

... The territory is 480 by 400 rods. The distance from Lake Champlain is 7 miles. Otter Creek, which passes through the city, is navigable from the Falls to the lake, for large vessels, and there is a regular line of boats between this place and Buffalo, and New York, and the facilities for shipbuilding are as good as any in the State. Here was fitted up the flotilla which the victorious Mc'Donough commanded in Plattsburgh Bay, Sept. 11, 1814. The Falls of Vergennes represent Nature as a handmaid to Industry, — her strong and beautiful forces tributary to the useful. During the non-intercourse and war with England, the active blast furnace, air furnace, rolling, grist, saw, and fulling mill, wire factory, and busy forges, clustered fast around this vast reservoir of water-power, and not less than 177 tons of shot for the war, were cast here. Since the renewal of a friendly intercourse with England, and the opening of the Burlington railroad, business has declined; still, upon the bridge that spans the Otter, the continued hum of machinery modulated by the grand water-course, from three distinct sets of falls, blends pleasantly upon the ear; momentarily two spirits strive with the arrested traveller, Labor and Worship. The white, ever-boiling waves, rolling and tossing like a brave spirit, with a grandeur swollen by the forced plunge, call out from their depths beneath,—“Lay thy offering upon our altar.” “Tarry and worship at our shrine.” But anon, the stirring voice of Labor tunes in with quickening energy,—

“Life is real; life is earnest;”

And the arrested worshipper passes over and on, with a firmer step, and heart reassured, impressed, and saying within himself,—“O Nature, thou art grand and worshipful; but labor is noble, imperative, and sanctified.” “What thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might.” The three distinct falls are formed by an island at their head, dividing the river into three channels. Their height, or descent, is 37 feet. The location of Vergennes is handsome, and the principal street has quite a city look; though we think a stranger upon visiting the place is uniformly disappointed in the size, for our “Little City” is outsized by quite a number of our larger villages. ...