

us by William, our excellent black guide. There are one or two really very fine and almost overpowering ravines of rock, which he lighted for us by throwing about bits of brown paper soaked in oil, and the colouring here was very soft and beautiful. As a rule, however, the avenues and grottoes are dingy and black. Thousands of little black bats hibernate in these caves from October to May, hanging by their legs from the roof. At the latter date they wake up and kindly take up their summer quarters outside.

The chief interest of the caves lay after all in two very good effects of William's own ingenuity and skill. The first was discovered by him accidentally. Two of the passages meet at a special angle, the light from the opening of the cave striking the walls at a particular point.

Given these conditions, William found that when he moved the lamps in the distance there was an effect of a beautiful white marble statue on a pedestal moving slowly backwards and forwards.

The other is still more wonderful.

At a place called the "Starry Dome" (on account of the star-like formations on the roof) there is a wooden seat. Here we sat down; William took away all our lamps and disappeared, leaving us in total darkness.