

Instead of the carbine formerly used for this purpose, a small canon is now employed, and the effect is consequently greater.

But far more charming is the concert of sweet sounds produced by musical instruments ; and every year, numerous choral and instrumental associations make these sombre regions re-echo with their dulcet harmonies.

Through this last saloon the tourist passes out of the cavern and regains the day.

No optical effect, says the "Guide du Voyageur à la Grotte de Han," can be compared with the *coup d'œil* reserved for the visitor, when, the guides extinguishing their torches, the obscurity of these tenebrous recesses gives place to the twilight which advances towards the gondola undulating slowly along the surface of the waters. He is restored to life ; his emotions are sweet and tender. He no longer lives to admire a panorama unique of its kind. If he be fortunate enough, on his going forth, to encounter one of those Italian sunsets which Nature frequently prodigalizes on our mountains, he remains motionless with admiration. Finally, all the authors who have written on this subject agree in saying, that the water-journey is undoubtedly the most beautiful episode of the excursion ; they call it the *bouquet*.

On the visitor's regaining the daylight, he experiences a singular sentiment of happiness ; all his fears, his apprehensions, his lugubrious emotions have disappeared, to give place to a keen enjoyment of nature and of the exquisite picture unrolled before his eyes. He quits his boat, advances slowly towards the rock which crowns the extremity of the mysterious cave, and finally emerges through the funnel or shaft, called the *Trou de Han*. . . .

The tourist now finds himself in a delicious valley, in the midst of meadows, leas, and gardens, each possessing a peculiar charm ; he casts a last glance on the grotto, and leaves, on the left, a charming little residence named the *Pavillon de la Grotte*, which is enviously regarded by every lover of the picturesque beauties of nature ; follows up a long avenue of chestnut-trees ; and speedily regains the centre of the village of Han.*

In France, the *Grotte de Miremont*, also called the *Trou de Granville*, situated at a short distance from Bagne, consists of a long series of very regular chambers, whose roofs are covered with siliceous incrustations.

A grotto characterized by the shapeliness of its columns and stalactite pillars is that of Ganges, in the department of the Hérault, more popularly known as the *Grotte des Demoiselles*. It is hollowed out in the Silurian formation, though most caverns belong to the Jurassic limestone.

* "Guide-Album du Voyageur à la Grotte de Han-sur-Lesse," Brussels, 1859.