

their education, or that by which it was immediately succeeded.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE KENTUCKY CAVERN.

The following is a description of a remarkable natural curiosity, situated in the country of Edmonson Kentucky. It is the cavern known generally as the "Mammouth Cave."

In the month of December, 1826, the writer of this sketch in company with another gentleman, being on his way from Louisville to Nashville, took occasion to visit this cave.

We found it indeed to be a rare specimen of nature's work. Its entrance was a steep declivity of a hill. The dimensions of the mouth are about forty feet in height by fifty in breadth decreasing gradually for the first half mile, till the cavern is no more than ten feet in height and as many in breadth; at which place a partition has been erected with a door of convenient dimension for the purpose of protecting the lights of visitors. There is at this place a current of air passing inwardly for six months, and outwardly for the remainder of the year. Sufficiently strong is it, that were it not for the door that has been made it would be impossible to preserve an open light. It is called the mouth as far as this place on account of its being the extent of the influence of daylight which here appears like a small star. Formerly when the cavern was first discovered, this part of it was nearly filled with earth which has been recently manufactured into Salt Potere.

Having prepared ourselves with a sufficient quantity of provisions, oil and candles and taken two persons as guides we took our last view of the daylight, and proceeded forward closing the door behind us. Immediately we found ourselves in thick and almost palpable darkness the whole of our four lights aspired but a feeble radiance about us. Such is the height at this place that we were hardly able to discover the top and to see from one side to the other was utterly impossible. From this place, extended several caverns, or travellers have named them rooms in different directions. This part of the cave is called the "First Hopper." The soil at the bottom of the cave is very light and strongly impregnated with salt. The sides and top are formed of rock. We proceeded forward passing several rooms on our left until we arrived at the second Hopper a distance of four miles from the mouth. About one mile in the rear of this, was pointed out to us by our guides, the place where the celebrated mimic was found, which is now exhibiting in the American Museum, at New York. It was found, in a sitting posture, by the side of the cavern, enveloped in a mat and in a complete state of preservation.

We next entered the room denominated the Haunted chamber. It is nearly two miles in length, twenty feet in height and ten in breadth extending nearly the whole length in a right line. The top is formed of smooth, white stone soft and much resembling the plastering of a room. There is a small quantity of water constantly, (though almost imperceptibly) falling from above, which in the course of ages has worn from the stone, at the top, six beautiful pillars which extend to the bottom of the room. They have the appearance of being the work of art. In one of them, there is formed a complete chair, with arms, which has received the name of "Arm Chair." By the side of this is a clear pool of water strongly impregnated with sulphur. The sides of the room are likewise elegantly adorned with a variety of figures, formed from the stone at the top, and coming down upon the side of the cavern like icicles in the winter from the eaves of buildings—the reflection of our lights upon them forming a most brilliant appearance. At the end of this room, we descended by a kind of natural staircase, to the depth of near three hundred feet in many places, affording only room for one person to proceed. Here we found a beautiful stream of pure water winding its way along between the rocks. The situation of this part of the cavern is rendered really awful, from its being associated with a variety of names, that travellers have given it. The portrait of his Natanic Majesty is painted here upon the rocks, and a large flat stone resting its corners upon four others, is called his Dining Table. A short distance from this is a place said to be his Forging Shop. On the whole, they are admirably calculated to frighten the cowardly. We returned to the main cavern, and resumed our

course climbing over rocks that had evidently fallen from above and passing a number of rooms on our right and left with much exertion we reached the place denominated the "six corners," in consequence of six rooms or caverns here, taking different directions. Not having time to examine those we proceeded forward to the first water fall, about two miles further, over a level plain. The track of persons who might have preceded us for ages were as plainly visible in the sand as when first made. There is no air stirring that would move the slightest feather, or prevent the impression of a footstep from remaining for centuries.

We now directed our course to the Chief City, about one mile further. A large hill situated in the centre of the cave would have exhibited a most commanding prospect if the darkness had not obstructed our vision.

One of us standing upon the top, two lights stationed at different parts of its base obtained a novel and interesting view of the cavern. There is an echo here that is very powerful and we improved it with a song, much to our gratification. We started forward again, traveling over a plain of two miles extent and about the same distance over rocks and hills when we arrived at the second water fall. The water here dashes into a pit below of immense depth. A circumstance occurred here, that liked to prove fatal to one of us. The sides of the pit are formed of loose rocks, and we amused ourselves by rolling them down, in order to hear them strike the bottom. Such is the depth of it that a minute elapsed before we could hear them strike, and the sound of it but very faint. One of our party venturing too near for the purpose of rolling a large stone, started the foundation on which he stood, and was precipitated down about twenty feet, but fortunately a projecting rock saved him from destruction.—This put an end to all our amusements, and being much fatigued with a travel of twenty four hours on foot, and seeing no fairer prospect of finding the end, than when we commenced we concluded to return. We accordingly took up our line of march, returning the same way we came.

After being forty two hours absent from the light of day we again found ourselves at the mouth of the Cavern and gave ourselves up to a refreshing sleep.

There are a number of pits of great depth, in different parts of the cave, which made it necessary to be very careful in exploring it. There is danger, also, of taking some unexplored room, and becoming so lost as not to be able to find the way out. This is however obviated by the precaution that has been taken as far as has been explored to place the figure of an arrow at the entrance of every room, pointing to the mouth of the cave. Care should always be taken to preserve the lights, as it would be impossible for any one to find the way back in darkness, farther than the first "Hopper." We found the names of ladies inscribed at the farthest point we reached, and our guide remarked that they were the most courageous visitors he had. For three miles from the mouth, the sides and top of the Cavern are covered with a remarkable quantity of bats, hanging down from the top in the form of bee hives, from 2 to 3 feet thick. They are in a torpid state, and are seldom known to fly. There are about twenty different rooms that have been discovered, and but three of them that have been explored to the end. This vast cavern is apparently hollow beneath from the sound that is made by walking through many of the rooms. It would probably take months to explore to the end of all the rooms that have been, and which remain yet to be discovered. The removing of some few obstructions, at a trifling expense, and lighting the cavern, would enable a stage coach to go with safety to the second water fall, a distance of fifteen miles.—A. E. Rev.

THE MARTYRDOM OF ABDALLAH, An authentic Narrative.

ABDALLAH and Sabat were intimate friends, and being young men of family in Arabia, they agreed to travel together, and to visit foreign countries. They were both zealous Mahometans. Sabat is son of Ibrahim Sabat, a noble family of the line of Beni-Sabat, who trace their pedigree to Mahomet. The two friends left Arabia, after paying their adorations at the tomb of their profet at Mecca, and travelled through Persia, and thence to Cabul. Abdallah was appointed to an office of state under Zemaun Shah, King of Ca-

bul; and Sabat left him there, and proceeded on a tour through Tartary.

While Abdallah remained at Cabul, he was converted to the Christian faith by the perusal of a Bible, belonging (as is supposed) to a Christian from Armenia, then residing at Cabul.* In the Mahometan states, it is death for a man of rank to become a Christian. Abdallah endeavoured for a time to conceal his conversion, but finding it no longer possible he determined to flee to some of the Christian churches near the Caspian sea. He accordingly left Cabul in disguise, and had gained the great city of Buchara in Tartary, when he was met in the streets of that city by his friend Sabat, who immediately recognized him.

Sabat had heard of his conversion and flight, and was filled with indignation at his conduct. Abdallah knew his danger, and threw himself at the feet of Sabat. He confessed that he was a Christian, and implored him, by the sacred tie of their former friendship, to let him escape with his life. "But Sir, (said Sabat when relating the story himself) I had no pity. I caused my servants to seize him, and delivered him up to Morad Shaw, king of Buchara. He was sentenced to die. And a herald went through the city of Buchara announcing the time of his execution. An immense multitude attended, and the chief men of the city. I also went and stood near to Abdallah. He was offered his life if he would abjure Christ, the executioner standing by him with his sword in hand. 'No (said he, as if the proposition was impossible to be complied with,) I cannot abjure Christ.'" Then one of his hands was cut off at the wrist. He stood firm, his arm hanging by his side with but little motion. A physician, by the desire of the king, offered to heal the wound if he would recant. He made no answer, but looked steadfastly towards heaven, (like Stephen the first martyr), his eyes streaming with tears. He did not look with anger towards me; he looked at me, but it was benignly, and with the countenance of forgiveness. His other hand was then cut off. But sir, (said Sabat in his imperfect English), he never changed, he never changed. And when he bowed his head to receive the blow of death, all Buchara seemed to say, 'What new thing is this?'"

Sabat had indulged the hope that Abdallah would have recanted, when he was offered his life; but when he saw that his friend was dead, he resigned himself to grief and remorse. He travelled from place to place, seeking rest and finding none. At last he thought that he would visit India. He accordingly came to Madras about five years ago. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed by the English government a mufti, or expounder of Mahometan law; his great learning, and respectable station in his own country, rendering him eminently qualified for that office.† And now the period of his own conversion drew near.

While he was at Visgapatam, in the northern Circars, exercising his professional duties, Providence brought in his way a New Testament in Arabic.§ He read it with deep thought, the Koran lying before him. He compared them together, and at length the truth of the word of God fell on his mind, as he expressed it, like a flood of light. Soon afterward he proceeded to Madras, a journey of 300 miles, to seek Christian baptism; and having made a public confession of his faith, he was baptized by the Rev. Dr. Kerr in the English church in that place, by the name of Nathaniel, in the twenty-seventh year of his age.

Sabat now found by experience the truth of that declaration, that they who "will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," and that "a man's foes shall be they of his own household;" for when his family in Arabia had heard that he had followed the example of Abdallah, and become a christian, they dispatched his brother to India (a voyage of two months) to assassinate him. While Sabat was sitting in his house at Visgapatam, his brother presented himself in the disguise of a faquor, or beggar, having a dagger con-

The Armenia Christians in Persia have among them a few copies of the Arabic Bible.

† Sabat resided for some time in the house of Dr. Buchanan, to whom he related the chief part of the account here given.

‡ Sabat accounted himself at one time the best mathematician and logician in Arabia.

§ One of those copies sent from England by the "Society for promoting Christian knowledge."