

Armed with lighted candles, and preceded by a guide bearing a long taper, we threaded the mazes of numerous paths leading to cathedral-roofed chambers, rugged valleys of rocks, and wild-looking "antres vast," where the flashing lights showed fantastic figures on the walls painted by the gliding and dropping water which oozes through the sandstone. The adventurous may discover by climbing into narrow apertures numerous curiously shaped saloons and fine effects of shadow; we were obliged to be content with the most accessible, though we perceived our peril quite approaching near enough to the positive to be sublime.

One large cavern, filled with blocks of stone, particularly struck us; a circular arch, quite perfect, spanned a space which was occupied by a heap of rocks of all dimensions, leaving an opening at the top, which displayed the entire form of the arch, and a range of continued blocks beyond: down the front of this pile trickled a glittering stream, winding from stone to stone, and forming the only path by which to climb; this stream fell into a little pool below, and then escaped into another arched cavern far lower, which again communicated with another of the same kind.

We were told that an artist, not long since, delighted with the beautiful shape of this curious place, established himself there with painting apparatus, and having placed lights on every projecting ledge, contrived to obtain a splendid illuminated effect, which he conveyed to canvas on the spot. The dripping of the roof in some parts makes it difficult to keep lights long enough in one place to gain this object, but it is easy to imagine how grand it must have been, when only our small supply of light threw from glittering peak to peak rays which made the gloomy retreat of hundreds of bats a fairy place for a moment. We feared every moment our candles would be put out by these animals, but escaped without such a catastrophe.

Our guide a young man, *en blouse*, and quite *artistement mis*, had been in the *garde royale* of Charles X., and seen some perils during *les Trois Jours*; he told us that not long since, he had conducted a party of ladies through the caves, one of whom he lifted through several difficult passes, and who seemed inclined to dare many more had he not represented the probable danger for a lady. 'I recognized the Duchess de Berry at once,' said he, 'for I had mounted guard too often at her apartments to be deceived, and her misdirected spirit might have convinced me had it been required.'

This man, who is remarkably intelligent and obliging, and with manners beyond his station, (if, indeed, he was a *private* in the *garde royale*), seems to obtain his livelihood by exhibiting the caves, and takes as much pleasure in their wonders as the visitors he conducts; his ladder enables him to reach the roof, and procure stalactites for the curious, not without some risk, considering the height and black gulphs below: no entreaties, however, would repress his adventurous gallantry, and, to our exceeding fear, he insisted on mounting to a vaulted part, where a glittering mass of descending spires invited, having gained the upper rock, he swung himself across the 'dark profound' to a somewhat uncomfortable-looking seat opposite amongst a nest of spars. Here he began operating with his fossil-hammer, the clink of which and the echoing sound of the fallen fragments as they bounded from peak to peak in their descent, had a strange unearthly sound in the solitude of the wild sombre chambers of this subterranean retreat.

As we stood at different distances below, leaning on projecting pieces of rock, and holding up our torches as high as possible, while he continued his labours by the light which flickered between the transparent drops and branches of petrification, and which he had fixed in a niche, so sculptured by nature as to appear made by the hand of man as a resting-place for some *Notre Dame de la Solitude*—many romantic visions flitted before our imaginations of attempted escapes by prisoners from some of the dungeons of the castle in times of old, when every sound of the hammer which might be striking upon a lock or a bar that impeded the progress of the captive, would have carried terror with it.

We thought of the mere possibility of some devoted wretch having discovered a crevice at the bottom of his oubliette, through which he had desperately forced his way, and as we had just seen the foundations of the towers in this very place, we figured to ourselves his finding himself in the midst of these fearful caverns, with a feeble lamp his only guide, having wandered from den to den, till by some fortunate turn he might have reached the entrance of the cavern, or, more likely, have strayed about deeper and deeper into darkness till his lamp expired, and his frame exhausted, he sunk down to die.

European News.

Extracts from British Papers to the 4th September, by the Britannia.

New Mode of Naval Warfare.—It appears that certain great discoveries have been made which are likely to alter the aspect of war all over the globe, and vest the dominions of the seas in the power that possesses the secret. The inventor, who, it seems, is a sea-faring

man, submitted his invention to the late King, who referred the matter to Sir Richard Keates and Sir Thomas Hardy, who reported favourably, the former stating that no ship in the navy nor any garrison on shore could resist this stupendous combination of forces. It was instantly agreed that the inventor should be remunerated amply for his pains, and the secret be preserved, in mercy to mankind, until some crisis should occur to compel England, for her own safety, to resort to its use. Before the necessary arrangements could be completed King William died; and Lord Melbourne, it seems has rejected, or evaded the applications that have been since made to him on the subject, and the inventor has, in consequence, turned his attention to another quarter. But for Lord Melbourne's submission to the cupidity of sundry Admiralty officials, whose selfishness has overreached itself, this invention might have been retained as a close state secret, our navy might still have existed but now that the inventor is compelled to go abroad, or appeal publicly to his countrymen, the destruction of our wooden walls by a foreign foe, or its disuse by ourselves, is inevitable, for John Bull will not submit to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds to build a ship which at three miles' distance may be sent into fragments in a moment.

Experiments with Carte's and Dennett's Rockets.—For some time past, a number of humane individuals have had their attention fixed on the means of affording succour to mariners who may have the misfortune to be cast ashore near the now much-frequented mouth of the Tees; the life boats of Seaton, Redcar, and Hartlepool have been put into complete repair, and it has been thought most desirable, if the requisite funds could be raised, to establish posts on the various points of the shore, where apparatus should be kept for effecting a ready communication with ships in distress, either under such circumstances unapproachable even by the life boat, or in situations where the delay attendant on bringing up the life boat might prove fatal. Tuesday last was the day appointed for making a fair trial of Captain Mauby's Apparatus, and Mr. Carte's and Mr. Dennett's Rockets. Seaton Carew was the place selected for the experiments, and thither flocked 'the whole country-side,' to witness a spectacle of so much interest and novelty. The first series of experiments was made upon the moor, on which three masts were set up in a line, fifty feet apart, and at the distance of three hundred yards from the spot where Captain Mauby's Mortar and rocket apparatus were placed—each hundred yards being marked by a flag placed in a line with the centre mast of the three above named. The object sought to be attained, was to throw a slender rope the whole distance of three hundred yards, and within the masts. The first attempt was made with the mortar, which is of 5½ inches bore, and capable of throwing a 24 pound ball. The ball fell 61 yards short of the distance, and 16 yards to the right of the line of flags. Mr. Carte next tried a Congreve Rocket weighing twelve pounds, to the stick of which a line considerably more slender than Captain Mauby's was attached. It was discharged at an angle of 30 degrees, from a spout fixed by a swivel on a sort of telescope-stand, and flew 24 yards beyond the masts, and 35 yards to the right of the line of flags. Mr. Dennett then discharged one of his rockets, weighing nine pounds, and carrying a line somewhat stouter than that used by Mr. Carte. It fell 17 yards beyond the masts, and 57 on the right of the centre line. Captain Mauby's second ball was 43 yards short of the distance, and nearly 4 yards to the right of the centre line. The line of Mr. Carte's second rocket broke and away flew the ambitious projectile to the distance of about 1200 yards. Mr. Dennett's second attempt was rather more successful than his first, the rocket alighting 25 yards beyond the distance, and 41 yards to the right of the centre line. A third ball from the mortar fell 36 yards short of the distance, and 10 yards to the right of the centre line. This finished the experiments on the moor, and the party returned to the village. Opposite the hotel, and at about 200 yards from the shore, the Sunbeam Steamer lay moored, as the object to be communicated with. On this occasion the mortar was not brought into play. Mr. Carte's first rocket broke the line, which had accidentally got entangled with something on the beach; his second line fell right across the vessel, near the stern; and his third shot fell ahead of the vessel, but the line, in falling, dropped on the extreme end of the jib-boom. Mr. Dennett's first line was

elevation being used, in falling it blew just clear of the Taffarel. By his second shot the line was laid across the vessel between the foremast and chimney in the most beautiful style. His third line was also carried over the vessel. Mr. Carte also exhibited his cork life preserver, which consists of a ring of cork of considerable thickness, enclosed in a waterproof covering, and of sufficient diameter to allow a person to put his head and shoulders through. At the close of the exhibition a numerous party dined together at the Seaton Hotel. A number of appropriate toasts were drunk, and a liberal subscription was entered into in aid of the life preserving apparatus fund.

M. Billot has invented a machine which discharges 2000 balls, of half a pound each, every minute, or 120,000 per hour, without cessation.

The British Queen has been seized by the Revenue Officers at Rondon, with an immense quantity of smuggled tobacco on board; the offence has been brought home to the gunner, who has been sentenced to pay a fine of £100, and to be imprisoned until it is paid.

The number of ships of all nations that passed the Sound in the first half of this year was 3,823 from the North Sea, and 3,794 from the Baltic, in all 6,617, which is 238 more than in the same period of 1839.

A second league and covenant has just been formed in Edinburgh, to resist, by all means the continuance of the system of patronage in the Church of Scotland; and the laity are holding meetings to support their ecclesiastical guides and teachers.

The silk manufacturers of Lyons consume 2,000,000lb. of silk annually: it requires 4,292,400,000 silk worms to produce this quantity of silk; each silk-worm produces 500 yards of silk thread, and the total length of all the silk produced is equal to 14 times the distance of the earth to the sun, and 5494 that of the earth to the moon: it is likewise equal to 52,505 times the circumference of the earth at the equator, and 200,000 the circumference of the moon.

Letters from all parts of France announce that all kinds of Corn are declining in price, and that little attention is paid to foreign supplies, the French Harvest having been excessively abundant.

France.—Numerous incidents of detail connected with the attempt of Prince Louis Napoleon to get possession of Boulogne and revolutionize France, continue to be published. It appears that the Edinburgh Castle steamer, in which Prince Louis and his followers embarked in the Thames, was engaged from the Commercial Steam Packet Company by Mr. Rapello, for one month, to go as alledged, on a party of pleasure. When they got as far down the river as Gravesend, a French pilot joined them; and the Captain was informed he must obey the pilot's orders. Late on Wednesday night, the steam packet arrived off Vimeaux three miles distance from Boulogne, where they wanted the Captain to enter. This he refused to do as there was not sufficient water; but he offered to take them to Boulogne. This offer was declined, and the Captain went to his cabin till three o'clock next morning, when on coming on deck, he saw all his passengers in uniform and armed, and he was ordered to land them on the coast. Vimeaux is a small and miserable hamlet, containing scarcely more than three dozen houses, and lies close upon the shore. In consequence of a bend of the coast it cannot be seen from Boulogne; and a vessel may lie off the place and be perfectly screened from the observation of persons on the look out at Boulogne even in the clearest weather. It was about three o'clock on the Thursday morning, when the most of the inhabitants were fast asleep, that the party commenced landing. After staying about two hours at Vimeaux, the invading party marched to Boulogne, and it seems pretty clear that they had some reason for expecting support from the soldiery. They proceeded from Vimeaux across the heights through corn fields; and passing by the columns they turned into the main road within a few hundred yards of the city of Boulogne, and made for the barracks. With the events that followed our readers are already fully acquainted. In his retreat after the failure of his enterprise, Louis Napoleon returned to the column, and lost no time in causing his flag to be fixed on the top. Why he made this delay at a moment when his only chance of safety depended on regaining the steam-boat as speedily as possible, it is not easily to explain. It was stated by the Captain of the Edinburgh Castle, on his examination before the authorities at Boulogne, that the whole party when

on board, drank enormously of all kinds wine.

An official account of the affair has been published, which does not materially differ from the accounts previously given. The description of the arrest of General Montholon and Colonel Parquin by a single Commissary of Police is worth extracting—

'The Prince met with no sympathy from the garrison, nor from the people, among whom pieces of money were in vain scattered to obtain cries of 'Vive Napoleon!' General Montholon (and Colonel Parquin went to the port, expecting to have better success with the maritime part of the population. A band of about fifty persons, who took the money they distributed, followed them, but gave utterance to very feeble shouts. At this moment, the Commissary of Police; Bergeret, rushed forward alone on this band, and the two persons who were leading it. On his approach the shouts were discontinued. He immediately went up to General Montholon and Colonel Parquin, and declared that he arrested them in the name of the law. These gentleman doubtless presuming that the Commissary would not act in so decided a manner unless he was sure of support in case of resistance, made none. He gave to each an arm, and alone he thus conducted them to his office, situate at the other end of the port.'

Prince Louis was taken to the fortress of Ham on Monday, escorted by a detachment of dragoons. He was placed in the apartments formerly occupied by Prince Polignac. Cabrera who had before occupied them, was removed to other rooms. No sympathy was manifested for the Prince by the populace, on the following day he was removed to Paris.

Captain Crow and all the seamen on board the Edinburgh Castle are in custody. The captain of the City of Boulogne steam-packet was also arrested on Tuesday, as it was expected he would be able to give some important evidence. He was, however, released the same day.

A letter from Boulogne, of Thursday's date, says that most of the prisoners confined in the citadel were sent off for Paris the preceding night, in diligences, under a strong escort. Captain Crow and some of the men of the City of Edinburgh were also removed from the citadel, where they have hitherto been confined.

Sir Walter Scott's Monument, Edinburgh.—The foundation stone was laid on Saturday. Marchmont Herald and Kintyre pursuivant, arranged, in the hall of the Royal Institution, a procession of the monument committee, the magistrates and council of Edinburgh Canon-gate, Leith, and Portsburgh, with the officers of the North British staff, the Royal Artillery, the Queen's Bays, and the 29th Foot. In the quadrangle of the college the masonic bodies, in their paraphernalia, assembled in number above 1,000. The Grand Master was presented with a silver trowel. He is also the Lord Provost, and was supported by the Earl of Rothen and Lord R. Stewart, as the vice and past grand master. The procession passed to the gardens, the site of the monument, in Princes-street, where 3,000 ladies and gentlemen had assembled and were each presented with a medal commemorative of this event. On the arrival of the procession, the galleries erected for the occasion were filled; the sun shone gorgeously, and the military bands played "God save the Queen." At a given signal solemn silence was imposed, and the Grand Chaplain (the Rev. Alexander Stewart Douglas) offered up an eloquent and appropriate prayer. The foundation stone was then laid with a silver trowel, solemn music accompanying the ceremony. Within the stone was deposited a glass jar, containing—1. Almanac of 1840. 2. Six newspapers. 3. Coins: a double Sovereign of George IV., half-crown of William IV., a shilling, sixpence, groat, threepenny, twopenny, and penny silver pieces, and a penny, halfpenny, and farthing in copper. 4. Copies of inscription plates. 5. Plans of the city and county of Edinburgh. 6. Medal struck for the occasion. 7. List of names of auxiliary subscribers.

CHINA.

Canton newspapers to the 16th of April have come to hand by the Aden steamer, Captain Ponsonby, which arrived at Falmouth on Monday. They state that, in the event of the English attacking the Bogue, it is the intention of Governor Lin to destroy the suburbs of Canton and to put the city itself in a state of defence.—The city is surrounded by a wall, turreted at irregular intervals, of 10 feet high, without ditches or any other works of defence. The population of the suburbs is larger than that within the walls,