



Picturesque America; or, the land we live in

a delineation by pen and pencil of the mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, water-falls, shores, cañons, valleys, cities, and other picturesque features of our country ; with illustrations on steel and wood, by eminent American artists

Bryant, William Cullen

New York, 1872

Indian Rock, Narragansett.

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Indian Rocks

NATHANASETT.

New York, D. Appleton & Co.

But, after all, the great feature of the place is the abundance of oysters. Rhode-Islanders are proud and eager to be concerning that they have done to the old Narragansett, with wisdom if not with justice. The ordinary people here are much interested. A fire of wood is built in the open air, above a layer of large stones arranged in a circular form; and, when they have become sufficiently heated, the oysters are taken and swept off, and a quantity of them is thrown upon the stones, when they are immediately covered with a thick layer of ash, as usual, and this is also protected from the cooling effects of the atmosphere by a second layer of ash. In due time the oysters are removed and the burning stopped. Thousands of pounds of clams are thus prepared at Rocky Point during every season, and some of the best come from it. Indeed, the neighboring shores are so completely covered with them, that they would seem to be the source for the many shell-fish to which we refer.

Passing down the coast, we next passed the Cape, and reaching the point we came upon Narragansett Pier, where the great oyster-beds are to be found, and there is no spot that can be reached in an easier manner, or with the waves of Spain. The shore, from which the region takes its name, and the pier at which may be seen in the picture, was erected a few years since, and is composed of heavy blocks of granite, stamped together with iron bolts. The purpose of it is well made a small harbor, where vessels might lie and discharge their cargoes, without the danger of being destroyed by the winds and waves. It was supposed that the massive pile of rock would be strong enough to defy the power of the sea, and that the heavy stones would be a barrier which it never recovered, and that the waves would have torn away the iron clamps and tumbled the huge stones into a heap of rubble.

Until it was comparatively recent years, the pier was a waste, and occupied only by a few fishermen's houses, but it has since become a busy spot. A few small boats may be seen, and a white building, the residence of the beach, that has since been sold and solitary, and not fewer than a hundred boats, the fishing-boats, have been placed along the shore, some of them of great size, and of various dimensions. People from all parts of the Union flock to this spot, for the sake of breathing the cool breeze, and plunging in the waves, and watching the boats as they dash upon the high and jagged rocks that line the shore, and forming a path for the smooth, hard beach, when the bathing is done. There are many fine spots of the ocean so rich and varied in their coloring, as these spots, and the ledge there are, indeed, on rocks at all in the American shore, until you reach the bay of Newport. "Cape Rock," of which we give a view on next page, is a rocky point, situated from an old fort, which declares that the sea was at that time, and upon it, which the waves have never been able to wash away, and which is a well-known spot, as many other spots, in the vicinity.

