torches, the guides contrive to imitate the approach of morning or of evening.

After traversing, at some distance from this wonderful recess, a basin of 25 to 35 feet in circuit, called the *Dead Sea*, we find ourselves on the bank of a broad watercourse known as *the Styx*, which must be crossed in a boat.

"I embarked," says Deville, "in Charon's wherry. My black boatman uttered a few shouts, and the vaults resounded afar; one would have said they were the groans of suffering souls condemned to these eternal shadows. Our lights shed lurid colours on the rocks which they outlined in a fantastic fashion, while on the waters of the Styx, all enamelled with brilliant gleams, was strongly marked the *silhouette* of the negro.

"This strange spectacle had awakened in my mind some curious reflections, when an awful sound suddenly re-echoed through the cavern. It was like the crash of an avalanche. Nevertheless, it was only a surprise on the part of my guide, who burst out laughing, displaying his white teeth. Absorbed in my musings, I had forgotten his presence, while he had leaped ashore, and repeatedly striking a piece of rock, had created the clashing echoes which had so abruptly checked the course of my reflections."

After half an hour's navigation, we land on a bank of fine sand. At a short distance we catch sight of a small sulphurous spring; then of the *Cleveland Avenue*, which leads to the *Hall of Snow*, whose walls dazzle with their resplendent whiteness. Singularly rugged paths conduct us to the so-called *Rocky Mountains*, through whose detached and scattered masses we make our way to the *Fairy Grotto*, where the stalactites are aggregated into colonnades, arches, and trees of magical aspect. The quick sound of drops of water falling at every point creates strange noises in this gloomy maze. At the extremity of the hall is a graceful group, imitating an alabaster palm-tree, with a fountain gushing from its summit.

The Fairy Grotto is about ten miles from the mouth of the cave. The journey there and back occupies ten hours; and when returning