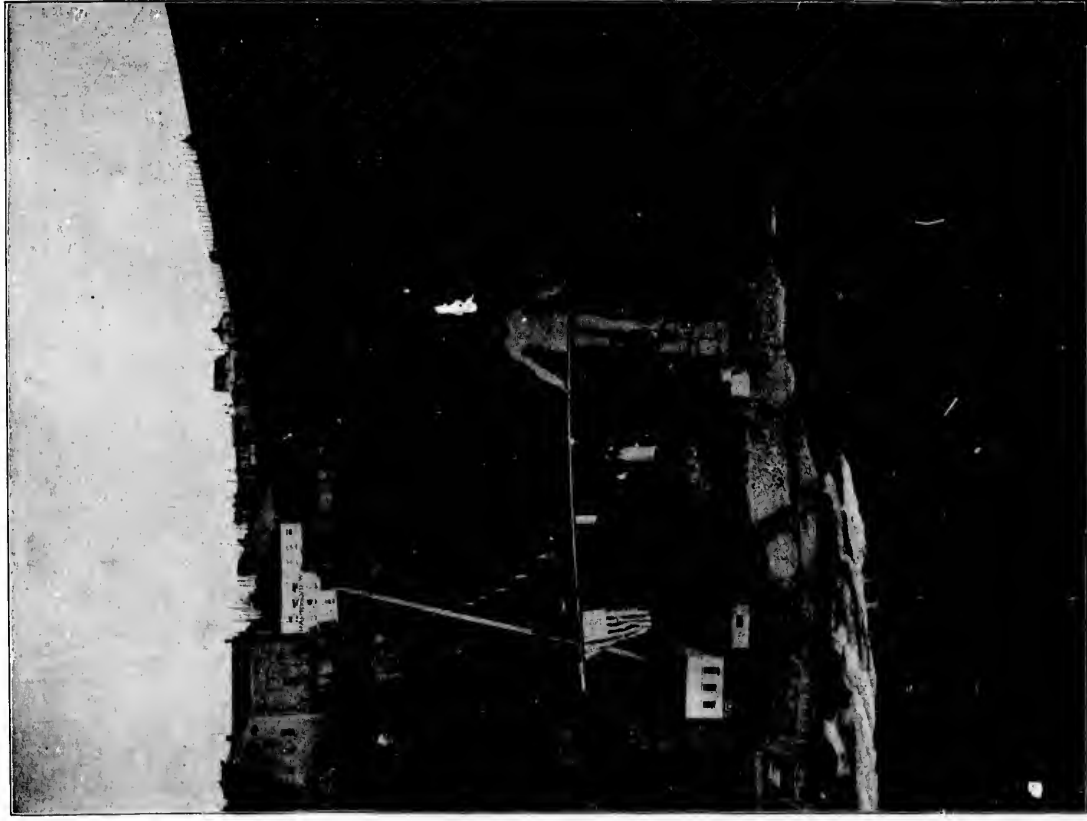




DIXON CROSSING THE NIAGARA RIVER ON A TIGHT-ROPE.—Niagara has always held a fascination for those adventurous spirits who seek lasting or temporary fame from some unprecedented act of daring. The first to challenge the perils of Niagara Gorge was the famous tight-rope walker, Blondin. He first crossed the Gorge below the falls on a rope stretched from cliff to cliff, in 1859. His rope was twelve hundred feet long. A year later he performed the feat just below the railway Suspension Bridge. He crossed and recrossed the gorge many times. Since that time many others have succeeded in crossing the gorge on a rope. In 1876 Maria Sperberina not only equalled Blondin, but crossed on a rope wearing stilts. Dixon was the latest daring acrobat to perform the feat represented above.