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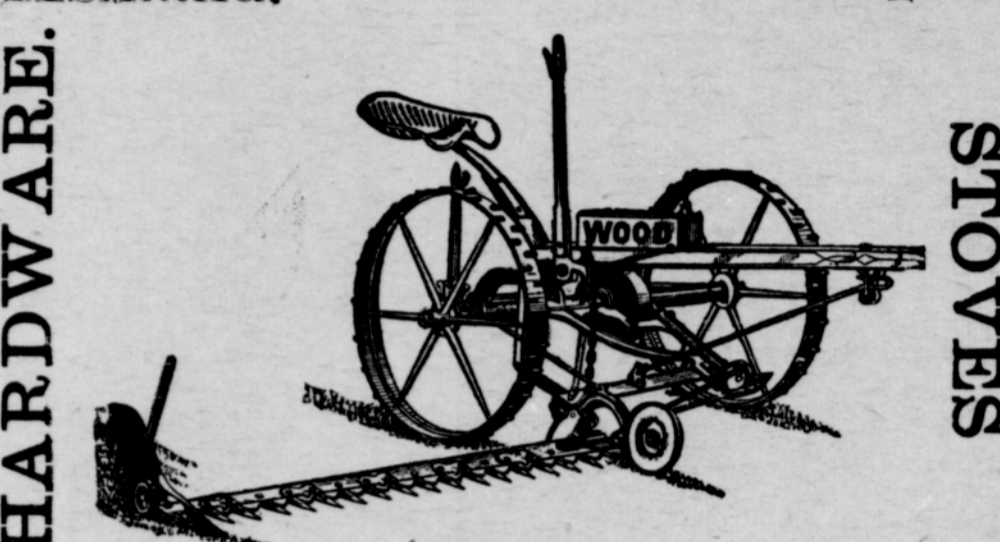
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MORE ABOUT THAT CAVE.

FURTHER EXPLORATIONS OF THE CAVERN BENEATH THE SISKIYOU. "Seeb" and Party are Reinforced by two Strangers and Start Equipped for Explorations Past Vulcan's Dome and the Source of the Stygian—A Graphic Description of Phenomena that are Witnessed in the Big Subterranean Cavern.

On the morning following our return from Vulcan's Dome, we started for Ashland as early as the light would permit, and on the road discussed the character and quantity of the outfit to be procured. Two days later, reinforced by two strangers whom we had employed to assist us, without, however, enlightening them fully of the nature of our employment, we returned to our old camp. Jim suggested that with a little work in building a trail we could take the horses to the mouth of the cavern. This, after a little examination, we found we could do, and not only so, but that by unpacking them and digging away a little of the earth at the mouth of the cave, we could also take them into it and have plenty of room to repack them, not more than fifty yards from the entrance. Our determination to proceed to the Stygian with our horses was quickly taken, which would relieve us from a task that we had been dreading. The sun was yet high and after eating a hearty dinner, we picketed the horses and proceeded to the work of preparing our trail and removing some of the debris from the entrance. While Jim, Ike and I were engaged at this

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work, we set John and Pete (the two strangers) to gathering and cutting pitch wood, the use of which was made possible and very advantageous to us, seeing that we could employ the horses in carrying it, as far as the Stygian, at least. In this way, we could save our other lighting material, and at the same time be better able to establish a comfortable camp and base of supplies at Vulcan's Dome, which we had determined to do, as it would be impossible to carry everything we might need, if the time required to make a complete exploration should lengthen into several days, as now seemed possible. Ere night closed in, we had everything in readiness for an early start in the morning. John and Pete, when fully in possession of our secret, entered into the spirit of their employment with an eagerness equal to our own, and as we chatted around the camp-fire that evening many wonderful stories were told, of caverns seen and read about, for it transpired that John had had a very extensive experience in that line. He declared, however, that he had never seen, nor heard of such things as we related to him of our wonderful cavern, the mysteries of which he was eager to explore. It was decided that we should transport our camp outfit first and then return with the horses for the pitch wood. We concluded that we would perhaps be employed at this two days, as we would have to proceed slowly with the horses, and that, therefore, a portion of the party would have to return to our outside camp the following evening, and that accommodations would have to be left for them. We slept soundly, and before dawn the next morning had everything packed and ready for the start. John and Pete went ahead with as much pitch wood as they could comfortably carry, with instructions to go about a quarter of a mile, deposit their load and return, while we should follow with the horses. We were fully an hour in reaching the mouth of the cavern with the pack, which we unloaded and carried in, after constructing lights by which to operate. After some difficulty we got the horses inside—they appeared to be frightened and were difficult to handle. However, we succeeded in repacking them and added to each pack a good quantity of the wood, by which time the torches of John and Pete could be seen returning. We had prepared torches in convenient bundles, and turning the horses over to Jim and Ike—each of whom carried a lantern—John, Pete and I, with our torches lighted, started forward, followed by Jim and Ike with the horses. After the first few rods, the animals gave us no serious trouble, and the way being reasonably even and down hill, we made good progress, though the declivity seemed greater than it had appeared on our first visit, which was more noticeable in the difficulty we had in keeping the packs from slipping forward. Being better provided with light than on the former occasion, we had a better opportunity of observing the characteristics of the cavern, and particularly the contact between the great granite dyke and the formation lying beyond. We also could see the various ledges and ledges of quartz, porphyry and other igneous rocks of volcanic origin. In a little more than two hours after we had started with lighted torches, the roar of the Stygian came faintly to our ears, and the current of air was distinctly perceptible, and at two and forty minutes after our start we entered Vulcan's Dome, with the first pack train that ever ventured upon such an enterprise. The poor animals seemed to realize that their surroundings were uncanny and unusual, and clung as closely to Jim and Ike as a couple of children would have done. The expressions of astonishment that escaped John and Pete were gratifying to us, for they had received our account of this wonderful place with evident incredulity the night before. Leaving Ike and Jim with the horses and lanterns, we proceeded to the Hole Inferno, where our new companions stood for some moments spell-bound. John finally broke the silence with a wish that the illumination, which we had witnessed, would appear. To this, however, Pete demurred, saying that he "preferred leaving these infernal regions." After a few minutes we returned to Jim and Ike and had a consultation as to the advisability of proceeding further up the stream before unpacking. It was decided that Jim, John and I should proceed up the stream to reconnoiter, and leave the horses and stream to be gone about an hour and a half. After lighting new torches we started, taking one of the lanterns with us. Each of the party was provided with a roll-pick and hatchet, fitted into a belt, made on purpose. We moved forward cautiously, but with reasonable speed, to the westward for perhaps half a mile. The ground over which we were traveling did not differ materially from that in the corridor, except that it was not nearly so steep. We were ascending on a grade of not more than 5°, which, however, was sufficient to make a rapid retreat of the river just to our left. The walls appeared to be fully 150 feet apart, and converging as they rose met 200 feet above us, forming the apex of a triangle. These walls, after passing out of Vulcan's Dome, were seemed and fissured, and filled with igneous matter, while the intervening mass was evidently an aqueous formation, but metamorphosed and changed under the great heat and pressure to which it had been subjected, and from the effect of the intrusive matter, which, while in a molten state, had filled the fissures that were opened from below. Such effect, except to the practiced eye, tends to destroy the evidences by which stratified rocks are distinguished. There is no doubt, however, that the walls which formed the sides of this cavern are to be classed among the stratified rocks, and were laid down in the bed of the ocean, and that their present position is the result of that contraction of the earth's crust, heretofore discussed. As I have said, we had gone about half a mile. At this point the stream plunged over a cliff which appeared to be about 30 feet high. The drop of the stream was practically vertical, and the obstruct-

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tion filled the cavern from side to side and to the height above stated. At the foot of the cliff the water had worn out a deep pool, which, to our astonishment, covered the floor of the cavern across its whole width, so far as we were able to determine, and having a length, in the direction of the stream, as near as we could judge, of 100 feet. Not having sufficient light or time for close inspection we were not able to determine whether we had met with an impassable barrier or not; nor to what cause to attribute this new feature. After some speculation we concluded that a lateral fracture had occurred here producing a fault, which, if extended in the line of its direction, would be similar to the corridor which gave us entry to Vulcan's Dome. We also discovered near the wall, which we were following, a spring of boiling water, strongly impregnated with sulphur and iron. We could easily reach the water of the pool, and found it of excellent quality. Immense stalactites hung from the top of the cavern directly above the pool. But the most remarkable feature of these stalactites was that they seemed to hang along a line, drawn straight across the cavern, and were not in irregular clusters as is most frequently seen. This first attracted Jim's attention, who, calling to me, said "S-s-s! How d-d-o-y-a exp-p-lain that?" pointing to the objects in question. "Well, Jim," said I, "those undoubtedly are stalactites and are composed of the carbonate of lime. I am glad to see them here, for we do not seem to be in a limestone formation, and if we were, they would not appear in a straight line across the cavern, but would hang in irregular clusters from the roof. I am glad to see them, however, for they furnish us with another unique feature of our cave. I have never heard of stalactites of the carbonate of lime in caverns, other than those formed in limestone. But if I'm not mistaken, an examination will show a fissure corresponding with that line of stalactites through which water percolates from above, charged with the carbonate of lime. If this be true, then there is above us a strata of limestone, in which if we could reach it, we might expect to find large and beautiful caverns. When we have a little more time, I will explain the various features of such formations." "Those stalactites sparkle like diamonds," said John, "I'm going to have one of them before we leave the cave." We agreed that we would take one, and that we would bring time already, and that we would bring our camp to this pool, the water being more accessible and other things more pleasant than at Vulcan's Dome, and that we would take more time to examine this place.

We made a rapid retreat to where we had left Ike and Pete, and having briefly explained the result of our effort, we started for the "silver lake" and "diamond chamber." We made reasonable expedition, and arrived at the pool within an hour, three miles and a half underground. Here we unpacked, and having eaten our lunch and given our horses some oats we had brought with us, we prepared to send them back for the rest of our equipment. Of course, we expected John and Pete to go, and the question as to what we would do with Jim and Ike. The good natured pair were ferred to go, inasmuch as Jim was complaining of his "rum-m-a-t-tiz." It had now been six hours since we left the entrance of the cave. Taking two lanterns and enough to last them out, Ike, John and Pete started at daylight, Jim and I accompanying them as far as Vulcan's Dome. It was now 12:30 p. m., and we would be alone in this wonderful place for the next twenty hours. Jim and I watched the receding torches until they became red specks in the distance and still as they danced and bobbed about, until they finally died away and were lost in the gloom. So, thought I, are our thoughts and ideas, lost in the "bob" and gloom that gradually came beyond the mental power of man to follow and grasp them. Not a word was spoken between us, nor did we move from the spot where our companions had left us, until the last faint glimmer had died away, when Jim, turning to me, said, in a half subdued and confidential tone, one that endeavored to me: "W-e-l-l, Seeb-b-ee, we're alone." No one can fully comprehend the import of the words "we're alone" until he is placed in a position of complete isolation; "alone" the word seemed to echo and re-echo around me, and to echo in my mind, one that endeavored to me: "W-e-l-l, Seeb-b-ee, we're alone." No one can fully comprehend the import of the words "we're alone" until he is placed in a position of complete isolation; "alone" the word seemed to echo and re-echo around me, and to echo in my mind, one that endeavored to me: "W-e-l-l, Seeb-b-ee, we're alone." No one can fully comprehend the import of the words "we're alone" until he is placed in a position of complete isolation; "alone" the word seemed to echo and re-echo around me, and to echo in my mind, one that endeavored to me: "W-e-l-l, Seeb-b-ee, we're alone."

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