

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY;

CONTAINING

A GENERAL COLLECTION OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS, TRADITIONS,  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, ANECDOTES, Etc.

RELATING TO ITS

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES,

WITH

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF EVERY TOWNSHIP IN THE STATE.

Illustrated by 120 Engravings.

BY JOHN W. BARBER,

AUTHOR OF CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS, ETC.

AND

HENRY HOWE,

AUTHOR OF "THE MEMOIRS OF EMINENT AMERICAN MECHANICS," ETC.

[Arms of the State of New Jersey.]



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comes turbid on exposure to the air, and gradually deposits a fine ochre. Notwithstanding its ferruginous impregnation, the metal is so precipitated and modified by boiling, that the infusion of tea-leaves is not blackened or discolored at all; but is as good as that made with pure spring-water. When the hostess at the inn told me this, I was so incredulous that I offered to bet her a bonnet and a shawl that it would not turn out so. She declined the wager, but said she would make the experiment. Water from the spring was boiled, and employed for making an infusion of Chinese tea. There was no discoloration whatever: whence I found that, if she had had the courage to lay, I should have lost the stake. In like manner, when one of my friends requested me, a few years ago, to make some experiments on a bottle of water he had brought from the spring, I told him I would do so, and authorized him to bring as many persons as he pleased to witness the proceedings. The company assembled, and the tests for iron gave not the least indications of its presence. We were all puzzled and disappointed. Its virtues are more particularly extolled in cases of calculous concretion, and obstruction of the urinary passages. Though, in addition to its nephritic operation, it may be considered as a tonic to the stomach, and gently strengthening the digestive organs, like other chalybeates. So that, in connection with a change of air, exercise, diet, and way of life, it may be productive of excellent effects, in the cases of patients from the seacoast and crowded cities.

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## PASSAIC COUNTY.

PASSAIC COUNTY was formed from the northern part of Essex, and western part of Bergen cos., Feb. 7th, 1837. Its extreme length is 30 m., and its breadth varies from 2 to 16 m. It is bounded N. by Bergen co. and part of Orange co., N. Y., E. by Bergen and Hudson cos., S. by Essex and Morris cos., and W. by Sussex co. The surface is generally hilly, with broad and fertile valleys, excepting in the extreme southeastern part, where it is level. The county is watered by the Passaic, Pequannock, Ringwood, Pompton, and Ramapo rivers. The Paterson and Hudson railroad, 16½ miles in length, commences at Jersey city, enters the county on the south-east, and terminates at Paterson. It will eventually be extended into the state of New York, and connect with the New York and Erie railroad. The Morris canal, also, passes through the southern part of the county. In the northern part are large deposits of valuable iron ore, extensively used in the numerous forges of that region. There is an excellent quarry of red sandstone at the village of Little Falls. This county, although respectable in point of agriculture, derives its chief importance from its extensive manu-

factories, principally located at Paterson. The county is divided into the five following townships:—

Acquackanonck,	Manchester,	Paterson,
Pompton,	West Milford.	

The population of Passaic co., in 1840, was 16,721.

### ACQUACKANONCK.

Acquackanonck is about 7 m. long, with an average breadth of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. It is bounded N. by Paterson and Saddle river; E. by Lodi,



*Eastern View of Acquackanonck.*

Bergen co., and Harrison, Hudson co.; S. by Belleville, Bloomfield, and Caldwell, Essex co., and W. by Manchester. The Paterson and Hudson railroad, and Morris canal pass through the township. The soil is generally fertile, and the surface mountainous and hilly on the west, elsewhere level. There are 8 stores, 1 cotton fac., 2 tanneries, 1 grist-m., 3 saw-m.; cap. in manufac. \$73,600; 1 academy, 3 schools, 130 scholars. Pop. 2,483.

The foundation of Acquackanonck was in March, 1679, when "Captahem, an Indian sachem, granted a deed for *Haquequenunck*, (afterward spelt 'Aqueyquinunke,') to Hans Diderick, Gerrit Geritson, Walling Jacobs, Hendrick George, and company, of Bergen; and another deed from the governor and council, for the same tract, with some small variation in bounds, is dated March 16th, 1684."

The village of Acquackanonck is situated on the west bank of the Passaic river, and on the line of the Paterson and Hudson railroad, 5 m. SE. from Paterson, 9 m. NE. from Newark, and 11 m. from New York. The Passaic river is navigable for sloops to this village, 15 m. from its mouth; beyond here, the river affords innumerable mill-sites in its meanderings to its source. A number of factories and mills are situated upon it, in its course through the township. The above view was taken on the east bank of the Passaic, just above the bridge, and shows the most dense part of the

village, together with the Reformed Dutch church, and the academy. In the west part of the place is another church, built of brick, and ornamented with a cupola, and a tablet upon its front bears the inscription, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.—1 Sam. vii. 12. The True Reformed Dutch church of Achquakanonk, erected A. D. 1825." There are also in the village 2 stores, and about 50 dwellings. A number of sloops are owned here, which trade with New York and other places. Blachley's mineral spring is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. west of the village, and Weasel is the name of a settlement extending several miles along the Passaic, in the north part of the township. An officer of the revolutionary army, who passed through Acquackanonck and Paramus in 1778, thus gives his impressions.

"These towns are chiefly inhabited by Dutch people; their churches and dwelling-houses are built of rough stone, one story high. There is a peculiar neatness in the appearance of their dwellings, having an airy piazza, supported by pillars in front, and their kitchens connected at the ends in the form of wings. The land is remarkably level, and the soil fertile; and being generally advantageously cultivated, the people appear to enjoy ease and happy competency. The furniture in their houses is of the most ordinary kind, and such as might be supposed to accord with the fashion of the days of Queen Anne. They despise the superfluities of life, and are ambitious to appear always neat and cleanly, and never to complain of an empty purse."

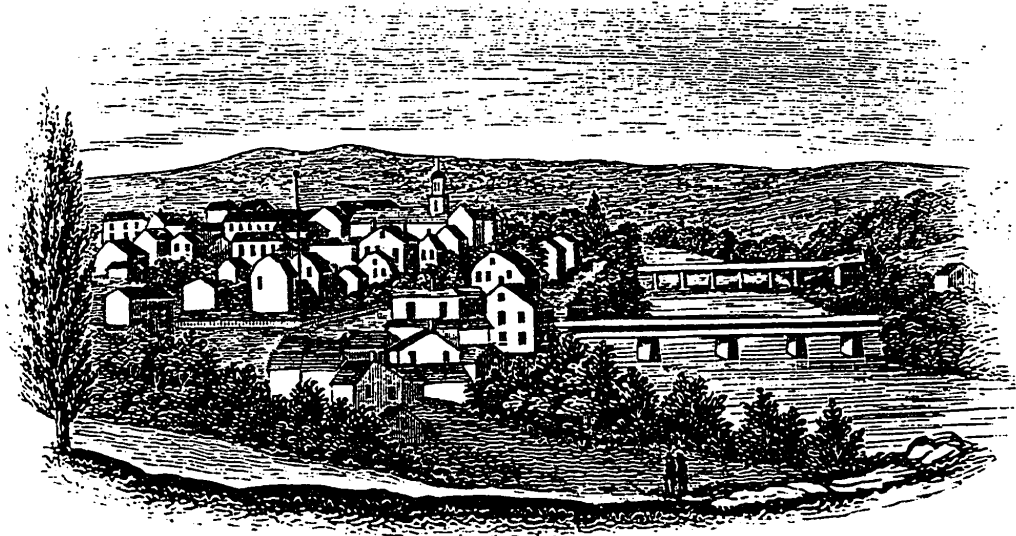
The village of Little Falls is on the Passaic river, 4 m. SW. of Paterson. It derives its name from the rapids in the river, which here descend 51 feet in half a mile, and may be used for turning machinery to a great extent. The Morris canal crosses the river by a beautiful stone aqueduct, of 80 feet span, and a height of 50 feet. The village contains 4 stores, several manufacturing establishments and mills, 1 Reformed Dutch and 1 Methodist church, and about 60 dwellings. There is here an excellent quarry of red sandstone, which was used in the construction of Trinity church, New York. From it has been carved some beautiful statuary, by Mr. Thom, the sculptor, a former resident of the village.

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## MANCHESTER.

Manchester was formerly part of Saddle River, Bergen county, and was taken from that township at the time of the formation of Passaic county. Its extreme length is 9, and extreme width 8 miles. It is bounded N. by Franklin, Bergen co.; easterly by Saddle River, Bergen co., and Paterson and Acquackanonck; S. by Caldwell, Essex co.; and westerly by Pequannock, Morris co., and Pompton. Pop. 3,110. It is generally hilly and mountainous, and well watered, being coursed on the west by the Ramapo and Pompton rivers, and on the south and east by the Passaic.

The village of Manchester, formerly called Totowa, is situated on the Passaic, in a romantic and picturesque region of country immediately opposite Paterson, with which it is connected by two bridges, and in a general description should be included as a part of that



*South View of Manchester.*

town. It contains several manufacturing establishments, a Reformed Dutch church, a church for colored persons, and about 1,600 inhabitants. The above view was taken on the summit of the quarry, a short distance south of the village.

Mead's Basin is a small settlement and depot on the Morris canal, in the SW. part of Manchester, where there are about a dozen dwellings. Goffle is a hamlet in the NE. part of the township.

A short distance from the village of Manchester are the Paterson Falls, anciently called Totowa Falls; a gentleman with the revolutionary army, after describing the falls, thus describes another natural curiosity then existing in this vicinity:

In the afternoon we were invited to visit another curiosity in the neighborhood. This is a monster in a human form. He is twenty-seven years of age, his face, from the upper part of his forehead to the end of his chin, measures *twenty-seven inches*, and round the upper part of his head is *twenty-one inches*; his eyes and nose are remarkably large and prominent, chin long and pointed. His features are coarse, irregular, and disgusting, and his voice is rough and sonorous. His body is only twenty-seven inches in length, his limbs are small and much deformed, and he has the use of one hand only. He has never been able to stand or sit up, as he cannot support the enormous weight of his head; but he is constantly in a large cradle, with his head supported on large pillows. He is visited by great numbers of people, and is peculiarly fond of the company of clergymen, always inquiring for them among his visitors, and taking great pleasure in receiving religious instruction. General Washington made him a visit, and asked "whether he was a whig or tory?" He replied, that he had never taken an *active* part on either side.

## PATERSON.

Paterson was formed from Acquackanonck in 1831. Its population in 1840 was 7,598. The village of Paterson, the seat of jus-

tice for Passaic county, is on the Passaic river, 13 miles N. of Newark, and 17 from New York. The town plot lies partly on both sides of the river, and covers 36 square miles. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, common council, &c. This flourishing manufacturing town was established by a society incorporated in 1791, with a capital of \$1,000,000, which owed its origin to the exertions of Alexander Hamilton.

The general object of the company was to lay the foundation of a great emporium of manufactures. The prominent purpose of the society was the manufacture of cotton cloths. At this period the great improvements introduced in the cotton manufacture by Arkwright were but little known even in Europe, and in this country scarcely any cotton had been spun by machinery.\*

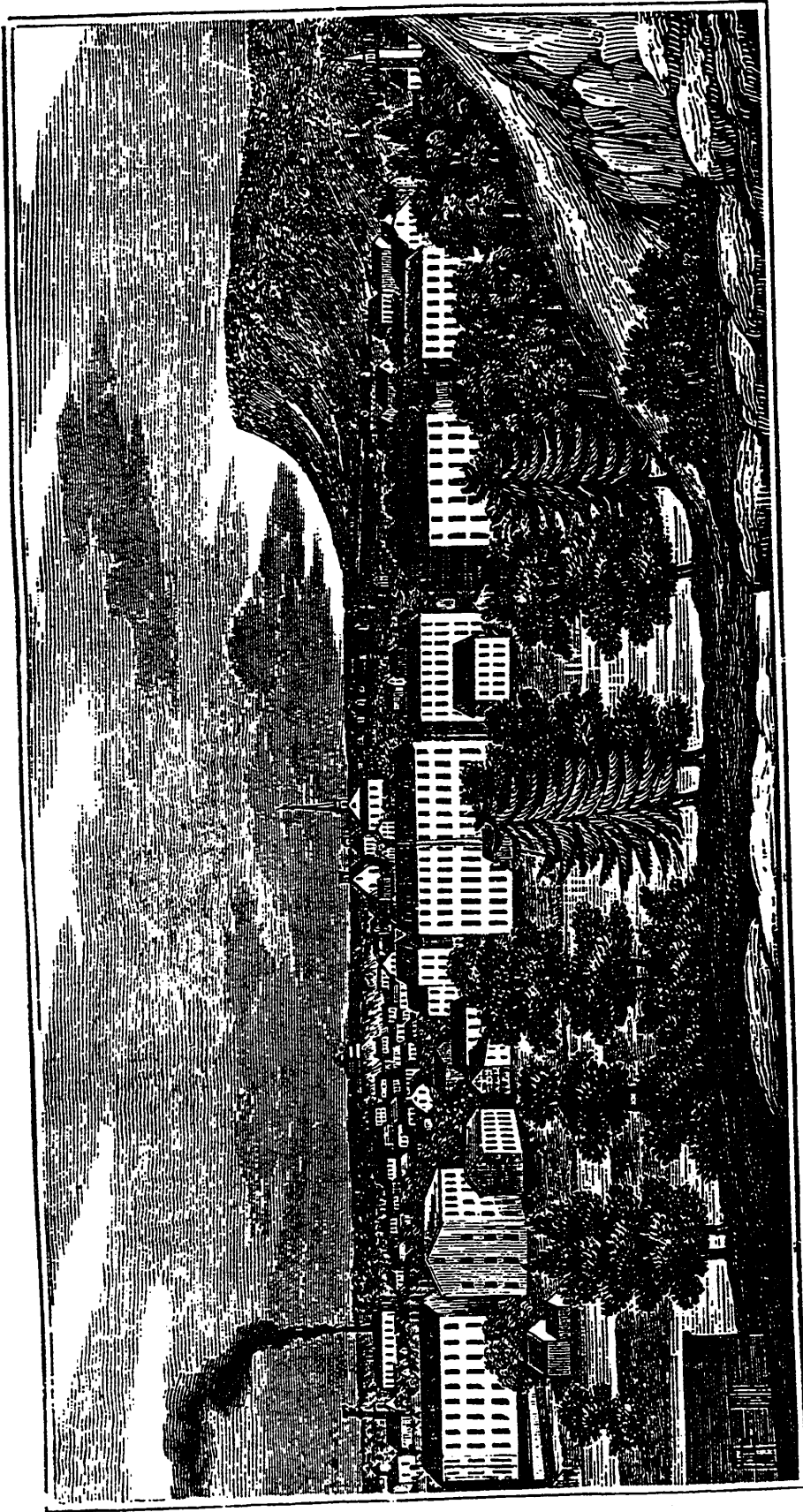
The act of incorporation gave a city charter with jurisdiction over a tract of six square miles. The society was organized at New Brunswick in Nov. 1791, and the following gentlemen appointed as its board of directors, viz: William Duer, John Dewhurst, Benjamin Walker, Nicholas Low, Royal Flint, Elisha Boudinot, John Bayard, John Neilson, Archibald Mercer, Thomas Lowring, George Lewis, More Furman, and Alexander M'Comb. William Duer was appointed the principal officer. Having been duly organized, the society, in May, 1792, decided upon the great falls of Paterson, in honor of Gov. William Paterson, who had signed their charter. There were then not over ten houses here.

"At a meeting of the directors, at the Godwin hotel, on the 4th July, 1792, appropriations were made for building factories, machine shops, and shops for calico printing and weaving; and a race-way was directed to be made, for bringing the water from above the falls to the proposed mills. Unfortunately, the direction of these works was given to Major L'Enfan, a French engineer, not more celebrated for the grandeur of his conceptions, than his recklessness of expense; and whose magnificent projects commonly perished in the waste of means provided for their attainment. He immediately commenced the race-way and canal, designing to unite the Upper Passaic with the Lower, at the head of tide, near the present village of Acquackanonck, by a plan better adapted to the resources of a great empire than to those of a private company.

"In January, 1793, Peter Colt, Esq., of Hartford, then comptroller of the state of Connecticut, was appointed 'general superintendent of the affairs of the company, with full powers to manage the concerns of the society, as if they were his own individual property,' Major L'Enfan being retained, however, as engineer; but he, after having spent, uselessly, a large sum of money, resigned his office in the following September. Mr. Colt, thus in

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\* The first cotton spun by machinery in America was at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Dec., 1790, by Samuel Slater, an English emigrant, who may be properly styled "the parent of the American cotton manufacture." As an evidence of the vast improvements in the manufacture and culture of cotton, it is stated that at this period good cotton cloth was *fifty cents* per yard. For a more full history of this subject, the reader is referred to the memoirs of Arkwright, Hargreaves, Cartwright, Slater, and Whitney, in the *Memoirs of Eminent Mechanics*, by the junior compiler of this work.



VIEW OF PATERSON, N. J.

The Episcopal and one of the Reformed Dutch Churches are seen on the left; the First Presbyterian Church, the Court House, the Catholic and Methodist Churches appear in the central part. Passaic river is seen in front of the factory buildings.

sole charge of the works, completed the race-way, conducting the water to the first factory erected by the society. The canal to tide-water had been abandoned before the departure of the engineer.

“The factory, 90 feet long by 40 wide, and 4 stories high, was finished in 1794, when cotton yarn was spun in the mill; but yarn had been spun in the preceding year, by machinery moved by oxen. In 1794 also, calico shawls and other cotton goods were printed; the bleached and unbleached muslins being purchased in New York. In the same year the society gave their attention to the culture of the silkworm, and directed the superintendent to plant the mulberry-tree for this purpose. In April of this year, also, the society, at the instance of Mr. Colt, employed a teacher to instruct, gratuitously, on the Sabbath, the children employed in the factory, and others. This was probably the first Sunday-school established in New Jersey.

“Notwithstanding their untoward commencement, and the many discouragements attending their progress, the directors persevered in their enterprise; and during the years 1795 and 1796, much yarn of various sizes was spun, and several species of cotton fabrics were made. But, at length satisfied that it was hopeless to contend, successfully, longer with an adverse current, they resolved, July, 1796, to abandon the manufacture, and discharged their workmen. This result was produced by a combination of causes. Nearly \$50,000 had been lost by the failure of the parties to certain bills of exchange purchased by the company, to buy in England plain cloths for printing; large sums had been wasted by the engineer; and the machinists and manufacturers imported, were presumptuous and ignorant of many branches of the business they engaged to conduct; and, more than all, the whole attempt was premature. No pioneer had led the way, and no experience existed in the country, relative to any subject of the enterprise. Besides, had the country been in a measure prepared for manufactures, the acquisition of the carrying-trade, which our merchants were then making, was turning public enterprise into other channels. The ruin of the company, under these circumstances, cannot now be cause of astonishment. But to this catastrophe the children of Mr. Colt, now deeply interested in the operations of the company, have the just and proud satisfaction to know, that their parent was in no way auxiliary. On closing their concerns, the directors unanimously returned him their thanks ‘for his industry, care, and prudence in the management of their affairs, since he had been employed in their service; fully sensible that the failure of the objects of the society was from causes not in his power, or that of any other man, to prevent.

“The cotton-mill of the company was subsequently leased to individuals, who continued to spin candle-wick and coarse yarn until 1807, when it was accidentally burned down, and was never rebuilt. The admirable water-power of the company was not, however, wholly unemployed. In 1801, a mill-seat was leased to Mr. Charles Kinsey and Israel Crane; in 1807, a second, and in 1811, a third to other persons; and between 1812 and 1814, several others were sold or leased. In 1814, Mr. Roswell L. Colt, the present enterprising governor of the society, purchased, at a depreciated price, a large proportion of the shares, and reanimated the association. From this period the growth of Paterson has been steady, except during the 3 or 4 years which followed the peace of 1815.

“The advantages derivable from the great fall in the river here, have been improved with much judgment. A dam of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, strongly framed and bolted to the rock in the bed of the river above the falls, turns

the stream through a canal excavated in the trap-rock of the bank, into a basin; whence, through strong guard-gates, it supplies in succession three canals on separate planes, each below the other; giving to the mills on each a head and fall of about 22 feet. By means of the guard-gate, the volume of water is regulated at pleasure, and a uniform height preserved; avoiding the inconvenience of back-water. The expense of maintaining the dam, canals, and main sluice-gates, and of regulating the water, is borne by the company; who have expended, in raising the main embankment, and constructing the feeder from the river and new upper canal, and for works to supply water to the third tier of mills, the sum of \$40,000.

“The advantages which Paterson possesses for a manufacturing town are obvious. An abundant and steady supply of water; a healthy, pleasant, and fruitful country, supplying its markets fully with excellent meats and vegetables; its proximity to New York, where it obtains the raw material, and sale for manufactured goods; and with which it is connected by the sloop navigation of the Passaic, by the Morris canal, by a turnpike-road, and by a rail-road—render it one of the most desirable sites in the Union.”\*

The first church incorporated in Paterson was the 1st Presbyterian church, in 1814. There was at that time a Reformed Dutch church at Totowa, now Manchester; and the services at that place were in the Dutch language. The united population of the two places was then about 1,500.

From a mere village Paterson has now got to be the second town in importance in the state. There are in Paterson 14 churches, viz: 2 Reformed Dutch, 2 Methodist, 2 Presbyterian, 1 Free Independent, 1 Episcopalian, 1 True Reformed Dutch, 2 Baptist, 1 Primitive Methodist, 1 Catholic, 1 colored Methodist. There is a philosophical society of young men, who have a respectable library, and a mechanics' society for the advancement of science and the mechanic arts, with a library and philosophical apparatus. The Morris canal passes near the town. The Paterson and Hudson railroad gives it an easy access to the city of New York. This road will ere long be extended northward and united with the Erie railroad.

There were by the census of 1840, 104 stores; machinery manufactured, value \$607,000; 4 fulling-m.; 1 woollen fac.; 19 cotton fac., 45,056 spindles, with 2 dyeing and printing establishments, cap. \$926,000; 1 tannery; 2 paper fac.; 1 saw-m.; 2 printing offices; 2 weekly newspapers. Total capital in manufactures, \$1,792,500. 1 acad. 80 students; 16 schools, 1,006 scholars. Pop. including Manchester, about 9,000.

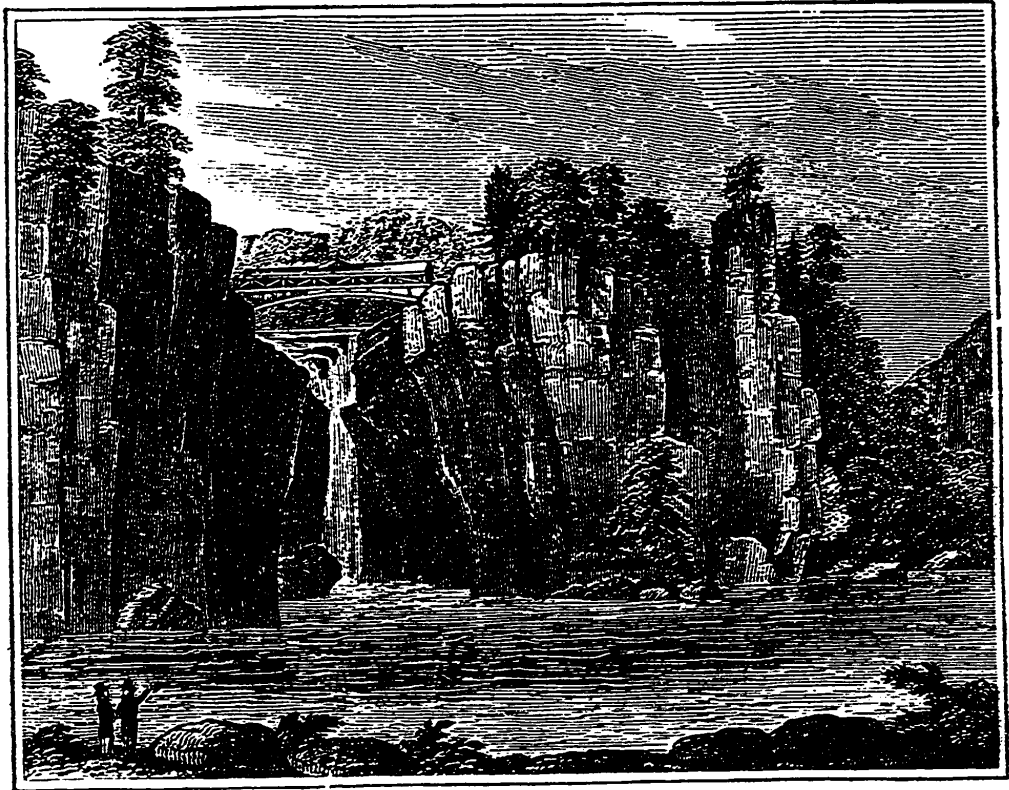
Paterson is celebrated as affording one of the most romantic waterfalls in the country, and the neighboring scenery is of a highly picturesque character. A late traveller thus describes this wonder of nature:

The fall in the river, which was originally 70 feet, has been increased to about 90 feet by a dam above. From this dam, a short sluice conducts the water into a basin or reservoir, partly prepared to the hands of the proprietors, and partly made by art and labor. A

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\* Gordon's Gazetteer.

causey has been raised across an immense chasm, walled in by rocks, presenting almost perpendicular sides from the bottom of the chasm to the upper edge of the precipice. The rocks, being of basaltic character, are of rectilinear form, and perpendicular in their position; and this accounts for the comparatively smooth sides of this immense excava-



*View of the Passaic Falls, at Paterson.*

tion. The causey serves two very important purposes: it is at once a dam which detains the water in the basin from which the milling power is drawn, and the bed of a turnpike road. Below the causey, the terrific chasm continues in its natural state, unchanged by human art, and, a few rods below, receives the remaining waters of the Passaic, after it has supplied the heavy demand of the mills. Branching off from the larger opening there is another, running nearly parallel with the river, which gradually diminishes to a mere crevice between the perpendicular sides of the rock. Into this crevice, or opening, the waters of the Passaic, suddenly turning from their course, leap and dash with an impetuosity which converts the whole mass into foam. It is an awful, grand, and terrific sight, even now; and we can readily imagine what it must have been when the whole flood of the river, swollen by rain and the melting snows, threw itself into the yawning gulf, from whose depths the bellowing thunders of the mighty flood, struggling for an outlet, and resisted by the walls of its prison-house, were reverberated by the surrounding hills with deafening roar.

The waters escape, and, rushing to the wide bosom of the immense chasm first described, hurry over its rocky bed until they are tranquillized in the passage over a less precipitous descent below the town. Some miles from Paterson, the river passes through the romantic and picturesque village of Acquackanonck, and soon reaches the immense flats which border the North river and the Bay of New York, on the Jersey side. Thence it moves slowly and sullenly along, as if unwilling to mingle its pure stream with the salt water of the ocean.

The short time allowed us for viewing this grand scenery, would not authorize us to form any conclusive opinions as to the causes which have produced the phenomena which present themselves at and near the Paterson Falls; and even a part of this brief space was devoted to the complicated works of human skill and ingenuity which the factories contain. But we were led to think that the deep ravine in the rocks, which we have described, has been made by the waters of the river, which originally fell into it at the place where the basin now is. The regular and uniform position of the rocks on its

sides does not warrant the supposition that the excavation was made by any convulsion of nature ; and then nothing remains but to attribute it to the operation of water, from a stream often swollen into a flood of tremendous power, by rain and melting snow, during thousands of years in which it flowed in this channel.

The only facts which seem to oppose this opinion, are the evident appearances which indicate that the river once found an outlet a considerable distance below even the present falls ; which, as we have said, is below the point at which we suppose it originally escaped over the rocky barrier. But, allowing our supposition to be right, it may be readily imagined that the river would gradually wear down the more yielding impediment of earth and stones directly in its course to the place at which it is presumed once to have found an outlet ; and this outlet being subsequently blocked up by trees and earth, washed down by the river, the waters again found their way into the channel it had made in the rocks, but a little lower down than at the point from which it originally took its leap into the chasm. But these are speculations which, without the records of history, cannot be reduced to any certain conclusion. The Indians have left us no records : and, if they had, it is probable that most of the phenomena which now present themselves at the Falls of Paterson, existed at a long time anterior to that in which the red man,—whom the pale-faces have driven away or exterminated,—sung his war-song ; but where the busy hum of industry is now heard, the splendid creations of civilized life surprise us by their number and variety, interest us by the complication of their design and structure, and astonish us by the magnitude and importance of their results.

From Alden's Collections, we take the annexed account of the death of Mrs. Cumming, who perished at this spot about 30 years since :

Mrs. Sarah Cumming, consort of the Rev. Hooper Cumming, of Newark, was a daughter of the late Mr. John Emmons, of Portland, in the district of Maine. She was a lady of an amiable disposition, a well-cultivated mind, distinguished intelligence, and most exemplary piety ; and she was much endeared to a large circle of respectable friends and connections. She had been married about 2 months, and was blessed with a flattering prospect of no common share of temporal felicity and usefulness in the sphere which Providence had assigned her ; but oh, how uncertain is the continuance of every earthly joy !

On Saturday, the 20th of June, 1812, Mr. Cumming rode with his wife to Paterson, in order to supply, by presbyterial appointment, a destitute congregation in that place, on the following day. On Monday morning, he went with his beloved companion to show her the falls of the Passaic, and the surrounding beautiful, wild, and romantic scenery,—little expecting the solemn event which was to ensue.

Having ascended the flights of stairs, Mr. and Mrs. Cumming walked over the solid ledge to the vicinity of the cataract, charmed with the wonderful prospect, and making various remarks upon the stupendous works of nature around them. At length they took their station on the brow of the solid rock, which overhangs the basin, six or eight rods from the falling water, where thousands have stood before, and where there is a fine view of most of the sublime curiosities of the place. When they had enjoyed the luxury of the scene for a considerable time, Mr. Cumming said, " My dear, I believe it is time for us to set our face homeward ;" and, at the same moment, turned round in order to lead the way. He instantly heard the voice of distress, looked back, and his wife was gone !

Mrs. Cumming had complained of a dizziness early in the morning ; and, as her eyes had been some time fixed upon the uncommon objects before her, when she moved with the view to retrace her steps, it is probable she was seized with the same malady, tottered, and in a moment fell, a distance of 74 feet, into the frightful gulf ! Mr. Cumming's sensations on the distressing occasion may, in some measure, be conceived, but they cannot be described. He was on the borders of distraction, and, scarcely knowing what he did, would have plunged into the abyss, had it not been kindly ordered in providence that a young man should be near, who instantly flew to him, like a guardian angel, and held him from a step which his reason, at the time, could not have prevented. This young man led him from the precipice, and conducted him to the ground below the stairs. Mr. Cumming forced himself out of the hands of his protector, and ran with violence, in order to leap into the fatal flood. His young friend, however, caught him once more, and held him till reason had resumed her throne. He then left him, to call the neighboring people to the place. Immediate search was made, and diligently continued through the day, for the body of Mrs. Cumming ; but to no purpose. On the fol-

lowing morning, her mortal part was found in a depth of 42 feet, and, the same day, was conveyed to Newark.

On Wednesday, her funeral was attended by a numerous concourse of people. Her remains were carried into the church, where a pathetic and impressive discourse, happily adapted to the mournful occasion, was delivered by the Rev. James Richards. Solemn indeed was the scene. A profound silence pervaded the vast assembly. Every one seemed to hang upon the lips of the speaker. In every quarter, the sigh of sympathy and regret echoed to the tender and affecting address.

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## POMPTON.

Pompton derives its name from the Pompton tribe of Indians. It is 11 m. long, with an average width of 5 m. It is bounded N. by part of Orange co., New York; E. by Franklin, Bergen co. and Manchester; S. by Pequannock, Morris co., and W. by West Milford. The surface is hilly and mountainous, and a good proportion of it covered with forest; the soil is mainly clay and loam. Iron ore abounds in the hills. The Ringwood river passes through the township from N. to S., and the Ramapo river courses partially on its E., and the Pequannock on its S. boundary. There are in the township 8 forges, 1 furnace, 3 grist-mills, and 6 saw-mills; 5 schools, 186 scholars. Pop. 1,437.

Ryerson's, on Pequannock river, in a fertile valley about 9 miles NW. of Paterson, contains 2 stores, a furnace, 3 grist-m., a Reformed Dutch church, an academy, and about 20 dwellings, considerably scattered. Ringwood, Boardville, and Whinokie, are localities on Ringwood river, where there are forges.

In the winter of 1780-'81, some of the Jersey troops were stationed part of the time at Pompton. After the successful mutiny of the Pennsylvania line at Morristown, a part of the Jersey brigade, composed chiefly of foreigners, revolted, on the night of the 20th of January, and demanded the same indulgence as that given to the Pennsylvania line. On receiving the information, Washington dispatched a body of troops, under Gen. Howe, to bring them to unconditional submission. Thatcher, who accompanied the detachment, thus minutely relates the circumstances:

Marched on the 27th, at one o'clock, A. M., eight miles, which brought us in view of the huts of the insurgent soldiers by dawn of day. Here we halted for an hour, to make the necessary preparations. Some of our officers suffered much anxiety lest the soldiers would not prove faithful on this trying occasion. Orders were given to load their arms—it was obeyed with alacrity, and indications were given that they were to be relied on. Being paraded in a line, General Howe harangued them, representing the heinousness of the crime of mutiny, and the absolute necessity of military subordination, adding that the mutineers must be brought to an unconditional submission, no temporizing, no listening to terms of compromise, while in a state of resistance. Two field-pieces were now ordered to be placed in view of the insurgents, and the troops were directed to surround the huts on all sides. General Howe next ordered his aid-de-camp to command the mutineers to appear on parade in front of their huts unarmed, within five minutes; observing them to hesitate, a second messenger was sent, and they instantly obeyed the command, and paraded in a line without arms, being in number between two and three hundred. Finding themselves closely encircled and unable to resist, they quietly submitted to the fate which awaited them. General Howe ordered that three of the ringleaders should be selected as victims for condign punishment. These unfortunate culprits were tried on the spot, Colonel Sprout being president of the court martial,

standing on the snow, and they were sentenced to be immediately shot. Twelve of the most guilty mutineers were next selected to be their executioners. This was a most painful task; being themselves guilty, they were greatly distressed with the duty imposed on them, and when ordered to load, some of them shed tears. The wretched victims, overwhelmed by the terrors of death, had neither time nor power to implore the mercy and forgiveness of their God, and such was their agonizing condition, that no heart could refrain from emotions of sympathy and compassion. The first that suffered was a sergeant, and an old offender: he was led a few yards distance and placed on his knees; six of the executioners, at the signal given by an officer, fired, three aiming at the head and three at the breast, the other six reserving their fire in order to dispatch the victim, should the first fire fail; it so happened in this instance: the remaining six then fired, and life was instantly extinguished. The second criminal was, by the first fire, sent into eternity in an instant. The third, being less criminal, by the recommendation of his officers, to his unspeakable joy, received a pardon. This tragical scene produced a dreadful shock, and a salutary effect on the minds of the guilty soldiers. Never were men more completely humbled and penitent; tears of sorrow and of joy rushed from their eyes, and each one appeared to congratulate himself that his forfeited life had been spared. The executions being finished, General Howe ordered the former officers to take their stations, and resume their respective commands; he then, in a very pathetic and affecting manner, addressed the whole line by platoons, endeavoring to impress their minds with a sense of the enormity of their crime, and the dreadful consequences that might have resulted. He then commanded them to ask pardon of their officers, and promise to devote themselves to the faithful discharge of their duty as soldiers in future. It is most painful to reflect, that circumstances should imperiously demand the infliction of capital punishment on soldiers, who have more than a shadow of plea to extenuate their crime. These unfortunate men have long suffered many serious grievances, which they have sustained with commendable patience; but have at length lost their confidence in public justice. The success of the Pennsylvania insurgents, undoubtedly encouraged them to hope for exemption from punishment. But the very existence of an army depends on proper discipline and subordination. The arm of authority must be exerted, and public examples be exhibited, to deter from the commission of crimes. The spirit of revolt must be effectually repressed, or a total annihilation of the army is inevitable. Sir Henry Clinton on this occasion had his hopes again excited; ever ready to profit by treachery or revolt, he dispatched an emissary to encourage the insurrection, and to make the most tempting offers to induce the mutineers to desert, and join the British standard; but the messenger himself frustrated his hopes, by delivering the papers to our own officers.

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### WEST MILFORD.

West Milford was formed from Pompton in 1834. It is situated NW. of Paterson 15 m. It is 13 m. long, with an average width of 7 m.; and is bounded N. by part of Orange co., New York, E. by Pompton, S. by Pequannock and Jefferson, Morris co., and W. by Hardiston and Vernon, Sussex co. There are in the township 10 forges, 2 tanneries, 2 grist-m., 5 saw-m.; 11 schools, 408 scholars. Pop. 2,108.

The surface is generally hilly or mountainous, and it is watered by numerous small streams. There are several small ponds in the south part,—their outlets flowing into Pequannock river: they are Mackepin, Hanks, Cedar, Buck, and Dunker's ponds. Long Pond, a favorite resort for anglers, extends from Orange co. into the N part. The manufacture of iron is extensively carried on in the township. New Milford is a thickly-settled agricultural vicinity, in the central part. There is at that place a Presbyterian church, and the surrounding country is fertile.