



STATISTICS  
OF  
NIAGARA FALLS

INCLUDING ALL  
PLACES OF INTEREST,

BOTH ON THE AMERICAN AND CANADA SIDES.

EY. F. H. JOHNSON,  
A RESIDENT AT THE FALLS.

BUFFALO :  
E. A. MAYNARD & CO. PRS. REPUBLIC OFFICE.

1848.



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## P R E F A C E .

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GREAT pains have been taken to make this little work correct. It is given to the public with the belief that something of the kind is much needed, and will greatly increase the interest of the stranger's visit to the Falls.

THE AUTHOR.

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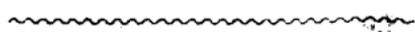
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# STATISTICS

## OF

### NIAGARA FALLS AND VICINITY.



#### NIAGARA RIVER.

THIS wonderful River is formed by the outlet of Lake Superior the greatest body of fresh water in the world. Winnebago Lake, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, St. Clair, and Lake Erie, all pour their waters this way, and dash with maddened fury over the Falls, emptying into Lake Ontario, fourteen miles below, and at Kingston, two hundred and fourteen miles from the Falls, discharge their waters into the River St. Lawrence, and finally fall into the Gulf of St. Lawrence about three hundred miles below Quebec.

<i>Length</i> of Niagara River, . . . . .	36 miles.
<i>Width</i> , 1½ miles above the Falls, . . . . .	2½ “
<i>Width</i> , at the Ferry, below the Falls, . . . . .	58 rods
<i>Depth</i> of the River at the Ferry, . . . . .	250 feet.
<i>Perpendicular Height</i> of the American Fall	164 “
On the Canada side, . . . . .	158 “
<i>Depth</i> of water on the top of the Horse Shoe Fall, estimated by Professor Lyell, Dr. Dwight, and others, is, . . . . .	20 “

<i>Width of American Fall,</i> .....	56 rods.
<i>Width of the Cave of the Winds, or Center</i> <i>Fall,</i> .....	100 feet.
<i>Diameter of the Cave,</i> ...	60 "
<i>Height of the Cave,</i> ....	100. "
<i>Width of Horse Shoe Fall,</i> .....	144 rods.

#### QUANTITY OF WATER.

Professor Lyell says fifteen hundred millions of cubic feet pass over the Falls every minute. Dr. Dwight says one hundred millions two hundred thousand tons pass over the Falls every hour. Judge De Vaux, in his *Traveller's own Book*, says, 5,084,089.853 barrels descend in twenty-four hours; 211,836,853 every hour; 3,530,614 every minute; 58,843 every second. "I should think," says one, "that the river would exhaust itself." True, when the Upper Lakes run dry, Niagara will be no more.

#### FALLS AT LEWISTON.

The general opinion of strangers, as far as the author has been enabled to learn, is, that the Falls were once at Lewiston, seven miles below; and this coincides with the belief of Geologists, and others who have devoted any time to the subject.

In 1822, a part of Table Rock, one hundred and sixty feet long and forty feet wide, went off all at once. "The American Fall," says Gen. Whitney, Proprietor of the Cataract House, "has altered considerably within thirty-seven years. And the Horse Shoe Fall has assumed a squarer shape.

## S P R A Y .

SPRAY, like smoke of a burning mountain, sometimes rises into the horizon, forming dark, heavy clouds, tinged with the refulgent rays of the rising and setting sun; and have been seen, says Judge Porter, more than one hundred miles.

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## R A I N - B O W S .

There are two :—One is always seen in the day time, when the sun shines; the other at night—called the Lunar Bow. The latter is only beheld once a month, when the moon is at full, sufficiently high in the heavens, and the sky clear. And Niagara, as far as the author can learn from travelers and from history, is the only place on the globe, where a rain-bow at night can be seen with distinctness. At all events, the Luna Bow is peculiar to this place.

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## V I E W O F T H E F A L L S A T N I G H T .

An evening view has a very different effect upon the mind of the beholder, than when seen in the day-time. The moon-beams playing upon the agitated waters; the spray, like the smoke of a volcano rising into the sky; the endless roar of the cataract, mingled with the heart's deepest impressions, give an indiscribable sublimity and grandeur, that language is but a poor vehicle to convey the impressions we feel.

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## V I E W O F T H E F A L L S A T S U N - R I S E .

This view is thought, by thousands, to be perfectly unsurpassed; and, has no rival in grandeur, sublimity

and interest. Every point of time, however, is different, and has its different effect upon the beholder.

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#### VIEW OF THE FALLS AT SUN-SET.

When the sun has rolled onward in his chariot of fire, and thrown his last rays upon Niagara, bidding adieu for the night, to the grandeur of the scene that so much in power resembles himself, the view is perfectly indiscrivable.

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#### ROAR OF THE FALLS.

This depends much upon the wind, and the state of the atmosphere. Sometimes, every door and window, the least ajar, for a mile in circumference, will tremble, caused by the concussion of the air; and the roar may be heard from fifteen to twenty-five miles. At other times our citizens would scarcely know, from the noise, there were falls in the neighborhood. "In a few instances," says Mr. Hooker, the oldest guide to the Falls, "they have been heard at Toronto, a distance of forty-four miles."

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#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF STRANGERS.

At first sight, strangers are sometimes disappointed; either their expectations have been raised too high, or the sublimity, grandeur, and magnificence of the scene far surpasses every thing they could possibly have anticipated.

The second view is frequently more impressive than the first. The longer the visitor tarries, the more he enjoys and appreciates; the impression is indelibly stamped upon his memory, and for years infixed there as with the imprint of a sun-beam.

The Falls, it is true, when seen from above, do not

appear more than fifty or sixty feet high; but let the visitor go below, if he would get a correct impression of this stupendous work. Beauty, grandeur, and awful sublimity, enstamp upon his heart, those emotions he never can express.

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#### RISE OF THE RIVER.

Those causes which swell other rivers, have no effect upon this. It never rises except the wind has been blowing down Lake Erie in a Westerly direction. S. Wafe, Esq., who has kept the Ferry for seventeen years, says, "one foot, on the top of the Falls, will, by actual measurement, raise it  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet below. This is attributable to the river being pent up in a very narrow pass at the Whirlpool, and cannot find its way out as fast as it accumulates above.

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#### PROBABILITY OF FOWLS AND FISH GOING OVER THE FALLS ALIVE.

In some instances they do—but generally are in a wounded, mutilated state. On the morning of the 10th September 1841, more than four hundred ducks were picked up, dead, having gone over the night previous.

If fish should take a perpendicular direction they might survive. But if they should strike flatwise, it would, in our opinion, kill them as suddenly as if they fell on a rock.

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#### CROSSING THE RIVER ABOVE THE FALLS.

The usual crossing place is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles above the Falls; though sail-boats and canoes, when the wind is blowing up the river, have crossed much nearer.

## WINTER SCENE.

It is thought by many, who have visited the Falls at this season, that it far surpasses that of summer. The icicles, in the shape of inverted cones, hanging from the high banks, the dazzling splendor of an effulgent sun, darting his fiery beams upon them; the frozen spray, clothing the trees in its silvery robe; the roar of the ice, as it rushes onward to try the fearful leap; the ceaseless thunder of the cataract; the bow of promise, smiling serenely upon the angry flood; the enchained river within its icy embrace,\* struggling like some monster of the deep to be free, all combine to render the scene awfully grand and terrific. No language is adequate to give a correct impression; it must be seen before it can be appreciated.

## UPPER FERRY—AMERICAN SIDE.

The Ferry House is within eight rods of the American Fall. Cars lead down the bank to the water's edge, on an inclined plain of thirty-one degrees, worked by water-power. Distance, twenty-two and a half rods—or two hundred and ninety steps. The usual time in descending and crossing the river to the Canada shore, is about ten minutes. "This Ferry," says Judge Porter, the Proprietor, "has been in operation more than forty years, and during all that time not a single life has been lost, or a serious accident occurred."

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\*Three times, within twenty-five years, an ice bridge has been formed below the Falls, from one shore to the other, varying in depth, from thirty to sixty feet. The last was on the 9th of March, 1848; but on the 6th of April, following, Niagara burst her fetters, and was again free.

## CHINESE PAGODA.

This is the high tower to the right of the ferry house. The proprietor of this garden has erected a Chinese Pagoda, or observatory, which places the spectator at an elevation of more than one hundred feet above the cataract, and two hundred and seventy feet above the river, presenting a *bird's eye view* of unparalleled beauty and magnificence. An easy staircase leads to the top, on which is placed a camera obscura not surpassed (if equalled,) by any, for minute delineations, exhibiting in all its brilliant coloring, the splendid scenery of the Falls, the bridge, and the numerous picturesque Islands that stud the river, the rapids above and below, the mighty cataract, the rich amphitheatre of the Canadian shore; in short a panoramic view of unsurpassed beauty.

## P L A T F O R M.

This is at the left of the Ferry House, on the verge of the Falls, extending fifteen or twenty feet over the precipice, secured with iron bolts into the solid rock, and loaded heavily with several tons of stone, to prevent poisoning. The ferry boats below, are seen from this point, plying across the river almost every moment in the day, dancing upon the angry stream "like things of life." They appear to the stranger exceedingly diminutive, and insecure, yet they will safely carry from twenty-five to thirty persons.

## M A I D O F T H E M I S T.

Is two miles from the Falls. Flies below, and lands her passengers on the Canada side.

## GULL ISLAND.

Is the small Island just above the great Horse Shoe Fall. It has never been approached by man, and perhaps never will be, while Niagara rolls, until a Suspension Bridge, or some other means are devised.

## FALL OF THE RIVER.

Never in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, was the River so low as on this 29th day of March, 1848; footsteps marked the Banks where human beings never before ventured.

## SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

Suspension Bridge is two miles below the Falls, two hundred and fifty feet above the angry flood; its bold, daring, and magnificent grandeur, when completed, will not be surpassed, perhaps, by any work of a similar kind, on this continent, or on the globe. Its estimated cost is one hundred and ninety thousand dollars, warranted to stand secure for fifteen years. Cars of one hundred tons will pass in perfect safety.

## MINERAL SPRING.

Mineral Spring is about forty rods below the Suspension Bridge, on the American side. It is justly celebrated for its medicinal properties. When suitable Boarding Houses are erected, which we are informed by the Proprietors will be the present season, it must of necessity be a place of great resort. Several acres are laid out into city lots, and are now in market.

## WHIRLPOOL.

The Whirlpool, on the American side, is one mile below the Mineral Spring. It is visited by thousands for

the wild and magnificent grandeur of its scenery. The river, in its wildest fury, rushes against a perpendicular bank about three hundred feet high, producing a reaction, roaring and swelling like some enraged giant struggling to be free. Logs, and other bodies, have been known to float in this whirl of waters for forty, and sometimes ninety days, before they could find their way out. The middle of the river, just above the Whirlpool, has been ascertained to be about nine feet higher than at either shore.

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#### DEVIL'S HOLE.

Devil's Hole is on the American side. One mile and a half below the Whirlpool, is a wild and terrifically grand place. What has produced this wonderful chasm is left much to conjecture to determine. Professor Lyell says, "the small stream that now flows, would have been perfectly competent to have cut out the ravine, and that we need look for no more powerful cause. This appears to the author incredible, as this stream, or Bloody Run, as it is called, is small, and dry, more than three-fourths of the year. Of this, however, the stranger will judge for himself.

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#### INDIAN VILLAGE.

This Village is nine miles below the Falls. Preaching in English on the Sabbath, interpreted into the Indian language by an Indian Chief, or one of the tribe.

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LOCAL DISTANCES — AMERICAN SIDE.  
 From the Cataract House to Goat Island, . . . . . 75 rods.  
 From the Eagle, . . . . . 70 "

From the Falls Hotel,.....	85 rods.
From the St. Lawrence Hotel,.....	110 "
From Goat Island, where the road ascends the bank to the foot,.....	80 " •
From foot of the Island up the river to Biddle Stairs,.....	16 "
From Biddle Stairs to Prospect Tower,.....	65 "
From Prospect Tower to the Three Sisters,....	140 "
Head of Goat Island,.....	65 "
Hermit's Cabin,.....	40 "
To the Bridge,.....	45 "
Circumference of Goat Island,.....	376 "
From the Cataract House to the Upper Ferry,..	100 "
From the Eagle,.....	95 "
Falls Hotel,.....	80 "
St. Lawrence,.....	75 "

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BRIDGE.

The Bridge leading on to Iris or Goat Island, is the only one from the main shore on Niagara River, a distance of thirty-six miles, (except the Suspension Bridge, mentioned in another place.) Carriages and heavily oaded teams cross almost every hour in the day.

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CHAPIN ISLAND.

This Island is to the right of the Bridge. A man by the name of Chapin while working on this bridge, was thrown into the stream and carried by the force of the current on to this Island. A Mr. Joel R. Robinson rescued him with a skiff, and at this time both are living in our village.

## BATH ISLAND.

The Toll-Gate and Paper Mill are on this Island.

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## IRIS OR GOAT ISLAND.

Iris or Goat Island contains sixty-nine and a half acres, and is a fraction over a mile in circumference, heavily timbered, most of the smooth bark trees are marked with initials, bearing different dates. "In 1805," says Judge Porter, "there was a beech tree on the bank near the Horse Shoe Fall, marked 1769, 1771 and 1772." The name of these early travellers is not recollected.

No sportsman is allowed to carry a gun on to this Island, as it would endanger the lives of those who are promenading through it. It is called Goat Island from the circumstance of a man by the name of Stedman at a very early date having put some goats upon it. It is a wild, rural and delightful retreat, in the hottest days there is always a refreshing and invigorating breeze from the river. There are three bridges connected with this island, and one tower.

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## CENTER FALL AND CAVE OF THE WINDS.

This Fall is between Iris and Luna Islands. It is seen to the best advantage from below. If the wind is blowing down the river or from the American shore, you can stand with perfect safety upon a large flat rock within a few feet of the Falls. In the afternoon, when the sun shines, there is always a magnificent rainbow between the sheet of water and the rock, within four feet of you; nothing can be grand or imposing than this view. In our opinion it is one of the most thrilling, astounding scenes on the American side. The Cave of the Winds is situated behind the

Center Fall. It has received its present name from the variable currents of air that rush with a deafening sound through the Cave

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#### LUNA ISLAND.

Luna, a Latin term meaning Moon. It is a small Island about three-fourths of an acre to the right of Goat Island, reached by a foot bridge. It is called Luna-Island not because it resembles the moon, but from the circumstance of a lunar bow being seen from this place more advantageously than from any other point. If the visitor's nerves are pretty steady he can stand within one foot of the Falls, and see the angry stream, dashing in all its wildest fury upon large rocks below, impatient to try its power in making this fearful leap. The sheet of water to the right is the American Fall; to the left, the Center Fall or Cave of the Winds. It has often been remarked by strangers that this Island trembles, which is undoubtedly true, but the impressions are somewhat heightened from nervous temperament.

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#### BIDDLE STAIRS.

The first path leading down the bank above the foot of Goat Island, is at the Biddle Stairs, below which the celebrated Sam Patch made his successful leaps from a ladder erected from the waters edge, ninety-seven feet, in the year 1829, and afterwards lost his life at Rochester Genesee Falls.

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#### PROSPECT TOWER.

Prospect Tower is on the west side of Goat Island within three rods of the Falls, forty-five feet high, and

two hundred feet above the River below, surrounded near the top by a portico and an iron railing. Visitors of a nervous temperament, and especially old people, when stepping out upon this piazza, not unfrequently feel a kind of giddiness or tremor; but in looking up or around upon the green foliage the nerves generally become tranquil. We are then better prepared to appreciate the overwhelming grandeur of this magnificent scene. This view in the opinion of the author, of the width of the river, the Rapids, the Horse Shoe Fall and the angry boiling deep below, is not surpassed by any on the American side.

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#### BATHING PLACE OF FRANCIS ABBOT THE HERMIT.

The bathing place of Francis Abbot is on the west side of Goat Island, the first perpendicular cascade after leaving Prospect Tower near the three islands called the Three Sisters. He was learned, gentlemanly and accomplished, pleasing in address, but could not be approached by a stranger; he lived nearly twenty months entirely alone. He was drowned below the Ferry, in the year 1831. His body was found at Fort Niagara fourteen miles below, recognized, brought back, and sleeps in our burying ground. This lonely spot was resorted to by this singular individual generally at night. The thunders terrific sound, the lightnings blaze mingled with the roar of the cataract was the element in which he delighted to breathe. Very little is known of his history.

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#### HEAD OF GOAT ISLAND.

At this point, Navy Island near the Canada shore to the right, containing three hundred and forty acres; the scene of the McKenzie war in 1837—'38 is in plain sight. It

was occupied by three or four hundred Americans. A heterogeneous mass of all classes, without discipline, or any efficient means to carry on war. Chippewa on the Canada shore but a short distance below, contained at the time four or five thousand British soldiers. The two governments took no active part in this hot headed enterprise, and it fell by its own weight. Grand Island is to the left on the American side, resembling the main shore, containing seventeen thousand two hundred and forty acres, purchased by M. M. Noah, and according to his fancied visions it was to be the future home of all the Jews on the globe. The visitor in turning his eye to the right and left, will readily perceive how this Island divides the river, the greater portion rolling to the Canada shore. Several persons have reached this Island at this point before any bridge was built.

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NUMBER OF STEPS — AMERICAN SIDE.

Upper Ferry,.....	290
Foot of Goat Island,.....	22
Biddle Stairs,.....	115
Prospect Tower,.....	39
Whirlpool,.....	85
Devil's Hole,.....	64
Chinese Pagoda,.....	90
From the Falls to the Lower Landing of the Maid of the Mist,.....	1½ mile.
Mineral Spring and Suspension Bridge,.....	2 "
Whirlpool,.....	2¾ "
Devil's Hole,.....	3½ "
Indian Village,.....	9 "
Lewiston,.....	7 "

Fort Niagara,.....	14	“
Lockport,.....	22	“
Tonawanda,.....	11	“
Black Rock,.....	18	“
Buffalo,.....	22	“

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#### TABLE ROCK.

Table Rock is on the Canada side, connected with the great Horse Shoe Fall, about three rods wide, and fifteen long, projecting over the precipice fifty or sixty feet. Thousands of the most timid stand upon this giddy eminence with perfect security, and gaze upon the resplendent grandeur of this enchanting, bewildering scene, until the mind is lost and sinks back upon itself, amid the immensity of God's works. And we hazard not too much in saying, there is nothing on the globe that compares with this view, in point of sublimity and interest. "I have," said a sea captain to the writer, who had followed the ocean for forty years—seen the Maelstrom, the Burning Mountains, and all the Wonders of the Globe, to use his own words, "this is the most sublimely interesting of all."

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#### GOING UNDER THE FALLS.

The emotions excited while passing under the great sheet, are exceedingly variable. It is attributable, perhaps, to our state of health, physical courage, or nervous temperament. Some have a good deal of adventure in their constitutions—bold, fearless, and determined;—as the interest of the scene increases, difficulties vanish. Others are more timid and fearful, but equally resolute. And as far as the writer can judge from the countenances and expressions of those who have accompanied him, the

feelings that involuntarily arise, are those of religious awe. We may have been schooled in Infidelity, and taught to believe there is no God; but during our stay at the Falls, and especially under them, let the individual be an Atheist, if he can. (Impossible.) On returning, about fifty feet from the bottom of the stairs, let the visitor pause, for a moment, and look up. "I did not," said a lady to the author, in company with her husband, from South Carolina, "feel the least agitated while under the falling flood; but at this point I trembled; not from any real or apparent danger; but my nerves, for a moment, seemed to give way." She soon regained her composure. "That scene," continued she, "is worth a journey across the Globe."

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#### COURAGE OF LADIES.

"Do Ladies ever go under the Falls?" is a question frequently proposed. Certainly, thousands—and their numbers are nearly equal to those of the Gentlemen, and their courage often surpasses them. We consider it as safe as any place about Niagara. No accident has ever occurred, unless from carelessness, or the un-called for adventure of some thoughtless Traveller, in rushing out upon places where human beings never ought to go. There is an iron driven into the side of the rock, at the termination of the path. Visitors usually lay their hand upon this iron. At this point you see all that can be seen, with perfect safety. Two or three feet beyond this your path is intercepted by a perpendicular rock, which rises twenty or twenty-five feet from the angry flood below. This is called "Termination Rock." As much as to say, "You can approach me, with safety; but, beyond, you

cannot go—here let thy proud steps be staid.” Some clamber down this rock to the water’s edge; but this is uncalled for, as all the wildness of this magnificent place is seen without running the least risk.

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#### BURNING SPRING.

This Spring is situated a mile and a half above the Falls, on the Canada side, near the water’s edge. It is the carbonated sulphuretted hydrogen gas, that burns. Touched with a match it gives out a brilliant flame rising two or three feet high.

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#### CHIPPewa.

The Village of Chippewa is on the British side, two and a half miles above the Falls. A few soldiers have been stationed here since the Patriot War of ’37—’38. Landing of the British Steamer Emerald, from Buffalo, N. Y. The terminus of the Rail Road from Queenston, connected with the British and American Steamers, for Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, and Quebec.

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#### LUNDY’S LANE—BATTLE-FIELD.

Lundy’s Lane is a mile and a quarter from the Falls, on the Canada side. The battle, in its hottest fury, was fought principally in the night, with the bayonet; General Peter B. Porter, commanding the volunteers—Generals Brown and Scott wounded. Ryall and Drummond, (British generals,) wounded and taken prisoners. This, it is said, was the severest battle ever fought on this continent. British had, in killed and wounded, 877. Americans, 860. It was a draw game—both parties claiming the victory. July 25, 1814.

#### LOCAL DISTANCES — CANADA SIDE.

From the water's edge, to the Clifton House,...	106 rods
From the Clifton House to Table Rock,.....	220 "
From Table Rock to Lundy's Lane—Battle-	
Ground,.....	1½ miles.
To the Burning Spring,.....	2½ "
To Chipewagan,.....	3 "
To the Whirlpool,.....	4½ "
To Brock's Monument,.....	7½ "
Number of Spiral Steps near Table Rock,...	87

#### INDIAN TRADITION.

The Indians, it is said in Judge De Vaux's works, have a tradition that two human beings, yearly, will be sacrificed to the Great Spirit of these Waters. Whether any reliance can be placed upon the tradition of the Indian or not, it is nevertheless true, that almost every year has proved fatal to some one. A few instances, only, can be mentioned. John York is supposed to have gone over the Falls, as pieces of his boat, and part of the loading were picked up below, 28th Nov. 1841. William Kennedy was in the boat with him, and found dead on Grass Island, just above the Rapids.

#### CASUALTIES.

Dr. Hungerford, of West Troy, was killed by a rock falling upon him, between Biddle Stairs and the Cave of the Winds. May 27, 1839.

J. H. Thompson, of Philadelphia was washed off of a rock below the Falls, under the great sheet of water, by leaving the guide and venturing too far upon places of danger. August 16, 1844.

Miss Martha K. Rugg, from Lancaster, near Boston, Mass. while picking a flower, fell over the bank, just below Barnett's Museum, (Canada side,) one hundred and fifteen feet. August 23, 1844. She lived about three hours.

Charles Smart, from Philadelphia, fell about forty feet from a rock in the Cave of the Winds. August 31, 1846. Killed instantly.

John Murphy, aged fourteen years, son of a Widow Lady, of our village, attempting to cross the river in a canoe, about a mile above the Falls, was drawn into the current and went over. His body has never been found. June 13, 1847.

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Michigan, Detroit, Steamboat Caroline and other vessels, have been sent over the Falls at different times, but are usually dashed to pieces in the Rapids above, before they reach the Cataract.

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#### NUMBER OF YEARLY VISITORS.

No definite estimate can be made. Varying from twenty to fifty thousand

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#### DEPARTURE OF CARS.

Daily Cars, leave the Falls for Buffalo, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 A. M. and at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P. M. For Lockport, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P. M.

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#### THREE PROFILES.

These profiles are at the foot of Goat Island. In looking across the first sheet of water directly under the second, the farthest bank that can be seen is a side view of three profiles, directly one above the other.

# I N D E X.

	Page.
Niagara River, A . . . . .	3
Quantity of water, . . . . .	4
Falls at Lewiston, . . . . .	4
Spray, . . . . .	5
Rain Bows, . . . . .	5
View of the Falls, at Night, . . . . .	5
At Sunrise, . . . . .	5
At Sunset, . . . . .	6
Roar of the Falls, . . . . .	6
First impression of Strangers, . . . . .	6
Rise of the River, . . . . .	7
Probability of Fish and Fowls going over the Falls, . . . . .	7
Crossing the River above the Falls, . . . . .	7
Winter scene, . . . . .	8
Upper Ferry, . . . . .	8
Chinese Pagoda, . . . . .	9
Platform, . . . . .	9
Maid of the Mist, . . . . .	9
Suspension Bridge, . . . . .	10
Mineral Spring, . . . . .	10
Whirlpool, . . . . .	10
Devils Hole, . . . . .	11
Indian Village, . . . . .	11
Local distances, . . . . .	11
Bridge, . . . . .	12
Chapin Island, . . . . .	12
Bath Island, . . . . .	13
Iris or Goat Island, . . . . .	13
Center Fall or Cave of the Winds, . . . . .	13
Luna Island, . . . . .	14

## INDEX.

Battle Stairs,.....	14
Prospect Tower, . . . . .	14
Bathing Place of Hermit, . . . . .	15
Head of Goat Island, . . . . .	15
Number of Steps, . . . . .	16
Table Rock, . . . . .	17
Going under the Falls, . . . . .	17
Courage of Ladies, . . . . .	18
Burning Spring, . . . . .	19
Chippewa, . . . . .	19
Lundays' Lane, Battle Ground, . . . . .	19
Local distances (Canada side), . . . . .	20
Indian Tradition, . . . . .	20
Death of Dr. Hungerford, . . . . .	20
Death of J. H. Thompson, . . . . .	20
Death of Martha K. Rugg, . . . . .	21
Death of James Smart, . . . . .	21
Death of John Murphy, . . . . .	21
Wreck of Detroit, Steamboat Caroline going over the Falls . . . . .	21
Number of Yearly Visitors . . . . .	21
Cars leave the Falls, . . . . .	21