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BY MCKEE & ATKIN.

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TRICECCULANCOUM.

For the Highland Messengar. The Falls of Niagara.

"All the pictures you may see, all the descrip-tions you may read, of these mighty Falls, can produce in your mind the faint glimmer of low-worm, compared with the overpowering of the meridian sun !"-- Audubon

Among the many natural curiosities which are presented to the traveller in Ame. rica, for his admiration, the Falls of Ningara are certainly the most interesting. The ower of language can give but a very faint and inndequate idea of their inposing grandcur and sublimity. They are celebrated throughout the civilized world, as the grandest and most sublime spectacle to be found in natural scenery, and are, unquestionably, the finest and most attractive waterfalls in the known world. Here the lover of nature—he who looks with the cya of an enthusiost upon the sublime and the beautiful, as it came from the hands of the Creator-can spend many an hour of plea. sure in watching the Niagara, as it comes nishing and thundering down the steep precipice, sending forth its rainbows of ght spray, in token of joy that the rough way is passed over, and that its waters may ferwards roll on in comparative peace and quiet.

It was on a beautiful and pleasant eve-ning in the fall of 1841, that I visited this relebrated place. The delightfal, the lax. mous Indian summer had just reached its neridian. The bright rays of the declinag sun falling upon the surface of the rollg waters, sparkled in resplendent magfeence, clothing hill and dale in a glori. ous robe of golden light. Not a sound came upon the air, save the deep hollow ing cateracts, their tremeadous sound, the thunder of the cataracts, mingled with the terror of the impending precipice, and the roar of the long and angry rapids. The crystal waters of the majestic Niagara, a short distance below the falls, rolled on in elent grandeur, uninterrupted, save hy the age of the ferry boat or some pleasure -was just dressing in its most maginficent drapery. The fields, shorn of their harvest treasures, lay like golden lacelents in the mellow subsent. The noble highands, like giant warriors, threw their sulbeautiful Niagara, which, rolling anward--sull onward, in its path of beauty, gleamed ike a fallen rainbow in the innumerable ists of occidental glory.

-the Horse-shoe and the American. Bein length. The precipitous end of Goat Island supports a scanty covering of earth,

and is crowded to the edge with pines. The most stupendous of the falls is that on the Canadian side, known as the Horseshoe fall, from its bearing some resemblance to the form of a horse-shoe. From the centre of this fall rises a prodigious cloud of mist, which some say can be seen at the distance of fifty miles. The American fall is a most beautiful sheet of water. although it cannot be compared to the Horse-shoe fall in sublimity. It is said to torial, or to the greater weight of water

ing away the channel more rapidly. It does not fall into a gulf or caldron as the other does, but among huge rocks, where it dashes itself into an ocean of fourn, and then rules on with tremendous velocity until it joins its former companion.

The Table Rock affords the spectator complete view of the Horse-shoe fall, commanding at the same time the whole of the furious rapid above, from the first tumultuous roll of the waves, down through its foaming course, till it subsides at the middle of the curve into momentary smoothfar below. Here, also, is given a more appalling impression of the awful sublimi. ty of the seene, as the view from the edge of the rock is certainly without a parallel, when looking down into the deep abyss. " Where the footstep of mortal has never trod." At one time the Table Rock extended great. In 1818 a huge mass of this rock. on which visiters had formerly stood with

carcless security, fell with tremendous noise. On either side of the falls is a staircase by which the most nervous and timid per-

sons may descere to the bottom of the falls with case and safety, where they can ade. quately appreciate the vastness of the foamboiling of the mighty flood.

The quantity of water that tumbles down the precipice is estimated at one hundred millions of tons per hour. From this fact it might be thought that the current would assage of the ferry boat or some pleasure be impassable for a small boat, several miles bark, that moved delightfully upon its pol. be impassable for a small boat, several miles below the falls. Incredible as it may seem, speciacle of real splendor. The forest had the surface is sufficiently tranquil to allow a boat to pass across the stream with ease, made by an earthquake. This supposiimmediately below this immense rush of tion would avail if the strata were deranged, And, I am informed, that boats but the reverse is the fact. The strata on waters. often advance to the very base of the falls. After leaving the Table Rock, we prosome powerful instrument having cut thro ceeded down the river nearly half a mile, them in a perpendicular direction-and that en shadows far out upon the bosom of the where we came to a small chasm in the instrument was water. The wall-like apbank, in which there is a spiral staircase pearance of the rocks an each side of the enclosed"in a wooden building." We deriver is precisely the same at the falls as at scended this stair, which is seventy or eighty feet perpendicular height, and found town." If this supposition of the retrograde ourselves in a short time, under the premovement of the falls be true, and most of cipice on the top of which we had formerly the oldest citizens agree in their statements walked. A high but sloping bank extends respecting the alteration which has taken from the base of this precipice to the edge place in the shape of the Horse-shoe fall Old Sol had just sunk to his burning bed of the river, and on the summit of this bank within their recollection, the disintegration bind the western horizon, and the first there is a narrow, slippery path, covered of the rocks will doubtless continue until ar was twinkling on the brow of twilight, with angular fragments of rock, which the falls reach Lake Eric, a distance of then many-colored clouds were seen en. leads to the great fall. "The impending twenty miles, provided the present causes ticling the zone of creation : rock and cliffs," says a celebrated writer, in his decontinue to operate. In the course of a auntain, tree and shrub, hill and dale, scription, " hung with a profusion of trees few conturies then, if it be allowable even ave and rivulet, all commingled in one and brushwood, overarch this road, and to speculate upon such an event, Goat Isazy softness, rendering it a scene of in- seem to vibrate with the thunders of the land, which now separates the falls, by the wribable loveliness - beautiful as in those catavact. In some places they rise ab. wearing away of the rocks, will be precipiays of primitive innocence, ere sin was ruptly to the height of one hundred feet, tated into the midst of the falling flood-a nown, or desolation and decay had fallen and display upon their surfaces fossil shells collosal pillar carved by the resistless hand on the blossoms of our earthly Eden .-- and the organic remains of a former world; beautiful, a picturesque scene was pre- thus sublimely leading the mind to contemmonument, from which posterity, by turning to the records of the present day, may

Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene, Love watching Madness with unutterable mein

"Surrounded with clouds of vapor," said a gentleman who viewed the falls from this advantageous situation, " and stunned into a state of confusion and terror by the hideous noise, the traveller looks upward to the height of one hundred and fifty feet, where are vast floods, dense, awful, and stupendous, vehemently bursting over the precipice, and rolling down as if the windows of heaven were opened to pour anbe about twenty feet higher than the Horse. other deluge upon the earth. Loud sounds, shoe, which is owing, probably, to its resembling discharges of artillery or vol-rocky bed being composed of harder ma. the watery tumult, and adding terror to coming down the Canadian side and wear. the abyss from which they issued." The sun looked majestically through the ascending spray, and was encircled with a radiant halo; while fragments of rainbows floated on every side, and momentarily vanished only to give place to a succession of others more brilliant. Below the falls lic river is calm and tranquil, rolling on

magnificently between the towering cliffs that rise on either side, and receiving showers of orient dew-drops from the trees that gracefully over arch its transparent bosom. It is supposed by many that the falls were

at one time considerably lower down the river than they are at present. This they say, can be proved by reason and observation. It is said to be a known fact that the falls of Ningara have undergone numerous changes, both in form and position, during the short time they have been under the observation of civilized men. The loase and soft material on which the limestone some fifty feet boyond the chills that sup-rock rests, and the destructive action of port it, but its present projection is not so the water upon it, is probably the cause of the retrograde movement. The water also genetrating the crevices between the strata of limestone, detaches them from each other and disposes them to fall. Some

think the falls were originally as low down the river as Queonstown, seven miles dis-"That their site was once at this tant. place," says a distinguished writer, "seems highly probable from several circumstances. The precipices which form the two sides of the river, have a close resemblance to each other in form and outline, and the eleva-

tions of their respective strata exactly correspond. The cliffs in many places bear distinct marks of the agency of water, sixty or seventy feet above the present level of the river. It may perhaps be said that this deep chasm or channel, through which the river runs on its descent, was a rent

means of a slate; at such times he would of the year to be serious and thoughtful.— let his beard grow out without shaving, for several months together; he would go with iniquity than a ball of putty in the sun, and the devoted Christian? Here is books his head uncovered, and his body clothed you in whose heads a couple of worldly and amid the blessings showered upon him, and only in a coarse woollon blanket, and would wicked ideas are continually rattling, like a thanks God with humble reverence for seek the deepest solitude; and offen at gravel in a gourd shell, may go on your their continuance. midnight he was seen bathing in a small reckless carcer, till you find yourselves ir-eddy just above the Horse shoe fall, or revocably lost in the labyrinth of destruchanging by his hands and feet on a piece tion-and the devil may help you, for I of timber which projected from the Tera-pin bridge some distance over the torrent. But In the most tempestuous times he would pass quickly over the most dangerous pla- this sweet Sabbath of the year and worship and gladly forgets the narrow bounds of apprehension of danger. His whole con-

duct was very singular indeed, and could not be accounted for in any way. On the I0th of June, 1831, he was observed by the ferryman who plies below the falls, bathing in'a favorite resort. This was the last time and place he was seen. His clothes were found near the water. where he had left them, and a few days shine through the stained window of a after that his body was taken from the river below Fort Niagara. When an exmination was made in his cottage, his dog, who had so often accompanied him in his secluded rambles, was found faithfully guarding the door, his cat was quietly mewing on the bed, and his flate, guitar, violin, and music books were carclessly thrown about the room, but not a line or scrap of paper of any kind could be found which gave any information with respect to his history or name. decrepitude, and that the cold cheerless winter of existence is nigh at hand.

It has since been ascertained that he called himself Francis Abbot; that he was from England, and that he sprung from a very respectable Quaker family, who re- by one to the ground, you have a picture side in the neighborhood of Plymouth - before you respecting the constant egress The reasons which induced him to separate of your friends and kindred from this world from society-to leave his home and his of wickedness and wo; and you ought, by blinded the understanding and perverted country, have never transpired. Whether all means, to put yourselves in readiness to his intellect was deranged-whether he had depart when death shall knock at the door become disgusted with the ways of civiliza- of your hearts, and demand a release of tion-whether he had suffered a grievous the soul from its prison of clay. What is disappointment in love, or what was in man but a vegetable that springs from the reality the cause, will doubtless remain dust, buds, blossoms, ripens and sows its forever unknown. It give the incident a seed, and then amalgamates with its origiromantic turn to suppose that he was dis unal dust. In the spring time of youth he appointed in love, and is therefore believed flourishes like a squash vine near a barn by many, especially the young. Be it as yard-in the summer of manhood he ex- strength has been impaired, and its purity it may, the deep and corroding melancholy hibits both fruit and flowers—in the autumn tarnished, and its 'glory changed,' it will which preved upon the vital energies of his of age he withers and decays—and then not always be a prisoner here. Send it which preyed upon the vital energies of his soul, done its work of destruction, and he the winter of death hides him forever from now rests from the sufferings and cares of the world. this unfriendly world within the portals of the tomb, where trouble is banished forever, and the care-worn rest in undisturbed allowing you three score and ten years to peace and security, unconscious of the turmoils and vexatious scenes of dull mortali-

Castle Hill, Tenn., April 1843. From the New York Sunday Mercury.

O. R. E.

Short Patent Sermon. BY DOW, JR. I have selected the following as

Ressencer,

But to the wise, the prudent, and the virtuous, I would say, do walk in the woods at ces in the vicinity of the falls, without any in the sacred temple of nature. All is sol. emm and silent. All there is calm and still. rollings-the chickeree shells his nuts in the joy fraught soul that seeks his aid. It quictness-no sound is heard, save when leads him to the lamb of protection, and the light fingers of the breeze are feeling rationally points out the way to joys on

> the landscape has as religious a hue as sunchurch. Yes, go kneel at the death.bcd of Flora, or sit at the sick couch of vegetation, and meditate like a hungry horse, upon human frailty and the shortness and uncertainty of life. The flowers, all faded and gone, show how quickly youth casts its bloom never to bloom again; and the de. caying verdure of the trees proclaims to man that the season of maturity must shortly give place to the autumn of age and

> My worthy friends and fellow-citizons -when you see how each tender plant is drooping and the leaves are dropping one

My dear hearers-learn your destinies from the falling leaves: Young maidens ! enjoy yourselves painfully at best upon the Almighty's footstool, it will be but to mor-row ere your raven hair is as grey as a woodchuck. Ah! soon those sparkling eyes will lose their lustre in the dim evening twilight of existence. Time will kiss every particle of paint from your checks-the roses will fade in the wreath of loveli-

ness, and you will be no more an object of attraction than a dried mullen stalk in

His waiting soul looks forward to that moru, when, sweetly smiling, the great Redeemer shall burst death's portals and complete man's redemption. His willing soul expands at the thought of waiting on God in the sanctuary on the coming day time and its concerns, save 'spiritual, that he may feast on joys ever new, ever beau-The birds have ceased their summer ca- tiful, ever glorious, ever sufficient to satiate about among the rustling leaves-and the high-an endless Subbath-a perpetual rest warm light that sheds a golden lustre along for the vigilant, the watchful, the thankful.

A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT .---- How few mon seem to have formed a conception of the original dignity of their nature, or the exalted design of their creation, regarding themselves as only the creatures of time, endowed merely with the animal passions, and intellectual foculties: their projects, aims and expectations, are circumscribed by the narrow outline of human life. They forget that instability and decay are written pomp and power, is crumbling to the dustthat the present life is scarcely deserving of a thought, excepting as it forms the introduction to another, and that he alone acts a prudent or rational part, who frames his plans with a direct reference to that future and endless state of being. Sin has so the will, and debased "the affections, that men never fail to invest some temporal good with fancied perfection, and idly imagine that the attainment of it would satisfy the desires and fill the capacities of the immortal spirit. Vain thought! How little they know of themselves! The soul is not of earth, and they will strive in vain to chain it to the dust. Though its native the winter of death hides him forever from, forth as you will to range the whole mate. rial universe ; and like the dave dismissed from the urk, it will return without finding a single place to rest-for it has no resting lace, but the bosom of God.

THE DEGRADING HABIT OF SWEARING .--- It s not easy to perceive what honor or credit is connected with swearing. Does any man receive promotion because he is a notable blusterer ? Or does any man advance to-dignity because he is expert at profane swearing ? No !--- low must be the character which such impertinence will not Inexcusable, therefore, must be the practice which has neither reason nor passion to support it. The drunkard has is cups; the leecher, his mistress; the satirist, his revenge; the ambitious man, My HEARERS :-- I fear that too many of blighted and withered by the frosts of age. his preferments; the miser, his gold; but the common swearer has nothing ; he is a fool at large ; sells his soul for nought, and drudges continually in the service of the devil gratis. Swearing is void of all plea. It is not the native offspring of the soul, nor interwoven with the texture of the body, nor any how allied to our frame, for, as a great man (Tillotson) expresses it, ' though some men pour out oaths as it it was natural, yet no man was ever born of a swearing constitution.' But it Is a custour, a low, pairry custom picked up by low and paltry spirits, who have no sense of bonor, no regard to decency, but are forced to substitute some hapsody of nonsense to supply the vacancy of good sense. Hence the silliness of those that adont it .- Dr. Lamont

Now bend the trees to kiss the gentle stream, That cheer'd them with its warbling all the day, d dimpling +aters curl around the beam,

That pours its sparkling wealth upon their way." Med to the view of the admirer of natu. plate the convulsions which nature has un. scenery. It was a seene well calculated dergone since the creation." As we adcall forth the poet's brilliant conception : vanced, we were frightfully stunned by the "Breathes there a man, with soul so dead, appalling noise of the cataract, and clouds towards Lake Eric within a certain period

Who never to himself hath suid, This is my own, my native land ?"

exclaim with the Mussulman, "God is at!" you must feel it through every se-at every pulsation of the hear: .--One must have nerve of iron and sinews mass, to maintain his equilibrium in view

"nts, which issue in the two great falls | Cataract of Velino, in Italy,

of spray sometimes enveloped us, and sud. of time.

A story is related here of a very singudenly checked our faltering steps. After lar person who made himself a recluse, Early next morning, as daylight came scrambling over piles of huge rocks that mping o'er the eastern horizon, I was up, obstructed our way, we at length gained that he might live upon Iris Island, and paring to enjoy a magnificent prospect. the bottom of the fall, where the soul can constantly enjoy the beauties of the surrounding scenery. The story runs mus: ompany with a gentleman who was be susceptible only of one emotion-that In June 1829, a welt dressed gentleman acquainted with the place, I repaired of fear. Here we spent a short time in the Falls, and by six o'clock we were gazing at this splendid scene. It was pain-the Falls, and by six o'clock we were gazing at this splendid scene. It was pain-the falls, and was apparently a young man, and was came to the village of Niagara on foot .-some minutes in mute delight gazing what a deep plunge-with what irresistible an entire stranger to the inhabitants of the the magnificent scene beneath us. Save force, the waters dash down, and then roll-place. His baggage consisted only of a away in comparative tranquility As we flute, a portfolio, and a book of some kind. and silent as death. The scene was stood near the falls, looking at their wild At first he took Hogings at a small tavern calculated to impress one with awe-- career, listening to their roaring as if in on the American side of the river, but afreyes wander from one point of view anger, and watching the madness of their terwards removed to a cottage a short disanother, never tiring with its beauty, its speed, 1 felt a sensation of awe-an in- tance below the Horse-shoe fall. He betess and its vastness; and if you do ward acknowledgment of the tremendous came gradually very secluded in his habits and manners, and finally withdrew almost power of Nature.

At about eleven o'clock we recrossed the entirely from intercourse with society .-river, in a forry boat that plies between the He conversed enough, however, with those who visited him, to show that he Canada and American shores, a little bepossessed an accomplished' mind, and low the falls, where the river is very tranhad been accustomed to move in good soquil. On reaching the middle of the river,

the falls are situated in that part of the our attentions were engaged by the sur-fer St. Lawrence which flows between passing grandeur of the scene. Within an languages with fluency and grace; was tes Erio and Ontario, but it is called area of a semi-circle of cataracts, more learned in the profounder principles of Gara river. It issues from the north- than three thousand feet in extent, and science and the arts; sketched and painted tend of Lake Erleyforms the boundary floated on the surface of a gulf, raging with accuracy and taste; and performed Ween the United States and Upper Can. fathomless and interminable, majestic cliffs, with an unusual degree of skill on various and falls into Lake Ontario. It is splendid rainbews, lofty trees, and columns mesical instruments. He was a great adto be a remakable fact that it is subject of spray were the gorgeous decorations of mirer of the sublime and the beautiful in to floods-is never swollen at one sea- this theatre of wonders; while a dazzling natural scenery, and possessed an ardent of the year, nor shrunk at another. sun shed refulgent glories upon every part love for travelling, which he indulged to a ength is thirty-six miles, and varies of the scene. Here a rainbow is perpet. great extent, having travelled over a large the stream, divides the river into two the waters-and, as Byron sung of the There were times when he would hold make the necessary preparations, the bet-

each side are parallel and on the same level, for this occasion, and bear evident marks of the action of The autumnal leaves now falling fast,

To all this warning give : Prepare to die, ye sons of carth, Ye shall not always live.

the commencement of the chasm at Queens- you are to live to a great and good old age, both sexes, are profited by the lessons they happy hereafter; and I know that some of operations of nature; but as for attempting rennial plants of mortality, never to be carious situations in which they are placed transplanted to the soil of some unknown by the aid of my potent preaching, I supevery carthly object around you ; change, a moon. wondrous change, is daily taking place in _ My hearers-all that I wish is, that you hourly being crushed beneath the big boots mote it be! of Nature, and a splendid and astonishing of time, we should shake in our shoes, through fear least we be the next victims :but being blind, as we are to danger, we canter fearlessly along our career till we learn what progress the falls have made zards, when we straighten out like a dying frog and give a gasp and galvanic quiver,

then yield our souls to God, the giver, and our bodies to graveworms, for dissection. My friends-the autumu leaves that now must wither-and that the proud, noble, the Creator. majestic form of man must soon be laid to

so also are the glories of the world. The day is not far distant when time will bring smiles and caresses. at, autumpal frost upon the whole universe. The stars will cease to bloom in heaven's the wind, and mingling with the common mestic life and its attendant blessings. rubbish of chaos they will doubtless look like broken bits of diamonds, glittering among the worthless refuse of creation .--The sun will appear like a rusty shield up. Ins gladly secks, in the clustering vines nouron a field of blood and carnage; the moon ished by his parental care, the reality of will melt and drop into the ashes of annihi. those joys which are only his to know at

its vermin upon the borders of eternity. My hearers-this generation will have

sheep pasture. Decorate, then, the mind with the garlands of wisdom, in order that you may be thought beautiful, even when the perishaple portion shall have become you flatter yourselves with the idea that I have no doubt but the old and young, of and then dio in the piety-bought hope of a receive from the harmonious but wonderful you appear to live as though you were pe. to set them seriously thinking upon the pre. island in the vast ocean of cternity. But pose I might as well undertake to whiteerring friends, deceive not yourselves .- wash the sky in order to render the eve-The evidence of decay is exhibited upon nings light and pleasant in the absence of

the world, and all things animate are may live in such a manner that your last steadily progressing towards one common days may be as mild and glorious as those tomb. Could we but see at a glance what of autiuma; and that when you depart, you multitudes of us insignificant insects that may bid adicu to the world with hope in crawl along life's narrow pathway, are your hearts and a sinile upon your lips. So

Saturday Night.

How many associations, sweet and hal. lowed, crowd around the short sentence, feel the dart of death sticking in our giz. "Saturday night." It is, indeed, but the prelade to more pure, more holy, more plains this phenomenon, so familiar to all, but the why and wherefore of which few heavenly associations, which the tired frame and thankful soul hails with new. and renewed joy at each succeeding return.

'Tis then the din of busy life ceases fall around you warn you, with speechless that cares and anxieties are forgotten; thus ture placed beside each other will mutually cloquence, to prepare for death. They the worn-out frame seeks its needed repose, seem to say that every fair object of earthrand the mind its relaxation from on the and must fade and fall-that the wreath of its concerns-with joy looking to the combeauty must be stripped of its blossoms- ing day of rest so wisely and beneficently will receive much more heat from the surthe laurels that bind the brow of fame set apart for man's peace and happiness by

The tired laborer seeks now his own moulder in the dark dreary sepulchre. The neat cottage, to which he has been a stranglories of the year are passing away, and ger perhaps the past week, where a loving wife and smiling children meet him with

Here he realizes the bliss of hard earned comforts; and, at this time; perhaps, vast field ; they will fall like leaves before more than any other, the happiness of do-

Released from the distracting cares of holds the return of "Saturday night," and

enjoyment and repose. The lone widow, too, who has toiled on passed away ere that awful crisis shall oc-cur, and you will all escape its attending how gratefully does she resign her cares at balf a mile to a league in breadth, ually seen, forming itself upon the taist portion of Europe and other parts of the die, and the sooner you begin to think and her God for these kind resting places in ture, which not only prevents a frost, but no communication with men, except by ter it will be for you. Now is, the season from week to week to hold on her way.

WHY IN THERE NO FROST IN A CLOUDY stour !- The remark is frequently made, that "there will be no frost to-night, for it is too cloudy." A correspondent thus ex. have taken the trouble to ascertain :

All bodies emit heat in proportion as they contain it : two bodies of equal temperagive and receive equal quantities of heat, therefore one will not gain of the other. But a piece of ice placed in a warm room rounding objects than it imparts-it will therefore gain in temperature and melt. The earth during the night receives much more heat from the sun than it imparts to the surrounding space in the same time. But during a clear night, the surface of the earth is constantly parting with its heat and receiving none; the consequence is, that it becomes so cold that the humidity contained in the surrounding air becomes condensed and attaches itself to things in the form of dew, in the same manner that a tumbler or the week, the professional man gladly be- a pitcher containing cold water "sweats," as it is called, in a hot day-the surface is cooled by the water, and this surface condenses the flumidity of the contiguous air. those joys which are only his to know at If the surface of the earth, after the formalation, like a piece of toasted cheese; the these peculiar seasons and order these con- tion of dew loses heat enough to brirg it earth will shake itself like a spaniel just genial circumstances-so faithfully and vi. to the freezing point, the dew becomes emerging from the waters, and scatter all vidly evidenced by this periodical acme of frozen and we have frost. But if it be cloudy, then the heat, radiating from the earth, will be received by the clouds, and by them the greater portion of it it will be returned to the earth, thus the surface of