
 Steam-Boats. . . Rail Roads. . . Stages.

that the building will be completed by the present proprietors. The village also contains a Presbyterian Church, and a "Union House," for the use of all other denominations when they choose to come to it.—It has a Paper Mill, a Flouring Mill, and a few Mechanics' Shops; and there is an opportunity of using water here to an unlimited extent.

Canal boats and sloops come from the Erie Canal and the Lake to Porter's Store-house, a short distance above the Falls. There are three Rail Roads now finished, which terminate at Niagara Falls. One from Buffalo, distant 22 miles—one from Lockport, and one from Lewiston. Stage coaches run from the Falls in all directions, and the mail passes regularly twice every day. The roads from Buffalo, Lewiston and Lockport are now very good; equal to any in this region, and afford to travellers many delightful views of the river, the Falls, and the rapids;—especially as the road from Buffalo to Lewiston passes very near the bank of the river the whole distance. The steamboat Red Jacket also runs daily from Buffalo to the landing two miles above the Falls, and thence across to Chippewa, and returns daily by the same route. This is a perfectly safe and very pleasant route to the Falls. At Lewiston, seven miles below, steamboats from Lake Ontario are daily bringing and receiving passengers. Near Lewiston commences the celebrated Ridge Road,—

 Ridge Road. . . Visitors.

formerly, without doubt, a sand bank on the margin of Lake Ontario,—and runs east to Rochester, and thence nearly to Oswego, a distance of about 140 miles. It runs parallel with the Lake, from six to ten miles distant, is from forty to eighty yards wide, thirty feet higher than the contiguous land, and one hundred and thirty-nine feet higher than the Lake. It is an excellent road at all seasons of the year.

 NUMBER OF VISITERS.

The number of visitors at the falls has of late years been from twelve to fifteen thousand annually, and the number is every year increasing. On the occasion of sending the Michigan over the falls, some years since, from thirty to fifty thousand persons were supposed to be here together; and when the Superior was sent over, fifteen thousand. The fashionable, the opulent, and the learned, congregate here from the principal cities of the country; from the Southern and Western States, South America, the West Indies, the Canadas, all parts of Europe, and indeed from all countries.

Exiled monarchs, foreign ambassadors, whigs, tories, radicals, royalists, naval and military officers, governors, judges, lawyers, senators, &c, with a good proportion of

Niagara.

female worthies, assemble here to view these indescribable works of God. One of these last, during a visit here in the summer of 1834, penned the following beautiful lines, which are worthy of being preserved as a memorial of female worth and genius.

NIAGARA.

Flow on forever, in thy glorious robe
Of terror and of beauty! God hath set
His rainbow on thy forehead, and the cloud
Mantles around thy feet. And he doth give
The voice of thunder, power to speak of Him
Eternally—bidding the lip of man
Keep silence, and upon thy rocky altar pour
Incense of awe-stricken praise.

And who can dare
To lift the insect trump of earthly Hope,
Or Love, or Sorrow,—mid the peal sublime
Of thy tremendous hymn?—E'en Ocean shrinks
Back from thy brotherhood, and his wild waves
Retire abashed.—For he doth sometimes seem
To sleep like a spent laborer, and recall
His weary billows from their vexing play,
And lull them in a cradle calm;—but thou,
With everlasting, undecaying tide,
Dost rest not, night or day.

The morning stars,
When first they sang o'er young Creation's birth,

Niagara.

Heard thy deep anthem—and those wreaking fires
That wait th' Archangel's signal to dissolve
The solid Earth, shall find Jehovah's name
Graven, as with a thousand diamond spears,
On thy unfathomed page. Each leafy bough,
That lifts itself within thy proud domain,
Doth gather greatness from thy living spray,
And tremble at the baptism. Lo! yon birds,
Do venture boldly near, bathing their wing
Amid thy foam and mist.—'Tis meet for them
To touch thy garment's hem,—or lightly stir
The snowy leaflets of thy vapor wreath,—
Who sport unharmed upon the fleecy cloud,
And listen at the gates of Heaven,
Without reproof. But, as for us,—it seems
Scarce lawful with our broken tones to speak
Familiarly of thee. Methinks, to tint
Thy glorious features with our pencil's point,
Or woo thee to the tablet of a song,
Were profanation.

Thou dost make the soul
A wondering witness of thy majesty;
And while it rushes with delirious joy
To tread thy vestibule, dost chain its steps,
And check its rapture, with the humbling view
Of its own nothingness—bidding it stand
In the dread presence of th' Invisible,
As if to answer to its God through thee.

 Visitors . . . Parties, &c.

This will no doubt hereafter become a place of great resort for invalids, as the health of such is generally observed to improve immediately on coming here. If any place in the country is peculiarly propitious for the recovery and preservation of health, this is the place.

During the winter months, though there are so many visitors, they are generally such as are passing through the region on business, and stay only a short time. Frequently however, parties from Buffalo, Lockport, Rochester, Canandaigua, and other places, visit the Falls by sleighing; and after spending a day or two, go away enraptured with the scene.

Many visitors err greatly in their calculation in regard to the time which they ought to spend here. They come hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to view the falls, and then hurry away before they have had time to get any very full or distinct impression of the scene, or to visit one fifth of the interesting points, from which the falls and rapids ought to be viewed. The object of the visit is thus in a great measure lost. Visitors should make their calculations, in the summer especially, to spend at least a week.

Persons who spend some time at the falls, will find several places in the vicinity, on both sides of the river, worthy a special visit. Eleven miles south, on the American side, is the village of Tonawanda, from which

 Places of Resort in the vicinity of the Falls.

there is a ferry across to White Haven on Grand Island; proceeding eleven miles further, you pass through Black Rock to Buffalo and Lake Erie. One mile below the falls, is Point View, so called; one mile further you find the Mineral Spring; one mile further the Whirlpool; half a mile further, the Devil's Hole; eight miles from the falls, the village of the Tuscarora Indians; seven miles, Lewiston village, where the steam-boats from Lake Ontario receive passengers; seven miles below Lewiston is the village of Youngstown, and one mile further, Fort Niagara, standing on the border of Lake Ontario.

From the falls on the Canada side, one mile south brings you to the burning spring; two and a half miles to Chippewa battle ground and village; twenty miles through the village of Waterloo to Fort Erie near Lake Erie. From the falls north, one mile brings you to Lundy's Lane, where the battle of Bridgewater was fought; three and a half miles to the Whirlpool; six and a half to Queenston Heights and Brock's Monument; seven miles to Queenston village, opposite Lewiston; and fourteen miles to the village of Niagara and Fort George. Eight miles from the falls west, is the "Deep Cut," so called, of the Welland Canal, a place much visited in the summer. To carry you to any or all these places, carriages can always be had at a few moment's notice on either side of the river.

APPENDIX.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NIAGARA FALLS.

In approaching the end of our little volume, we cannot refrain from inserting a few extracts from the pens of those who by their language, show that they had minds to understand, and souls to appreciate, the sublimity and loveliness of Niagara.

The following singular and fanciful observations are to be found in the Duke de Liancourt's account of his visit to the Falls in 1795.

"From a country almost level, a chain of naked rocks here rises, upon both sides of the river, which at this point is contracted to the width of a single mile: these are the Alleghany Mountains, which extend to this point after having traversed the continent of North America from Florida upon the South.

"Mons. de Blacons conducted us to a point known, in the language of the country as, *Table Rock*. This is itself part of the rock from which the river is precipitated, and we found it barely above the level of the river's bed, and almost within its rushing waters; so that we saw, with entire safety the plunge of the torrent into the basin at our feet, and yet should have been hurled headlong down the cataract ourselves, had we advanced

but two paces farther! From this position we enjoyed, at the same instant, the august spectacle of the foaming waters, as with a deafening roar they approached, through the rapids, this astonishing cataract, and of the eddying basin below, in which but an instant afterwards, these same waters were engulfed. It is certainly while standing at this point that this wonder of nature should be contemplated and studied, if the spectator is to view it from only one; but to drink in all its majesty it is necessary to observe it from all, since from whatever position, the beholder still finds the scene one of confounding and overwhelming admiration, bordering upon stupefaction.

"The falls of Niagara are comparable to nothing in nature. Neither the agreeable, the rude, the romantic, nor the beautiful enters into the scene; but wonder and wild astonishment at first sight seizes upon all the faculties, and their dominion is constantly strengthened by subsequent and profound contemplation of the picture, until the mind is finally convinced of its utter inability to convey or communicate the impressions so deeply stamped upon it by this terrific sport of nature."

The following is from the pen of the Rev. Andrew Reed, author of that simple, yet beautiful work, "*No Fiction*;" and is, we think, a most happy effort, and by far the best description we ever met with, embodied in so few words.

"At length we saw the spray rising through the trees, and settling like a white cloud over them; and then we heard the voice of the mighty waters—a voice all its own, and worthy of itself. Have you never felt a trem-

Description of the Falls.

bling backwardness to look on what you have intensely desired to see? If not, you will hardly understand my feeling. While all were now searching for some glance of the object itself, I was disposed to turn aside, lest it should surprise me. This no doubt was partly caused by the remark I had so often heard, that the first view disappoints you. I concluded, that this arose from the first view not being a fair one, and I was determined to do justice to the object of my reverence. In fulfilling this purpose, I reached the Pavilion without seeing any thing; disposed of my affairs there, and hastened down towards the Falls; and found myself actually on the Table Rock to receive my first impressions.

“Let any one pursue the same course, and he will not talk of first impressions disappointing him; or if he should, then he ought to go twenty miles another way; Niagara was not made for him.

“From the Table Rock I descended to the base.— There I clambered out on the broken rocks, and sat—I know not how long. The day was the least favorable of any we had. The atmosphere was heavy; the foam hung about the object and concealed one half of it; and the wind blew from the opposite side, and brought the spray upon you so as to wet you exceedingly. The use of cloak or umbrella were troublesome; you could not wholly forget your person, and think only of one thing. However, had I not seen it in this state of the atmosphere I should have wanted some views which now occupy my imagination. The whole is exceedingly solemn when nature frowns; and when much is hidden, while yet the eye has not marked the outline, there is a mysteriousness

Description of the Falls.

spread over the object which suits your conception of its greatness, and in which the imagination loves to luxuriate. I can scarcely define to you my impressions on this first day; I can scarcely define them to myself. I was certainly not disappointed; but I was confounded. I felt as though I had received a shock, and required time to right myself again.

“I returned to the Pavilion, which is about half a mile from the Falls, and retired to my chamber, which overlooked them. I mused on what I had seen, and was still confounded. I sought rest that I might be fresh for the morrow; but rest did not come so freely. The continuous deep sounds of the waters would have sung me to sleep, but the tremor of the house and ground, which shook the window like those of a stage coach, kept me wakeful; and when I fell into slumbers, the flitting dreams of what I had seen, would trouble and break them.

“Notwithstanding all disturbances, I rose on the next morning in good spirits. The day was all that could be wished. The sun shining, the heavens transparent, garnished with bright and peaceful clouds. The wind, too, was gentle and refreshing; and had shifted to our side, so as to promise the nearest points of sight without the discomfort of getting wet through.

“I now look fairly on the scene as it presented itself at my window, in the fair lights of the morning. It is composed rather of the accompaniments of the fall than of the fall itself. You look up the river full ten miles, and it runs in this part from two to three miles in breadth. Here it has formed, in its passage, beautiful little bays;

Description of the Falls.

and there it has worked through the slips of main-land putting out the fragments as so many islets to decorate its surface; while, on either hand, it is bounded by the original forests of pine. At the upper extremity you see the blue waters calmly resting under the more cerulean heavens; while nearer to you it becomes agitated, like a strong man preparing to run a race. It swells, and foams, and recoils, as though it were committed to some desperate issue; and then suddenly contracts its dimensions, as if to gather up all its power for the mighty leap it is about to make. This is all you see here; and it is enough.

“I left the hotel, and went down to the Table Rock, This is usually deemed the great point of sight; and for an upper view it undoubtedly is. It is composed of several ledges of rocks, having different advantages, and projecting as far over the gulf below as they can to be safe. But how shall I describe the objects before me! The mysterious veil which lay heavily yesterday on a large part of it, was now removed; and the outline of the picture was mostly seen. An ordinary picture would have suffered by this; but here the real dimensions are so vast, and so far beyond what the eye has measured, that to see them is not to fetter, but to assist the imagination. This fall, which is called the Horseshoe Fall, is upwards of two thousand feet in extent, and makes a leap, on an average, of about 160 feet. Now just enlarge your conceptions to these surprising dimensions, and suppose yourself to be recumbent on the projecting rock which I have named, as near the verge as you dare, and I will assist you to look at the objects as they present themselves.

Description of the Falls.

“You see not now above the cataract the bed of the river, but you still see the foaming heads of the rapids, like waves of the ocean, hurrying to the precipice; and over them the light clouds which float on the horizon.— Then comes the *chute* itself. It is not in the form of the horseshoe; it is not composed of either circular or straight lines; but it partakes of both; and throughout it is marked by projections and indentations, which give an amazing variety of form and aspect. With all this variety it is one. It has all the power which is derived from unity, and none of the stiffness which belongs to uniformity. There it falls in one dense awful mass of green waters, unbroken and resistless; here it is broken into drops, and falls like a sea of diamonds sparkling in the sun. Now it shoots forth like rockets in endless succession; and now it is so light and foaming that it dances in the sun as it goes, and before it has reached the pool, it is driven up again by the ascending currents of air. Then there is the deep expanding pool below.— Where the waters pitch, all is agitation and foam, so that the foot of the fall is never seen; and beyond it and away, the waters spread themselves out like a rippling sea of liquid alabaster. This last feature is perfectly unique, and you would think nothing could add to its exquisite loveliness; but there lies on it, as if they were made for each other, “heaven’s own bow.” O never had it, in heaven itself, so fair a resting-place!

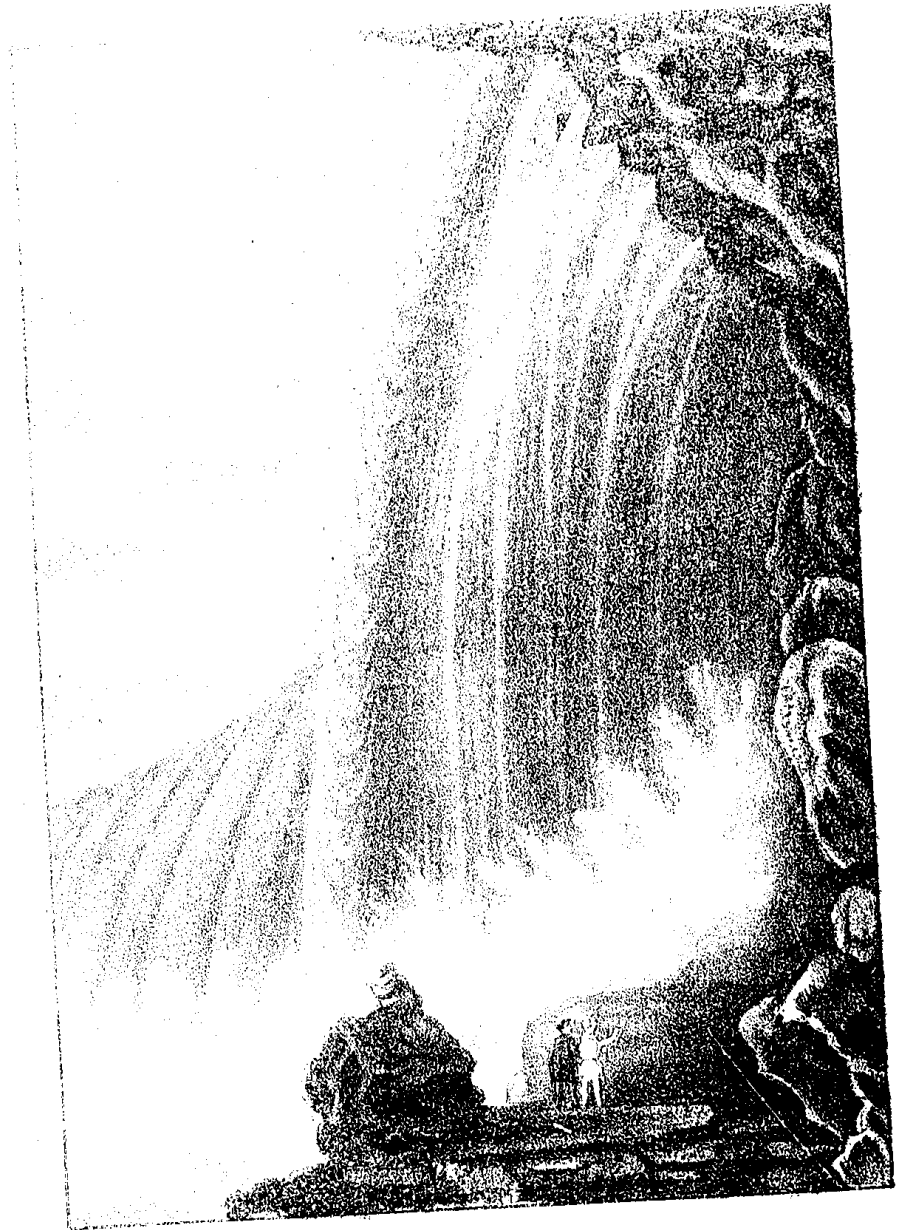
“Besides, by reason of the different degrees of rarity in the waters and the atmosphere, the sun is pervading the whole scene with unwonted lights and hues. And the foam which is flying off in all directions, is insensi-

Description of the Falls.

bly condensed, and forms a pillar of cloud, which moves over the scene, as it once did over the tents of Israel, and apparently by the same bidding, giving amazing variety, and sublimity, and unearthliness to the picture. Then there is sound as well as sight; but what sound! it is not like the sea; nor like the thunder; nor like any thing I have heard. There is no roar, no rattle; nothing sharp or angry in its tones; it is deep, awful, one!

“Well, as soon as I could disengage myself from this spot, I descended to the bed of the fall. I am never satisfied with any fall till I have availed myself of the very lowest standing it supplies: it is there usually that you become susceptible of its utmost power, I scrambled, therefore, over the dislocated rocks, and put myself as near as possible to the object which I wished to absorb me. I was not disappointed.

“There were now fewer objects in the picture, but what you saw had greater prominence and power over you. Every thing ordinary—foliage, trees, hills—was shut out; the smaller attributes of the fall were also excluded; and I was left alone with its own greatness. At my feet the waters were creaming, swelling, and dashing away, as if in terror, from the scene of conflict, at the rate of twenty miles an hour. Above and overhanging me was the Table Rock, with its majestic form, and dark and livid colors, threatening to crush one. While immediately before me was spread in all its height and majesty—not in parts, but as a whole, beyond what the eye could embrace—the unspeakable cataract itself; with its head now touching the horizon, and seeming to fall direct from heaven, and rushing to the earth with



British. Fall from under Table Rock.

Description of the Falls.

a weight and voice which made the rocks beneath and around me fearfully to tremble. Over this scene the cloud of foam mysteriously moved, rising upward, so as to spread itself partly on the face of the fall, and partly on the face of the sky: while over all were seen the beautiful and soft colors of the rainbow, forming almost an entire circle, and crowning it with celestial glory. But it is in vain. The power, the sublimity, the beauty, the bliss of that spot, of that hour—it cannot be told.

“When fairly exhausted by intensity of feeling, I strolled away towards the ferry, to pass over to the American side. The falls here, from the distance, have a plain and uniform aspect: but this wholly disappears on approaching them. They are exceedingly fine. They do not subdue you as on the Canada side; but they fill you with a solemn and delightful sense of their grandeur and beauty. The character of the one is beautiful, inclining to the sublime; and that of the other, the sublime, inclining to the beautiful. There is a single slip of the fall on this side, which, in any other situation, would be regarded as a most noble cataract. It falls nearly 200 feet; it is full 20 feet wide at the point of fall, and spreads itself like a fan in falling, so as to strike on a line of some 50 or 60 feet. It has great power and beauty.

“I found that there was a small ledge of rock behind this fall, and ventured on it to about the centre. You can stand here without getting at all wet; the waters shoot out several feet before you; and, if you have nerve, it is entirely safe. I need not say that the novelty and beauty of the situation amply reward you. You

Description of the Falls.

are behind the sheet of water, and the sun is shining on its face, illuminating the whole body with a variety proportioned to its density. Here, before you, the heavy waters fall in unbroken columns of bright green. There, they flow down like a shower of massy crystals, radiant with light, and emitting as they fall all the prismatic colors; while there, again, they are so broken and divided as to resemble a shower of gems sparkling in light, and shooting across the blue heavens.

“I passed by what is called Goat Island to the extremity of the Horse-shoe fall on this side. There is carried out over the head of this fall a limb of timber, with a hand-rail to it. It projects some 12 feet over the abyss, and is meant to supply the place of the Table Rock on the other side. It does so in a great measure; and as, while it is quite as safe, it gives you far less sense of safety, it disposes you the more to sympathize with objects of terror. Indeed, when you fairly get to the extremity, and find yourself standing out in this world of waters on a slip of wood only large enough for your feet to rest on, and which is quivering beneath you; when the waters are rushing down under you; when the spray is flying over you; and when the eye seeks to fathom the unfathomable and boisterous gulf below; you have, perhaps, as much of the terrible as will consist with gratification. Very many of the visitors never think of encountering this point of view; those who do and have a taste for it will never forget it. It is among the finest of the fine.

“In returning, I wandered round the little island. It is covered with forest trees of a fine growth, and is full

Description of the Falls.

of picturesque beauty. Days might be spent here in happy and deep seclusion; protected from the burning sun; regaled by lovely scenes of nature, and the music of the sweetest waters; and in fellowship, at will, with the mighty falls.

“The next morning was the last; and it was given wholly to the Great Fall. I prepared, in the first instance to go behind it. This is the chief adventure; and is by most writers described as dangerous. There is no danger if the overhanging rocks keep their places, and if you have moderate self-possession. I made use of the oil cloth dress provided by the guide, and was quarrelling with it as damp and uncomfortable; but that grievance was quickly disposed of. I had not made my entrance behind the scenes before I was drenched, and the less I had on the better. However, it was an admirable shower-bath; and there was an end to the question of wet or dry. “Take care of your breath.” was the cry of the guide; and I had need, for it was almost gone. On making a further advance, I recovered it, and felt relieved. “Now give me your hand,” said the guide; “this is the narrowest part.” Onward I went, till he assured me that I was on Termination Rock: the extreme point accessible to the foot of man.

“As the labor of the feet was over, and there was good standing, I determined on making the best use of my eyes. But this was not so easy to do. The spray and waters were driving in my face, and coursing down my sides most strangely: a strong wind from the foot of the fall was driving in the opposite direction, so as to threaten not to blow me down, but to blow me up to the

Description of the Falls.

roof of the vault. However, I soon ascertained that we were at the extremity of a cavern of a large and wonderful construction. It is the foam of a pointed arch; the one span composed of rolling and dense water, and the other of livid black rocks. It was some 50 feet from the foot of the rock to that of the water, and I had entered about 70 feet. On the entrance, which is mostly of thinner waters, the sun played cheerfully, and with glowing power; but within, it was contrasted by the dim light and heavy obscurity which are generated by the density of the fall, to which the whole power of the sun can give only a semi-transparency. What with this visible gloom, the stunning noise of the fall, and the endless commotion of wind and waters, the effect is most singular and awful. It is a scene that would harmonize with the creations of Fuseli; and it has, I will venture to say, real horrors, beyond what the cave of old Æolus ever knew.

“On returning to my dressing-room, I received a certificate from the guide that I had really been to termination Rock; an ingenious device to give importance to his vocation, but in the success of which he does not miscalculate on human nature. The rest of the morning was employed in taking peeps at the Falls from favorite points of observation; but chiefly from the Table Rock, and at the foot of the Great Falls. The day was exceedingly fine, and every feature of the amazing scene was lighted up with all its beauty; and I now communed with it as one would with a friend who has already afforded you rich enjoyment in his society. I was delighted—was fascinated. Every thing, apart or together, seemed to have acquired greater power and expression. I studied all the parts; they were exquisite, lovely, noble; I put them all together, and it overwhelmed me, subdued me, fixed me to the spot. Long I stayed; but all time was short. I went, and returned; and knew not how to go.”

DISTANCES.

From Steamboat Landing across to Chippewa,	Miles	2½
From Fort Schlosser to Chippewa,.....	“	1½
From the Falls to Chippewa,.....	“	2
Across the River at the Falls,.....	“	¾
To Goat Island by the Bridge,.....	Rods	58
Across the Falls on the American side,.....	“	56
Across the foot of Goat Island,.....	“	80
Length of Goat Island,.....	“	160
Across the Horse Shoe Fall,.....	“	114
From the Eagle and Cataract Hotels to Table Rock,.....	Miles	1½
From the above Hotels to the top of the bank,	Rods	100
Top of the bank down the Stair-case to the River,.....	“	28
Width of river at the Ferry,.....	“	76
Up the Canada bank,.....	“	76
From the Falls to the Mineral Springs,.....	Miles	2
To the Whirlpool,.....	“	3
To the Devil's Hole,.....	“	3½
To Erie Canal at Tonawanda,.....	“	11
To Buffalo,.....	“	22
To Lockport,.....	“	18
To Lewiston,.....	“	7
Depth of water at the Horse Shoe,.....	Feet	20
Depth of water at the Ferry,.....	“	250

NOTE.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.—This beautiful structure was blown up with powder, by some as yet unknown miscreants on the night of the 17th April 1840, and very nearly ruined.

The key stone, over the door, is thrown out, the inscription stone has a large crack through the centre. A large fissure extends nearly half way up the building, on the side where the door is placed, then forks, and the forks are carried up to nearly two thirds of the height.

On the other side there are likewise several fissures. The dome is very much rent, the balcony broken, and the iron railing around, bent and disordered. The door at the top leading from the foot of the dome to the balcony, was open, otherwise the dome must have been blown off.

No discovery has yet been made of the perpetrators of the deed nor does any one know what were their motives. The action is certainly deserving of severe censure. Disturbing the monuments raised in honor of the dead, we had thought would not have been attempted by any in this age.