

in about three-fourths of a mile a descent of about fifty-two feet and forming by the beautiful rapids a very important part of the grand and unparalleled curiosities of this river.

THE RAPIDS.

Three miles above the Falls you see the white crested rapids dashing, foaming, and tossing sometimes 20 and sometimes 30 feet from the main current; and at the same time hear a low monotonous, tremendous roar; and as you approach nearer, feel a tremulous motion of the earth. The distance at which the roar can be heard, varies with the state of the atmosphere, from three to twenty miles; and the mist, arising like curling smoke and separating as it rises into masses of fantastic clouds, is seen at the distance of many miles around.

GOAT, OR IRIS ISLAND.

GOAT ISLAND is so called from the circumstance, that about the year 1770 Mr. Steadman, residing near the Falls, contrived by some means, to land a few goats upon this island; but a more appropriate and adapted name is Iris island. It commences near the head of the rapids almost in the middle of the river and runs to the precipice; and contains about seventy-five acres of rich and heavy timbered land.

Situated in the midst of the rapids and surrounded by them on three sides, this island is one of the most beautiful, fascinating and romantic places in the world. Fanned by gentle breezes, free from insects, encircled by a neat gravel walk, and presenting to the visitor a great variety of views of the Falls and rapids, he feels a reluctance on leaving it, and is wont to exclaim with Milton,

"Must I thus leave thee, Paradise?
—these happy walks and shades,
Fit haunt of Gods?" &c.

About two thirds of this island are still covered with tall trees many of which are clothed with a magnificent drapery of ivy and other creeping plants, and many have been killed by reason of the countless names that have been cut into their bark. The earliest date of any name yet found is in the year 1769; but on the rocks near the Falls on the American side, there are names chiseled out and dated 1711, 1726, 1745, &c. A number of human skeletons have been dug up within a few years on Goat Island, supposed to be the remains of Indians buried in a former