

BOOK OF
NIAGARA FALLS.

Flow on forever, in thy glorious robe
Of terror and of beauty! God hath set
His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
Mantled around thy feet. And he doth give
The voice of thunder power to speak of Him
Eternally—bidding the lip of man
Keep silence, and upon thy rocky altar pour
Incense of awe-struck praise.

(See page 84)

Map OF NIAGARA FALLS

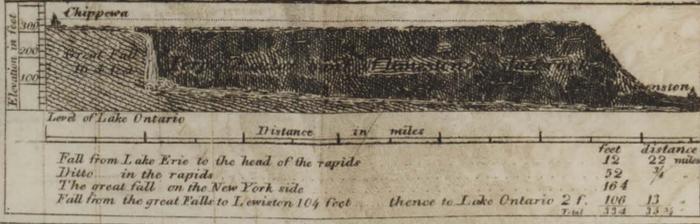
AND VICINITY

BY H. A. PARSONS

Published by C. G. STEELE, Buffalo.



SECTION of the SLOPE which occasions the FALLS.



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Map OF NIAGARA RIVER

AND PARTS ADJACENT.

BY H. A. PARSONS.

Published by C. G. STEELE, Buffalo.

Engraved by J. G. Darby, Buffalo N.Y.

A

GUIDE TO TRAVELERS

VISITING THE

FALLS OF NIAGARA,

CONTAINING MUCH INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT
INFORMATION RESPECTING THE FALLS
AND VICINITY, ACCOMPANIED BY MAPS.

BY HORATIO A. PARSONS, A. M.

Second Edition Greatly Enlarged.

BUFFALO :
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1835.

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the year 1835, by
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in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the
Northern District of New York.

ADVERTISEMENT.



THE writer of the following pages, having been a resident at the Falls a number of years, and familiar with the whole scenery at all seasons of the year, as well as with all the interesting localities in the vicinity, and having omitted no means of obtaining correct information in regard to the various facts stated, feels free to offer this manual as a correct and sufficient guide to visitors, in which they will find, within a small compass, an ample fund of information respecting the Falls and vicinity. Having no particular or private interests to serve, he has aimed to give an impartial description of the different objects of interest on both sides of the river, and to do justice to all persons concerned. The plan of publishing such a manual was formed eight years ago, and most of the materials were then collected and arranged; but for various reasons it was not pub-

lished till the year 1834, though it was the first book of the kind that had ever been published respecting the Falls. Most of the first edition was sold in the course of three months last season. From an intercourse with a vast number of visitors at all seasons of the year, he has been enabled to ascertain what *kind* of information they most need, and has greatly enlarged the present edition in order, if possible, to afford ample information in relation to every thing connected with the Falls and vicinity, about which inquiries would naturally be made.

☞ New editions of this Manual will be published from time to time, as they may be needed, containing notices of incidents and such additional information as may be useful to the Traveler and Tourist.

Niagara Falls, 1835.

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DIRECTIONS TO TRAVELERS AFTER THEY ARRIVE AT THE FALLS.



A FEW directions may be necessary to enable you to save time and see the Falls to the best advantage. Arriving on either side, it is recommended to ladies to put on leather or other stout shoes, and to gentlemen to take with them an umbrella to guard against the mist. If you arrive on the American side, turn to the right around either of the Hotels, and proceed a few rods to the bridge that leads across the rapids to Bath and Goat Islands; you will stop at the toll-house on Bath Island when you pass over, record your name in the register and pay twenty-five cents; which entitles you to visit all the islands with their appendages as often as you please during your visit or for a year, without any additional charge. And if you choose to cross in a carriage, you pay no more. If you cross the second or the hundredth time the record of your name in the register is sufficient evidence

that your toll has been paid. Proceed next to Goat Island, where you will find guide-boards directing you to all the most interesting places and objects around the island. Follow the gravel walk at the right, down to the cascade or centre fall and cross a narrow bridge to Luna Island, from the farther corner of which you will have the best and most splendid view of the Falls on the American side. Retracing your steps to the gravel walk, proceed next to the Biddle Staircase; descend that without fail, as you will there have a magnificent and much admired view of the two entire Falls, standing between them, and an opportunity, if the wind be favorable, of passing a considerable distance behind either sheet, with the tremendous flood pouring over you from a height of 150 feet. From the foot of the staircase, turn first to the right and go to the Cave of the Winds under the centre fall, and in returning, follow the path to the great Crescent fall.

Reaching the top of the island again, proceed to the farther corner, where you will find the Stone Tower forty-five feet high with winding steps to the top, and also the Terrapin Bridge, from both which places you will have decidedly the best and most impressive views of the Falls, that can be

had from any position. Here you will realize power, grandeur, sublimity, immensity,—no pen or tongue can describe it.

Pursuing your way with a view to go entirely round the island,—as you ought without fail to do, inasmuch as you will thus get a much better view of the rapids and surrounding scenery than can be obtained any where else,—you will proceed up to a beautiful cascade, where, under the shelter in part of a projecting rock, you can have an opportunity to bathe in the sparkling foam of Niagara.

“This is the purest exercise of health,
The kind refresher of the summer heats.”

A rustic bridge here gives you access to the Moss islands, which are well worthy a visit. Just above these islands you have the very best view of the rapids, that is presented from any place about the Falls. Proceeding round the head of the island, you cross the place, nearly opposite the saw mill, where a number of human skeletons have been dug up,—supposed to be the former site of an Indian burying ground.

If your visit is protracted at the Falls, you ought to pass around and through Goat Island by the different paths in order to observe its picturesque beauty and realize its thousand attractions. You

ought also, if time permit, to visit the site of old Fort Schlosser, the mineral spring, the whirlpool, the Devil's Hole, &c. to all which places the coach-drivers will conduct you, and give such information and directions as you may need.

In order to cross the river, proceed from the bridge to the staircase near the edge of the Falls, at the foot of which you will have a very near view of the highest fall and a most charming prospect of the entire Falls. Take a look from the window of the Staircase and you will realize the truth of Shakspeare's description,

“ How fearful
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!
 . I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong.”

In crossing the river, not the least danger need be apprehended; it is a perfectly safe and most delightful excursion, and persons sometimes swim across and find it a real luxury. The time occupied in crossing is ordinarily about eight minutes, and the ferrage is $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents from May to November and 25 cents from November to May. If you have trunks or other luggage to be transported from either side to the other, the ferrymen will

convey them safely at a reasonable charge. The river is here 76 rods wide and 250 feet deep.

Having crossed the river, proceed up the bank by a carriage road, to Fido's elegant and inviting confectionary establishment, where, if you choose, you can refresh yourself with ice cream and other luxuries,—and thence to Table Rock, where you will find a spiral staircase, from the foot of which you can pass 153 feet behind the sheet of water. This staircase is under the care of Mr. Starkey, who furnishes dresses and a guide for visitors, who wish to go behind the sheet; he also keeps a reading room and a neat and inviting shop of refreshments.

From Table Rock you have one broad and imposing view of the whole Falls, and much of the scenery of the rapids and islands. Many visitors prefer this view to any other; but it is generally conceded that the view from the Terrapin bridge is superior,—it combines more of the beautiful and sublime.

In ascending the bank from Table Rock to the Hotels, you will have a fine and extensive view of the surrounding country, and can visit the burning spring, Chippewa, Lundy's Lane, Brock's Monu-

ment, the Welland Canal, &c. as you may have leisure or inclination.

If you arrive first on the Canada side, proceed directly to Table Rock, and when satisfied with looking at the amazing scene there, both from above and below, follow the path to the Ferry and cross to the other side, and then visit Goat Island as directed above.

To those who wish the services of a living guide in their rambles and excursions, Mr. S. Hooker, on the American side, offers himself; his office is near the Eagle Hotel. From a residence of twenty years at the Falls, he is enabled to conduct visitors to all the objects of interest in the vicinity, and to give them much valuable information.

NIAGARA RIVER, ITS SOURCES, ISLANDS, &C.

Niagara River, upon which the Falls are situated, receives the waters of all the upper lakes, as Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, Superior, and a number of smaller ones. The most distant source of the Niagara is probably the river St.

Louis, which rises 1250 miles north west of the Falls and 155 miles west of Lake Superior; it is 1200 feet above the level of the ocean, and falls 551 feet before it reaches the lake.

Lake Superior is 459 miles long by 109 wide, and 900 feet deep: it is discharged into Lake Huron by the Strait St. Mary, 60 miles in length, making a descent of 45 feet. This lake receives the waters of about forty rivers. Lake Michigan is 300 miles by 50 and about 900 feet deep, and empties into Huron through the straits of Mackinac 40 miles in length. Connected with Michigan, on the south-west side, is Green Bay, 100 miles in length by about 20 in width. Lake Huron is 218 miles by 180, and 900 feet deep, and is discharged into Lake Erie through the rivers St. Clair and Detroit, 90 miles, making a descent of 31 feet. Lake Erie is 290 miles by 63, and 120 feet deep, and 564 feet above the level of the sea. It empties itself through Niagara river, 35 miles in length, into Lake Ontario, making a descent of 334 feet, viz: from the lake to Schlosser, 12 feet; thence down the rapids, 52 feet; the perpendicular Falls, 164 feet; from the Falls to Lewiston, 104 feet; and thence to Lake Ontario, two feet.

Lake Ontario is 180 miles by 31, and 500 feet deep, and discharges itself through the river St. Lawrence into the Atlantic Ocean, 710 miles distant.

The four inland seas above the Falls—as the great Lakes may properly be called—with the hundreds of rivers, great and small, that flow into them, cover a surface of 150,000 square miles, and contain nearly half the fresh water on the surface of the globe. From these sources of the Niagara, some idea may be formed of the immense quantity of water that is constantly pouring over the Falls.

Niagara River, as it flows from Lake Erie, is about three-fourths of a mile in width, and from twenty to forty feet deep; for three miles it has a rapid current, and then it becomes calm and smooth till within one mile of the Falls.

“ So calm ;—the waters scarcely seem to stray,
And yet they glide like happiness away.”

Five miles from the lake the river begins to expand till it becomes more than eight miles in width, and embraces before it reaches the Falls, about forty islands. Of these the largest are Grand and Navy. The latter, belonging to Canada, contains 304 acres of good land, and termi-

nates near Chippewa Point. Grand Island commences five miles from the lake, is twelve miles in length, measured round its edge, and from three to six in width, and terminates three miles above the Falls, containing 17,384 acres. The land is well timbered, rich, and productive. As the deepest channel of the river, forming the boundary line, runs on the west side, this island, until recently, has belonged to the state of New-York; but in the year 1833, a company from Boston purchased nearly the whole of the island, and have recently erected upon it, near the site of the famous Jewish city, Ararat, projected in 1825 by Major Noah of New-York, a steam grist mill, and a saw mill 150 feet square, containing 15 sets of saws. This mill is intended to saw ship stuff of every description, from 20 to 70 feet in length, and will probably be one of the most extensive establishments of its kind in America. The name of their village is "White Haven," situated nearly opposite Tonawanta, where the Erie Canal locks into the Niagara river. It is approached by a ferry across the river, here 100 rods wide, and has increased, since Nov. 1833, from one solitary family to more than fifty; it has also many workshops, a store, a school house, a commodious

wharf several hundred feet long, and a spacious dock made of piles, for storing and securing floating timber.

It is understood that they intend to employ constantly several hundreds of men with a competent number of teams, for the purpose of preparing and sending to the eastern cities a large quantity of ship timber. In the spring of 1834, the timber for three large merchant ships of 400, 450, and 700 tons burthen, prepared, and every piece fitted to its place during the previous winter, was sent by canal boats to Albany, and thence by sloops to Boston.

One thing connected with the founding of this village and the progress of the Company's business on this island, deserves special commendation: no ardent spirits of any kind have been used, and no man who drinks spirits can find employment there even for a single day. Much success to their enterprise.

In July, 1759, during the old French war, two large French vessels, in danger of being taken by the British, were burnt and sunk in what is called Burnt Ship Bay, near the lower end of this island. Some parts of them are still visible; and some years since, a party of men, by raking the river at

that place, secured a number of tons of iron.

Among the other islands in this river, the following are perhaps most deserving of notice, viz: Bird Island, between Buffalo and Fort Erie; Squaw Island, containing 131 acres, opposite Black Rock; Strawberry Islands, containing about 100 acres; Beaver Island of 30 acres; Rattlesnake Island of 48 acres; Tonawanta Island, opposite the creek and village of that name, containing 69 acres; Cayuga Island near the New-York shore, four miles above the Falls, containing about 100 acres; Buckhorn Island, near the lower end of Grand and near Navy Island, containing 146 acres; and a number of smaller islands, in and immediately above the rapids, besides Goat Island, &c. hereafter to be described.

One feature of the Niagara river somewhat peculiar is, that neither the snows of winter nor the evaporation of summer, neither rains nor drought, materially affect it; its waters flow on, full and clear, perpetually the same; except, as has long been observed, they have a small gradual rise and fall about once in seven years. The cause of this is unknown, but is undoubtedly to be sought in something affecting the upper lakes. Indeed, it has often been asserted by travelers,

that these lakes have septennial fluxes and refluxes : it is also asserted by some, that they have small diurnal tides. This, however, may reasonably be doubted.

THE RAPIDS,

I must here apprise the reader, that it were vain to attempt a graphic description of the Falls and surrounding scenery ; for they so immeasurably exceed every thing of the kind elsewhere seen or even imagined, that no power of language can give any adequate idea of them to those who have not been present to hear and see for themselves. Capt. Basil Hall remarks, " All parts of the Niagara are on a scale which baffles every attempt of the imagination, and it were ridiculous therefore to think of describing it ; the ordinary means of description, I mean analogy, and direct comparison, with things which are more accessible, fail entirely in the case of that amazing cataract, which is altogether unique."

The scenes which are sketched in the following pages, may be considered, therefore, only as a very faint outline, or shadow, of the reality.

Below the termination of Grand and Navy islands, the river is compressed to the width of two and a half miles; and, pressing forward with accelerated motion, it commences about three-fourths of a mile above the Falls a rapid descent, making within that distance a slope or succession of *chutes*, amounting to fifty-two feet on the American side, and fifty-seven on the other. The tremendous and beautiful rapids thus formed, constitute a very important part of the grand and unparalleled curiosities of this river. Were they in any other place, they would of themselves be considered as a scene of great beauty and sublimity, equalled only by the ocean when lashed into foam and fury by the angry tempest. Many visitors express themselves more delighted, and unexpectedly filled with wonder, at seeing the Rapids, than the Falls themselves.

“ Through sparkling spray in thundering clash,
 The lightnings of the water flash,
 In awful whiteness o’er the shore,
 That shines and shakes beneath the roar.”—*Byron*.

Two miles above the Falls, in approaching from Buffalo, you come in sight of the white-crested breakers more than a mile in width, dashing, foaming, and tossing from ten to thirty feet above

the main current ; and at the same time hear a low, monotonous, tremendous roar ; and as you approach nearer, feel a tremulous motion of the earth. The distance at which this roar can be heard, varies, with the state of the atmosphere, ordinarily from five to twenty miles, though it is sometimes distinctly heard at Toronto, fifty miles distant. And yet, in the village near the Falls, it is scarcely heard at all. The mist, arising like curling smoke and separating as it rises into masses of fantastic clouds, is seen at the distance of from three to fifty miles. This distance depends upon the state of the atmosphere, the height of the sun, and the force and direction of the wind. This mist sometimes rises in immense masses, and sometimes in a pyramidal shape to a very great height, and is an object of great curiosity, especially in the morning soon after sun-rise. It then sparkles like diamonds, and becomes illuminated with the most brilliant prismatic colors.

“Niagara! Niagara! I hear
 Thy tumbling waters. And I see thee rear
 Thy thundering sceptre to the clouded skies;
 I see it wave—I hear the ocean rise,
 And roll obedient to thy call. I hear
 The tempest-hymning of thy floods in fear;
 The quaking mountains and the nodding trees—

The reeling birds—and the careering breeze—
 The tottering hills, unsteadied in thy roar;
 Niagara! as thy dark waters pour,
 One everlasting earthquake rocks thy lofty shore.”
Neal.

From Table Rock, you have an extensive and picturesque view of the rapids; but they are seen to much better advantage from the shore half a mile above, and especially from the different sides of Goat Island. From the south-west corner of this island, just above the Moss islands, you have by far the best view that can be taken from any place. There is, too, an amazing rush of water between the Moss islands, the force and sublimity of which may be conceived but not described. Reader, go there, and you will be fixed for a time in mute astonishment.

GOAT, OR IRIS ISLAND.

Goat Island is so called from the circumstance, that about the year 1770, Mr. Steadman, resident at Schlosser, contrived by some means to put a few goats upon the island; but its more appropriate and adopted name is Iris Island. It commences near the head of the rapids almost in the mid-

dle of the river, and extends to the precipice, dividing the Falls into two sheets. It is half a mile in length, and one-fourth of a mile in width, and contains seventy-five acres of rich and heavy timbered land. Situated in the midst of the rapids and surrounded by them on three sides, this island is one of the most beautiful, fascinating and romantic places in the world; it affords a delightful retreat for "the lunatic, the lover, and the poet," to indulge in their meditations. Fanned by gentle breezes, thickly and delightfully shaded, free from noisome insects, encircled by a neat gravel walk, and presenting to the visiter a great variety of views of the Falls and rapids, he feels a reluctance on leaving it, and is wont to exclaim with Montgomery,

"If God hath made this world so fair,
Where sin and death abound;
How beautiful, beyond compare,
Will Paradise be found!"

or with Eve in the language of Milton,

"Must I thus leave thee, Paradise?
——— These happy walks and shades,
Fit haunt of gods?" &c.

About two thirds of this island are still covered with tall trees, many of which are clothed with a

magnificent drapery of ivy and other creeping plants, and many have been killed by reason of the countless names that have been cut into their bark. So strong is the desire of man for immortality, that few can resist the temptation to leave some memorial of their visit to the Falls. The earliest genuine date of any name yet found, is in the year 1769, though names have been cut within a few years and *dated* back as early as 1745; but on the *rocks* near the Falls on the American side, there are names chiseled out and dated 1711, 1726, 1745, &c. On Goat Island, a number of human skeletons have, within a few years, been dug up; supposed to be the remains of Indians buried in a former age, and many more are doubtless now resting there in undisturbed repose.— There may they rest, in nature's solitude, till the Great Spirit calls them hence. On this island is found a very great variety of wild plants, shrubs and flowers; nearly two hundred different species, some of them very rare, have already been discovered. Of the *Tillium Grandiflora*, sixteen varieties are found here. The seeds of plants and flowers, from the shores of all the upper lakes and rivers, have probably been washed upon this island. Some years since, a number of deer were

put upon this island, which soon became quite tame; but visitors, in order to see them jump, would occasionally frighten them, when they would immediately betake themselves to the rapids, and thus were carried over the Falls, until all were finally destroyed.

When the present proprietor shall have completed the spacious garden recently laid out, in which he designs to cultivate all the fruits that will grow in this mild and genial climate, and shall have finished the many other improvements which he has projected, no other place, perhaps, in the world, will present attractions equal to those of Goat Island. The approach to it is from the American side by means of a bridge of the most difficult and hazardous construction, which extends from the shore 28 rods to Bath Island, and thence 16 rods farther to Goat Island.

There are many other beautiful islands situated among the rapids of this river, a number of which, as Bath, Ship, Brig, Moss, Luna, &c. are connected with Goat Island by bridges, and afford the most charming and impressive views of the surrounding scenery. On Bath Island, which is 24 rods in length, containing about two acres, is the Toll House, kept by Mr. A. B.

Jacobs, who furnishes visiters with warm and cold Baths at any hour, and at all seasons of the year. Let it be remembered, that

“Even from the body’s purity, the mind
Receives a secret, sympathetic aid.”

He also keeps for sale a variety of elegant articles of Indian manufacture, choice specimens of the minerals found in the vicinity, and a plentiful supply of refreshments. He is withal very accommodating to visiters, and ready to accompany them to the various objects of interest, or to give them any information they may need in regard to the Falls or Islands.

On this island is situated Porter & Clark’s extensive Paper Mill, three stories high, in which they manufacture yearly 10,000 reams of paper of various qualities and descriptions.

Luna Island, about 30 yards in width, stands directly on the precipice near Goat Island, and divides the stream, a part of which forms the most splendid cascade, perhaps in the world. This is about twenty-two yards in width, and is sometimes called the “Centre Fall,” to distinguish it from the other two main sheets. Approaching this island from the foot of what is called, from the shape of the path, the “Hog’s Back,” visiters have,

from the north-west corner, a much better view of the American Fall than can be taken from any other place. This fall, like the other, has evidently changed its shape within a few years, and has now nearly as much of a resemblance to a horse-shoe as the other.

There are ten other islands in the rapids besides those above mentioned, containing perhaps from one-fourth to an acre each, to all or any of which probably, bridges might be constructed.

THE FALLS—TERRAPIN BRIDGE AND TOWER.

The broad river, as it comes thundering and foaming down the declivity of the rapids, at length leaps the cataract, three-fourths of a mile in width, and falls, as it were, to the central caves of the earth. The mind, filled with amazement, recoils at the spectacle, and loses for a moment its equilibrium. The trembling of the earth, the mighty rush and conflict and deafening roar of the waters, the clouds of mist sparkling with rainbows, produce an effect upon the beholder often quite overpowering; and it is only after the scene has become

somewhat familiar to the eye, the ear, and the imagination, that its real grandeur and sublimity is properly realized and felt.

The water on the American side, as ascertained by frequent measurement, falls 164 feet, and on the Canada side 158 feet. The fall on the Canada side, embracing much the largest channel of the river, is called, from the shape of the precipice, the "Crescent or Horse-Shoe Fall," and near to this a bridge, called the Terrapin bridge, has been constructed 300 feet in length from Goat Island, and projecting ten feet over the Falls. Near the termination of this bridge, in the water and on the very verge of the precipice, a stone tower, forty-five feet high, with winding steps to the top, was reected in the year 1833, from which, or from the end of the bridge, the effect of the Falls upon the beholder is most awfully sublime and utterly indescribable. The sublime arising from obscurity is here experienced in its greatest force. The eye, unable to discover the mysterious phenomena at the bottom of the Falls, or even to penetrate the mist that seems to hang as a veil over the amazing and terrific scene, gives place to the imagination, and the mind is instinctively elevated and filled with majestic dread. Here is

“ All that expands the spirit, yet appals.”—*Byron*.

“ It seems to be the good pleasure of God, that men shall learn his Omnipotence by evidence addressed to the senses as well as the understanding, and that there shall be on earth continual illustrations of his mighty power ; of creation we are ascertained by faith, not by sight ; the heavenly bodies, though vast, are distant, and roll silently in their courses. But the earth by its quakings, the volcano by its fires, the ocean by its mountain waves, and the floods of Niagara by the majesty of their power and ceaseless thunderings, proclaim to the eye, and to the ear, and to the heart, the omnipotence of God. From these far distant sources and multitudinous dispersions, he called them into the capacious reservoirs of the North, and bid them hasten their accumulating tide to this scene of wonders, and for ages the obedient waters have rolled and thundered his praise.

In beholding this deluge of created omnipotence, the thought, how irresistible is the displeasure of God, rushes upon the soul. It requires but a little aid of the imagination to behold in this ceaseless flow of waters, the stream of his indignation, which shall beat upon the wicked in the gulf below the eternal pit ; and in the cloud of ex-

halation, the smoke of their torment, which ascendeth up for ever and ever. And nothing but the wailing of unearthly voices seems necessary to make one feel that hell and destruction are uncovered before him. With these associations, all is dark, terrific and dreadful, till from the midst of this darkness and these mighty thunderings, the bow, brilliant type of mercy, arises, and spreads its broad arch over the agitated waters, proclaiming that the Omnipotence which rolls the stream is associated with mercy as well as with justice.”*

“And such was that rainbow, that beautiful one,
Whose arch was refraction, its key-stone—the sun;
A pavilion it seemed with a Deity graced,
And justice and mercy met there and embraced.”

Campbell.

The solar and lunar bows, the river above and below, and indeed the whole scenery of the Falls and rapids, appear to better advantage from this point than from any other; and no visiter on either side should presume to leave the Falls without visiting this tower and bridge. From the top of the tower especially, he will realize the force and beauty of the following description, which, with the change of a single word, applies admirably to this matchless scene:

* *Christian Spectator* for 1831.

“The roar of waters ! From the headlong height
Niagara cleaves the wave-worn precipice ;
 The fall of waters ! rapid as the light,
 The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss ;
 The hell of waters ! where they howl and hiss,
 And boil in endless torture ; while the sweat
 Of their great agony, wrung out from this
 Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks of jet
 That gird the gulf around, in pitiless horror set,

And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again
 Returns in an unceasing shower, which round
 With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain,
 Is an eternal April to the ground,
 Making it all one emerald ;—how profound
 The gulf !—and how the giant element
 From rock to rock leaps with delirious bound,
 Crushing the cliffs, which downward worn and rent,
 With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a fearful vent.

* * * * *
 * * * * * Look back!

Lo ! where it comes like an eternity,
 As if to sweep down all things in its track,
 Charming the eye with dread,—a matchless cataract,
 Horribly beautiful ! but on the verge,
 From side to side, beneath the glittering morn,
 An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,
 Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, unworn
 Its steady dies, while all around is torn
 By the distracted waters, bears serene
 Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn,

Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene,
Love watching Madness with unalterable mien."

Byron.

The lunar bow, seen at night in the time of full moon, appears like a brightly illuminated arch reaching from side to side, and is an object of great attraction,—especially as the world presents only a few other places where such a bow is ever seen,

"Hung on the curling mist, the moonlight bow
Arches the perilous river."—*Longfellow.*

Goat Island, in a moonlight night, is the resort of great multitudes, where they find themselves introduced to a scene of unrivalled beauty and magnificence. The rapids at such a time sparkle with phosphoric splendor and nature around wears an irresistible charm of loveliness. There is

"A silver light, which hallowing tree and tower,
Sheds beauty and deep softness o'er the whole."

Byron.

The writer once had the pleasure of joining a lovely couple in marriage about 11 o'clock on one of the brightest nights he has ever known, in full view of this enchanting scene, and then of taking a romantic excursion with the party around the island. This was poetry indeed ; it was one of those bright and verdant oases sometimes met

with in the journey of life. May all their days be equally bright and their rambles equally pleasant.

**BIDDLE STAIRCASE--ÆOLUS'
CAVE, &C.**

At the lower end of Goat Island, about one-third across it, a staircase, erected in the year 1829, at the expense of Nicholas Biddle, Esq. of Philadelphia, gives visitors an opportunity of descending below the bank and of passing a considerable distance behind the two main sheets of water. The descent from the top of the island to the margin of the river is 185 feet. A common flight of steps leads down 40 feet to the perpendicular spiral steps, 90 in number, which are enclosed in a building in the shape of a hexagon resting on a firm foundation at the bottom. From the foot of the building there are three paths leading to the most important points of observation, one of which leads to the river below, 80 feet, where visitors will find one of the finest fishing places in this part of the world. All the varieties of fish existing in Lake Ontario are found here, among which are sturgeon, pike, pickerel, black and white bass,

herrings, cat-fish, eels, &c. Here was Sam Patch's jumping place. The path at the left of the staircase leads to the great Crescent Fall, where, when the wind blows up the river, a safe and delightful passage is opened behind the sheet of water.

The path at the right leads to a magnificent Cave, appropriately named when it was first discovered, some twenty-five years since, *Æolus' Cave*, or *Cave of the Winds*. This cave is about 120 feet across, 50 feet wide and 100 feet high; it is situated directly behind the *Centre Fall*, which at the bottom is more than 100 feet wide, and visitors can safely pass into and entirely through the cave behind the sheet of water. Beyond this cave at the foot of *Luna Island*, there is an open space where persons may amuse themselves at leisure upon the rocks, over which the floods are pouring, and then venture in as far as they please behind the whole *American Fall*.

The writer of these pages first conceived the idea of effecting an entrance into this cave, July 14, 1834, while passing in front of the *American Fall* in a boat, and the next day it was effected for the first time by passing round the outside of the fall and descending from the foot of *Luna Island*;

at his special request. Judge Porter, the proprietor, has engaged to have the rocks excavated, and a flight of steps constructed so as to admit a safe descent and entrance from the end of the path.— Accompanying the above idea, was a project of passing behind the whole American Fall 56 rods, and coming out near the ferry. This passage, though not yet effected, is believed to be possible ; for the opening between the sheet of water as it falls, and the rock behind is from 15 to 50 feet wide, and there are rocks to walk upon through the whole distance. If there be any insurmountable obstacle, it will probably be found in the tremendous wind and spray occasioned by the falling flood. A passage into the cave was at first considered a great exploit, but a passage behind the whole sheet would be inconceivably greater. The cave itself is the *ne plus ultra* of wonders, a visit to which no person ought to omit. Visitors who wish to pass through the cave and behind the immense sheet of water, can be furnished with suitable dresses by calling on Mr. Jacobs, at the Toll House on Bath Island. But ladies and gentlemen can very often, when the wind blows down the river, pass a considerable distance behind the sheet of water within the cave without getting wet

at all. The view presented to a person while in the cave, in connexion with the tremendous and astounding roar of waters, which, owing to the echoes or reverberations, is apparently an hundred times greater here than any where else, will enable him to appreciate the following beautiful and graphic lines of Brainerd,—especially as there is always in the afternoon when the sun shines, a bright rain-bow visible directly within the cave and behind the sheet of water.

“The thoughts are strange that crowd into my brain,
While I look upwards to thee. It would seem,
As if God poured thee from his hollow hand,
And hung his bow upon thy awful front,
And spoke in that loud voice, which seemed to him
Who dwelt in Patmos for his Saviour’s sake,
‘The sound of many waters;’ and had bade
Thy flood to chronicle the ages back,
And notch His centuries in the eternal rocks.

Deep calleth unto deep. And what are we,
That hear the question of that voice sublime?
Oh! what are all the notes that ever rung
From war’s vain trumpet by thy thundering side?
Yea, what is all the riot man can make
In his short life, to thy unceasing roar!
And yet, bold babbler, what art thou to Him
Who drowned a world, and heaped the waters far
Above its loftiest mountains?—a light wave,
That breaks and whispers of its Maker’s might.”

How little and insignificant do the efforts of man appear, when measured by this exhibition of Omnipotence! The earthquake, the volcano, the wide-spread conflagration, the shock of contending armies are sublime and terrific spectacles, though short in their continuance and limited in their effects; but here, ever since the flood probably, the deafening and incessant roar of the mightiest cataract on the globe has called upon the children of men to fall down and adore their Maker.

THE FERRY.

There is another stair-case leading down the bank about six rods below the Falls, where visitors will find a safe ferry to the Canada side, and have an opportunity of viewing a scene of surpassing grandeur. The deep-green glassy river beneath, the awful precipice of rocks, and the mighty floods rolling and tumbling from the heights above, and the singularly wild, romantic, and variegated scenery around, fill the mind of the beholder with sensations not to be described. Here one may perceive the propriety and beauty of the figure representing Him, who is the "Rock

of ages," as "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," to those who fly to him for refuge.

" While viewing thee
 I think how grand and beautiful is God,
 When man has not intruded on his works,
 But left his bright creation unimpaired.
 Blessed scenes!

* * * it is no mortal touch
 That sharpened thy rough brow, or fringed thy skirts
 With coarse luxuriance;—'twas the lightning's force
 Dashed its strong flash across thee, and did point
 The crag; or, with his stormy thunderbolt,
 The Almighty Architect himself disjoined
 Yon rock; then flung it down where now it hangs,
 And said, do thou lie there."—*C. Wolfe.*

The Ferrymen, S. L. Ware, Esq. on the American, and Mr. J. Shultersburgh, on the Canada side, are both very civil and accommodating, well acquainted with their business, and able to give much information to visitors. Whenever required, they take parties out on pleasure or fishing excursions, and thus enable them to take a more extensive view of the gorgeous river scenery. The construction of a carriage road is now in progress down these perpendicular banks, so as to have a ferry for teams and carriages; and

when this is completed, it must become a great and important thoroughfare for travelers.

CANADA VIEWS.

Directly opposite the Falls on the Canada side, an enterprising Company, having purchased the grounds formerly owned by Mr. Forsyth, have projected and laid out what they call "The City of the Falls," and are now making very considerable improvements. They hope soon to have schools, churches, libraries, ball and promenade rooms, baths, public gardens, and, indeed, every thing considered necessary to an elegant and fashionable city. The lots and streets are laid out with much judgment and taste and are to be distributed by lottery. The city has an imposing and attractive appearance on paper, but how it will appear when actually built upon the solid earth, other generations must tell.

The table land on the river's bank below the Falls and opposite the Ferry, owned by Captain Creighton, has also been surveyed into lots for a village, to be called "Clifton;" and here, directly at the top of the ferry road, Mr. Crysler is build-

ing a splendid Hotel for the accommodation of visitors, to be completed by the first of June 1835. It will contain upwards of sixty rooms, and accommodate from sixty to one hundred guests. This is a delightful site for a village, and will in a few years, probably, be the most central place of resort on that side of the river. The following stanza of Byron is beautifully descriptive of this place.

“From thy shady brow,
 Thou small, but favored spot of holy ground!
 Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,
 What rainbow tints, what magic charms are found!
 Rock, river, forest, mountain, all abound,
 And bluest skies that harmonize the whole;
 Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound
 Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll [soul.”
 Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet please the

In ascending the high bank, the visiter is presented with some delightful views of the Falls and rapids and of the surrounding country. Two spacious Hotels stand prominent on the bank, one of which, the Pavilion, is much frequented, and can accommodate nearly an hundred guests.—It has an imposing appearance, and from the observatory on its roof, visitors have an extensive view of the country around. Strangers who have

never visited the Falls, have an idea that the surrounding country must be mountainous, like that in the vicinity of most other falls; but the general aspect of the country here for a great extent on both sides of the river, above and below, is that of an almost perfect level, and nothing indicates the existence of the river or the Falls except the constantly ascending and floating mist, and a kind of subterranean thundering roar. Below the Falls the earth and rocks appear as though they had been suddenly rent asunder and separated one-fourth of a mile apart, in order, by the perpendicular chasm thus made, to form a channel for the river. The corresponding portions of rock are as regular in the succession of their strata, as would be the leaves and cover of a book if they were bisected and placed opposite to each other. The whole country in Canada between the two lakes, except a narrow strip bordering upon Lake Ontario, is generally level, rich, and productive, and is becoming quite populous. In visiting the Canada side, you can cross the river at Black Rock, Lewiston, or at the Falls; and can always have carriages on that side to transport you whither you choose. No one ought to fail of visiting the Canada side, as this grand and

unparalleled scene of nature's wonders, the fame whereof is spread over the world, ought to be viewed and contemplated from every position. The views from that side are by many considered the best; but let every one decide for himself from personal observation.

WELLAND CANAL.

Eight miles west from the Falls is the Welland Canal, connecting the waters of Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, and affording a passage for sloops and schooners of 125 tons burthen. This Canal commences at Port Maitland near the mouth of Grand River on Lake Erie, forty-eight miles west of Buffalo, runs in a straight line across Main-fleet Marsh, crosses the Chippewa river by means of an aqueduct, and enters Lake Ontario at the mouth of the twelve mile creek. It is 42 miles in length, 56 feet in width, and varies from 8 1-2 to 16 feet in depth. The whole descent from one lake to the other, 334 feet, is accomplished by means of 37 locks. At the deep-cut, on what

is called the mountain ridge, the excavation is 45 feet in depth ; and 1,477,700 cubic feet of earth, and 1,890,000 cubic feet of rock were removed. The locks here are 22 by 100 feet, and west of this ridge they are 45 by 125 feet. The Canal was commenced in the year 1824, and completed in five years, and cost over \$1,000,000. A large part of the stock is owned by individuals in the state of New-York. The Company own all the land along the line of the Canal, including the hydraulic privileges ; and another tract, containing about 16,000 acres, has been granted to them by the British Government.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.

Six miles and a half north from the Falls, upon Queenston heights, is General Brock's Monument, constructed of free stone 126 feet high, and admitting an ascent to the top by a flight of 170 winding steps. From this eminence, the country around, including the picturesque lake scenery, may be seen for fifty miles.

BURNING SPRING.

One mile south from the Falls, near the rapids, is the Burning Spring. This is in a state of constant ebullition, and from it issues a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which quickly ignites on the touch of a candle, and burns with a brilliant flame. The Spring is enclosed in a barrel, which collects the gas and lets it out through a tube inserted at the top. This gas might, without doubt, be communicated by pipes to neighboring buildings, and substituted for candles and lamps. The keeper of the Spring, Mr. J. Conklin, expects a small fee from visitors for his trouble. There are strong indications at this Spring of a bed of coal near, but no effort has yet been made to procure it.

STAIR CASE.

At the Falls, near Table Rock, is a spiral Stair Case, constructed for the purpose of letting people descend and pass behind the sheet of water.

Mr. Starkey, who keeps a house of refreshment and a cabinet of minerals here, is very accommodating to visitors, and when desired, furnishes them with a dress and guide to facilitate their passage behind the Falls.

MUSEUM.

A few rods from this Staircase is Mr. Barnett's Museum of natural and artificial curiosities;—an establishment well worthy of patronage. The rooms are arranged very tastefully so as to represent a forest scene, and contain upwards of 700 stuffed animals of various kinds and descriptions. There are bipeds and quadrupeds; birds, fishes, insects, shells and minerals; all calculated to delight the eye, improve the understanding, and mend the heart. Of the birds, beasts, fishes, and insects, several hundred species were caught in the vicinity of the Falls. The noblest eagles of the land delight to hover around the Falls; and here they are frequently killed, stuffed, and offered for sale.

SUMMER AND WINTER SCENERY.

The surrounding scenery on both sides of the river is in good keeping with the unrivalled magnificence of the Falls. It is just what it should be,—grand, striking and unique. By most visitors it is seen only in summer. But in the winter it is also inimitably and indescribably beautiful.—The trees and shrubbery on Goat and other islands and on the banks of the river near the Falls, are covered with transparent sleet, presenting an appearance of “icy brilliants,” or rather of millions of glittering chandeliers of all sizes and descriptions, and giving one a most vivid idea of fairy land,

“For every shrub and every blade of grass,
And every pointed thorn seems wrought in glass,
The frightened birds the rattling branches shun,
Which wave and glitter in the distant sun.”

Phillips.

The scene presents a splendid counterpart to Goldsmith’s description of the subterranean grottos of Paros and Antiparos. The mist from the Falls freezes upon the trees so gradually and to such thickness, that it often bears a most exact resemblance to Alabaster; and this, set off by the dazzling colors of the rainbows that arch the ri-

ver from twenty different points, seems, by natural association, to raise the imagination to that world, where the streets are of pure gold, the gates of pearl, and night is unknown.

“Look, the massy trunks
 Are cased in the pure crystal ; branch and twig
 Shine in the lucid covering ; each light rod,
 Nodding and twinkling in the stirring breeze,
 Is studded with its trembling water-drops,
 Still streaming, as they move, with colored light.
 But round the parent stem, the long, low boughs
 Bend in a glittering ring, and arbors hide
 The glassy floor. O! you might deem the spot
 The spacious cavern of some virgin mine,
 Deep in the womb of earth, where the gems grow ;
 And diamonds put forth radiant rods, and bud
 With amethyst and topaz, and the place
 Lit up most royally with the pure beam
 That dwells in them ; or, haply the vast hall
 Of fairy palace, that outlasts the night,
 And fades not in the glory of the sun ;
 Where crystal columns send forth slender shafts,
 And crossing arches, and fantastic aisles
 Wind from the sight in brightness, and are lost
 Among the crowded pillars.”

The winter scenery about the Falls is peculiar, a sight of which is worth a journey of one thousand miles. Myriads of wild ducks and geese spend the day in and above the rapids, and regu-

larly take their departure for Lake Ontario every night before dark; though some are often found in the morning with a broken leg or wing, and sometimes dead, in the river below the Falls. This generally happens after a very dark or foggy night; and it is supposed that, as they always have their heads up stream, while in the water, they are carried down insensibly by the rapids till they find themselves going over the precipice, and then, in attempting to fly, they dive into the sheet of water, and are buried for a time under the Falls or upon the rocks.

Dead fish, too, of almost all sizes and descriptions, weighing from one to seventy pounds, are found floating in the eddies below the Falls, forming a dainty repast for gulls, loons, hawks, and eagles. The splendid gyrations of the gulls, and their fearless approaches, enveloped in clouds of mist, up to the boiling cauldron directly under the Falls, attract much attention. But the eagle, fierce, daring, contemplative, and tyrannical, takes his stand upon the point of some projecting rock, or the dry limb of a gigantic tree, and watches with excited interest the movements of the whole feathered tribe below. Standing there in lordly pride and dignity, in an instant his eye kindles and

his ardor rises as he sees the fish-hawk emerge from the deep, screaming with exultation at his success. He darts forth like lightning and gives furious chase. The hawk, perceiving his danger, utters a scream of despair and drops his fish; and the eagle instantly seizes the fish in the air, and bears his ill-gotten booty to his lofty eyry.

Sometimes during a part of the winter, the ice is driven by the wind from Lake Erie and poured over the Falls in such immense quantities, as to fill and block up the river between the banks, for a mile or more, to the depth of from thirty to fifty feet, so that people cross the ice to Canada on foot for weeks together. The river itself is never frozen over, either above or below the Falls, but it affords an outlet for vast quantities of ice from the upper lakes.

RIVER BELOW THE FALLS.

The river at the Falls is a little over three-fourths of a mile in width, but below it is immediately compressed into a narrow channel of less than one-fourth of a mile in width, and its depth, as ascertained by sounding, is about 250 feet. Its

color is deep-green, and sometimes blue; occasioned, no doubt, by reflection from the sky. This channel being between perpendicular banks from 170 to 370 feet high, is comparatively smooth for two miles, and then runs with amazing velocity to Lewiston; and, what is somewhat remarkable, while the river makes a constant descent, the banks have a gradual ascent for six miles; so that from the top of the bank to the water, at Brock's Monument near Queenston, is 370 feet; and the heights there are 38 feet higher than Lake Erie, and 25 feet higher than the land at Schlosser. Whether the bed of the river here was once a natural ravine, or was formed by an earthquake, or worn away by the continued and violent action of the water falling upon the rocks—thus carrying the Falls back from Queenston to their present situation, it would be difficult to determine with certainty.

From descriptions of the Falls written nearly two hundred years ago, we learn that, though their *shape* has been somewhat altered since they then occupied the place which they hold now, and exhibited the same wonderful phenomena. When and by whom among the whites they were first discovered, the writer has never yet been able to

ascertain. Tradition ascribes their discovery to two missionaries, who were on an exploring tour to this part of the country in an age anterior to any written account extant. Father Hennepin,* who visited this place in December 1678, thus describes the Falls:—"Betwixt the Lake Ontario and Erie, there is a vast and prodigious cadence of water which falls down after a surprising and astonishing manner, insomuch that the universe does not afford its parallel. 'Tis true, Italy and Suedeland boast of some such things, but we may well say that they are but sorry patterns, when compared with this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible precipice, we meet with the river Niagara, which is not above a quarter of a league broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this descent, that it

* The following is the title of his book: "A new discovery of a vast country in America, extending above four thousand miles between New France and New Mexico, with a description of the great Lakes, Cataracts, Rivers, Plants and Animals; also, the manners, customs and languages of the several native Indians, and the advantages of commerce with those different nations, with a continuation, giving an account of the attempts of the Sieur De la Salle upon the mines of the St. Barbe, &c. The taking of Quebec by the English; with the advantages of a shorter cut to China and Japan. Both parts illustrated with maps and figures, and dedicated to his Majesty K. William. By L. Hennepin, now resident in Holland. To which is added, several new discoveries in North America, not published in the French edition. London, 1693."

violently hurries down the wild beasts while endeavoring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to withstand the force of its current, which inevitably casts them headlong above six hundred foot high.

“This wonderful downfall is compounded of two great cross-streams of water, and two falls, with an isle sloping along the middle of it. The waters which fall from this horrible precipice, do foam and boil after the most hideous manner imaginable, making an outrageous noise, more terrible than that of thunder; for when the wind blows out of the south, their dismal roaring may be heard more than fifteen leagues off.

“The river Niagara having thrown itself down this incredible precipice, continues its impetuous course for two leagues together, to the Great Rock above mentioned, with an inexpressible rapidity; but having past that, its impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for other two leagues, till it arrives at the Lake Ontario or Frontenac.”

“From the great Fall unto this Rock, which is to the west of the river, the two brinks of it are so prodigious high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the water, rolling along

with a rapidity not to be imagined. Were it not for this vast Cataract, which interrupts navigation, they might sail with barks or greater vessels more than 450 leagues, crossing the Lake of Hurons, and reaching even to the further end of Lake Illinois; which two lakes we may easily say are little seas of fresh water."

"After these waters have thus discharged themselves into this dreadful gulf they" continue their course "as far as the three Mountains which are on the East of the River, and the Great Rock which is on the West, and lifts itself three fathoms above the waters or thereabouts."

The writer, after considerable inquiry and personal examination, is unable to determine what Father Hennepin means by the Three Mountains and the Great Rock; and he cannot believe that the Falls were ever six hundred feet high, as is repeatedly stated in the book. But Father Hennepin's description which is too long to be inserted entire is, in the main, remarkably correct; and establishes the fact, that in 1678, there were three distinct falls as there are now, and that the fall on the Canada side exhibited then somewhat of the appearance of a horse-shoe. His description too of the islands, shores, &c. corresponds with their present appearance.

In a work written by the Chevalier de Tonti,* who was of the party with Father Hennepin, there is a description of the Falls and of Niagara River, corresponding with and corroborating Hennepin's, but with the addition of no important facts.

Baron La Hontan,† who visited this Cataract in May 1688, thus describes it: "As for the waterfall of Niagara, 'tis seven or eight hundred foot high, and a half a league broad. Towards the middle of it we descry an Island that leans towards the Precipice, as if it were ready to fall. All the Beasts that cross the water within half a quarter of a league above this unfortunate Island, are sucked in by the force of the stream. And the Beasts and Fish that are thus killed by the prodigious Fall, serve for food to fifty Iroquese, who are settled about two leagues off, and take 'em out of the water with their Canows. Between the surface of the water that shelves off prodigiously, and the Foot of the Precipice, three men may

*Entitled, "Relations de la Louisiane et du Fleuve Mississippi &c. 1720, Amsterdam, Par Le Chevalier de Tonti, Gouverneur du Fort Saint Louis aux Illinois."

†His book is entitled, "New Voyages to North America, &c. &c. Written in French by the Baron La Hontan, Lord Lieutenant of the French Colony at Placentia in New Foundland, at that time in England. Done into English, the second edition—London 1735."

cross in abreast without any other damage, than a sprinkling of some few drops of water," &c.

In the philosophical transactions for 1722 there is a description of the Falls given by Monsieur Borassau, who had visited them at seven different times. He says that the Governor of Canada had, on the previous year, "ordered his own son with three other officers to survey Niagara, and take the exact height of the Cataract, which they accordingly did with a stone of half a hundred weight, and a large cod-line, and found it upon a perpendicular 26 fathoms" or 156 feet.

These extracts may not be considered of much value except by those, who have a curiosity to learn something about the Falls as they appeared in a former age.

There are at least five places between the Falls and Lewiston, where persons can descend from the top of the bank to the water; viz: from the end of Mr. Childs' and also Mr. Graves' farm, at the Whirlpool, at the Devil's Hole, and from the end of Mr. Colt's farm. There are also, on the Canada side, a number of places where visitors can descend safely to the water's edge. From these places under the bank the river scenery appears transcendentally beautiful and sublime, and the rap-

ids strike the beholder with more amazement, if possible, than the Falls themselves.

The top of the bank on either side near Brock's monument, affords a delightful and almost boundless prospect of the country and lake below. The unrivalled Niagara is traced to its outlet, guarded by two opposite Forts, and bearing sloops and steamboats into the glassy Lake ; while the mighty expanse of plains and waters presents a scene so picturesque and enchanting, that the traveler leaves his position with great reluctance. From Lewiston to Lake Ontario seven miles, the river is deep, smooth, and navigable for vessels of every description ; and Lewiston, being the head of navigation, is the principal landing place for the American steam-boats that run on Lake Ontario.

At the mouth of the river on the American side stand the village of Youngstown and Fort Niagara ; and on the Canada side, the village of Niagara and Fort George.

The quantity of water constantly pouring over the Falls and passing into the Lake, is computed from probable data at 670,250 tons per minute ; but Dr. Dwight computes it, from the depth, width, and velocity of the current, at more than eighty-five millions of tons per hour ; and by another

calculation, supposing a swifter current, at 102,093,750 tons per hour. Darby computes it at 1,672,704,000 cubic feet per hour. These results are somewhat different, but the first is probably nearest the truth. Dr. Dwight supposes in one calculation a current of five, and in the other, of six miles per hour, the least of which is undoubtedly too much.

**OBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST,
CURIOSITIES, &C.**

A number of these, as the islands, the bridges, the staircases, the burning spring, Brock's monument, the Welland Canal, &c. have already been described. One mile above the Falls on the American side, is the site of old Fort Schlosser; a place somewhat distinguished in the early history of this region, and commanding a most beautiful prospect of the river and rapids, of Grand and Navy Islands, and of the village of Chippewa on the opposite shore. Nothing remains of the Fort, except the entrenchments, and a few rods of pavement within. A stockade was built here in the year 1672. Before the construction of the Erie

Canal, all the business between the Lakes was interchanged by means of a land carriage from this place to Lewiston. Half a mile below the Falls under the bank are Catlin's Caves, a visit to which no traveler will be likely to regret. Vast quantities of calcareous tufa or petrified moss are found here in all stages of its petrifying process. On the other side nearly opposite is Bender's Cave.

MINERAL SPRING.

Two miles below is a Mineral Spring, containing sulphuric and muriatic acids, lime and magnesia; and by the use of its waters many important cures have been effected. For scrofulous, rheumatic, and cutaneous complaints this spring supplies an almost sovereign remedy. From the stage road near the spring, travelers have a most delightful view of the whole Falls two miles distant; and if they see the Falls from this place first, as they generally do in coming up from Lewiston, the impression here made will probably never be effaced.

WHIRLPOOL.

One mile farther down leads to a tremendous whirlpool, resembling very much, in its appearance and gyrations, the celebrated Maelstrom on the coast of Norway. Logs and trees are sometimes whirled around for days together in its outer circles, while in the centre they are drawn down perpendicularly with great force, are soon shot out again at the distance of many rods, and occasionally thrust into the channel to pass down the river. The river here makes nearly a right angle, which occasions the whirlpool,—is narrower than at any other place,—not more than 30 rods in width,—and the current runs with such amazing velocity as to rise up in the middle ten feet above the sides. This has been ascertained by actual measurement.

“ Resistless, roaring, dreadful, down it comes,—
There, gathering triple force, rapid and deep,—
It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through.”

Thompson.

There is a path leading down the bank to the whirlpool on both sides, and, though somewhat difficult to descend and ascend, it is accomplished almost every day on the American side by gentlemen and often by ladies. A brisk and very refresh-

ing breeze is felt there during the hottest and stillest days of summer ; and no place is better fitted to elevate and expand the mind. The whirlpool is a phenomenon of great interest as seen even from the top of the bank, especially if a small telescope be used ; but to have any adequate idea of its power and motions, visitors ought to descend to the water's edge, and walk some distance up the river. The rapids here are much more powerful and terrific than they are above the Falls, and appear like a flood of watery brilliants rushing along.

Having written thus far, the writer laid down his pen, and started off on a fresh visit to the whirlpool ; and now, having spent half a day there in mute astonishment and admiration, and walked more than a mile by the river's edge, he is utterly at a loss what language to use in describing it. Of the above tame and meagre description he is ashamed ; and yet he can think of no language, no imagery, no comparison, that will not fall immeasurably short of conveying a just idea of the scene. He can only say soberly and earnestly, that no gentleman ought hereafter to acknowledge that he had seen the Falls of Niagara, unless he could also say, he had seen the whirlpool from the

water's edge. A staircase down the bank would be a great accommodation to visitors, and it is to be hoped that one ere long will be constructed.

About the year 1812, an incident occurred here perhaps worth recording. A party of men were employed in cutting cedar logs near the river above the whirlpool, with a view to get them floated to Lewiston. One man stepping upon some of them that were rafted, was imperceptibly, or perhaps through carelessness, drawn out into the current, and swiftly carried into the whirlpool. He clung to a log and was carried round and round in the capacious basin for hours, expecting every moment to be crushed among the logs or thrust into the vortex, while his companions on shore could afford him no relief. At length, some of them ascended the bank, went to Queenston four miles, and procured a boat to be drawn up by a team. This was let down the bank, and many people assembled with ropes, poles, &c. to render assistance. After the boat had been well secured, and some men had stepped in, intending to push out into the whirlpool, the man upon the log, still whirling in imminent peril of his life, was, by some action of the water, sent out directly to the shore, and finally saved, without receiving any aid from others.

This place has been consecrated by some fabulous tales of wonder and of peril, which it is not necessary here to repeat.

DEVIL'S HOLE.

A mile below the whirlpool is a place on the American side called the "Devil's Hole," embracing about two acres, cut out laterally and perpendicularly in the rock by the side of the river, and about 150 feet deep. This name was probably given from that of the personage more frequently invoked in this region formerly than any other. How this hole was thus made it is difficult to conjecture. Visitors look into it with silent, inexpressible amazement. An angle of this hole or gulf comes within a few feet of the stage road, affording travelers an opportunity, without alighting, of looking into the yawning abyss. But they ought to alight and pass to the farther side of the flat projecting rock, where they will feel themselves richly repaid for their trouble. The scenery there presented is singularly captivating and sublime.

This place is distinguished by an incident that occurred about the year 1759. A company of British soldiers, pursued by the French and Indians, were driven off this rock at the point of the bayonet. All, save one, instantly perished upon the rocks 200 feet beneath. This one fell into the crotch of a tree, and succeeded afterwards in ascending the bank and making his escape.

A man by the name of Steadman, who lived at Fort Schlosser, was among this company of British, but made his escape on horse-back just before coming to the bank, though many balls whizzed about him in his flight. The Indians afterwards imagined him to be impenetrable and invincible, became very friendly, and ultimately, in consideration of some services he rendered them, gave him all the land included between Niagara River and a straight line drawn from Gill Creek above Fort Schlosser to the Devil's Hole, embracing about 5000 acres. The heirs of Steadman, so late as the year 1823, instituted and carried on a long and expensive law-suit against the State of New-York to recover this land. . But they could show no title, and the suit resulted in favor of the State and the present occupants.

TUSCARORA INDIANS.

Eight miles below the Falls and three miles back from the river is the Reservation of the Tuscarora Indians, containing two miles in width by four in length, (about 5000 acres) of very excellent land. They consist of about three hundred souls, have a Presbyterian Church of 50 members, a resident Clergyman and a School Teacher, and a Temperance Society of more than one hundred members. They are under the care of the American Board for Foreign Missions. Their village is delightfully situated, on a high bank commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country and of Lake Ontario. But the greater part of the Indians live in a settlement a mile and a half from the village, and are not generally seen by visitors.

These Indians came from North Carolina about the year 1712, and joined the confederacy of the Five Nations, themselves making the Sixth. They formerly held a very valuable interest in land in North Carolina, but have recently sold it and divided the proceeds equally among themselves. Many of them are in very prosperous circumstances; in the year 1834, one man grew and gathered fifty acres of wheat.

Visitors at the Falls have been in the habit of going, sometimes in crowds, to this village on the Sabbath ; but the Indians with their Missionary, have often expressed their desire that visitors would not interrupt them at that time. It is his impression, that such kind of visits and their accompaniments, and made too by such multitudes, have such an influence upon the Indians, as completely to counteract his efforts, for the time being, in their behalf ; and he has therefore adopted the practice, on such occasions, of directing his preaching entirely to the visitors. The Indians complain of being interrupted, crowded, and made a gazing stock, and of having a constant example of Sabbath-breaking set before them and their children ; and that, too, by those from whom they are taught to expect better things.

BATTLES.

In the immediate vicinity of the Falls many incidents have occurred to impart an additional interest. This was the scene of a number of battles fought during the last war with Great Britain ; those at Fort Fric, Chippewa, and Lundy's Lane, were among the most bloody and hard-fought, that

are recorded in history. In the battle near Fort Erie there was, what has generally been considered, a Military Chef d'œuvre; the Americans, to the number of 1000 regulars and 1000 of the militia, made a sortie and took the British works about 500 yards from their line, and returned in triumph. The battles in this region occurred in the following order; viz: at Queenston, Oct. 13, 1812; at York, April 27, 1813; at Fort George, May 27, do; at Stoney Creek, June 5, do; at Beaver Dams, June 24, do; Naval Battle on Lake Erie, Sept. 10, do; the villages of Niagara Falls, Lewiston, and Youngstown, burnt Dec. 19, do; Buffalo and Black Rock burnt Dec. 31, do; Fort Erie taken July 3, 1814; battle of Chippewa, July 6, do; at Bridgewater or Lundy's Lane, July 25, do; at Fort Erie, Aug. 15, and Sept. 17, 1814. The burning of villages and plunder of property on the American side, are still remembered, and the circumstances detailed with thrilling interest, by many of the inhabitants.

BRIDGES.

In the year 1817, a bridge was constructed from the shore across the rapids to the head of Goat

Island, but was swept away by the ice the ensuing spring. The present bridge was constructed in 1818, and is forty-four rods in length exclusive of Bath Island. This bridge, though crossing the foaming rapids only sixty-four rods above the Falls, over which visiters are at first disposed to walk lightly and with quickened pace, is perfectly safe for all kinds of teams and carriages, and seems destined to stand a great length of time. Multitudes inquire, with wonder and eager curiosity, how it could have been constructed in this imminently dangerous place.

They shall be informed ; and they will see that, like a thousand other difficult things, it was easily accomplished, when the *how* was ascertained. Two very long timbers were thrust out from the shore on an abutment, having the forward ends elevated a little above the rapids, and the others firmly secured upon the bank ; these were then covered with plank for a temporary bridge. At the extremity of this bridge, very large stones were let down into the river, around which timbers were sunk, locked together so as to form a frame, which was afterwards filled with stone. To this, constituting the first pier, a firm bridge was then constructed, and the temporary bridge shoved for-

ward so as to build a second pier like the first, and so on, till the whole was completed. The honor of projecting and constructing this bridge belongs jointly and equally to the proprietors, the Hon. Augustus and Gen'l Peter B. Porter.

Till the year 1817, there was no way of descending or ascending the bank below the Falls, except by a ladder about one hundred feet in length ; since then, a safe and convenient flight of stairs has been built, by which visitors can have an easy descent to the ferry, and an opportunity to pass a considerable distance behind the magnificent sheet of water. Perhaps there is no place where the height of the fall is so impressively realized as here.

MINERALS, &C.

At a number of shops near the Falls, as Mr. Jacobs' and Mr. Hooker's on the American side, and Mr. Shultersburgh's, Mr. Barnett's and Mr. Starkey's on the Canada side, may be had rich specimens of the mineral, fossil, vegetable, and animal productions of the vicinity ; and a variety of elegant articles of Indian manufacture, such as

ornamented moccasins, work-bags and baskets; belts, bracelets, pin-cushions, &c. &c. Among the mineralogical specimens kept for sale in great abundance, are, transparent crystalized selenites; snow-white gypsum; calcareous, bitter, dog-tooth, and fluor spar; crystalized quartz; petrifications; favasites and other fossils; shells, &c. &c. There are also some noble specimens of bald and grey Eagles, and other animals, with which this region abounds.

INCIDENTS.

Men have occasionally been drawn into the rapids with their boats, and carried over the Falls; but not a vestige of them or their boats has scarcely ever been found. The great depth of the water below, and the milky foam and tumultuous agitation occasioned by the eddies, whirlpools, and counter currents, make it next to impossible for any thing once sunk to rise again, until carried so far down the stream as to make fruitless any research.

In the year 1820, two men, in a state of intoxication, fell asleep in their scow which was fasten-

ed at the mouth of Chippewa Creek ; while there it broke away, and they awoke finding themselves beyond the reach of hope, dashing over the rapids.

In the year 1822, two others, engaged in removing some furniture from Grand Island, were by some carelessness drawn into the rapids, and hurried over the cataract.

In 1825, two more, in attempting on the Sabbath to smuggle some whiskey across to Chippeewa, were hurried into the rapids and shared a similar fate. A story has frequently been told of an Indian, who fell asleep in his canoe some miles above, and awoke in the midst of the rapids ; perceiving that all effort to escape would be vain, he turned his bottle of whiskey down his throat, and composedly awaited the awful plunge. This story the writer believes to be fabulous, as he has never been able to find any foundation for it, except that it is a stereotype Indian story, told as having happened at all the different Falls in the country.

In Sept. 1827, notice having been given in the newspapers that the Michigan, a large vessel that had run on Lake Erie, would be sent over the Falls, thirty thousand people, it was supposed, assembled to witness the novel spectacle. On board

of this vessel were put two bears, a buffalo, two raccoons, a dog, and a goose ; the bears leaped off in the midst of the rapids, and miraculously almost, finally reached the shore in safety. The others went over and perished. The Michigan before she reached the Falls, having been considerably broken in the rapids, sunk to a level with the surface, and went over near the centre of the horse-shoe fall. The distance from deck to keel was sixteen feet ; and as she did not appear to touch the bottom for eighty rods before she went over, the conclusion is, that the water as it passes over the precipice there must be at least twenty feet deep.

In Oct. 1829, another vessel, the Superior, was advertised to be sent over, which drew together about fifteen thousand people. This vessel lodged in the rapids and remained a number of weeks, and finally passed over the Falls in the night.

In Aug. 1823, a small sloop, abandoned by the men through fright near the mouth of Chippewa Creek, was blown with all her sails up, so far across the river as to come down on the American side of Goat Island ; but was broken to a perfect wreck in the rapids, so as to pass under the bridge and over the Falls.

In July 1832, a canal-boat was blown over from Chippewa, and lodged in the rapids a short distance above the bridge. Some men and one woman were on board, and were saved at most imminent peril, and the boat was finally secured and drawn ashore.

The rock at the Falls is hard limestone to the depth of about seventy feet, below which it is loose crumbling shale, which is constantly wearing away and leaving a projection of the limestone.

A mass of Table Rock, 160 feet in length and from 30 to 40 feet in width, fell off in July 1818, with a tremendous crash. On the 9th of Dec. 1828, three immense portions broke from the horse-shoe fall, causing a shock like an earthquake. Another large portion fell in the summer of 1829, and the noise it occasioned was heard several miles. And yet, judging from the published accounts of the Falls which reach back nearly two hundred years, there has been but very little recession of the Falls within that period.

In Oct. 1829, Sam Patch jumped twice, in the presence of thousands of spectators, from the top of a ladder ninety-seven feet high into the eddy below the Falls. This ladder was erected directly below the Biddle staircase. It has been stated

in the public prints, that he jumped 116 feet, 125 feet, &c. ; but those who made and erected the ladder probably knew best what was its height. Poor Sam afterwards lost his life by jumping from the Falls of Genesee River at Rochester.

June 10th, 1831, the "Hermit" was drowned while bathing in the river below the Falls. The following account of this singular being is abridged and condensed from one drawn up and published soon after his death.

"A young Englishman, named Francis Abbott, of respectable connexions, either through misfortune or a morbid state of mind, which made him desire seclusion, took up his residence on Goat Island, and in the neighborhood of the Falls, for two years ; and became so fascinated with the solitude, and infatuated with the scenery, that no inducement could divert his thoughts, or draw him from the spot, where he acquired the name of the "Hermit of Niagara Falls."

He arrived on foot in June, 1829, dressed in a loose gown or cloak of a chocolate color, carrying under his arm a roll of blankets, a flute, a portfolio, and a large book ; which constituted the whole of his baggage. He took up his abode, in the first instance, in the small inn of Ebenezer

Kelly, on the American side, stipulating that the room he occupied should be exclusively his own, and that certain parts of his cooking only should be done by his host. He then repaired to the Library, where he gave his name, and borrowed some books and music books, and purchased a violin; the following day he again visited the Library, expatiated largely, with great ease and ability, on the beautiful scenery of the Falls, and declared his intention of remaining at least a week; for "a traveller might as well," he said, "examine in detail the various museums and curiosities of Paris, as become acquainted with the splendid scenery of Niagara in the same space of time." On a subsequent visit he declared his intention of staying at least a month, perhaps six. Shortly after he determined on fixing his abode on Goat Island, and was desirous of erecting a hut, in which he might live quite secluded; the proprietor of the Island not thinking proper to grant this request, he occupied a small room in the only house, being occasionally furnished with bread and milk by the family, but more generally providing and always cooking his own food. During the second winter of his seclusion, the family removed, and to the few persons with whom he held

communion, he expressed great satisfaction at being able to live alone.

For some time he enjoyed this seclusion ; but another family having entered the house, he quitted the Island, and built himself a small cottage on the main shore, about thirty rods below the great Fall. On the 10th of June, 1831, he was seen to bathe twice, and was observed by the ferryman to enter the water a third time about two o'clock in the afternoon ; his clothes remaining for some hours where he had deposited them, an alarm was created, and an ineffectual search was made for him. On the 21st, his body was taken out of the river at Fort Niagara, and was decently interred in the burial ground near the Falls. When his cottage was examined, his dog was found guarding the door, and was with difficulty removed ; his cat occupied his bed ; his guitar, violin, flutes, music books, and portfolio, were scattered around in confusion ; but not a single written paper of any kind was found (although he was known to compose much) to throw the least light on this extraordinary character. He was a person of highly cultivated mind and manners, a master of languages, deeply read in the arts and sciences and performed on various musical instru-

ments with great taste ; his drawings were also very spirited. He had traveled over Europe and many parts of the East, and possessed great colloquial powers when inclined to be sociable ; but at times he would desire not to be spoken to, and communicated his wishes on a slate ; sometimes for three or four months together he would go unshaved, with no covering on his head, and his body enveloped in a blanket ; shunning all, and seeking the deepest solitude. His age was not more than twenty-eight, his person well made and his features handsome.

Many spots on Goat Island are consecrated to his memory ; at the upper end he established his walk, which became hard trod and well beaten ; between the Island and Moss Island was his favorite retreat for bathing ; here he resorted at all seasons of the year, even in the coldest weather, when ice was on the river ; on the bridge to the Terrapin Rocks, it was his daily practice to walk for hours, from one extremity to the other, with a quick pace ; sometimes he would let himself down at the end of the projecting timber, and hang under it by his hands and feet over the terrific precipice, for fifteen minutes at a time, and in the wildest hours of the night he was often

found walking in the most dangerous places near the Falls.”

VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

The country in the immediate vicinity of the Falls on both sides of the river, presents many powerful attractions for a permanent residence. For salubrity of air and healthfulness of climate, it yields to no spot in the United States. Here, .

“ Nature hath

The very soul of music in her looks,

The sunshine and the shade of poetry.”—*Dawcs.*

The latitude here is 43 degrees 6 minutes North, and the longitude 2 degrees 6 minutes West from Washington. The winters are generally much milder than in New England, owing, as supposed, to the action of the two neighboring Lakes, that lie on either side.

In a pamphlet published in London in the year 1834, written by Robert Burford, Esq. who spent the summer and autumn of 1832, in taking a panoramic view of the Falls, it is stated that this place is, “ without all question, the most health-

ful of any on the continent of North America. The heat of summer can there be borne with pleasure, while at the same time, the annoyance of musquitos and other insects is unknown. Various are the conjectures whence arises the remarkable salubrity of this region; but the most natural is, that the agitation of the surrounding air produced by the tremendous Falls, combines with the elevation and dryness of the soil, and absence of all swamps, to produce this happy result."

This accords with Armstrong's description in his poem on health :

“ The murmuring rivulet, and the hoarser strain
Of waters rushing o'er the slippery rocks,
Will nightly lull you to ambrosial rest.
To please the fancy is no trifling good,
Where health is studied ; for whatever moves
The mind with calm delight, promotes the just
And natural movements of th' harmonious frame.
Besides, the sportive brook for ever shakes
The trembling air, that floats from hill to hill,
From vale to mountain, with incessant change
Of purest element, refreshing still
Your airy seat.”

In the summer of 1832, when the cholera raged in all the villages around, as Buffalo, Lockport, Lewiston, &c. not a single case occurred

here. Again, when this disease visited many villages in the vicinity in the summer of 1834, this place was wholly exempt.

In the village of Niagara Falls, formerly called Manchester, on the American side, containing about fifty families, there are two spacious Hotels, the Eagle and the Cataract, which will accommodate one hundred permanent guests. These are both kept by Gen'l P. Whitney, long and very favorably known here in this business. These houses contain one hundred and fourteen rooms, including seventy-two sleeping rooms ; and guests are furnished with all the comforts and luxuries that the country affords. The Cataract Hotel is kept more particularly for private parties, who wish for quiet, ample, and elegant accommodations, and are desirous of staying a number of days. Another Hotel on a more splendid scale, is still a desideratum here, and it is to be hoped that some individual or company will soon erect one commensurate with the wants of the place. This village also contains a Presbyterian Church, and a " Union House " for the use of all other denominations when they choose to occupy it. It has a Paper-Mill, a Flouring Mill, and a few Mechanic's Shops ; and there is an opportunity of

using water here to a great extent for hydraulic purposes.

Canal boats and sloops come from the Erie Canal and the Lake to Schlosser, a short distance above the Falls ; and charters have recently been granted for two Rail-Roads to this place,—one from Lockport and the other from Buffalo ;—when these go into operation, the business of this place will probably be somewhat increased. Stage Coaches now run from the Falls in all directions, and the mail passes regularly twice every day. The roads from Buffalo, Lewiston, and Lockport are now very good, equal to any in this region, and afford to travelers many delightful views of the river, the Falls, and the rapids ;—especially, as the road from Buffalo to Lewiston passes very near the bank of the river the whole distance. The steamboat Victory also runs daily from Buffalo to the landing two miles above the Falls, and thence across to Chippewa, stopping each way at White Haven on Grand Island. This is a perfectly safe and very pleasant route to the Falls. Another steamboat also runs daily from Buffalo directly to Chippewa. At Lewiston, seven miles below, steamboats from Lake Ontario are daily bringing and receiving passengers. Near Lew-

iston commences the celebrated Ridge Road,—formerly, without doubt, a sand bar on the margin of Lake Ontario,—and runs east to Rochester and thence nearly to Oswego, a distance of about 140 miles. It runs parallel with the Lake, from six to ten miles distant, is from forty to eighty yards wide, thirty feet higher than the contiguous land, and one hundred and thirty-nine feet higher than the Lake. It is an excellent road at all seasons of the year.

NUMBER OF VISITERS.

The number of visiters at the Falls has of late years been from twelve to fifteen thousand annually, and the number is every year increasing. On one occasion, some years since, from thirty to fifty thousand persons were supposed to be here together, and on another fifteen thousand. The fashionable, the opulent, and the learned, congregate here from the principal cities of the country, from the Southern and Western States, South America, the West Indies, the Canadas, all parts of Europe, and indeed from all countries.

On inquiry at one of the Hotels on an ordinary occasion in the summer, it was ascertained that

there were three foreign Consuls, a Swiss Colonel, two of Bonaparte's Legion of Honor ; Hamburg, Madrass, Ceylon, Sidney, (N. S. Wales,) British, Spanish, and Haytien merchants, a family from Constantinople, gentlemen of various professions from Berlin, Moscow, Madrid, Madeira, and Malta ; five from Ireland, three from Scotland, four from England, and a multitude from all parts of the United States. Exiled monarchs, foreign ambassadors, whigs, tories, radicals, royalists, naval and military officers, governors, judges, lawyers, senators, &c. with a good proportion of female worthies, assemble here to view these indescribable works of God. One of these last, during a visit here in the summer of 1834, penned the following beautiful lines, which are worthy of being preserved as a memorial of female worth and genius.

NIAGARA.

Flow on for ever, in thy glorious robe
 Of terror and of beauty! God hath set
 His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
 Mantled around thy feet. And he doth give
 The voice of thunder power to speak of Him
 Eternally—bidding the lip of man
 Keep silence, and upon thy rocky altar pour
 Incense of awa-struck praise.

And who can dare
 To lift the insect trump of earthly Hope,
 Or Love, or Sorrow,—'mid the peal sublime
 Of thy tremendous hymn?—E'en Ocean shrinks
 Back from thy brotherhood, and his wild waves
 Retire abashed.—For he doth sometimes seem
 To sleep like a spent laborer, and recall
 His wearied billows from their vexing play,
 And lull them in a cradle calm:—but thou,
 With everlasting, undecaying tide,
 Dost rest not, night or day.

The morning stars,
 When first they sang o'er young Creation's birth,
 Heard thy deep anthem—and those wrecking fires
 That wait th' Archangel's signal to dissolve
 The solid Earth, shall find Jehovah's name
 Graven, as with a thousand diamond spears,
 On thine unfathomed page. Each leafy bough,
 That lifts itself within thy proud domain,
 Doth gather greenness from thy living spray,
 And tremble at the baptism. Lo! yon birds
 Do venture boldly near, bathing their wing
 Amid thy foam and mist.—'Tis meet for them
 To touch thy garment's hem,—or lightly stir
 The snowy leaflets of thy vapour wreath,—
 Who sport unharmed upon the fleecy cloud,
 And listen at the echoing gate of Heaven,
 Without reproof. But, as for us,—it seems
 Scarce lawful with our broken tones to speak
 Familiarly of thee. Methinks, to tint
 Thy glorious features with our pencil's point,

Or woo thee to the tablet of a song,
Were profanation.

Thou dost make the soul

A wandering witness of thy majesty ;
And while it rushes with delirious joy
To tread thy vestibule, dost chain its step,
And check its rapture, with the humbling view
Of its own nothingness—bidding it stand
In the dread presence of th' Invisible,
As if to answer to its God through thee.

Hartford, Conn. L. H. S.

This will no doubt hereafter become a place of great resort for invalids, as the health of such is generally observed to improve immediately on coming here. If any place in the country is peculiarly propitious for the recovery and preservation of health, this is the place.

During the winter months, though there are many visiters, they are generally such as are passing through the region on business, and stay only a short time. Frequently, however, parties from Buffalo, Lockport, Rochester, Canandaigua, and other places, visit the Falls by sleighing ; and after spending a day or two, go away enraptured at the scene.

Many visiters err greatly in their calculations in regard to the time which they ought to spend here.

They come hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to view the Falls, and then hurry away before they have had time to get any very full or distinct impression of the scene, or to visit one fifth of the interesting points, from which the Falls and rapids ought to be viewed. The object of the visit is thus in a great measure lost. Visitors ought to make their calculations, in the summer especially, to spend at least a week, and then they will begin to feel some regret at leaving. A distinct and lasting impression can be obtained only by looking at single portions and objects at a time, and examining these frequently and from different positions.

ROUTES AND CHARGES.

Every traveler may be presumed to know his way to the Falls, and to be capable of choosing his mode of conveyance. The general routes are,—from New England, New-York, or the Southern cities,—by steamboat, and stage, or by the Erie Canal. From Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Sacket's Harbor, or Oswego,—by steamboat through Lake Ontario to Niagara or Lewis-

ton ; on which Lake fifteen steamboats are in operation. From the Southern and Western States, —by steamboat through Lake Erie, where you will find more than thirty in operation. Persons wishing to go from New-Orleans, or any of the Western States to New-York or New England, and vice versa, will find this route much the pleasanter and the cheapest. The general charges are, from New-York to Albany, \$2,00 ; from Albany to Niagara Falls by packet-boat on the canal, \$13,00 ; from Niagara Falls to Buffalo, \$1,00 ; from Buffalo to Cleveland, \$6,00 ; from Buffalo to Detroit, \$8,00 ; from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, \$6,00 ; from Cleveland or Sandusky to Cincinnati, \$12,00 ; from Pittsburgh to Wheeling, \$3,00 ; thence to Cincinnati by the river, \$10,00, or by stage, \$14,00 ; from Cincinnati to Louisville, \$4,00 ; to New-Orleans, \$30,00 ; return the same ; from Cincinnati to St. Louis, \$16,00 ; from St. Louis to New-Orleans, \$30,00. These charges will doubtless be reduced, as the facilities for traveling are increased. The charges at the best Hotels are generally, 50 cents for dinner ; 37½ cents for breakfast or tea ; and 25 cents for lodging. When an individual spends a number of days at a Hotel, the charges are very much

less. Charges on Lake Ontario ;—from Lewiston to Toronto, \$2,00 ; do to Rochester, \$4,00 ; do to Kingston, \$6,00 ; do to Oswego, \$6,00 ; do to Ogdensburgh, \$8,00 ; do to Montreal, \$15,00 ; do to Quebec, \$20,00. Fare on the Canal ;—in the packets, four cents per mile including board ; in the line-boats, two and a half cents per mile including board. Fare in Stage Coaches, average about \$1,00 per twenty miles.

☞ Don't suffer yourself to be imposed upon, turned from your route, and subjected to unnecessary expense and trouble, by interested Boat and Stage runners and agents. Much complaint is made, and that justly, about these things of frequent occurrence. ☞

DISTANCES.

From Steam Boat landing across to Chippewa,	-	21½	Miles.
From Fort Schlosser to Chippewa,		1½	"
" Pavilion Hotel, to do		2	"
Across the River at the Falls,		¾	"
To Goat Island by the Bridge,		58	Rods.
Across the Falls on the American side,		56	"
Across the foot of Goat Island,	-	80	"
Length of Goat Island,	-	160	"
Across the Horse Shoe Falls,	=	114	"
Depth of Water at the Horse Shoe,		20	Feet.
Depth of water at the Ferry,		250	"
From the Eagle Hotel across to the Pavilion on the Canada side, 1⅔ miles viz :			
From the Eagle Hotel to top of the Bank,	- - -	100	Rods.
Top of the Bank down the Stair Case to the River,	- -	28	"
Width of River at the Ferry,	-	76	"
Up the Canada Bank,		76	"
From the top of the Bank to the Pa- vilion,	- - -	256	"
		<hr/>	
		536	Rods.

From the Falls to the Mineral Spring,	2	Miles.
“ To the Whirpool, - - -	3	“
“ To the Devil's Hole, - - -	3½	“
To Erie Canal at Tonawanta,	11	“
To Buffalo, - - - - -	22	“
From Buffalo to Albany, by Canal, -	363	“
“ “ By Stage through Utica,	298	“
“ “ By Cherry Valley,	284	“
“ “ To Olean Point, - - -	76	“
“ “ Fredonia, - - - - -	45	“
“ “ Erie, - - - - -	90	“
“ “ Cleveland, - - - - -	188	“
“ “ Columbus, - - - - -	328	“
“ “ Pittsburg by way of Erie,	219	“
“ “ Sandusky, - - - - -	250	“
“ “ Detroit, - - - - -	310	“
“ “ Mackinaw, - - - - -	627	“
“ “ Green Bay, - - - - -	807	“
“ “ Sault St. Mary, - - -	1000	“
“ “ Cincinnati, - - - - -	446	“
“ “ Chillicothe, - - - - -	381	“
From Erie Pa. to Pittsburgh, - - -	129	“
“ “ Ashtabula, - - - - -	45	“
From Ashtabula to Wheeling,	143	“
From Cleveland to Pittsburgh,	133	“
“ “ Zanesville, - - - - -	156	“

“	“	Sandusky, - - -	84	“
“	“	Columbus, - - -	139	“
“	“	Cincinnati, - - -	252	“
Ohio Canal from Cleveland to Ports-				
		mouth, - - -	306	“
From Sandusky to Cincinnati, - 213 “				
“	“	Louisville, - - -	359	“
“	“	Nashville, - - -	540	“
“	“	St. Louis, - - -	517	“
“	“	New Orleans, -	1727	“
From Detroit to Chicago by land, - 250 “				
From Detroit to Niagara Falls by land				
		through Canada, -	244	“
From Niagara Falls to Tuscarora				
		Village, - - -	8	“
From Niagara Falls to Lewiston, - 7 “				
“	“	Fort Niagara, - -	14	“
“	“	Burlington Bay by land,	62	“
“	“	Toronto by land, - -	107	“
“	“	Toronto by Steam Boat,	50	“
“	“	Genesee River, - -	94	“
“	“	Oswego, - - -	154	“
“	“	Sackets Harbor,	179	“
“	“	Ogdensburgh, -	264	“
“	“	Prescott,	265	“
“	“	Montreal,	405	“

“ “ Quebec,	585	“
From Quebec to mouth of St. Lawrence,	- - - - 400	“
“ “ Quebec to Boston,	- 484	“
From Montreal to Boston,	304	“
“ “ St. Johns,	27	“
St. Johns to Whitehall,	150	“
Whitehall to Albany,	- - 72	“
From Albany to Saratoga,	- 36	“
“ “ Northampton,	- - 70	“
“ “ Boston,	160	“
“ “ Hartford,	95	“
“ “ Litchfield,	- - 72	“
“ “ New Haven,	110	“
From Niagara Falls to Lockport,	20	“
“ “ Rochester,	- - 84	“
“ “ Canandaigua,	112	“
“ “ Albany by Cherry Valley Turnpike,	300	“
“ “ New York,	450	“
“ “ Philadelphia,	540	“
“ “ Baltimore,	- 636	“
“ “ Washington,	674	“

A LIST

Of the principal places on the Canal, and their distance from each other, as adopted by the Canal Board.

JUNCTION AND ERIE CANALS.

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM				
	Pl. to place.	Albany.	Utica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
Albany,	0	0	110	270	363
West-Troy, - - - - -	7	7	103	263	356
Junction, - - - - -	2	9	101	261	354
Lower Aqueduct, - - -	5	14	96	256	349
Upper Aqueduct, - - -	12	26	84	244	337
Schenectady, - - - - -	4	30	80	240	333
Rotterdam, - - - - -	9	39	71	231	324
Amsterdam, - - - - -	7	46	64	224	317
Schoharie Creek, - - -	7	53	57	217	310
Caughnawaga, - - - - -	4	57	53	213	306
Spraker's Basin, - - - -	9	66	44	204	297
Canajoharie, - - - - -	3	69	41	201	294
Fort-Plain, - - - - -	3	72	33	198	291
Feeder, - - - - -	4	76	34	194	287
Indian Castle, - - - - -	7	83	27	187	280
Fink's Ferry, - - - - -	3	86	24	184	277
Little Falls, - - - - -	2	88	22	182	275
Herkimer Lower Bridge, - -	7	95	15	175	268
Herkimer Upper Bridge, - -	1	96	14	174	267

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM.				
	Pl. to place.	Albany.	Utica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
German Flatts, (Bennet's,)	1	97	13	173	266
Frankfort,	3	100	10	170	263
Utica,	10	110	0	160	253
Whitesborough,	4	114	4	156	249
Oriskany,	3	117	7	153	246
Rome,	8	125	15	145	238
Hawley's Basin,	4	129	19	141	234
New-London,	3	132	22	138	231
Loomis,	6	138	28	132	225
Oneida Creek,	3	141	31	129	222
Lenox Basin,	3	144	34	126	219
Canastota,	2	146	36	124	217
New-Boston,	4	150	40	120	213
Chittenango,	4	154	44	116	209
Kirkville,	4	158	48	112	205
Manlius,	4	162	52	108	201
Orville,	3	165	55	105	198
Syracuse,	6	171	61	99	192
Geddes,	2	173	63	97	190
Bellsle,	4	177	67	93	186
Nine-Mile Creek,	2	179	69	91	184
Camillus,	1	180	70	90	183
Canton,	5	185	75	85	178
Peru,	3	188	78	82	175
Jordan,	3	191	81	79	172
Weedsport,	6	197	87	73	166
Centreport,	1	198	88	72	165
Port Byron,	2	200	90	70	163
Montezuma, (Lakeport,)	6	206	96	64	157
Clyde,	11	217	107	53	146
Lyons,	9	226	116	44	137
Lockville,	6	232	122	38	131

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM.				
	Pl. to place.	Albany.	L. tica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
Newark,	1	233	123	37	130
Port Gibson,	3	236	126	34	127
Palmyra,	5	241	131	29	122
Macedon,	7	248	138	22	115
Perrinton,	1	249	139	21	114
Fairport, -	3	252	142	18	111
Fullam's Basin, -	2	254	144	16	109
Bushnell's Basin,	3	257	147	13	106
Pittsford,	3	260	150	10	103
ROCHESTER, -	10	270	160	0	93
Spencer's Basin,	10	280	170	10	83
Ogden, -	2	282	172	12	81
Adams' Basin,	3	285	175	15	78
Cooley's Basin,	3	288	178	18	75
Brockport,	2	290	180	20	73
Holley,	5	295	185	25	68
Murray, -	2	297	187	27	66
Albion, (Newport,)	8	305	195	35	58
Gaines' Basin, -	2	307	197	37	56
Eagle Harbor, -	1	308	198	38	55
Portville,	1	309	199	39	54
Knowlesville,	2	311	201	41	52
Medina, -	4	315	205	45	48
Middleport,	6	321	211	51	42
Reynolds' Basin,	4	325	215	55	38
Gasport, -	2	327	217	57	36
Lockport, -	6	333	223	63	30
Pendleton,	7	340	230	70	23
Atkins, -	8	348	238	78	15
Tonawanta, -	4	352	242	82	11
Black Rock, -	8	360	250	90	3
BUFFALO, -	3	363	253	93	0

