

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. III.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 17, 1883.

No. 23.

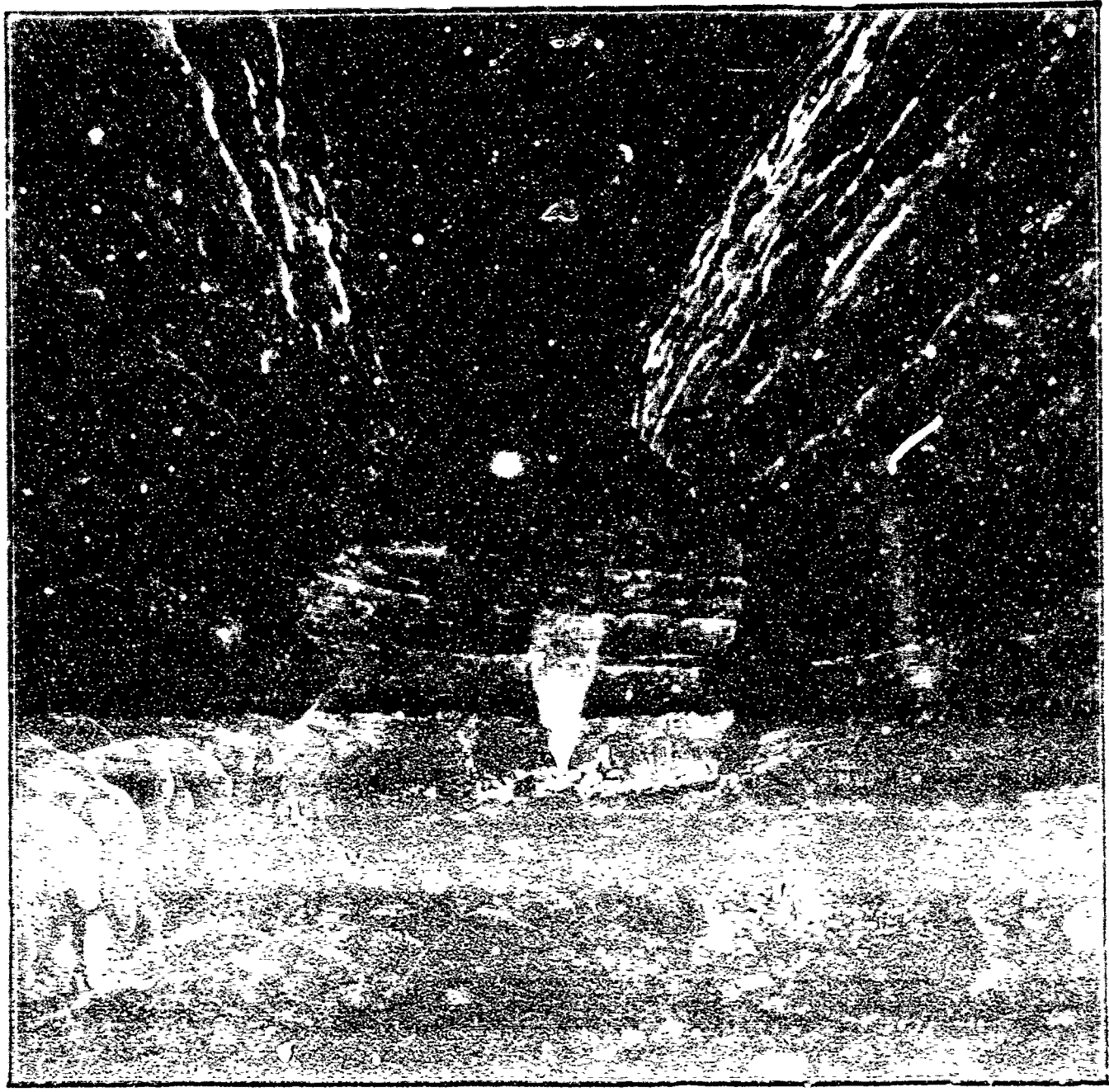
A VISIT TO MAMMOTH CAVE. BY THE EDITOR.

ON the 16th day of August last, the present writer and his son made a visit to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. That visit was so

City, Ky. Here we explored one of those strange "sink holes," of which there are 4000 in this single county. It was a large funnel-shaped opening, about 100 feet deep. At the bottom was a grotto, through which flowed a good sized subterranean stream. A

At four o'clock we mounted the top of a stout Concord coach, drawn by four sturdy horses, for a nine miles' ride to Mammoth Cave. It was a glorious ride over hills rising three or four hundred feet, and overlooking the fertile valleys planted with tobacco and

About sunset we rode up to the quaint, old fashioned hotel, and were soon equipped for exploring the Cave. A merry party of ladies and gentlemen, each carrying a swinging lamp, and accompanied by guides, filed through the moonlit forest to the mouth of the



STAR CHAMBER, MAMMOTH CAVE.

interesting and instructive, that we will endeavour to share the pleasure it yielded with the readers of PLEASANT HOURS. We left the city of Nashville, Tennessee, on our way north in the morning, and stopped about noon at Cave

steam engine was pumping up water to supply the railway station and tank. There are 500 caves, large and small, in this region, all hollowed out, it is supposed, by the action of these underground streams, dissolving by chemical action the calcareous rock.

tall corn—some of the latter as much as twelve feet high. Our sable driver entertained us with stories of moonlight hunts of the "possum and de' coon," and of the exploits of the Jesse James gang, in plundering the stages on this route. He showed us the very spot

Cave. Like some grim portals of the nether regions its black arch yawned, over-arched by stately tulip trees and festooned by luxuriant vines. The guide unlocks an iron grated door and we enter a long and lofty corridor. We had pretty large ideas of the extent and