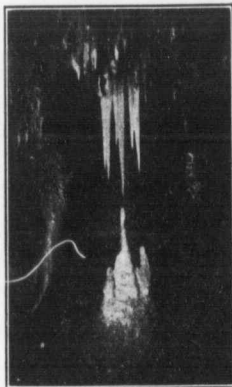


The Cave of the Winds

BY MISS C. G. WALLACE.

Our train had been lying at Manitou all night, giving a number of our party an opportunity to go on the ascent up Pike's Peak. Early on Saturday morning, July 3rd, we prepared for a trip over Temple Drive to the wonderful Cave of the Winds. In carriages we traversed for nearly two miles through Williams' Canon, gazing from time to time at walls of rock from 200 to 500 feet high, until at length by a tortuous grade we winded up the precipitous height, many peculiar formations being disclosed to view, such as The Temple of Iris, Cathedral of St. Peter, The Narrows, etc. Along the way we discovered the Yacca or Soap Plant in abundance. The ramble in the heart of a mountain of limestone was enjoyed, and soon leaving horses and carriages we entered a little museum, from whence we passed to the entrance of the cave, which has been rightly called "one of the great geological miracles of the mountains of Colorado." An opportunity is here afforded to the student to study the results of nature's law of crystallization in the exquisite decoration of walls and ceiling of the rooms, or for others to stand in awe and gaze on numberless crystal forms.

The underground journey of nearly three



THE CATHEDRAL SPIRES

quarters of a mile is easily walked, being well lighted with electricity, and the air is exceptionally pure. To groups of eight or ten the guides explained minutely the various formations on the different rooms or halls, where are developed, hundreds or feet from daylight, most beautiful stalagmites and stalactites, from the most delicate flowering alabaster to the uneven carbonate crystallized formations hanging six feet from the ceiling.

As one stands at the entrance to Gypsum Alcove, and a brilliant searchlight is flashed its entire length, exposing its unbroken surface of rare forms of whitest virgin purity, speech is suppressed and admiration exalted.

In Diamond hall, about 90 feet in length, the walls seemed to be powdered with sparkling diamond dust, giving the effect of chaste mosaic work. While the slowly dripping water adds to the length of the stalactites suspended from above, beautiful specimens of crystals in clusters resembling flowers are also found in that atmosphere, and stand out in graceful profusion from walls and ceiling.

An excellent illustration "The Cathedral Spires" appears herewith, showing the stalactites growing downward from the ceiling, and the stalagmites growing upward from the floor exactly under their stalactites, occasionally the points uniting to form a column.

The cave though only discovered as recently as 1880 has been visited by many thousands of tourists. The temperature varies but a trifle. In summer it is 53, while in winter it is 52 degrees. No traveller therein is permitted to even touch, let alone break one formation, the law of the State prohibiting any possibility of the destruction of the interior. When in that vicinity no one should fail to visit these "solemn and beautiful halls, where a living object lesson in geology will be learned, never to be forgotten.

Toronto, Ont.

Pilgrim's Progress Series

Crossing the River

Topic for Dec. 12, 1 Cor. 15. 31-38; Heb. 2. 14-18.

Our last study showed us the Pilgrims in the Land of Beulah. Nearer and nearer they come in their progress to the Heavenly City.

There are yet a few difficulties before them. The river intervenes between them and the Celestial Metropolis, and that river must be crossed before they enter the city of their search. This is the river of Death. No bridge spans it, and its waters run deep. They enquire if there is no other way to the gate and are told "you must go through or you cannot come at the gate." They are also told that the waters of the river are "deeper or shallower, as you believe in the King of the place."

This describes vividly two Christian death-bed scenes and experiences. One is filled with fears and haunted by terrors, the other full of hope and good cheer.

In the experiences of Christian and Hopeful while crossing the river we may learn that the enemy of souls may pursue one even to the very end of the earthly pilgrimage, and "in death destroying him who in life had proved so faithful." Bunyan says elsewhere, "I find he is busy for assaulting the soul when it begins to approach towards the grave."

Christian does not seem to have the same solid foothold that Hopeful had in the deep waters. And yet in his fears his soul is comforted by the promise "when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee." Finding his soul on this sure word of promise he finds the solid rock beneath his feet, and "the rest of the river was but shallow: thus they got over."

"Thus they went along." Up the hill towards the city they are led by the shining ones. All mortal impediments have been left behind, ministering spirits attend them and reveal to them the glorious things that are yet to be. The retinue increases, and swells into a triumphant train of rejoicing; and amid hallelujahs and glad anthems of the skies, "an entrance is ministered unto them abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

"These two men went in at the gate." And as they entered they were transfigured—they shine refulgent with heavenly light and glory, and are clothed with raiment that "shone like gold."

For one brief moment, the Dreamer looks in after the glorified pilgrims, sees the heavenly and eternal beauty of that

Indescribable city of God, and the inner scene is closed to mortal eyes.

He longs to be with them; but to him as to all who would eventually reach Heaven, it must be a Progress; and if we patiently endure, as they did, to the end, we too shall be saved, and shall join them in the blissful throng of the glorified saints in the city of the Great King.

The great lesson for us all is the absolute certainty of eternal blessedness to all who persevere.

Human experience varies with individual temperaments and conditions. Our moods change. Our prospects do not always seem uniformly bright. But in and through all, Heaven abides. The promises of God are, immutable. The Strength of the Lord is unfailing. Therefore, it behooves us to press forward, continuing faithful, cherishing well grounded hopes, and the end of earth's pilgrimage will be the beginning of Heaven's eternal reward.

"'Twas not a vision of my sleep, nor dream that fancy paints; It was a view of heaven itself, the dwelling-place of saints.

It was the glory of the Lord, the Spirit had revealed,

The final happiness of those that God the Father sealed.

This was the sight from which I woke, and looked and looked again,

And though their pilgrimage was o'er, I yet was on the plain;

And in the rugged wilderness, I looked and sighed in prayer,

O God, complete my pilgrimage, conduct me safely there."

Home Prize Bible Questions

Attention Juniors!

Perhaps the Editor ought not to have expected many replies to the questions during the holidays. However, he did not receive many, so gives you all another chance by repeating the questions on

"SOME CAVES OF THE BIBLE."

1. What cave was purchased for 400 shekels of silver?
2. Who was buried in a cave, having lived 175 years?
3. Whose body was brought from Goshen to be buried in a cave in Hebron?
4. What five kings took refuge in a cave?
5. What cave became a dwelling place for many armed men?
6. What king, seeking his enemy, laid down to rest in a cave?
7. What three men came to a cave at harvest time to meet a king?
8. What men were concealed in a cave and by whom were they fed?
9. What great prophet lodged in a cave?
10. By whose command was the stone rolled away from the mouth of a cave that was a tomb?
11. Who are spoken of as having found refuge from persecution in caves?
12. What prayer was composed by a man in a cave? Where is it recorded?

Find answers to these. Give Scripture references. Write your answers on a post card, not in a letter, give your name and address, and mail before December 1, to Rev. S. T. Bartlett, 32 Temperance Street, Toronto, who will give a fine book to the Junior who sends in the best set of replies.

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your friends**