

7 miles, the river is described in every description; and it is the principal landing place on Lake Ontario. On the American side stands the village of Port George.

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On the American side, is the island of Catlin's, considerably distinguished by commanding a most extensive view of Grand and Navy Islands opposite bank. Before the war, business between the islands was carried on by means of a carriage from this place.

The bank is Catlin's, and is a very regrettable loss. Two miles of the river are impregnated with sulphur, and the current runs in the middle ten feet of the river.

A tremendous whirlpool, rendered more dangerous by the operations, the celebrated logs and trees are driven down perpendicular for days together, and are drawn down perpendicular to the channel to pass out of the whirlpool at any other place in the river, and the current runs in the middle ten feet of the river.

By actual measurements, it is ascertained that here perhaps a hundred years ago, employed in cutting cedar. One of them, stepping into the water, was imperceptibly carried round and round, and crushed among the logs and snags on shore could

be seen. At length some of them ascending the bank, went down four miles, and procured a boat to be drawn up by ropes, poles, &c. to render assistance. After the boat was well secured, and some men had stepped in intending to enter the whirlpool, the man upon the log, still whirling in peril of his life, was, by some action of the water, sent back to the shore, and finally saved without receiving any injury.

Below the whirlpool is a place, on the American side, called "the Devil's Hole," embracing about two acres, cut out of the rock by the side of the river, and perpendicular in the rock by the side of the river, about 150 deep. How this hole was thus made it is difficult to say. Visitors look into it with silent, inexpressible awe.

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

He was by the name of Steadman, who lived at Fort Schlosser, and was a member of this company of British, but made his escape on horseback before coming to the bank, though many balls whizzed in his flight. The Indians afterwards imagined him to be invincible, and became very friendly, and finally, in consideration of some services he rendered them, they gave him the land included between Niagara River and a straight line from Gill Creek above Fort Schlosser to the Devil's Hole, embracing about 5000 acres. The heirs of Steadman so late as the year 1823, instituted and carried on a long and expensive suit with the State of New-York to recover this land. The suit resulted in favor of the State and the present occupation.

In the immediate vicinity of the Falls many circumstances have occurred here perhaps of great interest. During the last war between Great Britain, the battles of Chippewa, of Bridgewater or of the River, of Queenston on the Canada side; and the capture of villages and plunder of property on the American side, are remembered, and the circumstances detailed with thrilling interest by many of the inhabitants.

In 1797 a bridge was constructed from the shore to the head of the rapids, but was swept away by the ice the ensuing spring.