

by rail from Albany. Being a fashionable place of resort during summer and autumn, the *Hotels* at this village are excellent in all respects, and most agreeable abodes for those who intend to sojourn for a time within sound of the Falls. The chief of them are the *Cataract House* and the *International Hotel*, two magnificent houses in which every comfort is combined with elegance. The *Cataract House* is situated at the head of Main Street, overlooking the American Rapids. From the parlours of this famous hotel, one of which is 40 feet by 60, with a 22 feet ceiling, a fine view is had of the Rapids, Goat Island, the Bridge, and the Canada shores, considered among the principal features of Niagara. Conveyances may be had from any of the above hotels to all parts of Niagara. But we are too near the Falls to linger here. Pushing forward down the street leading between the two hotels just mentioned, we come into full view of the river at the point where it is spanned by the

CAST-IRON BRIDGE OVER THE RAPIDS.

Here the first perceptions of power and grandeur begin to awaken in our minds. The noble river is seen hurrying on towards its final leap; and, as we stand upon the bridge looking down upon the gushing flood of water, that seems as if it would sweep away our frail standing ground and hurl us over the dread precipice whose rounded edge is but a few yards further down, we begin, though feebly as yet, to realize the immensity of this far-famed cataract.