

N. America  
1799.

# Journal to the Falls of Niagara 1

We had for a part of the Summer  
1799 fixed our head quarters at Platts-Burr  
in Albany, from whence we had made  
excursions to Lake George, & to the Mineral  
Springs of Lebanon, & of Wallerston, & we now  
sat out from this place, on <sup>Monday</sup> the fifth of August,  
for the Falls of Niagara.

Mr. Siston & I were accompanied  
by Lord Henry Stuart & Mr. Thornton of our own  
family, & Mr. Fisher of Cardross, lately from  
Scotland, with whose <sup>humour</sup> good humour we were  
so much pleased that we invited him to join  
our Party. — We carried a black footman, who  
had been accustomed to travel with <sup>us</sup> — had little  
baggage as we could. Our account of the difficulty of  
the navigation in the Creeks & Rivers. We left Albany at seven o'clock  
in the evening in the same Carriage, half  
Coach half Waggon, — which we had usually  
hired since our arrival in this part of the Country,  
as we were all pleased with the civility & hilarity  
of the owner, who drove us himself. Late that

Night we reached Schenectady, where, by the activity & kindness of our friend Judge Glen, all things had been arranged for our comfort. — A Wastan, or flat bottomed Boat, sent to us by General Schuyler, was fitted up with an oil skin awning, & other conveniences, such as pots, pans, tea-kettle, & it was amply supplied with salt meat, Wine, Spirits, & a quantity of bread in the form of hubs.

This Boat had been sent up the Mohawk two days before in order to meet us at Fort Stanwick which is at the head of the Navigaton of the River. — We preferred travelling to that place by land, as the Shallows under the passage against the Stream very tedious.

On Tuesday the sixth we left Schenectady early in the morning, & reached Fort Stanwick on the Thursday following to dinner. — our road had been good & our accommodations tolerable all the way, particularly at Hudsons, where a little civility, & Mr. Hudsons speaking German rendered the landlady extremely kind. —

Our journey continued along the banks of the Mohawk where the Country bore more the marks of cultivation, & everything more an air of comfort, than <sup>in</sup> any tract of land

We had seen in America; & the soil from Schenectady  
to Fort Stanwick <sup>was also</sup> apparently the best.

The Inhabitants are mostly German.

It was the Season of Harvest, the prospects were  
often picturesque & beautiful, always cheerful &  
pleasing. particularly <sup>in</sup> that part of the District  
called the German Flats; This is a stretch of level  
ground highly cultivated & thickly peopled.

At Old Fort Schuyler

where we found a new & elegant Inn, built & at  
present supported by a considerable Mercantile  
Company, our good road ended. - Next morning  
we entered upon a Country wild & newly settled.

We pass through White's Town, consisting of one  
long handsome Street, the situation airy & fine.

The Settlement of this place has been rapid, for  
it is said, that in 1785 it consisted of but two Houses, the pro-  
perty of a M. White. - Beyond the Town for  
four or five miles we made our way with  
difficulty through the Woods, the road being only  
marked not made. - Between this & Fort Stanwick

we passed some of the finest Trees we had yet  
seen in America. - The most striking were  
a species of weeping Elm, extremely beautiful.

Within a mile of Fort Stanwick  
we reached the banks of a Canal, a new & well

except on the  
Monrovia in the  
Southern States

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regulated works, intended to continue the navigation of the Mohawk through Wood Creek to the Lake.

Fort Stanwich is a neat but dull looking Town, pleasantly situated. - The foundation was laid in 1759 by General Broad Street built upon by the Troops of the United States during the Revolution. -

at this place our Matraw metus -  
manned by a helms Man & two Rowers. as it was made of steering is, to use an Indian Paddle - instead of a helm, regulating the Matraw by its movements from one side to the other, & exchanging the Paddle for a Pole in the Shallow & Swifts, as the Boatmen call the rocky & storey passages of the Rivers, while the Rowers use their Poles at the Pro. -

the company to give them rest - the three gentlemen & four servants were obliged to relieve them. - the boat not being capable of containing more persons. -

On Friday the ninth of August we prepared to enter on our troublesome Voyage - which it was necessary to go through with all possible expedition, as M. Sisto's time was limited. -

Nothing could be more obliging than our Land Lord & Land Lady at Fort Stanwich, & by the kindness of M. Cutts, the Manager of the Inland Navigation, who with M. Cutts paid us a visit, a part of the Water of the Reservoir was

let out, & another portion provided for next morning, to facilitate our passage through Wood Creek, which would otherwise have been scarcely practicable, the Season being more than commonly dry:—

The Young Gentlemen walked through the Woods in order to lighten the Boat. We passed the docks & proceeded eight miles to the only House of entertainment on the Creek kept by Mr. Gilbert. —

Wood Creek is a narrow meandering pretty stream, the Banks thickly wooded with stately Trees, sometimes meeting over our heads, & often intercepting our progress by having fallen across the Creek. \* We found ourselves, indeed, much more frequently pushed along on the ground by the Poles of our Men, than moving on the surface of the Water. —

\* when we found it necessary to clear our way by the Kashes

About half way to Gilberts we passed Bullfort, on the Banks of the Creek, consisting of rather many parts now in ruins.

We reached Gilberts early in the evening, & met our young friends very well disposed for supper, which consisted, as is usual in the United States, particularly at Inns, of tea coffee & eggs, meat or fish; on the present occasion we had part of a fine Salmon caught

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in the Cock the evening preceding. This Inn  
proved in every respect extremely good & the  
family, which consisted of the Father Mother  
& two Daughters, very civil. —

On Saturday Morning the tenth  
we got ready to proceed on our voyage. Before  
our departure we discovered that our Landlord's  
pleasant Portico; the common appendage  
of an American Dwelling, had been occupied  
during the night by a German & his family,  
all born in this Country, yet several of  
them not speaking English; a circumstance  
which frequently occurred in our travels.  
This Man had sold his property in the  
State of Jersey & was going, with all the  
enthusiasm possible, to lay out his Money,  
& to form a new Settlement on Lake Ontario.  
He travelled like the Patriarchs of old,  
with all his Household Goods & Cattle. — The  
poor Man was interseccated with his Plan.  
He was a Carpenter, & Wheelwright by  
Trade. — He had met with wonderful  
difficulties in his journey, but he was up  
to every thing; his Waggon had broken down,  
that was nothing, he mended it himself in  
a few hours & made it better than ever, &

was certain all would succeed. No Hero in  
 Romance ever built des Chateaux on Espagne  
 with more facility or pleasure. - This poor  
 Man waited here impatiently for a passing  
 Boat to take him to the end of the Creek.

Mr. Gilbert was so obliging as to let  
 out the water from the Reservoir of his Saw-  
 Mill, which, aiding that from that from the  
 kindness of Mr. Curtis - we got off pretty well. - Mr. Sinton taking  
 leave of the German hoped to meet him again.

The weather was fine & the scenery  
 of the Creek truly picturesque & beautiful.  
 For the vicinity of the wood, to be sure, we  
 paid a heavy penalty by the swarm of  
 Mosquitos with which we were pestered.

NO. We stoppt at a Spring in order to breakfast,  
 & thus was this, our first Meal, arranged. -  
 After making the Plateau sure on the  
 Beach, - The Gunstemen, our Servant & the  
 Boatmen, gathered Wood, of which there was  
 always abundance thrown up on the banks,  
 made a fire, the Men having a Tinder box for  
 striking. - While the tea kettle-boiled & pre-  
 pared, I generally with the assistance of Mr.  
 Erskine, the apparatus for breakfast. - We had  
 simply white stone jugs with handles, - one

serving as a milk pot when, as it happened, <sup>now</sup> by the  
 assistance of Mr. Gilbert, we could procure a bottle  
 of milk. Our repast of tea & ~~meat~~ was heightened  
 by smoked-Meat; & all good of their kinds & ample.  
 Our table cloth was a newspaper, laid on a  
 piece of Board large enough to contain our  
 tea equipage. The Sailors & Servant took  
 their Breakfast on the Deck, it always  
 consisted of Meat & tea to wash it down. — The  
 greatest hardship I experienced was that of  
 washing the Sugs & tea pot in the Water, then  
 making the towel clean, with which I had  
 wiped them; for we could afford to carry <sup>very</sup> few  
 at each Spring we filled our Pitchers to serve  
 us till we reached another, the Men  
 knowing we were inch of the ground. —

Our dinners were conducted in much

the same manner. We stoppt at a Spring our  
 Servant boild some salt-meat which, with Mush  
 an excellent <sup>apple cheese</sup> vine, which General Maitland  
 had given us at Philadelphia for the purpose,  
 with good liquors, & a clean table cloth, of that  
 is an <sup>English</sup> news paper all the articles of which had  
 been first read, gave us spirits to proceed. —

These Bevers abound in a small Wood-Duck  
 which we found delicious eating. Our young Men  
 were not very successful but none of them were

In the sequel  
~~Sept~~ insisted on Mr.  
 Maitland's assistance, as he  
 found this easier than the  
oar.

as I have said —

N.P.



9. perceived one or two, they are extremely <sup>sharp</sup> & the noise  
of our cars never failed to alarm them.

Towards the evening of this day - the 10<sup>th</sup> the  
weather overcast at last there came on a heavy  
shower of rain & with it a swarm of Musquitos.  
We were defenseless, for the trees prevented our  
awning being raised, & our gauge veils (for the  
Gentlemen had veils also) were soon wetted, when  
the Witches almost blinded us; so the rain  
seemed to drive whole squadrons from the Wood.

We made good our retreat at last & reached a Log-  
House - kept by one Jarvis - at the point where  
the waters of Wood Stek fall into Lake Orinda.

The extreme leanings of this Man's Wife  
rendered his miserable habitation agreeable.

We were however unfortunate, for though the  
fire was large ~~we could~~ we could scarcely find  
room to dry our cloaths & bedding; for wey thing  
was completely wet. The circle round the  
chimney was not only crowded by a number  
of Watacus Men, but by a canoe load of  
Indians, some of whom were intoxicated, &  
importuned us for money to purchase liquor.  
an article so coveted by them that Jarvis  
told us, they sometimes ransomed even the  
hatchet & blanket to procure it. - We got a  
small apartment in which we supped on

our own provisions the Hostess of the House sup-  
 plying us with milk & butter - after this  
 meal, the young Men laid their mattresses  
 on the Floor - Mr. Dixon & I getting a little Closet  
 adjoining, which contained a Bed, to which I  
 went with so violent a Headach as almost  
 convinced me I had got the Lake-fever, of which  
 I heard a great deal said on the road, but was  
 the Disease soon to be treated & awoke however, next morning in per-  
 fect health; & though the wind was unfavourable  
 we ventured on Lake-Oneida, hoping, as it was  
 calm, to cross it by hard-rowing in the course  
of the day. - This Lake is twenty eight miles  
 long & nine broad, containing several Islands  
 but none of them very near us. - The Water  
 is dark & muddy, & its exhalations esteemed  
 so unhealthy that every exertion was made  
 to avoid sleeping on its Banks. - There is no  
 House till you have passed two thirds of it,  
 where a Town, called Rotterdam has been  
 commenced, but all the efforts of the Gentlemen  
 who have the Patent for the Land, cannot give  
 health to its Inhabitants. - Oneida-Lake takes  
 its name from a Tribe of Indians, the remains  
 of which still dwell about seven miles from its  
 Banks.

We breakfasted, as usual, near a Spring. - I believe ~~the~~  
 almost the only one on the Banks of this putrid Lake, & in  
 that spot the timidity of our Men obliged us to  
 remain some hours; for though these Fresh-water  
Sailors coast as near as possible to the shore, - the  
Matron never losing sight of land, - yet the least  
 appearance of storm on these Lakes alarms them.

Late in the evening we reached another  
 Log-House at the end of Lake Oneida, <sup>at</sup> the com-  
 mencement of the Oranadaga River. - Having  
 for half a mile - before our arrival Poled over  
 very troublesome Shoals or Rapids, - rendered worse  
 from the number of Weirs & Washers set in  
 different parts, for the purpose of catching Ells.  
 This is done both by the Whites & the Indians;  
 the latter chiefly subsisting upon them.

This place affords ~~no~~ decent accommodations.  
 as a Log-House <sup>so situated</sup> could well furnish, ~~the~~ people  
 extremely civil, & their Ells, on which we  
 supped, the largest & best I ever tasted.

Next morning, Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>. We entered  
 very early - into the Oranadaga - or as it is often  
 called, the Ornago River. - The appearance was  
 picturesque & pretty, - the banks on both sides

thickly wooded, with more than an opening, but  
 very rarely any thing indicating a Settlement.  
 We saw a number of the Wood-Pecks on the  
 River, but fully as shy as our Wood-Creeper. This  
 day, however, we got a couple which proved  
 a very pleasing variety <sup>in our meal</sup> - About four miles  
 down we met another Selkirk, & on the  
 bank was an Indian Hut, a miserable tem-  
 porary thing. - The Father Mother & an Infant  
 sat, half naked, on something like a bed  
 formed of the Bark of Trees, & raised a little  
 from the ground. - at the edge of the Water stood  
 two Boys - all but naked, a bit of blue cloth  
 about their loins, & pieces of glittering tin binding  
 up their hair. - their Lances lay in the River.

We breakfasted near an excellent Spring  
 most sumptuously, having procured Milk &  
 Butter from our Landlady at the end of the Lake.  
 About the middle of the day we stopt at  
Three-River point, where there is a House & a  
 small Settlement <sup>occupied</sup> by a Man named  
Orringham, who, ~~was~~ <sup>as he</sup> industrious, might  
 find the situation profitable, for the Sonca  
River falls into the Arandaga at this point, &  
 the Salt-Spring near it might bring considerable  
Business.

19<sup>th</sup> business At Wingham we got a very comfortable addition to  
our stock of Provisions, — some fine Potatoes: — after  
breakfast the young gentlemen, walking along  
the pier, <sup>had</sup> discovered, at the distance of about a mile  
from it, another settlement; — the family had lived  
there five years & in that time had not enjoyed  
five months respite from the Lake-fever. (This  
is an Ague of the very worst kind) indeed, perfect  
good health was one of the rarest things we met.

The Children brought Apples & Cucumbers  
These poor people sold us some Chickens & some  
left with them some Brandy & Port-Wine, with  
a promise to enquire after them on our return.

On the margin of this River we observed  
a number of what the Boat Men call Salmon  
Beds, — these were composed of Sand & Pebbles  
heaped up so as to form sometimes considerable  
hills, — & here the Salmon are supposed  
first to deposit their spawn, & then to form  
these hills in order to prevent their becom-  
ing a prey to other Fish.

That night we reached Omega-falls  
72 miles. We found there a Log Horse, indeed —  
but so extremely filthy, & filled with such a  
parcel of nasty Children that Mr. Dixon &  
I resolved to commence our aquatic accom-  
paniment,

Encampment & sleep in our Boat. — We supped, in the only room the House offered, on our own provisions, amongst which was one of those delicious little Ducks. — The people of the House were extremely evil, but so miserably poor that, in fact, they had nothing to give us except Indian Corn & a few Potatoes. — During our meal the children lay on the floor waiting, with as much impatience as their Parents, to eat the scraps we might leave. — In this abominable dirty apartment our happy tempered young Parents agreed to spread their Mattresses. — Mr. Bidwell, taking our Lantern, repaired to the Boat, where, placing a few boards across the seats which we had occupied during the day, we laid our Mattress, spread our Blankets & went to sleep. — but from our vicinity to the Falls, added to the natural damp of the night, & the very imperfect state of our covering, we found ourselves our Clothes completely wet next day.

In the morning, Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup>, a very troublesome operation took place. — our Boat was emptied <sup>& the contents were</sup> in order to be dragged across the Portage as for about a mile the Falls of the River, stop almost entirely the navigation. — this was performed

by Osean. We walked that mile through the woods & took our boat at another settlement, where the master of the house had just been burned. — We now again found Poling necessary, there being a great many <sup>Wapjeds</sup> ~~Wapjeds~~ between the Falls & Onwego Fort.

We breakfasted at a house belonging to one Pollock it was situated on a Hill above the beach, & seemed more healthy than any habitation we had seen on the river; yet even here we found a man confined with fever & ague. — This settlement consisted of several houses, but all the inhabitants appeared to be connected by blood or friendship.

We breakfasted most comfortably, the people were clean & we found excellent milk & butter & what suited Mr. Fishers Scotch taste & mine; fine fresh Butter milk, the Millets having just thinned & we, being fortunately before hand with the Pigs, one of whom only it is bred in America.

We reached Onwego fort late in the afternoon, & saw Lake Ontario open before us.

Onwego is a very miserable place, & miserably the people live. — We got a dinner of bad salt-fish which, with milk & butter, seemed to be their only food. — The town is a small cluster of log-houses. — the one we went to, though the

best Inn, appeared to be the worst House - the people were civil however, & the landlord rather a genteel looking young Man; - he was one of those ~~often~~ <sup>often</sup> happy beings met in that class of life in this Country - who, standing high in their own opinion, conceive that they hold the same place in the opinion of others, - a violent Politician from whose judgement there was no appeal.

On the opposite side of the River, & just at ~~the~~ its junction with Lake Ontario, stands Oswego Fort a pretty looking fortification, but it must, from its situation, furnish very cold quarters to the soldiers. this is one of the Ports yielded to America by Britain.

In the evening of Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We boldly entered in our little Boat, this Immense & formidable Lake. - along the South Coast of which we had a hundred & seventy of two hundred miles (which is its length) to navigate before reaching Niagara. - Its appearance was that of a great sea, - its breadth being fifty miles, & in view it <sup>weather</sup> carried with it all the terrors of the Ocean. - the first symptoms of Storm, <sup>always</sup> seemed to rise from the North, & to render the Water so turbulent that we were frequently obliged, during our voyage, to remain some hours on the Beach on account of the very high surf.



We encamped the first night at a Harbour called  
 Little-Sodas - our Suppers differed very little from our  
 Breakfasts - tea, rusks, hung beef, & when we could get  
 it from the few Inhabitants we found <sup>some</sup> Milk & Butter.  
 The tea-kettle was now filled from the Lake, the  
 water of which was clear & excellent. - The Gentlemen  
 of our Party slept in a sort of Seat on the Beach,  
 formed by an old-sail, & the Boat-men crept beneath  
 another - while Mr. Dixon & I had recourse to our Boat.

Next day <sup>the Fifteenth</sup> they ~~we~~ reached Big-Sodas to  
 Dinner - 16 miles. We found here <sup>part of</sup> a new Settlement  
 forming by a very worthy & enterprising Scotch  
 Man, Capt. Williamson, in a new Country called  
 the Genesee - of which Big-Sodas is one of the  
 most beautiful spots. - The Bay is, indeed, very fine,  
 it is surrounded by an Amphitheatre of Hills, &  
 in time may merit the exaggerated Picture  
 in a printed description which was  
 put into our hands  
 now drawn of it. - Capt. Williamson has here  
 begun a Town, & built an exceedingly good Inn, this  
 however is not yet quite finished & I fear health  
 must be given to the Inhabitants before the  
 Town can become worthy of <sup>a place of entertainment</sup> such a name.  
 We dined tolerably well & then returned to our  
 Boat, - as the wind, when we had it, was  
 unfavourable Rowing became a heavy task

when they

upon the Gentlemen ~~who as well as our boatmen~~  
 were obliged to take their turn & relieve the Sailors.

The South side of Lake Ontario is very much  
 indented, the Beach <sup>smooth & pleasant</sup> extremely good, & luckily  
 for us, perfectly well furnished with fire-wood.  
 eastward from the Lake, - we had experienced the  
 same on all the Rivers. - There were also  
 on this Coast, numerous Creeks & Estuaries, well  
 known to the Boatmen, which afforded safe  
 shelter to the Watacon when we landed.

Soon after quitting Wig-Sodno the weather  
 began to overcast, & we put up our little Boath  
 in Gales Harbour. - We had scarcely erected our  
Tents, lighted our fires, & got ourselves refreshed,  
 by our usual Supper, when a violent shower  
 of rain fell, so heavy that neither our mutilated  
Armoire, nor the slight Tents could guard any  
 of us from being completely wet. - Next morning,  
Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>, We found the wind too high to  
 venture on the Lake early, as was our practice,  
 & We spent several hours in the necessary em-  
 ployment of drying our Clothes & Bedding - by  
 spreading them on the Becks, during which  
 operations we amused ourselves by ~~stating~~  
 & ventured to penetrate a little way into the

Woods, but were soon driven out again by Multitudes of Mosquitos, - surely the most tormenting of Gods creatures, & from which the air of the lake scoured us while we remained on the open beach; which we seldom fail to do. - Lord Henry, during our stay, shot a very large Bald Eagle - It fell into the lake & made such violent struggles, as obliged him to call the assistance of the Sailors before it could be taken up.

About the middle of the day, our Cloaths & Maggaze being dry, we set out but could only reach Herondignit-Creek that night.

These Creeks are very often overgrown at their entrance with Reeds, & have a very strong smell of Scur & Agnes; just as we entered the narrow mouth of this, there came down, from the further end, & meeting us, two Canoes filled with Indians. - These People spend the Summer in hunting & fishing. Their appearance was squalled & miserable. - but they added to the picturesque effect of the scene, & from the secluded & ~~remote~~ situation ~~which~~ near High-borough became rather formidable. - Where there were no human beings within many miles but ourselves; to pass the night within three yards of a group of  
 for the Creek was no wider of half naked Savages was rather beyond my courage, as it was a sort of

danger I had never before encountered. — They chose the <sup>indeed</sup>  
 opposite side of the Creek for their encampment, ~~then~~  
 but I petitioned Mr. Dixon, — both for health & safety, — to quit  
 our Boat & sleep on the Beach, which placed us  
 at a greater distance from them. — Spreading our  
Mattresses on the sand, & forming a Tent with our  
trouces, — Having a fire on one side of us, & our young  
Friends on the other, (under their Tent), we seated our-  
 selves conveniently on the end of our Boats, the young  
 Men sitting on theirs, & getting water from the Lake  
 we made a Booze of Shrub into Punch, which, with  
Cheese & Breads, furnished a most excellent Repast. —  
 Our usual Candlestick, the mouth of an empty Booze,  
 & small Lantern affording light sufficient to see &  
 to laugh at our own appearance thus strangely, &  
 even indivisibly grouped. —

Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. We again entered our Boat,  
 Before we left the Creek the Indians, (whom I believe  
 had been at least as much afraid of us as we had  
 been of them,) came to us with some Uronson  
 to sell. — Mr. Dixon bought & gave it to the Boat Men  
 to cook, for they contrived to make good food of every  
 thing that came in their way, — particularly  
 of the Fish they sometimes caught with Trotling —  
lines, — This, they dress admirably with the fat

of Salt Pork, & they always good naturedly let us partake of their good Dishes.

The wind still continued as much against us as it had been at our first setting out, so that it was by Rowing alone that we made our way. —

We breakfasted on Saturday at the Genesee River here were two small Settlements which assisted our meal & indeed, several succeeding ones, by supplying us with milk butter eggs & chickens. —

The Inhabitants of these wretched Dwellings appeared to be very poor — one of them, it is true, had a considerable quantity of Land & some Cattle, but little or no produce from either. — He had, however, a good tempered obliging Wife to comfort him. —

We set out after breakfast — dined at Madocks — May, & with the assistance of the Moon, reached the secure Harbour of the Lake — Archard, at Twelve O Clock at night.

The following day Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> We made Golden Hill to dinner, & slept at 18 mile Creek. —

~~The day after~~ <sup>(Tuesday only)</sup> we reached a spot called 12 mile Creek. ~~all our performance~~, which was no more than that distance from the place we had left for such was often the turbulence of the Lake that we were glad to remain in our little Harbours till it became tranquil. —

~~On Sunday night we put up in a creek, to which~~  
 To this spot we were invited by the voices of some Wook-Men, &  
 the light of their fires. — We found a Tent pitched &  
 in it a poor young Man labouring under the  
 Fever & Ague, — a miserable object amongst the rude  
 & boisterous crew that surrounded him. — He had  
 been employed in surveying the lands on the  
 banks of the Lake.

On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> we set out very early in  
 the morning, finding the wind fair for the first  
 time. — & by eleven o'clock we reached the Town  
 of Niagara. — passing by a tolerably well built  
 British Fortification, & a Colonel's Guard. — on the south  
 side of the Lake, & immediately opposite to the  
 British, is a Fortrefs lately given up to the Americans,  
 it is a respectable old French building, situated on  
 a Bank commanding the Lake. —

The Town of Niagara is small, but contains  
 some well supplied Store-Houses, & two or three good  
 Taverns, at one of which we breakfasted, & partly  
 upon some fine Fish caught by the Indians. —  
 after breakfast we hired a Cart — the only carriage  
 the Place afforded, & filling it with clean straw we  
 proceeded, 18 miles, through an interesting Country,  
 the scenery wild & picturesque, — to the Falls of

Niagara the great object & end of our journey.

The Town of Niagara <sup>full of</sup> ~~was~~ Indians, a number of whom had come to receive their annual presents from the British Government; & on our way to the Falls, we fell in with many of them returning home. — The Men generally intoxicated, & the poor Women bending beneath their burthens; for they had not only the Presents to carry, consisting of Blankets & of provisions, but their Children also. — as an Indian always travels in families. — The Infants are put into a Basket of a peculiar construction, flat on one side, in order to lie on the Mother's back, — by looking attentively you may, sometimes, perceive the little creature's feet at the bottom, or perhaps its head at the top, but there is in general such a load of Baggage & rags about the Mother's shoulders that it seems very astonishing how any Child can be preserved from smothering. — The older Children walk & assist often to carry each other. — The lordly Husband is loaded only with his Gun on his shoulder, & the Kurr, for which he has possibly exchanged half his Blankets, — in his head. — The Cloathing of the Indians is seldom more than a Blanket wrapped round them, — the Women have two, one of which serves as a Petticoat, the other round their shoulders.

Their heads are usually ornamented with Feathers & bits of glittering tin, - these last shine in their ears & lob from their noses. - The Indians supply the Inhabitants of Niagara with Fish, game, & almost every thing: - spending the money they receive almost always in rum.

About ~~nine~~ miles on our way to the Falls we reached a new & very thriving settlement called Green's Town, & there the Portage commences.

We were now within eight or nine miles of this far-famed Wonder without hearing any noise from the Waters, though it is said, that when the Wind is in certain quarters the roaring of the Falls is heard at the distance of twenty or thirty miles - no sound reached us till within three miles.

The first part of this truly sublime & interesting object visible to us, was a thick vapour which rose beautifully up & seemed to mix with the clouds. We quitted our Cart & seeking our way for we found no one to guide us through Woods & Fields - were led by the noise & the Spray to the first opening amongst the Trees. - The Sun was <sup>near</sup> just setting, & no Spectacle in the World could have so impressed us. Never, indeed, can I forget the sensations of astonishment & of Delight, which I experienced at the first glance of this stupendous object, - for it was a glance only, dimly



~~passed~~ through the mist which enveloped it. — The beauty of the Rainbow, formed by the refractory rays of the Sun, & extending from one fall to the other, blending its own colours with the sparkling of the Water cannot be described. — We stood enchanted, & could scarcely recover ourselves sufficiently to descend a steep Bank, travelling by an Indian Path, that is a track for one at a time, through the Branches, reached the Table Rock. — a projecting point so called, from whence you have the first complete view of the Cataracts, & which is a part of that chain of Rocks over which the Water precipitates itself.

The Cataract of Niagara is divided into two Falls by a beautiful little wooded Island, the centre of which forms a line of division between the British & the American Possessions. — The whole breadth of the falls including the Island, measures nearly a mile, the Island not occupying quite a fourth of this. The height does not exceed a hundred & forty or a hundred & fifty feet. These Cataracts assume very different characters, a part of that on the British side, forms a curve, & is called the Horse shoe, the Water appears <sup>like</sup> a Wall, & projects with so great force as to be perfectly distinct from the Rock over which it falls, & allows of your penetrating between them,

— when you descend to the Base of the River — a gentleman well accustomed to the measurement of water, conceived, from the experiments he made, that this Wall of Water was not less than twenty feet thick, & from its thickness it assumes a deep tinged green. — The Cataract on the American side, called Slusher, presents a foaming brilliant white sheet. — Both the falls receive a variety of thousand different modifications & beautiful tints, from the manner in which the Sun happens to strike upon them, — from the state of the atmosphere, or the force of the Winds.

The great sublimity of this scene proceeds chiefly from the immense body of Water which precipitates over the Rock. — It is in fact the Mass of Water flowing from all the upper lakes, or inland seas, of Canada. — The Lake of the Woods — Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, & Lake Erie, the North East end of which last, connects itself with Lake Ontario, by means of the River of Niagara, which is about thirty miles in length from Fort Erie to the Port of Niagara, & forms a part of the boundary betwixt the United States of America & Upper Canada.

I have said that the noise & the spray are the first objects which strike the Spectators, & prepare

their senses for the magnificent scenes afterwards presented  
 to their views. — Great part of that noise proceeds from  
 what are called the rapids, which extends for two miles  
 above the Falls. — The River of Niagara, — one of the  
 most beautiful we had seen, — is more than three  
 miles broad at Fort Erie, but it gradually contracts, —  
 the rapidity of its course redoubles, from the greater  
 declivity of the ground over which it rolls, — a chain  
 of white Rocks raise themselves on each side of  
 the bed of the River, ~~from a mile to a mile~~ <sup>at last</sup> —  
 a Table of Rocks of a hundred & sixty feet — almost  
 a half circle, <sup>over which the</sup> ~~flattened by that~~ immense Mass of  
 water ~~which~~ falls into the Gulf beneath. —

As early in the evening as we could tear  
 ourselves away from an object for which we had  
 travelled so far & suffered so much, — We retreated our-  
 selves in our Cart, which had been left half a mile  
 distant on the high road, — & we reached the Port of  
 Chippaway, two miles up the River, where we  
 found a very good Inn. — This Port is at the mouth  
 of Chippaway River, where terminates the Portage,  
 of what is termed Niagara Landing, at Queen's Town,  
~~a distance of nine miles.~~ — From thence the  
 Bateau Navigation extends to Fort Erie, fifteen miles,  
 where <sup>ce</sup> the Ship navigation proceeds three hundred,

miles to Detroit, & embraces all the navigation of the Western & Northern Lakes & Rivers, ~~except what is transported down the Grand River.~~

At Chippaway there is a new Rock House & Fortifications, under a Captains Command, with large Store-Houses for the receipt of goods from Fort Erie. The River is filled with Watawau manned by Canadians, scolding & swearing with great vociferation in French.

We reached the Inn wet, dirty, & fatigued; but a good fire & a tolerable Supper recruited & enabled us, after a comfortable sleep, to set out next morning immediately after breakfast. — We returned in our Canoe to the Falls, for our curiosity had been very imperfectly gratified the preceding evening. — We had now an opportunity of observing the beauty of the Rapids, which the darkness had prevented on our way up; They descend about fifty feet in half a mile, strong, swift, deep, & beautiful; & near the Falls several little Islands, inaccessible to human touch, added to the effect of the scene.

We were determined to go down to the Foot of the River, <sup>below the Cataract</sup> but for this purpose a Guide became necessary; with a view to find one we wandered to a Farm-House sweetly situated about half a mile from the Falls, & commanding a perfect view of the Blucher Fall,

Here we found a respectable Farmer & some handsome  
 Daughters, the youngest, about ten years old, readily  
 agreed to conduct us to the Head of the River. — She led  
 us through Corn-fields, Meadow-ground, & thick Wood  
 to the brink of a precipice, a little alarming to  
 look at, but I had taken my resolution, & with the  
 assistance of Mr. L. & the Young Gentlemen I was  
 enabled to get down this Steep, holding by the Branches  
 & Branches, in constant apprehension of both giving  
 way; — at one spot we found a small Ladder, of ten  
 or twelve steps firmly fixed, — It was erected for the  
 Wife of Gen: Simcoe, when he was Governor of  
 Upper-Canada, & I believe I was the second Gentle-  
woman who descended it. An Indian ladder appeared  
 to have been thrown down to make way for this,  
 (the Indian Ladder consists of the Body of a small  
 Tree in which are notches cut at equal distances,  
 sufficient to place the heel <sup>or</sup> toe) — One very critical  
 step having alarmed me considerably, I was seized  
 with a trembling in my legs which obliged me,  
 on reaching the Bottom, to sit down on the Stones  
 near an hour & my little Conductress, — who ran  
 up & down the Hill like a Bird, — gathered & brought  
 me Sorrel & wild Madberries, — called in England —  
Virginian, — which refreshed me a good deal. — We

We saw several Boys standing on the rocks & fishing with very long lines, regardless of the sublime objects around them. —

Being now on a level with the River. We looked up to these immense Cataracts, instead of looking down upon them as on the preceding evening. — From the curve which the Horse-shoe Fall makes, it is from below that the complete Coupi-Doenil is ~~gathered~~ <sup>gathered</sup> — Near the Snaker Fall, ~~appearing~~ coming out of the corner of the little Island, — is a small Fall, at least what would merit that name in any other situation, but placed so near to objects of such magnitude it appeared a beautiful white Feather, & is called the Horse-tail. —

While I rested, the Gentlemen of the Party walked with much difficulty over the stones along the side of the River, near half a mile, & got behind the Wall of Water formed by the curve of the Horse-shoe Fall, — They could advance but a ~~very~~ little way from want of air — They were however enabled to gather from the Rock a thin transparent Spar formed by the Water, though in doing this the number of Water-snakes incumbered them a little, — these are, though disgusting to look at, — the most innocent of their Tribes.

31 ~~The river~~ The river is about 112 yards wide at the Falls - it is conjectured that the water would fall at least 65 feet in the Chasm, - the perpendicular pitch of the Cataract, is about 150 feet. - I cannot say that the superior beauty of the scene sufficiently repaid the trouble of descending to the head of the river, as the Table Rock certainly affords a very enchanting view. - from our present situation however, we discovered the very strange appearance of this Table Rock, which struck us as a thin piece of stone projecting between 40 & 50 feet from the large Mass over which the Cataract fell, & hanging over this tremendous gulf in danger every moment of falling into it, & I was a little agitated on recollecting, that the evening before, we had lain down on our breasts upon this head of danger in order to look at the Horse-shoe Fall with safety. - at the moment we were looking up & making these reflections, the Family of Bishop Mountain, from Incebe, was actually viewing the Falls from this frightful position & from the distance, appeared like Pagurios.

Finding myself sufficiently recovered, & our curiosity gratified I attempted the ascent, which I performed with much more ease than I had gone down, - We drank milk with the

Father & Sisters of our little girl, - took a long & last view of the Snuehor Fall, & rewarded our guide not only for the dexterity with which she had performed her task, but for the good humoured vivacity with which she had amused us. -

Resuming our seats in the Cart we proceeded seven miles to the new Settlement at Greens Town, where we passed the remainder of the day & the night at the hospitable abode of Judge Hamilton, who had a handsome House finely situated on the Niagara River. - Nothing could be more kind & attentive than M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton, - In the evening we were joined by Bishop's Mountain & his Family.

Our Boatsman having come up to this spot, - commonly called the Landing, - on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> we got into it immediately after breakfast, & taking a kind leave of our good Host & Hostess, we returned to our quarters at the Inn, in the Town of Niagara, where we dined upon a fine fresh Norvegø Maf, purchased from the Indians, a most delicious Fish. -

On the day of our landing at Niagara, M<sup>r</sup> Weston found a Messenger from the Indian Chief of the Mohave, <sup>capt</sup> West, inviting us to pay him a visit, but our time being limited it was



to my great regret, refused. - Mont had passed some time at Philadelphia <sup>but</sup> visited us after. - Though his Education had been more European, than perhaps any other of his Country Men, he was still an Indian.

In the evening of Wednesday we betook ourselves to our Boat, & reached six mile Creek that night.

Thursday the 22<sup>d</sup> we reached the Genesee River, which runs into the Lake from the South. -

In the course of that forenoon we overtook a Boat filled, as the returns ones generally are, with Beaver & Buffalo skins. - The Boat men had stopt at a point of Rocks, called the Devil's nose, & were busily employed skinning a very large Beaver, which they had just shot. - This poor Wretch, chased & wounded in the thigh by a Wolf, had in despair taken the water, & had nearly crossed the Lake when the Boat men, perceiving, shot him, & with difficulty drew him up; <sup>to the Boat</sup> he was one of the largest Creatures I ever saw. - Our Sailors seemed impatient to share the spoil, though a little mortified at having lost the glory. - Mr. Horton, for a Bottle of Whisky, purchased a quarter & gave them, & they gave us a mess of it, cooked in their N. P. way. - The two Glouces on the Genesee were so mortified that our former friend confessed, she had

not a Wood to offer us - The young Men were obliged to pitch their Tent in a very bad Swampy situation, - Mr. Sidland & I remaining as usual in our Boat.

Friday night we reached Johnstones. Creek, & found one side of it possessed by a Gentleman who, like one we had before met, - had in the performance of his duty, as a Land-Surveyor, - been attacked by fever & ague - On passing this Creek, on our way to Niagara, we had observed a Tent erected & a Boat moored, & concluded that some unhappy person was overtaken by sickness, as no one could be detained in such a spot by pleasure.

Saturday night very late, & at the commencement of a storm, we reached Big Sodus. - the only place on the Lake where there is a tolerable Inn. - We there found our good friend Capt. Williams, - His own Dwelling is in the Genesee-Country at the distance of thirty miles from Big Sodus, through the woods, - But the Landlord having informed them that we had passed, & mentioned the probable time of our return, he was kind enough to come & meet us. It was a most agreeable surprise, & we dined together happily. He had caught the day before a Fish, of which I forget the name, - esteemed the finest in this part of the Country, - it was very fine, though the salt, necessary to its preservation, had injured its flavour.

25 injured to flavor. One of the gentlemen of our Party being rather unwell, Capt. Williamson proved to us the consequence of his new word by sending, with much ceremony, to the apothecary of this his favorite Government, for Sanderum. — Next morning we took leave of our kind friend & reentered our little Bark, extremely anxious to get forward as our time was near an end.

Hitherto, the wind had been constantly against us, except on the morning we reached Niagara. It had proved fully as adverse on our return, till this morning, although we had in going, been steering south west, & in returning North east, with this difference that in our first expedition we were six nights on Lake Ontario, in the return four. — Putting up <sup>now</sup> our sail with a favorable breeze, we soon reached little Isle, where we breakfasted. — Lord Henry shot a Crane, which we were very glad to roast for dinner, on reaching the same miserable House at Orwego. we had formerly been in.

The Master of this House continued to give himself all the airs of an Independent Gentleman; talked learnedly, & lived abstemiously, for there appeared, indeed, little in the place to eat. — We heard that the Butcher was attempting to shoot

a Sheep, & Mr. Dixon bespoke a quarter to take with us, but alas, it was too fleet, so that the Raccoon came in very seasonably, & eat like indifferent food. — The indisposition of our Helmsmen obliged us to remain all night. — On Monday the 26 of August we again entered the Orandago, & as we were now going against the Current, & in a very dry season, The Navigation was still more troublesome in ascending the numerous Rapids. The Boat Men actually forced the Boat over the gravel, by getting out & dragging it along, — I remained in it with the Gentlemen, in order ~~to~~ to lighten it, walked through the Woods & returned to their places when the Water became deeper. — a slight breeze in our favor induced us to put up our sail & to pass our friend Ballack without stopping.

We made great efforts to reach the Falls of Orwego before a Boat, which had got the start of us in the morning, as we feared being delayed at the Portage. The Boat however made good her point, & when we reached the Falls, we found the Sailors bargaining for the ocean to carry their Boats across. — We attempted to brIBE but they declared themselves in such a hurry nothing could induce them to relinquish the prior claim to the Portage, — We had nothing left but to draw

out our provisions & eat our dinner contentedly. During this tedious operation. — At last our turn came, — The Boat was put on a kind of Wagon, — consisting of two pairs of Wheels, joined by a long perch, on which our Boat, with all its baggage, was placed & drawn by two yoke of Oxen through the Wood. We walking in procession after it. — In going to Niagara the Boat, emptied of the baggage, — had from the desirity, though at some hazard to the Boat Men, been allowed to descend the Falls. — but it was impossible to force it now ~~skip~~ over the Rocks against the stream. —

at the other end of the Falls we found our dirty, but civil acquaintances — just as we had left them, in that time their faces had not been washed, They seemed therefore very glad to see us. —

The delay we had experienced obliged us to sleep on the Banks of the River, a situation we found much less healthy, as well as less agreeable, than the Banks of Ontario had been. —

There are, indeed, few scenes more pensive if not melancholy — than the Banks of these Rivers in the gloom of evening, — wooded to the Water's edge, — in many parts impervious to the view, or to mortal step, one feels excluded from the World. — When enlivened by the Sun the objects are romantic & the numerous flocks of wild

*howls*  
 Birds & ~~Do~~ cheer the scene. but in the absence of that  
 cheering light, ~~it is~~ truly triste.

We had the mortification, as we expected, to see  
 the Boat, which had occasioned our delay, safely Moored,  
 & the Men, who <sup>had</sup> pleaded business, making arrangements  
 for the night, having chosen the best bank spot on  
 the River, & they did not overtake us until after  
 we had breakfasted next morning at Three River point.

About a mile before we reached this Point we  
 stopped, where the sick family lived, who had in  
 our going supplied us with apples & Cucumbers. —  
 The young Gentlemen visited them, (while our  
 Sailors rested) carrying with them some Wine & Black,  
 & the little ghasts of Children came to the water  
 side with a fresh supply of apples.

We found part of the family at Wingehorn,  
 at Three River point, also laid up with ague, —  
 procuring from them milk & butter we breakfasted  
 in our Boat, — During this repast we saw a large  
Deer swim across the River, but not near enough  
 to fire at it, & soon after a Beaver crossed over in the  
 same manner, as we were told, to help itself  
 to Indian Corn from a field near us, which it  
 seems is a very common practice with that  
 animal; — In truth there is so little movement or  
 cultivation on the Banks of these Lakes & Rivers,

that I wonder not the Masters of the Forest should take such liberties. —

On Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> we dined at the first good spring we found, & passing the now deserted Hut of the Indian, reached our old quarters at the entrance of the Onieda Lake, in good time in the evening.

The people of the House were glad to see us, & prepared, as is customary in this Country, tea & supper together, for the latter they produced some of their fine Salts, the ~~largest I ever saw~~, they had been caught that morning in their Sell-nets, immediately salted & hung up in the chimney, & nothing could be more delicious. —

Next morning at setting out we saw a number of wicker Baskets in the Water, & so filled that the creatures could scarcely move. — Salted Sells make the principal food of the Inhabitants during the Winter, & the Indians, who live on these Rivers, subsist entirely upon them.

We made Amsterdam 7 miles to Breakfast, having still an adverse wind. — In our former Voyage we had carefully avoided this unhealthy Settlement, & stopped now from necessity. — The Tavern made a very good appearance without, but exhibited a scene of great wretchedness within, — In one

corner of the chimney sat a Man whose visage bespoke  
 the last stage of a Consumption. Upon enquiry we  
 found that he had the Sake fever, which he described  
 as greatly worse than the common fever & ague of  
 the Country, & in the garret immediately above us  
 the Landlady's Daughter lay, as it was thought, past  
 recovery, having though but <sup>years old</sup> seventeen been four  
 years afflicted with this dreadful Malady. She was  
 now vomiting blood, & her groans embittered our meal,  
 which would have been very scanty had we not  
 made the Servant bring our own provisions from  
 the Boat. — We found even the Bottle of Milk we  
 had brought from our last quarters, useful — a  
 little Boy was dispatched half a mile to bring  
 water from a Spring. — That of this Lake being <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~

The poor Woman, who thus lived in an  
 empty Tavern, had much to struggle with be-  
 sides the bad health of her family, upon our  
 asking her whether her Husband was alive, she  
 acknowledged he was, but had deserted her & lived  
 on the Banks of Wood-Creek with a Mistress: —  
 while she laboured to maintain her sick family.  
 We left her some Tea & Sugar, & a pot of Jelly,  
 which a good natured Scotch Man had given  
 me at Niagara, & which I had sent up to the poor



invalid on our arrival, to ~~soften~~ the sores of her throat.

This unfortunate Woman, whose appearance & manners were above the common, - told us that six families had been obliged to quit this very miserable Settlement in the last year, on account of bad health.

I advised her to follow their example, which she said she would do as soon as her Daughters fate was

Decided.

Great efforts had been made by the Proprietors a Dutch Man, to ~~form~~ to people this <sup>Settlement</sup>. The Houses were extremely good, a Post office and apothecaries Shop were established, - the same Gentleman superintending both, - He was then absent - she said, or would have waited on us. - The Post Boy, we understood, with difficulty rode through the Woods with the Axes brought by the Boatmen, - for the few Inhabitants which were scattered on the Lake.

We quitted this scene of wretchedness as soon as possible, - vainly endeavouring to calculate the number of years which would be requisite to give health to the banks of these Lakes & Rivers.

The wind being over against us. We tried by hard rowing, a labour the Gentlemen very largely partook, to reach the Habitation of Jarvis at the end of this poisonous Water. - We happily found this House free from Company &

perfectly clean, though his Wife was laid up with  
fever & ague. - With the assistance of our black Foot-  
Man we got a tolerable Supper of Milk, Bread, &  
roasted Indian Corn, & comfortable lodging. -

We were somewhat surprised to meet  
here the enterprising Farmer, with whom we  
had made acquaintance in Gilberts Pragma on  
Wood Creek. - His family occupied Javes's farm,  
had their own corn & lived on Indian Corn & milk.  
This enthusiastic Mad Creator, who had Wife &  
Children, though born in America, spoke Dutch  
only. - had actually made his proposed purchase of land  
upon this unwholesome Lake of Onondaga, - his estate  
was situated four miles from Javes's, & having  
his own little Boat he went, with his family,  
every morning carrying milk & Corn for the day,  
in order to prepare their Habitation; returning  
to Javes's in the evening. <sup>neither</sup> The view, nor even  
reputation of the Lake, had <sup>anywise</sup> ~~not~~ damped <sup>the</sup>  
ardour of this Man. - The Land was cheap & he  
asked no more. - from the Sale of his former  
possessions in Jersey he had not only been  
enabled to make his present purchase, but to  
reserve money enough to buy Corn & Logs  
for his subsistence, till his Land should become

produce which, from his own industry, he made no  
 doubt it would soon be. — We were much amused with  
 this strange & happy character, who associated with  
 perfect good humour, & seriously — every objection Mr. Weston  
 started to his new scheme; — He allowed the Water  
 of the Lake to be very bad; but he had a fine Spring  
 on his ground, — the air arising from the Lake  
 rendered its Banks unhealthy, — true, but he was  
 building his Log-House seven feet above its level;  
 & if he still found the exhalations from the Lake  
 pernicious, he would penetrate further into the  
 Wood, & build a House twenty feet above the level. —  
 He had already cut down a great many Trees, these  
 his Wife & Children, / Boys about ten or twelve, assisted  
 him to drag to the spot he had now fixed upon;  
 & in two days he could, with their aid, finish his  
 Log-House. — They would then leave Mr. James's,  
 & with two Coues & six Hogs fix themselves on  
 their new domain, & prepare a field to receive  
 Indian Corn in the Spring, which, with cutting  
 the Wood necessary for the Winter firing, would  
 occupy their time. — The Hogs would feed, as all  
 Hogs in the Neighbourhood did, on the roots  
 amongst the Trees, & grass enough would be found  
 in the Woods for the Coues. — In short, the romance

wh

spirit of Adventure made all things easy, & proves what  
may be accomplished by Industry & Energy. The real  
enthusiasm by which this poor Fellow was animated  
might have realized Robinson Crusoe.

Early on Thursday the 2<sup>d</sup>, we took leave of  
Jarvis & of the German. The Woman was busy milking  
her Cows, & preparing for their daily voyage.

Learning from Jarvis, that the long track of  
dry weather had rendered Wood Cracks still shallower  
than when we had passed before, The young Men  
set out, with a Guide, to walk by an Indian Path  
through the Woods to Fort Starbuck there to wait <sup>for</sup> us.

M. Dixon & I took possession of our Boat. The  
morning was heavy & the rain soon came on,  
This was the place where we had before suffered  
from Musquitos, - The voracious swatches, who  
always swarm in Rain, - seemed to have very  
much increased in size since our last meeting, &  
no way diminished in number or in violence.  
We sat eleven hours under an incessant rain, &  
exposed to this merciless Enemy, without covering,  
for our awning had, as formerly, been taken down  
previous to our setting out; - In this long interval  
we neither stirred from our seats or tasted food,  
except a little milk which happened to stand near us.

Our time, indeed, was fully occupied in preserving our eyes from the attacks of this dreadful foe, - for the veils with which our faces were covered being not adhered to the skin & we were stung through them. - Our only advantage was that the Water rendered the poison <sup>troublesome</sup> less <sup>in</sup>.

We stopped but once, & that was to let the sailors take a hurried breakfast; in order to do this they ascended the manks; upon our looking up to them we discovered two miserable looking objects, a Man & a Woman, who seemed to inhabit a small hut without a door; & not in any great proof against the Weather, with much labour they kept in a handful of fire in a corner. & here our Men breakfasted on their own stores; - on their return to the Boat we were surprised to learn from them; that the Man we had seen was the Husband of our Landlady at Rotterdam. who, with his squallid Mistress, lived on love in this Hovel. -

About five in the afternoon we reached Gilberts, whom we found ill of fever & ague. - We learned that our young friends had died there in a very wretched condition, had prepared the family for our reception & then proceeded to Fort-Stammick.

The Wife & Daughters of Gilbert were very kind & gave us all the comfort fire & food could afford.

We found there a young Couple & an Infant, on their way to upper Canada in hopes of obtaining Land, Gilbert's being the Mendocian for the passing Boats.

Next morning, Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> the weather was fine, but we were obliged to wait for the Water of the Reservoir, which our friends had promised to request might be let out for our accommodation in their shallow stream, & which enabled us, with some difficulty, to reach Fort-Stamish to dinner. — Our Host & Hostess received us very kindly, & expressed no little astonishment at finding us all free from Lake-fever. — after dinner we set out for Shenebady, the Current being now in our favor we determined to proceed in our <sup>down the River</sup> ~~Boat~~ <sup>Boat</sup>. We paid a short visit of thanks to M<sup>r</sup>. & M<sup>rs</sup>. Curtis at a pretty little Cottage on the Banks of the River. Then went off, hoping to reach good quarters that night, but we found the Narrows though broad, with cultivated & thickly inhabited Banks. yet, differing very little, in point of navigation, from the Onondago & Woodcreek. — We were obliged to stop for the night much short of the place intended, as the Boat Men could not venture even by moon-light to encounter the rapid <sup>down the</sup> interruptions caused by fallen Trees &c. — We stopped at a small Log Hut, the Master & Hostess of which were not only very

civil, but very superior in their manners to their situation. Our Supper was bread, milk, & boiled Corn, very good fare & much to our taste, but which always, in this Country, indicated poverty. — There was only one apartment in the House, — our young Men, the Sailors & Footman lay contortedly down on the Floor, & Mr. Linton & I, taking our Santhorn, repaired to our Boat. —

We set out next morning the first of September, & at dinner time reached the excellent Inn at old Fort-Schuyler, & that night entered the Canal at the Falls of the Mohawk, a work of considerable expense. — We had some altercation with the keeper of the first Lock, who, wanting to detain us in his House all night, insisted to let us through after a certain

There are <sup>several</sup> ~~many~~ parts of the United States where you are not permitted to travel on Sunday, but certainly nowhere it being Sunday. A dollar slipped into his hand at last prevailed, but the dispute <sup>had</sup> retarded us so much that it was quite dark by the time we passed the last Lock. Upon again entering the River a most picturesque scene presented itself. — a Boat <sup>this was</sup> trimmed for striking Pike. — at one end of it was a sort of grated Machine filled with fire, the blaze of which attracts the Fish, while a Man stands ready with his spear to strike as they approach, — another Man stands at the other end to steady the Boat &

to receive the Fish. — To us this object, appearing suddenly in the extreme darkness of the evening, seemed a Fairy scene. — The reflection of the Trees from the Banks in the water, by the varying light of the fire, gave something picturesque to every object, wild & beautiful beyond description. — The earnest fixed attitude of the Man in the act of striking while his size was diminished by the light, & the distance to which the whole seemed removed, gave the appearance of a fine & singular scene in an opera. —

Late in the evening we got to the Inn at the Falls, & were well accommodated. — Water & Mush — Melons were almost the only fruits we had seen on our journey, We found them here in perfection.

The following morning we resumed, — for the last time, our seats in the Canoe. & passed through — for near a mile, — that chasm cut through the rock in order to continue the Navigation, & to avoid the troublesome interruption of a Portage.

Nothing could exceed the romantic beauty of <sup>its</sup> the scenery — sometimes so narrow as to enable you to gather the wild fruits & flowers growing luxuriantly on the sides of the rocks, — then widening & exhibiting a fine mixture of wood & rock, — These chasms however were a little loosened by a small but thick rain, which



continued till our arrival at the House of our old German  
 friends <sup>old Hudsons</sup> to breakfast. — The good Woman was extremely  
 pleased to see us return in health, & gave us an  
 excellent breakfast, one article of which was some  
~~like~~ caught the preceding evening in the same  
 manner we had seen. —

Many Inn keepers on the Banks of this River  
 keep Stores, & where that is the case you have always  
 good things. —

In proceeding down the Mohawk we passed  
 the House of the late Sir William Johnson, a Man  
 remarkable for the influence he acquired over  
 the Indians, & ~~to~~ which he exercised to his Death.  
 It is handsomely built of Stone & appeared in good  
 order, though forsaken by his Posterity. —

On Monday the 2<sup>d</sup> of Sept. we reached  
 Schenectady to dinner, from whence we had set  
 out near a Month before on this tour. & in  
 the evening we went on to our head quarters,  
Platts Hotel in Albany. —

Delighted at having beheld an Object which no  
 time can ever erase from the Memory. —

(17)

on account of the difficulty of the <sup>225</sup> navigation in the creeks & small streams through which we were to pass.

When we found it necessary to clear our way by means of the Hatchet

As it was necessary to give these two Rowers rest the three gentlemen & our travelling footmen (an excellent rower) occasionally took their places the boat not being capable of holding a greater number of persons.

Went at 11 <sup>th</sup> page

on each side, ~~the~~

The Bed of the River  
at last forms a flat  
Table of Rock, the

extremity of which  
on the north or English side is  
nearly in the shape of  
a Semicircle, over which  
that immense mass  
of water falls into  
the Gulf ~~below~~ beneath.















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