

VIEW FROM PROSPECT POINT.

PICTORIAL GUIDE
TO THE
FALLS OF NIAGARA:
A
MANUAL FOR VISITERS,
GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF THIS
STUPENDOUS NATURAL WONDER;
AND ALL
THE OBJECTS OF CURIOSITY IN ITS VICINITY;
WITH EVERY
HISTORICAL INCIDENT OF INTEREST:
AND
ALSO FULL DIRECTIONS FOR VISITING THE CATARACT
AND ITS NEIGHBOURING SCENES.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS
MAPS, CHARTS, AND ENGRAVINGS,
FROM ORIGINAL SURVEYS AND DESIGNS.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS DESIGNED AND ENGRAVED
BY J. W. ORR.

BUFFALO:
PRESS OF SALISBURY AND CLAPP.

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1842.

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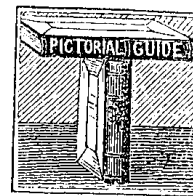
JOHN W. ORR,

in the Clerk's Office of the Northern District of New-York,

in the year 1842.

THOS. NEWELL, TYPOGR.

INTRODUCTION.



THE wonderful cataract of Niagara, the most grand and stupendous natural curiosity in the world, is annually visited by so many thousands of people from the different countries of Europe and America, that a work which shall serve the purpose of a GUIDE to the Falls, and point out, in a plain perspicuous manner, a judicious routine of observation, so that the stranger may be enabled, by its assistance alone, to find his way without loss of time or unnecessary toil, to every place which it is desirable to visit, and every point from which a good view may be obtained, must be a desideratum to the travelling public.

A work, which in addition to this, embodies a full account of this remarkable phenomenon, and the region of wild and picturesque beauty in which it is situate, illustrated and embellished by accurate maps, and numerous engravings, from original and careful surveys and drawings, must present still stronger claims to popular regard, and

be, indeed, indispensable to the Niagara visitant. It was the hope and wish of the author, to render this such a work, — to embody all that is known of the Falls, and the strait by which they are formed; with full, yet concise directions to the visiter, for prosecuting his examination of the cataract and other interesting objects of curiosity, in their neighbourhood; and a brief, but full account of the leading historical, and fortuitous events, which have transpired at the Falls, or in their vicinity, down to the present date; and to enrich it with maps, charts, and engravings, — to make it, in short, not only useful, and even essential to the traveller, but interesting and ornamental, — such a work as must prove to the purchaser of *real* utility and value. To what extent we have succeeded in this hope, is for others to determine.

The author disclaims any attempt to *describe* the Falls of Niagara, simply, because they are indescribable. Others may, perhaps, imagine they have succeeded in doing this, as people have been silly enough to fancy they could quadrate the circle, generate perpetual motion, and achieve other like impossibilities. But the public must be aware — though they may not be — of how utterly they have failed to express even a shadow of the colossal grandeur and divine sublimity of the scene.

All that can be done by the most gifted, is to point out the best places of observation, and instruct the reader how to examine the wonders and glories of Niagara, by calling his attention to a few general characteristics of the cataract, and to individual features of particular parts: but to give a person, who has never seen the Falls, any definite idea of their ineffable beauty and majesty, is immeasurably beyond the art of any writer however talented, of any painter, however happy in the impress of his genius.

A few words on the subject of our arrangement. The most simple plan is always the best. The one suggested by the natural situation and order of things and events, is that we have adopted, because it is free from obscurity and complexity; and every portion falls into its proper place, as if by its own specific gravity; — the First Part, treating of the Niagara Strait, its topography and leading characteristics, and the towns, villages, fortifications, and other improvements on its borders; the Second, of the Falls, and other remarkable scenes in their vicinity; to every part of which, in proper succession, the reader is 'GUIDED' by full directions, easy to be understood, and to follow; and the Third and last, of the history of the Falls, and of the casualties, adventures, incidents, etc. which

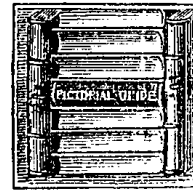
might be supposed interesting to peruse, and desirable to know.

Cherishing the hope, that we have in this volume, produced a "GUIDE TO THE FALLS," of pleasing aspect and agreeable manners; one, that neither morose, indifferant, nor yet too garrulous, has honesty without insolence, vivacity without caprice, and enthusiasm without affectation; we commend this, our first literary bantling, to the castigation of critics, by which it may be improved, and to the favour of the public, by whom we hope to be rewarded.

NOTE.— Since this work has been in press, some changes and improvements have been made. Our friend, Mr. C. B. Griffin, has taken the Clifton House, from which Mr. Chrysler has retired. Whether or not, the Eagle Hotel will pass into new hands, is yet undecided. At the Mineral Spring, a Boarding House, and Baths have been erected, for the accommodation of visitors, and particularly invalids. The sixty-seventh British Infantry have been ordered home to England. These are the most important.

BUFFALO, APRIL, 1842.

DIRECTIONS TO VISITERS.



HAVING arrived at the Falls, and chosen your hotel, enter your name on the register, secure your room, procure a copy of the PICTORIAL GUIDE TO NIAGARA FALLS, which contains many views of the cataract, and other objects of interest, in its vicinity, and full directions for finding all the best points of view, so as to employ your time to the most advantage, and proceed at once, to Prospect Point, from which you have the best view of the Falls, on the American side. Feast your eyes on the splendid scenery of river, banks, rapids, and cascades, as long as you desire; and then pass up the stream and along the shore to the bridge. Cross that to Bath Island, register your name, pay twenty-five cents toll, and then continue on to Iris Island. Having ascended the bank, turn to the right, and follow the path to the lower end of the Island. Gaze there as long as you list, at the Central and American Falls, and the magnificent vista of river and cliff below,

and then cross the bridge to Prospect Island, and enjoy a most magnificent view of the American Fall.

Returning to Iris Island, pass on round it, till you reach the great Fall. Descend the bank to the Terrapin Bridge, and from the rocks at its extremity, behold majesty, immensity, power, grandeur, and beauty! Next ascend the Terrapin Tower, and gaze around, above, below. Now, retrace your steps to the Biddle Stair-case, procure a proper dress, and descend the shaft to the base of the precipice. From the foot of the Stair-case, pass up to the British Fall, and bend your wondering gaze upon the floods that come tumbling down the cliff, far, far above you, and fall in foam and thunder at your feet. Pass behind the sheet as far as you can or dare; and returning, make your way back to the Stair-case, pass it by, and continue on to the Central Fall, and the Cave of the Winds. Pause for a moment, to survey the scene of wonder above and around you; descend the giant steps, enter the regions of thunder and spray, and to the last hour of your life, you will never forget that cave, its sights, and sounds. Returning, ascend the Biddle steps, change your dress, pay the charge, and then complete the circuit of Iris Island, and re-crossing the bridge, rest

and refresh yourself for a brief season, at your hotel, or elsewhere.

That done, proceed to the Ferry Stairs, descend, take a view of the American Fall from its foot, pass behind the sheet, if you like, and then cross the river. From the centre of the stream, you have a view of the Falls beyond conception grand. On landing, pay your ferriage, eighteen and three fourths cents, and ascend by a smooth carriage road, to the top of the bank, where another glorious view of the Falls is presented. Proceed along the brow of the bank to Table Rock, and if the sublime and beautiful have any charms for you, or the awful and terrible any power to thrill, you cannot there remain unmoved.

At the building, just below Table Rock, procure a change of dress, and a guide, and then descend the winding stairs, and pass up to the foot of the Horse-shoe Fall. Give to the grandeur of this scene a few moments' observation, and then follow your guide through the driving spray, to Termination Rock, one hundred and fifty feet behind the hanging tapestry of floods. That scene will never fade from your memory—it is grand, impressive, and even awful. Emerging from this home of the mist-throned thunder, ascend the stairs, change your dress, register your name, re-

ceive a certificate, pay the charge, and return along the bank to the Museum.

A short visit to this fine collection of natural and artificial curiosities, will not be regretted. From the piazza, you can enjoy a glorious view of the whole crescent of cataracts, the rapids above and the abyss below. Leaving the Museum, return to the ferry, cross the river, and regain your hotel. You have seen enough for once, now rest and refresh yourself, reflect upon what you have beheld, examine your *GUIDE BOOK*, and decide what points you are next to visit.

In Part II. of this work, more particular directions are given for such a round of observation, as that sketched above, which is designed only for a kind of general index or chart, to guide the visiter in his first impatient movements. Take the book with you, refer to it as occasion suggests, or requires, and you will not only be *guided right*, but will *overlook nothing*.

If you arrive at the Falls on the Canada side, the order of your examination will be so far reversed, that you will first visit the several points and obtain the views mentioned as on that shore, and then, crossing the ferry, be guided by the directions given above.

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