

the *Falling Spring*, a superb watery arch, which projects itself over a rampart of rock with so bold a curve that the traveller can pass beneath it dry-footed.

If the ground where a cascade takes its headlong leap is disposed in terraces, the water springs from stage to stage with a succession of short bounds or descents, sometimes presenting the appearance of a wavy sheet, sometimes of a liquid wall, until it finally arrives on a comparatively horizontal surface, and flows with greater moderation. It is these successive falls which are properly called *cataracts*, though the word is frequently applied in a very loose and indefinite manner.

Where the soil offers no abrupt "solution of continuity," but only a very sensible



FIG. 182.—RAPID ON THE MONTMORENCY RIVER, CANADA.

slope or inclination, and where, at the same time, the bed of the river is narrowed by projecting rocks, a *rapid* is formed; that is, a current of so much impetuosity that it is generally impossible for boats to pull against it.

Rapids, however, do not in all cases prove obstacles to navigation; occasionally, it is possible to descend or cross them—a feat often accomplished by the savages of America in their boats of bark, as well as by the adventurous Creoles, who, in their light and graceful skiffs, fear not to brave the whirlpool and the eddying, swirling tide. Our illustration represents a rapid on the river Montmorency, in Canada, about eight miles above Quebec. One of the banks of this torrent consists of a succession of steps or stages, and has been not inappropriately named *the Giants'*