

ROUTE OF THE NIAGARA RIVER.

Niagara River, connecting Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, and forming the outlet of four of the five great American lakes, is 36 miles long, from 40 to 60 feet deep, and has a current (independent of the Falls,) of about four miles an hour. At its head it is about three-fourths of a mile wide; but after a course of about ten miles, it widens, and flowing in two distinct channels, forms several islands, the largest of which is Grand Island, 12 miles long, and from two to seven miles wide, and reaching within one and a half miles of the Falls. Navy Island, the next in importance, is much smaller; and the others are all very small.

Fort Erie, situated on the west side of Niagara river, nearly opposite Buffalo, is a place of interest to the reader of American History. On the 13th of August, the American troops under the command of General Gaines, being encamped at Fort Erie, were attacked by a British force numbering nearly twice as many as the Americans. Fort Erie at this time was not in reality a fort, but merely an encampment, affording the Americans no particular advantage, with regard to position or defense, more than an open field. The following account we abridge from a detail of the battle, in Frost's *REMARKABLE EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA*, by an officer who was engaged in the conflict:

"On the evening of the fourteenth, General Gaines having observed some signs of an approaching visit from the enemy, put his force in the best situation for giving them a proper reception.

"Accordingly to the orders of the British general, the attack was organized into three columns. The first, consisting of detachments to the amount of thirteen hundred men, was placed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fischer, of the King's regiment. Seven hundred picked men, under Lieutenant Colonel Drummond, composed the second or center column. And the one hundred and third regiment amounting to upward of eight hundred men, under the command of Colonel Scott, constituted the third. The points against which these columns were to move, were respectively the left flank, the fort, and the line between the fort and the lake; and the time fixed for the enterprise was an early hour on the morning of the fifteenth. Accordingly, about an hour and a half before day, the approach of an enemy was discovered on the road west of Towson's battery, and immediately after, the lines on that quarter were furiously assaulted by the enemy's first or second column. The infantry of our left, consisted at the time, of the twenty-first regiment, under the command of Major Wood, of the engineers; who instantly drew up