

MEMORIAL

ADDRESSED TO

THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK,

AND

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

To ALONZO B. CORNELL, *Governor of the State of New York* :

The undersigned, citizens of several states and countries, address you by reason of the suggestion lately made by LORD DUFFERIN, that the State of New York and the Dominion of Canada should secure and hold, for the world's good, the lands adjacent to the Falls of Niagara.

The Falls of Niagara are peculiarly exposed to disastrous injury. The heights of snow, the precipitous crags of great mountains, however they may be disfigured by man, can rarely be applied to uses which would destroy their sublimity. But should the islands and declivities of the Niagara River be stripped of their natural woods, and occupied for manufacturing and business purposes; should even the position, size, and form of the constructions which the accommodation of visitors will call for, continue to be regulated solely by the pecuniary interests of numerous individual land-owners, the loss to the world will be great and irreparable. The danger may be measured by what has already occurred. The river's banks are denuded of the noble forest by which they were originally covered, are degraded by incongruous and unworthy structures, made, for advertising purposes, willfully conspicuous and obtrusive, and the visitor's attention is diverted from scenes to the influence of which he would gladly surrender himself, by demands for tolls and fees, and the offer of services most of which he would prefer to avoid.

Objects of great natural beauty and grandeur are among the most

valuable gifts which Providence has bestowed upon our race. The contemplation of them elevates and informs the human understanding. They are instruments of education. They conduce to the order of society. They address sentiments which are universal. They draw together men of all races, and thus contribute to the union and the peace of nations.

The suggestion, therefore, that an object of this class so unparalleled as the Falls of Niagara should be placed under the joint guardianship of the two governments whose chief magistrates we have the honor to address, is a proper concern of the civilized world, and we respectfully ask that it may, by appropriate methods, be commended to the wise consideration of the Legislature of New York.

A similar memorial has been addressed to the Governor-General of Canada.

W. A. WHEELER, Vice-President of the United States.
ALEX. RAMSEY, Secretary of War of the United States.
M. R. WAITE, Chief Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
NATHAN CLIFFORD, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
N. H. SWAYNE, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
STEPHEN J. FIELD, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
JOSEPH P. BRADLEY, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
JOHN M. HARLAN, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
W. STRONG, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
SAM. F. MILLER, Associate Justice U. S. Supreme Court.
A. A. DORION, Chief Justice Court of Appeals, Canada.
S. C. MONK, Judge Queen's Bench.
A. E. BURNSIDE, U. S. Senate.
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JUSTIN S. MORRILL, U. S. Senate.
H. B. ANTHONY, U. S. Senate.
J. D. CAMERON, U. S. Senate.
W. B. ALLISON, U. S. Senate.
MAT. H. CARPENTER, U. S. Senate.
JOHN JAMES INGALLS, U. S. Senate.
DAVID D. PORTER, Admiral, U. S. Navy.
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JOHN LUBBOCK.
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B. JOWETT, University of Oxford.
HENRY J. SMITH, University of Oxford.
LESLIE STEPHEN.
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R. WALDO EMERSON.
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JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.
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ASA GRAY.
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R. MACKAY, Judge Superior Court, Canada.
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R. T. ROUTH.
 JNO. F. ROSS.
 JOHN TORRANCE.
 GEORGE A. DRUMMOND, and 400 other citizens of Canada and
 the United States.

2d March, 1880.

Rich.
198:456:

A
New Discovery
OF A
Vast Country in AMERICA,
Extending above Four Thousand Miles,
BETWEEN
New France and New Mexico.
WITH A
Description of the Great *Lakes, Cata-*
raets, Rivers, Plants, and Animals:

Also, The *Manners, Customs, and Languages,* of the
several *Native Indians;* And the Advantage of
Commerce with those different Nations.

WITH A
CONTINUATION:

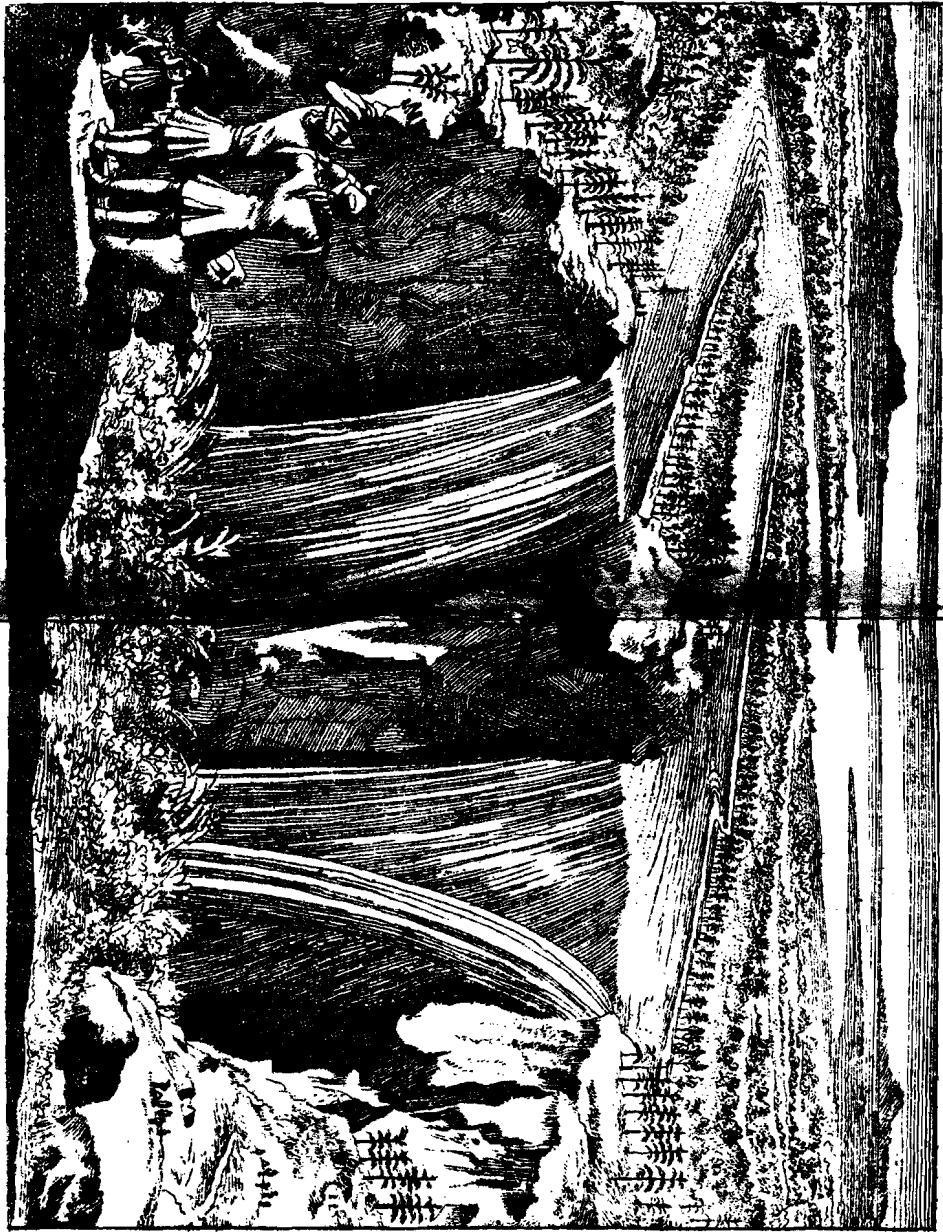
Giving an ACCOUNT of the
Attempts of the *Sieur De la SALLE* upon the
Mines of *St. Barbe,* &c. The Taking of
Quebec by the *English;* With the Advantages
of a Shorter Cut to *China* and *Japan.*

Both Parts Illustrated with *Maps* and *Figures,*
and Dedicated to His Majesty *K. William.*

By *L. Hennepin,* now Resident in *Holland.*

To which is added, Several *New Discoveries* in *North-*
America, not publish'd in the *French* Edition.

L O N D O N: Printed for *M. Bentley, J. Tonson, H. Bow-*
wick, T. Goodwin, and *S. Manby.* 1 6 9 8.



in Winter it is more difficult, because of the outrageous Winds which abound there. From this Lake one may go by Barks, or by greater Vessels to the foot of a great Rock that is about two Leagues off the Fall of the River *Niagara*, which I am now to describe.

C H A P. VII.

A Description of the Fall of the River Niagara, which is to be seen betwixt the Lake Ontario and that of Erie.

BETWIXT the Lake *Ontario* and *Erie*, there is a vast and prodigious Cadence of Water which falls down after a surprizing and astonishing manner, insomuch that the Universe does not afford its Parallel. 'Tis true, *Italy* and *Suedeland* boast of some such Things; but we may well say they are but sorry Patterns, when compar'd to this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible Precipice, we meet with the River *Niagara*, which is not above a quarter of a League broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this Descent, that it violently hurries down the wild Beasts while endeavouring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to withstand the force of its Current, which inevitably casts them headlong above Six hundred foot high.

This wonderful Downfal, is compounded of two great Cross-streams of Water, and two

two Falls, with an Isle sloping along the middle of it. The Waters which fall from this horrible Precipice, do foam and boyl after the most hideous manner imaginable, making an outrageous Noise, more terrible than that of Thunder; for when the Wind blows out of the South, their dismal roaring may be heard more than Fifteen Leagues off.

The River *Niagara* having thrown it self down this incredible Precepice, continues its impetuous course for two Leagues together, to the great Rock above-mention'd, with an inexpressible rapidity: But having past that, its impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for other two Leagues, till it arrive at the *Lake Ontario* or *Frontenac*.

Any Bark or greater Vessel may pass from the Fort to the foot of this huge Rock above-mention'd. This Rock lies to the Westward, and is cut off from the Land by the River *Niagara*, about two Leagues farther down than the great Fall; for which two Leagues the People are oblig'd to transport their Goods over-land; but the way is very good; and the Trees are but few, chiefly Firrs and Oaks.

From the great Fall unto this Rock which is to the West of the River, the two Brinks of it are so prodigious high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the Water, rolling along with a rapidity not to be imagin'd. Were it not for this vast Cataract, which interrupts Navigation, they might sail with Barks or greater Vessels,
more

more than Four hundred and fifty Leagues, crossing the Lake of *Hurons*, and reaching even to the farther end of the *Lake Illinois*; which two Lakes we may easily say are little Seas of fresh Water.

Sieur de la Salle had a design to have built a Fort at the mouth of the River *Niagara*; and might easily have compass'd it, had he known how to keep himself within bounds, and to have confin'd himself there for one Year. His design was to curb and keep under the *Iroquois*, and especially the *Tsonnontouans*, who are the most numerous People, and the most given to War of all that Nation. In fine, such a Fort as this might easily have interrupted the Commerce betwixt these People and the *English* and *Dutch* in *New-York*. Their custom is to carry to *New-York* the Skins of Elks, Beavers, and several sorts of Beasts, which they hunt and seek after some 2 or 300 Leagues from their own home. Now they being oblig'd to pass and repass near to this mouth of the River *Niagara*; we might easily stop them by fair means in time of Peace, or by open force in time of War; and thus oblige them to turn their Commerce upon *Canada*.

But having remark'd that the *Iroquois* were push'd on to stop the execution of this Design, not so much by the *English* and *Dutch*, as by the Inhabitants of *Canada*, who for a great part endeavour'd by all means to traverse this our Discovery; they contented themselves to build a House at the mouth of the River to the Eastward, where the Place was naturally

32. *A New Discovery of*

rally fortifi'd. To one side of this House there is a very good Haven, where Ships may safely ride; nay, by help of a Capstane, they may easily be hall'd upon Land. Besides, at this Place they take an infinite quantity of white Fish, Sturgeons, and all other sorts of Fishes, which are incomparably good and sweet; insomuch that in the proper Season of Fishing, they might furnish the greatest City in *Europe* with plenty of Fish.

C H A P. VIII.

A Description of the Lake Erie.

THe *Iroquois* give to this Lake the Name of *Erie Tejocharontiong*, which extends it self from East to West perhaps a hundred and forty Leagues in length. But no *European* has ever been over it all; only I and those who accompany'd me in this Discovery, have view'd the greater part of it, with a Vessel of Sixty Tunburden, which we caus'd to be made on purpose, about two Leagues above the fore-mention'd Fall of *Niagara*, as I shall have occasion to observe more largely hereafter.

This Lake *Erie*, or *Tejocharontiong*, encloses on its Southern Bank a Tract of Land as large as the Kingdom of *France*. It divides it self at a certain place into two Channels, because of a great Island enclos'd betwixt them: Thus continuing its course for fourteen

MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR LUCIUS ROBINSON.

JANUARY 9, 1879.

NIAGARA FALLS.

The civil jurisdiction over the Falls of Niagara, as well as the shores and waters of the Niagara river, is divided between this State and the Province of Ontario, in Canada. But, in one sense, the sublime exhibition of natural power there witnessed is the property of the whole world. It is visited by tourists from all quarters of the globe, and it would seem to be incumbent upon both governments to protect such travelers from improper annoyance on either side. It is, however, well known, and a matter of universal complaint, that the most favorable points of observation around the falls are appropriated for purposes of private profit, while the shores swarm with sharpers, hucksters and peddlers, who perpetually harass all visitors. In the course of the last summer, in a casual meeting and conversation with Lord Dufferin, then Governor-General of Canada, he suggested the propriety of some steps on the part of the State of New York and the province of Ontario to remedy these abuses which he had seen and deeply regretted. His proposition was that a sort of international park should be established, enclosing a suitable space on each side of the river from which all the annoyances and vexations referred to should be excluded. Contemplating no attempt at landscape ornamenting in the vain hope of adding anything to the natural attractions of the falls, he thought that each government might obtain control of a sufficient area to be kept sacred to the free use of those who coming there from all parts of the world, desire to view the grand scenery without molestation. He believed that all this could be accomplished at small expense, each government of course retaining jurisdiction of its own portion of such park, but with a mutual understanding as to the general regulations to be enforced on either side. Subsequently the Governor-General called the attention of the government of Ontario to the same matter, and recommended co-operation

with the State of New York in accomplishing the purpose in view. The proper course, if such a plan were deemed advisable would, undoubtedly be the appointment of commissions by both governments, to confer together as to its details. Should such a commission be appointed by the authorities of Ontario, I recommend that you provide for the appointment of a similar one to consider the subject. There can be no doubt that many persons abstain from visiting the falls in consequence of the annoyances referred to, nor can there be any reasonable doubt that the removal of these objections would largely increase the number of visitors annually.

