EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown."
RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

VOL. XIV. EASTON, MD. SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 23, 1831. NO. 30.

PRINTED & PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY EVENING
BY
ALEXANDER GRAHAM.

TERMS

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS Per Annum, payable half yearly in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding a square inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR; and TWENTY FIVE CENTS for every subsequent insertion.

Description of Weyer's Cave, in Augusta County, Virginia.

Of all the wonderful subterraneous caverns now known, Weyer's Cave is the most remarkable, as well for its dimensions and extent as for the beauty of its sparry incrustations; the sublime and splendid busts, and the massive columns, pillars, &c. that it contains.

This celebrated cavern was first explored by Bernard Weyer, in February, 1806, who in pursuit of a ground-hog came to a small aperture in the earth, in which this animal had taken refuge from his dog; he suspected that one of his steel traps had been drawn in, which induced him to dig down; after digging a short distance he was surprised in finding that it led to a small apartment which terminated in a solid rock; by means of a pick axe he perforated it so as to pass into another when at once, beyond his most sanguine expectations, he was pleasantly disappointed in finding a very extensive grotto. The discoverer then made it known to the proprietor of the land, whose name was Matthias Amen; they, together with more of their neighbors, ventured in with lights, they gave names to the different apartments, and also named the cave after the discoverer.—Excited by the above information, my companion and myself determined to pay it a visit; to accomplish this intention we passed up the rich, prolific and beautiful valley of Virginia; bounded on both sides by sublime and romantic mountains: at this place about 20 miles distant, on the right and on the left; which presents the eye with scenes calculated alike to profit and to please, they tend continually to accelerate the affections, and entertain the imagination.

We called at the present proprietor's, whose name is John Mohler, living in Rockingham county, about half a mile from the cave. After a few hours repose and refreshment, we were furnished with a guide (who was not unacquainted with his business) and candles; we then proceeded to the cave, which is in the same hill, parallel to, and 200 yards from Madison's cave, (described in Jefferson's notes) which is so much surpassed by the former, that it is scarcely ever visited; nor is it worthy of description when contrasted with the other. It is about two miles above the source of the Shenandoah river, (or the confluence of the forks that compose it,) and in Augusta county. More than half way up the acclivity of the hill, we entered boldly, first into the vestibule, or anti-chamber, the arch of which is 8 or 10 feet high, abounding in spar, thence through a rock of petrifaction, into the Dragon's room, where, by the percolation of the water through the above, there are found thousands of stalactites and stalagmites, of the most uncouth figures; which were anciently supposed to be petrified water, but after later researches we find them to be various kinds of earth, carried down in solution with the water, and by the attraction of composition, are collected into bodies, which are congealed after the evaporation of the water, by the cementing qualities of the lime which constitutes a part of the composition of earths. This petrifaction is also of different kinds; there is yellow, white, reddish, marble colored, transparent and crystalized.—Yet the greatest quantity of spar has the color of red clay. In the Dragon's room there is an imitation of the Dragon, facing a stupendous vault, under which there is a projecting rock, called the Devil's gallery, surrounded by many soniferous spires. We proceeded through a short and narrow passage, descended a ladder partly hewn out of rock, to Solomon's Temple, which is the most sublime scene I had ever beheld. To attempt to describe what is here imagined, in entering this lurid, scarce half illuminated recess, is quite vain! nor can any person form even the faintest idea of the sublimity and grandeur of this subterranean abode, until he witnesses its magnificence; nor then can he find language copious enough to express his sentiments. It was justly observed by an English painter, who was here some time, that a correct delineation or description would require years with the pen In Solomon's Temple there is a wave like folding of incrustations, from the ceiling to the floor, exactly representing water tumbling over a precipice which had conglaciated in falling, called the cataract or Falls of Niagara. In front is a large sofa, called Solomon's throne; on the left is a large transparent fluted column, called Solomon's Pillars: a few paces farther, there are thousands of white pieces hanging to the ceiling, of a spiral form, called the Raddish Room; beyond which it is difficult to traverse, on account of the huge masses of rocks which have fallen over the floor. We then took a retrospective view of the pillar, and returned to the cataract ascending the ladder, about ten feet high, and went through a long passage to the Tambarine, or Drum room, which is extravagantly decorated with a variety of beautiful drapery, variegated and diversified; throughout the room there are also a number of semipellucid curtains, of different colors and forms. Besides these in the Tambarine, or Drum room, there are large sonorous sheets, called the drums which sound very much like the kettle-drum; also a semi-circular column with pedals about it of different lengths, and of course different toned, called the Forte Piano.

We then proceeded up a natural and elegant staircase, banistered suitably to rest the hand on, and passed Patterson's Grave, (a hollow rock into which a gentleman by that name fell) and by descending a ladder we entered the Ball room; which is about 40 yards in length and ten in breadth, and the floor quite level. At one extremity there is a small room, called the Lady's Dressing room which in addition to the Ball room, appears to have been constructed by nature for that purpose. At the other there is a stalactite of spar, about four feet high, and 12 inches in circumference, on which may be infixed a candle, called the Recluse Candlestick. About the centre of this beautiful apartment, there is an imitation of a sideboard, furnished with decanters and tumblers. Besides those in the Ball room, there is a sheet extending up the side of the wall, called the Tragical Sound board, remarkable for its sound; a gentle thump with the foot will produce a wonderful and astonishing sound, resembling distant thunder, which sound pervades the whole cave: yet articulation can scarce be understood 200 yards. From the ball room we passed through a narrow and difficult passage to Jacob's ladder, which is hewn out of a sort of calcarous rock, supposed by many people to be natural, which causes it sometimes to fall under the appellation of natural steps: but I think it hardly probable. At the foot of this ladder there is a very low and dreary place called the Dungeon. Next we came to the Senate Chamber which contains a variety of beautiful spar; in this place there is a magnificent gallery projecting over one half of the room, called the Music Gallery, on which there is a small apartment remarkable for the reverberation of sound; the voice can be heard to re-echo in this room with such astonishing velocity as to render speech unintelligible. We then went through an open and grotesque passage to Washington's Hall the most splendid, extensive and beautiful room in the cave; where the grandeur of its height, the diversity of its representation of the works of art, the reverberation of the voice and the splendour and brilliancy of its spar, is not only calculated to keep the sublime emotions in a constant state of excitement but strikes the mind with almost repressed curiosity. The curious explorer now witnesses something amazingly sublime; the walls are strung with musical columns, which, by running a stick over them, will produce a profusion of discordant sounds.

The drums, the tambarine, the piano, and each note, discordant heard alone, aid the full concert, while the sound board roars a melancholy murmur through the whole. On the right side of this apartment, there is a colonade of Marble Statues: over which there is an imperfect imitation of a rake; as we advanced further we saw an incrustation on the side of the wall, which extended from the floor to the ceiling, representing a streak of lightning.

We now look forward and see Washington's Statue, which at this distance represents a gigantic figure; and from a closer view assumes the appearance of a large person veiled with white. Directly to the left, is Lady Washington's drawing room, in which there is a variety of beautiful drapery, the most edged with white, and some entirely white, hanging in the form of curtains On the right side of this apartment there is a declining rock, placed like a looking glass, with a canopy above it, and bureau just before it; on which there is a solid rock, a very striking imitation of the Oppossum; which could not be surpassed by the most exquisite artist; we then returned, passed Washington's Statue, and came to 2 large pillars of a conical form, about 30 feet high, called the Pyramids; also another rather declining and about the same size, called Pompey's Pillar. Washington's Hall is about ninety-one yards in length, and 20 feet wide the arch is about fifty feet high, the floor is level but gravelly. In the room I fired a pistol, which, (according its contents first exploded) produced a sound equal to the most severe clap of thunder, and for some time there was a rumbling noise resounded throughout the different apartments; we repeated it several times, the earth apparently shook We then proceeded through a difficult passage by a numerous quantity of crystalized spar, and entered a small apartment that contains an excellent and useful spring, with water pure and rapid, and supplied with a tumbler. This is the Diamond room which derives its name from the brilliancy of its spars, and its resemblance to diamonds. We were here in view, but at some distance from a small white stalagmite petrifaction, resembling a pillar salt, called Lot's Wife; which is difficult of access, on account of the irregularity of the room. The Dining room, comes next, and it is very lengthy, the arch is about 80 feet above the floor: the presentation of a Church Steeple, Jefferson's Salt Mountain, the Chandelier and height of the arch, in this room, present the eye with sublime spectacles.

We then passed through a rugged passage, called the Wilderness, into Jefferson's Hall. This passage forms a wild grotesque scene and whence the numerous broken pillars came, appears to be a question unanswerable, and excites much astonishment. In Jefferson's Hall we first saw a massive body of spar, which would weigh probably thousands of tons, full of flutings regularly formed round its front, which is semicircular, called the Tower of Babel. Facing this magnificent monument of supernatural agency, is something that much resembles the new moon surrounded by stars. The Lantern, in this room, is also worthy of notice; it is a projecting rock, like a number of small sheets hanging together much unlike saddle skirts which exclude the rays from the candle, when placed between them.

Next in our view, is the most beautiful piece of spar any where to be found in the cave; called the Lady's Toilet; about fifty yards further is Elijah's mantle, where this wonderful scene finally terminates. We were now upwards of a quarter of a mile from the entrance and our candles nearly consumed, which induced us to return. In every part of this cave, that we have yet visited, the air is pure and clear of fatal or destructive gas, as respiration, is not more difficult than in the external air, which are plain proofs of its purity: the preservation of which I am at loss how to account for, unless there are apertures through the arch in different parts of the cave, thro' which fresh air is supplied. But our guide informed us of a room that contains fixed air, which is scarce ever visited: having a desire to visit it, we returned to it, which was about half way from the end, and eighty yards from the main passage, we looked into the dark profundity which struck us with horror; having been apprised of the evil that might befall us, we entered very cautiously, and found it a capacious apartment as grand and beautiful as any other.—Our candles began immediately to burn dimly; and there was a heaviness or pain in the breast, which was caused by the deficiency of vital air. As the interior of the room is entirely secluded from any external air, except by the narrow and long passage we descended, and the walls and arch of lime stone, the air becomes putrid, or impregnated with corbonic acid, which is caused by a process of decomposition. We quickly retired out of the room, which gave us instant relief: our candles burned much more brilliant, and we were now ready to return to the mouth of the cave, very much fatigued, but amply compensated for all our toils. In re-entering the Dragon's room, we were cheered by the flattering prospect of daylight; from this room we soon reached the upper region again. The steepness of the hill renders the entrance of the cave difficult of access, which difficulty the owner is about to remove, by digging a winding path to it. There is a wagon road within eighty yards of the cave, and it is very probable, after the completion of the path, the cave will be accessible on horseback. The degree of temperature in the cave is invariably at 56 degrees, which renders it pleasant both winter and summer, as it seemingly is warm in winter and cold in summer.

This grotto was twice lighted up with six or eight hundred candles, and although five times as many might have been happily disposed, yet the effect which was produced on the beholders must have been magical in the extreme. In some places, (says my informant) the rays of light proceeding from the numerous tapers converging, as it were, in a vast chandalier of precious stones, a sparkling brilliancy arose to the eye, and carried the imagination back to the enchanted caverns of the fabled Aladdin; and again, partial beams falling on the visages of groups just emerging from the deep shadow of a projecting column, threw around the mind a crowd of thoughts, and awakened in the bosom those mingled emotions which can never be described nor forgotten. It is needless to expatiate on the subject; suffice it, therefore, to say, that, in number and spaciousness of room—the disposition of festooning and drapery—in variety of stalactites and colors—exactness of representation, and in harmony of arrangement of the whole, it is not equalled by any thing of the kind in nature, and is surpassed only in point of sublime grandeur by the Falls of Niagara.

A VISITANT.

A PARALLEL.

[*From the Cincinnatti Daily Gazette.*]

A LAD OF SPIRIT.—One day last week a public officer remarked he would give fifty cents, to have the vane on the cupola of the Court house made straight This vane is some odd hundred and fifty feet from the ground, and is located, upon a painted upright pedestal, ten feet at least, above the rotunda. From some cause, Jacksonism most probably, the fish was not sufficiently braced to endure wind and weather. And in accommodating itself to circumstances, like certain politicians, it had got a crick in its neck. A lad who was present, proposed to straighten the vane, but said fifty cents was not a fair compensation. Without further words he ascended the rotunda, climbed up the pedestal that supported the vane, and, in a condition that would chill the beholder with terror, *reformed* the crooked vane Descending in safety, he claimed a dollar for his adventure. But the public officer, looking up with exultation at the reformed vane, refused to pay more than fifty cents for its reformation, and laughed to scorn the expostulations of the reformer. The indignant lad turned aside in disgust. Twenty minutes elapsed, and the exulting public officer looked up at the reformed vane. It was again crooked and unreformed. The adventurous reformer had again ascended to the dangerous eminence and *Nortonized* the reformed. It was in statu quo. Several offers have been made for the "improvement" since it was *Nortonized*. But without success. No man can be found to peril his neck in such a dangerous adventure. The case of this public officer is not unlike that of the great reformer at Washington. He has so cheapened patriotic effort, that prudent men are no longer willing to mount the giddy eminence, upon his assurance or in his company. The cricks of the administration cannot be reformed.

Daring and gross outrage on an American vessel.—Captain Aveilhe, arrived at Charleston on the 27th June, from Kingston, (Jam.) informs us that while at Kingston, the schr. Phantom arrived from Porto Cabello, with captain Bossiere and crew, of the brig Seraphim, of Baltimore, which vessel had been destroyed by the batteries of Porto Cabello. An extract from the log-book of schr. Phantom, which vessel was laying at anchor near the Seraphim, at the time was to be published in the Kingston papers the day captain A. sailed, but for want of room was left until the next day. Captain A. was informed, that on or about the 20th of May, the Seraphim came into Porto Cabello, and as usual, captain B. went to the Fort. A short time after being ashore, he was seen to make for his boat, and the Spaniard in pursuit of him; he however succeeded in reaching the boat, got on board his vessel, and immediately hove up his anchor to make sail. The batteries then commenced firing on the Seraphim, and finally disabled her, and wounded the mate and several of the seamen. He then came to again, sent his boat with the second mate to know why he was fired into, but on reaching the shore his officers and boat's crew were made prisoners. The batteries continued firing; with no colors hoisted; the S. having at the time the American ensign flying. Captain Echberger, of the Phantom, immediately went ashore to the commandant of the Fort, and begged him to cease firing—the answer was, that when captain B would come ashore himself, he would do so. He then wrote a note to captain B. to that effect, and then sent it to captain E. The answer was, that it was impossible to go ashore and abandon his vessel to a few wounded men, as she lay in a bay part of the harbor. As soon as the answer was returned, the fire commenced again. Captain B. finding his vessel so much injured, slipped her cable and run her on shore, to prevent her from sinking. He then went ashore, but captain A does not know whether he was put in confinement or not, but during that time, the Phantom, who was bound out, was permitted to take on board the mate and crew of the S. and proceeded to St. Blas, where she was trading. Captain B. made his escape from Porto Bello and succeeded in reaching St. Blas, where he took passage on board the Phantom, and arrived at Kingston on the 11th June.

From the Journal of Health.

SOAP.

It is a very common opinion that soap injures the skin, and we accordingly find that they who are the most interested in the preservation of personal beauty, reject the use of it entirely in bathing and washing. While we do not believe that it can with propriety be dispensed with, yet we are well aware that, in the economy of a fine complexion and delicate skin, much depends upon the quality of the soap which is made use of. The ordinary brown and yellow kinds are altogether unfitted for cleansing the skin, as they invariably irritate it, and when frequently used, most generally cause it to become rough, chapped or covered with painful & unsightly pimples. These effects arise as well from the strength of these soaps as from the yellow rosin which enters so largely into their composition Most, if not all, of the colored and variegated soaps, prepared expressly for the toilet, are equally objectionable, in consequence of the action on the skin of the colouring matter which is most commonly some metalic salt. From the occasional use however, of pure white soap, particularly that manufactured solely from soda and olive oil, which is entirely without smell, hard and brittle the fracture presenting a pearly and granulated or crystalline appearance, not the least injury to the skin need be apprehended, while it will be found to cleanse it more effectually from all impurities than any of the substitutes for soap which females in particular, are too much in the habit of resorting to; many of which have a decidedly prejudicial effect. Pure white soap ought, therefore, to be invariably used in ablutions of the face and hands, or of the surface generally. But it may be asked, What necessity is there for the use of any kind of soap in washing? We reply, that personal cleanliness cannot be effectually secured without it. A few remarks will render this evident to every one. In addition to the perspiration which is thrown out by the skin, a portion of which always remains upon this surface, it is constantly lubricated by an oily fluid. It is this that occasions after bathing, the water, with which it does not unite, to collect in minute drops upon the body, and which gives to the skin of those in whom it is furnished in large quantities, an habitual greasy and dirty appearance; while of those in whom it is deficient, the skin has a harsh, dry and scaly aspect. This oily exudation greases the linen when it is worn for too long a time—catches the dust floating in the air, and causes it to adhere to the skin, and likewise retains in contact with our bodies, a portion of the excrementitious matter, which it is the office of the skin to discharge from the system. The removal of this deposit, which is constantly accumulating, is absolutely necessary, as well for the personal comfort as for the preservation of health. Now the oily matter referred to, with the foreign substances accidentally combined with it, is not readily or completely soluble in simple water: it cannot, therefore, be effectually removed without the occasional use of soap, with which it combines without difficulty.

The frequency with which it is necessary to wash with soap will depend, in a great measure, upon the occupation and exposure of individuals. If these be such as do not subject them to an atmosphere loaded with dust, or to the frequent contact of such substances as have a tendency to soil the skin, washing the face, hands, and arms, once a day, with soap and water, will be sufficient particularly if the water be warm or tepid, and its application be followed by brisk friction with a somewhat coarse towel. But mechanics, and they who, from any cause, are peculiarly liable to have deposited upon their skin dust, dirt, or any foreign matters, will find that washing several times a day especially before each meal, & previously to retiring to bed, in addition to a frequent use of the bath, will be demanded, as well for the preservation of the skin as of their health generally. Upon the labouring classes the importance of frequent ablutions cannot be too strongly urged—cleanliness of the person in its strictest sense is too often practised by them in a very imperfect manner. Repeated washing of the face, hands, arms and feet, though all important, is not sufficient. The entire surface of the body requires equal attention; and it would be well if measures were adopted to afford to every labourer and mechanic the time and means for the daily use of the bath in summer, and its not unfrequent use in winter.

It would form a beautiful incident in the history of our country, says a correspondent of the Salem Gazette, to have an Eulogium pronounced in Boston on Mr. Monroe, by his friend, chief cabinet counsellor, and successor, John Q. Adams.

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