

MONTMORENCY FALLS.

DURING winter Montmorency Falls is the most attractive place near Quebec, being the great resort of pic-nics, pleasure parties, &c. It is situated about seven miles distant, on the north bank of the River St. Lawrence, in an immense gorge about a quarter of a mile wide at its widest part—no doubt worn out by the action of the falling waters during ages;—the rocks on each side rise to about 300 feet. The dimensions of this whole scene are very deceptive, owing to the gigantic proportions of every object in view.

On entering this notch or gorge the impression on the visitor is that the Falls are but a few hundred feet distant, while in reality the distance is nearly half a mile. The Fall is 250 feet high, not including the rapids: and 240 feet wide. At the bottom the water is 36 feet deep; at the top there are holes of 16 and 20 feet deep, ground out of the rock by small boulders which the waters cause to revolve in these holes, and which, it is believed, will ultimately gain an outlet below, and destroy the waterfall.

In the Photograph it will be seen that the river is frozen over above as well as below, and that even a part of the Fall is frozen over. The *cone* or *sugar-loaf* is a smooth formation from spray and snow, without shadow, and of the purest whiteness; it forms in front of the waterfall, attaching to the rocks on each side, and measures about 160 yards around the base from rock to rock. A second and small cone or mound is formed in connection with it, attaching to a ridge of rock which descends in front, and is seen on the right of the picture.

These formations are of different size and shape according to the severity of each winter.

The amusement of a winter visit to Montmorency is to slide on small sleighs from the cones—a most exhilarating exercise—many have the hardihood to slide from the highest point, the effect of which is more than electric, and not unfrequently the consequences have been very serious.

In the left, near the top, may be seen the mill race, the property of G. B. Hall, Esquire. The water in this mill-race is said to run at the extraordinary rate of 60 miles an hour. The leakage from it forms upon the rocks in galleries of icicles or beaded pillars of a pale green blue color; these sprinkled with snow have a very beautiful appearance when seen within a few hundred feet in sunshine. The foreground of our picture is composed of the cuttings, &c., from the mills in the vicinity, and the horse, sleigh, &c., in common use.