

CHAPTER XII.

ONONDAGA SALT SPRINGS.

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WHEN FIRST VISITED BY THE FRENCH—SALT MADE BY THE INDIANS—OWNED BY SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON—FIRST MANUFACTURERS—FEDERAL COMPANY—FIRST LAWS IN RESPECT TO SALT SPRINGS, PASSED 1797—FIRST SUPERINTENDENT—POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENT AND LESSEES—RULES OBSERVED IN MAKING AND PACKING SALT—COARSE SALT—PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURE—BORINGS—TABLE OF STATISTICS—LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND INSPECTORS—MODES OF MANUFACTURE—ONONDAGA LAKE—FORMATION OF THE ONONDAGA VALLEY.—ILLUSTRATIONS—DR. WM. KIRKPATRICK.

As an object of Natural History, the Onondaga Salt Springs are among the most singular and valuable productions with which bountiful nature has enriched our country.

As an object of Chemistry, they are equally interesting, as affording an accurate analysis of the waters, ascertaining the various heterogeneous substances which they hold in solution, and the just proportions of each.

As an object of political interest, they deserve particular consideration, as affording a vast revenue to the State, giving employment to thousands of her citizens, and supplying our extensive country with salt of its own manufacturing.

On all these points, they are of increasing interest and of the highest importance, not only to our country, but to the State at large.

These springs are centrally situated in the county of Onondaga, on the banks of the Onondaga Lake, from the village of Liverpool, around the southern end of the lake to the