

also some remarkable waterfalls, one of the most beautiful of which is that of Powerscourt, in Wicklow, a stream that flows down a steep declivity of 360 feet, amid beautifully variegated woods.

We must not attach too much importance to these interesting appearances. Being usually produced by the dislocations which rocks have suffered, they are commonly situated in districts of great natural sublimity, to the wildness of which they considerably add. To the lover of the picturesque they are therefore objects of great interest, but it is quite evident that they are not of primary importance in studying the distribution of land and water.

The largest and noblest cataract in the world is that of Niagara, which is situated in a strait of the same name, communicating with Lake Ontario. The following account is extracted from a paper by Mr. Ellicot, published in the "American Philosophical Transactions:"—"Lake Erie is situated upon horizontal strata, in a region elevated about three hundred feet above the country which contains Lake Ontario. The descent which separates the two countries is in some places almost perpendicular, and the immense declivity formed by these strata occasions both the cataract of Niagara and the great falls of Cheneseco. This remarkable precipice generally runs in a southwestern direction, from a place near the Bay of Toronto, on the northern side of Ontario, round the western angle of the lake: from thence it continues its course generally in an eastern direction, crossing the Strait of Niagara and the Cheneseco river, till it is lost in the country towards the Seneca lake. The waters of this cataract formerly fell from the northern side of the slope near the landing-place; but the action of such a tremendous column of water, falling from such an eminence, through a long succession of ages, has worn away the solid stone for the distance of seven miles, and formed an immense chasm, which cannot be approached without horror. Down this awful chasm the waters are precipitated with amazing velocity, after they make the great pitch; and such a vast torrent of falling water communicates a tremulous motion to the earth, which is sensibly felt for some poles round, and produces a sound which is frequently heard at the distance of twenty miles. The great height of the banks renders the descent into the chasm extremely difficult: but a person,