



BURKE'S  
DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE;  
OR, THE  
VISITORS' COMPANION  
TO  
NIAGARA FALLS:  
ITS  
STRANGE AND WONDERFUL LOCALITIES.

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BY AN OLD RESIDENT.

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Entered according to an Act of Congress, by ANDREW BURKE, in the Clerk's Office  
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## PREFACE.

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THE peculiar office of a guide, is to point out spots of interest, and relate what is interesting about them. This we have endeavored to accomplish in the following pages ; leaving as much as possible to the mind and taste of the stranger who visits, that he may *see* and *understand*. We have refrained altogether from any poetic distraction, so often indulged in by more fanciful guides.

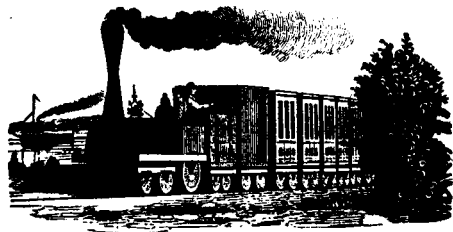
Our office has been a grand one, but we have endeavored to fill it with that simplicity and modesty, so much more becoming in view of the awful grandeur of the scenes, we humbly lead to. Our only hope being that we have given satisfaction.

# DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE TO NIAGARA FALLS.

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## THE JOURNEY.

STRANGER—if you are now ready, we will proceed to the Office of the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad Depot, on the Terrace, immediately under the Western Hotel, and procure tickets. It is now nearly 9 o'clock and almost time to be aboard the Cars. They go out at 9 A. M., and 5 P. M.—Look sharp, the bell rings, and here goes



THE TRAIN.

The road has been very recently re-laid with the T rail, and the speed is now equal to anything

The Cars—Blossom's Grove—Workhouse—Mr. Coe's residence.

in the United States. Very pleasant cars, careful engineers, and the most affable conductor to be found between this and the unknown regions about the North Pole.

We are moving—quicker and quicker; ah, there we go. See how the houses flit by us! What should we do, were it not for Railroads? Wonderful creature is man. Isn't he, Mamma? We are now flying through SIXTH-STREET, and now we are out of town. You see that picturesque grove on the left—that is BLOSSOM'S GROVE; and that large brick building, with the dark wing of blue stone, having its windows thickly barred with iron, is the WORKHOUSE, a structure not more than two years old, yet it could tell full many a tale of crime; for, its young walls are darkly experienced in the wickedness of Adam's sons and daughters. A short time since it took fire, or rather was set on fire, and the roof and upper part were considerably burnt. Yet the terrified inmates did not dare to escape. We are now running up hill. That Mansion of cut stone, with the rich Grecian portico, which you see on the right is MR. COE'S, a citizen of wealth and repute. And on the left, that Gothic castle is the property of the United States Government, and is used for a Military Engineer's Office,

Fort—View of Buffalo, &c.—Hawley house.

and residence of the Lieutenant's family. This castle or castellated mansion was erected by COLONEL JAMES MCKAY, a citizen of taste and spirit, and was purchased from him by the government, for thirty thousand dollars. On part of the land they have erected a redoubt or fort, which you may see adjoining it.

This fort is admirably planned in the form of a pentagon or figure of five sides. Its walls rise from the solid rock, and are seven feet thick, of blue lime stone, beautifully wrought. Its roof is arched and covered with gypsum, and sodded with grass. It is five feet thick and perfectly bomb-proof. From this roof, on which two Paixan guns are to be placed, is a magnificent view of Buffalo, Lake Erie, the Canada shore, and the river Niagara to the very Falls. This Fort occupies a most commanding position and is capable of sheltering eight hundred men, for whose comfort a pure spring of water swells up in its midst from the solid rock.

That tall porticoed stone building to your right is called HAWLEY HOUSE. It was built by SETH C. HAWLEY, Esq., at a time when speculation was at its highest, and the owner intended that to be one wing of his proposed palace. He failed—and there it stands an overgrown tombstone of inten-

Erie Canal—Black Rock—Black Rock Dam.

tions too mighty to outlive the rude blasts of adversity.

The Erie Canal here runs alongside of the river Niagara, from which it is only divided by a pier, which forms the harbour of

## BLACK ROCK.

This place was, at one time, the rival of Buffalo, and on account of its superior accommodation for shipping, it maintained an ascendancy for some time over the "Queen City of the Lakes." In the war of 1812, Commodore PERRY here hid his vessels for the winter, so effectually that the British knew nothing of their dangerous neighbour until he suddenly came forth from his shelter and pounced upon them. The actual spot where the United States ships sheltered is below what is called

## BLACK ROCK DAM.

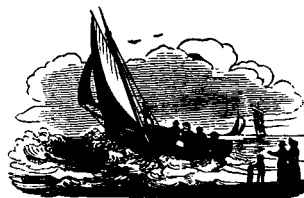
The village is one mile in length, being divided into Upper and Lower Black Rock; the latter being near the Dam formed by a pier of two miles in length which has its termination on Bird Island, opposite Buffalo.

This village contains something over two hundred houses, and about one thousand inhabitants, presenting at present but a poor apology for its former

Steam Ferry—Upper Black Rock to Waterloo.

pretensions. There are, however, several mills in operation, and sites for as many more. But the velocity of the current of the Niagara and dangers of its entrance, on account of hidden reefs of rocks must always act as a barrier against the prosperity of the place.

There is a steam ferry, crosses at Upper Black Rock to the village of Waterloo, on the opposite shores of Canada; and at any time that a stranger wishes to ride on the rapid current of the Niagara, or to cross its course, he can here readily find



A SAIL BOAT.

Grand Island—Pendleton.

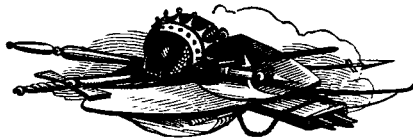
## T O N A W A N D A .



Now approach TONAWANDA, which is twelve miles from Buffalo. It is situated at the mouth of the creek of the same name, joining the Niagara, directly opposite the widest part of

## G R A N D I S L A N D .

Here the Erie Canal, taking advantage of this noble creek, leaves the river and follows it to Pendleton, about twelve miles distant. Here, also, the traveller on the American shore, is at the widest part of the Niagara River away from her British Majesty's dominions, with all the accompanying fancies of Thrones,



C R O W N S A N D S C E P T R E S .

TONAWANDA lies on both sides of the creek; is a pleasant village, containing some two thousand

The Village—its pretensions.

inhabitants and derives its name from the Indian of *swift running water*, which term is rather mysterious, the Creek being very deep and sluggish.

This village in the years '48 and '9, also put up pretensions to cope with Buffalo. The Merchants of Cleveland, jealous of the prosperity of the "Queen City," under pretence of want of sufficient harbour room, came boldly out and published a plan to make Tonawanda the port for the discharge of Western produce intended for the Eastern market. They soon erected elevators, wharves, &c., but without any apparent disadvantage to Buffalo.

There is here a dam of eighty-four feet in width which, at the same time that it benefits the Canal, produces a very interesting fall or cascade. It is crossed by a long wooden bridge on which the rail road to Niagara Falls runs. . .

The lowness of Tonawanda, and sluggishness of its creek, will always make it a prosperous place for rheumatism and ague, and most fit for a speculation in



B U R I A L G R O U N D S .