

chased by beasts of prey, they may fall in whole droves. Their bones may either stick fast in the fissures, and be afterwards inclosed in calcareous stalactites, or they may be carried by subterranean currents into caverns which have no communication with the surface. Such was the cavern at the Bull's Eye mine, near Worksworth, in Derbyshire, which was opened by mining operations in the year 1663, and contained the entire skeleton of an elephant.

There is a considerable river, called the Pinca, in the cavern at Adlesberg, in Carniola, which forms a subterranean lake, where it appears to be lost; but it emerges again on the north side, and takes the name of the Renz. This cavern is one of the largest in Europe; it extends for several leagues into a calcareous mountain, situated between Laybach and Trieste, and contains the bones of bears and other animals, in the mud that forms the floor of the cavern, or rather series of caverns, that are connected by passages with each other.

There are numerous caverns and grottoes in the vicinity of Adlesberg, and the surface of the country is, in various parts, broken by depressions from the subsidence of the roofs of these caverns. There are doubtless, in all these caverns, subterranean rivulets, which are continually in action, and are undermining and wearing down the rocks that support the strata above them. In Derbyshire, and the district called Craven, in Yorkshire, beside the subterranean rivulets before mentioned, there are currents of water incessantly in action, which are discovered only by mining operations.

The Speedwell mine, near Castleton, in Derbyshire, is a subterranean tunnel and canal, nearly half a mile in length, penetrating into the centre of a mountain, composed of metalliferous limestone: the descent to the canal is by a flight of steps, about forty yards in depth. The mountain is intersected by numerous metallic veins, and the proprietors of the mine intended to carry the tunnel and canal through the whole extent, in order to discover the veins, and have ready access to work them, to bring out the ore. It was necessary to excavate the stone by blasting, and before every explosion the miners retired for safety to a considerable distance in the tunnel. When they had proceeded in this manner about eight hundred yards, they were greatly alarmed after a blast, to hear the tremendous roaring of a torrent, and fled towards the entrance of the tunnel. A miner, who was working there at the time, informed the author, that he thought there was no chance of their escaping immediate destruction; however, when they had retreated a considerable distance, they perceived the rushing sound to grow less alarming; they then halted awhile, and took courage to return, when they discovered that the last blast had made an opening into a spacious cavern, and that a torrent of water was falling from a considerable height into a vast chasm on one side of it. The loud roaring of the water was greatly increased by the echoes of the cavern; for in the roof of this cav-