

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, June 18, 1898.

## WYANDOTTE CAVE.

Comparatively few of our citizens have visited the great wonder of the world, the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. Still fewer are they who have visited a cave of equal interest, far more easy of access from Louisville — Wyandotte Cave, Crawford County, Indiana. As I have lately visited it, I deem a few lines will possess sufficient interest to claim a small space in your paper, and I am sure that any lover of nature, pleasure-seeker or scientific geologist, who may be induced to visit Wyandotte, will thank me for the suggestion. Wyandotte is distant by land but thirty-five miles from Louisville, and for "the fortunate few" who own their own vehicle it is the shortest and pleasantest way of reaching the cave: but for such poor mortals as myself, the best route is by mail packet to Leavenworth, fifty odd miles below. You will find a spring wagon in readiness to take you a delightfully romantic and picturesque ride through the hills of five miles to the Cave Hotel. The ride will have given you a ravenous appetite to enjoy the bountiful country fare set out for you, and soon your guide will be in waiting to show you the wonders of the cave. The entrance is situated about a third down the slope of the hill, its avenues doubtless honeycombed, and from the entrance for some distance the descent is rapid, then more gradual, until at the entrance to the "new cave" (so called) we must have attained the depth of the valley. Wyandotte cave has been known since the earliest settlement of the country, but it was only in 1850 that those avenues were discovered in which center the attractions of the place.

As my object is merely to draw attention to this wonder of nature so accessible to Louisville, I shall avoid lengthy descriptions, and merely attend to the principal objects of interest, and I cannot but say that the "Mammoth Cave" in Mammoth Hall. Indeed there is no single sight in Mammoth Cave that compares with it for extent, grandeur, sublimity and variety. The entrance is by the "Hill of Difficulty," a narrow trap through the vast rocks, at the summit of which the guide leaves you and ascends the mountain, his gleaming light marking his winding way amid the masses of detached rock that form the mountain; on reaching the summit he lights a brilliant red light, and the fairy enchantment of the scene bursts upon the vision. You are standing at the edge of a vast rotunda over 1,000 feet in circumference, in the center of which rises a conical hill 175 feet high, formed of immense rocks in every conceivable variety of shape, size, and position, and crowned by a vast stalagmite rising in three points, while 75 feet above an almost perfect dome hangs fretted with beautiful drooping stalactites; this, with the weird light of red fire, gives an effect before which the renowned "star chamber" and "Gorins dome" of the Mammoth "pale their ineffable fires," and the "finest theatrical spectacle is as a Jew's harp to a full band." Viewed from the summit, the view is equally grand, and indeed the vastness of the hall is more fully realized.

Next in beauty, though of a different kind, is Pillared Palace; a low, flat ceiling room, some 50 feet wide and several hundred yards in length; the stalactites are of the most extraordinary variety and intricacy, and in many cases join the stalagmites, and form the pillars, from whence the room derives its name. Most fanciful are the shapes of this fret work of nature. Many of the stalactites are very translucent, and resound like a bell to the tap of a hammer. The Throne and Cascade are places also of great beauty, but the Senate Chamber at the termination of the old cave is one of the most wonderful features of this wonderful work of nature, containing, as it does, perhaps the largest stalagmite in the world—a column extending from floor to ceiling, seventy-five feet in circumference. This immense "Pillar of the Constitution" has ceased forming; but at points where the water still drops, the deposition of lime is very rapid, as proven by a broken tumbler, which has been there but a few years, being completely embedded. — Louisville Courier.

## A STANDARD TIME TABLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

A correspondent writing to the Scientific American, upon the subject of a standard time for the whole world, says: The annihilation of distance by the telegraph must have forced upon many minds the necessity of establishing at some point to twelve o'clock at the same instant all over this sphere. The hours must be numbered from one to twenty-four, inclusive in order to distinguish it from local time, thus doing away entirely with a.m. and p.m. (when using standard universal time); twelve then would mean midnight only at the governing point, while twenty-four would mean noon at that point.

For the rest of mankind it would be a certain guide for all official purposes. Railroad time cards would no longer perplex the public, and trains would run on a uniform time everywhere. Every watch would have its two sets of hands, one for local and one for the universal time.

A telegram sent from London to San Francisco, bearing the standard time at starting would show the recipient, there of exactly how long it took to reach him, how much time was actually consumed. As it is now, no one can have a clear idea, without considerable figuring, and then he may be figuring twenty-four hours too early or too late. Every telegraph and railway office would receive the time daily, so that no where would the "time" be "out of joint." January 31, 1888, 1 o'clock, would be January 31, 1888, all over the official world.

This Cafe de Poy in Paris, was opened in 1749, and existed until the end of the late Exposition. It was the famous resort from its formation for celebrated painters and noted men of the day. David and the two Vernets were constant visitors there. One day Horace Vernet, being but a student from the Latin Quarter, came in and ordered a breakfast and was not able to settle the bill for it. He at once desired the proprietor to send out for a paint brush, and from some color from a palette borrowed of a neighbor, he then and there sketched a swallow on the ceiling. It was done in a thought, and very beautifully touched, and soon became the lion of the day, and made thousands for the restaurant. The jeweler's shop that has replaced the Cafe is at the sign of "The Swallow."

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