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ICE PALACES IN RUSSIA AND CANADA.

Our English brothers and our American cousins across the border have long looked with horror on our Canadian winter, with its ice-bound rivers, its driving snowstorms, and its biting cold, and have wondered how in the world we ever manage to keep ourselves alive until the spring. That we did anything more than exist, that we actually enjoyed ourselves, and looked forward to the winter with much pleasure was harder still to understand. But we got a little tired at last of being pitied when we thought we were more deserving of envy, so we got up a Carnival and asked people to come over and see for themselves how Canadians spent their winter. They came, and for one week we kept them so busy with nothing but fun, driving, curling, skating, snow-shoeing, tobogganing, and all the winter sports for

which Montreal is so famous, that they forgot all about the severity of the weather, and were fain to confess that the half had never been told them.

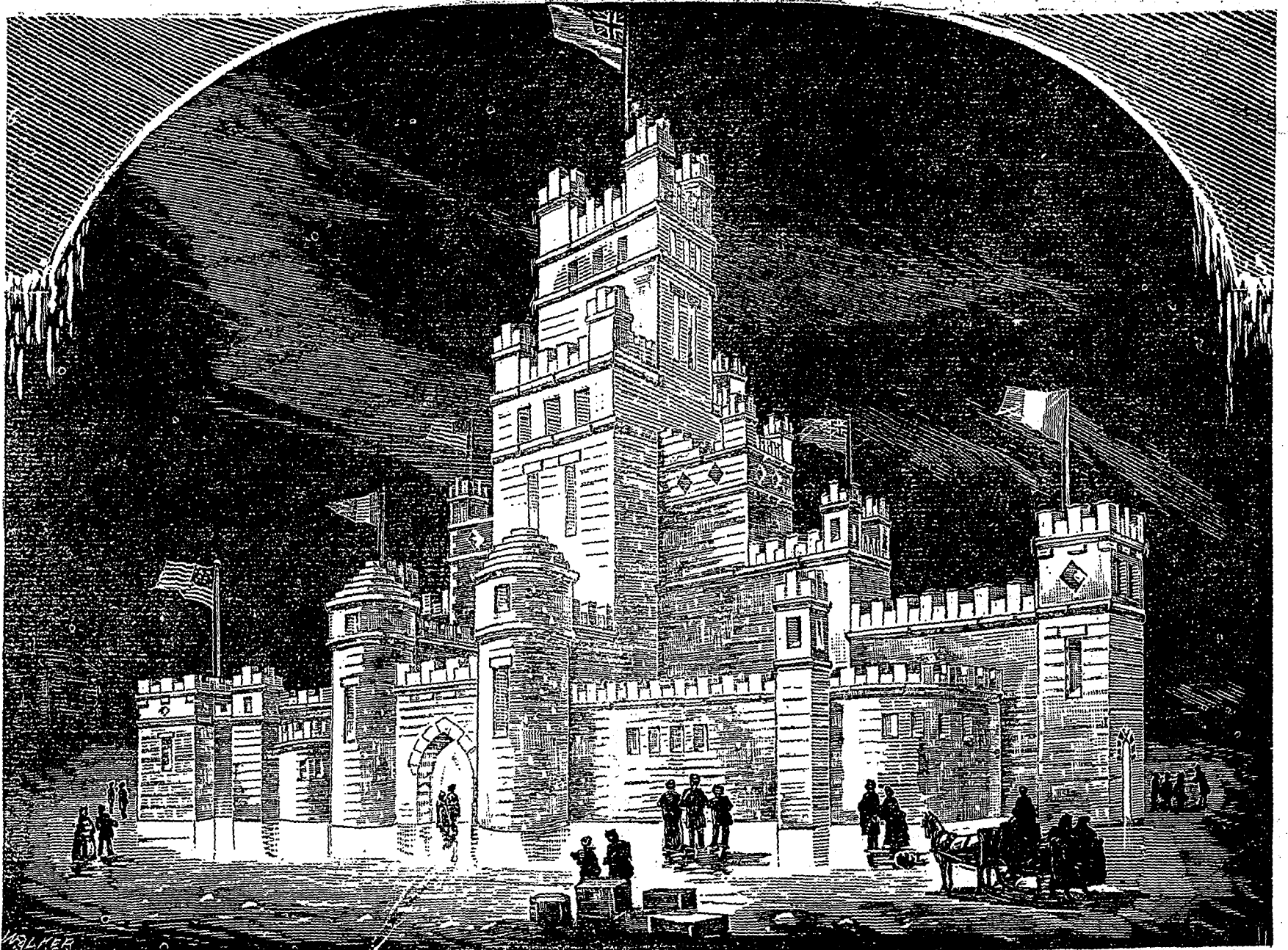
But of all the wonders of that Carnival of 1883, the greatest marvel was the ice palace. There, on Dominion Square, commanding a view of both mountain and river, stood a building such as the whole continent had never witnessed before and the world itself but twice. By daylight it stood, with its transparent walls, a palace of crystal, and by night, in the mystic light of the moon, it seemed easy to believe, even in this matter-of-fact nineteenth century, that the genii of the wonderful lamp had again been called to work. This ice palace of 1883 was a square building measuring ninety feet each way, with a square tower fifty feet high at each corner, and a central tower of nearly one hundred feet. The one

built last year was on a different plan, and much more beautiful, being in the form of an ancient castle. It was one hundred and sixty feet long, sixty-five feet across at its widest part, with a central tower of solid ice eighty feet high. (The towers of the previous one had been partly of wood and spruce boughs covered with snow.) This, although of such perishable material, was so solidly built that it withstood all the winter thaws and remained a beautiful ruin when most of the snow had left the ground.

The ice castle for this year, which we show below, is on a still larger scale. It measures one hundred and sixty feet in length, and one hundred and twenty at its widest part. The round towers in front are forty-four feet high, the other towers from forty to seventy feet, while the central tower rises to the height of one hundred. The blocks of ice of which it is built are about forty

inches long, twenty inches wide, and upwards of one foot in thickness, and twelve thousand of these were put in place before the building was finished.

The first ice palace of which we have record was built in St. Petersburg, by order of the Empress Anne of Russia, in the year 1740. Eight years before a fortress of snow and ice had been built upon the ice of the river Neva and a sham fight for its possession had taken place before the Empress. In the end of 1739 an attempt was made to build an ice palace on the river but the foundation gave way before it was finished and the palace was finally erected on the land. This while not on so large a scale as ours was much more carefully finished. It was fifty-six feet long, eighteen feet wide, and twenty-one feet high. Around the outside of the building ran an ice palisade, eighty-seven by thirty-six feet, and at each end was an or-



THE CARNIVAL ICE CASTLE FOR 1885.