

GUIDE TO THE NIAGARA FALLS.

NIAGARA RIVER.

NIAGARA RIVER flows from lake Erie to Lake Ontario, a distance of thirty-five miles, and receives the waters of all the upper lakes, as Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, Nepissing, Superior, Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods, &c.

The river as it flows from Lake Erie is about three-fourths of a mile wide, and from thirty to fifty feet deep; it soon expands to a width of six or seven miles, and embraces, before it reaches the Falls, several large islands. Of these the largest are Grand and Navy Islands. The former commences five miles above the lake, is twelve miles in length and from two to six in width, and terminates two miles above the Falls, containing 100 acres. The land on this island is well timbered, rich and fertile. As the deepest channel of the river, forming the main line, runs on the west side, this Island until recently belonged to the state of New-York, and has been inhabited originally by squatters and smugglers; but in 1833, a company from Boston purchased nearly the whole of the Island, and in 1834, erecting upon it, near the site of the famous Jewett's mill, Ararat, projected in 1825 by Maj. Noah of New-York, a flouring mill, and a saw mill with thirteen sets of saws. Some of their village is "White-Haven." It is understood they intend to employ immediately some hundreds of men, in proportion, for the purpose of preparing and sending to the eastern cities a large quantity of ship-timber; but their ultimate object is, as the land becomes cleared, to have it settled by agricultural and industrious farmers, and to build up a large and thriving town.

In July 1759, during the old French war, two large French ships, in danger of being taken by the British, were burnt and sunk near the lower end of this island. Some parts of them are still visible; and not many years since a party of men, by raking the wreck at that place, secured a number of tons of iron.

Below the termination of Grand and Navy islands, the river is contracted to the width of two and a half miles, and the bed of the river soon commences a rapid descent to the Falls, making