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GREAT NATURAL CURIOSITY. The Malheur Cave Partly Explored and Fully Described. By a Visitor to the Harney Country, Who Compares it with the Mammoth Cave.

HARNEY VALLEY, Oct. 13, 1888. ED. HERALD: I visited the Malheur cave since I came into your country, and, thinking that I might say something about it that would be of interest to some of your many readers, I pen the following notes: This cave is located on a sagebrush plain about 1 mile from the head of the south fork of the Malheur river. There is a small basin at its mouth. The cave is 20 feet wide and 6 feet high at its entrance, and has an incline downward for the first 20 feet, and then turns to the north east and runs very nearly straight to the water, a distance of 1/4 mile from its mouth. It will average 50 feet wide and 20 feet high and is very uniform in its structure, the walls running up about 6 feet on either side, and then commence to arch over, and certainly form the finest arch in the whole family of caves that were ever discovered. It is grand almost beyond description, and rivals the great Mammoth cave in its smoothness of character and uniformity. The first 250 yards the bottom is as smooth as a floor, then are found piles of rubbish or debris that have accumulated by falling from the ceiling above, 100 yards or so apart, the last one being something over 100 yards from water. There is no difficulty in reaching the water, it runs back on either side in a trough from the main pool the distance of 100 feet, settling down on either side, leaving the floor crowning. The water is remarkably clear; one can see the sand in the bottom at the depth of 4 feet, and it appears to have no outlet, as it is perfectly still and quiet; it is good drinking water. This wonderful curiosity has to be seen to be fully appreciated. It is truly of basalt formation and is quarternary, the walls are honey-combed in many places; the wall on the south side sets on a horizontal basement of eruptive rocks. This magnificent cave has evidently been used in time by the Indians as a fortification; the entrance has been walled up with stone, and there are, also, two walls or breastworks on the inside, running from each corner of the entrance diagonally near the center some 50 feet long; this was for a second defense in case they were driven back from the mouth. Around and above the mouth of the cave there are considerable fine chippings where the aborigines have sharpened their stone implements which were made out of obsidian, or volcanic glass.

The probable origin of caves may be described as mostly due to subterranean waters in time; at that time full streams ran through and excavated them, partly by erosion, partly by solution. Gradually as the terrace elevation came on, the great streams to which these caverns are tributary, cut down their basins to lower levels; the subterranean waters sought lower levels and the part running through the caverns reduced to drifts and stalagmitic crust. I think that the water is in the end of the cave, but can not tell without further exploring. I was informed by two parties that fish have been caught in the cave that were of blue color and eyesless. G. C. DUNCAN.

The steamer Zealandia, which sailed from San Francisco on the 20th ult., for Australia via Honolulu, carried the largest consignment of apples that ever left for the antipodes. She took twelve carloads of fruit. The apples were grown in the two states most noted for the large size and fine flavor of all kinds of fruits, Oregon and California. At a meeting at Lyons, De Lesseps declared that the Panama canal would be opened for traffic in July, 1890. He said he wished to correct the report that the opening would be delayed until 1891.

FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., October 27, 1888. The capitol is deserted. McPherson and Voorhees were absent most of the entire session. Beck so sick he was unable to attend. Senator Harris at home to look after a senatorial canvass. The new Chief Justice is now a familiar figure in the supreme court. The wisdom of the selection will be fully vindicated. He has sacrificed pecuniary interests in obedience to an honorable ambition, and he will achieve a reputation equal to that of his illustrious predecessors. Speaker Carlisle accepted an invitation tendered him by Senator Gorman and a delegation of prominent Democrats to attend a democratic mass meeting to be held in Baltimore on 28th. Senator Wilson of Maryland, Representative McMullin of Tennessee, and Breckenridge of Kentucky will be among the other speakers. Representative McMillan had returned from New Jersey, where he made four speeches, the last in Newark, where the Democrats for the first time in fifteen years secured a sweeping victory in that city at a local election. Several days ago the collector of customs at Port Townsend, W. T., telegraphed that the steamer Aucon, from Sitka, Alaska, had landed a Chinaman at Victoria, B. C., on his way to Port Townsend, asking if he should be allowed to land. Secretary Maynard, in reply, telegraphed as follows: Act of October 1st positively prohibits the landing of Chinese laborers who have departed from United States territory. Chinese per Aucon from Alaska cannot land. The Washington monument has at last been opened to the public, congress having appropriated a suitable sum to run the elevator. Hundreds of people ascend to the top every day. Many people tired of waiting an opportunity to crowd in the elevator, go away, to come again. A big book was received last week at the clerk's office of United States supreme court, which contained over 2,000 printed pages. It is a single volume, and is 3 feet 8 inches in width. It is the record in the case of Banque-Franco-Egyptienne vs. Brown and others of New York. The book is of the size as to pages and printing as prescribed by the Court. It makes a queer looking volume, and is about all that any one man can carry. J. W. Young, son of the late Brigham Young by his first wife, is here; a fine-looking, tall gentleman, wearing blonde moustache and side whiskers. Like his father, he is one of the leaders of the Mormon church, and a man of considerable ability. H. C.

Latest Freak in Railroad Accidents. On the Erie road near Otisville, Ohio, on 24th ult., a fast freight crashed into the rear end of another freight with terrific force, killing one man and seriously injuring others; as soon as the confusion subsided long enough for some one to think, a flagman was sent forward to stop the East-bound express, but too late; and the express came thundering down and crashed into the two wrecked trains, smashing itself and everything else into splinters, and not a man uninjured. A dispatch dated Oct. 24 says 200 Crow warriors have taken the warpath against the Sioux. Advices from Hayti as late as 10th ult., state that Port-au-Prince on the night of Sept. 28 had thunder, lightning and a revolt among the people. Result of the latter was 300 persons killed and over 500 women and children wounded. ONE newspaper alive to the work of advertising the capabilities of a county, is worth a dozen little one-horse sheets starving to death in the work of drawing money in small dribs from the people's pockets, to gratify the greed of one man, who lives by reaping from the dissension he is able to sow in the community that is afflicted with his scheming.

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THE TOWN OF BURNS GRANT CO. OREGON. AS IT IS VOICED BY THE HERALD. BUSINESS MEN ABROAD BY LOOKING OVER ITS COLUMNS WILL SEE THAT Burns contains 1 newspaper; 1 hotel; 1 brewery; 1 undertaker; 1 meat market; 2 lawyers; 3 physicians 1 surveyor; 1 land agent; 1 drugstore; 1 jeweler; 1 blacksmith; 1 livery stable; 2 general merchandise stores; 1 hardware store; 1 saw-mill; 1 carpenter; 1 saddle & harness shop; 1 grocery store. Also, 1 Odd Fellows lodge; 1 reading room; 1 school; 1 church.

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