

in the interior of Africa; but it is not until about two months after the commencement of the rainy season, that the overflow reaches that part of the Nile which flows through Egypt; and it then rapidly quits its banks, spreads over the country, and gives fertility to a district that would otherwise be as desolate and barren as the deserts by which it is bounded.

CASCADES AND CATARACTS.

When rivers flow through mountainous countries, they are frequently thrown down precipices produced by the dislocation of rocks, and form cascades or cataracts. But cataracts are sometimes formed by the water of lakes, as, for instance, those of Niagara. They present various appearances, according to the circumstances under which they are projected over the ledge of rocks. Sometimes the water is projected in a broad and unbroken sheet; sometimes from ledge to ledge, presenting alternately the appearance of a slab and a wall; sometimes it is broken before it reaches the bottom, and is dissipated in showers, as at that of Staubbach; while at other times a fine arch of water is formed, under which the traveller may pass without receiving a spray from the descending torrent. But the most picturesque cataracts are those which consist of large bodies of water, having a considerable velocity, and discharging themselves between precipitous rocks: of these there are many examples in Scotland, Wales, and the north of England, and to a few of them we may direct the attention of the reader, as situations where the appearances they present may be studied, while at the same time beautifully picturesque scenery may be enjoyed.

Corra Linn is a celebrated waterfall on the Clyde, and is calculated to be eighty-four feet deep, but the water is thrown over in three distinct sheets, which greatly adds to the sublimity of its appearance as a natural object, and illustrates the effects of water upon rocks. Scotland abounds in cataracts, and some of them are remarkably beautiful: the Fall of Bruar, the Cascade of Glamma, in Glen Elchaig, and many others, have long been objects of interest. But the Fall of Fyers, situated to the east of Loch Ness, is the largest cascade in Scotland: it descends 212 feet, and is enclosed by broken precipitous rocks. In Ireland there are