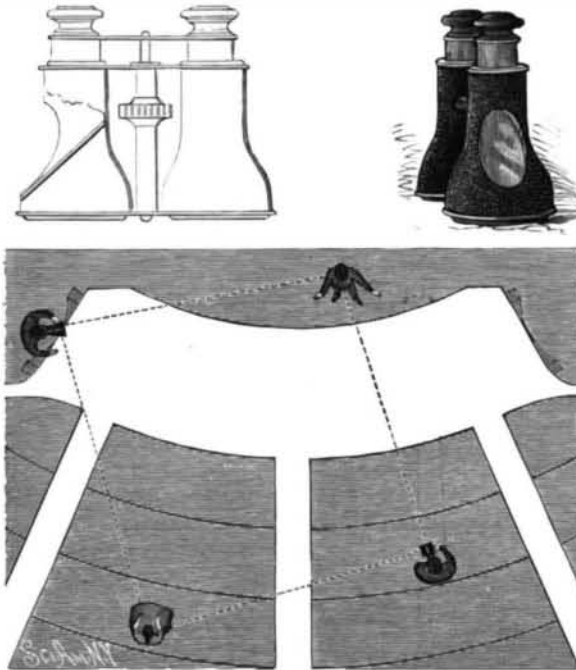


CROSSING THE CATARACT OF TEQUENDAMA ON A ROPE.

The plain of Bogota is sixty miles long from north to south and thirty miles wide from east to west. It is intersected by verdant prairies and dense woods, affording some ornamental and many useful species of timber. The river Funga, formed by numerous mountain streams which take their rise one hundred miles north of the city, traverses the plain in a south-westerly direction to Tequendama, where, through a gap not over 36 feet in width, it leaps over a rocky ledge upward of 600 feet high, forming one of the most magnificent cataracts on the globe, and thence rushes down to join the Magdalena. The height of this precipice is so great that the inhabitants of Bogota were terrified by the daring and audacious act of the Canadian equilibrist, Mr. Warner, who, in November, crossed the abyss of the Tequendama in imitation of the act of Blondin at Niagara. This feat is shown in the accompanying engravings, which are reproductions of photographs taken on the spot by A. Esperm, of the city of Bogota, which have been sent to us by Mr. Harry Warner.

From the remotest antiquity there have always been equilibrists, many of whom were extraordinarily daring and skillful, and have astounded the spectators by their deeds of prowess. History tells us that, in 1385, upon the entrance of Isabel of Bavaria into Paris, a Genoese allowed himself to slide, singing, from the tops of the towers of Notre Dame to the Pont de Change, over which the queen passed and entered through an opening in the blue taffeta sown with golden fleur de lis with which the bridge was covered. After having placed a crown on young Isabel's head, the equilibrist continued his aerial journey. When it was nearly night, the Genoese ascended to the towers carrying a lighted torch in each hand, which must have caused a singular appearance from a distance and doubtless gave rise to more than one story of fantastic apparitions. If history has preserved for us through five centuries the tradition of this descent from the towers of Notre Dame to the Pont de Change as a marvelous feat, what can we say of Blondin and his imitators, especially of Warner, who has dared not only on a wire to cross the cataract of Niagara, but has just performed the wonderful feat of crossing the terrible abyss of Tequendama on a rope. The crossing of Niagara gave Blondin a universal reputation, he being the first to try this daring act; but if considered conscientiously, that is nothing compared with the crossing of Tequendama, for the conditions of the two cataracts are quite different. At Niagara an acrobat who became dizzy

and lost his equilibrium would fall into waters that are perfectly tranquil and very deep—circumstances which, taken in connection with the fact that the fall would not be more than about one hundred feet, would give the equilibrist the assurance of salvation, for he would not encounter rocks, and, if he knew something of



A TRICK OPERA GLASS.

swimming, he would rise to the surface and swim to one of the banks or to a boat which would pick him up and land him safely. At Tequendama all the conditions of the abyss are against the equilibrist, who, in case he experiences the slightest dizziness and falls, would be very certain of breaking his neck, for he would fall into a raging torrent from the terrible height of 479 feet! What would be the size of the largest fragment of the acrobat that could be picked up at the bottom of such an abyss?

PROF. O. C. MARSH, in a short paper in the American Journal of Science, calls attention to the fact that some sixteen years ago he pronounced the remains of a large swimming bird found in Kansas ten years before to be those of essentially a carnivorous swimming ostrich. His conclusions were combated by scientific critics, and

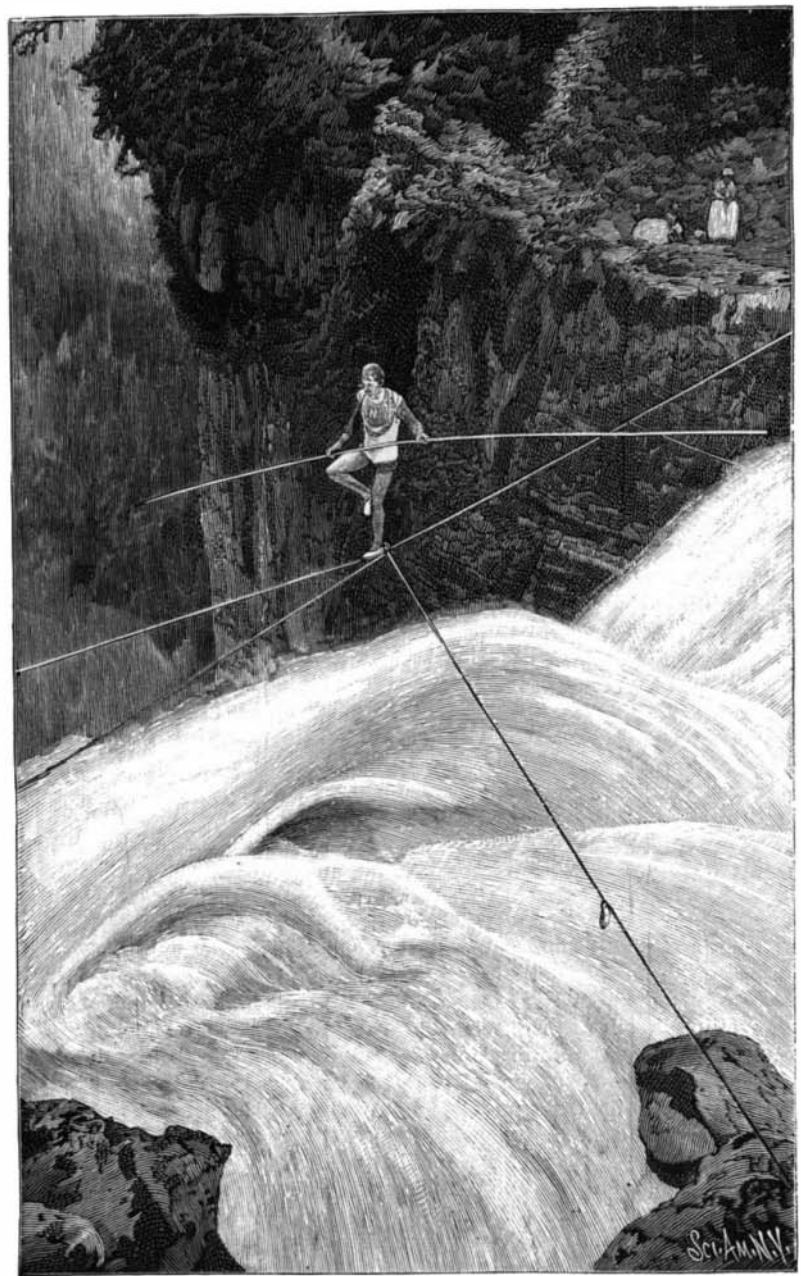
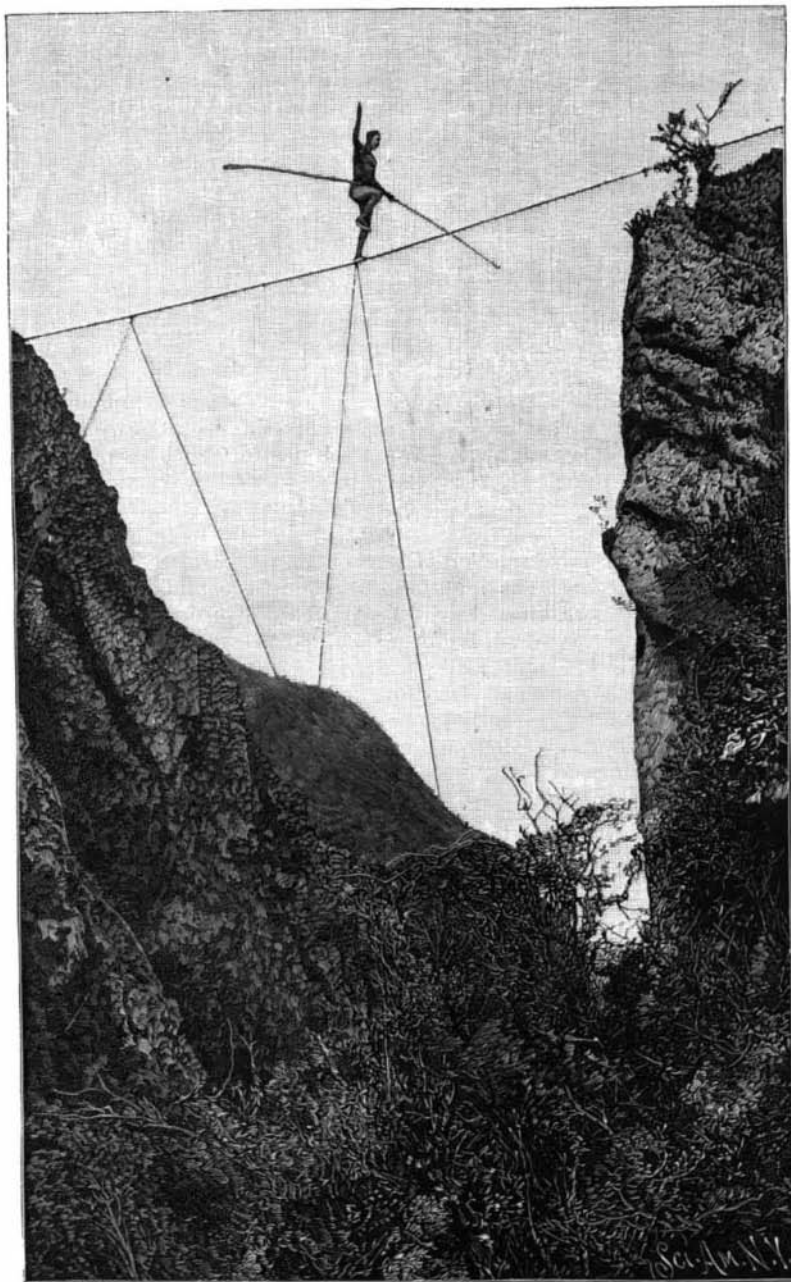
he now announces, as confirming them, the discovery in the same region of a remarkably perfect specimen of the bird, with feathers in place, and those feathers the typical plumage of the ostrich.

A TRICK OPERA GLASS.

We present an engraving of a trick opera glass which may be new to some of our readers, although the principle involved is very old. One tube of the opera glass is constructed in the ordinary manner, being provided with lenses, while the other tube is arranged to give a view of any object at right angles to the line of vision of the normal tube, or considerably to the rear of it. The trick tube has no eyepiece and the objective is done away with, a piece of japanned wood taking its place. A portion of the tube and its leather cover is cut away and a mirror is inserted at an angle in the tube. When the observer wishes to use the trick glass at short range, he covers up a portion of the opening in the tube with his fingers, but at longer range this precaution would not be necessary. The practical uses of the glass are apparent. Our engraving shows a plan view of a theater, with the stage, boxes, and seats. The gentlemen in the box and the one on the right of the center aisle both appear to be observing the actor on the stage, but in reality they are observing the lady on the left of the center aisle. Of course each of the gentlemen has his glasses turned a different way around.

Changes in the Blood after Thyroidectomy.

Dr. Postoeff, of Kharkoff, has made a number of observations on the blood of dogs before and after the removal of the thyroid gland, with the object of elucidating the changes which the extirpation of the gland produces in the blood. He divides the theories which have been propounded on this subject into two groups—the one supposing that the thyroid gland in its normal condition secretes some substance which is necessary to the proper working of the nervous system, and the other ascribing to the gland the secretion of some substance which directly destroys certain metabolic products, the accumulation of which in the blood would be fatal. His observations show that the extirpation of the thyroid gland is followed by a diminution in the red corpuscles, the hemoglobin, and the specific gravity of the blood; an increase in the white corpuscles; a great increase in the fibrin obtained by whipping the blood; a diminution of nitrogen both in the blood and in the serum; and a marked diminution of nitrogen in the fibrin, not only relative, but absolute.—Lancet.



CROSSING THE TEQUENDAMA CATARACT, VENEZUELA, ON A TIGHT ROPE.