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## The great mountain of frozen spray, below the ice-bound American Falls, Niagara.

Underwood and Underwood

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Winter cannot silence Niagara, but it does work other marvels, as we find when we come down here to the foot of the American Falls. How far we have descended we might guess from the apparent size of those people standing up there on the ice-coated cliffs of Prospect Point, just at the edge of the falls. They are fully 170 feet above our heads now. This gigantic mound before us, cutting off our view of the foot of the falls, is winter's own special addition to the scenery—the accumulation of frozen spray—snow that took its flight upward, not downward, before falling to rest under the shelter of the cliffs! That other ice-draped precipice beyond the American Falls, at the right (S. W. from here), is a corner of Goat Island. If we were to turn still farther to the right we should see the stupendous gulf of the Horseshoe Falls with the Canadian shore beyond.

We human creatures do look absurdly little and “no-account” in the face of such majesty of dimension and dynamic power; and yet this is a place in which to be reverently conscious of man's real relation to nature. “Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.” Little as appears the black speck of a man's head against water-fall or open sky, he has yet the power to use certain material inside that little black speck in such a way as to understand the principles governing the stability of the rocks and the ceaseless motion of the waters; and his understanding bears fruit in engineering skill in bridging this very chasm, a few rods behind us. The utilization of the actual working power of these Falls is one of the most significant achievements of the century just ended. It does remain devoutly to be hoped that those responsible for the great undertakings will have growing insight into the true value of beauty and refrain from vulgarizing the solemn splendor of the place with needless ugliness.

See *The Niagara Book*, by Mark Twain, W. D. Howells and others.

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The great Mountain of frozen Spray below American Falls, Niagara.

La Grande Montagne d'Écume Glacée au Bas des Cataractes Américaines, Niagara.

Großer Berg gefrorenen Schaums unterhalb der American-Fälle, Niagara.

La Gran Montaña de Espuma Helada Debajo de las Cataratas Americanas, Niágara.

Det Stora Berget of Fruset Skum under Americaniska Fällan, Niagara.

Великая гора замороженной пены подъ Американскихъ водопадомъ, Ниágара.

1007