



NIAGARA FALLS FROM UNDER TABLE ROCK.

MAP OF NIAGARA FALLS

AND GUIDE TABLE.

DIRECTIONS TO HASTY TRAVELLERS.

1st. Start from the Hotels, Main Street, Niagara Falls Village—go west to Prospect Place, Ware's Observatory and Point View Garden, ascend the Pagoda; gaze on the scene! return easterly along the river to the bridge—gaze! cross the Bridge to Iris Island—rise the hill—take the road to the right—at the point of the Island look around!—pass to the Biddle Stairs—thence to the Prospect Tower, and around the Island.

2d. At more leisure walk along the high bank of the river, or ride to the Whirlpool, and visit other places of notoriety.

References to the Map.

ON THE CANADA SIDE.

1. Concert House.
2. Col. Clark's old place.
3. Where the Episcop'l ch'rch stood. Burnt by incendiaries.
4. Site of Bridgewater Village.
5. Chippewa Battle Ground.
6. TABLE ROCK. It projects over several feet. Visitor descend here to go under the sheet of water, or to what is called 'Termination Rock.'
7. CLIFTON HOUSE, on the brow of the hill, where the road rises from the ferry.
8. Carriage road down the bank.
9. Ferry and Guard House.

Distances from Ferry U. C.

To Clifton House,	106 rods.
" Table Rock,	1/2 ml.
" Burning Spring,	1 "
" Bender's Cave,	3 "
" Lundy's Lane Battle Ground	1 "
" Chippewa Battle G'd	2 "
" Whirlpool,	4 "
" Stamford,	4 "
" Mount Dorchester,	5 "
" St. Davids,	6 "
" Brock's Monument	8 "
" Queenston,	8 "
" Fort George and Niagara,	14 "
" St. Catharines,	12 "
" Waterloo Ferry,	14 "
" Fort Erie,	16 "
" City of Toronto,	50 "

MAP OF NIAGARA FALLS,

AND

ADJOINING SHORES.

Being a complete Directory and Guide to the Falls and vicinity, for remark on the spot, or for reference at Home.



References to the Map.

ON THE AMERICAN SIDE.

- A. Cataract Hotel.
- B. Eagle Hotel.
- C. Exchange Hotel.
- D. Post Office.
- E. Rathburn's large foundation.
- F. Lockport & Niagara Falls Rail Road Office.
- G. Buffalo & Niagara Falls Rail Road Office.
- H. Ferry & Ware's Observatory.
- I. Point View Garden and Pagoda on the spot where Francis Abbott lived.
- J. Where Alexander went off the bank.
- K. Proposed road down the bank.
- L. Old Indian Ladder.
- M. Chapin's Island.
- N. Robinson's Island.
- O. Prospect Island.
- P. Q. Sloop and Bay Islands.
- R. Prospect Tower and Terapin Rocks.
- S. Road, washed away.
- V. Crescent or Centre Fall, under which is Ingraham's Cave.
- Y. Paper Mill.
- Z. Presbyterian Church.

Distances from American Hotels, U. S.

To Bath and Iris Island Bridge,	40
" Ferry and Ware's Observatory,	
" Ferry Landing	
" Horse Shoe Fall, crossing bridge & island,	
" Walk round the island,	
" Point View,	
" Mineral Spring	
" Whirlpool,	
" Devil's Hole,	
" Tuscarora Indian Village,	
" Lewiston,	
" Fort Niagara,	
" Lockport by r. road,	
" Schlosser, steamboat landing,	
" Tonawanda & Erie Canal,	11
" Buffalo City,	22

General References.

15—Horse Shoe Fall, about 700 yards around, 158 feet high. 16—American Fall, about 320 yards around, 164 feet high. V. Crescent Fall, about 33 yards around, and 164 high. Descent from Chippewa and Schlosser to the Falls, estimated at 90 feet. Ferry below the Falls, is 56 rods wide; passage from five to ten minutes. 5,034,030,230 barrel water, it is estimated, descend the Falls in 24 hours. From 200 to 250 feet, is the average height of the banks of the river around the Falls, above the surface of the water below. a—Bridge to the Islands, passing over the rapids. b—where Robinson descended in the rapids to save Chapin. The river in six miles from the Falls, descends 104 feet to Lewiston; from thence seven miles, to Lake Ontario, 2 feet.

1850.

THE
NIAGARA FALLS GUIDE.

WITH
FULL INSTRUCTIONS TO DIRECT
THE
TRAVELLER

TO ALL THE ⁵POINTS OF INTEREST AT THE FALLS
AND VICINITY.

WITH A MAP AND ENGRAVINGS.

BUFFALO:
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CONTENTS.

PART I.

Arrangement,	-	-	-	-	-	5
Travellers,	-	-	-	-	-	11
Falls of Niagara,	-	-	-	-	-	14
Inquiries Answered,	-	-	-	-	-	20
Indian Ladder,	-	-	-	-	-	25
Point View,	-	-	-	-	-	26
Village of Niagara Falls,	-	-	-	-	-	32
Jaunt to the Islands,	-	-	-	-	-	34
Bridge to the Island,	-	-	-	-	-	49
Bath Island,	-	-	-	-	-	44
American Flag in the Rapids,	-	-	-	-	-	45
Iris Island,	-	-	-	-	-	46
Ingrahams Cave,	-	-	-	-	-	48
Prospect Island,	-	-	-	-	-	51
Biddle Stair Case,	-	-	-	-	-	52
Horse Shoe Falls,	-	-	-	-	-	54
Prospect Tower,	-	-	-	-	-	57
Moss Island,	-	-	-	-	-	50
Navy "	-	-	-	-	-	62
Steam Boat Caroline,	-	-	-	-	-	54
Fort Schlosser,	-	-	-	-	-	68
Whirlpool,	-	-	-	-	-	70

Battle of the Devils Hole,	75
Lewiston,	78
Fort Niagara,	80
Jaunt to Canada,	82
Suspension Bridge,	86
View from the Stairs,	91
Catlin's Cave,	92
Bender's "	93
Village of Clifton,	96
Table Rock,	97
Passing Under the Sheet of water,	99
Termination Rock,	100
Brooks Monument,	101
Annual Offering,	103
Death of Morgan,	104
" " Dr. Hungerford,	105
" " Miss Rugg,	107
" " Mr. Addington & Miss DeForest,	109

PART II.

Jaunt to Saratoga,	115
High Rock Spring,	122
Ballston Spa,	127
Mineral Waters,	129
The Waters as a drink and Medicinally,	132

C O N T E N T S .**vii**

Use of the Waters in Bathing, . . .	135
Cold Bath,	139
Warm Bath,	144
Hot Bath,	150
Vapor Bath,	151
Douche Bath,	155
Diseases for which the Waters are recom- mended,	157
Village of Saratoga,	162
Public Houses,	166
Amusements,	168

THE ARRANGEMENT.



THE colloquial form, has in some places been adopted, in affording directions and information to travellers. The observations of the guide, and the remarks of visitors, have been in some places transcribed. In this manner, the information which has been garnered up for years, is imparted to strangers in its appropriate places.

The sketches are made in a tour round the Falls and vicinity; and is divided into four JAUNTS.

The FIRST JAUNT is to the Falls on the east side of the river, or, as they are commonly called the American Fall. It may be made from the hotels, in half an hour; but the feeling of those

The Arrangement.

who go, will determine the period of their stay. Some have thought half a day a short time to spend in viewing the cataract from that position, and the other objects to which their attention is drawn.

The **SECOND JAUNT** is to the Islands. Bath, Iris or Goat, and the other little adjoining Islands that are accessible. It may be made in two hours. Many persons spend a day, and repeat the visit frequently, asserting, that the interest excited increases the oftener the scene is beheld.

The **THIRD JAUNT** is to the Whirlpool. It requires three hours; and, if extended to the Devil's Hole, Indian Village, and old Fort Niagara, a day or more will be pleasantly spent in the excursion.

The **FOURTH JAUNT** is to Canada. This, like the visit to the Falls, may be accomplished in less than an hour; but it would be superficial! Very few are satisfied with such a slight peep into her Majesty's dominions. They like to visit Table Rock, and take a look below, through the mist and under the sheet of falling water.

Should the visitor design visiting the Canada side of the river, he should do so in the after-

noon, and spend the fore part of the day on the American side, as the position of the Sun will then be such as not to incommode the eye, and to give an opportunity of viewing the Rainbow which hangs continually over the falling sheet.

In speaking of the time to be consumed in looking at and around the greatest cataract in the world, reference is had to those who travel with rail-road speed, and such are travellers in general in these days, and not to those who have leisure. To such as have time and opportunity, no period can be fixed ; all depends on their own impressions. If they are unexcited and uninterested, their stay will be short ; they will cast a dull and unimpassioned look over the scene, and hurry away. Others who have felt differently, have remained weeks and months at the Falls still extolling them, and spending their time much to their satisfaction.

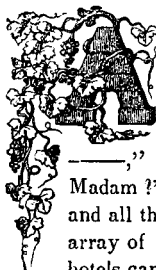




Niagara falls, from the American side, near the Ferry Station.

A JAUNT
TO
THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.
ON THE
AMERICAN SIDE.

THE TRAVELLERS.



party from a distant city are on a tour of pleasure to the Falls. The cars having arrived at the village, the passengers are saluted with—"passengers for the ———," "———baggage," for the———, Madam?" "do you go to the——, Sir?" and all the jargon and noise which a full array of the runners and waiters from the hotels can utter.

The travellers having made up their minds, before their arrival, or afterwards, go to their

The Path.

hotel, enter their names, secure their rooms, and breakfast, dine, or sup, as the case may be, and when prepared make their first visit to the Falls.

The aid of a guide is useful to such as can afford it, to point out the different views, and to impart a full knowledge of all the localities, but with this book, can be dispensed with.

If stopping at the Cataract Hotel, the visitors as they leave the Hotel will pass to the left to the first street ; proceeding down this street to the "*Old Curiosity Shop*," If at the Eagle Hotel leave by the steps at the end of the Hotel on Bridge Street, and passing to the left they soon arrive at the "*Old Curiosity Shop*," where will be found a great variety of articles of Indian manufacture, and where any information in regard to the Falls will be cheerfully given.

On leaving the "*Old Curiosity Shop*," they will pass around the building to the right, through the Grove to the Ferry stairs and POINT VIEW GARDEN. If the visitors are at the Falls Hotel or should conclude to go directly to the Falls from the Cars, they will continue along the Rail Road until they pass the Depot, and thence following the path through a grove of trees to POINT VIEW

GARDEN, they will behold the Falls at once before them, rolling majestically, and displaying all their grandeur.

“How magnificent!”

“Truly, the half has not been told!”

“It is grand—it is dreadful!”

“They are terrible, yet beautiful!”

“They appear small at a distance, and, at first sight, I was disappointed. They exceed my expectations.”

“Never have I beheld, or imagined, any thing comparable to this.”

Such are some of the many expressions which break from travellers, and show forth their emotions; they are generally those of admiration, mingled with pleasure; but many gaze and wonder in silence.



THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

"Tremendous torrent ! for an instant hush
The terrors of thy voice, and cast aside
Those wild involving shadows, that my eyes
May see the fearful beauty of thy face."



n the western boundary of the State of New York, runs the Niagara river, in a northern direction, and the centre of which is the boundary line between the United States and the dominions of Great Britain. The Niagara is the outlet of the vast chain of western lakes, beginning with lake Superior and its hundred tributary streams, and is the principle inlet of lake Ontario. Niagara is derived from the Indian, and was called by them *Onyakarra*, according to David Cusick, of the Tuscarora tribe, who published a pamphlet in 1827.

The Falls are twenty-two miles from lake Erie, and fourteen from lake Ontario. The two branches of the river which encompass Grand

Rapids.

and other Islands, unite a mile above the rapids and it is there two miles in width.

As it advances the current accelerates in its downward course, and the channel contracts in width. From tranquil and glossy, a slight ripple is seen to move the surface ; it next assumes a descending and cradle-like movement ; the waves enlarge the tops roll over each other, and are broken into white-caps and spray. The whole body of the mighty river becomes agitated, as if conscious of the great plunge it is about to make. The placid stream has become a rushing torrent, broken into cascades, and sweeping billows. Its own momentum presses it forward with irresistible violence ; from ridge to ridge it bounds, until it reaches the perpendicular rock, and there it sweeps over, and falls below. The water boils up from beneath, like a sea of white foam ; the spray rises in clouds which hang dark and heavy above, or are wafted away by the current of wind ; and rainbows encircle below and above this most wonderful of Nature's works.

Iris Island is in the midst of the Falls, and separates the water into two great sheets. A

smaller sheet is struck off by Prospect Island, passing between that and Iris Island. The portion between the Islands and the American shore is less than the main channel which separates Canada from the United States, and passes on the western side of Iris Island. In that channel is borne along a volume of water of immense magnitude, the drain of more than 150,000 square miles of surface of lakes and rivers.

How sublime the object that is presented to the enraptured beholder! Such a body of congregated water poured at once over so high a precipice, and falling perpendicularly into the chasm below, whose depth it is not possible for man to fathom.

The rushing, roaring sound which is emitted by the falling water—the variety of colors presented to the eye; the splendor yet sublimity of the scene—are new to the spectator, and create emotions difficult to be described.

The sounds are those of the stormy ocean and overwhelming tempest; there is one continued roar, yet other sounds arise, fitful and varied.

Some persons, at times, have fancied noises strange and mysterious; the intonations of the

Sounds.

bass drum—the slow solemn and heavy report of artillery—the swelling note of the trumpet, and even the human voice in agony, has been heard by many imaginative enthusiasts. But the similarity of the sounds to the bass drum, and to artillery are so near, at times, that persons have been repeatedly deceived.

It requires a long residence to become familiar to, and regardless of the noise. To some it creates unpleasant sensations, but generally they are those of a contrary character. To those who are residents, the quietude which seems to prevail when they visit any of the adjacent vilages, make it appear to them like the stillness of Sunday.

Strangers who remain over night, though the sound of the Falls is in their ears when they retire to rest, yet when they happen to awake from their slumbers, frequently fancy themselves in the midst of a tempest; the house trembles, the windows and doors clatter, the wind rushes and whistles around, the rain pours; and amid all, they hear the unceasing sound of the cataract. They rise to look out upon the raging storm; and when they draw the curtain, or throw up the window, they perceive that the

stars are shining sweetly, and not a zephyr disturbs the pedant leaves.

In heavy weather the sound is louder, and is heard farther ; and to those who live at a distance, though within hearing of the Falls, they are an unfailing barometer. After a pleasant turn of weather, during which the sound has just been perceptible, often gradually and sometimes suddenly, the increased roar of the cataract comes upon the ear. A change of weather takes place, and a storm follows.

In some directions the roar of the Falls is not heard over six or seven miles ; along the course of the river they are constantly perceptible for about fourteen miles ; they have been occasionally heard at the distance of thirty miles ; and in one instance an individual asserts to have heard them in the city of Toronto, in Canada, distant forty-four miles,

The concussion of the falling waters jar the adjoining shores, and the houses tremble in concert with the unceasing shock.

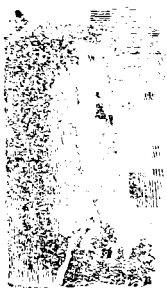
This may be questioned by those who have only spent an hour or two at the Falls, in the clear, serene, and bland weather of summer ; but those who have remained there longer will

Concussion.

certify to the fact. If a door is left ajar it vibrates ; if a window is loose it clatters ; and even sitting quietly at their fire-sides, the inhabitants will, at times, perceive a tremulous motion, which they can trace to the Falls. There is much difference in hearing the Falls ; at a short distance from them the noise is not unpleasant, but close to the sheets of water, to many persons it is almost overwhelming. It is believed by many abroad, that persons long resident at the Falls become hard of hearing. That this is generally so cannot be positively asserted. A lady of Lewiston, who several years since visited the Falls, asserts, that to her the noise was so intense as to deprive her of hearing in one ear ; and though many years had since passed she has not recovered from the deafness with which she was then struck. And yet many visitors express themselves greatly disappointed as to the noise of the Falls ; they expect to hear it heavier and louder. Nothing but bursting boilers ; roaring cannon, pealing thunder, or crashing earthquakes can come up to the expectation of such persons.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

"Trifle on an interesting subject,
Cease to be trifles."



As many inquiries are made as to places, distances, and on a variety of other subjects, the following paragraphs are intended as answers to such, and afford in the shortest practicable way, the information required.

The form of the Falls is a curve. That part between Iris Island and Canada is called the Horse Shoe Falls.

The western or Horse Shoe Fall is about seven hundred yards in circumference.

The Fall on the northern side of the Island is three hundred and thirty yards.

The centre Fall between Iris and Prospect Islands, is about thirty-three yards.

The whole distance around the curve, including Iris and Prospect islands, is computed at one thousand four hundred yards. The height of the Falls on the American side, is one hundred and sixty four feet ; on the Canada side, one hundred and fifty eight feet.

From Chippewa to Schlosser the river is the widest. The descent from these places to the great pitch is estimated at ninety feet. At the ferry below the Falls, the river is fifty-six rods wide. It has been crossed in five minutes ; it ordinarily requires ten.

The cloud of spray which arises from the Falls is always seen, except when scattered by the wind. It is sometimes seen from a great distance, even from that of one hundred miles.— Computations have been made of the quantity of water that passes over the Falls. One is that 5,081,089,280 barrels descend in twenty-four hours ; 211,836,753 in an hour ; 3,530,614 in a minute ; and 68,843 in a second. This statement is undoubtedly within bounds, and the quantity is probably considerably more.

The average height of the banks about the

Fall, is from two hundred to two hundred and fifty feet.

You can go, for a short distance from Iris Island: under the spray of the Horse Shoe Falls; some have called it going under the Horse Shoe Falls, but this is saying too much.

The principle spot visited, for going under the sheet of water, is Table Rock. Even there, it is fashionable to speak of the distance advanced in exaggerated terms.

Great difference of opinion exists as to the best view of the scene of many wonders. One says "the best view of the Falls is from Table Rock." Another, "the best view to be had is from the centre of the river in crossing." A third, "at the Chinese Pagoda, near the Ferry." A fourth, "the best view is from the foot of the Ferry stairs on the American side." A fifth, "the grandest views of all are from the point of Iris Island, where it overlooks the Horse Shoe Falls, and from the tower at the Terrapin Rocks."

After all it must be conceded that the view of the Falls in Canada, surpasses any on the Amer-

ican side. On this side there are many different views ; your eye passes over the various prospects piece by piece ; on the Canada side you have a full view. On the American side comparing large things with small, you not only occupy the stage box, but you go behind the scenes.

Persons who visit the Falls to form a right conception of the wonders of this country should pass over to Iris Island, should visit the whirlpool and great rapids along the river, and should cross into Canada.

From the rapidity of the water below the Falls, it has been difficult to fathom it, but as nearly as has been ascertained, it is two hundred and forty feet.

The ferrymen convey baggage safely from one side of the river to the other for a fair compensation.

The number of visitors increase yearly. In 1838, from the best authority the number exceeded twenty thousand. In 1839, it exceeded by one third, that of any other year. In 1840 and 1841, though the pressure of the times was unprecedented, yet the number of visitors in

Number of Visitors.

each year was as great, if not greater than in the previous years. In 1842 and '43, the numbers were about the same as in years previous, since which the number has been steadily increasing, until in 1847 the number was estimated at 45,000, and last year about the same.



THE INDIAN LADDER.



ABOUT one hundred rods below the Falls and the guide points out a notch in the bank. Here is the oldest place for descending to the Falls ; it is called the Indian Ladder. The Ladder consisted of a cedar tree, lying sloping against the rocks. The natural branches and notches cut in the body of the trees, were the only slight helps afforded to those who went down. The last person known to have descended, was a hunter by the name of Brooks. He was in pursuit of some game which he had shot, and had fallen below. He got about half-way down, when he slipped, and fell between twenty and thirty feet, and was badly injured.

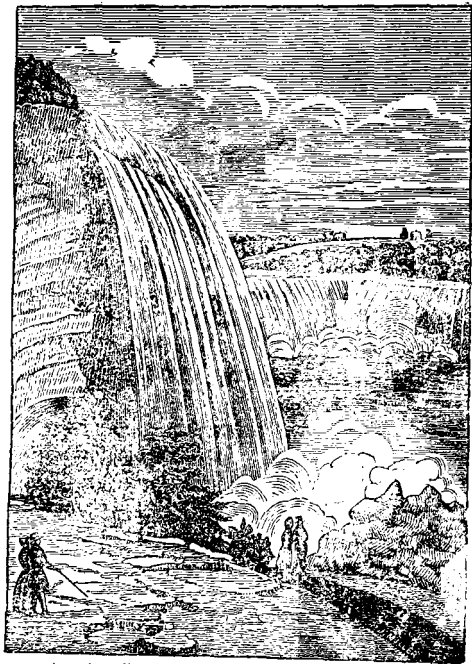
POINT VIEW.

"I am on the brink
Of the great waters: and their authentic voice
Goes up amid the rainbow and the mist:
Their chorns shakes the ground.



POINT VIEW, on the American side, not a *new* position, as the clear surface of the bank and well trod path will show, but one hardly mentioned by any who have written upon this subject, was the spot from which Vanderlyn sketched one of his great paintings of the Falls.

On the projecting rock at Point View stands the Pagoda, from the summit of which the spectator beholds the unrivalled prospect which is spread before him, and no visitor at the Falls should leave without visiting it; they not only from that point obtain one of the grandest views of the Falls, but they will find any inqui-



American Fall, from the river, 2113 26 12 711 v.

The Pagoda.

ries answered by Mr. & Mrs. Robinson, in such a manner as to leave no doubt of their accuracy or the cheerfulness with which they are given.

The Pagoda is seventy-five feet above the Falls, and the ground itself is thirty feet higher than the Falls. An easy staircase leads to the top on which is placed a Camera Obscura not surpassed if equalled, for minute and living delineation by any other in the world ; exhibiting in all its brilliant colouring 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 everything stationary or in motion that is about.

Two hundred feet below the rock on which the Pagoda stands lie the calm dark waters of the river, bounded on either side with rock and precipice ; the adjoining shores crowned with native forest trees, and in the distance green meadows, blooming orchards and rising villages. He looks at the great object of his gaze with sensations of reverence ; the white sheets hanging in mid air ; the waters foaming and hurry-

ing from beneath those that impend above ; the spray rushing up from the deep cavern, and rising in clouds which hang as a pillar of smoke over this sublime sanctuary of nature's mysteries. The rocky base of Iris Island, dividing the Falls, with its tall trees, towering above the water ; the Terrapin rocks on the American side, and Table rock, in Canada : altogether the scene is, beyond conception, unique and imposing.

It is thought by some that the terms in which the Falls are spoken of and usually described, are too high and exaggerated. If the English and Scotch poets are any criterion for descriptive expressions, (and that they are the true standard, all will allow,) so far then from being exaggerated, the terms applied to the Falls are but tame and feeble. Several of the authors alluded to, have afforded poetical descriptions of waterfalls in the United Kingdom, in which all the epithets of beauty and grandeur have been exhausted in the labored delineation—descriptions so lofty as to leave nothing to add, even when applied to the Falls of Niagara. Look at the objects as nature presents them ;—a brook

or mill race to a mighty river—a pond to an ocean. Indeed, there is no term of our language too high, or idea of our imagination adequately comprehensive to describe this profound and impressive scene. The mind awe-struck, is overwhelmed and lost amid the elemental strife. And it is not only so as regards the Falls, but the whole of that portion of the Niagara river, from the commencement of the rapids below Navy Island to the eddying and heavy current at Lewiston, is without doubt one of the most wonderful of the works of nature, and affords scenes, with but few exceptions, more sublime and terrible than is exhibited in any other land.



VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

"Lead on—to yonder village lead,
Where heaven has happiness decreed
For those the blessings prize ;
Who seeks in solitary ease,
Such joys as innocently please.
Nor wish for other joys."



IN 1805, Augustus Porter, Peter B. Porter, Benjamin Barton, and Joseph Annin, Esqr's, became, by purchase of the State of New York, the proprietors of a considerable tract of land, lying immediately adjacent to the Falls of Niagara. They laid out a village which was called Grand Niagara, but was soon changed to Manchester. This name it retained for several years ; but as much inconvenience arose from there being several other places in the state of the same name, it was altered to Niagara Falls, which is the name of the post-office. In 1813, the village was burnt by the enemy. Af-

ter the war, the citizens returned, and it has very gradually increased since then in buildings and inhabitants. In 1836 the survey of the village was greatly extended; the lands became in great demand, and large sales could have been made at enormous prices; and some lots were sold.

Mr. Z. Allen, an engineer of reputation, has communicated to Silliman's Journal an estimate of the hydraulic power of Niagara Falls, based on actual measurement, and the result shows that the power is equal to that of 4,533,334 horses, or nineteen times greater than the whole motive power of Great Britain.

The location is commended for its healthiness, and for rural beauty it is unexcelled. It affords the finest places for residences for those who wish to combine elegance of scenery and salubrity of air, of any on the Niagara frontier.—Nature has done everything; but as to the village of the Falls, man has done but little.



A JAUNT
TO
IRIS AND OTHER ISLANDS
IN THE VICINITY OF
NIAGARA FALLS.

" Say, shall we wind
Along the streams, or walk the smiling mead.
Or court the forest glade?"



HERE are several Islands, which from their locality and peculiar position in reference to the Falls, have attracted the attention and curiosity of strangers, and a visit to some of them is never neglected by those who have an opportunity.— The one the most interesting is Iris, or as it is commonly called, Goat Island. Many years since, a resident of Schlosser put some

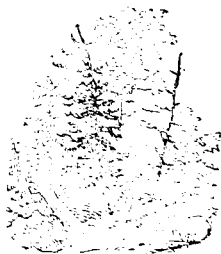
Iris Island

Goats on the island, and hence the name. The present proprietors have given it the name of Iris Island. As that is very appropriate it is proper that it should be generally adopted.

It lies in latitude $43^{\circ} 6'$ and longitude $2^{\circ} 5'$ west from Washington city, and contains between sixty and seventy acres. Though the soil is an accumulation of earth upon a heap of rocks, yet it is very fertile, producing all the native plants of the country in great luxuriance. A circuit round it which visitors usually take is about a mile. By the boundary commissioners who were appointed under the treaty of Ghent, it was very properly adjudged to belong to the United States and the Indian title being extinguished it fell into the hands of private individuals. Just at the upper end of the Island commence the terrific rapids that lead on to the Falls. There the river divides, the main body passing on the south-western side, and the lesser on the north-eastern. The lower end of the island is like the main shore below the Falls—A perpendicular bank from seventy to ninety feet, and thence to the waters edge, a sloping precipice of from one hundred to one hundred and twenty

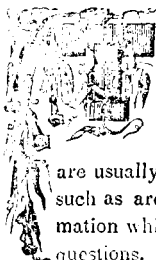
feet. A small portion of the island has been cleared off, and is in a state of cultivation ; but the principal part is yet covered with native forest trees, of various kinds, through the density of some of which, when covered with their rich foliage, the rays of the sun are seldom admitted.

In making the tower of the island, occasion will be taken to mention and describe such other islands that lie in the Niagara river, as have in any way drawn the attention of the public.



JAUNT TO THE ISLAND.

"Go to the cool and shady bowers,
Where flow the wild cascades;
Stroll through each green and deep recess
And dark romantic glades.
Then rest thee on the mossy bank,
Or onward further stray,
And gaze upon the mighty stream,
That winds its course away."



THE party leave the hotel, and turn down a short street called Bridge street. They fall into conversation with the guide, making such inquiries of him as are usually interesting to travellers, and such as are commonly made. The information which follows is in answer to such questions. Besides seeing the Falls, travelers who remain for any length of time, find various amusements.

The Pleasure Garden, comprising about one acre of ground, a few rods south of the Falls, is an attractive place.

Amusements.

For those who like in-door exercise, there is a ball or ten-pin alley. There is also in the village, got up expressly for the use of travellers, several billiard tables.

Some resort to the baths ; others bathe in the river. Some amuse themselves in fishing ; others in fowling, and in seeking after the great bald eagle. Some of the noblest of the species have been found in this quarter ; specimens of which are to be seen at the various places of resort on both sides of the river.

The generality of travellers ride to those places which it has become fashionable to visit : Old Fort Schlosser, up the river—the Mineral Spring—the Whirlpool—the Devils Hole, the Tuscaroras Indian village, and Fort Niagara, and good carriages, with careful drivers that will act as guides, can be had at the livery stable of the Messrs Hamlin, on Bridge street.

Beside these, considerable time may be spent most pleasantly in a trip to Canada.

The party are descending a small declivity, towards the bridge, to the island.

“ Traveller—“ Indeed, this prospect is very grand ; those majestic waves, bounding and

The Bridge to the Island.

curving along, and that bridge lying at rest over them ! Here is nature in all her might, and the art of man triumphing over obstacles appearing almost insurmountable.

THE BRIDGE TO THE ISLAND.



THE construction of this bridge appeared almost incredible to an individual who happened to be at this place when the work was going forward. One or two of the piers only were laid down.— He enquired of the workmen the object of the bridge and where it was going.— “To the island,” was the reply. “I don’t want to live any longer,” said the stranger, “than until you get this bridge to the island.” He could not be convinced that its construction was practicable.

Erection of the Bridge.

The first bridge erected to the island—in 1817—was built further up the river, opposite to the residence of the late Judge Porter. The winter after its erection—in 1818—it was carried away by the ice, and in the following summer a bridge was built on the present site, passing to Bath Island. In 1839 it was rebuilt; the present construction is more firm and substantial than was the first.

The erection of this bridge has universally received the commendation of travellers. It enables them, with a trifling expense, to visit the island with safety and convenience; an undertaking which before, was attended with considerable expense and some exposure to danger, it has thrown open to public view, one of the wonders of the world; which, to the greatest proportion of visitors, could only be seen at a distance. The income of the bridge is considerable, but no more than a fair return for such a work.

The celebrated Indian Chief, Red Jacket, passed over this bridge with one of the proprietors, shortly after it was completed. His sinister feelings towards white men and his envy of

their superiority over his brothers of the forest, are well known. As he walked along, the mingled emotions of hate, envy and admiration, which rankled in his bosom, were expressed every little while, as he looked on the dashing waters, firm piers and secure superstructure, with "—— Yankee," "—— Yankee," applying an epithet not proper to mention, though easily guessed ;—one demonstrative more of spite than good will.

Arriving at Bath Island, the travellers ascend the bank, enter the toll-house and pay the charge of twenty-five cents each, which gives the individual the privilege of visiting the island during his stay at the Falls or at any time thereafter for the current year.



BATH ISLAND.

"The isle is full of noises.
Sounds that give delight, and hurt not."

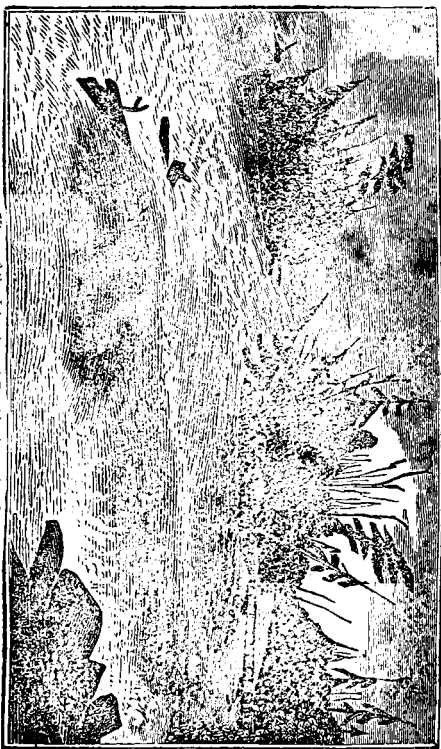


traveller thus speaks of this island; "It is itself a curiosity worth beholding. To visit this alone would be worth the cost of the bridge which leads to it.

Why, it is a perfect chaos! How the waters rush and roar along, beating vainly against the impregnable rock to which it is bound! Those trees and green patches, the broken surface and firm rocks are all in unison with each other. Nature has charms here, amid the boisterous waters of the Niagara, that I little imagined."

On the south side of the Island is a paper manufactory. The islands observed just above Bath Island, are Sloop and Brig islands. A foot bridge is usually extended to them, and they are a favorite resort of visitors in the warm afternoons of summer. The shade of the trees, the commo-

View of the Islands and Kyrids from the Bridge.



Bath Island.

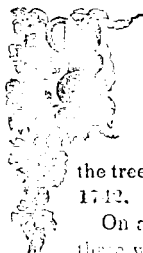
tion of the surrounding water and the cool breeze that agitates the air, make them, for social parties, a delightful retreat for an hour or two.

Having passed, with much admiration, the bridge which spans the beautiful and rapid piece of water which courses along between Bath and Iris Islands, they arrive upon the latter island.

Before the bridge was built, Iris Island was visited by boats, running down between the two currents, to the upper point of the island. To strangers, the navigation appeared very hazardous, and it was not without danger.

In the severe winter of 1820, the great accumulation of ice in the river, formed a communication from the main shore to the island ; and though the bridges were then built, yet many persons, for a curiosity and a ramble, preferred crossing over the ice. In that winter, all the islands were accessible, and were visited by many persons ; and the American flag was planted on a ledge of rocks in the middle of the stream above Brig Island. There, surrounded by dashing waves, it floated gallantly during the succeeding summer, to the admiration and wonder of strangers, how it came there.

IRIS ISLAND.



IRIS Island had often been visited both by the French and English, previous to the Americans coming in possession. The initials of names have been found on the trees bearing a date as far back as 1742.

On ascending the hill from the bridge, three walks are presented ; one to the right, leading to the Biddle stair-case and to the Horse Shoe Fall ; the one in front goes directly across the island ; and the one to the left passes near the edge of the bank to the upper end.

The party continue the jaunt, taking the road leading to the Biddle stair-case. On advancing a short distance, they enter a grove of lofty trees through which the walk passes for some distance. It is one of those delightful places for which nature has done every thing, and to which art can add nothing. The road that passes

Hog's Back.

through it accomplishes all that ever should be done, and the sound of the axe should never be heard upon those trees, to disturb the stillness which reigns around the spot, or to profane what nature seems to have consecrated.

As the road nears the lower end of the island, the height of the bank from the edge of the water increases ; from which circumstance, it appears, this part of the island has received the name of the Hog's Back. The name is considered very inapplicable ; but, as some travellers have spoken of the Hog's Back, as being something peculiar, it has been thought proper thus succinctly to refer to it.

At the northwest corner of the island there is a fine prospect of the river, of Canada and of the American Falls, suitably so termed, as they are entirely within the United States. The actual boundary is in the center of the river, between Iris island and Canada and must be about the middle of the Horse Shoe Falls. By some means or other, the public have been led into a mistake on this subject and it has been by many supposed that the principal Falls were in

Ingraham's Cave.

Canada. Some have even spoken of "the Niagara Falls, in Canada." The truth is a portion of the Falls is exclusively in the State of New York and also half of the main channel, as it constitutes the boundary line.

INGRAHAM'S CAVE.

"The weeping rocks distil with constant dews ;
The gushing waters pensive thoughts infuse.
Here a vast arch, the cavity so wide,
Scarcely can the eye extend from side to side.
High o'er the roof alternate echoes wave,
And sound in distant thunders through the cave."



HIS cave was first discovered by Joseph W. Ingraham, Esq. who gave it the name of the Cave of the Winds; one as applicable as any that can be used ; yet the public desirous to award some meed of their esteem to the amiable discoverer, have, in many instances, evinced a desire to use his name, and call it Ingraham's Cave. It was first entered by

Ingraham's Cave.

Mr. George Sims, and Mr. Berry Hill White, of Niagra Falls village. They passed over the rocks, and through a part of the sheet of water. It was, they alleged, difficult and hazardous, but they acknowledged themselves fully rewarded in the new and magnificent scene which the lofty cavern presented. Mr. Ingraham, soon afterwards visited it himself, and Horatio A. Parsons, and few others, have since ventured in. It is represented to be near one hundred and twenty feet wide, about thirty feet deep, and a noble arch hanging over head eighty feet high and the sheet of water rolling in front.

This cave has been heretofore inaccessible, except by a perilous adventure in a boat from the ferry, and landing on the rocks between the Central and American Falls, and entering the cave on the opposite side, until the spring of 1842, when the proprietors of the island, at considerable expense, excavated the rocks, erected steps, and contracted the stream above in such a manner that this cave can now with ease and safety be visited by those who have the curiosity of seeing all that may be seen, by getting thoroughly drenched by the falling spray.

One great curiosity of the Cave of the Winds, is the innumerable quantity of eels that may be seen upon first entering, piled in heaps, basking in the rushing spray, but immediately disappear in the rapids upon any disturbance.—Specimens of these eels may be seen at the Old Curiosity Shop, preserved in spirits.



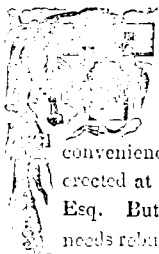
P R O S P E C T I S L A N D .

"Where leaps
The torrent in its wild career,
While shake its barriers, as in fear."



From the point of Iris Island, fronting the American Falls, descends a path towards Prospect island, sometimes called Mrs. Davidson's island, as while she was visiting the Falls, a foot bridge was thrown over to it, and on its extreme point she planted a few seeds of the *Lathyrus Latifolius* or everlasting pea, which were observed some years afterwards in bloom, with their beautiful little flowers hanging over the side of the bank near the Cave of the Winds. The bridge to this island is generally carried away in the winter and replaced again in the summer. It is worth crawling over, to ramble through the tangled evergreens, to look down the high bank and enjoy the prospect which is there displayed.

THE BIDDLE STAIR-CASE.

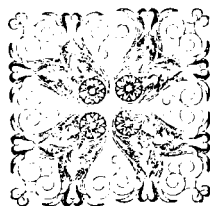


THE party, after their progress to Prospect Island, retrace their steps, and continue their route to the Biddle Stair-case. This convenience for descending the bank, was erected at the expense of Nicholas Biddle, Esq. But has now become insecure and needs rebuilding. It was a great desideratum to travellers, to be enabled to reach this part of the island, to range along over the rocks, and to advance near the sheet of water. The stairs are of the spiral form, well secured from the weather, and about eighty feet high. Near the foot of those stairs, at the edge of the water Sam. Patch, in 1829, made two leaps from a platform ninety-seven feet high erected for the purpose. He came off with credit here; but shortly after the poor fellow made two leaps at Rochester—one from the height of one hundred

The Biddle Stair-case.

feet and the other of one hundred and twenty-five feet. The last proved fatal ; he did not rise and was never found.

After the travellers have proceeded below and gone as near the sheets of water on each side as they desired, and had pointed out to them all the objects of interest, they return and resume their walk along the brow of the bank.



THE HORSE SHOE FALLS.

"Thou fearful stream!
How do thy terrors tear me from myself,
And fill my soul with wonder?"



His sublime prospect opens to view suddenly between the trees. The rainbow seen below encompassing a cloud of spray, is as beautiful, with all its mellow tints of coloring, as the same object appears after a summer's shower.

There is a striking singularity in the varied appearance of the Horse Shoe Falls. They present three peculiar and distinct aspects as to their form.

To the beholder from one position their form is that of the horse shoe, from which they derive their name. From another position, the same Fall has a triangular formation; and from a third position, they present three sides of a hollow square.

Moonlight Scene.

The rainbows are seen according to the position of the spectator with that of the sun. In the morning they are viewed from this, in the afternoon from the British side. At night, when the moon shines brightly, a lunar bow encircles the Falls, with rays well defined, but pale and murky. On such nights, large parties of visitors congregate on the island, and melancholy influences seem to pervade every bosom. The mind instinctively feels the sentiment of the poet.

"O moon! thou bright—thou beautiful?
How many are the scenes of woe on which
Thy pure light beameth!"

The enraptured sentimentalist lingers around this scene, conversation is conducted in low whispers and the mind becomes wrapped in sad and unwonted meditations. The great Falls, the lovely moon coursing its way through the high firmament, the pale arch which spans the cataract, the sombre woods, the deep mysterious gulf, the water, all combine powerfully to affect the mind. No noisy conviviality, no boisterous mirth prevails at such times, and no sound is heard but the deep and hollow roar of the Falls.

That this is not an imaginary picture, every one who has witnessed the scene will allow.

In the center of the Horse Shoe Falls, the water is of a pure green color, and is adjudged to be about twenty feet deep.



Prospect Tower.

PROSPECT TOWER.



THIS is a circular building, with an observatory on the top, built below the point of the island, among the Terrapin rocks.—

From the observatory is presented a full view into the very midst of the Falls and into the great chasm below.

It bubbles up, it gurgles forth, it hisses and it roars.
As when on raging fire a stream of gushing water pours.
Wild sheets of foam shot through the air, waves thunder
towards heaven.

As forth from out the black abyss the billowy flood is
driven."

The timber and fragments that are scattered around, are the remains of a bridge built by Gen. Whitney, a part of which projected over the bank, It was on a single projecting timber of this bridge that it was usual for Francis Abbot to walk, and at the extreme end to turn on his heel and walk back.

Terrapin Bridge.

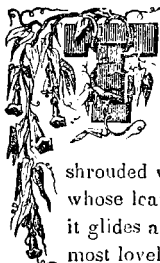
The Terrapin Bridge should be rebuilt. It afforded an unequalled prospect into the white and, misty chasm. And to spectators at a distance, the light bridge hanging over the clouds and rainbow below, the moving forms upon it, surrounded by the flickering spray, now seen, and anon hid from view, gave to the scene an impressive interest deeply felt by every sensitive mind.



Moss Island.

MOSS ISLAND.

"In beautiful wildness it whirls away.
Wasting its wealth in feathery spray."



THE walk round the Island passes near to the beautiful stream of water which runs on the north side of Moss Island. This stream is overhung and enshrouded with trees and evergreen shrubs whose leaves dip in the silvered water as it glides along. In its course, there is a most lovely water-fall, in miniature, and which Francis Abbott the hermit of the Falls used as his shower bath. The adjacent spot is called Moss Island, on account of the mossy and velvet like appearance of its surface. On this Island, Abbott wished to build a rustic cottage. As he described it, it was to be of rough materials, with latticed windows, and to be covered with moss and evergreen creeping vines. To the Island he proposed to have a bridge, in union

The Hermitage

with the cottage with a draw attached to it, that, when he desired to be alone, he might be secure from all intrusion, and he himself the master of a small and solitary domain.

“Recluse and hid from every eye,
Save that of smiling heaven.”

Such additions would have been quite an attraction, and the hermit himself, a great curiosity. He appears to have been just the kind of man required to animate these wild romantic scenes. On the subject he observed : “ On some of the great estates in England, where the proprietors seek to give a romantic interest to their possessions, a forest or some retired glen is chosen, where a hermitage is erected, and a man hired to play the hermit. When the owner passes over his estate with his friends, the hermit, with his flowing beard and dressed in antique costume, receive them at the hermitage.” He would conclude by saying—“ I desire to live alone ; I voluntarily wish to retire from the world. It suits me not to mingle with mankind.”

The Islands lying beyond Moss Island, are not accessible, excepting in some severe winters,

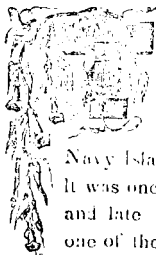
when the ice and snow are driven around them, and dam the water off; at such times they have been visited by a few persons. The little Island which lies between this and the Canada shore, and which just rises above the water, is called Gull Island, from the circumstance of its being the resort of great numbers of birds of that species. There they live secure and unmolested by man.

Having arrived at the head of the Island, where an unobstructed prospect of the river is presented, several objects are elicited by the inquiries of travellers. They are comprised in the notices which follow.



NAVY ISLAND.

"There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep wave, and music in its roar.
I love not man the less, but nature more."



his Island contains three hundred acres of land. It belongs to Canada, the main channel running between that and the American Shore. Opposite Navy Island, is Street's Point, in Canada. It was once a navy yard of the British, and late the residence of Capt. Usher, one of the persons concerned in the Caroline affair, and who was assassinated in December, 1838.

About the middle of the month of December, 1837, twenty-eight men, principally Canadians, with Renselaer Van Rensselaer and William Lyon Mackenzie, went on Navy Island. They brought with them arms and provisions. They staid on the Island one month, and then, at their

Navy Island.

own choice, left it and not in fear of their opponents. Opposite to them, were five thousand men, consisting of British regulars incorporated militia, and a body of Negroes and Indians.—Batteries were erected and shells were at intervals cast upon the Island. The islanders were incessantly in a state of danger and alarm ; yet they would, at times, provokingly return the fire. For a month, a raw, undisciplined band of men, in the severity of winter, with no shelter but such as they then constructed, and miserably clad set at defiance and laughed at the overwhelming force, which lay so near to them, that they frequently conversed together. Let justice be done to them, and, however by contending parties they may be differently esteemed, their must be awarded to them the praise of being as enduring and as brave a set of fellows as ever assembled together. They left the Island because the United States would not countenance them, and in accordance with the wishes of American citizens, who interposed to effect their dispersion. An expression of one of the leaders, before leaving, was—" I fear not my enemies but my friends."

The Steamboat Caroline.

There is an occurrence connected with the Navy Island affair painful to relate.

The steamboat Caroline came from Buffalo on the 29th of December, it is said to play as a ferry-boat between Schlosser and Navy Island. It passed, that day, forth and back several times, and before sun-down was brought to at the wharf, at Schlosser, and moored for the night. At that place there was but one house, and that a tavern. The warlike movements between the patriots and British, had drawn to the frontier, through motives of curiosity, a great number of persons. The tavern was crowded—lodgings could not be obtained—and several, observing the steamboat, sought for accommodations on board and were received. In the middle of the night, the watch (for a watch on board steamboats is usually kept,) saw something advancing on the water.—He hailed, but before he could give the alarm, a body of armed men rushed on board, shot at the sentinel and all they met, crying—"Cut them down ! Give no quarters !" No arms were on board ; no attack was expected ; and no resistance was made. Some got on shore uninjured ; others were severely cut and dangerously

Burning of the Steamer Catalpa.



wounded. One man was shot dead on the wharf, and twelve were missing, either killed or burnt and sunk with the boat.

They towed the boat out in the river and set it on fire ; the flames burst forth ; it drifted slowly, and its blaze shone far and wide over the water and adjacent shores. On the Canada side, at a distance above Chippewa, was burning a large light, as a signal to those engaged in the expedition. In a short time an astounding shout came booming over the water ; it was for the success and return of those who had performed this deed.

The beacon was extinguished. The *Caroline* still moved on, and cast its lurid light far and wide, clothing the scene in gloom and horror, and just below the point of Iris Island, suddenly disappeared. Many of the wrecked and charred remains were, the next morning, floating in the current and eddies below the Falls.

The next object to which the attention of the traveller is directed, is Porter's Storehouse, or the steamboat landing. It is the end of ship navigation, on the American side of the Niagara, and is the proposed point for the commencement

of the great ship canal around the Falls ; a work which the extensive and populous countries on the upper lakes are requiring, and will urge forward until accomplished.

At this place, the persons going on the Navy Island expedition embarked ; and it was there that the steamboat Caroline lay when she was cut out.

Nearly a mile below the landing are the remains of old Fort Schlosser. The name is derived from the German, and means castle. It was anciently a stockade, built upon banks slightly raised above the plain. From the remains, it appears that there were two fortifications contiguous to each other and of similar construction. In a historical memorandum and map, in 1775, before the country was subdued by the British, it is marked "Store House" only.—The site is now a cultivated field and the grounds have been frequently ploughed over.

The party move on and pass the house where Francis Abbott for some time resided, and stop at a place where the earth has been excavated. Here, several human skeletons have been dug up. How they came there is not known.

The enclosure which is seen at the left, is a garden ; where in the season of flowers and fruits, boquets and fruits are kept for sale.

From every part of the upper end of the Island, a fine view is presented of the Village of Niagara Falls, and the intervening rapids.

Gen. Whitney's place is seen advantageously from the island. He was among the first inhabitants and has proved himself a pioneer worthy of all praise. Enterprising in the most eminent degree, doing at all times all that industry and his means could afford in making improvements around the Falls and on his own premises, for the accomodation of visitors—first putting ladders down the banks, and then a stair-case ; establishing a ferry and building bridges, platforms and many other conveniences.

The travellers return to the bridge and back to their hotel.

A JAUNT
TO THE
WHIRLPOOL, FORT NIAGARA
AND
DEVIL'S HOLE.

THE WHIRPOOL.

" Ah ! terribly they rage !
The hoarse and rapid whirlpool's there ! My brain
Grows wild—my senses wander, as I gaze
Upon the hurrying water."



If the Falls of Niagara did not exist, the Whirlpool would be the most distinguished curiosity afforded by the Niagara river ; and, in the estimation of many, greater than any of present notoriety in our country. Every one brought up in or near the city of New York, must be familiar with the far famed and much dreaded strait called Hurl-Gate, formerly

The Whirlpool.

Hell-Gate. The horrors of that place are well known to all youthful imaginations, and the dread of the "frying-pan and pot" can hardly be eradicated by more mature observation.— But pass once from the East River to the wild and rushing whirlpool of Niagara, and the imaginary terrors of Hurl-Gate will pass away ; on your return the strait will appear placid, or only seem agitated as with a summer breeze.

Even the great Maelstrom whirlpool of Norway, is not more dangerous than that of Niagara ; none have passed the vortex of either, or fathomed their depths.

If travellers to the American whirlpool would wish to experience all the sensations of danger and peril which came over those who passed the disk of the Maelstrom, they have but to launch a boat on the Niagara, and attempt an excursion for examining more closely the whirling waters. In so doing, they will truly peril their lives, and feel sensations of terror to their hearts content ; or the waves of Niagara will make buoyant their bodies, and infuse courage more than natural, in the hearts of those who ride over them.

Having arrived at the Lodge, the charge for

entering the grounds Twenty-five cents is paid at the gate. Before coming in sight of the river, the road enters a bowery of forest trees, the close and luxuriant foliage of which forms a cool and sombrous shade very refreshing in the prevailing heats of summer.

After having arrived at the bank of the river, the party contemplate the prospect for some time with much satisfaction, and make many inquiries ; and after turning to the guide or person present, inquire, "What course does the river take from this ?"

The Guide leads the way, saying, "we will advance a short distance. Now look below."

Traveller.—"Saint Mary ! what a scene is this !"

One of the ladies.—"How beautiful and clear and yet how powerful and rapid ! With what commotion it bounds away ! Is this a branch of the Niagara ?"

Guide.—"Still move a few steps closer to the bank, and you will perceive that the stream below is truly the Niagara. Its sudden turn, the contraction of the channel, the high and approaching banks, and the dark and swelling water

of the outlet, strikes every one with sensations of admiration."

Traveller.—"Tasteless to the marvellous and surprising beauties of nature must he be, who beholds these her noble works, without emotion."

"Nature here

Wantons in her prime and plays at will
Her virgin fancies.

As nearly all the travellers, that visit the Whirlpool, descend the bank, and consider themselves well paid for the trouble, the party conclude to go down.

The guide leads the way and with some labor and exertion, though not more than is healthy exercise, they descend. He conducts them to the Smooth Rock, against which dashes the powerful and resistless current.

"Here," he observes, "a young man, by the name of Samuel Whitmer of this township threw a stone that struck the Canada shore."

Several of the party being disposed to try there skill make the attempt. Whether they succeed or not, has not been reported.

Traveller.—"If the improvements were made, of which the place is susceptible, it would make

a beautiful country retreat. The grounds west of the road, I would enclose as a park ; the forest part should be cleared of the undergrowth leaving here and there, dense as it now is, a clump of indigenous shrubs and plants, impervious as nature has reared them. The whole should be intersected with roads and walks : steps also, to descend the bank ; a bathing and fishing house ; a life-boat on the river ; and a suspension bridge from bank to bank. The water power should be brought into use, in carrying on mills and manufactories ; and my cottage should be in the midst of the active and rural scene.

Guide.—“ To which could be added a view of the Falls at a distance, if the woods on your point of land at the south, in Canada, are cut down. This place was one of the favorite purchases of Rathbun, and on which he very justly placed a high value. It was he who erected the summer-house, and it was his design to carry into effect many of the improvements, which you have mentioned.

BATTLE OF THE DEVIL'S HOLE.

"Once this soft turf, the riv'let's sands.
Were trampled by a hurrying crowd;
And fiery hearts, and armed hand',
Encountered in the battle cloud."



mile from the Whirlpool, the road runs within a few feet of the river's bank, where a deep and gloomy chasm is rent or worn out of the rock. This is called the Devil's Hole, and the small stream which crosses the road and falls in the chasm, is the Bloody Run.

In 1759, while the war was yet raging between England and France, a detachment of one hundred British regulars were conveying a large supply of provisions, beef cattle, and munitions of war, to Fort Schlosser. Indians were employed by both parties. Those in the interest of the French, had been for some days hovering about the British camp, and when the convoy set out, they were on the alert. At

this place, they formed their ambuscade, and never was there a spot more favorable for such a manœuvre. On the right of the advancing party was the high bank of the Niagara river, and on the left the ridge, and at each extremity two small hills. The party, unsuspecting any attack, moved forward on the road ; when the front of the detachment reached the end of the ravine, the Indian fusces were opened upon them with deadly aim ; then followed the dread war-whoop, as if a thousand wolves were howling and yelling around them. Indeed, their assailants were more fierce and ferocious than the wild beasts of the forest.

" Pale terror march'd amid the yielding land,
Chill'd every heart, unnerve'd each iron hand."

Many of the soldiers were killed at the first discharge, and the others were thrown into hopeless confusion. The Indians fell like tigers upon the drivers, tomahawked them in their seats, and threw them under foot. The waggons were backed off the precipice, and men and cattle fell with the loading in one dismembered and mutilated mass. Some threw themselves

The Battle

from the bank, and fell mangled and dying on the rocks ; others lodged in the branches of the trees, where they remained, disabled, until the affray was over, when the savages at their leisure despatched them. The horror of the scene can be but faintly imagined. The quick report of the fusces, the yells of the Indians, the bellowing of the cattle, the shrieks of the wounded and dying, mingled with the monotonous roar of the surges of the Niagara, which rose from below as in mockery of the folly, the strife, and dying groans of men.



THE VILLAGE OF LEWISTON.



THE scenery presented from the top of the mountain overlooking Lewiston, is grand and picturesque ; before you and immediately under the mountain, lies the Village of Lewiston ; in the distance is seen the deep blue waters of Ontario ; on the right are Farm Houses and fertile fields ; and on your left the broad Niagara, flowing on in deep and solemn grandeur, as if conscious of having presented one of the most grand and magnificent views on which mortal eye ever rested. Across the river, on Queenston Heights is seen towering in ruins, yet in majesty, the monument erected to the memory of Lieutenant Gen. Brock.

The party approach Lewiston. The summer after the village was burnt, the prospect all around was like one extensive meadow. Nearly all the fences in the fields had been destroyed by our own troops at different times while

encamped there, or passing through ; but at the time it was burnt by the British, the destruction was general ; nothing was left that would burn ; and the life of no creature was spared that could be destroyed. Not only the fields, but the yards and street were covered with high grass and the prospect was lonely and melancholy in the extreme—not a living creature was to be seen. A spirit of wanton cruelty had caused the enemy to destroy all that they could not carry away. Little swarms of small yellow butterflies, flitting about above the tall grass, marked the spot where the carcass of some creature lay, where it had been shot down or perished. What scene can be more gloomy, than a country depopulated, and laid waste by the ravages of war.

Lewiston, was in 1805 named after Governor Lewis, of the state of New-York ; it was burnt in 1813 ; in 1815 the inhabitants returned and it is now a beautiful and flourishing village.

FORT NIAGARA.

"Hoarse barked the wolf; the vulture screamed afar:
The angel Pity shunned the walks of war."



This fortress is in latitude 43 deg. 14 sec. N. In 1679, a small spot was enclosed by pallsades, by M. De Salle, an officer in the service of France. In 1725, the Fort was built. In 1759 it was taken by the British, under Sir William Johnson. The capture has been ascribed to treachery, though there is not known to be any existing authority to prove the charge. In 1793, it was surrendered to the United States. On the 19th December, 1813, it was again taken by the British, by surprise; and in March, 1815, again surrendered to the Americans. This old fort is as much noted for enormity and crime, as for any good ever derived from it by the nation in occupation. While in the hands of the French, there is no doubt of its having been, at times,

Fort Niagara.

used as a prison ; its close and impregnable dungeons, where light was not admitted, and where, remained for many years after, clear traces and a part of the ready instruments for execution or for murder. During the American Revolution, it was the head-quarters of all that was barbarous, unrelenting and cruel. There, civilized Europe revelled with savage America; and ladies of refinement mingled with the society of those whose only distinction was to wield the bloody tomahawk and scalping-knife. There the squaws of the forest were raised to eminence and the most unholy unions between them and officers of the highest rank, smiled upon and countenanced. There in their strong hold like a nest of vultures, securely, for seven years, they sallied forth and preyed upon the distant settlements on the Mohawk and Susquehanna. It was the depot of their plunder ; there they planned their forays, and there they returned to feast until the hour of action came again.



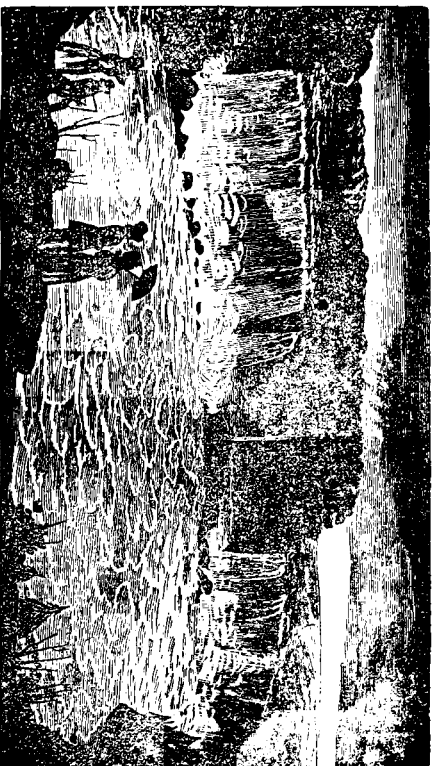
JAUNT TO CANADA,
IN THE VICINITY OF THE FALLS ;
VISIT TO
TABLE ROCK & BROCK'S MONUMENT,
WITH NOTICE OF THE
SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

CANADA.

" Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them, as a breath has made,
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied "



THAT portion of Upper Canada, designated as the peninsula lying between lake Ontario and Erie bounded east on the Niagara river, and extending west about one hundred and fifty miles, is one of the finest tracts of country in North America. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the scenery be au-



Niagara Falls, from the Canadian side, near the Critch house.

Impressions of Travellers.

tiful. Besides being bounded on three sides with navigable water communication, there also passes over it many fine streams and rivulets.—The state of improvement is very respectable; the whole tract is only equalled by Western New York; where inhabitants, in enterprise, are considerably in advance of those of Canada. The settlements on the western side of the Niagara River, took place during and immediately after the revolution. On the American side, except at three points, it commenced much later; and large tracts of the native forests are still remaining. The first settlers to this part of Canada, were from the northern and western borders of Pennsylvania and New York; Butlers rangers, the followers of Sir J. Johnson and others who preferred the paternal government of Great Britain to the republican institutions of the people. The proximity of the two countries, the same language and similarity of pursuits, have so assimilated the inhabitants, that a stranger, not knowing the political division, in passing from one to the other, would still think himself among the same people.

SUSPENSION BRIDGE.



HIS work was commenced in February 1818 by Chas. Ellet, Jr., of Philadelphia under a contract previously entered into with "The Niagara Falls International Bridge Company," of the State of N. Y. and "The Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge Company" of Canada West, for constructing a Wire Suspension Bridge across the Niagara river, one and a half miles below the Falls.

The first connection between the two shores was by flying a kite across the gorge, and thereby spanning the river with a small string, by which a cord was drawn over, and with that a rope, and so on, until one of sufficient strength had been secured to each bank, to draw over an iron cable of 36 strands number 10 wire. Two small towers of 25 feet in height having been erected, one on each bank of the river, the wire cable before mentioned was hauled over

the chasm, the cable being 1160 feet in length, and 800 feet span between the towers ; and on the 13th of March, '48, Mr. Ellett, the contractor crossed in a car suspended from the cable ; immediately the number of cables were increased and a foot bridge three feet in width constructed. As soon as this frail structure was made passable very many persons were anxious to pass over, which was permitted by their paying twenty-five cents each to the contractor. When this foot-way was properly secured, a similar platform was thrown over upon other cables on the opposite towers—the bridges being about forty feet apart—the basket cable in the centre.

While this second platform was being carried over, a most terrific scene occurred—one that baffles all description ; and never will those who witnessed it, be able to drive it from their recollection. The second bridge had been carried out about 250 feet over the bank on the American side, and about 150 feet from the opposite bank, when a tornado from the south west struck it, which instantaneously parted the unfinished structure near the tower, displacing the cables, and for the instant all seemed lost.—

There were six men at work upon the flooring of the bridge when the tornado struck it—two of which made their way towards the shore upon broken fragments of boards in an unaccountable manner—the structure oscillating with fearful velocity 60 feet over a fearful gulf of 230 feet in depth. The unfinished bridge was rent asunder in four places, leaving four men upon its extremity, 200 feet from shore, at the mercy of the gale, with but two strands of No. 10 wire to support them from a headlong plunge of 230 feet into the rapids beneath. As soon as the wind subsided, amid pelting torrents of rain, the iron basket was let out, with one man, taking with him a ladder, one end of which he placed upon the wreck, the other resting upon the basket, thus making a bridge over which the men one by one passed, until they were all safely seated in the basket, which was drawn ashore and the adventurers safely landed without the least personal injury.

The Bridge under Mr. Ellet's ; supervision was progressing rapidly to completion, so that on the 26th, of July, six months from the commencement, the contractor drove two horses

Temporary Bridge

before a heavy coach, over and back, soon after which a disagreement took place between the Contractor and the Directors, and the work was discontinued.

The present Bridge was erected merely as a preliminary scaffolding for the construction of the main bridge—the bridge contracted for, was to be built upon stone towers 70 feet in height—ten feet above and wholly independent of the present bridge,—the present structure bearing the same relation to the main one that the kite string did to the first cable ; consequently all the fixtures were of such a character as economy would suggest—sufficient for all purposes contemplated as a preliminary structure—not required to stand to exceed eighteen months, when the present cables was to be removed to the main structure ; it has the present season been materially strengthened, the cables having been made more than double their former capacity, and a heavy three inch floor gives a degree of stiffness and security which it before wanted, and the structure is now a thoroughfare perfectly safe for all business purposes, and is capable of sustaining two hundred and fifty tons

and has been adopted as the point of crossing for the line of stages to Detroit, Sandwich, &c.

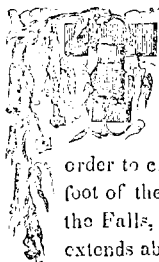
The floor or roadway of the bridge is elevated above the water 230 feet. Depth of water under the bridge 250 feet.

The scenery at this point is grand beyond description, the Cataract above and the dashing Rapids below are in full view ; at the foot of the carriage way is the Steamboat landing, perfectly secure and safe though but a short distance above the fearful rapids.



VIEW FROM THE STAIRS.

"And hark ! the bugle's mellow strain
From hill to hill is ringing ;
And every zephyr, o'er the plain,
The joyful note is bringing ;
The eagle from his eyry darts,
To hear the flying numbers ;
And echo, in her grotto, starts,
Awakened from her slumbers."



THE party of travellers are at the top of the bank, and commence the descent of the long flight of stairs, or sent themselves in the cars to descend the bank, in order to cross the river. They stop at the foot of the stairs and enjoy a fine view of the Falls, and the river below. The view extends about two miles, where the waters again break into billows, and white with foam, seem to sink into some subterraneous cavern, as they disappear behind the projecting cliffs.

Inquiry is often made, "How was the bank descended before the stairs were built !"

The descent was made by means of the Indian ladder, half a mile farther down the river, and here, by cling to the rocks and shrubs. The next improvement was a ladder, eighty feet long, placed nearly perpendicularly against the bank; in the last war, it was thrown down.

The stairs that descended the bank, were built by Judge Porter. The first boat put on the river at this place, was by Gen. Parkhurst Whitney. He built the first stairs down the bank and established the first ferry.

Having arrived at the foot of the stairs, the very fine view of the Falls which is there presented, is noticed by the party. The boat is ready to receive them, and they are seen floating over the convulsed and agitated waters.—Hoods, India rubbers, oil cloths and umbrellas are brought into requisition, to shield them from the descending mist that gushes away from the falling stream.

Catlin's Cave is about a mile below, on the American side. It can only be visited by going along the bottom of the perpendicular bank, or near the water's edge. Travellers usually employ the ferryman to take them in a boat. The

Bender's Cave.

cave is about twenty feet in circumference, or about the size of a baker's large oven ; and the entrance just big enough to admit the body of a man. When discovered, it was filled with beautiful stalactites ; but they have been all removed. Around the cave are large quantities of petrified moss, and springs of water gush out above and at the sides of the cave, in a peculiar and beautiful manner.

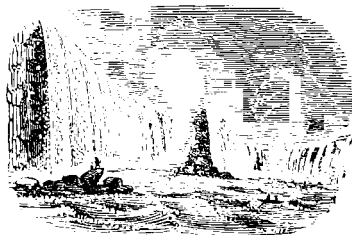
Bender's Cave is on the Canada side, a little farther down than Catlin's. It is about twenty feet from side to side, and high enough for persons to stand erect in. To persons of leisure, both caves are worth visiting and afford a pleasant excursion.

Before the bridge to Iris Island was built, parties used to visit the lower end with boats, by passing up between the two sheets of water ; some are still very fond of making the trip, as they pass very close to the Falls, which is to many very interesting. This can now be very safely and pleasantly done on a small steamboat called the "Maid of the Mist ;" which leaves from the ferry about one and a half miles below

View from the River.

the Falls, running up to the very base and landing on the Canada side.

Cars leave the Falls for the Maid of the Mist and Suspension Bridge hourly passing directly along the bank of the River, where the Visitor has a series of the grandest views of the perpendicular banks, the River, Bridge, and both the American and Great Horse Shoe Falls, and free from heat and dust. Fare each way 6½ Cents !



Usually, visitors are greatly delighted with the view of the Falls which is obtained in crossing the ferry. Towards the center of the river, the mist is dispelled, and the prospect of the immense body of falling water is unobscured by

British Side.

any intervening object. The whole sublimity of the scene is displayed. Beside this, the eddies are strong, the waters dance round the boat as it rocks and bounds along, and some of the obtrusive waves dash over upon the passengers. The ladies become alarmed ; but they hardly have time to inquire if there is not danger, before the dashing of the waves has ceased, the boat glides smoothly over subdaed and dead swells, and soon reaches the Canada shore.

The passengers step forth upon the rocks that line the shore. The mighty cataract is pouring its ocean of waters before them ; but, if they are Americans, it has ceased to be the only curiosity, and their attention is called to persons and characters. They are in the dominions of her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria, and the feelings of the mind give to every object around a new and unfamiliar taint.



VILLAGE OF CLIFTON.



his village comprises a fine plat on the first and second rise of land above the ferry. The road leading from the river to Drummondville passes through the centre.

Clifton House, stands, just at the head of the hill from the ferry.

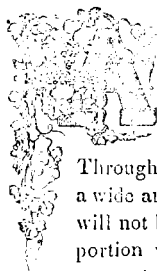
The party proceed along the bank of the river until they come near a house containing a *Camera Obscura*, which beautifully reflects the Falls.

Proceeding further, Mr. Farnet's Museum attracts their attention. Oil cloth dresses for passing under the sheet of water at Table Rock, can be obtained there.

Table Rock.

TABLE ROCK.

"And still with sound like booming peal
From distant thunder given,
Perch, from out the dark abyss
The rushing stream is driven."



ALTHOUGH much of this rock has fallen from time to time, within the memory of many yet living, still it projects some forty or fifty feet over the bank.— Through a considerable portion of it runs a wide and deep fissure, evidencing that it will not be many years before the outer portion will be launched below. Some years since, the person who kept the winding stairs, at Table Rock, gave notice that on a certain day, (it was on the occasion of one of the vessels going over the Falls,) he should put a number of kegs of powder in the fissure of the rock and blow it off. It was expected that it would make a tremendous crash. But the gentlemen who owned the principal interest in

the privilege, would not allow it to be done, as it would put an end to the charm of the place—the visit under the sheet of water.

Traveller.—“ If the rock is safe, the gentlemen did right in preserving it ; but if it hangs, jeopardising the life of human beings, it ought to be blown off.”

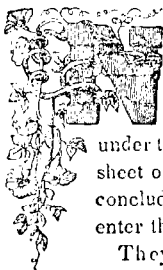
Guide.—“ We are now on it, and you must judge for yourself.”

Traveller.—“ It may stand for half a century, or may give way while we are talking about it. It has, no doubt, too dangerous a look for a man to think of building a residence on, yet for a Niagara Falls enthusiast, and I have both seen and heard of such, it is just the spot.”



PASSING UNDER THE SHEET OF
WATER.

"The glittering stream, the spray with rainbow round,
The dizzy height, the roar, the gulf profound."



NEAR the Table Rock, there is an establishment at which dresses are provided, and guides furnished to conduct travellers under the rock, and thence under the sheet of water. Several of the party conclude to make the excursion, and enter the house.

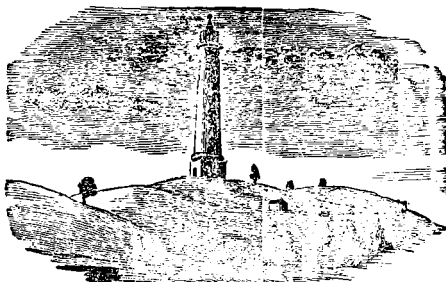
They descend the stairs, make their way along the rocky path and enter under the overhanging arch of Table Rock.— In front is the sheet of water, below, at the left, is the river, white with foam, and on the shore large bodies of rocks that have tumbled from the arch under which the travellers are winding their way, and above, is the mighty mass divided into thousands of fissures, and rocks hanging equipoised, ready every moment to fall and crush those

Termination Rock.

whose temerity leads them through that dangerous pass. But, as no accidents have happened, visitors may look danger in the face, and move cheerily along, not troubling themselves with any disturbing thoughts. They soon arrive in the mist, the rocks become slippery, but the guide directs and lends his assistance, assuring them there is no danger.

The water, driven by force of the wind, pours over them, and in spite of India rubber and water-proof guards, very few escape being drenched to the skin. At length, it is announced that they have arrived at Termination Rock.— There they stand and gaze upon the wonders of the place, until the eye becomes weary with seeing the white and mingling waters, and the ear tired of the deafening sound. Some just look in, and cast a fearful glance around, and then hurry away ; others remain for half an hour, or more, seemingly enjoying the terrific scene. Visitors usually go only to Termination Rock, but it is possible to advance about 25 feet further.

Brock's Monument.



BROCK'S MONUMENT.



ROCK'S Monument stands on Queenston Heights, a short distance south of the village.— It was built of a soft whitish stone, taken out of the mountain near by. It cost about eight thousand dollars and was built at the expense of the Provincial Government. It occupies a beautiful and commanding site, and overlooks Fort Grey, on the American

Destruction of Brock's Monument.

side, (a large battery erected mainly to cover the attack upon Queenston,) and the roads and cultivated farms beyond the opposite heights for several miles.

On the 17th of April, 1840, an attempt was made to destroy this memorial of the gallant Brock, by blowing it up with gunpowder. The circular stairs within the monument were torn to pieces, stones were thrown out of the wall, and it was rent from the bottom to the top. This act was attributed to the noted radical patriot, Benjamin Lett. He neither admitted nor denied the charge, but observed to those who spoke to him about it, "They may lay it to me."

Contrary to the opinion of many who had seen the monument since the attempt was made to blow it up, who supposed, that though shattered, it might yet stand for many years, in the month of February 1841, a part of it fell, and it is now in a ruinous condition.

ANNUAL OFFERING.



THE Indians have a superstitious tradition, that the spirit of the Falls required an annual offering of two human victims.— Since the white man has known them, the average number has exceeded two ; either swept down from the river and lake, or lost in the rapids immediately above the Falls, and of which a few are recorded in the following pages.

In the fore part of the month of December, 1841, the body of a man was found on Grass Island a short distance above the Falls and near to him a canoe. He was recognized as one of a number of persons who, on the night of the 21st of November, had started from the American shore in a canoe loaded with six barrels of whiskey. It was thought at Field's tavern, that cries were heard from the river ; but they were disregarded, as the boatmen on the river were

Death of Morgan.

usually noisy. In a few days however, as the persons had not arrived at their destination, it was judged that they had gone over the Falls.—The body was found on the island about three weeks after. The others, with the loading of the canoe, no doubt went down the rapids.

On Friday the 17th of May 1813, Michael Morgan of Chippawa, being at street's point about two miles above, wishing to water his horses drove them with his wagon into the river. They immediately got into deep water, the horses separated, one got to the shore, the other was drowned. The box of the wagon floated down the river, and to this he clung. Many persons saw him from the shore, but could render him no assistance—when he came to the rapids he was soon separated from the wagon box, which went to pieces, and he passed over the Falls.



DEATH OF DOCT. HUNGERFORD.

"Oh death! stern tyrant of our fleeting hours,
In thousand shapes thou trick'st thine antic powers;
Youth, manhood, age are all alike to thee;
Creation bends beneath thy stern decree."

NUMEROUS narrow escapes, and serious accidents have occurred around the Falls; but at length it has become the painful duty of the analyst to record an incident of a new and fatal character. Since the first discovery of these profoundly interesting yet fearful scenes, visitors have with impunity rambled above and beneath the overhanging rocks; and though the danger was evident to the eye, no accident had happened, no event had taken place to warn them of the hazard to which they were exposed.

About ten o'clock in the forenoon of the twenty-seventh of May, 1839, Doctor Hungerford, of Troy, N. Y. with Mr. Nile, of Columbus, O.

Falling of the Rocks.

and Mr. Lindsey, their guide, were viewing the river and Falls, near Ingraham's cave, below the point of Iris Island. Doct. Hungerford was standing between the guide and Mr. Nile. After looking awhile upon the scene, the guide concluded that all had been seen at that point interesting to the travellers, and remarked that they would now go to another place. At that instant, he saw the air filled with earth, and falling stones ; all endeavored to spring aside.— Doct. Hungerford fell. Mr. Lindsey immediately raised him, and, with the assistance of Mr. Nile, bore him to a more secure place. They were not at first aware of the fatal injury he had received. The rocks had struck him on the back of the head, and on his neck and shoulders. He breathed but a few times, and expired without a groan or the least convulsive motion. Mr. Lindsey, too, received several severe contusions, and had his coat and pantaloons torn, but did not notice his own bruises until some time after.

DEATH OF MISS MARTHA K. RUGG.



THE 23d day of August, 1844, Miss Martha K. Rugg, of Lancaster, Mass., arrived at Buffalo in company with an elderly gentleman of Detroit, in whose care Miss Rugg, was placed to accompany her on a visit to a sister living in Detroit. While at Buffalo they turned aside from the regular route to Detroit, to visit the Falls. They reached the Falls on the morning of the 24th of August and started immediately for Table Rock, on the Canada side of the Falls. On their way thither, as they were passing near the bank, about fifty rods below the Museum, Miss Rugg left the arm of the gentleman in company, and stepped to the edge of the bank to pluck some evergreens, when the earth slipped from under her, and she was precipitated one hundred and fifteen feet perpendicular, upon a bed of rocks: a horrid shriek from the unfortunate girl—a grasp from her protector

which caught the shawl from the shoulders of the sufferer, and all was over ! Horror seized upon every beholder : the unhappy news spread like the wind, and the whole neighborhood flew to their assistance. Fortunately, a physician, Dr. G. A. Sturgis, of New York city, on a visit to the Falls in company with a friend from Black Rock happened to be in the Museum at the time of the accident ; he, with many others descended the stairs at Table Rock, and passing over rocks, fallen cedars, and tangled underbrush, for one-fourth of a mile, they reached the fatal spot where lay the fair sufferer, and strange to say, upon the points of craggy rocks alive. At first she appeared to be dying, but upon Dr. Sturgis bleeding her, she came to her senses—spoke to those who had come to her assistance, saying “ Pick me up,” which was instantly done, and conveyed in their arms over the rough path to a boat, which had been brought for the purpose, by the ferry-man, into which she was placed and landed at the ferry landing, and from thence conveyed to the Clifton House.—She lived three hours from the time of the accident, having her reason to the last.

DEATH OF MR. ADDINGTON AND
MISS DEFOREST.

F all the accidents that ever happened at the Falls, one which occurred June 21st, 1849 is probably the most heart rending—whether in view of the youth, character and hopes of the two young persons whose awful fate many are called to mourn, or in its effect upon the bereaved relatives.

No event has occurred at Niagara Falls that caused such a feeling of real distress, grief and sorrow as this, and in giving the facts connected therewith, we cannot do better than to adopt the language of Miss Brown, daughter of Gen. Brown of Toledo, Ohio, who was one of the party, and who wrote the following account of the accident to her parents the following day.

After prefacing it in a very feeling manner to her parents Miss Brown, says. “ Our party

took tea with Mrs. Dr. Conger, after which we started for the Island. We were joined at the Cataract House by Messrs. Dennis Bowen, Mills and Addington ; Mr. DeForest had business at the Bridge, and Dr. C. took him down in his carriage. We proceeded to Goat Island where Mrs. DeForest Mrs. Miller and Mr. Bowen being fatigued, sat down on some seats, the others consisting of Mary Miller, Kate DeForest, Mr. Mills, Mr. Addington, Charles and Herman DeForest, Abby Miller, NETTIE DeFOREST and myself, proceeded to Lunar island. We frolicked about sometime, and rested on a beautiful green sward thirty feet square, and were just about starting for the main island when Addington caught Netty in his arms, and gave her a playful toss over the edge of the bank we were on—that is, he swung her out to frighten her—when he lost his balance, and they fell into the river, about 20 feet from the edge of the American fall. The water was shallow but the stones, were worn so smooth that it was impossible to obtain a footing particularly where the great force of the water swept by so swiftly. He struggled bravely, with her in his arms—once

he seemed to be nearing shore, when she got separated from him. He caught her again, but having only one hand to strike out with, they were carried down, locked in each other's arms, with their agonized faces turned constantly towards us, we saw them go over the Falls. Mrs. DeForest heard our shrieks, and sent Mr. Bowen to us. He reached the opening just in time to see them go over. Oh! God, may I be spared any more such scenes. The party had left the spot when I turned from the water. It was 8 o'clock in the evening—the woods were dark and gloomy. I soon overtook them, Charly. Heman and Kate, trying to explain to their mother the circumstances which she could not understand for their crying. Mrs. DeForest would walk back to the house, as there was no conveyance near, and she almost fainted at every step. Word was sent immediately to Mr. DeForest, who arrived in a few moments after her. We went to Dr. Conger's and spent the night. It is useless for me to attempt a description of the manner we passed the night. I can tell you nothing new, unless it be the sound of those waters dashing and tumbling themselves

Recovery of the Bodies.

down upon those precious bodies, all regardless of the agony they were causing. A search was begun this morning at three, and continued until six, at which hour the cars left for Buffalo, and as no trace was found of them it was thought best for the family to return, which we did, and arrived here at night.

Dr. Conger had the search kept up with a party of men, in the cove of the winds and by the steamer below. About 2 o'clock Mr. DeForest received a despatch saying the child was recovered—she was brought up by a party from the falls, and is now lying in the Parlor. It seems she was found lodged in a rock—her head and shoulders struck first; skull fractured and arm dislocated and broken, most of her brains were washed out, one stocking only was left on her feet. Dr. Conger, with great difficulty arranged her arms, and sewed up and patched the skin on her face, so that she looks natural.

The body of Mr. Addington was recovered a few days after the accident, and interred at Niagara Falls.