw, yon setting sun, arise.
Long, ere I stood, where now entranced I gaze,
Meridian skies, were glowing with his rays,
He will arise, to cheer the land, and main,
And scatter gladness, o'er those scenes again:
But thousands gaze, on his last lingering ray,
On whom, the "precincts of the cheerful day"
Shall dawn no more: Time's, ceaseless noiseless wing,
No change of night, or day, to them shall bring.


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Thy floods arc Occan bound, but dark and drear, Is the dread grave, we journey to in tear. From the great deep, in vapours, they may rise, And float in gnrgeous forms; 'mid other skies; But man must sleep, until that final day, When earth, and seas, and skies, shall pass away ; Till the last Trump, shall call him to his doom, And wake the slumbering, Temnts of the tomb. Niagara, Farewell ! a long adieu;
The deep'ning twilight hides thee from my view. Oft ere I left, my loved paternal home, E'en long before, I aver thought to roam ; I've read, and talked of thee, and longed to gaze, And stand before thee thus, in deep amaze. And I did promise, that if e'er I stood, Upon thy rocky ledge, to view thy flond; That I would task my feeble powers, and dare To sing the wonders, I should witness there. I have essayed to sing, but where art thou My aged sire, to whom 1 made that vow? Huge Oceans roll between, and fate may donm, In different hemispheres, to us a tomb. Though dim thy eyes, they'll gleam with joy to see, I've not forgot my home, and vow to thee. Thoughdull the words I've woven into rhyme, Yot to thy ears, they will like music chime; And thy fond heart, a blessing will implore, On the lone wanderer, of a distant shore. Ye skies, and hills, and voices, far away By night of ye I dream, and muse by day : Scenes of my youth! when $y:$ : $y$ thoughts employ. I feel my pulse beat high, with hope and joy; My native land! Oh! soul inspiring sound, How closely to my heart's core art thou bound! Yes, I do love thee, Ah! how vain for they, Whe never left their native land, to say "I love my country "! Home! thou art a theme Which makes the exile's life a fever'd dream. But I have said farewell. Ye mighty Falls,

Your sights astonish, and your roar appals!
Night, from her ebon wings, the darkness throws, Aud brooding o'er your scenes, demands repose;
The skies frown heavily - , the stars are hid, Or gleam, as pass, some cloudy pyramid. Hush'd, are the zephyrs, which I sung of yore, And hollow, moaning blasts, invade the stiore!
idiagara ! thy darkling floods appear,
To rush with greater force, as if in fear.
Methinks I hear, strange voices join thy sung,
And sounds unearthly float, thy shores along. Huge shadowy furms, on falling torrents ride, Sport over thy abyss, and down thy rapids glide. Visions, from worids beyond the graveintrude; Awful,-appalling, as its solitude.
All gloomy things are met, with dread oppressed, Wild trains of thought, invade my troubled breast--
Thoughts, of those youthifi hopes, of earthly bliss,
Which long have vanish'd; lost in time's abyss:
Of Death-the Grave-Eternity-of all,
That can exalt, or can the soul enthrall!
My task is done! Here will I end my lays;
And of thy Great Creator, muse the praise.

FINIS.


