



TOO SUGGESTIVE.
TOM DICKENHARTY—What do you think of the cost?
JACK POTTER—Oh, it looks creditable.
TOM DICKENHARTY—Creditable, say? I swear, Jack, you may mean well, but I'm blamed if I like your choice of words.

BATTLING WITH BATS.

PIERCE STRUGGLE IN A CAVE.

Awful Experience of a Hunter Bent on Subterranean Exploration—How a Man Drove Away a Horde of Hungry Vampire Shaped Creatures.

Near Rockcastle river is a famous group of wild, rocky, pine covered hills, locally known as Round Stone Knobs. A couple of days ago Dr. J. J. Kite, a prominent young dentist, went with dog and gun into that locality to shoot quail, and for a time he had excellent sport. About noon, however, a thunderstorm came up and he entered a deep, rocky gorge with the hope of finding shelter from the driving elements. Seeing an aperture in the cliff on his left he entered it, and was surprised to find himself in a large winding gallery with steep and craggy walls on either side and with a roof that rapidly ascended to a considerable height. About twenty-five feet from the entrance was an object which arrested his attention. It was a gigantic boulder, oblong in shape and weighing hundreds of tons, lying in the oblique position on a high jutting ledge, with its huge crest upreared awfully into a gap in the cavern's roof.

It looked as though a slight shock or the touch of a match-like hand might displace it and cause it to come crashing down. Indeed it was one of those frightful death traps of nature, grim and sinister, sometimes found in subterranean passages or upon jagged precipices.

Dr. Kite is an adventurous disposition; also he is a naturalist and geologist of no small repute. The novelty and excitement felt in penetrating the unexplored, so fascinating to daring spirits, allured and emboldened him. Believing that he should make some interesting discoveries he advanced resolutely into the cavern. As he did so his faithful dog suddenly curled up listless between his legs and made a speedy exit. At the same time the doctor saw two fiery eyes glaring from a dark corner.

Hastily raised his gun, he took deliberate aim and let go both barrels simultaneously. He never knew what the animal was or what had become of it, for the instant that he belched and re-bellowed through the cavern was followed by an awful crash, suffocating columns of dust and dense darkness, and he was thrown violently forward and almost buried beneath masses of falling sand.

He scrambled to his feet again, bleeding and gasping for breath. Terror-struck and appalled, he realized that the huge boulder above had been precipitated into the passage, completely blocking the corridor and shutting him in. He felt the doors of a ponderous tomb, forever from the light. He saw no way of escape. A Plutonian darkness enveloped him. Moreover, a vast tribe of bats, disturbed by the detonation of his gun and the shifting sound, began to swarm along the passage, numbers of them alighting on his person. They were of remarkable size and fierceness, and seemed disposed to attack him. So vicious did they become that he was forced to fight them off by swift movements of his hands. They swept forward in enormous flocks, as if to escape, and that quarter of the cavern was quickly alive with them.

Stunned and only partly aroused from their stupor, thousands precipitated themselves against the jutting rocks and fell upon the floor dead or flapping awkwardly about in their wounded agony. They swarmed on the doctor's back and neck like huge bees. They dashed against his face and clung to his clothes, his hair and his beard, and their whirling wings, bellows-like, whirled the dry dust of centuries about in clouds, driving him to the wall and trampled them under his feet. The cavern's rocky bottom became so slippery with the blood and scattered entrails of mangled bats that he could scarcely keep his footing. That he should preserve his equanimity under such torture is wonderful, but that he did is manifest from what now transpired.

Shaking off his three tormentors for a moment he pulled off his coat, and pouring over it the combustible contents of a whisky bottle, which he carried in his hip pocket, he ignited it with a match; and as it blazed up he began to whirl it, a circle of whistling flame and pungent smoke about his head. The effect was magical. The bats, unable to bear the light and the fumes, spread their wings and began a precipitate flight to other parts of the cave. Surrounded by panic-stricken hordes, even under the spectral light of the torch, Kite presented the appearance of something human, ghoul-like, demonic, issuing from the pockets of his burning coat could be heard the sound of bursting shells, which mingled strangely with his unearthly cries. Yelling and rushing from side to side of the cavern, his hair tumbling over his forehead in tangled masses and his face distorted with fury and despair, he whirled the fiery brand about, scaring, scorching and burning many alive, until the vast army of horrid creatures had been driven back into further recesses of the underground chamber.

Nearly exhausted, his clothes and body wet with sweat and blood, he began to consider the possibility of escape from his prison-house. If any avenue of escape over the stupendous boulders still existed, which was uncertain, it would have been madness to attempt to scale it in the deep, regaining darkness. He therefore abandoned a hopeless idea and sought to find some vulnerable point at the side of the seemingly impassable stone barrier.

By the light of a slowly blazing which played over the smoking remnant of his still burning vestment, he picked up his

gun and thrust the barrels into the crumbling earth and stone at one side of the huge rock. The mass yielded by piece-meal to his exertions, and with the energy of a man contending alive and desperate for liberty, he worked heroically, digging up the earth and prying away great fragments of rocks.

Hope never forsook him, and after seven hours of incessant labor, during which the work of a Titan was performed, he succeeded in making an opening large enough for his body, and through this opening he squeezed and thrust in his bleeding and blistered hands he held the twisted and battered remains of a gun, and just as the cold but friendly moon arose behind the tall pines on the opposite cliff he poked out, pale, haggard and grumpy, into the chilly night.—*Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette.*

The practice of sticking the sewing needle in the throat on a spot results in having a bent implement to sew with.

As a cure for cold in the head and catarrh Nasal Balm is endorsed by prominent men everywhere. D. Derbyshire, President of the Ontario Creamery Association, says:—"Nasal Balm beats the world for catarrh and cold in the head. In my own case it effected relief from the first application." Sold by dealers or sent by mail on receipt of price—50 cents and \$1 a bottle, Fulford & Co., Brockville, Ont. w.s.w.

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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

One of the latest improvements in rail-ways science, for which special advantage is claimed both in increasing the safety of travel and the pulling capacity of a locomotive, consists, as technically described, of a small dynamo and an auxiliary engine placed upon the locomotive in such a manner as easily to be operated; thus a current of small force, but large quantity, is furnished, which is made to pass from one pole of the dynamo to one pair of driving wheels, thence to the other pole of the dynamo, in this way forming a travelling circuit, moving at all times with the locomotives, by means of which circuit an incipient weld is caused between the wheels and rails at the point of contact, preventing the slipping of the wheels. This method is said to show an increase of 400 per cent. in the hauling power of the locomotive.

It is stated that the pictures of the Milky Way and other portions of the heavens made by Prof. Barnard, of the Lick Observatory—taken with an ordinary portrait lens tied to the tube of a six-inch telescope—have never been excelled by anyone, and rarely, if ever equalled, exhibiting, as pictures taken with a photographic telescope could, the wonderful structure of the invisible heavens, with the millions of stars lying beyond the reach of the unaided eye; thus, the number of individual stars shown on a single \$810 plate and that of a region not in the Milky Way, and where but few stars are seen with the eye, is estimated to be not less than sixty thousand, this requiring an exposure of about ten hours, using an aperture of about one-sixth the focal length of the lens. Such pictures require the greatest care in making the exposures and extreme skill in developing the plate to get the best results. Very interesting pictures, however, can be made in less time; within an hour and a half a vast number of telescopic stars will be shown, and such a negative of a prominent constellation, like Orion or Ursa Major, will well repay for the trouble of getting it.

Some of the most beautiful luminous paints now produced in Germany are those which are colored. In obtaining an orange paint, forty-six parts of varnish are mixed with seventeen and five-tenths parts of barium sulphate, one part prepared Indian yellow, one and five-tenths parts prepared madder lake, and thirty-eight parts luminous calcium sulphide. A yellow paint of this kind is formed by mixing forty-eight parts of varnish with ten parts of prepared barium sulphate, eight parts of ultramarine oxide green, and thirty-four parts luminous calcium sulphide. A blue paint is prepared from forty-two parts varnish, ten and two-tenths parts prepared barium sulphate, and four-tenths parts ultramarine blue, five and four-tenths parts cobalt blue, and forty-six parts luminous calcium sulphide. The production of a violet-colored paint results from a mixture of forty-two parts of varnish with ten and two-tenths parts of the prepared barium sulphate, two and eight-tenths parts of ultramarine violet, nine parts of cobaltous arsenate and thirty-six parts luminous calcium sulphide. All these different combinations result in very attractive tints.

In the carrying out of the recently proposed plan for utilizing smoke, a practical illustration of its value is cited in the fact that several Scotch iron works are receiving an annual rental from a certain gas company for the use of their blast furnaces. The smoke and gases are passed through several miles of wrought-iron tubing, diminishing in size from 6 feet down to 18 inches, and, as the gases cool, there is deposited a considerable yield of oil. At one of the smallest of these installations—a Glasgow plant—there are pumped and collected about 60,000,000 cubic feet of furnace gas per day, and an average some ten or fifteen thousand gallons of furnace oil are recovered weekly, using the residual gases, consisting chiefly of carbon monoxide, as fuel for distilling and other purposes, while the gas which is not used for these purposes is sold to the local gas company. The ammonia is obtained in a small way a small percentage of the British coke ovens are fitted with condensing gear, and produce a considerable yield of oil, for which, however, there is no ready market, but a limited market, the chief use being for lucigen and other lamps of the same description; also for treating timber for railway sleepers.

It has been ascertained that in some of the streets of London paved with bitumen and subjected to some four years' wear of the heaviest traffic, the bitumen has diminished in thickness, while in specific gravity it increased in about the same ratio. Some of the same street covering after fifteen years in the Rue de Beyer, Paris, was found to have lost but one per cent of its thickness, but only five per cent of its total weight, while the average life of bituminous pavement, as laid in Washington and Paris, is stated to be seventeen years. Gen. Gilmore's investigation of this subject led him to enumerate among the advantages of bituminized streets the fact that they produce no dust and therefore no mud, and are comparatively noiseless; they do not crack and retain noxious liquids; but facilitate their prompt discharge into side cutters and sewers; they are impermeable and emit no noxious vapors themselves nor allow their emission from the subsoil; they reduce the force of traction and consequently the expense of wear and tear of animals and vehicles; and, although they do not furnish so strong a foothold for animals with a heavy load as stone blocks in narrow courses, still they do not become polished and slippery from continual use. In this last-named relation the fact is certainly interesting, that over a piece of bituminous pavement at the corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-fourth street, New York, a four-wheeled truck, weighing three tons and carrying a boiler weighing twenty-one tons, passed without leaving a mark.

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