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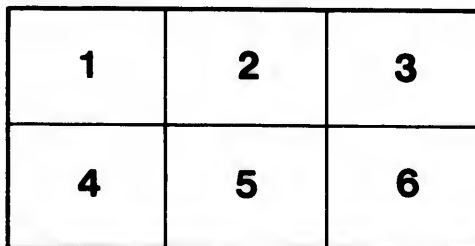
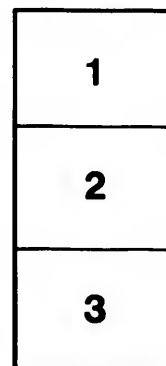
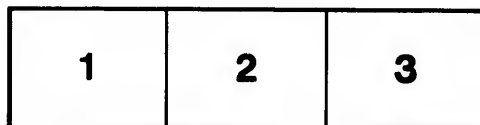
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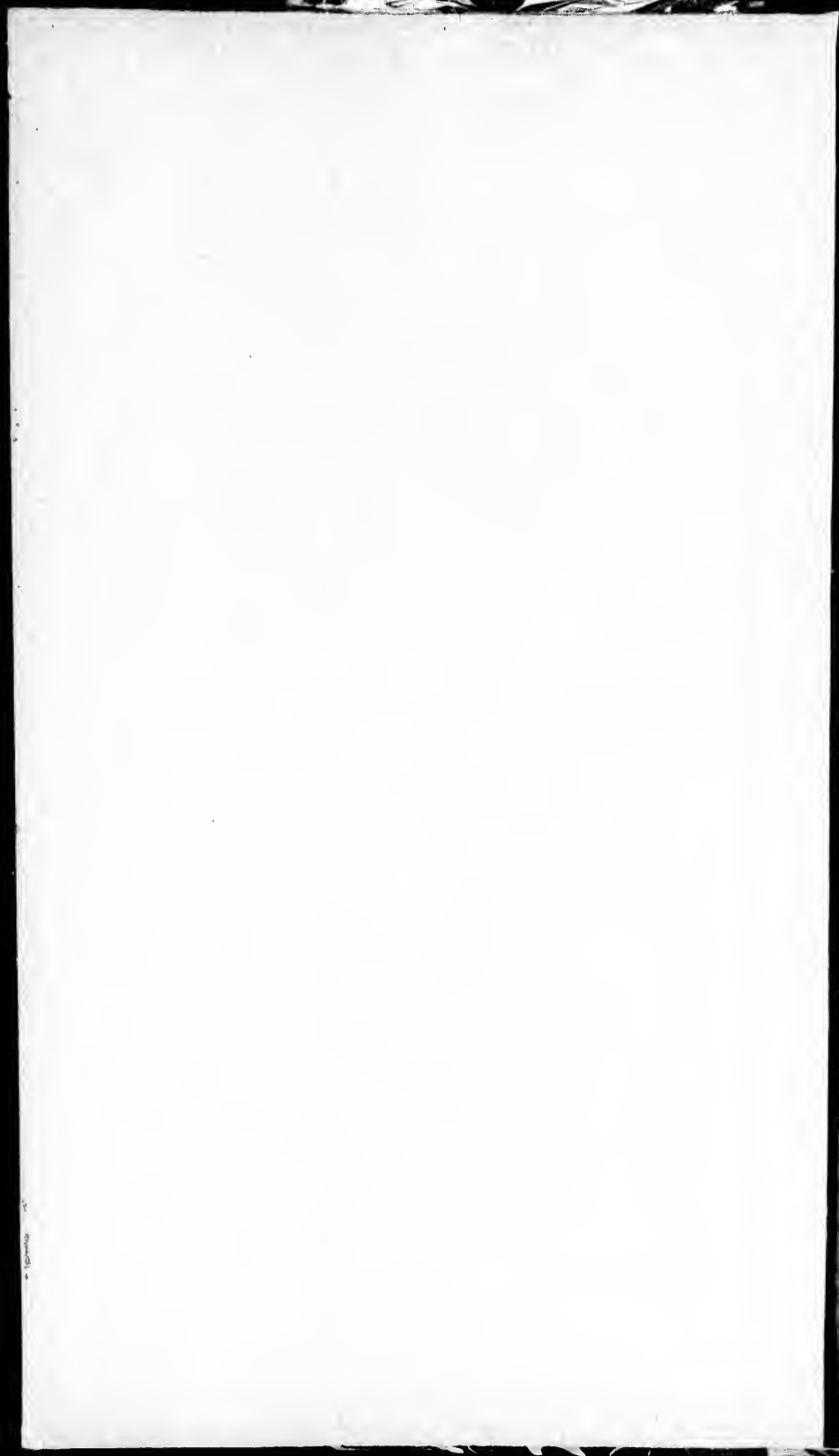
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**DESCRIPTION**  
**OF**  
**A VIEW OF THE**  
**FALLS OF NIAGARA.**

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*The* EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE  
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



*Queen's University at Kingston*



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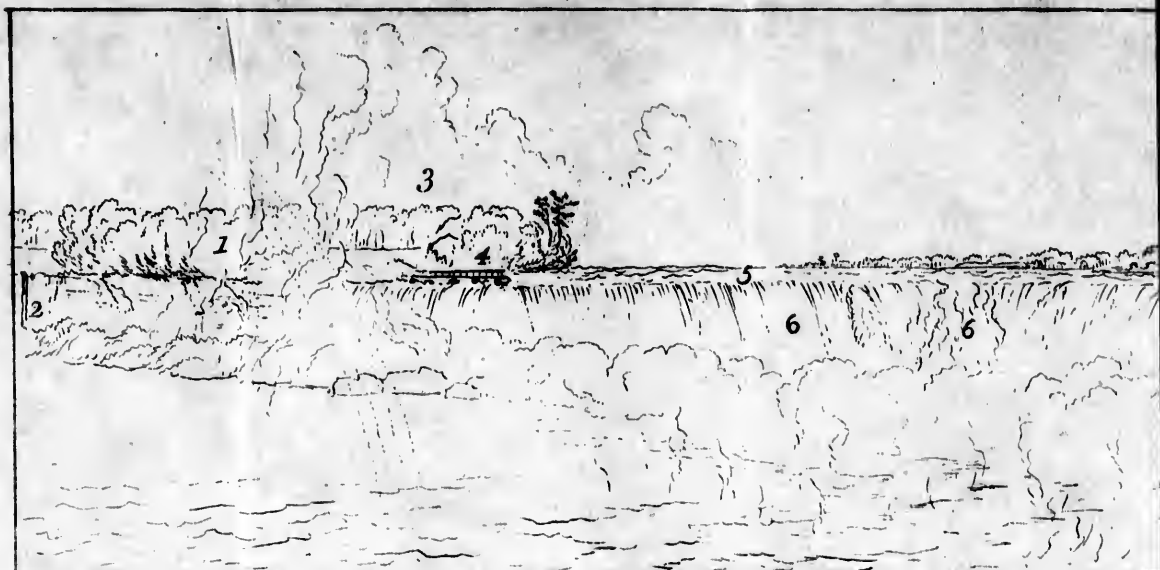
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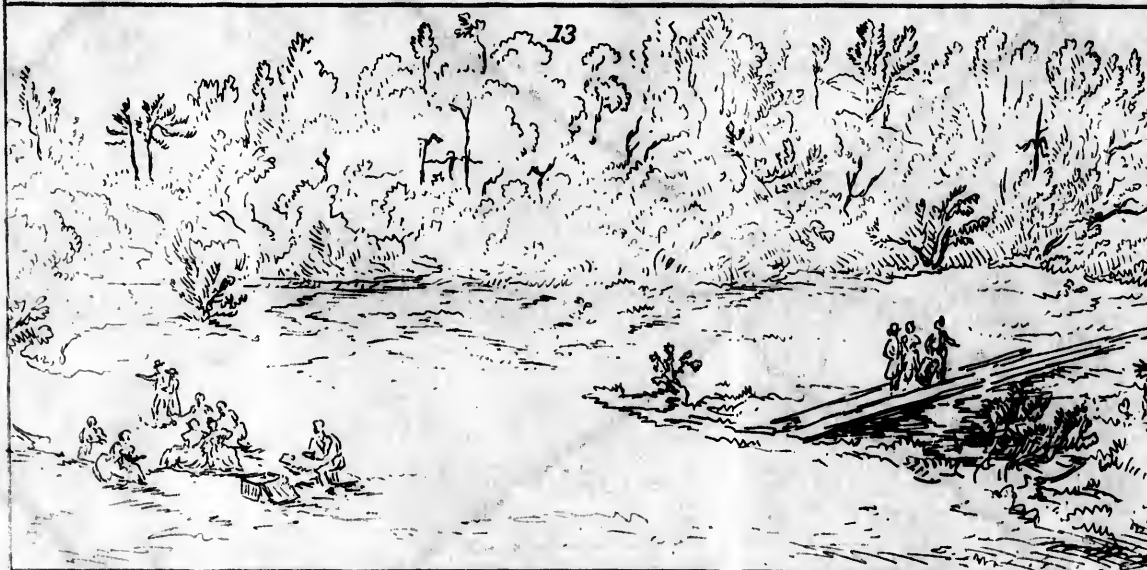


*Explanation of a VIEW of THE FALLS of NIAGARA*



1 Goat Island  
2 Biddle Staircase  
3 Column of Vapour  
4 Bridge over Terrapin Rocks

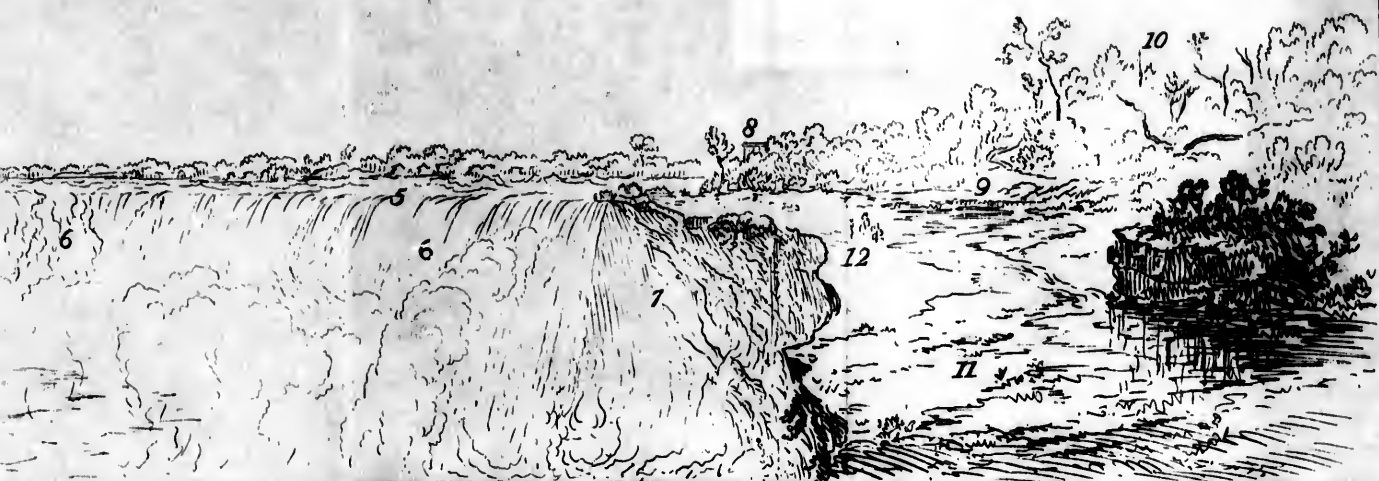
5 Rapids  
6 Horse Shoe Fall  
7 Cavern



13 Heights on which it is proposed  
to Erect the City of the Falls  
14 Guides House  
15 New Staircase

16 Old Staircase  
17 Table Rock  
18 Path to the Ferry  
19 Ferry

SS of NIAGARA Exhibiting at the PANORAMA, Charles Street, Boston.



8 Ontario Hotel

Pathway from Pavilion Hotel  
to the Table Rock

10 Pavilion Hotel

11 Part of the Table Rock

12 Party of Native Indians



20 Niagara County

21 Descent to the Ferry

22 Schlosser Fall

23 Prospect Island

21 Village of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

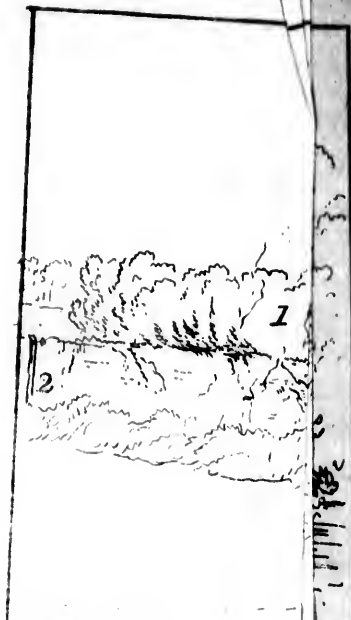
25 Central Fall - 26 Entrance to Cave of the Winds

Part of the Table Rock

27 Which fell in July 1818

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VIEW

OF THE

FALLS OF NIAGARA,

NOW EXHIBITING

AT

THE PANORAMA, BROADWAY,

CORNER OF PRINCE AND MERCER STREETS,

NEW YORK.



PAINTED BY ROBERT BURFORD,

FROM DRAWINGS TAKEN BY HIM IN THE AUTUMN OF 1832.



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## THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

"The roar of waters!—from the headlong height  
[Niagara] cleaves the wave-worn precipice;  
The fall of waters!—rapid as the light,  
The flashing mass foams, shaking the abyss;  
The hell of waters!—where they howl and hiss,  
And boil in endless torture; while the sweat  
Of their great agony, wrung out from this  
Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks of jet  
That gird the gulf around, in pitiless horror set,

"And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again  
Returns in an unceasing shower, which round  
With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain  
Is an eternal April to the ground,  
Making it all one emerald!—how profound  
The gulf! and how the giant element  
From rock to rock leaps with delirious bound,  
Crushing the cliffs, which, downward worn and rent  
With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a fearful vent

"To the broad column which rolls on, and shows  
More like the fountain of an infant sea  
Torn from the womb of mountains by the throes  
Of a new world, than only thus to be  
Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly,  
With many windings, through the vale!—Look back!  
Lo! where it comes like an eternity,  
As if to sweep down all things in its track,  
Charming the eye with dread—a matchless cataract,

"Horribly beautiful! but on the verge,  
From side to side, beneath the glittering morn,  
An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,  
Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, unworn  
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn  
By the distracted waters, bears serene  
Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn;  
Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene,  
Love watching Madness with unalterable mien."

BYRON.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA are justly considered one of the greatest natural curiosities in the known world; they are without parallel, and exceed immeasurably all of the same kind that have ever been seen or imagined; travellers speak of them in terms of admiration and delight, and acknowledge that they surpass in sublimity every description which the power of language can afford; a Panorama\*

\* An intelligent traveller says, "All parts of the Niagara are on a scale which baffles every attempt of the imagination, and it were ridiculous therefore to think of describing it; the ordinary means of description—I mean analogy, and direct comparison with things which are more accessible—fail entirely in the case of that amazing cataract, which is altogether unique; yet a great deal, I am certain, might be done by a well-executed Panorama: an artist well versed in this peculiar sort

alone offers a scale of sufficient magnitude to exhibit at one view (which is indispensable) the various parts of this wonderful scene, and to convey any adequate idea of the matchless extent, prodigious power, and awful appearance, of this stupendous phenomenon of nature; but the scene itself must be visited, to comprehend the feeling it produces, and to appreciate the petrifying influence of the tremendous rush of water, the boiling of the mighty flood, and the deep and unceasing roar of the tumultuous abyss; "it strikes upon the soul a sense of majestic grandeur, which loss of life or intellect can alone obliterate."

The drawings for the present Panorama were taken near the Table Rock—a commanding situation, affording the most comprehensive, and, at the same time, one of the finest views of this imposing scene. Immediately in front of the spectator, are the Falls, in simple and sublime dignity, an ocean of waters three quarters of a mile in width, precipitated with astonishing grandeur, in three distinct and collateral streams, down a stupendous precipice upwards of 150 feet in height, on the rocks below, from which they rebound, converted, by the violence of the concussion, into a broad sheet of foam as white as snow; pyramidal clouds of vapor or spray rise majestically in misty grandeur from the abyss, sparkling here and there with prismatic colors, and a rainbow of extraordinary beauty, and peculiar brilliancy, heightens the scene, by spanning the Great Fall. Above are seen the agitated billows, and white-crested breakers of the Rapids, tumultuously hurrying towards the precipice, bounded on the one side by the luxuriant foliage of Goat Island, and on the other by the fertile and thickly-wooded shores of Upper Canada. Below, the river winds in a stream, bright, clear, and remarkably green, between bold and rugged banks, richly colored by both wood and rock. The surrounding scenery, although it must be viewed with comparative indifference, whilst the mind is absorbed in contemplating the grandeur and extent of the cataract, is also in excellent keeping; stupendous and lofty banks, immense fragments of rock in fantastic forms, impenetrable woods approaching their very edge, the oak, ash, cedar, maple, and other forest trees of extraordinary growth and singular shape, the pine, and various evergreens, brushwood peeping from the fissures, and beautiful creeping plants clinging to the perpendicular sides of the rocks, presenting a vast variety of foliage and diversity of hue, rendered still more pleasing by the first frosts of autumn having changed the leaves of some of the more tender to every shade of color, from the brightest yellow to the deepest crimson, thus combining every thing that is essential to constitute the sublime, the terrific, and the picturesque.

The Niagara strait—which forms the boundary line between the British possessions and the United States—is a grand natural canal, by which the superabundant waters of Lake Erie are poured into Lake Ontario. It is a continuation of the River St. Lawrence. Its length from lake to lake is 37 miles, following the windings of the stream, its general course being northerly, and it varies in breadth from 30 rods to 7 or 8 miles.\* In this distance the water sustains a fall of 334 feet, thus calculated:—between Lake Erie and the Rapids, 16 feet; in the Rapids, 58 feet; in the Crescent Fall, 154 feet; and the remainder before it reaches Lake Ontario. In the early part of its course, the river is broad and tranquil, and presents a scene of the most profound repose, its waters being nearly level with its shores, and the large and beautiful island, Owanungah, dividing it into two streams for a considerable distance. At Chippewa and

of painting, might produce a picture which would probably distance every thing else of the kind."

"The task must be done by a person who shall go to the spot for the express purpose, making the actual drawings, which he himself is afterwards to convert into a Panorama, which, if well executed, could not fail to impart some portion of the pleasure communicated by the reality."

The same traveller, having seen the painting in progress, has expressed the following opinion:—"The Panorama of Niagara, though not completed, is sufficiently advanced to enable any one who has seen it to judge of the effect; and I have no hesitation in saying, you have accomplished a task which I hardly hoped to see executed; I think your painting gives not only an exceedingly accurate, but a most animated view of the Falls."

\* Its greatest width is across the centre of Owanungah, or Grand Island, which is about 6½ miles across, and divides the river into two parts for about 10 miles, the branch on each side of it being from ¼ to 1 mile in width. The broadest expanse of water is below Grand Island, where it resembles a beautiful bay, about 2½ miles broad.—*Ingraham's Manual*.

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Schlosser, about two miles above the Falls, where the navigation ends, a considerable current is perceptible, and the glassy smoothness is disturbed by slight ripples; the shores now contract considerably, and the bed of the river begins to slope; the water shortly after becomes much agitated, and the magnificent Rapids commence; rock after rock chafes the stream, which becomes perfectly white, and rushes with frightful velocity to the edge of the precipice, over which it plunges in an unexampled volume, with terrific impetuosity, being unquestionably the greatest mass of water that is poured down any fall, either in the new or old world. The quantity of water thus projected is computed to be not less than one hundred millions of tons per hour.\* However great this quantity may seem, yet it is probably not overrated; for it must be remembered, that the four great lakes, which, from their size, might be more properly termed inland seas, with all the numerous and large rivers which flow into them, covering a surface of 150,000 square miles, and containing nearly one half of the fresh water on the face of the globe, have only this one outlet for their superfluous waters.† The tremendous roar of this great body of water dashing into the abyss below, is of a most extraordinary description, difficult to explain, not altogether deafening, and, although monotonous, it does not produce disagreeable sensations. Immediately after the fall, the river subsides from this state of sublime agitation, and then again rolls with impetuous velocity, in a narrow channel, through a deep dell, bordered by rugged and perpendicular banks, as far as Queenston and Lewiston.

From Lake Erie to Lewiston and Queenston, the face of the country presents the appearance of a vast level plain, with the exception of the space between Chippewa and the Falls, where, in about two miles, the ground rises about 125 feet, and the river, as before mentioned, descends about 58; just above Queenston and Lewiston, this table land abruptly terminates, and sinks to a plain about 100 feet above the level of Lake Ontario. Over this precipice, it is by some supposed that the river, in remote ages, poured its waters; and that its continued and violent action has gradually worn away the rocks, and carried back the Falls to their present situation. But a different opinion has been held by others, and much has been written to prove that the river flows through a natural ravine. Through the whole length of the ravine, the horizontal strata present the same appearance on both its sides; the upper rock (beneath the common diluvium or superficial soil of the country) being brown fetid limestone, (the "geodiferous limerock" of Eaton,) 70 or 80 feet thick, lying upon an argillo-calcareous slate, ("calcareous slate" of Eaton,) or shale, which is about 80 feet in thickness. Under this reposes a series of arenaceous rocks, highly ferruginous in their superior portions, and very argillaceous in the inferior. By the violent blasts of wind, which arise from the abyss, and the continual action of the water, the shale is rapidly worn away, and the mass of limestone, being left without a foundation, falls, from time to time, in enormous masses, particularly after severe frosts. A person who had resided at the Falls for 36 years, declared that they had receded within his memory 40 or 50 yards, which was corroborated by another, who had been in the neighborhood for 40 years.‡ An immense portion broke from the Horse-shoe Fall on the 28th of December, 1828, and tumbled into the abyss with a shock like an earthquake. It would be difficult to form a reasonable calculation as to the period which has elapsed since the waters first began to open the gorge, admitting that they have thus cut their way back. Professor Lyell computes that, if the ratio of retrocession has never been exceeded, it must have required nearly 10,000 years for the

\* Dr. Dwight calculates the river at the ferry, seven furlongs wide, and 25 feet deep, running never less than six miles per hour: the quantity of water that passes in that time is consequently above 102,000,000 of tons a voidupois.

† Lake Superior, the largest fresh-water lake in the world, is 1750 miles in circumference; its mean depth is 900 feet, its greatest depth 1200 feet; and its surface is 641 feet above the level of the sea. Lake Huron is 1000 miles in circumference; has about the same depth as Lake Superior, and is 596 feet above the level of the sea: Lake Michigan has the same level and depth as Lake Huron, and is 731 miles in circumference: Lake Erie is 658 miles in circumference, 565 feet above the sea, and has only a mean depth of 120 feet.

‡ These recessions, however, were in the angle or curve of the Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall; but there is no evidence that there has been any recession at the sides of the Falls, within the memory of man.



excavation ; and, by the same calculation, it will require at least 30,000 to reach Lake Erie ; but when the river was confined to a narrower channel, the operation might have been much quicker. The distance from the mouth of the ravine is nearly seven miles, the average breadth 1200 feet. Up to the period when Goat Island divided the Fall, the whole force of the water would have been exerted on this surface ; since that time, the operative power of the water has been extended to nearly 3500 feet : this diminished action would necessarily be attended by a retardation in the retrocession of the cataract. The Fall has also reached a point where, in addition to the thickness of the limestone beds, numerous layers of chert give additional strength and durability.

A communication has within a few years been opened between the western lakes and the sea, by the grand Erie Canal, from Lake Erie to the Hudson, and by the Welland Canal, between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The Welland Canal commences at Port Colburn, in Gravelly Bay, passes the river Chippewa by means of a noble aqueduct, and enters Lake Ontario at Port Dalhousie. The work was commenced in 1824, and was completed in five years ; it is 43 miles in length, 58 feet in width, and 8½ feet in depth ; it admits vessels of 125 tons burden ; the whole descent is 342 feet, which is accomplished by 37 locks. At the Deepcut, about 8 miles from the Falls, 1,477,700 cubic feet of earth were removed ; and at the Mountain Ridge, where the descent is made, 70,000 cubic yards of rock. The idea originated with Mr. W. H. Merritt, of St. Catherine's, and the work was planned and accomplished, with the assistance of the British government, by the Canada Land Company, at the expense of £200,000. This canal is now the property of the government.

Little was known of the Falls of Niagara previous to the commencement of the last century. They were described by Father Hennepin in 1678, and by La Hontan in 1687. In the latter part of the last century, they were visited by several travellers ; but it is only within a few years that they have been a fashionable place of resort. The number of visitors is now probably from 20,000 to 30,000 annually ; and each successive year greatly outnumbers its predecessor.

The immediate neighborhood of the Falls, and the banks of the strait, have been the scenes of a succession of actions, attended with the horrors of civil war, between the British and American troops in 1812—1814, particularly four desperate encounters in July, August, and September, of the latter year.

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NOTE.—For most of the data in this Description, we are indebted to the valuable "*Manual for the Use of Visitors to the Falls of Niagara*," &c., by Mr. JOSEPH W. INGRAHAM, of Boston ; which we have been kindly permitted by the author to use for this purpose ; and to which we would refer for a more full description of this great wonder of the world. Mr. Ingraham has been engaged for four years in preparing an extensive work descriptive of these Falls, and the country adjacent to them, which is expected soon to issue from the press, and which is to be accompanied by copious Maps, Plans, Elevations, Profiles, Views, &c.

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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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hours where he had deposited them, an alarm was created, and an ineffectual search was made for him. On the 21st, his body was taken out of the river at Fort Niagara, and, the next day, was decently interred in the burial-ground near the Falls.

When his hut was examined, his faithful dog was found guarding the door, and was with difficulty persuaded aside while it was opened; his cat occupied his bed; his guitar, violin, flutes, music-books, and portfolio, were scattered around in confusion, but no papers relative to himself, or throwing any light upon his extraordinary character, were to be found. He was a gentleman of highly-cultivated mind and manners, and finished education; master of several languages; well versed in the arts and sciences, and possessing, in an eminent degree, all the minor accomplishments of the gentleman. He performed on various musical instruments with great taste, and his drawings were very spirited. Many years of his life had been spent in travelling. He had visited Egypt and Palestine; had travelled through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France; and had resided for considerable periods of time in Rome, Naples, and Paris. In all his travels, he said, he had never met with any thing that would compare, in sublimity, with the Falls of Niagara, except Mount *Ætna* during an eruption. While at the Falls, business occasionally brought him in contact with some of the inhabitants, with a few of whom he would sometimes be sociable: to all others he was distant and reserved. At such times, his conversation would be of the most interesting kind, and his descriptions of people and countries were highly glowing and animated. But, at times, even with these, he would hold no conversation, communicating his wishes on a slate, and desiring not to be spoken to. Sometimes, for three or four months together, he would go unshaved, often with no covering on his head, his body enveloped in a blanket, shunning all, and seeking the deepest solitudes of Goat Island. He was about twenty-eight years of age, in person tall and well made, and of handsome features. When obliged to have any intercourse with others, he was generous in paying for all favors and services, never receiving any thing without making immediate payment. He had a deep and abiding sense of religious duty and decorum; was mild in his behavior, and inoffensive in his conduct. Religion was a subject which he appeared well to understand, and highly to appreciate. The charity he asked from others, he extended to all mankind.

Many spots on Goat Island are consecrated to his memory; at the upper end, he established his promenade, which became hard-trodden and well-beaten, like that in which the sentinel performs his round of duty. Between Goat and Moss Islands, embowered in seclusion and shade, is one of the most romantic and charming cascades imaginable. This was his favorite retreat for bathing, where he resorted at all seasons of the year, even in the coldest weather, when there was snow on the ground, and ice on the river. On Terrapin Bridge it was his daily practice to walk for hours together, from one extremity to the other, with a quick pace; and sometimes he would let himself down at the end of the projecting timber, which extends ten or fifteen feet beyond the Fall, and hang under it by his hands and feet over the terrific precipice, for fifteen minutes at a time. To the inquiry why he thus exposed himself, he would reply, that in crossing the ocean, he had frequently seen the sea-boy, "on the high and giddy mast," perform far more perilous acts, and, as he should probably again pass the sea himself, he wished to inure himself to such dangers. If the nerves of others were disturbed, his were not. In the wildest hours of the night, he was often found walking alone, and without fear, in the most dangerous places near the Falls; and, at such times, he would shun approach, as if he had a dread of man.

## 2.—Biddle Staircase.

Constructed in the year 1829, at the expense of Nicholas Biddle, Esq., of Philadelphia, to facilitate the descent to the rocks at the foot of Goat Island, where magnificent and much-admired views of the Falls are obtained. The island is 185 feet above the gulf; the first 44 feet of the descent is in the alluvial soil and rock; the next 88 is a spiral wooden staircase, and the remaining distance the descent is by the sloping bank, in every direction, over immense fragments of rock, which have been broken off and tumbled from the ledge above. The construction of this descent has opened one of the finest fishing places in this part of the Union; the water being the resort of various fish which come up from Lake Ontario, and are stopped by the Falls. The notorious Sam Patch leaped from a ladder, 97 feet high, into the smooth water in front of this staircase, in October, 1829, and received no injury.

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### 3.—Column of Vapor.

The mighty clouds of vapor which are thrown up from the Falls move with the wind, and descend in a misty shower like rain; they are seen from a very great distance, appearing like a pillar of smoke. When the sun and the position of the observer are favorable, they present a remarkably beautiful appearance, sparkling like diamonds, with occasional flashes of the most brilliant colors, and a splendid rainbow.

### 4.—Terrapin Bridge.

A singular bridge or pier, 300 feet in length, has been constructed upon what are called the Terrapin Rocks, where a single piece of timber actually projects over the edge of the Great Fall about 10 feet. Although the prodigious magnitude of the falling water is not so apparent as from below, yet, from the extremity of this bridge, standing, as it were, in the very midst of the mighty flood, the scene is terrific and appalling, and cannot be viewed without astonishment and awe, not unmingled with fear. A late writer says, "If the visitor is alone, and gives way to his feelings, he must fall on his knees, for the grandeur of the scene is overpowering."

### 5.—Rapids.

Before approaching the precipice, over which the water is precipitated, the river sinks, in little more than half a mile, 58 feet, and the stratum of limestone, which forms its bed, is intersected with seams and patches of hard, dark-colored chert. Through this channel of rugged rocks the water rushes with terrific and ungovernable impetuosity, a fiercely-raging torrent, converted, by the resistance with which it meets, into a broad expanse of foam, as white as snow, bearing a strong resemblance to the breakers on a rocky shore during a gale. The inhabitants of the neighborhood consider it as certain death to get once involved in the Rapids; not only because escape from the cataracts would be hopeless, but because the force of the water amongst the rocks would probably destroy life before the Falls were approached. Instances are on record of the melancholy fate of persons who have thus perished. In the summer of 1821, three men were removing furniture from Navy Island; the wind was high, and in the direction of the Falls; the current was consequently stronger than usual, and they thought it unsafe to cross so near the Falls. They fastened their boat, and went to sleep in it. By some means, it became loosened, and they discovered themselves already in the Rapids. No human power could save them; the boat was carried down, and in a few moments dashed to pieces. Some of the goods were picked up below, much broken; but a table floated ashore uninjured.

The celebrated Chateaubriand relates that he narrowly escaped a similar fate: he was viewing the Falls from the bank of the river, having the bridle of his horse twisted round his arm: a rattlesnake stirred in the neighboring bushes, and startled the horse, who reared and ran backwards towards the abyss. Not being able to disengage his arm from the bridle, he was dragged after him; the horse's fore legs were off the ground, and, squatting on the brink of the precipice, he was upheld merely by the bridle, when, astonished by this new danger, he suddenly threw himself forward, and sprang to a distance of ten feet, again dragging Chateaubriand with him, who was thus released from his perilous situation.

In February, 1827, two men, who embarked in a boat to cross the river, were forced into the Rapids by the ice, precipitated into the abyss below, and dashed to pieces.

In September, 1827, a schooner, called the *Michigan*, with a number of wild animals inhumanly confined on her deck, was towed to the margin of the Rapids, and abandoned to her fate. She passed the first fall of the Rapids in safety, but struck a rock at the second, and lost her masts: there she remained an instant, until the current turned her round, and bore her away. A bear here leaped overboard, and swam to the shore. She then filled, and sunk, so that only her upper works were visible, and she went over the cataract almost without being seen. In a few moments her fragments, which were broken very small, covered the basin below. A cat and a goose were the only animals found alive. In October, 1829, the schooner *Superior* was towed into the current, and abandoned; but she struck on a rock, about the middle of the river, where she remained a considerable time, and finally went over the Falls in the night.

### 6.—*Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall.*

The *Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall*, as it is generally termed, from the precipice having been worn by the water into somewhat of that form, is 154 feet in perpendicular height; in consequence of its shape, the water converges to the centre, where it descends in a solid mass at least 12 feet in thickness, being driven forward with an impetus that hurls it into the gulf below, 50 feet from the base of the rock. For nearly two thirds of its descent, the water in the centre falls in one vast, unbroken mass, smooth and unruffled, and of a beautiful green color: the remainder is hidden by the vast body of vapor, ascending from the abyss. The whole surface of the river appears a body of foam, differing essentially from any thing of the kind produced in a similar way: the bubbles of which it is universally composed are extremely small, are always ascending by millions, and spread over the water in one continued and apparently solid mass. The water is also projected upwards, sometimes to the height of 120 feet, by the force of the air below, in an immense number of small white cones, with pointed heads, their tails varying from one to twelve yards, stretching in every direction, which may be seen continually starting from the cloud of spray.

From Goat Island to Table Rock, the distance in a straight line is 1221 feet, but following the curvature of the Fall, which is an irregular segment of a circle, with a deep angular gash near the centre, it is 2376 feet, which vast width detracts most surprisingly from its apparent height. The tremendous noise occasioned by this vast body of water falling on the rocks below is of a most extraordinary description. Capt. Hall compares it to the incessant rumbling, deep, monotonous sound, accompanied by the tremor, which is observable in a grist-mill of very large dimensions, where many pairs of stones are at work;—Mr. McTaggart, to the tumbling of a vast quantity of large round stones, from a huge precipice into water of a profound depth. A slight tremulous motion of the earth is felt to some distance on all sides, but is more particularly observable on Goat Island: the noise may be heard, when the atmosphere is favorable, fifty miles.

### 7.—*Cavern behind the Sheet of Water at Table Rock.*

The violence of the impulse causes the water of the Great Fall to incline considerably forward in its descent, and the continual action on the shale has hollowed out the rock below, leaving the upper or hardest stratum hanging over in a very perilous manner, above 50 feet, forming a sort of cavern, into which travellers are able to penetrate as far as Termination Rock, an impassable mass, 155 feet from the entrance. The passage into this cavern is rather difficult; but it is the place of all others to contemplate the extraordinary sight. The rush of the water here is awful, the thundering sound tremendous; but the slippery and rugged rocks, the difficulty of respiration, and the blasts of air, which is carried down in vast quantities by the river, and rises again with proportionate velocity in every direction, with the quantity of spray which accompanies its ascent, renders it unpleasant to remain any length of time.

### 10.—*Pavilion Hotel.*

A large and commodious house, on the heights above the Falls, containing excellent accommodations for about 150 persons. From the top of this house, and from the galleries or verandahs in the rear, which are ranged one above the other, a fine view is obtained; the surrounding country, the upper course of the river for several miles, the Rapids, and the Falls, being seen at the same time: the lower part of the Fall is of course invisible, but the imagination cannot picture it more grand than it really is. A foot-path, laid with planks, winds from the upper bank, on which the house is situated, through the narrow, marshy slip which forms the immediate margin of the river, to Table Rock.

The Canadian side is exquisitely beautiful, richly cultivated, and thickly inhabited: the ground is extremely fertile, and the rapid progress of population, business, and the arts, created by the Welland Canal, and its collateral works, and its inexhaustible water power, will soon render it one of the most important parts of the British dominions. Mr. Forsyth, who was the first proprietor of the hotel on this side, has recently disposed of his hotel and surrounding property, to a company of gentlemen, who have planned a city, and propose erecting churches, schools, ball and promenade rooms, public gardens, libraries, and houses of various sizes, so as to form a place of fashionable resort, to be called "The City of the Falls."

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11 & 17.—*Table Rock.*

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A broad, flat rock, forming a platform of considerable area, on the same level, and in immediate contact with the western extremity of the great ledge, over which the stream is precipitated; being 180 feet below the upper bank. It is undoubtedly one of the best, if not the very best point for viewing this magnificent scene, as the eye commands at once the whole of the majestic amphitheatre of cataracts, as well as the various stations on both sides of the river, a considerable distance. The rocks having fallen away from beneath, the surface projects several feet over the abyss. Visitors possessed of strong nerves, frequently lay themselves flat on the rock, with the face beyond the edge, looking from this fearful height into the roaring abyss below. The Table Rock is a favorite place for strangers to inscribe their initials or names, with the date of their visit; but it is probable that posterity will not be much benefited by this ingenuity, as the rock has many considerable seams and fissures, and a long slip, a few yards below, fell, with a tremendous crash, in August, 1818. This mass, which was 160 feet in length, and from 30 to 40 in breadth, providentially fell during the night, or many lives might have been lost, as the pathway to the guide's house passed over it: a portion of it, 15 feet long, lies in the river below, and is delineated in the Picture, (No. 27.)

15.—*Staircase.*

In the rear of the dwelling of the guide, who provides visitors with suitable dresses, and attends them to the cavern behind the Great Fall, a convenient staircase descends from the platform to the sloping shore of the water below, and a rough and slippery path, over fragments of fallen rock, conducs to the foot of the Fall. From the river the Fall has an extraordinary appearance; no part of the Rapids being seen, the water appears to be poured perpendicularly from the clouds.

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18.—*Path to the Ferry.*

A convenient road or path, which greatly facilitates the approach to the Ferry, and forms an agreeable promenade; it proceeds about half a mile in a direct line, when, turning short round, it descends, in a safe and easy manner, to the margin of the river.

19.—*Ferry.*

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About half a mile below the Horse-shoe, and a few rods below the Schlosser Fall, the river, which is there 76 rods in width, is safely crossed in a small boat. Although the water is considerably agitated, the ferrymen cross, without danger, at any time of the day, in about five minutes; but when the wind blows down the stream, the passengers seldom escape without a complete soaking from the spray of the Falls, which descends like rain. The comparative smoothness of the river so immediately after the Fall, is accounted for by the great depth of the pool into which the cataract is precipitated, and the sudden contraction of the river; the descending water sinks down and forms an under current, while a superficial eddy carries the upper stratum back to the Fall.

The banks of the river are here remarkably wild and striking, and the view from this place is of the most gorgeous description, and of most surpassing grandeur.

20.—*Niagara County.*

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The banks of the strait, for a considerable portion of its course on the United States' side, are in the county of Niagara. The roads on both sides are separated from the precipitous banks, in many places, only by a narrow slip of woods, and the country around is most beautiful, being a succession of fertile fields, orchards, and gardens.

At a short distance below the Falls is a small territory, belonging to the remnant of the once-powerful tribe of Tuscarora Indians, who emigrated from North Carolina about the beginning of the last century, at the invitation of the Five Nations, into whose confederacy (which then received the title of the Six Nations) they were received: they have a Protestant missionary resident amongst them, and many have voluntarily adopted Christianity: several of their farms are handsome and well cultivated.

## 22.—*Schlosser Fall.*

The Fall on the United States' side, called the Fort Schlosser Fall, is 167 feet in perpendicular height; and although it is in reality 13 feet higher than the Great Fall, yet from the Table Rock it appears otherwise. This is partly from the effect of the perspective, and partly from the accumulation of rocks below, upon which the water breaks. The whole width of the Fall to Prospect Island is 924 feet. Its edge is very much indented, and it appears to be gradually assuming the horse-shoe shape. It is chafed to snowy whiteness by projecting rocks, which break its fall in several places to two thirds of its descent; but it does not approach in extent, sublimity, or awful beauty, to the Great Crescent or Horse-shoe Fall.

About 64 rods above the crest of this Fall—and of course not seen in the present view—are two bridges, of admirable construction, crossing the worst part of the Rapids on this side, to Goat Island, which was before only accessible, at great personal risk, by dropping down the river between the two currents: much boldness of conception, skill, and ingenuity, were shown in the construction of this bridge, by its spirited projector, Hon. Augustus Porter, the principal proprietor of the United States' side of the Falls.

## 23.—*Prospect Island.*

On the verge of the precipice, near Goat Island, Prospect Island cuts off a portion of the waters, forming the Central Fall. This island is about 10 yards in width, and is connected with Goat Island by a foot bridge. It is a romantic spot; and from it is presented the best prospect (whence its name) of the Schlosser Fall which can any where be obtained.

## 24.—*Village of Niagara Falls.*

The rapidly-increasing village of Niagara Falls (formerly called Manchester and Grand Niagara) is situated at the Falls, on the United States' side. Two large hotels, the Eagle and Cataract, are kept here, and the foundation of a third, on a very extensive scale, was laid in 1836. These hotels, as well as those on the Canada side, are crowded with visitors during the travelling season; and constant communication is kept up with various parts by rail-roads and well-appointed stage-coaches. This village was burnt by the British troops in 1813, and was rebuilt after the peace.

## 25.—*Central Fall.*

This is a very picturesque cascade,—sometimes called the Ribbon Fall, and sometimes dignified with the title of the Montmorency Fall,—which, however insignificant it may here appear, amid the mighty rush of waters, would rank high amongst European Cataracts.

Behind this Fall, is a splendid cavern, (No. 26,) similar to that behind the great sheet of water at Table Rock. It was never trodden by human feet previous to July, 1834, when it was explored by Mr. Joseph W. Ingraham, of Boston, who gave it the very appropriate name of "Cave of Æolus," or "Cave of the Winds," in allusion to that "*vasto rez Æolus antro*," described by Virgil. It is about 50 feet in breadth, from 100 to 150 feet around its floor, and about 100 feet high, and furnishes one of the most splendid views which the imagination can conceive. The visitor may easily pass several feet behind this Fall, and gain a view of the cavern, from the path constructed in the rock, and there, "standing, as he does, about midway in the descent of the Fall, he may look up 80 feet, to its arched and crystal roof, and down, 80 feet, upon its terrible, and misty, and resounding floor. He will never forget that sight and sound."

