

NIAGARA FALLS.

conveying provisions and ammunition to the rebels, was cut adrift and sent afloat down the river, and over the Horse-Shoe Fall. Near the head of the Island the point may be seen where—before any bridges connected the Island with the mainland—Stedman, the occupier of the Island, crossed with his goats for pasture, hence the name Goat Island.

Fort Schlosser may be seen farther up the river, also on the American side, where La Salle, the great explorer, first founded a trading post. This fort has changed hands, first from the French to the British, and next from the British to the Americans. About this spot the vessel, (named the *Griffin*), which first navigated the river and lakes, was built. A Father Hennepin is said to have been the first white man who visited Niagara and saw the Falls, and who, like many who have succeeded him, published a very exaggerated account of them.

In wandering round Goat Island you have now reached the starting-point on it, viz., the Bridge at the Rapids, which you re-cross, and make direct for Point View.

POINT VIEW is situated close to the edge of the American Fall, and on the very brink of the precipice. From this point you get an excellent view of both Falls, but more particularly a distant view of the Horse-Shoe Fall. In the ferry-house at Point View there is a railway, down an incline of 1 in 31 feet. The cars are worked up and down by water power, and are completely under the control of those in charge. The fare for going up or down is 5 cents. At the bottom of the incline is the river, where boats may be hired to take you across to the Canada side of the river for 20 cents. Alongside of the railway incline, there are steps, up and down which parties may go free. The depth, to the edge of the water, is 260 feet—291 steps in all.

In the summer season a small steamer, called the "New Maid of the Mist," sails from the foot of the ferry stairs, up as near as possible to the base of the Horse-Shoe Fall. On proceeding on board you put on an oil-skin cloak and hood, which envelops the whole person, excepting the face; and, thus clad, you stand on deck, viewing the Falls, as the steamer makes her speedy trip, and as she rocks about amid the agitated water. Certainly the view is excellent, unless when the sun is shining out very strong, then much of the sight is lost, owing to that and the spray from the Falls falling so thickly upon the face and eyes. The sail is one only of a few minutes, nevertheless we recommend all to take a trip on board the little craft. Great vigilance and care is necessary in steering round the base of the Fall. When it has reached the middle of the Fall the steam is shut off, and then the boat is swung round and carried down by the current, when steam is put on, and she is turned round to the landing-point, ready to take on

board another lot of passengers. Fare for the trip 50 cents, (2s. 6d.).

In the ferry-house a beautifully clear stream of water, from the rock, is kept running continually, with tumblers provided for the use of visitors.

The Messrs. Porters, to whom the property belongs, have done much lately to improve the appearance of the place all around, and added greatly to the comfort and convenience of visitors, by providing seats, etc., etc.

Having spent some time at Point View, you may now proceed down the incline we have mentioned, cross the river in a small boat, and land on the Canadian side, near the Clifton House, on your road to a curiosity in its way—the Burning Springs—shown to strangers by an old native of Aberdeenshire, (Scotland).

Before reaching there, however, you will pass Table Rock—a view from off which will interest you.

TABLE ROCK, of which we give an illustration, is situated on the Canada side of the river, near the angle where the Horse-Shoe Fall pours over. It is a crag, which projects over the edge of the precipice, and is about 160 feet above the river. It is now much smaller than in former years, large portions having fallen away from it at different times. Near Table Rock there is another staircase, which you may descend and get a view from behind the great sheet of water which falls over the Horse Shoe, from off a narrow ledge of rock, called Termination Rock,* which, together with the ground all about it, shakes with the immense power of the water pouring down upon it. It is only, however, when the water is not very full, that this sight can be seen.

A favourite time with many for visiting the falls is at sunset, about which time some most beautiful phenomena are to be seen. Again, the view by moonlight is considered to be very fine, and presenting totally different features from any thing to be seen during the day. In winter time also, we understand, the Falls, together with the scenery around them, present sights well worth being seen by every tourist.

To reach Burning Springs it is a considerable walk round from the Clifton House, so that most parties engage a conveyance thither. The pedestrian, however, will enjoy the walk very much. The charge at the Burning Springs is 25 cents each.

BURNING SPRINGS.—From the sketch we give, readers at a distance will see an exact representation of where the Spring is exhibited, in an old wooden "shanty," pitch dark, but lighted up by the attendant, as he applies a light to the

* Since this was written, we understand that Termination Rock has been washed away—thus, we fear, depriving all in future of obtaining the view here alluded to.