

CAVE.—Cave or cavern is the term adopted to signify a hollow place under ground or rock, and generally having an opening either on the surface or in the brow of a hill or rock, as the case may be. They are usually divided into two classes, the artificial and the natural. Caverns are most usually observed along the courses of rivers and on the coast line of the sea. Such is not unlikely, particularly as the whole stratified system of rocks results from the same denuding and wearing away by water and subsequent hardening of the materials through time. Moving water, carrying with it sand and gravel through rock crevices, by the very attrition, may gradually transform even a small fissure into a cavern. Limestone is the great centre for such excavations, and the largest so far described are the *Caverns of Adelsberg in Carinthia*, on the road from *Vienna to Trieste*, and the *Manmoth Cave of Kentucky*. As objects of curiosity, these two caverns particularly are visited from all parts. Rocks of purely igneous origin frequently contain caverns. An example of such is the picturesque Cave of Fingal, in Staffa, formed in basalt. In South America and in Iceland large caverns have been formed in modern lava. In Canada, such curiosities of nature have not so far attracted any particular attention beyond the brief descriptions of the Geological Survey, and the paper published by Sir Duncan Gibb in 1861, on Canadian Caverns: These number thirty, and are arranged as follows:—

“One in the sandstone of Magdalen Islands; two in the carboniferous formations at Gaspé and Bay of Chaleur; two in the Devonian, Gaspé Bay and Bass Island, Lake Superior; seven in the limestones of the Upper, Middle and Lower Silurian formations.

“*Upper Silurian* :—

Perforations and Caverns of Michilimacinac.

The Old Woman, Cape Gaspé.

Flower Pot Island, Lake Huron.

Mono Cavern.

Eramosa Cavern.

Niagara Caverns.

Subterranean Passages, Manitoulin Island.