

DISCOVERY OF A GI-GANTIC SKELETON IN A CAVE NEAR MENTONE.

The town of Mentone, in the principality of Monaco, Northern Italy, has recently become famous by the discovery of the skeleton of a troglodyte or "cave dweller" in one of the grottoes or rocky caverns near that place. *L'Illustration* of Paris, from which we copy the two pictures on this page, has the following communication relating to this interesting event, from Mons. A. Ternante, which we dress in English garb for the information of our readers. Mr. Ternante writes under date April 20th, 1872, as follows:

"I was on an excursion in the vicinity of Mentone, when hazard and the scent peculiar to artists made me turn my steps towards the Red Grottoes. Rain overtook me, and the only shelter which offered itself was the entrance to one of these grottoes, more interesting at a distance than near it. I was amply rewarded for my fatigue and the efforts I made to penetrate into this cave, which lies at an elevation of 60 to 80 metres above the level of the sea. You may judge of my astonishment when I beheld what was offered to my sight.

"A man was kneeling down before an immense skeleton, and he was so deeply pre-occupied that he had not yet noticed my coming in. I was consequently forced to introduce myself to him who seemed to me to be the master of that singular habitation, and we speedily made acquaintance. I was before the learned Dr. Riviere, who told me that I had just attended one of the most interesting and rare discoveries, that of the skeleton of a Troglodyte. He informed me, in the meantime, that he was charged by the French Government with a scientific mission having for its object the fossil and prehistoric natural history of Liguria.

"After the discoveries in the neighbouring quarries of an immense quantity of fossil bones, teeth, and horns belonging to bears, gigantic deer, rhinoceros, hyenas, and other quadrupeds of the Jurassic era, which were sent to the Government museums, Mr. Riviere has occupied himself lately with searching the caves.

"The skeleton which he has just discovered was under a stratum of earth several metres thick; its state of preservation is extremely remarkable and astonishing, seeing its age, which it is impossible to state exactly, but which must date back to a time long before the historical era of the world. An analysis of the soil in which it has been found will probably supply some explanation on the subject. Around the skeleton were found a quantity of silex tools of the age of stone—scrapers, points, axes, and bone puncheons, whose peculiar make must have been obtained by friction.

"The discovery of this curiosity has made so much noise here that the Italian Government, on whose soil it was made, has opposed the removal of the skeleton, and armed men keep watch over it to prevent its being taken away.

"The sketch from nature which I send you herewith represents the interior view of the Grotto at the time of the discovery; as to the photographic proof, I can guarantee its perfect genuineness; it was taken on the spot by Mr. Aufossi, of Mentone, who has already reproduced over two thousand objects found by Dr. Riviere.

"P. S.—The matter of the Troglodyte has assumed the proportions of a diplomatic incident. Notes have been exchanged between the Italian Cabinet and the Government of Versailles, the latter upholding the rights of Dr. Riviere, as author of the discovery; while the Italian Minister contended that the discovery having been made on Italian soil, could not be carried to another country without their consent. At length French science gained the point, for I hear this very moment that Dr. Riviere is to have the subject carefully packed up and sent to the French Academy of Sciences."

Such is Mr. Ternante's narrative as given in *L'Illustration*. We believe this is the first discovery of any substantial kind to prove that Northern Italy had any evidence to give of the existence of the prehistoric man.

BRIDES.—A correspondent at Vienna writes:—"I always calculate the number of strangers by the number of brides which cross one's path. Your female readers will ask how I know a bride when I see one. But I reply, my dear ladies, I can tell in an instant—and, so to say, with half an eye—any travelling 'young married woman.' I have no need to look at the luggage, which is new; nor at the husband, who looks new, and as if he is not quite sure that he has not been hasty; nor even at the dress. No. A bride walks into a room as a thing apart. Brides are divided into two classes—the serious and the smiling. The first enters with a queenly step, and seems to say: 'Don't look at me. Don't you see I'm married, and that those days are over?' the other comes up smiling, as much as to say, 'I've landed him. Isn't it good fun?'"

Henry Clews, the well-known bald-headed banker, who always prides himself on being a self-made man, during a recent talk with Mr. Travers, had occasion to remark that he was an architect of his own destiny—that he was a self-made man. "W-w-what d-did you s-say, Mr. Clews?" asked Travers. "I say, with pride, Mr. Travers, that I am self-made—that I made myself." "Hold, H-Henry," interrupted Mr. Travers, as he dropped his Portuga, "w-while you were making y-yourself, why d-did-didn't you p-put some more h-hair on top of your h-head?" Mr. Clews has since invested seventy-five cents in a wig.

In Indianapolis a man writes to his favourite paper: "Please say to the party that made an attempt to burgle No. 368 North Mississippi street, between the hours of two and three o'clock this morning, that if his present infirmity does not interfere with his doing so, to make one more trial at his earliest convenience, and bring his winding sheet and coffin plate with him."



SKELETON FOUND IN THE RED GROTTOES.



THE RED GROTTOES, MENTONE."