

CANADIAN CAVERNS.

WAKEFIELD CAVE.

There are a great number of caves or caverns in Canada, but only a few of these are of sufficient dimensions to be deserving of the name. Sir Duncan Gibb has enumerated no less than thirty of these Canadian caverns, and one hundred more similar to those he has described might easily be added to our list. One or two, however, are worthy of particular note.

The Wakefield Cave.—The township of Wakefield, in which this cave occurs, lies immediately to the north of the Township of Hull, on the Ottawa River, and about eighteen miles from Ottawa. It is on the farm of a Mr. Pellessier, and is situated on the side of one of the Laurentian mountains which faces the north. It is thus described by Dr. J. A. Grant, of Ottawa:—The entire height of this mountain is close upon 300 feet, and the entrance to the cave is about 80 feet from the summit. At the base of this mountain is a small lake, which discharges into the Gatineau River through a mountain gorge of exquisite beauty.

The mouth of the cave is fully eighteen feet in diameter, of an oval shape, beautifully arched, and having overhanging it pine and cedar trees of considerable size. Looking inwards from the mouth of the cave it is funnel shaped, directed obliquely forwards and downwards, a distance of 74 feet, at which point it is contracted to a height of five feet and width of fifteen feet. This contraction forms the entrance into the first grand chamber, eighty feet in length, twenty-one feet across, and nine feet in height throughout. At the posterior part of this chamber, in an oblique direction to the left, is an opening five feet in height, forming the entrance to the third chamber, which is about eighteen feet in diameter and five feet high. The floor, however, is covered with calcareous *breccia* to a depth of three or more feet. Looking outwards, two openings are to be seen to the left of the first chamber, one anterior, broad and elevated, and one posterior, contracted and shallow, passing obliquely upwards and backwards, a distance of fully twenty-five feet. This chamber is entirely encrusted with carbonate of lime of a cheesy consistence, and in the centre, a perfectly white column reaches from the floor to the ceiling, about six inches in diameter, formed by the union of a stalactite and stalagmite. The anterolateral chamber passes in an oblique direction upwards, a distance of thirty feet, at which point the ceiling is fully fifty feet high, of a Gothic shape, and beautifully ornamented with stalactites and fringe-like encrustations of carbonate of lime. About sixty feet from the mouth of the cave, to the right, is a narrow passage, rough, uneven, and forming the entrance to a chamber, the floor of which ascends obliquely upwards a distance of thirty feet, the height of this point being about fifty feet. On the way up a beautiful arch is to be seen, above and

beneath
from a
ceiling
seen t

To
horses
consider
the ea
angle
height
rough
from t

At
circul
and fu
give r
the bo
are tw
the ot

The
every
the m
sages,
entire
on the
terval
ings,
and o
vario
ancien
those
ately

The
succe
worn
with
broke
entire
atmos
plora
only
(or co
and a

Fr
from
water
unlik
yet to