

which to observe the *Rapids above the Falls*. The fall of the river from the head of the rapids (a mile above the Falls) to the edge of the precipice is nearly 60 feet; and the tumultuous madness of the waters, hurling and foaming in wayward billows and breakers down this descent, as if fretting with impatience, is a fine contrast to the uniform magnificent sweep with which at length they gush into the thundering flood below.

At the other end of the bridge, as seen in our Engraving, is *Bath Island*, connected with *Iris* or *Goat Island* by another bridge; and beyond Goat Island there are a few scattered rocks, which are connected with it by means of a third bridge. These rocks lie on the very brink of the precipice, between the *American Falls* and the *Horse-Shoe Fall*, and on them stands a tower named the *Terrapin Tower*, which commands a magnificent view of Niagara. But there are finer points of view than this. Moreover, we shall afterwards have to conduct our reader to various points of great interest on and around these islands, which, however, no one will feel disposed to visit until he has given his undivided attention to the wonderful Falls from the most striking points of view. We therefore recommend him not to cross over

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to Goat Island in the first instance, but, after having stood upon the bridge over the rapids above described, retrace his steps and hasten down the banks of the river a few hundred yards, to a spot named *Point View*.

Before proceeding thither, however, we may say a word or two in reference to the bridge we are about to leave. The elegant and substantial structure that now spans the river at this point, was erected by the Messrs. Porter, the proprietors of Goat Island. It is made of iron, on the plan of Whipple's iron-arched bridge, and is 360 feet long, having 4 arches of 90 feet span each. The width is 27 feet, embracing a double carriage-way of 16½ feet, and two foot-paths of 5½ feet each, with iron railings. All the materials used in its construction are of the best quality, and the strength of all the parts is much beyond what is considered necessary.

Visitors may cross and recross this bridge as often as they wish for 50 cents per day, or for one dollar for the whole season.

The first bridge that was thrown over these turbulent waters was constructed at the head of Goat Island in 1817. It was carried away by ice in the following spring, and was succeeded by another, which was built in 1818,