passed, unless in 'love's young dream' when every pulse was a thrill, and every thought a rapture.

But the duty of a Guide, is not merely to point out the path and lead the way, he should endeavour to direct your attention to every feature and appearance of the place to which he has led you, and unless indifferent to the beauty and sublimity of the marvellous scenes he has brought you to behold,—in which case he is a bore of the most intolerable description,—he will communicate his own impressions, in the language of his own enthusiasm, and this, if you do not sympathize with, you can at least, excuse. So far, I have done my devoir.

I am now about to gratify your curiosity as to the principal occurrences, historical and otherwise, not heretofore mentioned, connected by their vicinage, if not more immediately, with the wonderful cataract of Niagara, and the remarkable objects in its neighbourhood; that done, my whole task will be accomplished.

"These are events that should not pass away,
And deeds that claim redemption from decay,
And names that must not wither, but go down
to after ages."
PICTORIAL GUIDE
TO
NIAGARA FALLS.

CHAPTER I.
EARLY HISTORY OF THE FALLS—FRENCH ESTABLISHMENTS—EXPEDITION OF LA SALLE—HENNEPIN'S TOUR OF EXPLORATION—OTHER VISITERS—CHANGES IN THE CATARACT—WANT OF DATA, ETC.

"Adventurous spirits! from afar they came,
To pioneer a pathway up to fame;
And, freighted with the tidings of salvation,
To christianize each dark benighted nation.
The love of God, and stronger love of gain,
Urge their fleet footsteps o'er the pathless plain;
They trace the river to its mountain birth,
And covet all the wide expanse of earth:
For valued furs, they proffer in exchange,
Beads, tinsel, gewgaws, and a faith so strange,
The Red-man cannot understand, nor they
Explain—and thus, they preach, press on, and prey."

OTHING, to one who has seen the Falls, can be indifferent, which relates to them, and especially their early history, of which it is strange, so little is now known. Not the name even, of the lucky European whose eyes were first gladdened by the glories of Niagara,
has come down to us; nor can conjecture fix upon the date of the discovery. Immortality would have been the recompense of the fortunate finder, had his memory been preserved; but the night of an utter oblivion rests upon both the man and the event. We should suppose that the honour of this great discovery would have been promptly claimed, and jealously guarded; but such seems not to have been the case; and so far from having rival pretensions to judge, there is literally none to accept the award. We can account for this, only, by supposing that the wonders of nature had no power to charm the eye of avarice; and that a cataract, so vast and magnificent even as this, rated less in the estimation of the gold-seeking, fur-gathering settlers of New France, than any portion, however minute, of the glistening ore, any pelt, however poor, of the castor tribe.

In the early part of the seventeenth century, the French had established themselves on the shores of Lake Ontario, and it cannot be supposed they could long remain in ignorance of the cataract, while they were in constant intercourse with Indians, dwelling at, and around it; and by whom it was regarded with superstitious reverence. Yet it seems to have excited no attention, or curiosity—and is not even mentioned, that I can learn,

till half a century later. Creuxio, author of a History of Canada, of date, 1660, has it marked on his map; but in the work itself, the name is not to be seen; and, except a bare allusion, perhaps, no further notice of the Falls is found of earlier date, than 1678, when Father Hennepin paid a visit to the scene, had the good sense to appreciate its grandeur, and has left the world indebted to him for the first account of Niagara—though the French had already, and indeed years before, established trading posts on the upper lakes, and penetrated even to the Mississippi itself.

Father Louis Hennepin, a missionary of the Catholic order of St. Francis, came to Canada in the year 1676, continued for two years at Fort Frontenac, engaged in the cure of souls; and then being zealous in the service of God, and emulous in the search of new countries, he packed up his priestly garments, procured a portable chapel, and joined the Sieur de La Salle, in an expedition of discovery, trade, and conversion, to the upper lakes, and the Mississippi; which noble river had been reached, and partly explored, six years previous by Father Marquette, who did not however live to relate the particulars of his journey, but perished not long after, in the country of the Miamies, where he was detained.
The Sieur de La Salle, with Father Hennepin, and others, set sail from Fort Frontenac, in the fall of 1678, and in process of time, made the Niagara river, at the mouth of which he established a trading post, on the site of Fort Niagara. When making the portage, the party,—and most of them doubtless for the first time,—saw the Falls. If we may judge by the example of La Tonti, the historiographer of La Salle’s enterprises and adventures, who merely mentions, and that incidentally, that there is a cataract six hundred feet high, between the lakes Erie and Ontario, this sublime spectacle made but a slight impression upon its dull beholders. Father Hennepin, had, however, a more just appreciation of the august scene than his companions, and while endeavouring to describe it, deeply regrets that there was not some one present better fitted for the task.

At some point above the Falls, a vessel of sixty tons burthen was built by La Salle, in which, in the prosecution of their journey, they navigated the lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Michigan, to the St. Joseph’s River, where he built a fort. Crossing the portage to the Illinois river, he built there another fort, from whence, Father Hennepin, with three Canadian boatmen, set off in a canoe, to explore the Mississippi, which he did to the gulf of Mexico; and, returning, ascended to the Falls of St. Anthony, which are indebted to him for the pious name they bear,—as also, the river St. Francis.

Hardship, danger, captivity, and many lesser evils, were bravely borne by the worthy Franciscan, who finally made his way back to Niagara, to which a second chapter of his narration is now devoted; and thence, to Fort Frontenac, from which he had been nearly four years absent.

On his return to France, he published at Paris, in 1684, a description of Louisiana, and at Amsterdam, in 1698, an account of other regions which he had discovered and explored. This latter volume, contains his description of the Falls, which is illustrated by an engraved view of the cataract.

La Hontan, who was in Canada from 1683 to '89, in his work published in 1708, gives a brief notice of the Falls, which he estimated at nearly eight hundred feet high. Charlevoix, the historian of New France, paid them a visit in 1721, and corrected the error of his predecessors, as to the descent. Professor Kalm, of the University of Sweden, was at the Falls, in 1750, of which he gave an account, made public in the following year.
Since that time, others have seen, described and sketched, the wonderful Niagara; to whose works it is needless to refer, and whose observations have been too recent, or too loose to establish any important fact, or furnish data of any present value.

The description of Father Hennepin, proves that in 1678, the general appearance of the cataract was much the same as at present, but that in one or two important particulars, it has undergone considerable change. The Horse-shoe Fall was then nearly straight, and there was also a third cascade, falling from west to east, at the left of, and at right angles with the other two. It is shown in the engraving, as falling over the Table Rock, and is particularly described in the text. There can be no doubt as to its existence and situation.

When Professor Kalm was at Niagara, seventy three years later, this third cascade was gone. He mentions it however, and states that a few years before, there had been a great downfall of the rocks, when it ceased to flow. Kalm’s account of the Falls, confirms the general accuracy of Father Hennepin’s description.

Other, but less apparent changes have doubtless taken place, of which we can only conjecture the quality and extent, from the want of precision in these und other authors, and our ignorance of ancient landmarks. It is probable, nay, almost certain, that the Falls, and particularly the western part of the Horse-shoe cascade, has receded to a considerable distance since the period of Hennepin’s visit, or even that of Professor Kalm; but unfortunately, they furnish no data by which we can determine the actual distance gone through, or the ratio of retrocession. Henceforth, it will be otherwise. Correct maps and charts will enable future observers to ascertain how far the Falls will have receded in a given time, and also what alterations take place in their shape and general appearance.

It is highly probable, that more extended researches than the author has had it in his power to make, might throw some additional light upon the past history of the Falls, of which, truth to say, but little is known, where much ought to have been recorded.