

are still in the course of formation, by the union of the stalactite from above, with the stalagmite below. These being composed of matter slowly deposited, have assumed the most fantastic shapes; while the pure, white, and glittering spar, beautifully catches and reflects the light of the torches of the visitors to this subterranean palace, in a manner which causes all astonishment to cease at the romantic tales told of the place—of its caves of diamonds, and of its ruby walls; the simple truth, when deprived of all exaggeration, being sufficient to excite admiration, and awe. Some of these concretions form a thin curtain, which is perfectly transparent.

The specimens which I have selected from my collection, to illustrate these remarks, exhibit the usual character of stalactitical concretions; those long stony icicles are from Portland; and these minute straws of spar, from an archway near the Chain Pier, have been formed by the infiltration of rain through the superincumbent bed of calcareous rock. This mass of pebbles, held together by calc-spar, is from the cliffs at Kemp Town; and affords a proof that in periods very remote, the same process was in action along the Sussex shores. These beautiful slabs of marble are portions of stalagmites, from St. Michael's Cave, Gibraltar; and this large conical mass, which has been cut through and polished to show its structure, was dug up on the summit of Alfriston-Hill, in Sussex, and must have