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EXPLANATION OF THE ENGRAVING.

1.—*Goat Island.*

AN island, about half a mile in length, inserted like a wedge between the Falls, presenting its broadest end, which is about 1320 feet, to the precipice; it is thickly covered with wood, and exhibits a variety of romantic scenery. It is approached over two bridges thrown from the main shore to Bath Island, and from Bath Island to this. A path winds round it, from which various other paths diverge to the most advantageous points for viewing the Rapids and Falls.

It is reported that this island was first visited during the Canadian war of 1755, by General Putnam, who, in consequence of a wager having been laid that no man in the army would dare to attempt a descent upon it, made a successful effort; he dropped down the river, from a considerable distance above, in a boat, strongly secured by ropes to the shore, by which means he was afterwards safely landed. When the island was first explored, after the construction of the bridge from the main shore, many dates were found cut upon the trees, one of which was as early as 1745.

A young Englishman, named Francis Abbot, of respectable connections, either through misfortune or a morbid state of mind, which made him desire seclusion, took up his residence on this island, and in the neighborhood of the Falls, for two years; and became so fascinated with the solitude and the scenery, that no inducement could divert his thoughts, or draw him from the spot, where he acquired the name of the "Hermit of the Falls." The following account of him is condensed from one furnished by Mr. Ingraham.

He arrived at the Falls, on foot, in June, 1829, dressed in a loose gown or cloak of a chocolate color, carrying under his arm a roll of blankets, a flute, a portfolio, and a large book, which constituted the whole of his baggage. He took up his abode, in the first instance, in the small inn of Ebenezer O'Kelly, on the New York side, stipulating that the room he occupied should be exclusively his own, that he should have his table to himself, and that certain parts of his cooking only should be done by his host. He then repaired to the library, where he gave his name, and took out a book, purchased a violin, and borrowed some music-books. The following day he again visited the library, expatiated largely, with great ease and ability, on the beautiful scenery of the Falls, and declared his intention of remaining at least a week; for "a traveller might as well," he said, "in two days examine in detail the various museums and curiosities of Paris, as become acquainted with the splendid scenery of Niagara in the same space of time." On a subsequent visit, he declared his intention of staying at least a month, perhaps six. Shortly after, he determined on fixing his abode on Goat Island, and was desirous of erecting a hut, in which he might live quite secluded. The proprietor of the island did not think proper to grant this request, but permitted him to occupy a small room in the only house on the island, the family in which occasionally furnished him with bread and milk, though he more generally dispensed with these, providing, and always cooking, his own food. During the second winter of his seclusion, the family removed, and to the few persons with whom he held communication, he expressed great satisfaction at being able to live alone. For some months he enjoyed this seclusion; but another family having entered the house, he quitted the island, (having resided on it twenty months,) and built himself a small hut on the main shore, about thirty rods below the Schlosser Fall. He lived to occupy his new residence only about two months. On the 10th of June, 1831, he was seen to bathe twice, and was observed by the ferry-man to enter the water a third time about two o'clock in the afternoon: his clothes remaining for some

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