

previous weather. The three drops were still falling, and adding silently to their crust. We could not determine that the bulk of the new accumulation was perceptibly greater than when it was measured by Sir Alexander Milne. We were very anxious to carry away with us a permanent record of the present condition of the stump of the stalagmite, and we twice tried to photograph it with the magnesium light. On the first occasion the picture came out fairly, but, most unfortunately, in the darkness and the difficulty of conducting such operations it was spoiled. When we tried it again, there was something wrong with the bath, and it was a complete failure.

It then occurred to us that it might be possible to take another slice from the column, showing the amount of reparation during half a century, as an accessory and complement to the Edinburgh specimen. Our time was too short to allow us to do this ourselves, but Captain Aplin most kindly undertook to make the attempt after our departure, and I have just heard that he succeeded in his difficult task. The roof of the cave at the point whence the stalagmite was removed is at a height of about fifteen feet, and facing the stump there are two majestic columns uniting the roof and the floor, one of them upward of sixty feet in circumference. They are beautifully fluted and fretted with stalactite, and shone out with a pure white-frosted surface in the magnesium light.

Sending the galley on before us, we walked along the isthmus which forms the western boundary of Harrington Sound to Painter's Vale, where there was a small detachment of engineers living under canvas, and another cave.

I think the Painter's Vale cave is the prettiest of the whole. The opening is not very large. It is an arch over a great mass of débris, forming a steep slope into the cave, as if part of the roof of the vault had suddenly fallen in. At the foot of the bank of débris, one can barely see in the dim light the deep, clear water lying perfectly still and reflecting the roof and mar-