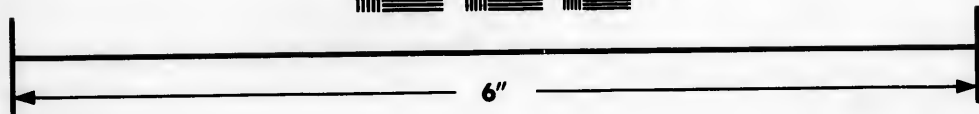
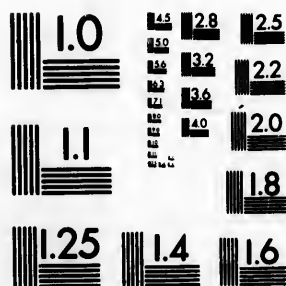


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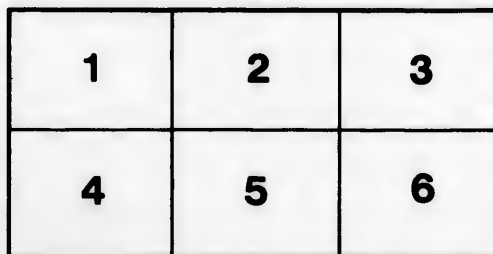
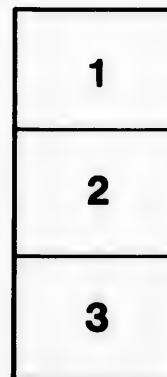
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GUIDE TO TRAVELERS

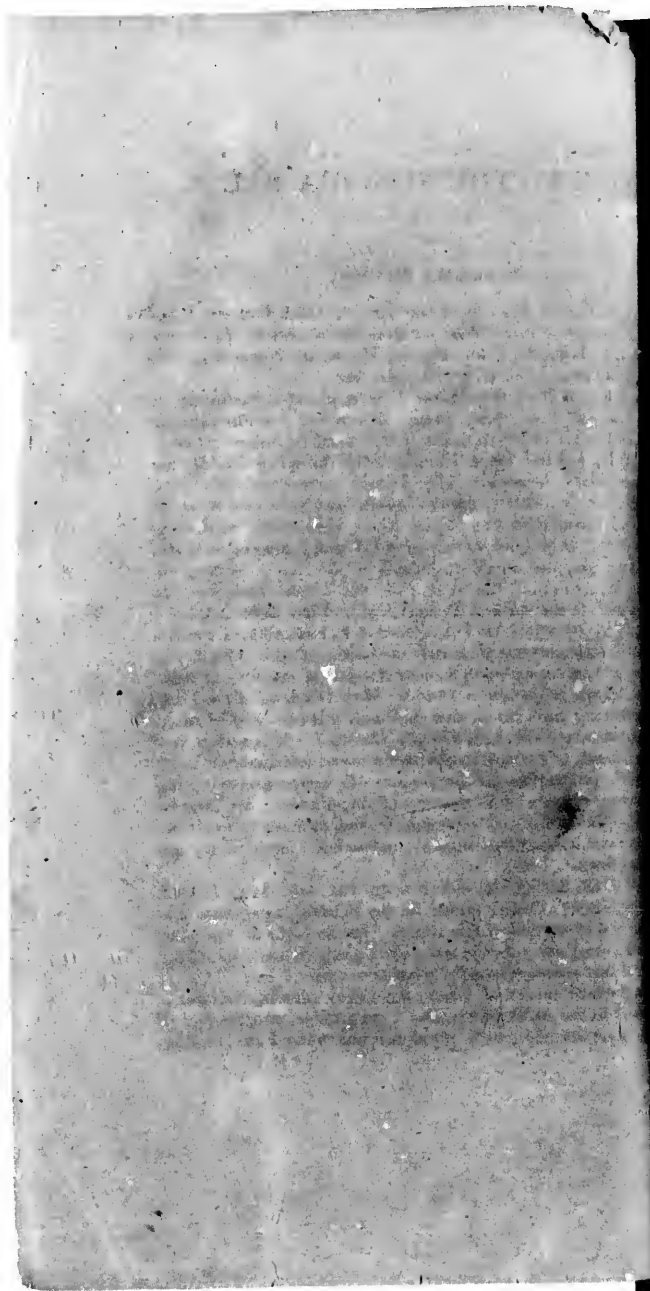
VISITING THE

FALLS OF NIAGARA.

BY A RESIDENT AT THE FALLS.

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GUIDE TO THE NIAGARA FALLS.

NIAGARA RIVER.

NIAGARA RIVER flows from lake Erie to Lake Ontario, a distance of thirty-five miles, and receives the waters of all the upper lakes, as Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, Nepissing, Superior, Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods, &c.

The river as it flows from Lake Erie is about three-fourths of a mile wide, and from thirty to fifty feet deep; it soon expands to a width of six or seven miles, and embraces, before it reaches the Falls, several large islands. Of these the largest are Grand and Navy Islands. The former commences five miles above the lake, is twelve miles in length and from two to six in width, and terminates two miles above the Falls, containing 1000 acres. The land on this island is well timbered, rich and fertile. As the deepest channel of the river, forming the main current, runs on the west side, this Island until recently belonged to the state of New-York, and has been inhabited for many years by squatters and smugglers; but in 1833, a company from Boston purchased nearly the whole of the Island, and in 1834, erecting upon it, near the site of the famous Jewett's mill, Ararat, projected in 1825 by Maj. Noah of New-York, a four-story flouring mill, and a saw mill with thirteen sets of saws. The name of their village is "White-Haven." It is understood they intend to employ immediately some hundreds of men, and in proportion, for the purpose of preparing and sending to the eastern cities a large quantity of ship-timber; but their ultimate object is, as the land becomes cleared, to have it settled by agricultural and industrious farmers, and to build up a large and thriving town.

In July 1759, during the old French war, two large French ships, in danger of being taken by the British, were burnt and sunk near the lower end of this island. Some parts of them are still visible; and not many years since a party of men, by raking the wreck at that place, secured a number of tons of Iron.

Below the termination of Grand and Navy islands, the river is contracted to the width of two and a half miles, and the bed of the river soon commences a rapid descent to the Falls, making

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 visiter 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

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age, and there are doubtless many more still resting there in un-
disturbed repose. On this island is found a great variety of wild
plants, shrubs and flowers; more than one hundred different spe-
cies, some of them very rare, have already been discovered. Of
the *Trillium Grandiflora*, sixteen varieties are found here.

When the present proprietor shall have completed the spacious
garden which he has laid out, in which he designs to cultivate all
the fruits that will grow in this climate, and shall have finished
many other improvements which he has projected, no other
perhaps in the world, will present attractions equal to those
of Goat Island. The approach to it is from the American side
by means of a bridge of most difficult and hazardous construc-
tion, which extends from the shore 28 rods to Bath Island, and
thence 16 rods further to Goat Island. Visitors pay twenty-five
cents for the use of the bridge during their visit, or for the sea-

son. There are many other beautiful islands situated among the
rapids of this river, a number of which, as Bath, Moss, Luna, &c.
are connected with Goat Island by bridges, and afford the most
picturesque and impressive views of the surrounding
scenery. Luna Island stands directly on the precipice about ten
rods from Goat Island, and divides the stream, forming a cas-
cade of unrivalled beauty and splendor. There are ten other
rapids in the rapids besides those above mentioned.

The water, on the American side, falls 164 feet, and on the
Canadian side 158 feet. The fall on the Canada side, embracing
the largest channel of the river, is called, from the shape of
the precipice, "The Horse Shoe Fall;" and near to this a bridge
has been constructed from Goat Island, called the Terapin
bridge; and near the termination of this bridge, in the water and
on the very brink of the precipice, a stone tower forty-five feet
high has been erected, from which, or from the end of the bridge,
the effect of the Falls upon the beholder is most awfully sublime
and utterly indescribable. The rain-bows and lunar-bows, and
the whole scenery of the Falls, appear to better advantage
from this point than from any other.

At the lower end of Goat Island, about half way across it, the
Stair Case, erected in 1829 at the expense of Nicholas
Lea, Esq. of Philadelphia, gives visitors an opportunity of de-
scending below the Falls between the two main sheets of water,
and of advancing for a considerable distance under the Falls on
the Canadian side.

THE FERRY.

There is another stair-case leading from the bank immediately below the Falls, where visitors will find a safe ferry to the Canada side, and an opportunity to view these mighty waters as they roll and tumble from the precipice above. A carriage road is about to be constructed down these perpendicular banks, so as to allow teams and carriages to cross here; and, when this is completed, it must become an important thoroughfare.

CANADA VIEWS.

Directly opposite the Falls on the Canada side, an enterprising company have projected and laid out what they call "The View of the Falls," and are now making very considerable improvements. There are on that side two spacious hotels, many objects of curiosity, and many delightful views of the Falls. Seven miles west is the Welland Canal, connecting the waters of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario; six miles north upon Queenston height is General Brock's monument, 126 feet high, and admitting ascent to the top by a flight of 170 winding steps; one mile from the Falls is a burning spring, and at the Falls near the Rock is a museum and a stair-case. The Museum kept by Mr. Barnett, contains among other things, 118 different species of birds, 47 different species of beasts and reptiles, 24 different kinds of fishes, 300 different kinds of insects, &c. &c.—which are said to have been caught in the vicinity of the Falls.

SUMMER AND WINTER SCENERY.

The surrounding scenery on both sides of the river is in keeping with the magnificence of the Falls. By most visitors is seen only in summer. But in winter it is inimitably and indescribably beautiful. The trees and shrubbery on Gout and the Islands and on the banks of the river near the Falls, are covered with transparent ice, presenting an appearance of millions of glittering chandeliers of all sizes and description, and giving a most vivid idea of fairy land. The scene presents a striking counterpart to Goldsmith's description of the subterranean cities of Paros and Antiparos. The mist from the Falls falls upon the trees so gradually and to such thickness, that it bears a most exact resemblance to alabaster; and this, set against the dazzling colors of the rainbows that span the river from many different points, seems, by natural association, to raise the imagination to that world, where the streets are of pure gold, the gates of pearl, and night is unknown.

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REMARKS.

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the winter scenery about the Falls is peculiar, a sight of which
 with a journey of one thousand miles. Myriads of wild ducks
 these spend the day in and above the rapids, and regularly
 their departure for Lake Ontario every night before dark;
 some are often found in the morning with a broken leg or
 and sometimes dead, in the river below the Falls. This,
 fully happens after a very dark or foggy night; and it is sup-
 posed that, as they always have their heads up stream while in the
 river, they are carried down insensibly by the rapids till they find
 themselves going over the precipice, and then, in attempting to
 they dive into the sheet of water, and are buried for a time under
 the falls or upon the rocks.

and fish, too, of almost all sizes and descriptions, are found
 in the river, below the Falls, forming a resort for Gulls,
 Hawks, and Eagles. During a part of the winter, the ice
 is broken by the wind from Lake Erie and poured over the Falls
 in immense quantities, as to fill and block up the river be-
 tween the banks for a mile or more to the depth of from thirty to
 fifty feet, so that people cross the ice to Canada on foot for weeks
 at a time.

NUMBER OF VISITORS.

The number of visitors at the Falls has generally been from
 fifteen thousand annually, and the number is every year in-
 creasing. During the winter months, though there are many
 visitors, they are generally such, as are passing through the re-
 gion on business, and stay only a short time. Frequently, how-
 ever, parties from Buffalo, Lockport, Rochester, Canandaigua,
 and other places, visit the Falls by sleighing, and after spending
 a day or two, go away enraptured, and sometimes overwhelmed
 by the scene.

RIVER BELOW THE FALLS.

The width of the river at the Falls is a little more than three
 miles of a mile, but below the Falls it is immediately compressed
 into a narrow channel of less than one-fourth of a mile, and its
 depth is about 250 feet. This channel is between perpendicular
 banks, and after two miles, it runs with amazing velocity to Lew-
 iston, and, what is somewhat remarkable, while the river makes
 a constant descent, the banks have a gradual ascent for six miles,
 from the top of the bank to the water, opposite Brock's
 mill near Lewiston, is 334 feet. The quantity of water
 constantly pouring over the Falls is computed at 670,250 tons
 in a minute.

From Lewiston to Lake Ontario 7 miles, the river is smooth, and navigable for vessels of every description; and Lewiston being the head of navigation, is the principal landing place for the American Steamboats that run on Lake Ontario. At the mouth of the river on the American side stands the village of Youngstown and Fort Niagara; and on the Canada side the village of Newark or Niagara, and Fort George.

CURIOSITIES.

One mile above the Falls on the American side, is the old Fort Schlosser, a place very considerably distinguished in the early history of this region, and commanding a most beautiful prospect of the river and rapids, of Grand and Navy Islands and of the village of Chippewa on the opposite bank. Before the construction of the Erie Canal, all the business between the Falls and Lewiston was interchanged by means of a land carriage from this place to Lewiston.

Half a mile below the Falls under the bank is Catlin's Cave, a place to which no traveler will be likely to regret. Two miles below is a Medical Spring very strongly impregnated with sulphur, and by the use of its waters many important cures have been effected.

One mile further down leads to a tremendous whirlpool, resembling very much in its appearance and operations, the celebrated Maelstrom on the coast of Norway. Logs and trees are sometimes whirled around in rapid succession for days together in outer circles, while in the centre they are drawn down perpendicularly with great force, are soon shot out again at a distance of many rods, and occasionally thrust into the channel to pass the river. The channel as it proceeds out of the whirlpool runs nearly a right angle, is narrower than at any other place in the river, not more than thirty rods in width, and the current runs with such amazing velocity as to rise up in the middle ten feet of the sides. This has been ascertained by actual measurement.

About the year 1812, an incident occurred here perhaps not recording. A party of men were employed in cutting cedar near the river above the whirlpool. One of them, stepping on some rafted logs that were in the water, was imperceptibly perhaps through carelessness, drawn by the current into the whirlpool. He clung to a log and was carried round and round for several hours, expecting every moment to be crushed among the logs, thrust into the vortex, while his companions on shore could do

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7 miles, the river is described in every description; and it is the principal landing place on Lake Ontario. On the American side stands the village of Queenston, and on the Canada side of the river is Fort George.

ES.

On the American side, is the place considerably distinguished by commanding a most extensive view of Grand and Navy Islands, and the opposite bank. Before the commencement of business between the Lakes, a carriage from this place

to the bank is Catlin's Carriage, which is a great regret. Two miles from the bank is a place impregnated with sulphur, and the most important cures have been

at a tremendous whirlpool, near the falls, in the operations, the celebrated

Logs and trees are accumulated for days together, and are drawn down perpendicular to the channel to pass out of the whirlpool at any other place in the river, and the current runs in the middle ten feet of the river by actual measurements. It is said to have occurred here perhaps in the year 1759, when employed in cutting cedar. One of them, stepping on the water, was imperceptibly carried round and round, and crushed among the rocks, and the men on shore could

not see him. At length some of them ascending the bank, went to Queenston four miles, and procured a boat to be drawn up by ropes, poles, &c. to render assistance. After the boat was well secured, and some men had stepped in intending to go into the whirlpool, the man upon the log, still whirling in the peril of his life, was, by some action of the water, sent safely to the shore, and finally saved without receiving any injury to others.

Below the whirlpool is a place, on the American side, called "the Devil's Hole," embracing about two acres, cut out perpendicular in the rock by the side of the river, and is 150 feet deep. How this hole was thus made it is difficult to ascertain. Visitors look into it with silent, inexpressible awe.

This place is distinguished by an incident that occurred about the year 1759. A company of British soldiers, pursued by the Indians, were driven off the rock near this hole at the point of the bayonet. All, save one, instantly perished upon the rocks, and fell into the crotch of a tree, and were buried in making his escape.

The man, by the name of Steadman, who lived at Fort Schlosser, was the only survivor of this company of British, but made his escape on horseback before coming to the bank, though many balls whizzed in his flight. The Indians afterwards imagined him to be invulnerable and invincible, became very friendly, and finally, in consideration of some services he rendered them, they gave him the land included between Niagara River and a straight line from Gill Creek above Fort Schlosser to the Devil's Hole, embracing about 5000 acres. The heirs of Steadman so early as the year 1823, instituted and carried on a long and expensive suit with the State of New-York to recover this land. The suit resulted in favor of the State and the present occu-

ants in the immediate vicinity of the Falls many circumstances have occurred here perhaps to impart an additional interest. During the last war with Great Britain, the battles of Chippewa, of Bridgewater or of the Falls, of Queenston on the Canada side; and the destruction of villages and plunder of property on the American side, are remembered, and the circumstances detailed with thrilling interest by many of the inhabitants.

In the year 1797 a bridge was constructed from the shore to the head of the whirlpool, but was swept away by the ice the ensuing spring.

The present bridge was constructed in 1818, and is 100 rods in length exclusive of Bath Island. This bridge crossing the rapids only sixty rods above the Falls, is safe for all kinds of teams and carriages, and seems to stand a great length of time.

Till the year 1817 there was no way of descending or ascending the bank below the Falls except by means of a ladder 100 feet in length; since then a safe and convenient staircase has been erected, as also were the bridges, by A. Porter, Esq. the proprietor of the Islands and land adjacent.

INCIDENTS.

Men have occasionally been drawn into the rapids in boats, and carried over the Falls; but not a vestige of their boats has scarcely ever been found.

In 1825, three men on the sabbath, in attempting to draw some barrels of whiskey across to Chippewa, were drawn into the rapids and hurried down the cataract.

In September, 1827, notice having been given in the papers that the Michigan, a large vessel that had run on Lake Erie, would be sent over the Falls, thirty thousand people assembled to witness the spectacle. On board the vessel were put two bears, a buffalo, two raccoons, a dog, and a goose; the bears made their escape in the midst of the rapids and finally reached the shore in safety. The others were crushed and perished. The Michigan before she reached the Falls had been considerably broken in the rapids, sunk to a great depth, and the surface, and went over near the centre of the horse-shoe. The distance from deck to keel was sixteen feet, and as she did not appear to touch the bottom for eighty rods before she was over, the conclusion is, that the water as it passes over the rapids, must be at least twenty feet deep.

In October, 1829, another vessel was advertised to be sent over the Falls, which drew together about fifteen thousand people. The vessel lodged in the rapids and remained a number of weeks, and finally passed over the Falls in the night.

In August, 1828, a small sloop being near Chippewa, was blown over the men through fright, and was blown, with all her cargo, so far across the river as to come down on the American side of Goat Island; but was broken to a perfect wreck in the rapids, so as to pass under the bridge and over the Falls.

In July, 1832, a Canal Boat was blown over from Chippewa and lodged in the rapids a short distance above the bridge.

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ber, 1829, Sam Patch jumped twice, in the presence of
of spectators, from a ladder ninety-seven feet into the
ow the Falls. This ladder was erected near the foot of
the Stair Case. Poor Sam afterwards lost his life by
from the Falls of Genesee River at Rochester.

10th, 1831, Francis Abbott, an Englishman, who had
two years as a recluse on Goat Island, was drowned
ing below the Falls.

VILLAGE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

country in the vicinity of the Falls present many power-
tions for a permanent residence. For salubrity of air
fulness of climate, it yields to no spot in the United
In the village of Niagara Falls, on the American side,
about 80 families, there are two spacious Hotels, the
the Cataract, which will accommodate 100 permanent
They contain 114 rooms, including 72 sleeping rooms ;
are furnished with all the comforts and luxuries that
affords.

village also contains a Presbyterian and an Episcopal
an extensive Paper Mill, a Flouring Mill, two Saw Mills,
a Factory and a number of other mechanic's shops ; and
an opportunity of using water here for hydraulic purposes
greater extent than at any other place in the United
Two thousand mills and factories might be erected here
safe from any inundation, and having a never failing
water at a very moderate expense. There is also a
delightful village laid out, the lots of which are sold at
able price. The proprietors of this village offer to give
company that will erect a Cotton Factory here, as much
ading water privileges, as they will cover with buildings
years ; or as much land as may be needed for the pur-
such an establishment of the largest kind.

village is destined without doubt, to become one of the
manufacturing places in America. Canal boats and
come from the Erie canal and the lake to the distance of
above the Falls ; and charters have recently been grant-
to Rail-roads to this place,—one from Lockport, and the
to Buffalo ; when these go into operation, the business of
must be greatly increased. Stage coaches now run
Falls in all directions, and the mail passes regularly twice

every day. A steamboat also runs daily from Burlington, a short distance above the Falls; and at seven miles below, steam-boats from Lake Ontario bringing and receiving passengers. Near Lewiston is the celebrated Ridge-road,—formerly without doubt on the margin of Lake Ontario,—and runs east to Rochester nearly to Oswego, a distance of about 140 miles nearly parallel with the lake, from 6 to 10 miles distant 40 to 80 yards wide, 30 feet higher than the contiguous 139 feet higher than the lake. It is an excellent road for the season of the year.

**BEST ROUTE FOR TRAVELERS AND
THEY ARRIVE AT THE FALLS.**

If you arrive on the American side, go first to Bath and the small Islands,—then to Goat Island and follow the path at the right, down to the Cascade and cross the bridge to Goat Island; then follow the walk to the Biddle Stair Case that without fail, as you will there have an opportunity to see the two entire falls, standing between them, and also of considerable distance under the Falls.

Having ascended the Stair Case follow the walk to the corner of the island, where you will find the Stone Tower and Terapin Bridge, from both which places you will have the best views of the Falls that can be taken from any place. Here you will realize power, grandeur, sublimity, and beauty, nothing can describe it. Pursuing your way with a view entirely round the island, as you ought without fail to do, you will thus get a better view of the rapids and surrounding scenery than can be obtained any where else,—pass from Goat to the Moss Islands, and thence back to the bridge.

As you come nearly opposite the saw-mill, you will find a place where a number of human skeletons have been discovered, supposed to be the former site of an Indian burying ground.

If your visit is protracted at the Falls, you will wish to pass through Goat Island by the different paths in order to obtain the most romantic beauty, and realize its thousand attractions.

You ought also if time permit, to visit the sight of the Schlosser, the Whirlpool, the Devil's Hole, &c.

If you cross the river, you will descend the Stair Case to the edge of the Falls, where you will find many objects of interest.

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TRAVELERS AT THE FALLS.

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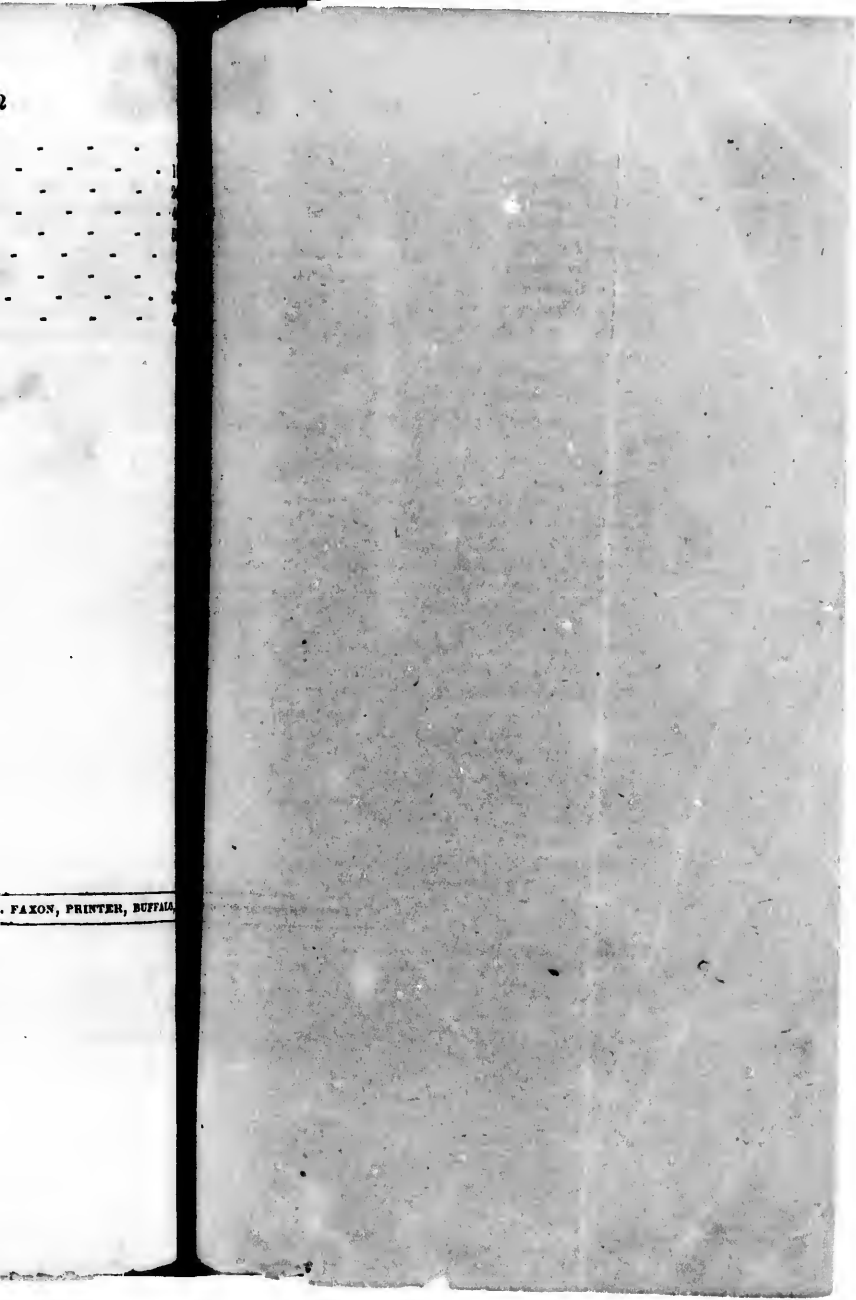
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very near view of the highest fall of water. No dan
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 bridge road, and proceed near the bank up to Table
 which you will find Barnett's Museum, and a spiral
 on the foot of which you can pass for some distance
 on Rock under the sheet of water. From the top
 ct, you have one broad grand view of the whole Falls
 of the scenery of the rapids and Islands.
 mile above is the Burning Spring. In going up
 Rock to the hotels, you will have a fine and extensive
 surrounding country, and can visit Chippewa, Lun
 Brock's monument, the Welland Canal, &c. as you
 sure or inclination.

DISTANCES.

Port Schlosser across to Chippewa,	-	1 1/2 miles.
Pavilion to Chippewa,	-	2 "
the river at the Falls,	-	3/4 "
Island by the bridge,	-	58 rods.
the Falls on the American side,	-	56 "
the foot of Goat Island,	-	80 "
the Horse-shoe falls,	-	114 "
of water at the Horse-shoe,	-	20 feet
the Eagle Hotel across to the Pavilion on		
Canada side, 1 1/2 miles, viz:—		
the Eagle Hotel to top of bank,	-	100 rods.
the bank down the stair-case to the river,	-	29 "
of River below the Falls,	-	56 "
Canada bank,	-	96 "
the top of the bank to the Pavilion	-	256 "
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the falls to the Mineral Spring,	-	536 rods.
to the Whirlpool,	-	2 ms.
to the Devil's Hole,	-	3 "
Canal at Tonewanta,	-	3 1/2 "
Island,	-	11 "
Island,	-	22 "
Island,	-	215 "
Island by land through Canada,	-	244 "
Lewiston,	-	7 "
Island village,	-	8 "

To Fort Niagara, - - - - -	
To Oswego, - - - - -	
To Prescott, - - - - -	
To Montreal, - - - - -	
To Quebec, - - - - -	
To Lockport, - - - - -	
To Rochester, - - - - -	
To Albany, - - - - -	
To New-York, - - - - -	



FAXON, PRINTER, BUFFALO



