A VISIT TO LURAY CAVERNS.

THE GREAT SHENANDOAH VALLEY AS SEEN BY A COMNERCIAL TOURIST.

After canvassing all the county seats of West Virginia and crossing the mountains into Virginia, the grandest of natures works on the globe are the Caverns of Luray. The Caverns of Luray are admitted by all who have visited them to be the most wonderful examples of nature's handiwork ever discovered. I am informed that experienced travelers, scientific explorers, geologists and men learned in the philosophy of nature, with one accord yield their unqualified admiration, and bear cheerful testimony to the supreme grandeur of these wonderful works and curious formations. Luray Cave is indeed remarkable for its terrible, yet wonderfully grand scenery, its formation of rock and stalatites—the latter being of great delicacy of shape and unique beyond all comparison. I am told that Mammoth Cave may be larger, but its attractions by no means compare with those of Luray, and while one may become satiated with the "unearthly" at the former in a day, it is no uncommon thing for a visitor or tourist to remain at the latter, for daily visits to the cave, for a week or more. The introdnction of the electric light within the caverns has been productive of wonderful results, presenting spectacles and effects which only the inspired hand of a Dore could reproduce. Descending the stone steps down, down into the cave the visitor reaches the entrance hall, or vestibule, of this wonderful yet beautiful underground palace. "In my Father's House are many Mansions." A thrill of awe is the first sensation, as one finds himself immersed in gloom and surrounded by grotesque shapes, which an excited fancy clothes with grand ghastly appearances. This feeling however gives place at once to emotions of wonder and amzament. The entrance hall is a large compartment supported by fluted columns, and adorned with snowy drapery, glittering objects and beautiful formations.

From this section avenues and streets radiate to other portions of the cave; First, one leads to the "vegetable garden", where the pendants and all nature assume the perfect form of vegetable. The growing sweet and irish potatoes, the tomatoe, cabbage and turnip and every form of vegetables. Then through smaller rooms the way leads to the "Fish Market," where the wall is hung with rows of fish, so natural in their likeness that the beholder is startled into a belief in their real existence. A succession of chambers, each named from some striking resemblance to well-known objects, and each filled with the curious creations of a subterranean world, are connected by passages which appear to have been carved by some giant hand; grottoes, adorned with the richest ornamentation; cascades of sparkling brilliancy, and forms and figures of infinite shape and variety inspire emotions of wonder, which grow and continue to grow with each new avenue, each new hall and room and with each new revealed wonderful fact.

The "Crystal Lake", with its flood of pure sparkling water; the "Cathedral," with its silent organ around which you can see quite an audience assembled for worship in beautiful formations, near which the "Empress Column" raises its head to the dome. The "Bridal Chamber", with its alabaster figures, the handsome queenly bride in trailing drapery—the minister after performing the ceremony in one corner tall and erect watches the happy couple; the "Giants Hall" with its glittering arches and rows of mighty columns; the "School House" ramble—a wide plateau resembling a play-ground, a base ball ground, and hung in the hall ways crystaline draperies; "Great Hall" adorned with statuary: The "Ball-room", with its gorgeous furnishing; "Hades," a dark abyss of impenetrable depth, gloom and dispare. It is quite easy here to imagine the sulphurous smoke and the clattering of chains in the bottomless pit.

I could go no further, and as I turned around looking upward my eyes beheld the grandest and most sublime panarama of beauty and delight I have ever experienced. Upward in an aparture in a far off ceiling which seem to widen and grow larger, a curtain was drawn and a friend, a resident of Luray handed me his field glasses and I could then easily behold the Heavens, the streets of the New Jerusalem paved in Gold, that even flowing fountain, the angels sitting at the right hand of God with natural harps in their hands waiting our coming; then these lines appeared to me whilst gazing intently: The fountain you see is "free for you and free for me." Then methought I heard in a sweet subdued voice still and low: "Prepare to meet thy God" and when you shall have finished your work on earth "come up higher"; But a detailed discription of Luray Caverns is absolutely impossible in so short a sketch, they must be seen and studied to be appreciated; Nature has fashioned its wonders in her own inscruitable way. The encyclopedia man or the man who waits upon the legal profession can do but little. I can only say that in my imagniation the golden winged angel of inspiration, with tongue dipped in the mellifluent melody of the skies, flew before us crying the doxology of creation in honor of him who is stronger than the rocks and more enduring than the mountains. "Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth. How wonderful are all thy works oh God"—man has done nothing except smooth the way for the explorer, and dispel the primeval gloom by the power of electricity: The exploration can be made without serious difficulty, as there are few obstructions to impede the progress of the visitor, and these few are easily overcome by the most timid adventurer. "The Luray Inn" is one of the prettiest and best appointed hotels in the country and the encyclopedia of law man was glad to get in at $2.50 per day. J. T. R.

Items.

A cave was discovered about six miles east of Harrisonburg, Va. near thevillage of Keseltown, Saturdayevening last. It has not been fully explored yet, but it is said to rival the Luray caverns in size and grottos and beauty. It is situated on the land of Augustus Armemtrout and was discovered while blasting rock. Twenty-four rooms have been found without the aid of picket or shovel. Persons from the neighborhood were flocking to see it all today, and specimens of stalactites were brought into tawn.

The Court of Claims to-day gave judgement for $30,340 in favor of Winchester and Potomac Railroad now a branch of theBaltimore & Ohio Railroad, on account of iron taken from it by the government during the Civil War.

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The Use of Cream.

Very few housekeepers can realize the nutritive value of cream, and understand its superiority to any other solid fats in permitting the gastric juice to mix with it in the most perfect manner, and in this way aiding and hastening digestion. It is invaluable in the case of invalids, for it serves as nutriment in a very available form. It is superior to butter because it contains more volatile oil than butter made from it. It is frequently ordered by physicians for persons consumptively inclined, for those with feeble digestions, for aged persons, and for those who suffer from impaired circulation, cold feet, and who feel chilly from want of nutriment.

No other article of food gives such satisfactory results. It is, however, expensive in large cities, and difficult to get fresh and sweet. On a farm, however, it can be had in its sweetness, and it can be freely used. Whipped, it can be served in dozens of ways, with fresh or stewed fruits, as an accompaniment to cake, puddings, and the like, while cream can be drunk nearly as freely as milk. For use in whipping it should be thick and sweet, while for drinking it can be used after the milk has stood, at the most, but a few hours over night.—Jenness Miller's Magazine.

An Unexpected "Water Scene."

The Installment Heights Amateur Dramatic society recently introduced a striking bit of realism into their skillful rendition of "Engaged and Jilted."

It will be remembered that when the heroine faints and falls gracefully upon the stage the awkward comic servant is required to seize a large pitcher from a small table standing near R. 3 E. and boldly invert it over the prostrate lady. exclaiming as she does so: "Oh, heavens! There's not a drop av wather in the place!"

This is a highly humorous effect in its way, but its side splitting features were greatly intensified the other evening when, through some oversight, the pitcher was half full of water when it was placed on the table.

The proper cue was given. The comic servant grabbed the pitcher and fairly deluged the unexpectant heroine. She sputtered and gasped for breath, and waved her arms wildly in the air, and utterly forgot to wait for the hero's arrival before recovering from her "faint."

"Geewilliky! Kin she swim?" called out a small boy in the gallery, and then the applause was simply deafening.—London Tit-Bits.

Coons, Bees and Dancers.

When a boy I had a couple of coons for pets. They were passionately fond of honey, and one evening made a raid on a beehive. There was a ball at the house that evening, and the young people had just become deeply interested in "the lancers" when the coons and the irate busy bees mixed. The battle only lasted one round. The coons saw that they were outclassed and wanted to come home. They did so, and brought half a bushel of industrious bees with them. As they entered the sitting room, squalling with pain, they looked like great black balls.

The ball was a full dress affair, and by the time the coons had taken a couple of turns around the room, shedding bees at every jump, everybody—including the grandams—was dancing. The guests hustled out of doors, only to meet the rest of the bees coming in. They had all sworn out search warrants for those coons, but were content to take substitutes. They crawled down in the corsages of the ladies and up the pantaloons legs of the gentlemen.

They swarmed on bald heads and bare shoulders. Fine ladies rolled on the carpet in Parisian gowns and men stood on cushioned chairs and shook their fists at heaven! Everybody seemed possessed of a frantic desire to get out of their clothes, and all the time those miserable coons were running around under chairs and climbing over sofas, shedding bees by the handful. There was no second dance; everybody appeared to think one number enough.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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