

A Souvenir of Niagara Falls

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SOUVENIR OF
NIAGARA
FALLS

A SOUVENIR....

OF

    Niagara Falls    

SHOWING SUMMER AND WINTER VIEWS OF NIAGARA FALLS
AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS



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WHO first discovered Niagara Falls, or what eyes first gazed upon the majesty of its power and what ears first listened to the thundering of its mighty roar, is an open question, but it is a settled fact that when the river first begun to flow many thousand years ago, perhaps before the glacial period, the falls were located where Lewiston now stands. How long it has taken to recede back to its present location is hard to estimate, as that depends upon the hardness of the rock through which it has passed. Maps made in recent years show that the recession varies from less than one foot to over two feet in a year. The time is coming when the Falls of Niagara will be obliterated and nothing left but a mighty river connecting the two great lakes. At the present site of the Falls the edge of the cataract is formed by hard limetone rock; by the action of the spray and the back current the soft shelly strata below has been hollowed out forming what is called the Cave of the Winds. This cave is one of the principal attractions, and is entered by thousands of people every year unconscious of the danger they are exposing themselves to. When this hollowing out process has extended far enough, the projecting rock is broken off by its own weight and the weight of the great volume of water passing over it, and disappears in the abyss below. Large masses of this rock fell in 1818, 1828, 1843, 1847 and 1855.

At the same rate of recession it will reach the foot of Grand Island, two miles further up the river, in about 6,000 years. There the river grows broader and deeper, which will very much change the general aspect of the Falls. However, that is so far in the future that if the writer ever sees it, it will be through some mediumship between earth and spirit life.

The first historic mention of the cataract was by Jacques Cartier, in his description of a voyage made in 1535; again by Samuel Champlain in a map describing a trip West, and published in 1613. Father Hennepin, a French missionary to Canada in 1676, describes its location, and mentions a third Falls caused by a great rock situated on what is known as Table Rock, on the north side of the river. The rock is again mentioned by Kalm, a Swedish naturalist who visited the place in 1750. Since that time the rock has entirely disappeared. Up to a comparatively recent period Goat Island extended for about another half-mile northerly in a triangular prolongation.

Previous to 1885 all approaches to Niagara Falls, both on the American and Canadian sides, were owned by private individuals, who extorted exorbitant tolls for all privileges enjoyed by tourists. It was impossible for a stranger to get a view of any part of the cataract, the rapids above, or any part of the river below, without submitting to the avaricious demands of those sharks. There was no way of estimating

what a visit to Niagara Falls would cost: they had no established price for anything. They endeavored to read their victim, judge from his appearance how much money he was liable to have in his possession, his gullibility, and deal with him accordingly. The writer will never forget his first visit to Niagara Falls in 1866. (He was somewhat younger then and less experienced in the ways of depraved humanity.) Before he got away from them he was thoroughly convinced that he had surely fallen among thieves and robbers, and was very thankful to get away with the same clothes he had when he arrived. To think of carrying away any cash was absurd. However, there have been great changes wrought since that time. In 1885 the State of New York purchased 107 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of the Falls, comprising all of Goat and other islands; also a strip of land on the main shore extending from the new Suspension Bridge below the Falls to Port Day, about two miles above. The appraisers of this property awarded the owners \$1,433,429.24, removed all objectionable buildings, and laid out beautiful drives and walks. The Canadian government soon followed the example of the Americans and purchased an area of 154 acres, at an expense of \$436,813.24, and named it Victoria Park. In 1888 it was opened up to the public. What nature has done for Niagara has been widely supplemented by the actions of two great nations. Thus by the generosity of the two great commonwealths the public has been given free access to one of the greatest natural curiosities of the world. Every facility has been afforded the tourists to see the sights to the best possible advantage and at the least possible expense. If you wish to walk around there are no restrictions. If you wish to take a carriage the prices are very moderate and regulated by the State. In fact all charges for services rendered the tourists are under restrictions and very moderate.



THE GREAT CATARACT

A view made with a \$6.00 kodak, by J. B. Dame, of Port Huron, Mich., from the deck of the little steamer, "Maid of the Mist," while on a trip to the Falls in June, 1899. Mr. Dame is an amateur in every sense of the word; this was almost his first attempt at using the camera. In November, 1899, he took out a copyright on the picture and in less than three months he had sold 1,500 copies, enlarged to 19x23, and at one time was paid for an option on the negative at \$6,000. We are permitted to use this picture by courtesy of Mr. Dame.



ICE FORMATION IN PROSPECT PARK

Caused by the spray that continually rises from the turbulent water and in freezing weather produces very interesting formations.



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE FALLS

Showing the Horse Shoe or Canadian Falls on the right, the American Falls on the left and the little steamer "Maid of the Mist", making her regular trips to within a few feet of the falling water in a dense spray resembling a shower bath.



LUNA ISLAND

A point of rock projecting over the torrent's brink, dividing the American Falls. It has been so undetermined by the action of the water that many declare it trophies with the rush and roar of the mighty tempest and that it is without doubt some truth in the statement. The only way to reach Luna Island is by a foot bridge from Goat Island. An iron pier around the brink protects the visitor from possible danger; still too much caution cannot be exercised. At this point one of the most distressing accidents occurred. On June 21, 1889, a family from Buffalo, N. Y., were visiting the place, and when about to leave the island a young man, a guest of the family, playfully picked up a little daughter of his host and approaching the railing exclaimed: "I am going to throw you over." The little child, in her struggles to escape, slipped from his arms into the water. The young man, with a frantic shriek, sprang to save her and immediately both disappeared never to be seen again.



THE ICE MOUNTAIN AND BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER ALMOST UNDER THE FALLS

The "Ice Bridge" is formed by large masses of ice coming over the falls. The great current of water being underneath, the surface is comparatively smooth. The ice becomes attached to the boulders at the foot of the falls and continually accumulates until it extends from shore to shore and sometimes it is claimed 20 feet thick, so that fakery build booths in rows extending clear across the river for the purpose of selling souvenirs, curiosities, whiskey, etc.



THE CANADIAN FALLS

Extending from Goat Island to the Canadian shore, a distance of 2,376 feet. Height of fall, 165 feet; depth of water as it passes over the brink, 20 ft. It is estimated that not less than 1,350,000,000 cubic feet of water goes over the brink every minute.



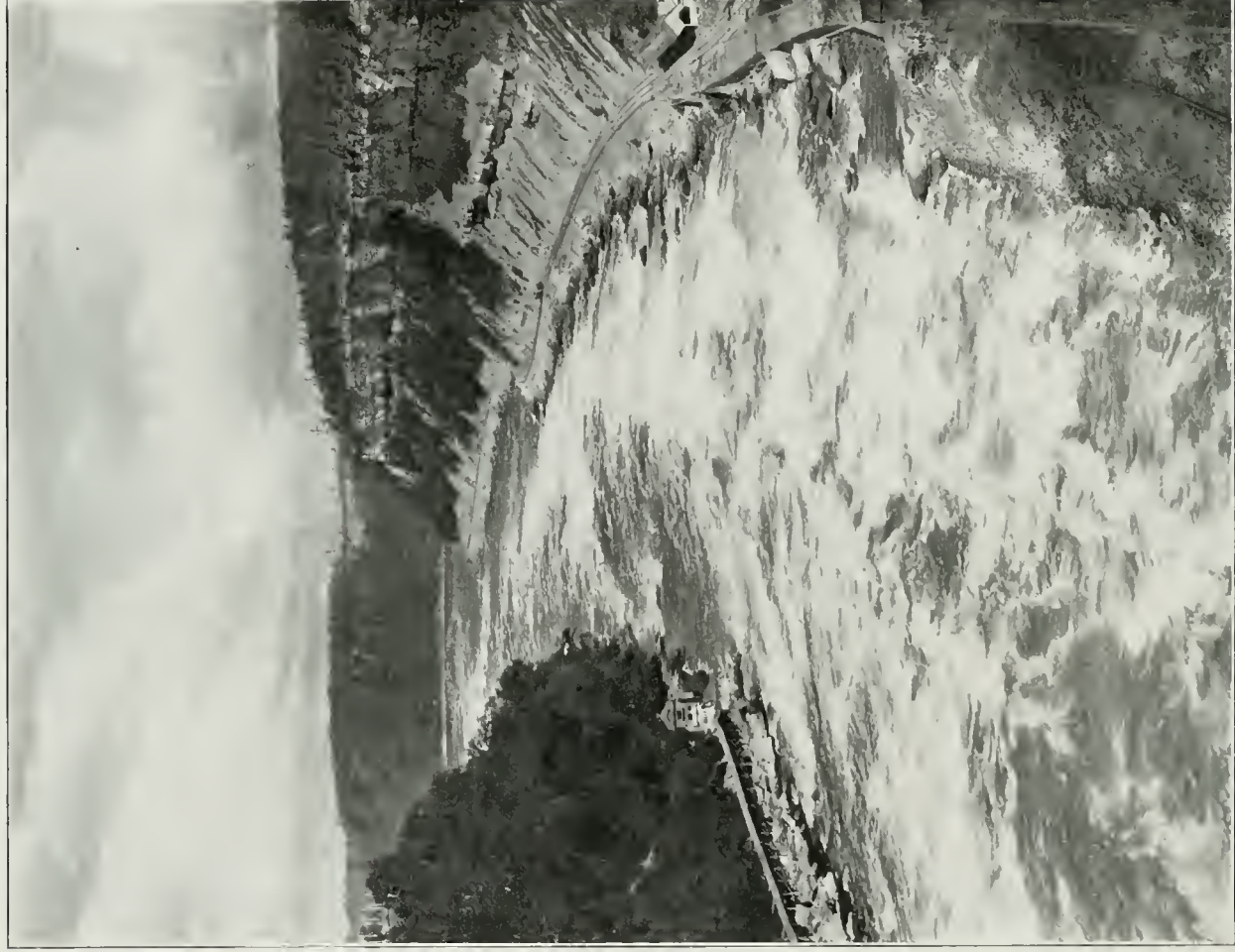
WINTER FOLIAGE AT NIAGARA FALLS

There is no limit to the variety or beauty of these crystal formations in the vicinity of Niagara Falls in cold weather. The continual spray rising from the falls keeps the foliage saturated with dew in warm weather and in freezing weather coated with crystal formations that in the sunshine is beautiful beyond description



THE AMERICAN FALLS

Extends from the main shore to Luna Island, a distance of 1,100 feet. The fall is 159 feet. Its principal attraction consists in the foamy whiteness into which the torrent is dashed by coming in contact with craggy points of rock on its descent. It is the most easily reached and can be approached the nearest.



THE WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS

From the Railroad Bridge, looking north east, showing the George Railroad, running along the edge of the River



OBSERVATION TOWER

Just outside Prospect Park, was recently completed. It is built of steel with a winding stairs extending to the top also two passenger elevators by which tourists are conveyed to the top for a small fee. The top of the tower is 300 feet above the street and 490 above the river below the fall. The landscape being very level a grand view of the surrounding country can be had from this tower. Buffalo, N. Y., and Lake Erie can be seen in the south, Lewiston and Lake Ontario in the north, in fact a very comprehensive view of the entire river can be had from this point.



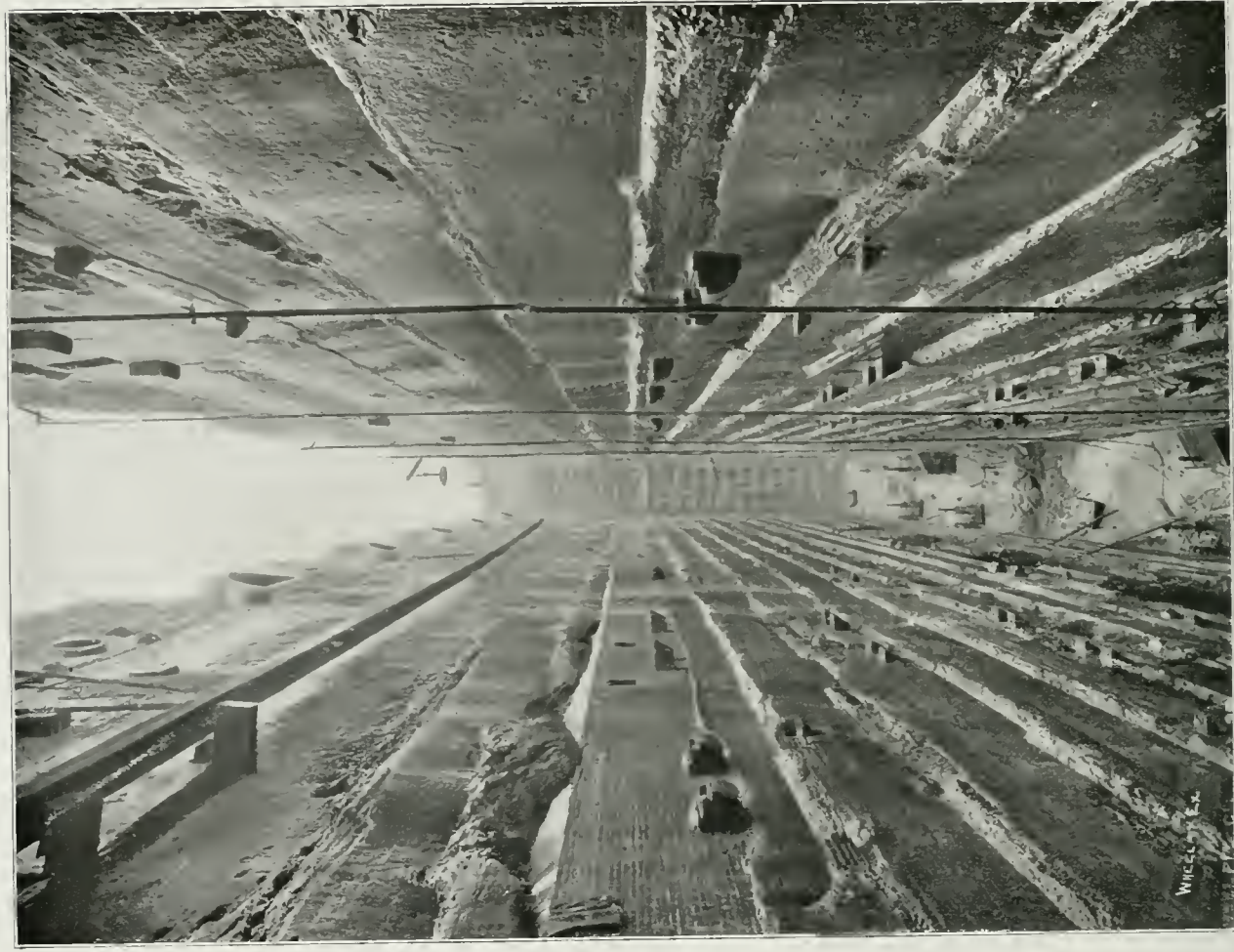
THE CATARACT HOUSE- NIAGARA FALLS AND THE AMERICAN RAPIDS JUST ABOVE THE FALLS

This is one of the oldest and best conducted Houses at Niagara Falls. It has sheltered and satisfactorily entertained more nobility than any other hotel in America.



THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL. NIAGARA FALLS

Niagara Falls abounds in Hotels and Boarding Houses, but as this book is strictly free from paid advertising matter we only give place to the two oldest and best located houses in the place. We cannot distinguish any choice between the two houses. Tourists will not make any mistake in stopping at either.



THE WHEEL PIT

Of excavation in the solid rock, within which the great wheel revolves that transmits the power of Niagara to the great dynamos that furnish the current to run the most of the factories, the street railways and light the City of Buffalo, also for lighting the City of Buffalo, running the elevators in her big buildings, her street cars and many of the factories throughout the city, also the trolley lines that run between Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Lewiston and the great George Route. The Pan American Commission has contracted with the Co. for 5,000 horse power to be used in lighting their building and grounds and running machinery during the exposition.



INTERIOR OF POWER HOUSE

The feat of harnessing Niagara—at one time thought impossible—is now an accomplished fact. The above view shows the interior of the Power House of the Niagara Falls Hydraulic and Manufacturing Co. This Company has drawn from the mighty Niagara some 50,000 horse power and besides furnishing power for many local factories and mills supplies electricity for the street railway of Buffalo, more than twenty miles distant.



THE NIAGARA GORGE RAILROAD

The above views shows the Niagara Gorge Railroad, starting from Prospect Park, Niagara Fall and traversing the length of the Gorge to Lewiston — running the entire distance within a few feet of the water's edge, affording an unparalleled view of the entire River, the great Whirlpool, the Whirlpool Rapids and many other exciting views.



THE BRIDGES ACROSS THE GORGE AT SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The above cut represents the two modern steel bridges which span the Niagara Gorge at Suspension Bridge. The one in the foreground is the steel cantilever of the Michigan Central Railroad. The other the single-arch steel bridge of the Grand Trunk Railway, replacing the first bridge across the chasm and the wonder of the world—the famous old Suspension Bridge from which the place derives its name. The engineers in building the old Suspension Bridge carried the first cable across the Gorge, a distance of 859 ft., by means of a kite, and from this grew the four large supporting cables containing 9,000 miles of wire.



THE SENTINEL

This gigantic rock was first discovered by white men when they first explored the gorge. Why the great river, in cutting its way through the flinty rock from one great lake to the other, should spare this ponderous rock and leave it standing as a sentinel in this wonderful channel is a mystery. When the Gorge Road was being built the Co. thought best to build around it rather than remove the ancient landmark.



THE ICE MOUNTAINS

Although Niagara Falls is the greatest summer resort in America and attracts more foreign tourist and nobility than any other place, it is not without its attractions in the winter, and to many people these ice mountains and the crystal formation on the foliage and everything about the falls is more beautiful and wonderful than the falls themselves. These mountains are not a solid body of ice but rather heaps of granulated water. They are formed by large cakes of ice coming over the falls in cold weather and lodging on the rocks below. The spray, continually rising from the turbulent water, is turned into small grains of ice, falls back and finds lodgement on the anchored ice. Thus the mountains are gradually built up until they attain the full height of the falls if the cold weather continues long enough.



GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY STEEL ARCH BRIDGE

A nearest view of the steel Arch Bridge of the Grand Trunk Railway, taken from the Canadian end of the Michigan Central Steel Cantilever Bridge and showing the village of Suspension Bridge on the American side. This view also shows the line of the Niagara Gorge route, close to the water's edge on the American side.



THE WHIRLPOOL

Just below the lower rapids the gorge takes an abrupt turn to the east, forming a great basin of solid rock, the sides almost perpendicular, towering 350 feet high. The water in its mad rush towards the lake is dashed against the acute angles of the rocky walls and sent in a dizzy whirl round and round raising in the center many feet above the outer circles. The water forms a great whirlpool that sucks down all foreign substances that comes within its radius. In many instances massive trees are caught in the current, circle around until they reach the center and disappear endways. The bodies of unfortunate who have gone over the falls, either accidentally or with suicidal intent, are often caught in this maelstrom and tossed about until the flesh is washed from the bones and sink to the bottom.



THE BRIDGE TO LUNA ISLAND IN WINTER

As no person ever thinks of going to Niagara Falls without visiting Luna Island, the authorities have gone to great expense in beautifying the island and its approaches. In the distance can be seen the bridge to Goat Island from the main shore, also the village with its extensive hotels on the brink of the rapids, that has furnished shelter for so many thousands from all parts of the globe.



THE THREE SISTER ISLANDS

These islands are located a short distance above the brink of the precipice and near the head of the upper rapids. They are well worth a visit and can be reached by way of three bridges erected in 1868. In time the lower islands will disappear by the water's cutting process and the Three Sisters will take their place at the brink of the Falls.



THE WALK LEADING TO THE CAVE OF THE WINDS

The cave is 100 feet high, 100 feet long and about 60 feet wide. It is formed by the action of the water washing away the soft, shelly substratum of rock, leaving the more dirty limestone rock projecting overhead. This cave is a place of continuous tempest caused by the atmospheric pressure produced by the rapidity of so great a body of water falling such a distance, compressing the air into the rock bound cavern. The wind rushes across the floor of the cave from front to rear carrying with it great clouds of spray that would instantly wet the visitor through were it not for the water-proof suit the guide provides him with.



ONE OF THE BRIDGES

A side view of one of the beautiful bridges of which there are many connecting the different islands. Some of these bridges span rapids of tremendous power and are constructed at great expense and considerable danger to the workmen. They make very pleasant lounging places on a hot day. The swiftly running water creates a cool breeze. The overhanging shade trees afford protection from the hot rays of the sun.



THE CANADIAN FALLS FROM TERRAPIN ROCKS

The first observation tower was built upon these rocks in 1833 and named Terrapin Tower. It was afterwards condemned and destroyed by explosives in 1873



THE CANADIAN FALLS IN WINTER

In 1850 Sam Patch, the bridge jumping crank, made two successful leaps to the river below, a distance of about 97 feet, from a platform erected projecting over the edge of the cliff.



FALL'S STREET FROM NEW YORK CENTRAL DEPOT, LOOKING TOWARDS PROSPECT PARK

The principal business street of the city. From the depot to the falls, a distance of about one-half mile, it presents every appearance of a resort to which. It is lined with cafes, hotels, bazaars, musinns and attractive shops for the sale of souvenirs and all kinds of curiosities. Electric cars convey passengers from the depot to nearly every point of interest. Polite hackmen and reservation carriage drivers accost you on every hand to know if you do not wish to ride with them. If you accept the invitation you will find the driver very polite and attentive and the charges very reasonable.



AMERICAN RAPIDS. JUST ABOVE THE FALLS

Showing the International Hotel in the distance and the old bridge connecting Bath Island with the main shore. This was one of the first bridges built. Its construction was fraught with great hazard on account of the great power of the current at this point. The faithful old bridge has served out its usefulness and in the closing year of the 19th century was removed to give place to one of more modern date.



THE CITY OF NIAGARA FROM OBSERVATION TOWER, LOOKING EAST

Until recently Niagara Falls was only known as a great resort town on account of its wonderful cataract. Of late it has become famous as a manufacturing town on account of its superior water power and shipping facilities. With in the last fifteen years the population has doubled many times and every manufacturer has been obliged to double his facilities. Over 3 000 carloads of mill freight are handled every year. Niagara Falls has a great future before it.



THE RAPIDS ABOVE THE FALLS

From the head of Goat Island to the brink of the precipice, a distance of about one half mile, the fall is 55 feet. Upon reaching the head of the Island the river breaks into a rapids increasing in velocity from 7 to 30 miles an hour. The mad torrent, rushing on to make its final leap over the dread precipice but a few feet below, is dashed into foaming billows by the high boulders in the river's bottom, and speeds on until it meets its doom in the seething caldron below.



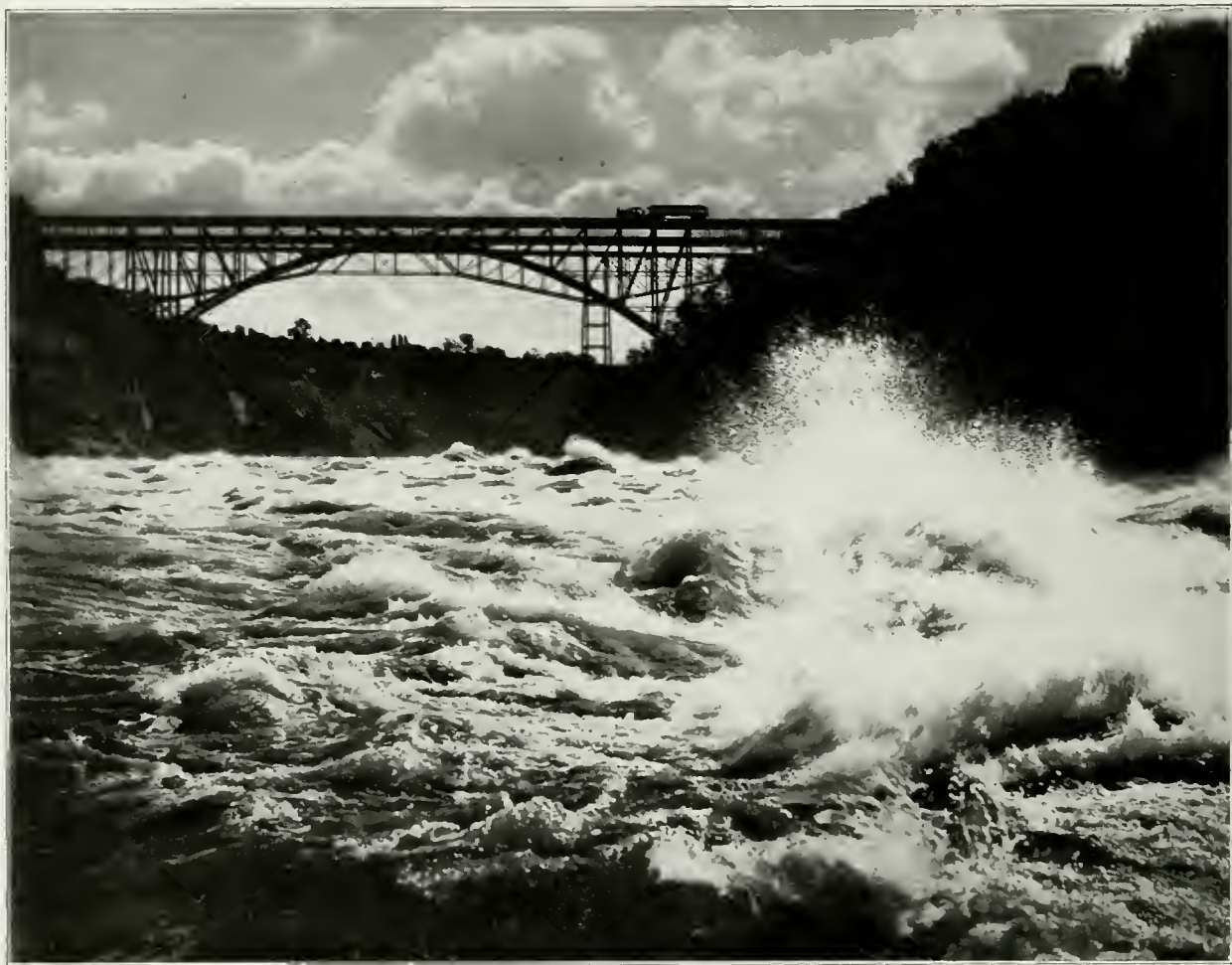
UPPER END OF THE GORGE.

Showing the new steel arch foot bridge and the falls in the distance, also the electric road as it enters the Gorge.



PANORAMA VIEW OF THE FALLS.

Panorama view of the Falls and the ever present little steamer "Maid of the Mist" with her precious cargo of human freight wending her way over the troubled waters, apparently trying each time to approach a little nearer the mighty cataract than before, only to be caught in the current and drift back to her starting point. The extreme length of the Falls from shore to shore is over three fourths of a mile. A sufficient amount of water passes over the brink to produce a daily supply of power if its energy was properly applied to, equal the latent power of all the coal mined in the world each day.



THE WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS.

The two great railroad bridges are for economic reasons placed at the narrowest point of the Gorge. Here occurs the great Whirlpool Rapids, caused by the narrowing of the rocky walls, causing the great volume of water to force itself through the narrow space over the steep and rugged bottom, increasing in fierceness until the culmination is reached in the boiling caldron below. So precipitous is the rocky bottom of the stream that the water reaches a speed of twenty-seven miles an hour and coming in contact with the great bowlders below are dashed into foaming billows, leaping aloft from twenty to thirty feet above the level of the river, whose roar and noise of conflict is beyond description. Swift and fierce as these waters are, in 1861 the original little steamer "Maid of the Mist" was safely navigated from the foot of the falls to lake Ontario. C. A. Perry of Niagara Falls, built a life boat for the purpose of making a trip and succeeded in going through safely. Two attempts have been made to swim the Rapids, one was successful; but the other, Captain Webb, an English crank, who had swam the English Channel, lost his life July 24, 1883, in attempting to swim the Niagara Rapids. Several others have gone through successfully in barrels and other contrivances built for the purpose.



THE NEW STEEL ARCH BRIDGE.

The New Steel Arch Bridge built in 1898 to take the place of the Old Suspension Foot Bridge close to the Falls, extending from Prospect Park on the American side to Victoria Park on the Canadian side, a distance of 1268 feet from bank to bank, and 190 feet above the surface of the water. This is the longest single arch bridge in the world by 302 feet. The width is 49 feet. In the center is a double trolley track, at each side of the trolley an 8-foot drive way and outside of that an elevated walk 3 feet wide for pedestrians. Farther on can be seen the milling district. Not many years ago Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge, N.Y., were two separate villages, their combined population not exceeding 10,000; to-day they are one city with a population of about 30,000. The recent development of her great water power has given her an enviable reputation as a manufacturing center. She now has in sight 350,000 horse power and is destined to become one of the great manufacturing centers of the world.



THE ICE BRIDGE AND FOOT PATH ACROSS THE NIAGARA RIVER SHOWING A FEW OF THE FAKIRS' HUTS.

This Bridge does not form every year. It can only be formed by continual cold weather, and its novelty is sufficient to cause the Press reporters to herald it throughout the country. As soon as the bridge is first formed by great cakes of ice freezing together, it becomes quite level by the drifting of the granulated snow caused by the spray freezing in the air and falling back on the ice.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE HORSE SHOE FALLS, THE TERRAPIN ROCKS AND THE CANADIAN RAPIDS ABOVE THE FALLS.

It will be seen by the projecting rocks extending out from Goat Island, that for some distance the water is very shallow, still exceedingly swift. As you approach the angle of the horseshoe it grows deeper until you reach the apex. It is claimed that at least thirteen hundred and fifty million cubic feet go over the brink every minute of time in a solid body at least 20 feet thick at the deepest place.



LUNA ISLAND. THE AMERICAN FALLS. THE NEW STEEL FOOT BRIDGE AND THE HEAD OF THE GORGE.

The name Luna Island is familiar to every one who even heard of Niagara Falls, no one thinks of going there without visiting this historic spot, those who are familiar with the affliction experienced by the Buffalo family while visiting the place in 1849, approach it with a feeling of reverential awe.



THE CANADIAN OR HORSE SHOE FALLS

Extends from the Canadian Shore to Goat Island 2,376 feet, height 165 feet. It is estimated that the volume of water which passes over this fall is five times greater than that discharged by the American. It derived its name from its shape so closely resembling that of a horse shoe although it has long since lost the graceful curves of a horse-shoe and assumed that of a V. It is claimed that a solid body of water from 20 to 25 feet thick is continually passing over the brink. It is known to be over 20 ft. at least. In 1829 the Schooner "Detroit" went over the falls drawing 18 ft. of water without meeting with any obstructions.



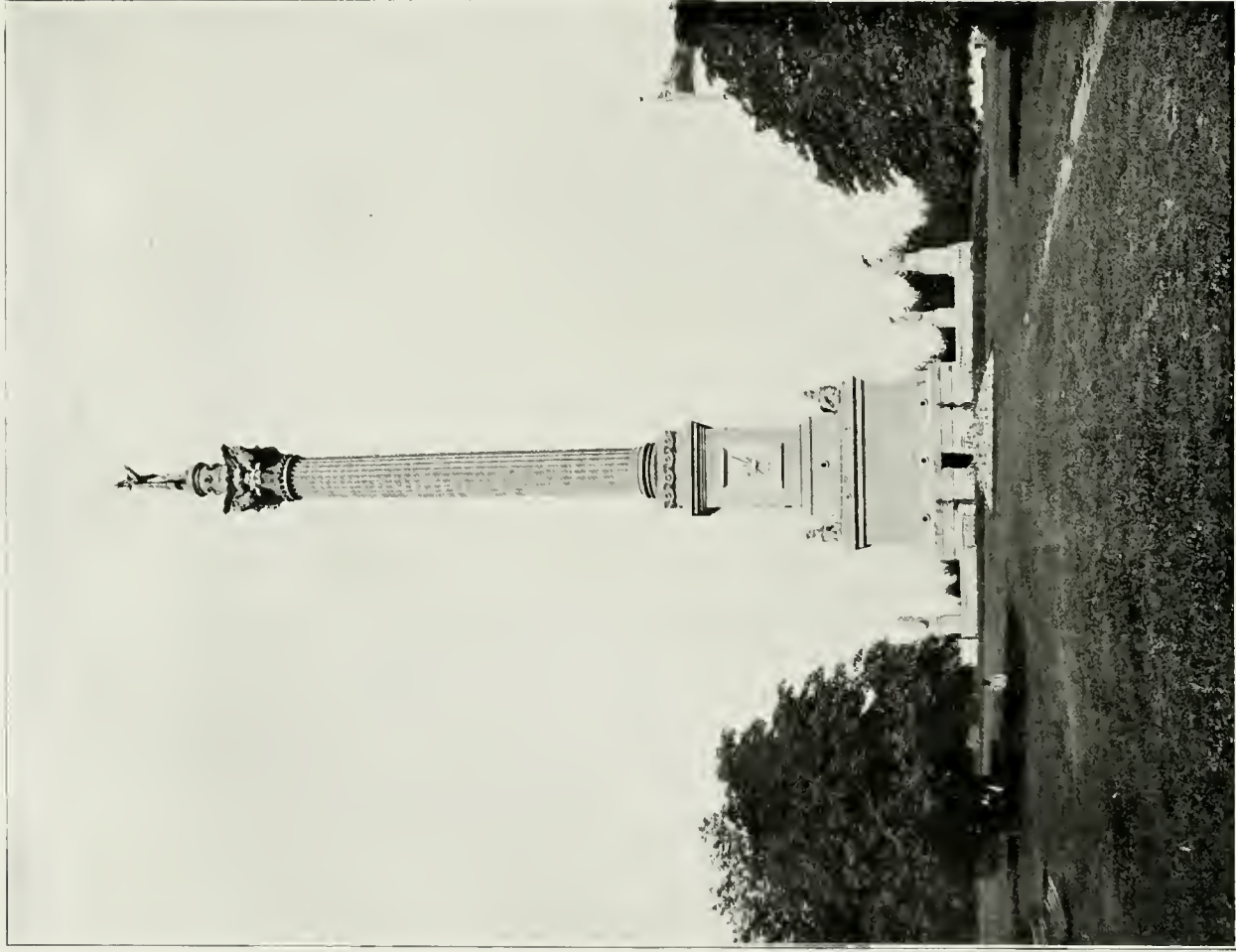
TABLE ROCK IN WINTER

In its day it attracted as much attention as any other place at the falls but it has long since disappeared and nothing remains of the famous pile but tradition. In 1818 a mass 160 feet long and 40 feet wide fell into the gorge; again in 1838 another immense mass fell with a shock like an earthquake. It continued to break off from time to time until 1867 the Canadian Government caused the last vestige to be blasted away. It is stated that on one occasion 40 or 50 people were standing upon the rock a few moments before it fell.



LUNA ISLAND AND THE AMERICAN FALLS AND PROSPECT POINT IN WINTER FROM GOAT ISLAND

In the foreground can be seen the deep water of the American Rapids in its unrestrained rush to the brink of the centre falls. Then comes Luna Island unapproachable in her arctic garb; next we see tree-topped American Falls; farther on we find Prospect Point with here and there a scattering station, appearing like a black hill-top on its leesy surface; in the distance we see the old suspension foot bridge which was removed in 1898.



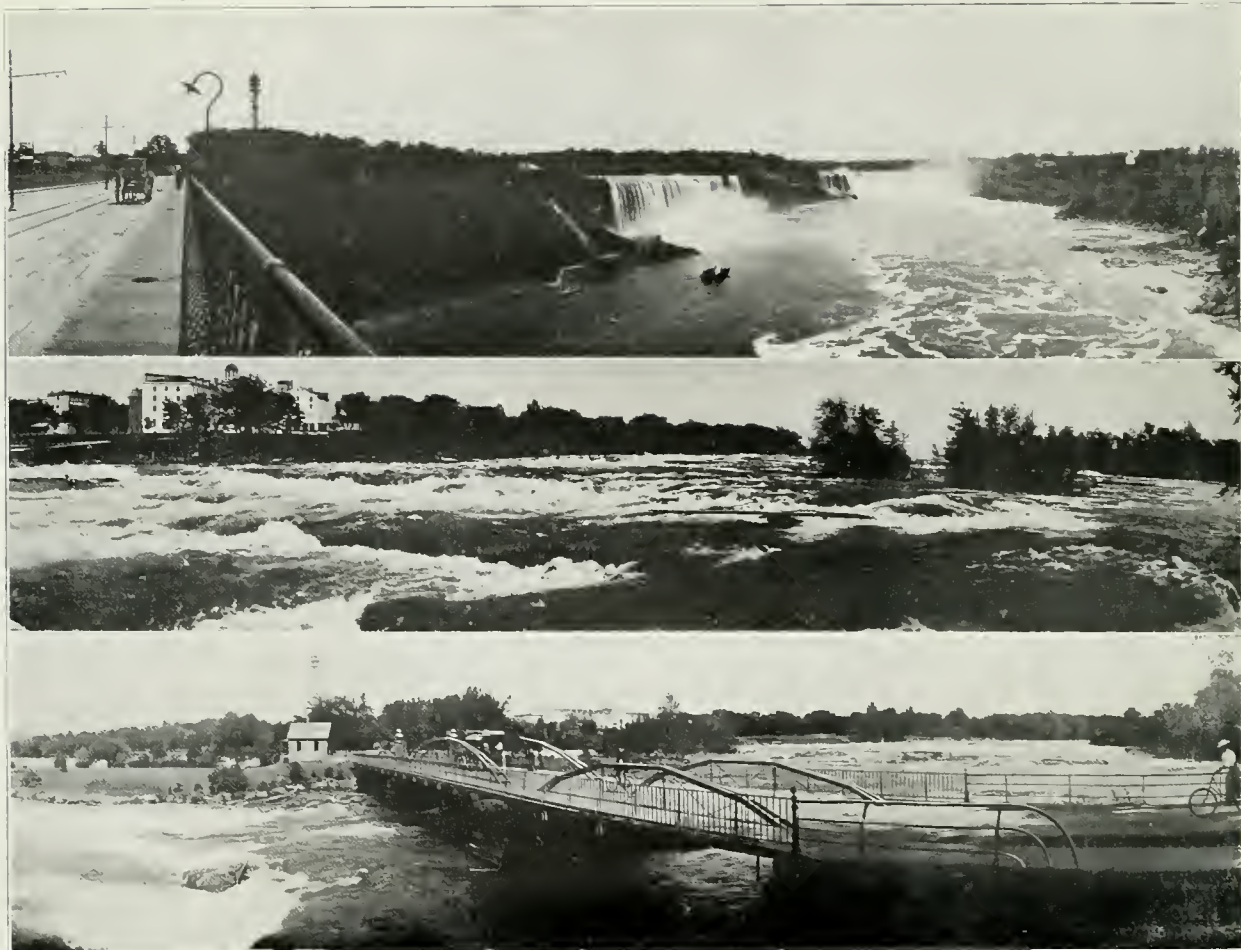
BROCK'S MONUMENT

Erected to the memory of Sir Isaac Brock, commanding general of the British forces in their battle with the Americans on Queenston Heights, eight miles below the Falls, on the 13th day of October, 1812. In this memorable battle the Americans were the attacking party and in order to do so they were obliged to traverse the river in small boats, a few at a time. The force consisted of some of the Niagara Militia and a regiment of regular army under the command of Col. Winfield Scott. The Americans were repulsed but not until after General Brock had been killed and heavy loss inflicted upon the British army. Col. Scott was taken prisoner and every commissioned officer was either killed or wounded.



THE ICE BOUND CATARACT

This is a condition that very seldom appears. It can only be produced by a long continued period of extremely cold weather. It will be observed that the whole face of the Cataract is completely ice clad, and with its bednet of ice is completely protected for a time from the vulgar gaze of the ever moving mass of humanity. The last time this condition appeared was in 1886 and it may never be seen again.



THREE PANORAMA VIEWS.

The first a general view of both the Canadian and American Falls and the American end of the great steel arch trolley bridge. Second, a complete view of the American Rapids from Goat Island to the main shore. Third, a view from Goat Island to the main shore, showing the bridge connecting Goat and Bath Island, the Park Carriage Office and the Cataract House in the distance.



THE LOWER END OF THE GORGE RAILROAD.



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE FALLS IN WINTER.

A general view of the Falls in Winter from the old Suspension Foot Bridge, showing the Ice Bridge and some of the Curiosity Huts.



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