



◀ SKETCH OF A TRIP ▶

— TO —

Niagara Falls, N. Y.,

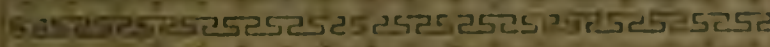
— AND —

TORONTO, ONT.

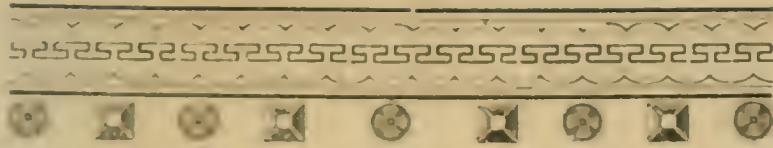
— BY —

RAY BARKER.

BROOKLYN VILLAGE, O , 1887







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ALL ABOARD.

Our train started at 9-05 P. M. from the N. Y. P. & O. Depot Thursday night. We had a beautiful Pullman Palace Sleeping Car named "Bingen." We passed the night in our car and awoke at four o'clock, just passing Jamestown, N. Y. We are coming to a beautiful little village surrounded by pretty hills, but our train does not give us much time to see it. We are now passing a very beautiful grove of trees, it is one of the prettiest groves I ever saw. Buffalo has now been reached and passed.

We arrived at Niagara Falls about 8 A. M. and crossed Suspension Bridge, and then went to Port Dalhousie and from there took the steamer "Empress of India" for Toronto and arrived there at about 1 P. M. We then found a hotel

and went out sight-seeing, we visited the Zoological Gardens among the animals were the following: A White Fox, English Quails, Wild Turkeys, Grizzly Bear, Eagles, Owls, Yak, Bison, Buffalo, Zebu, Wild Donkeys, Goats, Musk Ox, Double calf, Raven, A pair of Lions, A pair of spotted Leopards, A pair of Panthers, Wild Cat, Baboons, Monkeys, White Rats, Crane, Coons, Grey Fox, Black Bear, Bear-cubs, Lop-eared Rabbit, Deer, etc. There was also a stuffed Whale and some stuffed animals and other curiosities. We then went to the Normal School which was closed and from there to the Horticultural Hall which was also closed. We then went to our hotel and ate supper.

SATURDAY MORNING.

We went up to the Normal School this morning and on our way we saw a horse run away. It ran right along the side-walk and pretty near ran over two children. While it was running it

came to a street which it crossed at full speed and at the other side of the street was a furniture store with a large plate glass window and the horse dashed right through it and ran up through the furniture store smashing all the furniture around and stopped at the other end. The horse will be nearly ruined from the cuts from the glass. We then went on to the Normal School which consists of Art and Sculpture work. The pictures are illustrations of Bible scenes mostly. The Sculpture work is mostly to illustrate the Grecians and Egyptians and great men of olden times, both are beautiful and wonderful.

We went to the School of Arts, but they had sent their pictures away on exhibition. They had a few pictures there though one of which was worth \$10,000. From the Normal School we went to the City Park. It is not much of a park now because they are building the Toronto Parliment building, it is going to

be very large, its foundation is 3 feet wide, the building is going to be made of stone. It will cost \$1,000,000. We also visited the Fenian monument, a large beautiful monument in the park. After we visited the park enough we went back to our hotel and ate dinner. After dinner we went to the Toronto Museum and the proprietor of it showed us all around. There were all sorts of curiosities, from Mastidon bones to stuffed Humming birds. Most of the collection were of birds, the proprietor said it was worth \$3,500. After we went through the museum we went to the steamer (Empress of India), and started for Port Dalhousie. Arriving there we took the cars for Niagara Falls where we arrived at about 8 P. M.

We then started out to find a Hotel which after a little while we found.

After supper we went down to see the falls but we could not because the gates were closed but we saw the rapids above

the falls and went over the bridge that goes over to the Islands with torrents of water under us. After we saw the rapid all we wanted to we went back to our hotel (which was only a little way from the rapids).

SUNDAY MORNING.

We ate breakfast at our hotel and then went down to the falls. It is wonderful to think that all the water out of the five great lakes run with such rapid force through that narrow space. There is a stone wall out to the waters edge just as it is going over the falls. There is a beautiful rain-bow always at the falls, because the mist rising and the sun shining makes one.

As there is no other way to get down to the river below the falls they have an inclined rail-way on which you can ride up and down for 10 cts. or stairs free.

Right near the rail-way is a dock and a little steamer called "Maid of the Mist"

that takes you right up as close to the falls as it can and all around at the bottom of the falls for 50 cts. It can not go very near the falls because the water falling makes such a current that it cannot go against it. It looks funny to see the boat going as fast as it can but can not make any headway because of the current.

From the falls we went over the bridge we did the night before and went to the Islands over little bridges from island to island. I put a piece of a tin pipe in the water while on one of these bridges and it floated on the water, the water was running so swift. Some of the spaces from one island to another are not more than two rods wide and yet no person or thing could ever be got out.

From the Islands we went to the noted and wonderful "Whirlpool Rapids" the greatest and swiftest rapids in the world. We went down in one of the many elevators situated along its banks.

From the top of the bank, people below look like little children, it is so high.

The waves rise from 30 to 40 feet high in the rapids and it has been the wonder of the world for anybody to go through them. Captain Webb tried to swim through but was killed in the attempt, but *we* saw a man go through the rapids in a boat, the boat was made for that purpose with an air chamber at each end. The boat started at Suspension Bridge and went both under water and on top. It was perfectly wonderful. He landed all right and if we had waited we would have seen him upon suspension bridge. After we had seen that, we went to the depot and started for home. We had to change cars three times in the night and did not have a nice sleeping car but a common car and we were very tired when we got home, but we had a *very* pleasant trip anyway.



