

ward features of Niagara from the softer beauties of its summer dress to the stern sublimity of its winter garb. Now in the short declining day, when the distant shores and full expanse of the broad rapids are obscured and hidden by the densely falling snow, and no living thing visible save one or two solitary gulls, sweeping to and fro like restless wanderers of the deep, the aspect of the place becomes weird and awful from the pervading gloom and the sense of undistinguishable vastness everywhere present. But anon in the peace and tranquility of night, when the stars are out and the clear full moon sheds her dreamy light abroad, the effect is marvellous, and indescribably beautiful. All around hoary, frost-laden trees, ghostly in their drapery of purest white, cast fantastic shadows upon the snow; great icicles and strange ice formations hang pendant from the rocks, or stand like statuary within the caves; rugged and chaotic masses of ice are jammed across the mighty stream; huge snow mountains rise dome-like beneath the cliffs, as though they would obstruct the rushing waters of the fall, and, as if to complete the weird enchantment, the lunar bow is painted upon the eternal spray of the cataract—the whole uniting to form a spectacle of transcendent and unearthly grandeur—a combination scene of unrivalled and surpassing beauty, where Naiads nightly congregate, emerging from their gem-lit caves far under the mighty falls to hold their mystic dance upon the snows!

Such is the natural temple of Niagara, which, had it been located upon the plains of Hindus-