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Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 9, 1888.

All Letters for publication, and Letters containing any communications should be addressed to W. J. HERDER, Proprietor and Publisher, Gregory's Lane. St. Joh'ns, Newfoundland, or to A. A. PARSONS.

SPRINGS. CURIOUS CREATURES AND GOLD GALORE-A FORTY-NINER'S YARN.

(Concluded.)

I followed the entrance for many yards, and was about to give up the search and return when the narrow hall, or corridor, widened suddenly and broadened into a large room of over a hundred feet in diameter—and such a room! From the ceiling, 100 feet high in its dome-like center, hung suspended hundreds of stalactites of varying dimensions and lengths, from a few feet to others which extended to the floor; stalagmites, like immense diamonds, glittered and glistened with iridescent rays in a strong phosphorecent light until the radiations and refractions lent such an indescribable charm to the cavern that I cast my eyes about to discover, if possible, the genii which created it, but instead of a semi-human object, like the creation called up by an 'Arabian Night's Dream,' I discovered numbers of animals, birds of prey, and living creatures-bears, wolves, deer, and many specimens of smaller animals, together with mountain grouse, turkeys, and other specimens of the feathered creation, quietly and peacefully sitting, roosting, and reclining in various parts of the large

No movement of fear or anger was made by either animal or bird upon my appearance. Nothing appeared to astonish them. It was some time before I discovered the source of this strange behavior. In the meantime I proceeded in my examination of the cavern. I found a beautiful crystal stream running across the center, the water of which was as cold as ice; but out of its depths there arose a peculiar phosphorescent light. A close examination disclosed the fact that the stream was filled with a beautiful species of fish, some like trout and others of the shape of salmon. The trout like fish gave out the phosphorescent light spoke of, and when I picked one up I discovered that they were blind-in fact had no sign of an eye, the head being perfectly smooth. In a far corner I found a boiling spring, which bubbled and hissed just below the surface of the floor. The water was boiling hot. For several hours I tramped through one corridor to another, until I became worn out, when I returned to the main cavern. I was somewhat fearful of my companionship, but finally concluding to trust to Providence, I lay down between two large columns, and in a moment was fast asleep. How long I slept I do not know, but I finally awoke refreshed, but hungry as the proverbial bear. I went to the brook and bathed my face, when the idea seized me to catch some fish, and to eat them raw. easily captured three or four salmon, and threw them out upon the floor. I had them dressed in a twinkling, when it suddenly dawned upon me that I could boil them in the hot spring. Fastening the fish together with a long string, I dropped them into the boiling water, withdrawing them in two or three minutes perfectly

done, sweet and succulent. I made a hearty meal of fish, after which l made my way to the entrance to see if there was any opportunity of gaining my liberty, but there was none; everything looked just as it did when I left it. Having made up my mind that my stay would probably be prolonged many days I returned to the cavern. Again I followed the corridors from one cavern to another, assisted by the strong phosphorescent light, and returned, tired out and hungry, to the main or principal hall. Here, as before, I made another meal of fish, but this time I made a discovery which almost unnerved me with delight. I had caught a couple of salmon and was catching at a third, when my hand came in contact with some very heavy, almost round, substance, which I, through curiosity, lifted to the surface. What was my astonishment to

pure gold, which weighed, I should judge, between three and four pounds. I was so astonished that I nearly fell. I recovered control of myself in a short time, and after another meal of boiled fish set to work to examine the stream. I soon found that the lump of gold I had found was not the only one to be found, for in the course of a short time I had collected nuggets ranging from an ounce to half a pound, at least ten pounds of almost pure gold. Becoming tired and sleepy-I had no means by which I could tell day from night, it being always light enough to see by the phosphoric emanations—I retired to the corner had first selected and went to sleep. When awoke I found many of the animals had departed, though where they went I had no idea, as it was impossible to discover their footprints on the hard, stone floor; however, they had not all left, several deer, turkeys and smaller game still remaining.

During a number of periods between sleeps,

which were most probably interims of twelve hours or thereabouts, making so many days, worked the streams collecting the gold into piles along the banks until my most extravagant dreams of wealth appeared ready for realization, and now I wanted once more to see daylight and human faces. Having made up my mind to leave my subterranean home, I caught and boiled a number of fish, and, unlike my companions, sacrificed a turkey, and filling my pockets with lumps of gold I began to hunt for another outlet. Leaving the big hall or cave, I followed as near a direct course as l could without compass or guide for hours. When exhausted by clambering over the rough stones I would sit down and lunch and sleep until, after a long time, I saw ahead of me a dim white light, altogether unlike the light which had been my guide within the cave. The nearer I approached the white light the less the phosphorescent, yellow light appeared, until it faded away and blended with the strongest light. A short time after the subsi dence of the phosphoric light I came to the termination of the entrance, a narrow, irregular fracture in the rock, through which with difficulty I managed to squeeze myself; but I finally got to its mouth, which was covered with snow, apparently not very deep, as the ight penetrated it with a strength almost equal to that of broad day. A plunge, and I found myself out into the world at last, with nothing but a snowy waste before me. Every thing looked strange, even the entrance to the cave had disappeared, covered up with the snow which had fallen back into the cavity made by me as I pushed myself through. found that it was about 11 o'clock in the morning, as the sun was not yet in its zenith, and selecting a direction I followed on for several hours, when I came upon a solitary miner out hunting, from whom I learned I had been lost just two months!"

'That hunter,' said Burks, 'was Long Jim, who belonged to the party of miners then located about twenty miles distant from here.' 'But what became of the Britisher?' asked

'Oh, Long Jim and his crowd, who saw the gold Lambert showed after he had told his story, started out to look up the cave, but they never succeeded in finding it. The face of the country was so changed by the heavy snowdrifts that they had nothing to pilot them. Anyhow, Lambert had a good start and he left here for his home in England last summer with quite a fortune.'

'I have an idea,' said Finn, 'that the gold mine is not far from this camp, and as soon as the snow goes off I move we search for it.' Finn's motion was moved a good one by his comrades, and in all probability before long the Englishman's subterranean eldorado will be found.

A CLERGYMAN CRITICISED.

AT a pretty home wedding in Brooklyu the other night the guests, particularly the ladies, after the ceremony commented on the clergyman's address to the newly-married people. He reminded each of them of their duties, and in an especial address to the bride said that she was always to remember that to be proud of the fact that of all the ladies the groom had ever met she had been selected to enjoy the distinction of becoming his wife. The ladies didn't like this sort of an address, and suggested in audible whispers over their ices and wedding wine that the bride had had a good many beaus, too, that she had been a favorite with the young gentleman, and that she had conferred quite as much a distinction upon the groom as he did when he selected her. The bride's folks were not a little cut up at the suggestion of the clergyman that the groom had shown any particular graciousness in selecting their laughter, and thus on the threshold of their wedded life a neat little row has been set afind that I had brought up a nugget of almost going. [N.Y. Sun.

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A sa wife,

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50 prs. prime fresh Fowl, Ex "S. H. Morse," from Souris, P.E.I.

Of Newfoundland.

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