

guides, that they refused to advance any further, and our philosopher's exploration was brought to a sudden close. When compelled to retrace his steps, he had penetrated to a distance of 2670 feet from the opening.]

At the foot of the calcareous hills which line the Green river in Kentucky (United States), more than one hundred and thirty miles to the south of Louisville, is hidden, beneath the shroud of a prodigal vegetation, the entrance of the most spacious cavern known to exist in the modern world: the celebrated *Mammoth's Cave*.

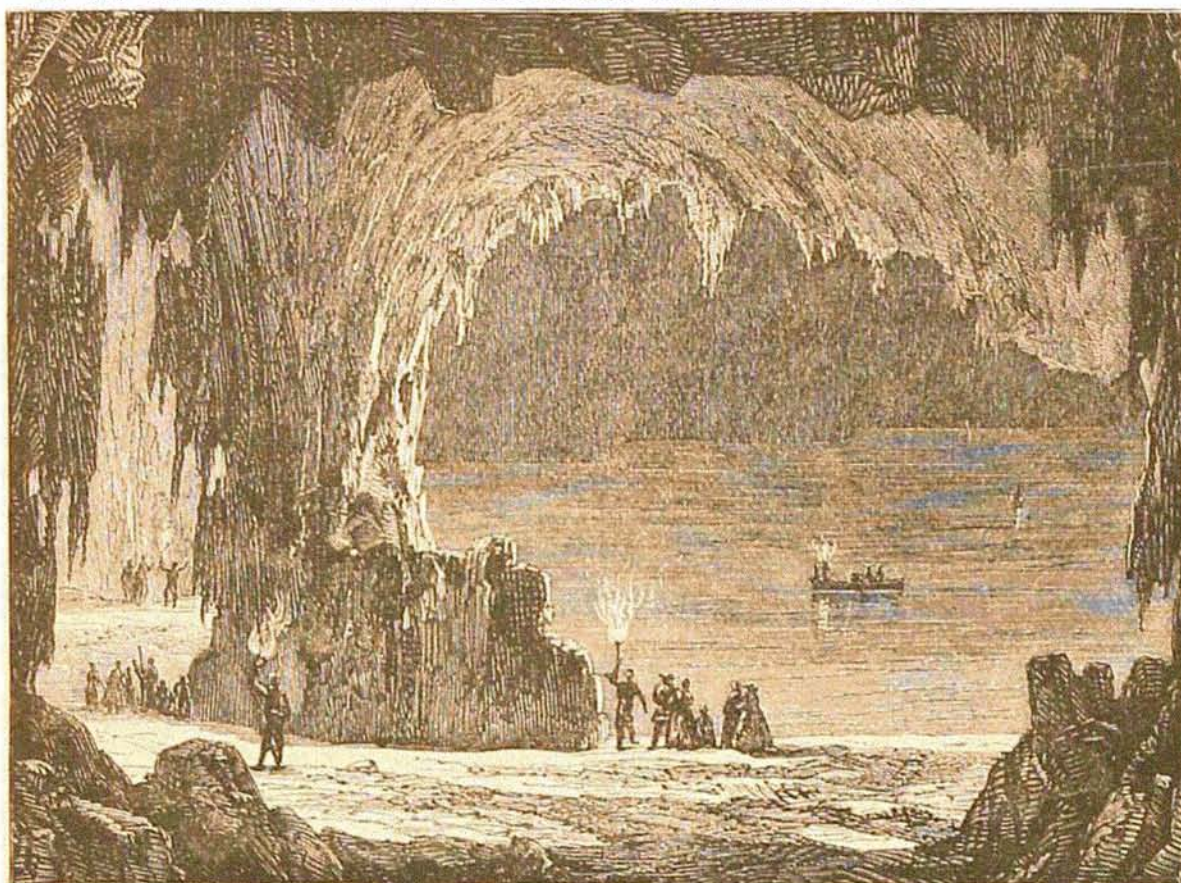


FIG. 168.—MAMMOTH'S CAVE, KENTUCKY, U.S.

This subterranean labyrinth has already been explored to a distance of ten miles, though many of its winding recesses, heavy with darkness and silence, have been passed over. A French traveller, M. L. Deville, has recently published a very interesting description of it.*

Accompanied by an experienced guide, and furnished with a miner's lamp, our traveller first descended sixty steps, to find himself

* [Deville, "Visite aux Grottes de Mammoth," in "Tour du Monde," 1863, 2e semestre.]