

SOUVENIR
OF
NACARA.

A S O U V E N I R
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N I A G A R A F A L L S

WITH A SERIES OF
VIEWS IN OIL COLORS,

FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ON THE SPOT.

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TERRAPIN TOWER AND BRIDGE, AND HORSE-SHOE FALLS.

NIAGARA FALLS.



THE NIAGARA FALLS are, by universal consent, pronounced the greatest natural wonder of the world. No one ever beholds them with a feeling of disappointment, no matter what may have been his previous expectations. The power of the Almighty is here more grandly exhibited than in any other scene on earth. Situated on the Niagara River, about twenty miles from the foot of Lake Erie, the waters of the great chain of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and Erie, dash over a rocky bed, and plunge with an unceasing roar into the abyss below, and after a circuitous, and in many places turbulent passage, through a deep and romantic channel more than two hundred feet below the land on either side, find their way into Lake Ontario.

The river forming the boundary line between the American and Canadian domains, divides the Falls between the two countries, "as if," as the venerable John Quincy Adams expressed it, "Heaven had considered this vast natural phenomenon too great for any one nation."

The American Falls are nine hundred feet wide, and vary from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and sixty-five feet in height, while the Canadian or Horse Shoe Falls are upwards of two thousand feet in width, when measured along the line of their brink, (which, as its more general name implies, is in the form of a horse shoe,) and about one hundred and fifty feet in height. The width of the river just above the Falls is about three quarters of a mile, and the depth of water varies from twenty to thirty feet. It is estimated that at least fifteen million cubic feet of water pass over the Falls in a single hour.

Village of Niagara, its Hotels, &c.

THE village lies on the east side of the river, and in the immediate vicinity of the great Cataract, and is a fashionable place of resort during the summer season. The Hotels are large, commodious, and excellent in all respects. The principal ones are the Cataract, International and Monteagle, on the American side, and the Clifton House on the Canadian side. The Cataract and International are just above the brink of the Falls, and from their balconies at the rear, a magnificent view of the Rapids and Goat Island is obtained. The Clifton House, on the Canada side, is a short distance below the Falls, and is reached from the American side either by Ferry Boats crossing below the Falls, or by the Suspension Bridge. From its balconies the whole Falls are seen. The Monteagle is at Suspension Bridge, some two miles below the Falls.

Iron Bridge over the Rapids.

THE street between the Cataract and International Hotels leads to the river, where it is spanned by the Iron Bridge over the Rapids. This bridge is one of the finest points from which to view the Rapids, but the rush of the mighty flood over its rock-bound bed, at first sends a shudder through the veins of the beholder, and it seems hardly possible that the frail looking bridge from which he views it, can withstand the force of the wild and furious stream. But he is soon re-assured by the fact that hundreds of thousands have stood there before, and as yet no accident happened. The bridge is almost entirely of iron, and is built on the plan of "Whipple's Iron Arch." All the materials are of the very best quality, and the strength much beyond what is necessary. It is 360 feet long, having four arches of 90 feet span. Its width is 27 feet, with a double carriage way and two foot-paths.

The first bridge that was thrown over these turbulent waters was constructed near the head of Goat Island in 1817. It was carried away by ice in the following spring, and was succeeded by another, which was built in 1818. The difficulties attending its construction were overcome in the following manner: A massive abutment of timber was built at the water's edge, from which were projected enormously long and heavy beams of timber. These beams were secured on the land side by heavy loads of stone, and their outer ends were rendered steady by means of stilts or legs framed into them, and resting on the

bottom of the river. A platform was then thrown over this projection, from the outer extremity of which a small skeleton pier, composed of four posts, properly girted and braced together, was lowered and held to its place on the bottom by piling stone on it. This skeleton was then made into a box by thrusting down plank on the inside. This done, the box was filled with stone, and thus a nucleus was formed, around which the permanent bridge pier was put together. Thus the first permanent section was built and the operation repeated.

The present bridge was built in 1856 by the Messrs. Porter, who are extensive proprietors in this neighborhood.

Chapin Island

Is the first of the two small Islets below the bridge and near the brink of the Falls. It received its name from a workman named Chapin, who, while engaged in repairing the bridge in 1839, fell into the river and was carried by the current to it. He was rescued from his perilous position by the late J. R. Robinson, who will long be remembered for the many daring deeds he performed in this vicinity : the last and crowning one of which was piloting the little steamer "Maid of the Mist" safely through the Rapids and Whirlpool, an account of which is given elsewhere.

Joseph Avery.

IN July, 1853, another accident occurred near this point. Two men took a boat and set out for a pleasure sail on the river above the Falls. Nothing more was heard of them until next morning, when one of them, named Joseph Avery, was seen clinging to a log sticking in the midst of the Rapids, near the bridge between Bath Island and the main land. Thousands of people assembled to render the poor man assistance, and during the day various attempts were made to rescue him from his perilous position, but without success. At length a boat was lowered down the Rapids toward the log to which he clung. It reached the spot, but the rope became entangled under the log, rendering it useless. A raft was then let down, and he succeeded in getting on it ; but these ropes also became entangled, and the raft could not be brought to the shore. Another boat was let down to him, but as it reached the raft it struck with such force that Avery, who was standing erect, fell off backward, and in another moment he was swept over the Falls. His body was never found.

Though it may seem improbable to the visitor that human feet have ever rested on the rock bottom of these surging rapids, it is nevertheless true. In the spring of 1848 the river was so blockaded with ice that the Falls were nearly dry. Persons walked around the "Three Sisters" without wetting their feet. This happened on the 30th of March, and the paper then published at the Falls mentioned it in its issue of 1st of April, but it was not generally copied, for most every one who saw it supposed it was a "Hoax of the Season."

Mr. George E. Hamlin, an old and esteemed resident at the Falls, furnishes us the following from his journal kept at the time:

"Thursday, March 30th, 1848. Low water in the river. Geo. E. Hamlin and wife rode in a buggy, and drove horse Prince out fifty rods above the head of Goat Island on bare rock, thence out to the head of the Three Sisters, and turned around without driving into the water;" afterwards rode to Grass Island on horseback, in company with Mr. D. R. Jerauld, of the Cataract House.

In February, 1856, Mr. H., accompanied by Mr. Geo. M. Simms, crossed the ferry on the ice in a cutter, from the Canada side to the American and returned, and a few days previous drove horse and cutter on the ice to "Chapin's Island," and from there to the brink of the Falls and returned.

Bath Island.

The bridge leads to Bath Island, on which is a Toll house, where each visitor registers his name and pays Twenty-five Cents, which entitles him to cross the bridge and visit this and Goat Island as often as he chooses during the current year.

On this Island there is a large Paper Mill, owned by L. C. Woodruff & Co., of Buffalo, and which for many years has supplied the paper used by the New York Daily Tribune.

At the left of Bath Island are two smaller Islands called respectively *Ship* and *Brig* Islands. The former, however, is more generally known as the "Lover's Retreat."

Down the river are also several smaller islands, most of which are more or less connected with hair-breadth escapes and daring adventures. One of them has never but once been visited by man. Five or six years ago, in the winter season, ice formed on the sides of the swift flowing channel, and an adventurous fellow laid a ladder from one side of the ice to the other, crossed on it, cut a stick for a cane, and returned. The cane should have been used on his back for his temerity. Another bridge connects Bath Island with

Iris or Goat Island.

This Island is half a mile long by a quarter broad, and contains about 70 acres; it divides the Falls, and is heavily wooded. In 1770, a man by the name of Stedman placed some goats here to pasture, hence the name. Its other name, Iris, is derived from the number of beautiful rainbows that are so frequently seen near it. It is the property of the Porter family, and to them the public are indebted for most of the facilities which are afforded them in visiting the Falls. Goat Island was visited long before the bridge was constructed, but the visitors were not numerous, the risk being very great. The dates, 1771, 1772 and 1779, under the names of several strangers, were found cut in a beach tree near the Horse Shoe Fall.

Three paths diverge from the terminus of the bridge; the one to the left leads to the head of the island; the centre road cuts right across it; and that on the right conducts to the brink of the Falls. Following the latter through the trees that line the margin of the Rapids, we reach a spot named *Hog's Back*, from which a good view is obtained of the Central and American Falls and the river below. Dr. Hungerford, of West Troy, was killed under this point in 1839, by the falling of a portion of the cliff.

Centre Fall.

At the right of this point, and between it and Luna Island, is the Centre Fall. Although a mere ribbon of white water when seen from a short distance, in contrast with the Great Falls, it is by no means unworthy of notice. It is 240 feet wide; and is a very graceful sheet of water. A light foot bridge leads to

Luna Island.

So called because it is the best point from which to view the beautiful LUNAR Bow, which, however, is only seen once a month, when the moon is full and sufficiently high in the heavens.

The SOLAR Bow is always visible when the sun shines on the Falls.

Charles Addington.

A very melancholy accident occurred on this island in the year 1849. The family of Mr. DeForest, of Buffalo, visited the Falls on the 31st of June of that year, accompanied by a young man named Charles Addington, also of Buffalo. They were about to leave the island when Mr. Addington playfully seized Annette, the little daughter of Mr. DeForest, in his arms, and held her over the edge of the bank, exclaiming: "I am going to throw you in." A sudden impulse of fear caused the child to bound from his grasp and fall into the rushing stream. With a loud cry of horror the young man sprang in to save her, and, ere the stricken parents could utter a cry, they both went over the Falls. The mangled remains of the child were found on the rocks near the Cave of the Winds, the same day, and by turning the current of the Falls above, were secured; but poor Addington's body was not recovered for several days, and when found, was on its way to the Whirlpool.

The Biddle Stairs.

Are situated a little above the point of the Island, toward the Horse Shoe Fall. They were erected in 1829, by Mr. Biddle, President of the United States Bank, for the purpose of enabling visitors to descend the perpendicular precipice. The stairs are firmly secured to the cliff, and are said to be quite safe. They are 80 feet high. The total descent from the top of the bank to the bottom is 185 feet.

Between this point and the Centre Fall is the spot where the celebrated Sam Patch made his famous leaps. Sam made two leaps in 1829. A long ladder was placed at the foot of the rock, and fastened with ropes in such a manner that the top projected over the water. A platform was then laid on the top of the ladder. Thousands of spectators crowded every point within sight of the place on both shores, eager to behold the extraordinary spectacle of a man jumping "over the Falls." Sam walked along the giddy platform, made his bow, and went down, feet first into the river. The platform was 97 feet above the level of the river.

Not content with this achievement, Sam Patch afterward made a higher leap at Genesee Falls, which was his last. Descending the stairs and taking the road to the left, a terrific view is had of the



FALLS FROM FOOT OF BIDDLE STAIR-CASE.

Horse Shoe Fall from below Goat Island.

The frowning cliff seems about to fall, and the visitor is stunned by the roar of the water as it falls headlong on the broken rocks, bursts into white foam, and re-ascends in clouds of spray. Terrapin Bridge and Tower, now diminished by distance, seem about to be swept over the Fall, above the edge of which we see the trees of Canada. Portions of the rock fall here occasionally, so that the passage is not altogether unattended with danger.

Returning to the foot of the stairs, and following the road to the right, leads to the famous

Cave of the Winds.

It is situated at the foot of the rock between Goat and Luna Islands, and is considered by some to be one of the finest and most wonderful sights on the American side. Here it is necessary to put on water-proof dresses and obtain a guide—both of which are at all times at command. The cave has been formed by the action of the water on the soft substratum of the precipice, which has been washed away and the limestone rock left arching overhead 30 feet beyond the base. In front, the transparent Falls form a beautiful curtain. The Cave is 100 feet wide, 130 feet high, and upwards of 30 feet deep. In consequence of the tremendous pressure on the atmosphere, it is filled with perpetual storms, and the war of conflicting elements is quite chaotic. Along the floor the spray is hurled with considerable violence, so that it strikes the walls and curls upwards along the ceiling, thus causing the rough turmoil which has procured for the place its title of the Cave of the Winds. A beautiful rainbow, quite circular in form, quivers amid the driving spray when the sun shines. This Cave is much visited by ladies as well as gentlemen, and a good railing has been put up, as well as one or two seats, by the proprietor. The charge for going into the Cave is one dollar, including dresses and services of the guide.

Terrapin or Horse Shoe Tower.

Is situated on the west side of Goat Island, and is the next point of interest after leaving Biddle Stairs. A few scattered masses of rock lie on the very brink of the great Horse Shoe Fall, seeming as if unable to maintain their position against the tremendous rush of water ; and upon these rocks the tower is built. It was erected in 1833, by Judge Porter, and the view from the summit is most magnificent. The rapids above, rolling tumultuously towards you, the green water of the mighty Falls at your feet, below you the hissing caldron of spray, and the river with its steep banks beyond,—in fact the whole range of the Falls themselves, and the world of raging waters around them, are seen from this commanding point of view. The tower is 45 feet high.

The bridge leading to this tower is often wet with spray, so that care must be taken in crossing. In 1852 a gentleman fell from it, and was carried to the edge of the Fall ; fortunately he lodged between two rocks, and was rescued by two Americans, who threw lines towards him, which he fastened around his body, and was thus drawn ashore.

Three Sisters.--Moss Island.--Hermit's Cascade.

Passing on along the edge of the rapids, we come to the *Three Sisters*, and here, between *Moss Island* and the shore, is a small but beautiful Fall, named the *Hermit's Cascade*. Hither the unfortunate Abbott was wont to repair daily to enjoy a shower bath of Nature's own constructing.

From one of these Sisters, a gentleman named Allan was rescued by the gallant Robinson in the summer of 1841. Mr. Allan had started alone in his boat for the village of Chippewa, and in the middle of the river broke one of his oars. Being unable to gain the shore, he endeavored with the remaining oar to steer for the head of Goat Island, but the rapid current swept him past this point. As he approached the outer Island of the Three Sisters, he steered with the cool energy of despair towards it and leaped ashore, while his boat sprang like a lightning flash down the Rapid and over the Horse Shoe Fall. For two days Mr. Allan remained on the Island, and then, fortunately, succeeded in making a fire with some matches he happened to have in his pocket. Crowds of people assembled to assist in and witness the rescue, which was accomplished by Robinson, who, having managed to pass a rope from island to island, reached him with a skiff.

Another narrow escape was made here by a father and son, in the year 1850. The son, a boy of ten years of age, was paddling his father—who was drunk at the time—over to their home on Grand Island. The father being unable to guide the frail canoe, it was carried into the rapids, and descended with fearful rapidity towards the Falls. The gallant boy struggled with the energy of a hero, and succeeded in forcing the canoe between Goat Island and the Three Sisters. Here they were in imminent danger of passing over the little cascade between these islands, but, providentially, as they neared it a wave upset the canoe and left them struggling in the water. The place was shallow, the boy gained a footing, and, seizing his father by the collar, dragged him to the shore.

Head of Goat Island.

In June of 1854, Robinson performed a daring feat here. A sand-scow, or flat-bottomed barge, having broken loose from its moorings, lodged on the rocks at the head of the Island. There was property on board which Robinson offered to save. Embarking with his son in a skiff, he rowed out into the Rapid, and was carried with terrible swiftness down toward the scow, upon which the son sprang as they flew past, and very cleverly fastened the skiff to it. Having obtained the goods for which they ran so great a risk, the fearless pair pushed off once more, the current carrying them toward the Three Sisters. Every one thought their doom was sealed, for they were drifting towards the small cascade, to go over which, would have been certain death. But, on its very verge they swept adroitly into an eddy, and succeeded in gaining the second Sister. Here they carried their skiff to the foot of the Island, where they launched it, and, plying their oars with vigor, made a bold sweep down the Rapids, and gained the shore of Goat Island in safety.

A few years ago, an Indian attempted, while in a state of partial intoxication, to cross the river in his canoe. He was drawn into the rapids, and, despite his utmost efforts, failed to reach the shore. Knowing that his doom was fixed, he took a drink of spirits, and, lying down at full length into the canoe, went over the Falls.

The view is very fine, the wild river and its environs being seen for a considerable distance. Navy Island, celebrated in the history of border warfare; the site of old Fort Schlosser on the American side; the town of Chippewa on the Canada shore; Grand Island, &c., are all visible from this point. As we gaze at the wild Rapids, we wonder at the hardihood of those who venture to descend to the spot on which we now stand, before the bridge was built. Yet this was occasionally done, at

much risk, in Indian canoes. It is said that any one who gets into the Rapids a mile above the Falls, is hurried to certain destruction. There are many melancholy instances of the kind, but the daring exploits of the late Robinson prove that this is not invariable.

In proceeding down the Island, a spot is passed where there are several graves, out of which human remains have been dug. They were found in a sitting position, and it is supposed they were those of the ancient Indian warriors who first owned the land around the Falls.

Prospect Point.

Passing down the street at the east side of the International Hotel, we enter "The Grove," and following the roadway, leads us to the Ferry House, which stands on this point. It is sometimes called Point View, and was the last residence of Francis Abbott, the Hermit of Niagara. From this point a full view of the entire Falls, as well as the Rapids of the American Fall, is obtained. Opposite this point, as you face the river above the Falls, is seen Goat Island, which divides the American from what is called the Canadian Falls, but the boundary line between the two nations passes through the centre of the latter. The most common name for the Canadian Falls is "The Horse Shoe," on account of its resemblance. The trees on Goat Island being mostly pine, hemlock and cedar, clothe it as it were, "with eternal green."

Beyond Goat Island is seen Terrapin Tower, while across the river stands the Clifton House.

Ferry House and Fairway.

On this point is an inclined plane down which visitors are carried in cars to the Ferry, and from the foot of which a sublime view of the rock-bound sides and falling water is obtained. The cars are worked and managed by means of a water-wheel and rope, and afford a safe and ready mode of descent and ascent. By the side of the inclined plane is a stairway, by which those who prefer it, can reach the Ferry landing at the foot without charge. The charge for riding in the car is Five Cents each way.

The Ferry.

At the foot of the stairway boats will be found in waiting to carry the visitors to the Canada side. The view is imposing, and the passage unattended with danger. Landing on the Canada side, carriages will be found in waiting, or if preferred, you can walk up the bank, near the summit of which stands the Clifton House, which is a favorite resort. The whole Falls are seen from its balconies, and the magnificent grounds of the late Samuel Zimmermann are directly in front of it. This Hotel, as well as the Cataract and International on the American side, have splendid concert halls, and during the traveling season have capital bands of music. *Victoria Point* is seventy or eighty rods below the Clifton House.

Table Rock.

A ride of about a mile brings us to the far-famed Table Rock. It is, however, no longer the extensive platform from which it derived its name, large portions having fallen from it from time to time. It overhangs the terrible caldron close to the Horse Shoe Fall, and the view from it, as already described, is most sublime. In 1818, a huge mass broke off and fell into the boiling flood; and in 1828, three immense pieces fell with a shock like an earthquake. Again, in 1829, another fragment fell, and in 1850 another. On one of these occasions some forty or fifty persons had been standing on the rock a few minutes before it fell. At the time, however, only an old hack, from which the horses had just been detached, went down with it.

The work of demolition still goes on, for another portion fell in 1857, and still another in 1863.

Stairway and Passage under the Horse Shoe Fall.

★ A short distance from Table Rock are two stairways, by either of which we can descend, and passing under the overhanging cliff, by donning the water-proof apparel which is provided, we can, if we choose, go under the Horse Shoe Fall.

The view here is awfully grand. As we gaze upwards at the frowning cliff that seems tottering to its fall, and pass under the thick curtain of water—so near that it seems as if we could touch it—and hear the hissing spray, and are stunned by the deafening roar that issues from the misty vortex at our feet, an indescribable feeling of awe steals over us, and we are more than ever impressed with the tremendous magnificence of Niagara.

Behind our narrow foot-path the precipice of the Horse Shoe Fall rises perpendicularly to a height of ninety feet; below us the cliff descends about 70 feet into a turmoil of bursting foam; in front is the liquid curtain which, though ever passing onward, never unveils this wildest of Nature's caverns.

It is right to mention that portions of the Table Rock are still expected to fall every year, so that those who go under the the Falls, do so at their own risk.

The volume of water that passes over the Horse Shoe Fall is enormous. It is estimated that the sheet is fully 20 feet thick in the centre, an estimate which was corroborated in a singular manner in 1829. A ship called the *Detroit*, having been condemned, was bought and sent over the Falls. On board were put a live bear, a deer, a buffalo, and several smaller animals. The vessel was almost knocked to pieces in the Rapids, but a large portion of her hull went over entire. She drew 18 feet water, but did not strike the cliff as she took the awful plunge.

The Museum.

stands nearly opposite Table Rock. It is arranged so as to represent a forest scene, and contains a fine collection of birds, beasts and fishes, besides a Camera Obscura. A fine view of the Rapids and Falls are also obtained from the upper rooms of the house.

A short distance below this house a terrible accident occurred in 1844. A lady named Miss Martha K. Rugg, fell over the bank, and, descending a depth of 115 feet, was dashed on the sharp rocks below. She was still alive when taken up, but expired a few hours afterwards.



TABLE ROCK AND PART OF THE HORSE-SHOE FALLS.

Prospect House

Stands in the rear of Table Rock. The view from the summit of this building is magnificent. A few hundred yards above Prospect House there is a point from which we obtain a fine view of the Rapids, and the islands that dot the river above the Falls. About two miles above the Falls is the famous

Burning Spring,

The water of which being charged with sulphureted hydrogen gas, takes fire when a light is applied to it, and burns with a pale bluish flame. The charge for visiting this spring is Twelve-and-a-half cents.

The Battle of Chippewa was fought in this neighborhood on the 5th of July, 1814.

Lundy's Lane Battle Ground.

Returning towards the Falls on the Canada side, the next object worthy of special note, which has not already been mentioned, is this memorable battle field. Reaching the Clifton House, we proceed west the distance of about a mile, which brings us to the village of Drummondville, in the immediate vicinity of the field. There is an observatory here, from the top of which a good view of the field (or rather what was once the field) can be obtained. This great battle between the Americans and the British was fought in July, 1814. The battle was fought principally with the bayonet, and was the severest that had taken place on the continent. The American Generals Brown and Scott were wounded, and the British Generals Riall and Drummond were both wounded and taken prisoners. British loss, 877. American loss, 860. Both sides claimed the victory.

Suspension Bridge.

Returning to the Clifton House, a ride of about two miles down the river brings us to this far-famed triumph of architecture. This is the second bridge of the kind which has been erected on this spot. The first one was commenced in 1849, by Mr. Charles Ellet, and was much smaller than the present one, being only intended as a foot and carriage bridge. After the first light wire cable was stretched across the chasm, Mr. E. and his lady crossed in a wire-work basket, which may still be seen on the Canada side near the bridge. Afterwards the cable was enlarged by winding with wire, the workmen making use of the same basket, and winding as they went along. Many people crossed in the basket, being let down the inclined plane, and then drawn up on the other side. While a number of workmen were employed on the cables of this bridge, one of those terrific gusts of wind which so frequently visit this chasm, upset the basket and left them clinging to the cable. A brave comrade went to their assistance, righted the basket, and rescued them from their perilous position. The towers of this bridge were of wood, and the whole was a temporary affair, although it did good service for several years.

The present massive structure was built by Mr. John A. Roebling, of Trenton, N. J., and was commenced in 1852. The old bridge was left standing till this was completed, and served the double purpose of a passage way for visitors, and a scaffolding from which to build the new bridge. There are four enormous cables, at least ten inches in diameter, being composed of a number of smaller ones bound closely together and double wound with wire. Each cable is said to contain at least one thousand miles of wire. The cables pass over immense towers of solid masonry, eighty-eight feet high, and are anchored firmly in the rock at least three hundred feet from the bank on either side the river. The length of the bridge is 800 feet, width 24 feet, and height above the river 250 feet. It is estimated that the four cables are capable of sustaining a weight of 12,400 tons, and the bridge itself weighs over 800 tons.

From the cables are hung the roadways—the upper one of which is for the railway, and over which the cars were first drawn on the 8th of March, 1855. This forms a complete covering for the carriage and foot bridge, which hang below. So strong is this bridge, that the passage of a heavily laden train of cars scarcely causes it to yield an inch.

The scene from the bridge is awfully sublime. The water which above the bridge, toward the Falls, flows into a swift but smooth current, here first meets with the rocks which again form rapids, if anything, superior to those above the Falls; and to

gaze down upon them from the bridge, at first sends a thrill of horror through the veins. It is near this spot and over these boiling waters, that the intrepid Blondin performed those feats upon a frail rope, that have forever connected his name with Niagara. It is the intention of the publishers to append a short history of this man and his achievements, so wonderful, that for a long time those who mentioned them were "winked at skeptically," or "whistled down."

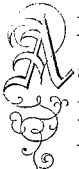
The cost of the bridge was \$500,000. A few years ago Mr. Roebling, the builder, made a thorough examination, and reported that it was still as sound as when first erected.

Crossing the bridge we complete the tour of the Canadian side.

RIVER BELOW THE FALLS.

A M E R I C A N S I D E .

The Whirlpool.

 LITTLE more than a mile below Suspension Bridge, the river takes an abrupt turn, and shoots with great violence against the cliff on the Canada side, forming what is called the Whirlpool. Every floating thing that passes over the Falls finds its way into this vortex, and it is said that three days are consumed in the passage through it. Dead bodies are frequently seen in it, and at all times logs and drift-wood are abundant. The banks, which here are over two hundred feet high, seem almost perpendicular, and to look over them, it would seem as though the water was immediately at one's feet ; but he is an expert and powerful man who can throw a stone so as to land in the water below. Spy glasses can be obtained here, and the view is well worthy of inspection. Little cascades are seen, that to the naked eye seem only the foam of waves ; and what appear to be chips and cord-wood floating in the Whirlpool, are found to be cord-wood and huge saw logs.

The Rapids in this vicinity are unusually fine. The grounds around the Whirlpool are the property of the College endowed by the late Judge De Veaux, and named after him ; and the proceeds arising from the moderate charge for admission, go to the fund for its support, The visitor who has time should descend the staircase here, and will be well paid by the romantic view presented.

A short distance from here is a mineral spring, called Bellevue Fountain.

Devil's Hole.

Passing down the river toward Lewiston, the road runs within a few feet of the river bank, where a deep and gloomy chasm is rent or worn out of the rocks. The small stream which crosses the road and falls into the chasm, is called the Bloody Run.

During the French war in 1759, a detachment of British regulars, who were conveying provisions in wagons from Fort Schlosser to Fort Niagara, were here surprised by a party of Indians in ambuscade. Many of the soldiers were killed at the first discharge, and the others thrown into hopeless confusion. The Indians fell like tigers upon the drivers, tomahawked them in their seats, and threw them over the precipices. The wagons, with their contents, were backed off into the abyss, and the men and cattle fell, with the loading, in one dismembered and mutilated mass below. Some threw themselves from the bank, and fell mangled and dying on the rocks; others lodged in the branches of trees, where they remained, disabled, until the affray was over, when the savages, at their leisure, despatched them. The brook ran red with the blood of the slain, which circumstance gave rise to the name of the Bloody Run. Only two escaped to relate the horrible fate of their companions.

Lewiston Suspension Bridge.

Seven miles below the Falls, on the American side, is the beautiful village of Lewiston. As the cars sweep around the brow of the hill on which the road is laid, the village is seen far down in the valley below, with its rich meadows and fertile farms dotted with orchards and vineyards. Here another splendid Suspension Bridge spans the river, and again connects the two countries. Its length is 1045 feet, but the height of the banks being much less, and the water of the river flowing smoothly and silently on, it has not the grandeur of the one just below the Falls. This bridge was directed by E. W. Serrell, and belongs to a joint company of Americans and Canadians, and is a fine specimen of this class of bridge.

Queenston and Brock's Monument.

On the opposite side of the river is the village of Queenston, celebrated for the Battle of Queenston Heights, which took place there.

A beautiful monument stands on the heights, raised in commemoration of the British general, Sir Isaac Brock, who fell in the sanguinary engagement fought here on the 13th of October, 1812. His remains, and those of his aid-de-camp, Col. John McDonald, who died of wounds received at this battle, are buried here.

The first monument was completed in 1826, and was blown up in 1840 by a man named Lett, who was afterwards imprisoned for this dastardly act. The present handsome shaft was erected in 1853. Its height is 185 feet; the base is 40 feet square by 30 feet high; the shaft is of freestone, fluted, 75 feet high and 30 feet in circumference, surmounted by a Corinthian capital, on which stands a statue of the gallant General.

The view from this monument is most gorgeous. The eye wanders with untiring delight over the richest imaginable scene of woodland and water. Just below is the village of Queenston, and on the opposite shore is Lewiston. In the midst flows the now tranquil Niagara—calm and majestic in its recovered serenity. In the far distance, on either side, stretches the richly wooded landscape, speckled with villas and cottages. The whole view is terminated by the magnificent sheet of Lake Ontario, which stretches away like a flood of light to the horizon.

RIVER ABOVE THE FALLS.

Fort Schlosser.

A FEW miles above the Rapids, on the American side, is Fort Schlosser. It is merely noted as being the nearest landing place to the American Fall. It was here that the steamer Caroline was set on fire, being cut loose from her moorings and sent over the Falls. It was during the Canadian Rebellion or Patriot War of 1837, and it was charged that she was engaged in carrying provisions to the rebels. She was therefore seized by Col. McNab, and destroyed.

Opposite Schlosser is the village of Chippewa, the lowest landing point on the Canada side, being about two and a half miles above the Falls.

Grand Island

Divides the river into two channels or branches, and is twelve miles long, and in some places six or seven miles wide. A little hamlet called White Haven is on this island, and is the site of Major Noah's celebrated "City of Refuge for the Jews," where he hoped and intended to collect together all the Lost Tribes of Israel. It is needless to say the project failed.

There are also some very fine stock farms on this island.

Falconwood and Sheenwater, two pleasant summer resorts for the citizens of Buffalo and vicinity, are also situated on this island.

Navy Island

Lies between Grand and Goat Island, and was the resort of the rebel leaders and patriots in 1837. The French also built their ships of war on it in 1759.

The City of Buffalo

Is situated at the foot of Lake Erie. It is a great commercial city, and the largest grain market of the world. Trains leave here almost hourly for all parts of the States and Canadas. There is also a railway direct to the Falls from here. Distance 22 miles.



NIAGARA FALLS FROM PROSPECT POINT, AMERICAN SIDE.

MISCELLANY.

The Steamer Maid of the Mist.

THE passage of this little Steamer through the Rapids and Whirlpool, out into the calm waters of Lake Ontario, will long be remembered by the few who witnessed it. She was built to, and for several years did run, from the Suspension Bridge up to the Falls, passing so close to the falling waters as to seem to those looking down upon her to almost pass under the sheet. Water-proof garments were provided, and the trip being a very exciting one, for a time she proved profitable. But the dull seasons succeeding the panic of 1857, caused a falling off in the receipts, and her owners determined to remove her if possible. The intrepid Robinson engaged to do this, and, although very strongly built, she was strengthened for the occasion, and on the 15th of June, 1861, the perilous trip was made. It is said that neither the engineer, (J. H. Jones,) or the son of Mr. Robinson, who alone accompanied him, knew that the trip was to be made until too late to turn back, but they nobly seconded the brave guide who was piloting her through. Few expected to see her pass through in safety, but, although she lost her smoke stack while passing through the Rapids under the Suspension Bridge, she is now engaged on the St. Lawrence river, being the only craft that ever passed through the rapids of the Niagara.

Niagara by Moonlight.

It is vain to attempt a description of this magnificent scene. Every one knows the peculiar softness and sweet influence of moonlight shed over a lovely scene. Let no traveler fail to visit Goat Island when the moon shines high and clear, and view Niagara by her pale, mysterious light.

Niagara in Winter.

In all its phases this wondrous Cataract is sublime, but in winter, when its dark green waters contrast with the pure white snow, and its frosty vapor spouts up into the chill atmosphere from a perfect chaos of ice and foam, there is a perfection of savage grandeur about it, which cannot be realized in the green months of summer.

At this season Ice is the ruling genius of the spot. The spray which bursts from the thundering Cataract encrusts every object with a coat of purest dazzling white. The trees bend gracefully under its weight, as if in silent homage to the Spirit of the Falls. Every twig is covered, every bough laden; and those parts of the rocks and trees on which the delicate frost-work will not lie, stand out in bold contrast. At the foot of the Falls, block rises on block in wild confusion, and the cold, dismal-looking water, hurries its green flood over the brink, and roars hoarsely as it rushes into the vortex of dazzling white below. The dark form of the Terrapin Tower stands like a lone sentinel guarding this scene of magnificent desolation.

When the sun shines, all becomes radiant with glittering gems, and the mind is almost overwhelmed with the combined effects of excessive brilliancy and grandeur.

BLONDIN, THE HERO OF NIAGARA.

(SELECTED FROM HIS BIOGRAPHY.)

THE subject of the present sketch, the fearless and intrepid Blondin, first saw the light of day at the village of St. Omar Pas de Calais, France, on the 28th of February, 1824. His father, an old soldier of the Empire under the regime of the First Napoleon, and who followed the fortunes of his Imperial Master through Moscow, Austerlitz and Wagram, died before the youthful Blondin had attained his ninth year, leaving our hero to buffet with the rude storms of life ere he had yet scarcely merged into boyhood. At the age of four years the little Blondin gave evidence of extraordinary nerve and courage; and having exhibited a precocity for gymnastic feats, seldom found in one so young, he was placed under the care of the proprietor of "L'Ecole de Gymnase," at Lyons, who soon brought his pupil to such perfection, that in less than six months he was announced to appear before the public as a "Little Wonder," winning by his extraordinary feats of agility and strength, the admiration of all who witnessed his exploits, and soon became a leading feature at the principal theatres in France. We will not follow our youthful hero through the long, tedious years of probation, which belong to the arduous profession he had selected, but bring him at once to America, the scene of his greatest glory, and where his wondrous achievements have earned for him a fame and reputation which will endure as long as the boiling torrent of Niagara finds an echo in the rugged heights which encircle it.

In the winter of 1858 Blondin conceived the idea of making a bold strike for fortune on his own account. He visited Niagara Falls to see what could be done in the tight rope way, knowing that if he did something really wonderful, the immense crowd of visitors who throng the place in summer could not fail to reward him handsomely. He conceived the daring plan of

stretching a rope across the chasm through which the rapids of Niagara rush, and then making a passage across this frail bridge himself. The thing was impossible in the winter, but he considered well the project, determined that it was possible, and early in the spring of 1859, he made his appearance at Niagara Falls village, took rooms at a hotel, and began his preparations. When he told what he was going to do, the people naturally considered him a lunatic, but he persevered, and eventually stretched his rope from bank to bank of the river. The bank on one side was 160, and on the other 170 feet above the water, and at this height was placed the frail bridge of a single rope. The chasm is 1100 feet across, and over this tremendous depth, in the presence of 15,000 people, Blondin crossed safely, on the 30th of June, 1859, being the first passage that was ever made across the river in this manner. The press reported the extraordinary performance, using the most extravagant terms to express the daring and coolness of the actor, and the whole country rung with praises of the wiry little Frenchman.

He did not rest content with this, but proceeded to superadd new proofs of his courage, and of the certainty with which he can tread his narrow walk.

On the 4th of July, 1859, he crossed—his body being enveloped in a heavy sack, made of blankets, his eyes were consequently blindfolded. He went on without accident, and his steps seemed as sure and steady as when he had his eyes.

On the 13th of July, 1859, at the Theatre in Buffalo, he carried a man heavier than himself on an inclined rope, from the stage to the third tier of the house, and down again.

On the 16th of July he again crossed Niagara, wheeling a wheelbarrow.

On the 5th of August he crossed again, turning somersaults, and performing extraordinary gymnastics on the rope.

On the 19th of August he performed the unprecedented feat of carrying his agent, Mr. Harry Colcord, across the Niagara river on his back, thousands of spectators looking on, and momentarily expecting the death of one or both of the daring men.

On the 27th of August he went over as a Siberian slave, in shackles.

On the 2nd of September he crossed at night, and stood on his head amid a blaze of fireworks.

During the summer of 1860 he crossed the rope many times, carrying a man on his back, and doing many other daring things. His last performance at Niagara was given before H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and suite, including his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Earl St. Germans, the Marquis of Chandos, Lord Lyons, General Williams, Major Teasdale, Major General

Bruce, and many other distinguished noblemen, on the 14th of September, 1860, and in the presence of a vast multitude of spectators, who had been attracted to witness the miraculous performance of the wonderful Blondin, many thousands coming 200 miles to enjoy the novel treat afforded them—the Great Western Railway, of Canada, and the New York Central Railroad Company, sending excursion trains from various points on their respective lines, freighted with an anxious and eager crowd. On this occasion Blondin put the climax to all his other achievements by crossing the rope on stilts.

As a token of admiration for his daring, the Prince sent him a cheque for a very handsome sum, with the accompanying note from Major General Bruce:

“Major General Bruce is directed by the Prince of Wales, to enclose the accompanying cheque to M. Blondin, and to state that his Royal Highness viewed with much interest the remarkable display of courage and skill which M. Blondin exhibited yesterday, an interest which is qualified, however, by the personal risk to which M. Blondin must be exposed in the performance of these extraordinary feats.

NIAGARA FALLS, Sept. 15th, 1860.”

The Prince viewed Blondin’s perilous journey across the Niagara through a telescope, seated in a rustic pavilion, and on Blondin’s return H. R. H. complimented him by clapping his hands in applause, and then the dauntless Blondin prepared to carry a man over. To this the Prince objected, and only after repeated assurances would he permit Blondin to start with his agent on his back, pausing only to have a photograph taken. The Prince watched with breathless interest, commenting much on the performance.

When Blondin reached the shore, the Prince and suite had a long conversation with him in French, complimenting him, and asking about the stilts, and his feelings while on the rope. As the Prince left he said “Thank God, it’s all over.”

In admiration of the extraordinary courage and talent displayed by “Blondin in his first passage across the Falls,”—carrying a man on his back—the citizens of Niagara presented him with a magnificent gold medal, bearing the following inscription:

“Presented to Mons. I. F. Blondin, by the citizens of Niagara Falls, in appreciation of a feat never before attempted by man, but by him successfully performed on the 19th of August, 1859, that of carrying a man upon his back over the Falls of Niagara, on a Tight Rope.”

A massive gold-headed cane, of chaste and elaborate workmanship, was also presented to “Blondin” by the leading members of the New York Press.

LEGENDS AND TALES OF NIAGARA.

Legend of the White Canoe.

IN the days of old, long before the deep solitudes of the West were disturbed by white men, it was the custom of the Indian warriors of the forest to assemble at the Great Cataract and offer a human sacrifice to the Spirit of the Falls. The offering consisted of a white canoe full of ripe fruits and blooming flowers, which was paddled over the terrible cliff by the fairest girl of the tribe who had just arrived at the age of womanhood. It was counted an honor by the tribe to whose lot it fell to make the costly sacrifice; and even the doomed maiden deemed it a high compliment to be selected to guide the white canoe over the Falls. But, in the stoical heart of the red man there are tender feelings which cannot be subdued, and cords which snap if strained too roughly.

The only daughter of a chief of the Seneca Indians was chosen as a sacrificial offering to the Spirit of Niagara. Her mother had been slain by a hostile tribe. Her father was the bravest among the warriors, and his stern brow seldom relaxed save to his blooming child, who was now the only joy to which he clung on earth. When the lot fell on his fair child, no symptom of feeling crossed his countenance. In the pride of Indian endurance he crushed down the feelings that tore his bosom, and no tear trembled in his dark eye as the preparations for the sacrifice went forward. At length the day arrived; it faded into night as the savage festivities and rejoicing proceeded; then the moon arose and silvered the cloud of mist that rose from out the turmoil of Niagara; and now the white canoe, laden with its precious freight, glided from the bank and swept out into the dread rapid from which escape is hopeless. The young girl calmly steered her tiny bark towards the centre of the stream, while frantic yells and shouts arose from the forest. Suddenly *another* white canoe shot forth upon the stream, and, under the powerful impulse of the Seneca chief, flew like an arrow to destruction. It overtook the first; the eyes of father and child met in one last gaze of love, and then, they plunged together over the thundering cataract into eternity!

FRANCIS ABBOTT, THE HERMIT OF THE FALLS.

IN the month of June, 1829, a tall, gentlemanly, but haggard-looking young man, made his appearance at the Village of Niagara Falls. He brought with him a large portfolio, and several books and musical instruments. For a few weeks he paid daily and nightly visits to the most interesting points of Niagara, and at length became so fascinated with the beauty and sublimity of the scene, that he resolved to take up his abode there altogether! No one knew whence the young stranger came. Those who conversed with him, asserted that he was talented and engaging in his manners and address; but he was not communicative, and shunned the company of man. At the end of a few weeks he applied for permission to build for himself a cottage on one of the Three Sisters; but circumstances preventing this, he took up his residence in an old cottage on Goat Island. Here the young hermit spent his days and nights in solitary contemplation of the great cataract; and when winter came, the dwellers on the mainland saw the twinkle of his wood-fire, and listened wonderingly to the sweet tones of music that floated over the troubled waters and mingled with the thunder of the Falls.

This wonderful recluse seemed never to rest. At all hours of the day and night he might be seen wandering around the object of his adoration. Not content with gazing at the rapids, he regularly bathed in the turbulent waters, and the bathing-place of Francis Abbott is still pointed out to visitors. At the Terrapin Bridge there is a single beam of timber which projects its tremulous end about ten feet over the roaring flood. Along this the Hermit was in the habit of walking. He did so without the smallest sign of fear,—with a firm, bold step proceeding to the very end, turning on his heel and walking back again. One day in June, 1831, he went to bathe in the river below the Falls. Not long afterwards his clothes were found still lying on the bank, but Francis Abbott was gone. The waters which he had so recklessly dared had claimed him as their own at last. His body was found ten days afterwards at the mouth of the river, whence it was conveyed to Niagara and buried close to the thundering Fall he loved so well.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' REMARKS.

THE venerable John Quincy Adams, who visited the Falls in 1843, in a speech at Buffalo, a day or two after, alluded to the Falls in the following beautiful and touching manner: "You have what no other nation on earth has. At your very door there is a mighty cataract—one of the most wonderful works of God. I have passed through the seventh, and nearly half of the eighth decade of life, and yet, until a few days ago, I had known of the cataract only by name and the common fame of the historian. But now I have seen it! Yes, I have seen it in all its sublimity and glory—and I have never witnessed a scene its equal. I experience the same feeling in your presence as when I saw it—there is left in my mind a deep impression which will last with my life—a feeling overpowering, and which takes away the power of speech by its grandeur and sublimity, contrasted with the eddying river above, the rippling current below, and the rainbow, a pledge of God to mankind that the destruction from the waters shall not again visit the earth. I say, altogether it takes away language as well as thought: and in this enraptured condition one is almost capable of prophesying—standing as it were in a trance, unable to speak. * *

"I have been at Lundy's Lane and at Chippewa, with that illustrious man, (Gen. Porter,) who has fought in the battles of his country. I have seen no memento of that political era between these two countries—divided by that natural phenomenon between the two, as if heaven had considered it too much for one. There I have been received as a friend with friendly greeting, and I ejaculate a prayer to God, that this state of temper may be perpetual, and that the land of war and of garments rolled in blood may never again be exhibited."

GEOLOGY OF NIAGARA.

THE question as to the origin of the Falls,—the manner in which they commenced, and the geological period at which they first came into existence,—is one of great interest; but want of space forbids our discussing that question here. We can make but one or two brief remarks in regard to it. Sir Charles Lyell is of opinion that originally the whole country was beneath the surface of the ocean, at a very remote geological period; that it emerged only from the sea and was again submerged at a comparatively modern period, when shells then inhabiting the ocean belonged almost without exception to species still living in the high northern latitudes, and some of them in temperate latitudes.

It has been ascertained beyond all doubt that the Falls do recede, but the rate of this retrograde movement is very uncertain, and, indeed, we have every reason to believe that the rate of recession must of necessity in time past have been *irregular*. The cause of this irregularity becomes apparent on considering the formations presented to view at the escarpment and in the chasm. Here we find that the strata are nearly horizontal, as indeed they are throughout the whole region, having a very slight dip towards the south of twenty five feet in a mile. They all consist of different members of the Silurian series, and vary considerably in thickness and density. In consequence of the slight dip in the strata above referred to, the different groups of rock crop out from beneath each other, and thus appear on the surface in parallel zones or belts; and the Falls, in their retrograde movement, after cutting through one of these zones, would meet with another of a totally different character; having cut through which, a third would succeed, and so on.

In all probability Niagara originally flowed through a shallow valley, similar to that above the Falls, all the way across the table-land to the Queenston heights, or escarpment. On this point Sir C. Lyell writes; "I obtained theological evidence of the

former existence of an old river-bed, which, I have no doubt, indicates the original channel through which the waters once flowed from the Falls to Queenston, at the height of nearly 300 feet above the bottom of the present gorge. The geological monuments alluded to, consist of patches of sand and gravel, forty feet thick, containing fluviating shells of the genera *Unio*, *Cyclas*, *Melania*, &c., such as now inhabit the waters of the Niagara above the Falls. The identity of the fossil species with the recent is unquestionable, and these fresh-water deposits occur at the edge of the cliffs bounding the ravine, so that they prove the former extension of an elevated shallow valley, four miles below the Falls,—a distinct prolongation of that now occupied by the Niagara in the elevated region between Lake Erie and the Falls.”

The lower level of the river bed, as shown by Hall's Report on the Geology of New York, is composed of red shaly sandstone and marl. The formations incumbent upon this, exhibited on the face of the escarpment, are as follows: 1. Gray quartzose sandstone; 2. Red shaly sandstone, similar to that of the low level, with thin courses of sandstone near the top; 3. Gray mottled sandstone; 4. A thin bed of green shale; 5. Compact gray limestone; 6. A thick stratum of soft argillo-calcareous shale, similar to that which now lies at the base of the Falls; 7. A thick stratum of limestone, compact and geodiferous, similar to the limestone rock which forms the upper part of the Falls. This is all that we have presented to us in the escarpment; but we may observe, parenthetically, that if we proceed backwards towards Lake Erie, we cross the zone of limestone, and at the Falls discover another stratum of thin-bedded limestone overlapping it, in consequence of the southerly dip before referred to. Farther back still we find the Onondaga salt group, which extends, superficially, almost to Lake Erie, where another limestone formation appears.

Now, had there been no dip in the strata of the table-land between Lake Erie and Queenston, it is probable that the Falls would have continued to recede *regularly*, having always the same formations to cut through, and the same foundation to fall upon and excavate. But in consequence of the gentle inclination of the strata to the south, the surface presented to the action of the Falls has continually varied, and the formation now reached, and that on which Niagara is operating at the present day, is the soft argillo-calcareous shale. It extends from the bottom of the precipice, over which the water plunges, to nearly half way up, and is about eighty feet thick. Above it lies the compact refractory limestone, which forms the upper formation at this point. This also is about eighty feet thick; and here we see the process of excavation progressing rapidly. The lower stratum being soft, is disintegrated by the violent action of the water and spray, aided in winter by frost; and portions of the incumbent

rock, being thus left unsupported, fall down from time to time. The huge masses of undermined limestone that fell in the years 1818 and 1828, shook the country, it is said, like an earthquake.

This process is continually altering the appearance of the Falls. Sir Charles Lyell, in his geological treatise on this region, says: "According to the statement of our guide in 1841, (Samuel Hooker,) an indentation of about forty feet has been produced in the middle of the ledge of limestone at the lesser Fall since the year 1815, so that it has begun to assume the shape of a crescent; while within the same period the Horse Shoe Fall has been altered so as less to deserve its name. Goat Island has lost several acres in area in the last four years; and I have no doubt that this waste neither is, nor has been, a mere temporary accident, since I found that the same recession was in progress in various other waterfalls which I visited with Mr. Hall in the State of New York."

That the Falls will ever reach Lake Erie is rendered extremely improbable from the following facts. Owing to the formation of the land, they are gradually losing in height, and, therefore, in power, as they retreat. Moreover, we know that, in consequence of the southerly dip of the strata, they will have cut through the bed of soft shale after traveling two miles further back; thus the massive limestone which is now at the top will then be at the bottom of the precipice, while, at the same time, the Falls will be only half their present height. This latter hypothesis has been advanced by Mr. Hall, who, in his survey, has demonstrated that there is a diminution of forty feet in the perpendicular height of the Falls for every mile that they recede southwards; and this conclusion is based upon two facts, namely, that the slope of the river-channel, in its course northward, is fifteen feet in a mile, and that the dip of the strata in an opposite, or southerly direction, is about twenty-five feet in a mile.

From this it seems probable that, in the course of between ten and eleven thousand years, the Falls of Niagara, having the thick and hard lime-stone at their base, and having diminished to half their present height, will be effectually retarded in their retrograde progress, if not previously checked by the fall of large masses of rock from the cliff above. Should they still recede, however, beyond this point, in the course of future ages they will have to intersect entirely different strata from that over which they now fall, and will be so diminished in height as to be almost lost before reaching Lake Erie.

Our Engravings.

The engravings which accompany this work are all from the most perfect Photographs, and in minuteness of detail surpass anything of the kind heretofore achieved. Mr. Platt D. Babbett, of Niagara Falls, one of the oldest and most skillful artists of the country, having spent several years in watching the various changes of nature, in this ever-changing spot, has a large collection, taken Stereoscopically, from which these have been carefully selected. His Ice scenery, and instantaneous views of the Rapids, Falls, and "The Daring Blondin," have excited the wonder and admiration of all who have seen them. Viewed through the Stereoscope, even the spray and foam of the waves are seen as perfectly as in nature itself.

POETICAL LINES.

To Niagara.

WRITTEN AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF ITS FALLS, AUGUST 13, 1837.

HAIL! Sovereign of the world of floods! whose majesty and might
First dazzles, then enraptures, then o'erawes the aching sight:
The pomp of kings and emperors, in every clime and zone,
Grows dim beneath the splendour of thy glorious watery throne.

No fleets can stop thy progress, no armies bid thee stay,
But onward,—onward —onward,—thy march still holds its sway;
The rising mists that veil thee as thy heralds go before,
And the music that proclaims thee is the thund'ring cataract's roar.

Thy diadem's an emerald, of the clearest, purest hue,
Set round with waves of snow-white foam, and spray of feathery dew;
While tresses of the brightest pearls float o'er thine ample sheet,
And the rainbow lays its gorgeous gems in tribute at thy feet.

Thy reign is from the ancient days, thy sceptre from on high;
Thy birth was when the distant stars first lit the glowing sky;
The sun, the moon, and all the orbs that shine upon thee now,
Beheld the wreath of glory which first bound thine infant brow.

And from that hour to this, in which I gaze upon thy stream,
From age to age, in Winter's frost or Summer's sultry beam,
By day, by night, without a pause, thy waves, with loud acclaim,
In ceaseless sounds have still proclaim'd the Great Eternal's name.

For whether, on thy forest banks, the Indian of the wood,
Or, since his day, the red man's foe on his fatherland has stood;
Whoe'er has seen thine incense rise, or heard thy torrents roar,
Must have knelt before the God of all, to worship and adore.

Accept, then, O Supremely Great! O Infinite! O God!
From this primeval altar, the green and virgin sod,
The humble homage that my soul in gratitude would pay
To thee whose shield has guarded me through all my wandering way.

For if the ocean be as naught in the hollow of thine hand,
And the stars of the bright firmament in thy balance grains of sand;
If Niagara's rolling flood seems great to us who humbly bow,
O Great Creator of the Whole, how passing great art Thou!

But though thy power is far more vast than finite mind can scan,
Thy mercy is still greater shown to weak, dependent man:
For him thou cloth'st the fertile globe with herbs, and fruit, and seed;
For him the seas, the lakes, the streams, supply his hourly need.

Around, on high, or far or near, the universal whole
Proclaims thy glory, as the orbs in their fixed courses roll;
And from creation's grateful voice the hymn ascends above,
While heaven re-echoes back to earth the chorus—"God is love."

J. S. BUCKINGHAM.

The Falls of Niagara.

The thoughts are strange that crowd into my brain
While I look upward to thee. It would seem
As if God poured thee from his "hollow hand,"
And hung his bow upon thine awful front,
And spoke in that loud voice which seemed to him
Who dwelt in Patmos for his Savior's sake,
"The sound of many waters;" and had bade
Thy flood to chronicle the ages back,
And notch the 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 that man makes
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!

—BRAINARD.

The Falls of Niagara.

There's nothing great or bright, thou glorious Fall!
Thou mayst not to the fancy's sense recall—
The thunder-riven cloud, the lightning's leap,
The stirrings of the chambers of the deep—
Earth's emerald green and many-tinted dyes,
The fleecy whiteness of the upper skies,
The tread of armies thickening as they come,
The boom of cannon and the beat of drum,
The brow of beauty and the form of grace,
The passion and the prowess of our race,

The song of Homer in its loftiest hour,
The unresisting sweep of Roman power,
Britannia's trident on the azure sea,
America's young shout of liberty!

Oh, may the wars that madden on these deeps,
There spend their rage, nor climb the encircling steep;
And till the conflict of thy surges cease
The nations on thy banks repose in peace!

—LORD MORPETH.

Niagara.

Flow on for ever, in thy glorious robe
Of terror and of beauty. Yea, flow on,
Unfathom'd and resistless. God hath set
His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
Mantled around thy feet. And He doth give
Thy voice of thunder power to speak of Him
Eternally—bidding the lip of man
Keep silence, and upon thine altar pour
Incense of awe-struck praise.

Earth fears to lift
The insect trump that tells her trifling joys
Or fleeting triumphs, 'mid the peal sublime
Of thy tremendous hymn. Proud Ocean shrinks
Back from thy brotherhood, and all his waves
Retire abash'd. For he hath need to sleep,
Sometimes, like a spent laborer, calling home
His boisterous billows, from their vexing play,
To a long dreary calm: but thy strong tide
Faints not, nor e'er with failing heart forgets
Its everlasting lesson, night nor day.
The morning stars, that hail'd creation's birth,
Heard thy hoarse anthem mixing with their song.

Jehovah's name; and the dissolving fires,
That wait the mandate of the day of doom
To wreck the earth, shall find it deep inscribed
Upon thy rocky scroll.

* * * * *

Lo! yon birds,
How bold! they venture near, dipping their wing
In all thy mist and foam. Perchance 'tis meet
For them to touch thy garment's hem, or stir
Thy diamond wreath, who sport upon the cloud
Unblamed, or warble at the gate of heaven
Without reproof. But as for us, it seems
Scarce lawful with our erring lips to talk
Familiarly of thee. Methinks, to trace
Thine awful features with our pencil's point
Were but to press on Sinai.

Thou dost speak
Alone of God, who pour'd thee as a drop
From His right hand—bidding the soul that looks
Upon thy fearful majesty be still,
Be humbly wrapped in its own nothingness,
And loses itself in Him.

--SIGOURNEY.

LE GUIDE.

Le touriste peut passer plusieurs semaines dans ces environs, et il trouvera encore quelque chose de nouveau et attractif à chaque point qu'il visite; mais il est l'objet de cette oeuvre de montrer à ceux dont le temps est limité les points d'attraction les plus promineus, et de les grouper en manière pour sauver du temps, de l'argent et de la fatigue. Les deux tours principaux sont ceux de Goat Island (Isle des Chèvres) et le côté de Canada, embrassant tout ce qu'on peut appeler strictement "Jes vues des chutes," mais si le visiteur a assez de loisir, il trouvera le tour dans la proximité très intéressant. Pour cette raison nous commencerons au Suspension Bridge, comme c'est là que nous finissons le tour du côté Canadien, à fin que, s'il n'y a pas assez de temps pour s'arrêter à tous les points nommés, l'on puisse visiter quelquesuns de ces points. Sur les pages citées dans ce Guide vous trouverez des particularités plus amples relatives aux places mentionnées.

TOUR DE GOAT ISLAND.

Pont de Fer au dessus des Rapides.—Vous y arriverez en descendant la rue entre les Hôtels de Cataracte et Internationale. Long de 360 pieds, large de 27 pieds.

Chapin Island.—La première des deux petites îles au dessous du pont et au dessus du bord des Chutes.

Bath Island.—Vous y arrivez en traversant le pont. Une taxe de 25 cents vous donnera le privilège d' accès libre à cette île et Goat Island en tout temps de l'année courante.

Ship et Brig Island.—Deux petites îles à la gauche de Bath Island. La première est connue plus généralement sous le nom de "Lover's Retreat," (Retraite d'Amants.)

Iris ou Goat Island.—Un autre pont vous conduit de Bath à Goat Island (Isle des Chèvres). Cette île sépare les Chutes Américaines de la Cataracte Horse-shoe (Fer à Cheval.) Elle est large de 330 yards et contient près de 70 acres.

Hog's Back et Centre Fall.—(Dos de cochon et chute centrale). Suivez la voie menant du pont à la droite. Le point où le chemin se termine, est appelé Hog's Back (dos de cochon). Il y a de là une vue magnifique des chutes. La bande étroite d'eau à droite forme la Chute Centrale, qui a 240 pieds de large.

Luna Island.—Vous passez à cette île sur le petit pont de la Chute Centrale. Elle dérive son nom du bel arc lunaire que l'on voit le mieux de là, quand la lune est assez haute.

Biddle Stairs.—(Escalier de Biddle). Situé un peu à gauche de Hog's Back et vers la Cataracte Fer à Cheval. Érigé en 1839 par Mons. Biddle, Président de la Banque des États Unis. Il a 80 pieds de haut. La descente totale du haut jusqu' au bas de l'escalier est 185 pieds.

Cave of the Winds.—(Cave des Vents).—Descendez l'escalier de Biddle et tournez à la droite. La grotte a 100 pieds de large, 130 pieds de haut, 30 pieds de profondeur. Elle a été formée par l'action de l'eau sur la roche molle, et dérive son nom du vent perpétuel causé par la pression formidable de l'atmosphère. Entrée pour la grotte un dollar, y compris des habits imperméables et un guide expert.

Terrapin or Horse Shoe Tower.—(La tour de Terrapin ou Fer-à-Cheval).—Quittant l'escalier de Biddle, allez à la droite, traversant l'extrémité de l'île. La tour est située sur les rochers, près du bord de la cataracte Fer-à-Cheval, et vous y arrivez par un petit pont en planches, qui est parfaitement sûr. L'observatoire en haut est bien digne d'être visité. Libre à tous qui viennent. Érigée en 1831.

Three Sisters, Moss Island, Hermit's Cascade.—(Les trois Soeurs, Ile de Mousse, Cascade de l' Ermite).—Passez le long du bord des Rapides en montant la rivière. Les Three Sisters (Trois Soeurs) sont les trois extrêmes îles du groupe. L'île

interieure c'est Moss Island (Ile de Mousse) et la Cascade de l' Ermite est entre les deux.

Head of Goat Island.—(Tête de l' Ile des Chèvres).—Renommée principalement par la belle vue que l' on y obtient de la rivière et de ses environs. Navy Island et Fort Schlosser du côté Americain; le village de Chippewa du côté Canadien, et Grand Island sont visibles de ce point.

Une courte promenade vous mènera jusqu'au pont de Bath Island (Ile des Bains) et complètera le tour de Goat Island.

TOUR DU CÔTÉ CANADIEN.

Prospect Point.—Vous y arrivez en descendant la rue à l' est de l'Hôtel Internationale et suivant le chemin à travers le "Grove." (le bocage.)

The Ferry House and Stair Case.—(Maison de Ferry et Escalier). Dans cette maison il y a une plaine inclinée, sur laquelle les visiteurs sont portés dans des chars jusqu'au "Ferry" (debarcadour). Il y a aussi un escalier menant au pied, libre à tous.

The Ferry.—Au pied de l'escalier il y a toujours des canots attendant pour passer *des visiteurs* au rivage de Canada, où vous trouverez des carosses prêts à vous conduire sur la berge. Il y a aussi un bon sentier du côté Canadien. L' Hôtel de Clifton est près de la berge, et c'est une retraite très populaire.

Victoria Point est situé à peu près 70 ou 80 perches au dessous de l' Hôtel Clifton.

Table Rock.—(Rocher de la Table) est situé à peu près un mille en montant la rivière et au bord de la Chute Fer à Cheval. De telles quantités de roc sont tombées en différentes fois que ce n'est plus la plate forme étendue, de laquelle il tire son nom.

Stairway and Passage under the Horse Shoe Fall.—(Escalier et Passage au dessous de la Chute Fer à Cheval). Il y a deux de ces escaliers près du Table Rock. Des guides et des habits imperméables sont fournis à des prix raisonnables. La vue en est sublime.

The Museum and Prospect House.—(Le Musée et la Maison de Perspective) sont à peu près vis-à-vis du Table Rock.

Burning Spring.—(Source brûlante) est située à peu près deux milles au dessus du Table Rock.

Lundy's Lane Battle Ground.—(Le champ de bataille de Lundy's Lane) est situé à peu près un mille à l'ouest de l'Hôtel Clifton. Cette bataille eut lieu en 1814.

NOTE.—Les points mentionnés en dernier lieu ne sont pas recommandés au touriste dont le temps est limité, quoiqu'ils soient intéressants pour ceux qui ont assez de loisir pour les visiter.

Suspension Bridge.—(Pont suspendu). A peu près deux milles au dessous de l'Hôtel Clifton. Bati par Jean A. Roebeling de T. enton, N. J. Commencé en 1852. Il a 800 pieds de

long, 24 pieds de large, et il est 250 pieds au dessus du niveau du fleuve. Il a quatre câbles capables de porter un poids de 12,400 tonnes. Les câbles passent sur des piliers de solide maçonnerie, haut de 85 pieds. Le pont pèse plus de 800 tonnes; il a coûté \$500,000.

Le passage du pont complete le tour du coté Canadien.

TOUR DANS LE VOISINAGE DES CHUTES.

AU DESSOUS DE SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

The Whirlpool.—(Le gouffre) est situé un peu plus d'un mille au dessous de Suspension Bridge, et est produit par un tournant soudain de la rivière. Il est bien digne d'être visité, et le visiteur fera bien de descendre l'escalier ici, car la vue est tant sublime que romantique. Ces terres sont la propriété du Collège De Veaux, et les recettes de l'entrée servent au support du collège.

Devil's Hole.—(Trou du Diable)—Un peu loin en descendant

la rivière; une place très romantique et bien digne d'une visite. En 1759 un détachement de troupes Anglaises fut surpris ici par une bande d'Indiens, et à l'exception de deux ils furent tous ou tués ou poussés dans le précipice. Le petit ruisseau traversant la voie près d'ici, était rouge du sang des massacrés, et il a été connu toujours depuis sous le nom de Bloody Run (ruisseau sanglant).

Lewiston Suspension Bridge.—Au village de Lewiston, 7 milles au dessous des Chutes. Ce pont a 1045 pieds de long, mais la hauteur du rivage étant beaucoup moindre et l'eau de la rivière plus calme et tranquille, il n'a pas la grandeur de celui près des Chutes. Il a été bati par E. W. Serrel et appartient à une compagnie d'Américains et de Canadiens.

Queenston and Brock's Monument.—Queenston est située vis-à-vis de Lewiston, et célèbre à cause de la bataille de Queenston Heights, qui eut lieu là le 13 October, 1812. Le Monument de Brock est sur une des hauteurs; il fut érigé en mémoire du général Anglais Sir Isaac Brock, qui fut tué à cette bataille. Ses restes et ceux de son aide-de-camp, Col. John McDonald, sont enterrés là.

GUIA AL REDEDOR DE LAS CASCADAS DE NIAGARA.

El viajante podría quedar por muchas semanas en esa vicinidada y siempre encontrar algo de nuevo y interesante aún á los puntos ya visitados, pero el objeto de este obrecito es de señalar á los visitantes cuyo tiempo es muy limitado, los puntos mas principales y de ensénarselos todos de seguido como en un grupo y de tal manera, que puedan dispensar al viajante con mucho trabajo, tiempo y dinero. Las dos vueltas mas principales son las de la isla de cabra y el Lado canadiense y en verdad habiendo gozado esas perspectivas uno puede decir "que ha visto las cascadas del Niagara;" pero si el visitador tiene tiempo no faltará de hacer una vuelta en la vicinidada y la hallará muy interesante y por tanto la començaremos al puente Colgante, porque allí es el termino de la Vuelta al lado Canadiense; de modo si uno no tuviere tiempo para quedár á todos los puntos enseñados, puede á lo menos visitar á algunos. Veanse las referencias indicadas en este Guia que daran informaciones mas particulares tocante los lugares mencionados.

VUELTA POR LA ISLA DE LA CABRA.

EL PUENTE DE HIERRO.—Bajando la calle entre el hotel Cataract y el hotel Internacional se llega á ese puente que tiene 360 pies de largo y 27 de ancho.

LA ISLA DE CHAPIN.—Es la primera de las dos islitas debajo el puente y sobre las orillas de las cascadas.

LA ISLA DEL BAÑO—Está á través el puente, pagando dos reales fuertes el viajante tiene el privilegio de visitarla como tambien á la isla de la cabra durante el año corriente.

LA ISLA DEL NAVIO Y DEL BERGANTIN.—Dos islitas á la izquierda de la isla del Baño, la primera se llama mas ordinariamente. El Retiro de los amantes.

LA ISLA DE IRIS ó LA ISLA DE LA CABRA.—Un otro puente guía de la isla del Baño á la de la cabra, esta isla separa las cascadas Americanas de las de la Herradura del caballo, tiene 330 varas de ancho y cabe cerca de 70 acres de tierra.

LA CASCADA: EL DORSO DEL PUERCO Y LA DEL CENTRO.—Seguendo el camino á la derecha del puente, se llega á la orilla de las cascadas. El término de este camino se llama. El Dorso del Puero de donde se presenta la vista la mas magnifica de las cascadas. La cinta de agua á la derecha se llama la cascada central que tiene 240 pies de anchura.

LA ISLA DE LA LUNA.—Se ha de pasar un puente chiquito sobre la cascada central para irse á esa isla que toma su nombre del hermoso arco lunar, que se ve solamente en todo su splendor que cuando hay claro de luna.

LA ESCALERA DE BIDDLE.—Se la encuentra un poco á la izquierda de la Cascada del Dorso del puero y ací la Herradura del caballo, construida el el año 1829 por el Señor Biddle quien estaba entonces presidente del Banco de los Estados Unidos, la escalera tiene 80 pies de alto por si mismo, pero de la cima del banco hasta el suelo abajo hay á lo menos 185 pies.

LA CAVERNA DE LOS VIENTOS.—Descendiendo por la escalera de Biddle vuélvase á la derecha. La caverna tiene 100 pies de ancho, 130 de alto y 30 pies de profundidad y se ha hecho por la accion del agua contra la roca flaja. La tremenda prensadura de la atmósfera produce en la caverna un borrasco perpetuo que la dió su nombre. Llevan un peso de entrada incluyendo un guía competente y ropas impermeables.

LA TORRE DE LA HERRADURA CABALLO.—Dejando la escalera de Biddle vayase á la derecha para atravesar el termino de la

isla. La torre está en cima de la ruca cerca el borden de la cascada de la Herradura de caballo y se llega por un puente chiquito pero muy seguro. El observatorio encima de la torre, construido en el año 1833 mercee bien que se lo visité y no sepaga nada á visitarlo.

LAS TRES HERMANAS, LA ISLA DE MOHO Y LA CASCADA DEL ERMITAÑO.—Seguendo el filo de los Rapidos se llega á este grupo de islas, las mas remotas se llaman las Tres Hermanas, la de dentro es la isla de Moho y entre esas dos se halla la Cascada del Ermitaño.

LA CABEZA DE LA ISLA DE CABRA.—De ese punto se goza de la hermosura del rio y de todo el rededor. La isla del Navio y la fortaleza Schlosser estan al lado americano. El Pueblo Chippewa está al lado Canadiense y del mismo lugar se puede ver tambien á la Isla Grande en distancia.

Caminando un poca mas adelante se encuentra el puente de la isla del Baño y allá se acaba la vuelta de la isla de cabra.

VUELTA AL LADO CANADIENSE.

PUNTA PERSPECTIVA.—Pasando por la calle al Este de la Posada internacional y siguiendo el camino por el bosque, pronto se llega á este punto.

LA CASA DEL DEBARQUADERO Y SU ESCALERA.—En esta casa hay un plano inclinado para bajar en carros al rio, por los cuales se paga, pero hay tambien una escalera para bajar gratis.

EL DEBARQUADERO.—Al pié de la escalera siempre se hallan lanchas para llevar á uno al otro lado y allá se encuentran coches para subir á las orillas del rio; pero hay tambien una senda muy buena. La casa de Clifton está cerca el apice y es una posada muy favorecida.

LA PUNTA DE VICTORIA.—Está un poco debajo la casa de Clifton.

LA MESA RUECA.—Está á una milla rio arriba cerca el borde de la cascada de la Herradura de caballo; tantas rucas ya han caído á varios tiempos que ya no tiene la plataforma extensa que la dió su nombre.

ESCALERA Y PASAGE DE BAJO LA CASCADA DE LA HERRADURA DE CABALLO.—Hay dos escaleras bajo la mesa ruca y uno no puede figurarse la vista sublima que allí se presenta. Un guía y ropas impermeables estaran á su servicio á precio moderato.

EL MUSEO Y LA CASA PERSPECTIVA.—Quedan quasi en frente de la Mesa ruca.

EL FUENTE CALIENTE.—Dista como á dos millas de la Mesa ruca.

EL CAMPO DE LA BATALLA DE LUNDY'S LANE.—Está á una milla al Poniente de la casa de Clifton. Se pelearon allá los Americanos y los Ingleses en el año 1814.

N. B.—El viajante puede dispensarse de visitar los dos ultimos puntos aunque esten bastante interesantes para cualquiera teniendo bastante tiempo.

EL PUENTE COLGANTE.—Está á dos millas abajo de la casa de Clifton. En el año 1852 el Señor Don Juan Roebling de Trenton, N. J., commencó á construirlo. El puente tiene 800 pies de largo, 24 pies de ancho, 250 pies sobre el nivel del rio y tiene 4 cables susteniendo un peso de 12,400 toneladas. Los cables pasan sobre dos torres de albanileria solida teniendo 85 pies de alto. El peso total del puente es de 800,00 toneladas y cuestó 500,000 pesos.

VUELTA EN LA VICINIDAD DE LAS CASCADAS.

AL ORIENTE DEL PUENTE COLGANTE.

EL VORTICE.—Un poco mas lejos que una milla del puente colgante hallase este Vortice terrible, que se ha hecho por la vuelta abrupta del rio en ese lugar y ciertamente vale la pena de visitarlo. Baje el visitador la escalera y gozará de una vista tan pintoresca y sublima que no se quejará del tiempo perdido. El terreno pertenece al colegio de Vean y lo que se cobra de entrada va al fondo para mantener a dicho colegio.

EL ABUJERO DEL DEMONIO.—Un poco mas adelante rio cuesta se halla un otro sitio muy pintoresco y digno que se lo visite. En el año 1759 un destacamento de Soldados ingleses fueron sorprendidos en este lugar por un partido de Indios quienes, con escepcion de dos, los mataron á todos ó los echaron por sobre el precipicio. El arroyuelo que á poca distancia atraviesa el camino estaba colorado del sangre de los matados y se llama hasta á hora Bloody Run, es á decir Arroyuelo Sangrado.

EL PUENTE COLGANTE DE LEWISTON.—Está al Pueblo de Lewiston que dista como siete millas rio cuesta de las cascadas. Ese Puente tiene 1045 pies de largo; pero como las orillas del rio no esten tan altas allá y el agua estando mas llana y tranquila el puente no tiene la grandeza como aquello cerca de las cascadas. El Sr Dn E. W. Serrel lo construyó y pertenece á una compañía de Americanos y Canadienses.

QUEENSTON Y EL MONUMENTS DE BROCK.—Queenston está en frente de Lewiston y es celebre por la batalla que los Ingleses y los Americanos se dieron allí al 13 de October de 1812. El monumento de Brock está en la sumidad y fue erigido á la memoria de Dn Isac Brock el general ingles matado en la batalla y cuyas cenizas, con las del Coronel Juan McDonald su ayudante quedan en dicho monumento.