

gated by the river Lesse,
—the Grotto of Han de-
serves to be visited by all
lovers of natural wonders.*

The word *Han* is of
Turkish origin, and signi-
fies a covered place, di-
vided into several com-
partments, or chambers,
and serving as a centre
of reunion. It is pro-
bable the grotto was de-
voted to some such use
in ancient days. It has
given name to the little
village of Han.

It is very evident that
the entrance, or vestibule,
of the grotto was formerly
inhabited. The discov-
eries made there, at dif-
ferent epochs, of various
coins, ancient keys, smiths'
tools, and human bones,
are an undeniable proof.
It has never been used,

however, as a *permanent* dwelling-place, owing to the dampness
caused by the stream which traverses its interior.

The traveller who starts from Brussels by rail reaches, in a few hours, the
station of Jemelle, three miles distant from Han. On his way from Jemelle to the



FIG. 171.—INTERIOR OF THE GROTTA OF HAN (BELGIUM).

* [Several authors have discoursed of the Grotto of Han. The Abbé de Feller, who long inhabited the little town of Marche, descended into it in 1771, and after a second visit in 1776, published an interesting description. Messieurs Kichx and Quetelet made a scientific examination of it in 1822. Another account will be found in the "Voyage Pittoresque au royaume des Pays-Bas" (1825); but the best work on the subject is by M. Phileas Collardeau, issued in 1865.]