

The most remarkable of these caverns are those of Gaylenreuth, on the left bank of the river Wiesent, in Bavaria : they vary in height from ten to forty feet, and are connected by narrow low passages. The animal earth intermingled with bones, is in many places more than ten feet deep ; and according to the account of a German writer, M. Esper, would fill many hundred waggons. The cavern, or series of caverns, at Adlesberg, in Carniola, is much larger than any in Germany : the caves are of variable dimensions, and are stated to extend more than three leagues in a right line, at which distance there is a lake which prevents further access. The floors of these caverns are covered with indurated clay, enveloping the bones of bears, and other carnivorous animals, similar to those in the caverns of Germany and Hungary. In one part of this cavern, or series of caverns, the entire skeleton of a young bear was discovered, enveloped in clay or mud, between blocks of limestone which lay on one side of the cave. Bones are found along the cavern, for several miles from the entrance, not only buried in mud, which forms the floor, but among heaps composed of blocks of limestone and yellow mud or clay. This cavern is situated near the great road from Trieste to Laybach.

In many of the caverns in the south of France, and also in Belgium, there are found bones in the mud and gravel which form the floor, but which is sometimes coated with stalagmite.

The intermixture of human bones and rude works of art, with the bones of extinct species of mammiferous quadrupeds has excited great attention. In some instances, the human bones appear to be reduced to what has been called the same fossil state, as that of the animal bones with which they are intermixed. Much more importance has been attached to this circumstance than I think it deserves ; for, in the first place, few if any bones of mammiferous land quadrupeds found in caverns, or in diluvial soil, can be properly said to be fossilized, as they retain a part of their original matter ; and, secondly, the experiments of Dr. Jenner, stated in p. 19., prove, that when recent bones are immersed in mud containing pyrites or solutions of iron, they become more or less fossilized in a few months. Some of the caverns in the south of France, according to M. Desnoyers, were partly filled with bones of quadrupeds before human bones were introduced into them ; others appear to have been empty. He observes, how often may these caverns have served as burial places to the ancient inhabitants, or, at a more recent period, as places of retreat during religious persecutions, from the persecutions of the Druids to those of the Huguenots. The historian Florus (he adds) expressly informs us, that the inhabitants of Aquitaine, an artful people, retired into caverns, and that Cæsar gave orders to have them closed in their retreats, and left to perish. “ Aquitani, callidum genus, in speluncas se recipiebant, jussit includi.”—*Flor. lib. iii. cap. 10.*