

Selected Papers.

THE CAVERN.

The following account of a singular Cavern, situated in the Township of Kildare in the District of Montreal, is extracted from COL. BOUCHETTE the Surveyor General's report of an official Tour made by him through the New Settlements of this Province in 1824.

I was here informed of the existence in the neighbourhood of that spot, of a great natural curiosity in the shape of a subterraneous cavern, which was discovered by two young Canadian peasants, whilst hunting the wild Cat, about two years ago. Prosecuting their sport, they pursued two of their game, until entering an obscure hole a little above the bank of the river, the young sportsmen lost sight of them. The most enterprising of the two attempted to enter the aperture in the rock, at that time barely sufficient to admit his crawling into it. Having provided themselves with lights, they made a second attempt so effectual, that not only did they secure their prey, (of which they have preserved the skin to this day,) but they discovered another of the many phenomena of nature, a description of which cannot be uninteresting.

I descended into the cavern by means of a trap door which has recently been placed at one of its angles for the facility and convenience of strangers, desirous of visiting this singular spot, having as my guides two of the inhabitants of the neighbouring house, bearing lighted tapers. The height of the Cave where we entered is five feet, from which angle branch off two Caves, the lesser whereof is of the following dimensions:—

Length.....25 feet,

Breadth varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 —

Height.....5 — It bears about
a S. E. course from the entrance.

The other has in length.....70 feet,

Width, from.....7 to 8 —

Height, gradually increasing, 5 to 13 feet,

The increase in the loftiness of the cave originates from the declivity of the ground part, which at the North Eastern extremity is at least twenty-three feet from the surface. It forms nearly a right angle with the first, at its S. W. end, and an angle scarcely obtuse at the other with another cave, whose

Length is.....80 feet.

Average width..... 6 —

Height 5 —

At the S. Eastern extreme of this cave, branches off another of inferior size and consequence, bearing about a due South course, as may be deduced from the angle it makes with the last described.

It is in length.....20 feet

Width 5 —

Height 5 to 4.