

NIAGARA FALLS.

course for about 22 miles, where it is divided, by Goat Island, into two falls—the one forming a fall in a straight line, called the **AMERICAN FALL**, as it falls on the United States side of the River, and the other in a sort of semi-circular form, or, as it has been called the **HORSE-SHOE FALL**, on the Canada side of the river.

The American Fall is about 900 feet wide, with a descent, in one unbroken sheet, of 163 feet perpendicular.

The Canadian or Horse-Shoe Fall is about 2,000 feet wide, with a fall of 155 feet. The total descent of the water from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario is 334 feet. Such is the great action of the water upon the precipice over which it falls—as well as upon the embankments upon both sides of the river—it is estimated that about one foot is worn away annually, and that the falls have receded during the course of ages—estimated by geologists at 37,000 years—from Queenstown, 7 miles below, to where they are at present.

With these preliminary remarks, we shall proceed to describe the most important objects of interest, addressing ourselves as if the reader were on a visit there.

As one very common route for strangers who wish to “do” the Falls in the most methodical and particular manner, we subjoin the following, which can be adopted, either in whole or in part, by the tourist, as he may feel disposed.

Supposing, then, that you are on the American side of the river, you proceed to **GOAT ISLAND**. In proceeding thither you cross the bridge of 3 arches, which spans the river, to Bath Island, from off which you get an excellent view of the Rapids, as they come rushing along, as if bent on sweeping away the bridge, and every thing on it, before them down the stream and over the fall. Arrived across the bridge, you enter a cottage, register your name, and pay a toll of 25 cents, (1s. 6d.,) which will admit you to cross and re-cross during the whole season. Passing on, you may observe, to your right hand, the paper works which were burned down last autumn. Passing them, you cross another small bridge, and then enter upon the beautiful grounds of Goat Island. Turning to the right hand, you proceed to the “Hog’s Back,” and across a small bridge to “Luna Island,” which divides a small portion of the American Fall. An excellent view is there obtained of the American Fall, and scenery up and down the river.

After leaving Luna Island, you proceed through Goat Island, keeping on the walk nearest the river, towards the Canadian Fall. Before reaching there, however, you descend Biddle’s Stairs (named after Mr. Biddle, of Philadelphia, who built them) to the Cave of the Winds.

CAVE OF THE WINDS.—Reaching the bottom of Biddle’s Stairs you proceed by a narrow foot path towards the American Fall, behind which

the Cave is situated. There you are provided with a waterproof dress, and obtain a magnificent view of the Fall as it thunders down from above and in front of you. Charge for loan of dress, \$1.00 (4s. 6d.). The Cave is 130 feet high, 100 feet wide, and 30 feet deep.

Retracing your steps to Biddle’s Stairs, but before reascending them, you can have an excellent view of the Horse-Shoe Fall, as seen from the edge of the river. After regaining the top of these stairs you may be disposed to rest. Plenty of seats are to be found close at hand, where you may rest and admire the scene around and in front of you. Proceeding from there, you now follow the path towards the grandest point of all, the Terrapin Bridge, (Terrapin signifies Turtle,) and Prospect Tower. (See engraving.)

TERRAPIN BRIDGE, AND PROSPECT TOWER.—Arrived at the edge of the river, as it sweeps rapidly past, you proceed along the wooden bridge, which extends to the base of the Tower. At every step, you may be apt to pause and admire the grandeur of the scene. From the base of the Tower a magnificent view of the river and rapids are to be seen; but you now ascend to the top of Prospect Tower, up through a narrow spiral staircase, and, once outside on the top, it is then and there, in our opinion, that the true grandeur of the Horse-Shoe Fall is to be seen, as its mighty volume of 670,000 tons of water comes rushing along every minute, and falls with a continuous roar over the precipice of 155 feet deep, down into the gorge below, where the river has been estimated to be 250 feet deep. The vast volume of water—the magnificent view down the river to Suspension Bridge—the rapids coming down the cataract behind you—together with the scenery on every side—will all combine to entrance you to the spot with admiration and delight, and render you almost unwilling to leave a scene so grand and inspiring.

Retracing your steps towards Goat Island, you next proceed to the Three Sisters—three islands which stand out in the river, and named, respectively, “Moss Island,” “Deer Island,” and “Allan’s Island.” Between the first of the Three Sisters and Goat Island is the “Hermit’s Cascade,” named after a religious hermit, who became so enamoured with the spot that he took up his abode and lived there for some time, in Robinson Crusoe fashion, till one day he was *non est*, it being supposed he had ventured too far upon a particular log of wood, which capsized him into a watery grave.

The walk around Goat Island will be highly appreciated. Some charming nooks of great beauty are there, whilst from the head of the Island is to be seen, 24 miles up the river, Chippewa; and, four miles from there, Navy Island, belonging to Canada, which was occupied by the Canadian patriots of 1837-8. From there, also, the steamer *Caroline* which was